

2018 Candidate Questionnaire for candidates running Versailles City Council races:

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

Patrick Hall- My considerable public sector experience coupled with my knowledge as an attorney make me the best choice for the Versailles City Council. As a licensed attorney, I bring knowledge and experience with the legal process that is currently lacking on the Council. Additionally, I have experience working at every level and in all three branches of government. This experience will be an asset in developing cooperation with and advocating for the city with the state and federal governments. As part of my governmental experience, I worked for the City of New Orleans, Louisiana as the Projects and Planning Coordinator for the Health and Emergency Management departments. My duties in this position were broad and included grant writing, grant management, public and media relations, and strategic planning. During Hurricane Katrina, I helped manage logistics for the special medical needs unit inside the Louisiana Superdome. For seven days, we served as the only source of medical care for nearly 30,000 people. When we finally evacuated the Superdome, I escorted 40 foreign nationals to Texas, where they could be connected with officials from their home country. I continued to work for the City, helping to develop the resettlement plan used by the city. This is just one example of the dedication I bring to City Council.

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

Patrick Hall- We have so many advantages and opportunities for increased tourism in Versailles that we need to improve upon. We are surrounded by the breathtaking views of horse farms, we are centrally located within a twenty-minute drive of ten distilleries, and we offer local shops, restaurants, and experiences that are unparalleled in the surrounding communities. Our biggest challenge is sharing our story with the wider world. To help overcome this issue, I will lead the charge to hire a marketing and communications director to promote our city and make Versailles a destination.

- 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 Versailles Urban Service Boundary.**

Patrick Hall- In an effort to protect the character and context of existing neighborhoods, I will work with homeowners' associations and/or other citizens' groups to expand the use of the Historic Overlay zoning designation where appropriate to protect the character and context of existing neighborhoods. Additionally, I will work to ensure the Abandoned Urban Property ordinance is utilized to its fullest extent to ensure that unsafe, underutilized, or vacant properties are made safe and/or brought back into productive use. Finally, I will research what new and innovative tax incentives can be developed and implemented to encourage developers to focus their efforts on infill re-development.

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

Patrick Hall- First and foremost, I support the building of a downtown pavilion to be constructed in the current Downtown District. This pavilion should be positioned in such a way that it can be a focal point for the community and physical link between the Main Street commercial/entertainment area and Big Spring Park. This pavilion should be undertaken as a public/private partnership so as to minimize the cost to taxpayers. In conjunction with this effort, additional resources, both public and private need to be devoted to revitalizing Big Spring Park. This revitalization should be carried out in such a fashion as to make the park more accessible and inclusive to all members of our community.

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

Patrick Hall- Consistent with the general provisions of the Comprehensive Plan, I do not support further annexation into the Versailles Urban Services Boundary. Rather, I support policies that will incentivize and encourage infill and redevelopment of property within the current urban services boundary.

6. Do you support the study of a merger of the county government with one or more of the city governments?

Patrick Hall- I think that the citizens of Versailles are well-served by the current governmental structure; therefore, I do not support the study of a merger of the county and city governments. By keeping the city government separate from the county government, we are able to take advantage of the conveniences afforded by living within the city limits, while simultaneously utilizing the economies of scale available with county-wide projects. Additionally, by maintaining the current government structure the citizens of Midway and Versailles are able to enact policies supported within their communities, such as the fairness ordinance enacted in Midway, which I support replicating in Versailles.

7. In your opinion, is Versailles city transportation and infrastructure adequate to support our community? If not, where would you like to see improvements made?

Patrick Hall- While our infrastructure is adequate for most our needs, we need to develop infrastructure that will make Versailles a more walkable and greener community. We need more dedicated bicycle lanes and sidewalks to promote both green transportation and healthy lifestyles. We need to revitalize and reimagine our parks, particularly Big Spring Park to make them safe, inviting, and exciting areas for everyone in our community to relax and recreate. Additionally, we need better signage throughout downtown to direct visitors to unique tourist attractions like Woodford Reserve or the Jack Jouett House, as well as basic amenities such as parking. We also need to continue to invest in maintaining our streets and sewer systems.

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

Patrick Hall- In order to improve our environmental sustainability, the city should work with the county, state, and federal governments as well private partners to develop ride sharing, bicycle sharing, and other alternative transportation options. The city should also seek public and private grants to install energy efficient improvements to city-owned facilities. As city vehicles are retired from service, they should be replaced by hybrid vehicles as applicable. The city should also seek to install vehicle recharging stations at city hall, or support private efforts to install recharging stations within the city.

9. Do you support or oppose the extension of Falling Springs Blvd. at or near U.S. 62?

Patrick Hall- While traffic remains a concern for our community, particularly along the Main Street corridor, we do not need major alterations such as the proposed bypass to ease these traffic concerns. Rather, I will seek to have a dedicated left-turn signal light installed at the intersection of Main Street and Lexington Street, which will allow those turning left at that intersection to do so without having to cross oncoming traffic. I will also work to improve alternative transportation options by seeking more dedicated bicycle lanes and seeking a ride-share provider to operate in our community.

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 the Versailles city limits?

Patrick Hall- The city of Versailles is surrounded by picturesque horse farms, counts two Triple Crown winners as its neighbors, and is in the same county as two of the best bourbon distilleries in Kentucky. While Versailles boasts all of these advantages, we lack a cohesive message to share these advantages with the wider community. If elected, I will spearhead the hiring of a marketing and communications director for our city. Among his or her duties, this person will be tasked with developing a tourism marketing plan for our community. By crafting a unique and recognizable brand and message that is specifically targeted to interested consumers, we can more effectively utilize our marketing resources, increase the number of visitors to our community, and grow the tourism sector of our economy.