



The Woodlands Township Board of Directors Candidate Survey - 2022 Election

This survey was conducted by Bike The Woodlands Coalition
www.bikethewoodlands.org

Position 1

Brad Bailey	Craig Rickard
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As our community's bicycle advocacy organization, Bike The Woodlands Coalition focuses on infrastructure improvements and public policy that promote bicycle and pedestrian safety. Tell us about your policy priorities for health and public safety as they relate to active transportation and bicycle and pedestrian safety.

"The safety of everyone in The Woodlands is my #1 priority. Which is why having the endorsement of Constable Ryan Gable, the United Firefighters of The Woodlands and the Alpha & Omega Mounted Security Patrol means so much to me. Unfortunately, too often the safety of our cyclists seems to be in jeopardy – especially on our main roads.

I understand the importance of motorists, pedestrians and cyclist co-existing on our streets. My wife and I walk with our children to/from school every day. Their safety, and yours, is extremely important to me.

Many families also enjoy cycling around The Woodlands. Having a designated bike path for them, where possible, is safer for everyone. This builds on the tradition of maintaining a high quality of life in The Woodlands.

We should explore options to have roads/paths for motorists and cyclists that don't impede either group."

"My wife, four sons, and I have been riding on the streets and paths of The Woodlands for the past 22 years. I have felt the scare of close calls with motorists. I was hit by a car (no injuries) in downtown Houston when I was a bike courier in college. My youngest son was almost hit when trying to cross Shadowbend during rush hour. Safety and respect for cyclists is important to me.

Because parks and pathways are one of the few things the Township BOD controls, I want to advocate for the continuation of paths for those that currently end leaving cyclists (especially children) moving to grass or roads.

As you know, removing the bump-outs along Lake Woodlands Dr. was just approved to fund in the 2023 budget cycle. I like that initiative and I want to continue the trajectory the current Board has created both from a fiscally conservative perspective and from a resident-focused perspective. Your organization's members and all of the residents will benefit from a safer Lake Woodlands Dr.

I also want to improve the way the Township communicates and markets services and issues to the residents. Safety programs your organization currently leads could be broadcast to more and/or different groups of residents. Many people in our community want a safe environment for others that still allows for adventure in the outdoors. I would work for an enhanced effort to increase awareness and participation. "

What message would you like to send to bicycle riders in The Woodlands about your candidacy in the upcoming election?

"Your safety is my priority. I adamantly believe in the live, work, play model that The Woodlands has perfected. Cycling and cyclists are an important part of this model.

I'm ready to hear your input on how we can better serve the needs of cyclist. And I am open to exploring the potential to create bike lanes that ensure the safety of everyone in The Woodlands. Please send me your thoughts on this important matter at brad@bradbaileycampaign.com."

"Bicycling is a great sport and pastime and is important to the way we all get around and live together in this community. I want to keep the George Mitchell vision of The Woodlands intact and am concerned about our future of high-density housing leading to high-density roads. I am concerned that not enough thought is being placed on the safety of our residents who choose to walk or bike to our village centers and parks.

This is why I will not accept any contributions from developer-funded PACs for my campaign. I want to make every decision carefully and not be clouded by any influence from corporations. My campaign is self-funded. I love The Woodlands and want this community protected for generations to come. Thank you."

Position 2	
Jason J. Nelson	Linda Nelson
As our community's bicycle advocacy organization, Bike The Woodlands Coalition focuses on infrastructure improvements and public policy that promote bicycle and pedestrian safety. Tell us about your policy priorities for health and public safety as they relate to active transportation and bicycle and pedestrian safety.	
<p>"I will continue to work hard to make sure that we keep the Woodlands a safe place to walk, jog, and bike. I plan to continue to support projects such as the one we're exploring to connect Harper's Landing and will continue to support the project along Lake Woodlands in which we will work with the county to create continuous road shoulders unimpeded by bump outs."</p>	<p>"As someone who has lived here for 30 years I know the value of having safe transportation for cyclists and pedestrians. For years my kids rode their bikes to various schools until they could drive. Almost every day I walk several miles with my dog before the sun comes up on our bike paths. Having safe and accessible roads for cyclists and pedestrians in our community are two of the many things that make The Woodlands one of the best places in the country to live.</p> <p>One of my priorities will be to bring all community decision makers together to discuss important issues like this and how we can incorporate the needs and safety of cyclists with all our transportation plans."</p>
What message would you like to send to bicycle riders in The Woodlands about your candidacy in the upcoming election?	
<p>"I will continue to work hard to keep The Woodlands the number one place to live, work, visit, play and worship. This especially includes supporting activities good for the body and soul such as bicycling."</p>	<p>"The fact that pedestrians and cyclists account for 1 in 5 traffic deaths in Texas is unacceptable. We need to work with local leaders and governments to improve access and safety for all of our community members."</p>

Position 3

Richard Franks

John Anthony Brown

As our community's bicycle advocacy organization, Bike The Woodlands Coalition focuses on infrastructure improvements and public policy that promote bicycle and pedestrian safety. Tell us about your policy priorities for health and public safety as they relate to active transportation and bicycle and pedestrian safety.

