

Dear Wimberley City Election Voters,

Citizens Alliance for Responsible Development is a non-partisan volunteer group that does not endorse any political candidates. We believe voters should know who is running and what they stand for. In order to better educate ourselves and others, we asked candidates in the upcoming city election for Mayor and City Council how they would approach several key issues facing Wimberley.

We asked them all the same six questions, and asked them to keep replies to 100 words. We have not altered or edited any responses (unless to correct obvious spelling errors). Where candidates went over the limit in their answers, we are running the first approximately 110 words; we told them in advance that we would do that.

Questions were emailed to all candidates on Wednesday, April 2. They were required to return them by email to us by Friday, April 11. We invited them to ask us if any of our questions were unclear.

For more information on the candidates, we suggest checking with the voter's guide of the League of Women Voters at lwvtexas.org/votersintro.php and in the April 17 Wimberley View. We also encourage you to attend the League-sponsored debate on April 24 at 7:00 pm in the Wimberley Community Center.

Voting on a local level is one of the most powerful tools available to citizens, and CARD encourages all to take part for the good of our community.

CARD Steering Committee

MAYORAL RACE

1. Give us a brief profile of yourself.

Mac McCullough: I have served in some capacity as either an elected official or by appointment to a city board/commission for every year during the past 10 years. The last 4 years I served as City of Wimberley Place 2 Councilman. I have gained experience dealing with the current issues Wimberley faces and I have gained valuable insight into some issues that do lie ahead. In addition, my wife and I currently own and operate a local

business on the Wimberley Square and I am available to see and visit with citizens on a regular basis.

Tom Talcott:

Experience:

- 3 years on City Council Place 1
- 6 months on Hays County 25 Year Road Plan Board
- Air Force Squadron Commander - 350 men, women and dependents. Also, managed the base, civil engineering, logistics, finance, and facilities.
- 3 years Treasurer for Chapel in The Hills Non-denominational Church

Education:

- BBA – Texas Christian University
- MBA – Midwestern State University
- Graduate Thesis - Zero-Based Budgeting in a Small Town - incorporated in Wimberley budget process

Training:

- Project Management Institute (January 2014)
 - managing successful government projects
- Contract and acquisition training (Certification - October 2012)
- Annual Code of Ethics Training
 - Ethical Decision Making, Conflicts of Interest, and confidentiality.
- Annual Anti-Harassment Training, EEO and Affirmative Action Policy

Training.

Steve Thurber: I am a Wimberley CPA and my wife and I own a small business in Wimberley. We have been residents of Wimberley for 17 years. I have been active with city government since incorporation in 2000 serving on many committees including the planning & zoning commission, ethics commission, and economic development advisory board. I am currently serving my 3rd term on city council and have served on many local non-profit boards and am currently an advisory board member of Friends of Blue Hole.

2. Why are you running, and how are you better qualified than your opponent(s)?

McCullough: My aim as mayor of Wimberley will be to see the needs of our citizens respected, our neighborhoods protected, and the goals of our community met. My 6 years of experience on various boards and commissions and these last four years as a council person have given me keen insight that makes me the most qualified. I am an involved, hands-on person who will lead by example. I am willing to respond to issues or emergencies whether day or night. I believe Wimberley deserves a mayor who will devote himself to serving Wimberley in a full-time capacity, and I want to be that person.

Talcott: I am running for Mayor because I have a passion for keeping

Wimberley "A little bit of Heaven" for future generations. I have proven qualities of leadership in City government, private enterprise, and military experience. I can see the big picture and can see a potential challenge, break it down into components, and program manage the project. I feel comfortable delegating/guiding the City Commissioners and City Staff who have been trained to provide solutions. I feel that the Wimberley residents will be proud of how I represent them in local, area, and state activities.

Thurber: I am running first because of my love of public service. Being active in the community gives one a sense of belonging to the community. I especially enjoy working with the community to make our place a better place to live, work and enjoy life. I am better qualified for a number of reasons. Having been in and around city government for 6 years I have the practical experience. Being a CPA I have the fiscal experience. I also have a deep respect for our comprehensive plan, for the public process, and for our municipal government.

