

professor, attorney vie for position

# Place 2 hopefuls pledge equality

By Teresa Montz and Katherine Matzinger  
Reporters

Both candidates for the College Station City Council Place 2, Bob Runnels and Sara Goode Jones, say they are running to represent all of the city's different groups.

## Incumbent

Runnels, associate professor of geology at A&M, is running for a fourth term for Place 2 on the council against Sara Goode Jones, a former attorney.

A member of the council since 1980, he says he is impressed with the city manager, William King, and he would like to continue working on the city's comprehensive and long range budgeting procedure.

"I would like to see more communication efforts being made to effectively involve the public in the budget-making process," Runnels says. "I think we could make better use of the cable channels and hold more public forums to let the community know the issues at hand. I think it's important that people be involved."

## Background

Runnels, 50, is a native of Houston. He just wants to have a part in directing (College Station's) growth in the right direction.

Runnels graduated from the Uni-

versity of Houston in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in physics and received his master's degree in meteorology from A&M in 1962.

Upon graduation he worked for NASA for two years.

In 1966 he came back to A&M to complete his education, receiving his doctorate in meteorology in 1968.

Runnels has been a professor at A&M since 1966 and has lived in College Station ever since with his wife, Sandra and four children.

Runnels says he is a member of A&M United Methodist Church and was very involved with its administration until he ran for city council.

"I first ran for the City Council position because I felt my ideas were worth listening to," Runnels says. "I wanted to have a hand in the planning of the city."

Since he has been on the Council, Runnels has chaired the capital improvements committee and served as mayor pro tempore.

## Issues

One of the big issues in the past has been zoning standards, he says.

"The use of land is always a personal and emotional subject," he says, "but I feel I represent many of the citizens when I say the city's zoning standards are good and we should stick to them."

Runnels also says he will represent all of the citizens of College Station.

"I will try to voice the concerns of the majority of the citizens instead of one opinionated group," he says. "I also try not to divide the town into students and nonstudents. I'm seek-

ing everyone's vote, which includes students."

Runnels says if he is re-elected, he would like to see the city expand its parks and recreation facilities.

"Because we have an unusual number of citizens between the ages of 18 and 25, College Station needs to provide more services to meet these young adult's needs," he says.

Some ideas Runnels says he has for the city is to create a wilderness park for camping as well as expand the sports fields in the community.

## Challenger

Jones, Runnels' challenger, says College Station could benefit from a change on the College Station City Council, and she says she can provide that change.

"I feel I can do the job better," she says.

Jones, 44, has four children and has lived in College Station since she was four.

"I grew up here, and I love this town," Jones says. "The quality of life is better in a town this size, and I wanted my children to grow up here."

"It is a nice place to raise a family, and it has a cultural advantage with A&M."

Jones completed her undergraduate work at the University of Texas and earned her law degree at Baylor University.

Jones says she has experience running a business and can understand the needs of businesspeople as well as the needs of the A&M community.

"I am the daughter of an A&M

professor," she says. "I can identify with the A&M segment."

## Concerns

But trying to encourage businesses to operate in College Station does not mean a person is uncaring about the neighborhoods, Jones says.

"I don't want to be cast as against zoning," Jones says. "I'm definitely in favor of zoning. The system we have is good, because people have the right to appeal zoning ideas to the Council."

Jones says she favors development and growth than Bob Runnels.

"It (College Station) can't stay the same size forever, and only change and growth can keep it alive," she says.

The Council needs to research and study to find long term utility operations at affordable rates, Jones says.

## Experience

She says her business experience and her role as a lawyer will help with her role as a councilwoman, Jones says.

"The role of a lawyer is solving problems, analyzing them and knowing how to solve them," he says. "I think that role will carry over in working on the council."

Besides working as an attorney, Jones is in a leadership class sponsored by the College Station Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Education Committee of the Brazos County Bar Association.

## Composition

(continued from page 3)

received a full term and was re-elected in 1985.

However, sex differences between the two cities are entirely the opposite.

During the past 10 years Bryan has had one woman serve two terms to the City council while College

Station has had five women serve a total of eight terms between them. Three women are presently on the College Station City Council.

The winners' ages haven't seemed to have much influence on the voters in either the Bryan or College Station city council elections. In both

cities since 1975, the winners' ages have a wide range. The youngest was 29 and the oldest was 65.

In both cities, council members tend to rely on incumbency. Over the last 10 years, more than 70 percent of the council seats have been filled by incumbents.

Council members in both cities, before being elected to the council for the first time, usually served on a variety of community committees. Zoning commissions, park and recreation boards and the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce were named the most often.

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