

Batt Spring Election Preview

City Council Place 1

Jim Jett

What do you consider to be your qualifications for College Station City Councilman?

I am 30 years old, energetic and interested in working for the betterment of College Station. I came back to College Station of my own choice after going to college here

The following candidates for College Station City Councilmen were interviewed by Battalion staff writers.

The city council election is Tuesday.

because I liked the town. I have worked in business as an employee, supervisor and owner. I feel this will aid me on the council to maintain a business-like approach to city government. I am active in the Chamber of Commerce and local civic organizations.

What do you consider to be the advantages and disadvantages of consolidating the cities of Bryan and College Station? Do you support this move?

I am not for consolidation, as I can see no gain for the city of College Station. I see bad problems arising if we give up any degree of control over our city. The voter turnout is larger in Bryan than in College Station, which would cause a power imbalance without a ward system. College Station is presently a pay-as-you-go city, and I want to keep it that way.

Do you favor ward or at-large elections for the city? Why?

I favor the ward system. At least it would insure a diverse geographical distribution on the council.

Should the council hold two regular meetings monthly instead of the one it holds now? Should councilmen receive compensation? How much?

The council should hold meetings as often as needed. Two regular meetings would get more people informed as to when the council meets than the called meeting system.

The council should not receive compensation. The job can be done at this time by concerned citizens giving their time.

Do you favor moving the railroad tracks by the Wellborn Road beyond A&M's west campus?

Yes. The railroad is an increasing problem.

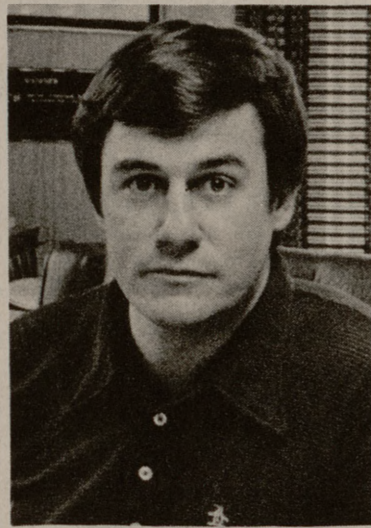
How would you have voted on the Dominik Drive rezoning? (changing a single-family residential area to an apartment building district) Why?

I would have voted for the rezoning. I believe the buffer requested by the residents was adhered to by Harry Seaback. There was a mutual agreement arrived at between them and it was kept by Seaback. The city needed more apartments and it is not for the council to judge the personalities of the person making the request.

On what criteria would you approve zone change requests in general?

The needs of the community must come first. Changing patterns in the city may necessitate rezonings. An investigation should be made into the effects of the change on the surrounding area. We must be careful to avoid a 'snowball' effect that would take us away from our development plan.

(See JETT, page 8)



Jim Jett

Gary Halter

What do you consider to be your qualifications for College Station City Councilman?

I have a Ph.D. in Political Science with a specialty in municipal government and administration. I teach courses in city management, city finance and law. Also, I work as an adviser through the university to other cities in Texas giving them advice on management and technology application.

What do you consider to be the advantages and disadvantages of consolidating the cities of Bryan and College Station? Do you support this move?

First of all, I oppose it because I know there are no economies of scale in most municipal services. Per capita expenditures for police, highways, sanitation, fire protection and for recreation and parks generally tend to increase with the size of a city. Many of these things in the area of police and fire protection can best be handled through cooperation between the two cities. In the areas of utilities there are economies of scale in terms of production but to a large extent these services are already consolidated.

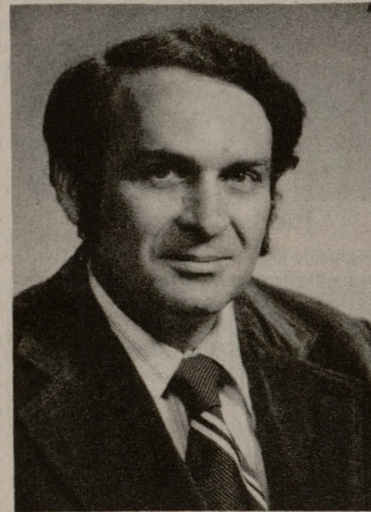
Do you favor ward or at-large elections for the city? Why?

