

Council and Mayor candidates speak on why they filed for election

By Ally Hinkle

Gatesville Messenger

From the months of July to August, several citizens around Gatesville filed to serve their community by submitting applications for various open positions in the Nov. 3 election.

Voters will decide on candidates for the mayor of Gatesville and city council member Ward 2 Place 4, with council members for Ward 1 Place 2 and Ward 2 Place 6 seeing the return of their current holders.

Before early voting begins on Oct. 19, the candidates have responded to a forum held by the Gatesville Messenger to introduce themselves to the general public as well as provide insight into their decision to run for their designated

position. Candidates will be listed in alphabetical order by last name.

Mayor

Leo Corona, a retired U.S. Army veteran, moved to Gatesville in 2012 after retiring from the Army with his family. Corona is involved in several organizations around the community that focus on family and public safety such as the following: GISD Friends on Duty, Cen-Tex Crime Stoppers, veterans' organizations, and Keep Gatesville Beautiful. Corona is also involved in faith-based organizations such as Mission Righteous Roots and Rebirth Recovery.

Corona decided to run after seeing a disconnect with citizens and their local government.

"My mission is to strengthen the

connection between local government and you," Corona said. "I will lead with transparency, listen carefully, and stay accessible. Together, we can move Gatesville forward, ensure your voice is heard, and address concerns such as projected water-rate increases through 2030."

Corona states he is qualified both from his experience managing multi-million dollar resources during his military career as well as leading more than 750 soldiers at the same time.

"I bring 30 years of proven leadership, fiscal responsibility, ethics enforcement experience, and knowledge of best practices for mayors and councilmembers as outlined by the Texas Munici-

pal League," Corona said. "I have completed Texas Attorney General training on open meetings and public information, along with FEMA courses in ICS, NIMS, and NRF. My focus is transparency, accountability, readiness, and protecting you and your family during emergencies."