3. What is your position on the proposed wastewater system for downtown Wimberley? Why?

McCullough: I strongly favor a wastewater system for downtown Wimberley. I whole-heartedly believe that in exchange for the natural wonderment and beauty we enjoy from our local creek and river we carry a moral responsibility to protect those waters from our failing septic systems. In addition, my support of a downtown wastewater system would include absolutely no discharge in our creek or river. Further, I support the 100% re-use of the discharge here within the downtown area and not some nearby golf course.

Talcott: I support:
All of the efforts of the wastewater environmental groups' solutions to protect the creeks and rivers of Wimberley.
The Ad-hoc Waste Water Committee report which did an outstanding job of providing a solution/plan to the wastewater issue.
The belief that the proposed wastewater system should lessen the presumed pollution leaking into Cypress Creek near downtown.
The connection of properties on the north and west side of Cypress Creek to Aqua Texas to stop potential pollution in that area to the creek.
The beneficial reuse of the treated effluent from the proposed Wimberley wastewater project.
A baseline study on Cypress Creek prior to the new wastewater plant.

Thurber: I will continue to support the downtown wastewater plant and the recommendations by the stakeholder group appointed to study the issue. I also believe the businesses and residents using the system should bear the cost of the system with **NO TAXES** to our citizens. I support the use of the high quality effluent generated by the plant in Blue Hole Park as the present

plan provides. This will protect our aquifer and insure the sustainability of the park. I support city control of the plant so that the citizens will have a direct voice in its operation as is provided for in the present plan.

4. How would you balance Wimberley's growth with preserving its character and natural resources?

McCullough: If we acknowledge and accommodate plans for growth, likely "they will come," or if we do nothing and "they still come" then we have failed to balance Wimberley's growth and preserve its small town character as well as protect its natural resources by failing to plan. I believe that growth within the City of Wimberley can be anticipated by studying our neighboring communities and how their elected officials have planned or not planned their small towns. I believe responsible leaders have to plan with foresight to design and control the growth that will preserve Wimberley's charm that drew us all here in the first place.

Talcott: I support the Wimberley ordinances concerning new construction which restrict homes and large businesses from affecting the character of Wimberley. For instance, HEB needed a variance to two different ordinances to receive permission to build on RR12. These current laws allow the City Council and Mayor to protect and welcome growth of the City while preserving the character and natural resources. HEB's plans were environmentally conscience. They have set a high standard for all new business to emulate. Currently, I do not favor the building of additional "box stores" in my town.

Thurber: As we all know, growth is inevitable. What is not inevitable is unmanaged growth. Wimberley is Wimberley and by keeping the citizens involved in the planning process, we can keep it "Wimberley." The city's comprehensive plan is due to be reviewed in the coming year, so now is the time to plan for what we want our city be and look like. Planning for the future and sticking to that plan is vital to maintain our character and natural resources.

5. What is your vision for keeping sufficient water available for the Wimberley area?

McCullough: Conservation is paramount and education is a must have follow-on to how we obtain, use, conserve and re-use all forms of water. Most simply stated, at this time no single answer exists for having or keeping sufficient water available.

The possible solutions reach well beyond the City of Wimberley area, we must be involved in as many efforts and groups, the sharing of ideas, plans or methods including statewide, regional and county partnerships. The

solution is much broader than just Wimberley. Keeping an open mind, dropping old biases, and working with as many resources as we can, will only be a start.

Talcott: I support:

WWB's successful conservation efforts in reducing water pumpage from the aquifer.

Continuing efforts to replace aging pipe and due diligence finding sources of water loss.

Working with the County to educate well water users in conservation.

County installation of waterlines from San Marcos which is supplied from the Sims Borough aquifer in Lee County.

A study to build a side reservoir on the Blanco River via GBRA for bringing surface water to Wimberley.

Promoting water conservation knowledge: concentrating on improving water use efficiency, harvesting of storm water and collecting rainwater to enhance our Wimberley water supply.