I would favor a ward system under these conditions:

a) it should be a combination of at-large and ward with the mayor being elected at-large.

b) we would have to increase the size of the city council beyond its present position. I think larger city councils do provide more accurate representation of all the various segments and interests of the community.

c) wards have to be apportioned



Gary Halter

KAMU-TV to hold election forum tonight

Candidates for the College Station City Council and A&M Consolidated School Board will be questioned by a five-man panel tonight at 10 in a live television broadcast on KAMU-TV, Channel 15.

Representing The Battalion on the panel will be city staff reporter Gerald Olivier. The other panelists include Mark Holcomb of KAMU-TV; Wendy Gramm, representing the Brazos County League of Women Voters; C.J. Leabo, journalism department head; and Eagle reporter Jerry Gray.

The panel interview will be rebroadcast in its entirety at 10 p.m. Monday. The College Station City Council election will be the following day while the school board election is set for April 5.

On April 2 at 10 p.m. a similar interview program will be held by Channel 15 with candidates for the Bryan City Council and Bryan School Board. The show will be re-run at the same time on April 4. The portion of the first program dealing with candidates for the A&M Consolidated School Board will be included in the April 4 re-run.

This change not be made. Since this is a democratic government, I think the council should have postponed the hearing to give the public time to legally file the petition.

On what criteria would you approve zone change requests (in general)?

The three main criteria I would look into are the change in traffic, the effects on drainage and the character of the neighborhood. If any of these things are going to be greatly altered then I am going to vote against it.

Should College Station have zoning ordinances at all? (Bryan has no zoning) Would you recommend changes in the current zoning ordinances?

I think we have to have zoning. Development can be directed by laying major utility lines in a specific direction but only as a supplement to zoning. If the city continues to approve over 90 percent of all rezoning requests then this cannot work.

I would recommend a time limit on the amount of time a piece of land can stay in a particular category above a single-family residence and still be undeveloped. If a piece of

(See HALTER, page 8)

City Council Place 3

Don Dale

What do you consider to be your qualifications for College Station City Council?

I'm going on my past record and my support for continued improvement in the regulations that govern our city. We have had a development controls committee that I am chairman of and we are trying to clean up some of our ordinances that are not up to date. I think this continued effort will enable the city to keep up with its growth with up-to-date ordinances. I've served four years on the city council and have been very involved in the city's affairs.

What do you consider as the advantages and/or disadvantages of consolidating both the cities of Bryan and College Station? Would you support such a move?

No, I would not support such a move. That's a very ticklish subject with me in that I've been here so long and I've watched the people of Bryan turn thumbs down on the people of College Station and try to run everything. But now the city of College Station is going to outstrip Bryan in all activities and now they (city of Bryan) would like for us to join them. I am 100 percent for the cooperation between the two cities but not the consolidation.

Do you favor ward or at-large elections for the city? Why?

I see nothing wrong with the ward system. I think the distribution of people throughout the whole area has certain advantages. But it would make no difference to me whether or not I was elected from a ward or an at-large system. I think I



Don Dale

could represent the people just as well either way. I think you might have a little better representation with a ward system and I would vote for it.

Should the Council hold two regular meetings monthly instead of the one it holds now? Should councilmen receive compensation? How much?

I don't know whether two are necessary or not because sometimes we meet more than once a month during special meetings. Just meeting for the sake of meeting really doesn't make sense. As long as all the committees we've got are doing their jobs then I see no reason why we should meet twice a month. I don't think we should be paid be-

(See DALE, page 8)

Bob Bell

What do you consider to be your qualifications for College Station City Councilman?

A basic interest in the city of College Station and the people. I have a bachelor of arts degree from Texas A&M and have been in business for nearly 10 years. My qualifications are a mix of community interest and business success that would be valuable as a city councilman.

What do you consider to be the advantages and disadvantages of consolidating the cities of Bryan and College Station? Do you support this move?

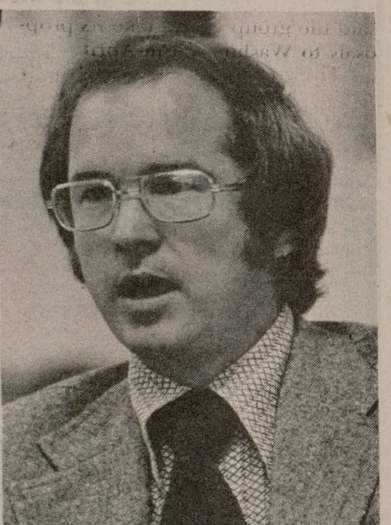
No party supporting a consolidation has approached me to support it. Several College Station residents are against it. My personal feeling is that cooperation in some areas, such as individual protection and city services, could be in the public interest. I support examining cooperative measures that could be beneficial to College Station.

