

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?**

Grayson Vandegrift- In serving as mayor these last 4 years, I have demonstrated my ability to work with anyone, to build consensus through discussion, and to effectively and efficiently run our city to a point where it is in the best financial position in its history. I worked diligently with other local and state resources to help bring American Howa Kentucky and Lakeshore Learning Materials to Midway Station, which has greatly expanded our revenue stream. We are now budgeting for 100% more revenue from occupational taxes than when I assumed the office of Mayor in January of 2015. I am the best candidate because I have done the job, and I've proven that I can do it well, and that I can accomplish the many different tasks a mayor must accomplish in order to improve a community for everyone. I have yet to hear anyone disagree with this statement: Things are going very, very well in Midway, and I am best poised to carry out the work we've started and continue to make Midway the model for 21<sup>st</sup> century small towns.

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

Grayson Vandegrift- The biggest challenge we face is replacing our aging water and sewer lines, but the enormous amount of new revenue we've created is our biggest opportunity, and has put us in a great position to tackle the problem of aging infrastructure. This summer we paid off the debt on our old sewer plant as scheduled, and then paid off the debt on our new sewer plant early. Now that we are debt free in our sewer fund, we are able to begin taking on big projects, and we've already begun to plan for that with work currently being done by city engineers to put together a proposal for the City Council to do camera and cleaning work in most of the city, with the special focus on those sewer lines that we know are in the most need of repair or replacement.

- 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.**

Grayson Vandegrift- Last year, I told the Midway City Council that no new commercial or industrial development should occur south of Leestown Road. I see no reason to open any kind of development of that kind at any time in the future, especially when Midway Station is not yet fully developed. Furthermore, before we proceed with any plans for possible future residential development, I plan to hold a town hall meeting where residents can share their views on

housing in Midway, and where we can provide information for our citizens so that we can develop a cohesive strategy moving forward.

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

**Grayson Vandegrift-** As I previously referred to, I will begin by holding a town hall meeting, perhaps even a series of meetings, to gage the public’s feelings about residential development in the future. I also want to hear from citizens on what they think affordable housing means, and how they think we as a united city should proceed. To date, it has become clear that affordable housing means different things to different people, and we need to come to a general consensus for how we think about it in terms of our community and our specific 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?**

**Grayson Vandegrift-** Our downtown is booming, and is at nearly full occupancy, as recently reported by the Midway Messenger. I will continue to help in fostering an environment where our small businesses can thrive, and we will continue to keep our entire city, including downtown, beautiful and attractive for residents and visitors alike. I will also continue to support summer events that attract not only residents and visitors in a family friendly environment, but also attracts potential new business owners to downtown by showcasing our downtown business district. I also want to explore, in conjunction with the Midway Business Association, the Woodford County Chamber of Commerce, and other interested civic groups to consider a committee that is given the task of finding potential new businesses that could benefit our downtown and our residents.

**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?**

**Grayson Vandegrift-** I am not in favor of expanding the urban service boundary anywhere in the city with the one possible exception of the land just north of Lakeshore Learning Materials. That land, often referred to as the Freeny Property, is sandwiched between two industrial users, and the Comprehensive Plan has designated that land for future workplace development. I believe that securing more occupational tax revenue in the future is vital to the interests of the people of Midway because it will greatly enhance our opportunities to make the necessary replacements and upgrades to water and sewer lines as well as storm sewers, roads, and sidewalks.

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

**Grayson Vandegrift-** I do not support the merger of Midway city government with any other governmental body, and therefore, as far as I’m concerned, if Woodford County government and

Versailles government want to discuss it for themselves, they are more than welcome to. But I see no reason why Midway needs to participate in that study, as there is no practical reason why we would merge with either entity, especially given the fact that we are doing so well as a city. I am always open to the possibility of merging services together where it benefits our citizens, but I am absolutely against any merger involving Midway.

**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?**

**Grayson Vandegrift-** I’m proud of the improvements we’ve made over the last four years, but our infrastructure is not where it needs to be, and now that we’ve accomplished the feat of paying off all our sewer debt, I’m dedicated to investing more in infrastructure if I am fortunate enough to earn a second term. We have paved some of the worst roads in town already, and are planning even more in this fiscal year. We’ve also begun a Comprehensive Traffic Plan that includes more striping, as well as adding edge lines, with plans to build concrete sidewalk “bulb-outs,” which have shown to be very useful around the country in shortening pedestrian crossings, slowing traffic speeds, and beautifying the city, as these can easily be landscaped. I would like to see more transportation options available for our seniors and anyone who doesn’t have the means or ability to travel outside of the city, and I plan on working with local and state agencies to see that we can improve those options as well. And as I’ve mentioned before, one of my biggest goals if re-elected to is to make significant progress in replacing our worst sewer and water lines in the next four years, using our significant surpluses that we have built as well as the projected income that continues to expand with the growth of Lakeshore Learning Materials and potential new clients at Midway Station.

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

**Grayson Vandegrift-** We recently became only the third city in Kentucky (Lexington and Louisville being the other two) to install an electric charging station for vehicles, located in the parking lot behind city hall. That was a project paid for by Kentucky Utilities, and I want to continue to seek partnerships that are economically viable and which enhance environmental sustainability. I am also very interested in pursuing the concept of adding solar panels to city hall, so long as it makes sense to our taxpayers. We’re already in the process of working to bring permanent recycling cans to downtown, perhaps starting with a few at first, and possibly expanding that if needed.

**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?**

**Grayson Vandegrift-** My policy has always been, and will continue to be if re-elected, that we must never, with any city endeavor, endanger the agricultural farmland that truly makes Midway

and Woodford County unique. One of the main reasons people live here is because they can have the comforts of modern urban life, but still know they are in the presence of beautiful and pristine farmland. That is as much a part of our identity as being the first railroad town in Kentucky, and both are integral to our historical and cultural identity. I would like to work with entities such as the Woodford County Farmers Market to help them to expand their ability to sell their products in our city, and I would consider tax credits for restaurants who buy product from Woodford County farmers, pending a thorough and agreed-upon plan, and acceptance by the Midway City Council.