

**Abel Garza, Jr. – Candidate for Commissioner At-Large  
City of Texas City  
(May 2022)**

**1. If elected, what key competencies would you bring to the position?**

I am a good listener. If elected, I would hit the ground listening. I would listen to the concerns of the citizens, the business owners, local industries, and school officials. I would assess those concerns, determine solutions, formulate a plan of action and discuss those actions with City leadership to determine the best resolution possible. Additionally, I possess experienced leadership. I worked in the business division for approximately 37 years at two major educational institutions of higher learning and served in senior level management/supervisory capacities for over 30 of those years. I am knowledgeable and experienced in staffing, short and long-term planning, budgeting, evaluating, time management, business logistics, effective communication, employee relations, performance management and conflict resolution. Also, I:

- Am former Texas City Commissioner with 30 months of service,
- Am familiar with issues affecting our City,
- Serve on the Galveston County Animal Resources Center Advisory Board-4 years,
- Serve on the City's Bayou Golf Course Advisory Board-21 years,
- Served on the City's Board of Adjustments Committee-17 years,
- Served on the City's Goals 2000 Planning Committee,
- Served on the City's Vision 2020 Planning Committee,
- Served of the City's Community Matters 2030 Planning Committee,
- Am graduate from U of H-Clear Lake, and
- Achieved the rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America.

**2. Briefly outline the top issues you feel will be of significant importance in Texas City over the next three to five years.**

- As Texas City continues to grow and more housing subdivisions are built, we need to insure that our first responders have appropriate staffing and satellite facilities to tend to the needs of the citizens in the vicinity of those housing developments. Having nearby satellite site facilities will reduce critical response time in emergency situations. I am referring to satellite site facilities similar to the Public Safety facility scheduled to begin construction in May, 2022, in the vicinity of the Tanger Mall/Lago Mar subdivision,
- Texas City leadership needs to maintain rapport and open lines of communication with our local petrochemical industries to be immediately informed of potentially harmful environmental issues,
- Our drainage systems must be updated and repaired as needed in order to be able to handle excess water during severe weather conditions. Citizens need to be able to evacuate within short notice and not be stranded due to flooding,
- Our City should consider incentives to developers and streamline the permitting and inspection process to assure the construction of new upscale affordable homes. Home

ownership provides a community attachment, which is a must to attract young couples and their families to live in Texas City.

- We should promote our natural assets like the T.C. Dike, our ecotourism attractions, our parks, and other amenities to foster our community.
- We need to support a code enforcement department, which will assist in keeping Texas City clean and safe,
- We need to continue to attract retailers to want to do business in Texas City,
- We need to continue to diversify and improve our economic development base by soliciting companies to want to operate in Texas City. A diverse economic industry base will help Texas City continue to thrive should the petrochemical industry experience an economic problem, and
- We need to always have open lines of communication with each school in TCISD. We need to assist in providing and maintaining a safe environment for our children to learn without being in fear for their well-being and safety. We all know that tomorrow's leaders are sitting in the classrooms today. We need to protect the students, the teachers and the school staff.

### **3. What can you do as an elected official to help small business in the community?**

It is well known and understood that small businesses are the backbone of the American economy and that small businesses create vibrant communities. They employ local residents and often donate services, goods and funds to support community causes. I would like to meet with our Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to formulate a plan to encourage school leaders and College of the Mainland to offer classes having to do with managing or working in small businesses. Classes on how to advertise, how to conduct an inventory of merchandise, customer service, how to greet walk-in customers, communicating with disruptive/rude customers, closing and balancing the cash with sales receipts, working cash registers, how to handle an exchange or a return of merchandise, how to restock inventory, ordering merchandise, maintaining an environmentally clean and sanitary building and business, how to deal with a potential shoplifter, how to arrange merchandise displays, and other similar courses unique to small businesses.

I would support the EDC in providing small businesses with market research data. Some of the data may be too costly for a small business to purchase; yet, the data can assist a small business in making sound business decisions and hopefully remain in business. I would support the EDC and the TC/LM Chamber of Commerce informing small businesses on how to complete loan applications when needed and to whom small business loans should be submitted.

### **4. What would you do as an elected official to help small businesses in the community?**

In addition to the information stated in question number three, I would be available to listen to issues and concerns raised by small business. If a small business issue is one that does not fall under City guidelines, I would refer the small business to an appropriate group who can best address their concern.

**5. Any other comments you would like to make?**

I am seeking to be elected as one of the two Commissioners at-Large in Texas City. I possess the experienced leadership to continue to make a positive impact in the community in which I was born and raised and for which I deeply care about. I possess and believe in high morals and strong ethics and if I tell someone that I will accomplish a certain task, my word is my honor, rest assured that I will perform that task. I enjoy working with all citizens of our community, helping our local businesses to be successful, and assisting our local schools to succeed in their mission. I listen to issues/concerns, research possible solutions, and discuss those solutions with the Mayor, fellow commissioners and/or department heads. I firmly believe that collaborating with all affected parties will always result in a positive outcome. I also believe it is important that Texas City continue to be a safe place where families can live, work, and raise their family.

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