

Candidates responses from those running for the Mayor of Midway:

- 1. What are some specific skills you can bring to improve the City of Midway as a City Council member? Please share a personal accomplishment to date. Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?**

Ambrose Wilson- I am running for Mayor of Midway because I have the proven experience, public service and passion to be successful. I will treat our citizens with dignity and respect and ensure those who often lack a voice at the table will be at the table. I promise to make decisions for the best long-term benefits to our city.

I have 30 years of employment experience in conflict resolution, employee relations and management consultation. I retired from Kentucky State Government where I served as the Secretary of the Public Protection Cabinet. In this position I managed a staff of over 700 employees and oversaw a budget of \$98 million. Additionally, I was responsible for 13 departments and agencies that provided public safety, consumer protection and financial integrity through enforcement and administration of laws and regulations.

I have also represented Midway as a member of the Woodford County Board of Education for 26 years. I am currently Chair of the Board, as I have been for 12 of my 26 years of service. During my terms, we have replaced our aging elementary school that did not offer the same educational opportunities for our children that others in the county were receiving. There was agreement among board members that our school needed replacement, but a profound disagreement if a new school should continue to remain in the city of Midway, which we ultimately accomplished. I am very proud of this accomplishment and our school will serve our children and city for generations.

- 2. What is the biggest challenge, and biggest opportunity you see facing the City of Midway?**

Ambrose Wilson- Based on results of a survey I conducted of Midway citizens, the biggest challenge currently facing Midway remains to be our aging infrastructure, especially sewer and water line rehabilitation and replacement. Other needs are in the areas of road paving, sidewalk repairs and storm water management. The biggest opportunity is the location of Midway for private sector business relocation resulting in increased revenue from payroll taxes. This additional revenue will be a vital component in finding solutions to meet our infrastructure needs. To best address both our challenges and opportunities we need a strategic plan to achieve our specific goals. This will allow a process of defining our strategy and direction and make decisions on allocating resources without the need to raise taxes or increase current costs of services. To pursue this strategy, I will work closely with our city council to provide needed innovative planning and solutions. This will allow us to delineate a clear direction for addressing our infrastructure needs.

- 3. The updated 2018 Comprehensive Plan [Goals & Objectives](#) prioritize infill/redevelopment as a primary strategy to accommodate urban growth needs. What specific recommendations do you have to protect the character and context of existing neighborhoods while pursuing an infill/redevelopment strategy? Please share your ideas for infill and re-development within the Midway Urban Service Boundary.**

[Ambrose Wilson](#)- One of the most difficult challenges of infill and redevelopment is protecting the living conditions in adjacent neighborhoods, especially preserving the privacy and character of adjacent residences. Infill usually is placed in vacant land, but it could result from tear downs or redevelopment. Sometimes infills refer to the reconfiguration of property from commercial or industrial to townhouse, condo or mixed use. Some areas of adjacent neighborhoods are protected by planning for alternate redevelopment by leaving most of the land in single family neighborhoods at the prevailing zoned density. Reuse and redevelopment of existing parcels and structures should be encouraged. Infill development projects should be considered for Midway because it admits growth within the USB, uses current infrastructure, avoids public costs and adds value to existing neighborhoods. Infill sites are the best choice we have now, and we need to be flexible and patient for the right opportunity. We must work with the private sector to promote infill projects such as the Midway School apartments.

- 4. How would you address affordable housing needs in Midway and Woodford County?**

[Ambrose Wilson](#)- Since April, 2016, there has been one new residential construction completion in our city. Therefore, we must explore infill opportunities or redevelopment of underutilized properties within the current USB. This construction would meet the needs of all our current and future residents including our millennial and rising senior populations. I was the Chair of the WCBE when we vacated the old Midway elementary school. We partnered with Mayor Carl Rollins to ensure the property was retained by the city of Midway for redevelopment and it currently is being used for apartment housing. The WCBE accomplished the same outcome recently in Versailles and another vacant school property was redeveloped for apartment housing. The subject of affordable should be addressed in 2019 and I pledge to work with the city council to study and examine our housing needs.

- 5. Please share some of the ideas you have about enhancing Midway's downtown business district. How will you help attract businesses to re-locate to Midway?**

[Ambrose Wilson](#)- We must enhance previous investments in our downtown business district. Previous developments have produced an area that is thriving, vibrant, attractive and a destination city for many. After speaking with some current downtown occupants, I believe possible areas of enhancement would be in the areas of signage and parking. Signage would be used to communicate information designed to assist visitors with knowledge of existing products located in our business areas. Parking spaces are very important to cities. There must be enough parking spaces to provide our residents and visitors a place to park. We should promote the development of off-site parking areas within walking distance of our downtown area. Adequate parking would enhance visits to this area.

