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### Gorena announces candidacy for re-election

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Councilman John Gorena, who won the 2009 runoff election, has announced his candidacy for re-election in the May 2010 general elections.

"Since I took office in 2009, I've been trying to do what I said I was going to do when I ran," Gorena said. "I got involved because a few decisions that I thought were important were going in the wrong direction. I am really excited about the future of Lewisville, and I hope to continue serving its citizens."

During his time on the Lewisville City Council, Gorena said he has focused on several issues that he feels are important to the Lewisville Citizens and himself.

One topic Gorena has focused on is getting the council's workshop meetings videotaped. When the council discussed the topic in October 2009 all members said they wanted to tape the meeting using as little money as possible. It was decided to tryout the taping using a standard video camera. During the council retreat, the majority voted to hold off further discussions until the budget meeting in August. However, Gorena suggested that the council continue taping the meetings and buy microphones to enhance the video. The motion did not pass.

"As an effort to promote transparency in government, I have asked for the workshops to be taped like the regular council meetings," Gorena stated on his Web site. "Before I was elected, I visited almost every city council meeting and most of the workshops. I noticed that much of the discussion on what is voted on the city council meetings have been mostly discussed in the workshops. Most of the time it is a review of the agenda with a question and answer session."

Gorena says he is still hopeful that a permanent solution will be found soon.

During a January council meeting, Gorena was successful in getting two issues on the agenda that he feels are important. The E-Verify program and the 287(g) program. The E-Verify program is an Internet-based system that allows an employer to determine the eligibility of an employee to work in the United States using information reported on an employee's I-9 form. The Department of Homeland Security operates the E-Verify system in partnership with the Social Security Administration.

During the meeting, Gorena said he wants a requirement in place that any company awarded a city contract be a participant in the E-Verify program. He said it will "level the playing field." Gorena's motion for the city staff to develop a draft died due to a lack of a second on his motion.

In the end, council members elected to explore penalizing contractors who are found guilty of violating the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA of 1986). Gorena has said he "is not opposed to this," but he still believes that the E-Verify program would help prevent IRCA violations.

The 287(g) program allows trained local police officers to enforce immigration law. Gorena said he believes that the program is a way to "get the people who are slipping through our fingers." He said

he wants Lewisville to have a trained 287(g) officer and be able to participate in a regional Immigration and Customs Enforcement task force.

"It's the humanitarian side of illegal immigrants that I'm really concerned about," Gorena said. "I'm concerned about the people who are being used and abused."

Gorena has been outspoken on his feelings about tax abatements. He has said he is against property tax abatements although he said he supports not taxing a company for personal property, such as items stored in a warehouse. He said he believes that Lewisville has "a lot of good things going for it, and large companies should invest their money in Lewisville."

With respect to oil and gas drilling, Gorena said we should drill everywhere in the country.

"We need to get off our dependence on foreign oil," Gorena said.

In 1981, Gorena worked in the oil fields for nine months. He said drilling safety is better now than it was in the past and "it was pretty good then, too."

"I'm not trying to belittle anyone's concerns about drilling," Gorena said. "I just think that what needs to happen is that we watch and verify those organizations. I fully support monitoring the drilling sites for the safety of our citizens."

Gorena said during his campaign for re-election he needs three things from citizens: their prayers, their donations and their vote.

For information visit [www.gorena.org](http://www.gorena.org).