

County Justice of the Peace Candidates Questionnaire – 2022

Washington County (Brenham), Texas

The Washington County Chamber is asking the following questions to local candidates for election. Please return your responses to the following questions by February 4, 2022 to news@brenhamtexas.com. (Let us know if you'd like to receive this blank questionnaire by email, so that you can fill it in on-screen.) All candidate responses will be publicized to the membership of the Washington County Chamber and on www.BrenhamTexas.com. (Any candidate that chooses not to respond will have that indicated next to his/her name on the website.) Your document will be viewed by local citizens and media outlets. Your response document will be published as you provide it. Please double-check that it is free of typos, place your name and position you're seeking on top, and include the corresponding question above each response in the order below (for ease of reading by citizens.)

Duane 'Dane' Houston – Justice of the Peace - Precinct 3

1. Why have you decided to run for election at this time?

After having two different careers, both of them serving the citizens of Washington County, I feel that with my experience and qualifications, it would be another opportunity for me to give back to my community and serve them again.

2. What are your qualifications for being Justice of the Peace?

I have a Business Administration degree from Texas A&M University. I owned and operated a successful plumbing business for 22 years, which gives me a perspective from the working class. As a retired Lieutenant with the Washington County Sheriff's Office, with over 4200 hours of education and training with the Texas Commission On Law Enforcement, I have had extensive training in all areas that could potentially be brought before a Justice of the Peace.

3. If you are elected, what do you consider to be the top priorities to work on over the next four years?

One of my top priorities will be to have regular set business hours to be more accessible to the public. I am also planning on having the office open during the noon hour to accommodate the working people, allowing them to address any issues they may have during their lunch hour rather than taking time off work.

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

As I stated in the previous question, having my office open during the noon hour would help small businesses by not having employees take off during working hours. I will also aggressively pursue hot check writers, making sure businesses get paid. Being able to resolve issues in small claims court will benefit small businesses by saving added expenses in a higher court.

5. How important do you feel the relationship is between Washington County government officials and City of Brenham officials, City of Burton officials and the unincorporated communities? How could these relationships be improved?

As a Justice of the Peace, I feel that it is very important to have a good working relationship and a good line of communication between all the local governments as well as the unincorporated communities. As a Justice of the Peace, serving all the citizens of Washington Country is my top priority. As a Lieutenant with the Sheriffs' Office, I had a good working relationship with all the entities within the county and I will strive to continue that working relationship, by keeping all lines of communication open, and working together for the betterment of all.

**Return by February 4th to:
news@brenhamtexas.com**

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