"The foundation of my campaign is listening to residents of The Woodlands. Health and safety as it relates to pedestrians and bicyclist will be important. I am proposing a Village President's Council made up of the President of each Village Association to study issues such as bicycle safety. This President's Council will be directed to make a recommendation to the Township Board based upon their findings and the input of the village residents."

"I was one of the Directors to approve the Bicycle Pathway Master plan, still believe in the mission and have worked on a few points within the plan. Since 2016, we applied for HGAC funding to connect those pathways, primarily around schools, to allow for one cohesive pathway throughout the community. Another location was connecting 242 from the west side to the east side to connect our Harpers Landing residents and friends from the East side of 242. Recently TXTDot has offered to assist in that connection.

Also, we have recently approved to remove some bump outs on Lake Woodlands to allow cyclists a consistent ride from East to West without having to turn into the road at each development. "

What message would you like to send to bicycle riders in The Woodlands about your candidacy in the upcoming election?

"The Woodlands residents are very educated and talented. I strongly believe in genuine community involvement. I believe by proposing the Village President's Council and having our talented residents serve on more township special committees such as a bicycle safety committee, we will be able to truly identify and meet the residents wants and needs."

"To start, my company Huntsman International is a proud supporter of Bike The Woodlands and I agree that an active lifestyle is a healthy lifestyle.

Exciting news, just this budget cycle the Township board has authorized and budgeted to make improvements of bump outs on Lake Woodlands to allow cyclists to continue along the shoulder without having to move into traffic at the entrances of each development.

Knowing that the roadways are controlled by the county and future neighborhoods are planned by developers, we are consistently working with them to connect such pathways to our existing Pathway system.

I will continue to support and work to improve the bicycle-pathway plan until it is complete. "

Position 4

Steve Lawrence

Kyle Watson

As our community's bicycle advocacy organization, Bike The Woodlands Coalition focuses on infrastructure improvements and public policy that promote bicycle and pedestrian safety. Tell us about your policy priorities for health and public safety as they relate to active transportation and bicycle and pedestrian safety.

"For years I have thought dedicated bike paths and dedicated walking paths should be able to coexist. I have both been walking and startled by riders, and as a rider, I believe I have startled walkers. There are a few options we can examine, such as parallel paths or slightly widened road shoulders with embedded traffic alerting features for drivers and smoother surfaces for riders. I am sure there are other options we could examine."

"My policy priorities for health and public safety as they relate to active transportation and bicycle and pedestrian safety are simple; listen to the residents and respond in a way that the majority of our community members support. I am not categorically for or against any proposals for increased maneuverability for active transportation, but also will only consider if our community supports it."

What message would you like to send to bicycle riders in The Woodlands about your candidacy in the upcoming election?

"Follow the money. I wish I didn't have to report this. Our opponents tell you that I and the other fiscally conservative candidates on our team will still try to force through incorporation. They know better. Not one, not even all seven Directors can force incorporation any more than Houston can now force annexation. Both require a ballot for you, me, and other Township voters to decide, but now the issue gets clouded. If you believe their campaign materials, a Township Board controlled by these developer candidates will not even accept residents' calls. Their Preserve The Woodlands Candidates Campaign mailer that came to my house, told me that if they are elected to the Board, as a resident and voter, if you and I call them to ask for the Township to look at the issue again, our calls will be rejected. In the same sentence, they speak of safeguarding our conservative, resident-led governance system. Do they even realize their own statement contradicts itself? They cannot be resident-led if they will reject our calls. A related issue looms over the opposition team. Next year in 2023, there are contracts in which our Township Board must enter negotiations with Howard Hughes Corp. I hope our voters realize that if money wins this election, a developer-controlled Board means voters will have set the stage to let the developer negotiate with itself."

The most important message is that I am a listener and problem solver. I will listen and I will always work to find solutions that represent the best interest of our community."