Do you favor ward or at-large elections for the city? Why?

A city council of eight members plus a mayor, with four councilmen elected from wards, and four plus the mayor elected at-large would be best. This would give all areas representation, and enlarge the city council to better handle city government. This would combine the best features of both systems.

Should the city council hold two regular meetings a month instead of the one it holds now? Should councilmen receive compensation? How much?

I would favor two regular meet-



Bob Bell

ings. The council should not receive compensation.

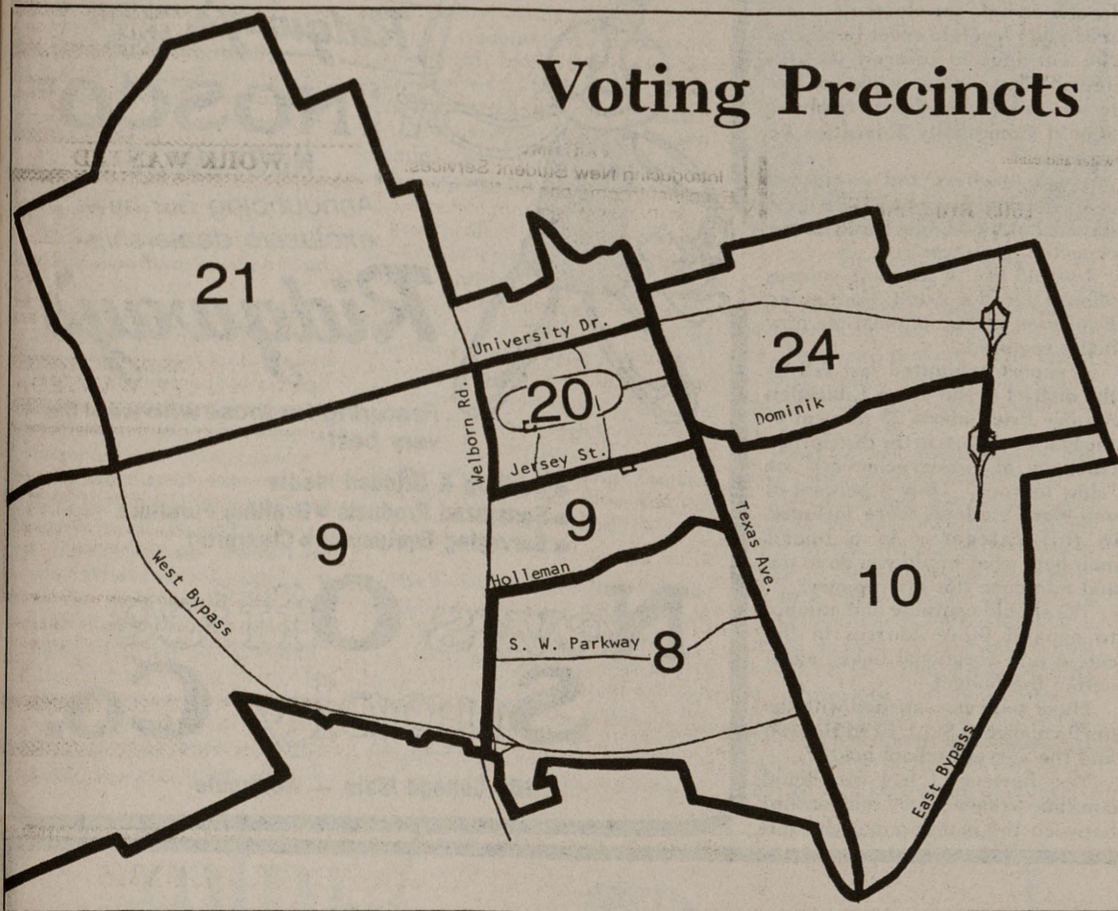
Do you favor moving the railroad tracks by the Wellborn Road beyond A&M's west campus?

I think I need to study this issue more closely before I make an iron-clad statement. The factors involving a move may be such that the railroad will be moving on its own, or it may be impossible to move at all.

