

COUNTY COMMISSION - DISTRICT 8

GABE HOWARD



1. Why are you running for this position?

I believe that I can add value and make an impact by bringing a different perspective to a lot of challenging situations that we are going through right now as a County.

Maury County is at a point where we need strategic thought process, smart and sensible growth, and over all to UNITE as a community including city, county and school leadership to move Maury County Forward.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

My wife and I run a first-generation farm with our 4 young boys and we are our proud to live in Maury County. I have been an Entrepreneur for most of my life. I served in the United States Marine Corps and worked in Washington DC at the Department of State and the Pentagon Force Protection Agency after getting out. I have visited, worked in, been to or through almost 100 countries and I know how blessed we are to be able to live in Maury County. I want to lead Maury County Forward through smart and sensible growth. Growth Must Pay for Growth! I am a conservative that will work tirelessly to keep your taxes low, make our schools a priority, protect and preserve our land owners and farmers, always fight for what is the best thing for Maury County and our Community, and do my best to create a UNITED front at the City, County, and School leadership level to ensure we can achieve greater success.

3. What do you see as the top 3 priorities for Maury County and how do you plan to contribute to accomplishing those priorities?

UNITY: We must unite our cities, county, and school system leadership on a common front to move forward with the same goal of making Maury County better than we found it through smart and sensible growth.

SMART & SENSIBLE GROWTH: I want to lead Maury County Forward through smart and sensible growth. Growth Must Pay for Growth! We cannot continue to let Developers come here without contributing and putting it on the backs of the generational Maury Countians, OUR community, and County Government. I want to make sure that we continue to make Maury County a better place to live, raise a family, visit, start a business, or move a business here. I want to make sure that we leave Maury County better than we found it for the next generation.

SCHOOLS: We must make education a priority in Maury County. As of right now we have 120+ vacancies in teachers in our school system and some kids being taught virtually by teachers out of state. We must work together with the school system to make sure that they have their needs met financially as well as planning for this exponential growth that we are experiencing right now.

4. How do you plan to work collaboratively with each municipality to ensure the decisions being made are in the best interest of Maury County as a whole?

UNITY: We must unite our cities, county, and school system leadership on a common front to move forward with the same goal of making Maury County better than we found it through smart and sensible growth.

- 5. Maury County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state and country. This tremendous growth will require new and improved infrastructure (i.e., schools, roads, water, etc.). How do you plan to provide these infrastructure improvements, including any required funding?**

GROWTH MUST PAY FOR GROWTH! We must continue the fight to get IMPACT fees as they will make a tremendous impact on school infrastructure that we desperately need. I am currently working to get the advocates that we need to be able to bring this bill back in the next session.

- 6. How do you define thoughtful and sustainable growth in Maury County?**

Smart and Sensible Growth is what we need in Maury County right now. We need to protect and preserve our landowners and farmers, always fight for what is the best thing for Maury County and our Community, and do our best to create a UNITED front at the City, County, and School leadership level to ensure we can achieve greater success. We do not have the schools for the current approved permits in Maury County. We do not have the septic system infrastructure for the current proposed developments in Maury County. We do not have a long-term solid waste plan in Maury County. I believe we need to make sure that our infrastructure catches up before approving any additional high-density subdivisions.

- 7. Quality education and a diverse workforce are vital for the successful growth of Maury County and its municipalities. If elected, how would you improve these areas?**

I will continue to fight to make sure that Education is Priority in Maury County. That starts with the Impact fees to be able to offset and help build the school system facilities and infrastructure. Secondly, we need to focus on diversifying our workforce as today we are primarily an industrial/manufacturing business workforce. We need to continue to look at new enterprises and businesses that will serve our community best.

- 8. How do you plan to communicate with, and be available to, your constituents?**

I believe that weekly communication would be very important to share with the community regarding upcoming events, commission meetings, votes, etc. Too many times as a constituent I didn't even know that the County Commission was voting on something until it was too late. I have posted my phone number, email, etc and will make myself available to talk with anyone in Maury County.

- 9. What does a successful term look like to you?**

If we as a community are able to get IMPACT fees passed, property taxes low, business enterprise diversified, developers contributing, and keep moving Maury County Forward through smart and sensible growth I would say that we were successful in our term.

- 10. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to make Maury County the best place to live and work?**

I hope to work with Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to help look for additional business opportunities for our community and to help to continue to diversify our workforce in Maury County. I believe We have a lot of our community that travels outside of Maury County for work, I would love to see more of our community members that do not have to leave Maury County.

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