Thurber: To start there needs to be a much greater push to encourage rainwater collection for both residential and commercial uses. The city should become more active and involved with Hays County and our surrounding counties and the state to help plan and secure our necessary water needs. In conjunction with these efforts, we need to update our own development standards to match the growth potential any alternative water source would bring.

6. What kind of development would you like to see and not see for Wimberley?

McCullough: Foremost to me is protection of our existing neighborhoods. Moving forward, I want to see a senior housing development for our aging community. I feel this is a must have for Wimberley. Additionally, home building; small, locally owned and managed retailers; and the furthering of our art and music forums are all types of growth I think benefit our community and are expressly rooted in the City of Wimberley's comprehensive plan. I think a plan for building pedestrian walkway areas as well as structured public parking would be necessary additions to our community. What I do not want to see for Wimberley is franchise commercial growth.

Talcott: Our Wimberley Valley is precious and enchanting. We are stewards of our home. I feel I am entrusted to protect our "little bit of heaven" from major developments who potentially disrespect the land and our citizens. I believe in protecting the property rights of individuals by allowing them to build their homes within their means.

Thurber: I would like to see Wimberley developed with our natural resource limitations in mind. If the development fits the character and scale of the location, meets our comprehensive plan, and does not negatively impact our water resources it should be considered.

CITY COUNCIL PLACE 2

1. Give us a brief profile of yourself.

Cindy Anderson: I'm the mother of three terrific boys ranging from middle school to my oldest about to graduate with his doctorate in Industrial Engineering. I'm a local Wimberley business owner and Chief Financial Officer for our publishing company that I helped build over the past 13 years with my husband Jeff, a 10-year combat veteran of the U.S. Army.

My family and I are very active in the community and make contributions for many local causes such as *Operation Good Sheppard*, *Back to School Fiesta* and volunteering our services for *WAG*.

Mary Kathryn Brown: I am proud to say that I am from Wimberley. I am planning to raise my two children here. I have been actively involved in issues here in Wimberley for the past several years. I am currently an appointed member of the Wastewater Advisory Board. My background is in clinical and financial planning in the dental field. When my youngest child started school, I was blessed with the opportunity to continue my education. I am currently an honors student attending Concordia University in Austin on a Presidential Scholarship.

Ed Foster: I was born in San Antonio in 1957 to a journalist for the San Antonio Light newspaper and to a mom from Mexico City, Mexico. My father and mom met at Universidad de las Americas in Puebla where he was studying for a master's degree.

My early life was in Grey Forest, Texas near Helotes just outside of San Antonio. We lived near a creek in a small house with a well and septic on 2 acres. We were raised to be water wise and were only allowed 2 to 3 inches of water to bathe in our tub while keeping toilet flushes to a minimum.

2. Why are you running, and how are you better qualified than your opponent(s)?

Anderson: Wimberley really is a little slice of Heaven and I, like many in our community, are concerned about our future growth. If not managed correctly, it will not only change the very character of our town, but create

some serious challenges for our long-term economic viability and the sustainability of our natural resources.

My collective 24 years of business management and business owner experience – combined with my experience with community outreach and neighborhood grassroots networking – make me uniquely qualified to engage our community's voice and provide sound input to face our current and future challenges together while planning for our long-term prosperity.

Brown: I am running for office to bring a different perspective to the Council. Over the years, I have experienced first-hand many changes in Wimberley. Those changes, many good, some not, have impacted seven generations of my family in this little bit of heaven. Currently, there are several important issues that threaten the "Wimberley" way of life. The community has needs that must be balanced with wants. Because of my background, I am the more qualified candidate to ensure that our children will be able to grow up in an environment that resembles the town of my grandfather's family.

Foster: I am running because I want to give some thought and time back to the world. My wife and I have become empty nesters and fortunately have some time for other obligations. I'm not comfortable selling myself to others and I do not intend to speak on the qualifications or lack thereof of the other candidates.

3. What is your position on the proposed wastewater system for downtown Wimberley? Why?

Anderson: Wimberley's creeks and the Blanco River are facing a major crisis as we grow and it's no longer an option to just "do nothing". I support the stakeholder's recommendation in the final study for a sewer system in the central business district. The future of our town and water tributaries depend on us making this necessary change if we want to maintain our property value and have clean, safe water for drinking and recreation.