How would you have voted on the Dominik Drive rezoning (changing single-family residential to an apartment building district)? Why?

I would have supported the request of the Dominik residents and would have voted against the rezoning. It was not the request of Col-

(See BELL, page 8)



College Station voters will fill three positions on their city council in Tuesday's election. On the following Saturday, April 5, two positions on the A&M Consolidated School Board will be filled.

The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on both days.

Polling places are as follows:

Precinct 8	South Knoll Elementary School
Precinct 9	A&M Consolidated Special Services Building
Precinct 10	College Station Fire Station
Precinct 20	TAMU University Center
Precinct 21	College Station Municipal Building
Precinct 24	College Hills Elementary School

Greg Magruder

What do you consider to be your qualifications for College Station City Councilman?

I am currently an advisory director of University National Bank. I



Greg Magruder

City Council Place 5

have an awareness of and interest in community affairs.

What do you consider to be the advantages and disadvantages of consolidating the cities of Bryan and College Station? Do you support this move?

At this time there has not been enough representation of both sides of the argument. Some advantages are that both cities could be involved in mass transportation system and utilities regulation. The complexity of consolidation would be a major disadvantage.

Do you favor ward or at-large elections for the city? Why?

I would tend to favor ward system because it would insure representation for students and for specific areas of the city. It would not be practical to divide the city into wards to give minorities their own representatives because of the way the minority areas are spread out. Students have the capability to elect representatives in the at-large sys-

tem.

Should the council hold two regular meetings monthly instead of the one it holds now? Should councilmen receive compensation? How much?

Yes, the city should have two regular meetings each month. They would get more done and wouldn't have to cram it into one long meeting. Councilmen shouldn't receive compensation.

Do you favor moving the railroad tracks by the Wellborn Road beyond A&M's west campus?

Yes. The tracks need to be moved to allow student traffic to get across the tracks. The move would better facilitate traffic flow in town.

How would you have voted on the Dominik Drive rezoning? (changing a single-family residence area to an apartment building district) Why?

I would have voted against it because people in the area did not want additional apartments.

On what criteria would you approve zone change requests in general?

I am skeptical of zone changes. The city needs more planning and to stick to plans. People would have to convince me a zone change would be advantageous to the whole community or I would vote against it.

Should College Station have zoning ordinances at all? (Bryan has no zoning.) Would you recommend changes in the current zoning ordinances?

Yes, we need zoning. I would not recommend any changes at this time.

Considering the city's growth rate, should College Station generate its own utilities instead of contracting for those services from Bryan?

If there was a future consolidation, this move would not be feasible. I am against another city controlling our utilities. They may curtail our usage in a shortage.

Larry Bravenec

What do you consider to be your qualifications for the College Station City Council?

I've served one year on the council and it was a year in which I learned a lot. If I'm elected I don't think I will have any trouble finding my way around. It takes about a year to get to know your way around here. I was elected to fill an unexpired term and I feel I'm qualified for another term.

What do you consider to be the advantages and disadvantages of consolidating the cities of Bryan and College Station? Would you support such a move?

I haven't seen any advantages, but I wouldn't oppose it if the advantages became clear to me in terms of better services and less expense. There are certain advantages in separate cities in that you have police and fire departments that are closer to you and are able to serve the city better. Second, we buy our utilities, water and electricity from Bryan. Bryan has to float its bonds to the public, generally, and one of the factors that bears on the rate of in-

terest they pay on those bonds is their past experience with their major customers. College Station is their major customer. We have paid our bills on time and because of this I think we actually save money by selling bonds to the public that wouldn't exist if we had just one big city. Consolidation just for the sake of consolidation doesn't make sense to me. We are operating quite well now as it is.

Do you favor ward or at-large elections for the city? Why?

This is really a matter out of the council's hands, but speaking as a private citizen, I would probably vote against it. I think city government would be more responsive when you have seven councilmen you can call on rather than just one from your own ward. The city really isn't big enough for a ward system. It would probably divide the city because then you would be promoting the interests of your own ward rather than of the whole city.

Should the Council hold two regular meetings monthly instead of the one it holds now? Should councilmen receive compensation?

When the new council met last

April this issue came up and I voted in favor of two meetings because I feel we have enough business now to warrant two regular meetings a month. We've been averaging about two and a half meetings a month now. Sometimes we have

(See BRAVENEC, page 8)



Larry Bravenec