

Mark Stroud

MARTINSVILLE-HENRY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Martinsville City Council Candidate Survey

April 2008

Please answer each question and where applicable indicate your position on a particular issue. Additional comments are welcome. All responses will be published on the Chamber's website, where members will be directed to review.

We thank you in advance for your participation and commend you for your commitment to the community.

Questions:

1. Why are you running for the Martinsville City Council?

I have always loved our city very much and feel that to be a city councilman would be the ultimate act of service to the city and to the citizens.

2. What past experience(s) or strengths best qualify you for the position?

I have worked with our citizens in stressful situations for 26 years in the Emergency Medical Services and law enforcement fields. I feel that these experiences can only help me to be able to answer tough questions and to make tough decisions in a far less stressful environment.

3. What is the most important responsibility of a council member?

To be a steward of the citizen's taxes and to make sure that city government runs smoothly and is user friendly.

4. What is the most important aspect of job creation on which the city can focus?

To make sure that our industry recruitment matches our trained workforce and the resources that are available in our area.

5. What measures have worked and what suggestions do you have to stimulate economic growth?

The county has made progress with their industrial park. I think the city should follow their lead by developing our industrial park and tripling our efforts to recruit industries that would be suited for our local workforce. We have a

developed work force that is well suited for a variety of businesses.

6. In what areas, if any, should the city leadership cultivate relationships with the business community in Martinsville-Henry County?

In the areas of business resources, economic development incentives, and employer seminars.

7. What is the greatest challenge facing the community and how do you intend to address it?

The highest unemployment in the state is our greatest challenge. We must address this issue by increasing the efforts of the E.D.C. or finding new tools to use in the recruitment of new industry in Martinsville.

8. As a member of council, how would you support existing businesses and new industries?

To work toward making the relationship between city council, existing businesses, and new businesses seamless and effective. And, by ensuring the interaction between city services and new and existing businesses are friendly, efficient and responsive to their needs.

9. Are there key areas in which the business community should partner with the local government on?

One-stop business centers, business tax relief efforts, especially during a new company's first year. To work with businesses to ensure access to the most modern technologies.

10. What is the city's role in workforce development?

That it would be a model of cooperation for those who endeavor to improve the city's workforce.

11. What is your view of the educational system (K-12, PHCC, New College Institute, and National College)?

This is our beacon of hope. Our city schools are fully accredited. Patrick Henry Community College is a jewel in the community college system. The New College Institute is making great progress and will be a catalyst for uptown development and the National Business College is critical for workforce development and diversity.

12. What is your vision for our community over the next four years?

Is that we will have a series of positive employment announcements, that our Educational institutions will continue to be instrumental in our economic development successes, and that the Martinsville City government will make strides in becoming more pro business and excel in its interactions with all citizens.