Brown: The proposed downtown wastewater system is desperately needed. I was a waiter at the Deli while in high school. At that time, the system was just around the corner. Since then, the buildings downtown have been purposed and repurposed. But because the current wastewater system is inadequate, downtown property owners cannot realize the full value of their buildings. I was very active in forming a stakeholders group to look at the situation from a global, holistic perspective. All sides of the issue are willing to make great concessions. If elected, I promise to honor that process.

Foster: As far as the proposed sewer system, I have not made a decision as to back it as proposed or not. I would like to see if we could adopt a system that used grey/black water separate pipes in new construction and treat the

grey for redistribution for potable water. I cannot in 100 words describe the entire system.

4. How would you balance Wimberley's growth with preserving its character and natural resources?

Anderson: Our town shouldn't be a casualty of development. We want to remain a community that welcomes new opportunities and residents, yet protects all of its charming qualities. I believe that we should avoid large-scale commercial growth and overdevelopment of residential tracts that would further stress our waterways, clutter our Hill Country vistas, and detract from our unique small town character.

Brown: I have studied the political philosopher Andres Duany, as a personal interest. For decades, Duany has researched the effects of urban sprawl. He coined the phrase "Anti-Urban Sprawl". This school of thought has helped give master planners the foresight and knowledge to keep changes (new parking lots, signs, shopping centers, and low-end housing) from stripping towns of their ambiance and character. In the future, these changes will tax our community's resources and our morale. We desperately need to decide what the essence of our community will be, and then do our best to conserve and protect it.

Foster: I watched our little creek in Grey Forest change from being a pristine body of water that couched wildlife from fish, crawdads and turtles, to serving as drinking water for deer, foxes, and turkeys, to a nasty run off with e-coli. We swam in a special spot that was open to all in the community until it was closed due to high bacterial count. The factors that caused this were many; development, runoff, cattle feces, septic and the list goes on and on. A simple one tiered approach probably would not have prevented this.

5. What is your vision for keeping sufficient water available for the Wimberley area?

Anderson: Our biggest opportunity to ensure enough water for our community in the future is through conservation efforts, both residentially and commercially. Through community outreach, we can educate our citizens on the best methods and benefits of conserving our current water supply. I also support sustainable water efforts during new construction, such as rainwater collection installation and wastewater recycling for landscaping and other uses that are currently draining the aquifer.

Supporting the wastewater project for downtown Wimberley will allow us to transition to using recycled water to sustain the maintenance of Blue Hole Regional Park without further depleting the aquifer.

Brown: For water conservation to happen, the simple truth is that government must take a lead role. Currently, the city has highly restrictive water regulations that have been in place since 2009. Enforcement of those regulations is difficult because the city is not the provider. Our water providers need to be supported proactively. The conservation groups need to have strong city backing as well. With the passage of Proposition 6 by the legislature, there are great opportunities for effective planning available to Texas municipalities. Our leaders must listen to the professionals and implement the Master Water Plan here in Wimberley.

Foster: I would tie the water needs back to a wastewater treatment plant that could treat grey water and redistribute it back as potable water. This closed loop system would require very little incoming water. It involves laying 2 pipes that run separate black and grey water back to the facility. Digging the ditch reflects most of the construction costs and laying another pipe would be almost negligible compared to the ditch portion through bedrock. New construction would be required to install black/grey pipes at reasonable cost.

6. What kind of development would you like to see and not see for Wimberley?

Anderson: Continued enhancement of the downtown area with boutique retail shops and restaurants – especially filling the vacant retail space – would further add to Wimberley’s charm.

As stated in the city’s Master Plan, “Wimberley should be pedestrian friendly”. Connecting our Middle and High Schools to the Square with sidewalks that will make our students safer and adding in sidewalks from the Square to the rest of the downtown district will benefit more businesses by facilitating pedestrian traffic.