Private sector growth in Midway Station, the Freely property and other appropriate areas will produce jobs for our residents and additional tax revenue to address our challenges. I will work closely with our EDA in attracting businesses to locate here. While employed by the Commonwealth I gained experience and partnered with our Cabinet for Economic Development, in the recruitment of international and domestic businesses to locate to our State. Working to attract businesses to Midway will be a priority in my duties and responsibilities.

6. Are you in favor of further annexation of surrounding land outside the Midway urban services boundary (USB)? If so, where and how would you change the boundary?

Ambrose Wilson- The current planning process has determined the area within the existing USB should accommodate projected growth. The USB was designed to provide sufficient land areas for urban development where public services such as water and sewer are available. At this time, I would not support annexation of surrounding land outside the existing Midway urban services area. However, we must remain flexible regarding future city needs. I would recommend before any expansion of the Midway USB there should be additional plan review and utilize feedback from the public stakeholders, advisory and decision making bodies.

7. Do you support the study of a merger of Woodford county government with Versailles, and/or with Midway city governments?

Ambrose Wilson- I do not believe it to be in the best interests of the citizens of Midway to merge with our county government. A merger would undoubtedly lead to a governing body less responsive to our citizen and neighborhood needs. Conversely, I would be in favor of current city and county leaders examining a shared services plan which could accomplish both the control of costs and enhancement of functionality through shared services among our governing bodies. Bringing Midway, Versailles and county governments together to review efficiencies could be a very productive endeavor and possibly lead to new cooperative arrangements that would make operations more efficient, less costly and more reliable.

8. In your opinion, is Midway's transportation and infrastructure adequate to support our community? If not, where would you like to see improvements made?

Ambrose Wilson- Our current existing vehicular transportation infrastructure is adequate for our current population. The citizens of Midway should have a well-planned and coordinated system of major thoroughfares and neighborhood streets that are safe, cost effective and adequate for our surroundings. A traffic flow study may be in order from comments I have received from citizens. This study would review the interactions between travelers and infrastructure with the aim of understanding and developing a transportation network with efficient movement of traffic, including pedestrians, cyclists and vehicle drivers. This plan would recommend improvements to existing thoroughfares that produce better flow and safety. We should also examine methods to provide our citizens with non-motorized trails, such as pedestrian and bicycle, to address

mobility issues and needs within the city limits of Midway. We should have sidewalks that adequately protect us from automobile traffic. These efforts will provide an emphasis on our city becoming more walkable.

9. What are your plans for improving the environmental sustainability of our county? How would you support investments in more renewable alternative energy development?

Ambrose Wilson- Environmental sustainability should be the responsible action of any government to avoid depletion of natural resources and allow for long term environmental quality. The Mayor and city council can influence sustainable directions by setting examples in its own behavior.

The city should provide community education programs to explain methods to reduce energy consumption in homes and offices. This would be a profitable investment to embrace every opportunity we have to replace inefficient energy systems.

Our city could duplicate some of the efforts the Woodford County Board of Education has initiated. During the recent remodels of Northside and Southside schools we replaced inefficient HVAC mechanical components and the energy reduction resulted in statewide awards for both schools. We have also replaced fluorescent lighting systems with LEDs and installed centralized digital thermostats resulting in less energy consumption and increased savings.

10. Agriculture is an annual \$565 million-dollar industry that supports 1 in 3 jobs (specifically 2,783 jobs) in Woodford County. Woodford County farmland also anchors a burgeoning travel and agri-tourism industry. What are some ideas and specific policies that you have to strengthen the agriculture industry sector within Midway's city limits?

Ambrose Wilson- The City of Midway has been closely linked to our surrounding farm land and agriculture community since our inception of becoming a city. Many residents work on local and surrounding farms, as their families have for generations. We are fortunate this land remains for agriculture purposes and we enjoy working with the our agriculture industry to promote their endeavors.

Our city currently provides a weekly market for local agricultural products. This creates a city and agricultural connection that supports the rural landscape and benefits our city by providing a market for our residents. We can do more in this area. We should have a larger weekend Farmers Market located in a permanent area with additional hours of operation. This would lead to more sellers and buyers and provide an ideal way to celebrate our local agribusiness community. In concert to benefitting our agriculture community, it will also bring new visitors to Midway and benefit our local business community.