Wimberley doesn’t need a Wal-Mart. Large commercial business and suburban-style sprawl should be discouraged from development as this would encroach upon our natural resources and take away from our Hill Country appeal.

Brown: I would like for the recent addition of HEB to be the exception and not the rule to city development. A major principle of Anti Urban Sprawl is to closely monitor the zoning of “high-impact commercial” properties, especially when those properties change hands. The city can and must zone more effectively, so our tax money is not spent correcting mistakes. I believe the Council should play an important role in serving citizens. Our youth have been sorely neglected. Our kids need safe places to come together, like a skate park.

Foster: In a free society, development is inevitable. It's more a matter of what kind of change we want. Wimberley has a great mix of people, nature, and location. The location aspect is the current driver of changes. If too many come, the golden goose dies, and what becomes of us?

CITY COUNCIL PLACE 4

1. Give us a brief profile of yourself.

Pam Showalter: I moved to Wimberley in 1997, taking a position in the Department of Geography at (Southwest) Texas State University. My PhD is in Geography, specializing in hazard/disaster research and planning, and satellite image analysis. While at the university I directed the James and Marilyn Lovell Center for Environmental Geography and Hazards Research, as well as the International Flash Flood Laboratory. Business-wise, I've been a Financial Analyst in a Fortune 500 company and now run a small eBay resale business. I'm a member of the Wimberley Valley Art League, and have had the honor of taking part in their Arts Fest.

2. Why are you running, and how are you better qualified than your opponent(s)?

Showalter: Wimberley faces challenges, some from nature (such as a flood), some from development forces seeking profit at the expense of all our citizens. I'm a geographer, trained to examine problems from a holistic viewpoint, to visualize and anticipate impacts of decisions not only on the physical landscape but on the people living on that landscape; I recognize that using "hard" scientific data to solve problems is ineffective without also taking into account the emotional, human context in which those data exist. I also have valuable experience to offer, most notably being appointed to the City's first Planning and Zoning Commission.

3. What is your position on the proposed wastewater system for downtown Wimberley? Why?

Showalter: There are many reasons to support creation of a wastewater system for downtown Wimberley, but primarily we need to protect "The Square" because it's the soul of our City. Old septic systems currently in use on the Square will eventually fail, and there's simply not enough room to install separate, "up to code" systems as replacements. The only logical solution – build a wastewater system, which will not only improve water quality in Cypress Creek but also ensure businesses on The Square survive. This issue concerns the entire Wimberley valley because the viability of The

Square as a tourist and shopping destination impacts property values throughout the area.

4. How would you balance Wimberley's growth with preserving its character and natural resources?

Showalter: Wimberley's unique character combined with its location between Austin and San Antonio makes it an extremely desirable place to live. Happily, there are many examples throughout the country of cities like Wimberley able to preserve their uniqueness and resources in the face of being "loved to death". We don't need to reinvent that wheel, but rather to draw on those experiences and those of our citizens as they revise the Master Plan, which is the critical blueprint for Council's actions over the next decade or so.

5. What is your vision for keeping sufficient water available for the Wimberley area?

Showalter: A multifaceted effort is necessary to ensure water supply. Options include pipelines, rainwater collection systems and low-flow toilets, expanded use of "gray water", educational and outreach programs, encouraging a "Zero Net Water" strategy (described in an interesting, recent Wimberley View article), and the like. Ensuring sufficient water for our City and environment also requires coordination with regional entities because outside development affects our spring flow. Fortunately, Wimberley has some of the most dedicated and skilled volunteers in the State whom I'm sure would be willing to volunteer their time brainstorming creative ways to help the City address this issue.

6. What kind of development would you like to see and not see for Wimberley?

Showalter: If given the honor to serve on Council, my view on appropriate development in Wimberley will be guided by the collective view of our citizens. City residents determine the answer to this question by expressing their vision in the City's Master Plan; then Council is charged with taking action(s) to make that vision a reality. For example, our first Master Plan instructed Council to develop safe walking/biking and pedestrian ways. That vision is now a reality. So I'm asking our current residents to please take part in the Master Plan revision because the type of development they want will be the type of development pursued by Council.