



4 seek 2 spots on Lewisville council

12:00 AM CDT on Sunday, May 4, 2008

Seats up for election: Voters will have a choice between incumbent Greg Tierney and political newcomer John Gorena for Place 1. In Place 3, incumbent Lathan Watts faces David Fogle.

PLACE 1

John Gorena

The 46-year-old is a computer services company owner who has lived in Lewisville for 20 years. He is a political newcomer. For more information, go to www.gorena.org.

Greg Tierney (I)

The 39-year-old is a restaurant owner who has lived in Lewisville for 14 years. He was first elected to the Place 1 seat in 2001. For more information, go to www.tierneyforcouncil.com.

How are you and your opponent different?

Mr. Gorena: "Instead of appeasing illegal aliens, I want to enforce the laws." Mr. Gorena also said he disagrees with Mr. Tierney's support for tax abatements and a smoking ban.

Mr. Tierney: "He appears to be a one-issue candidate, and there's a whole lot more to running a city than one issue."

Should Lewisville build a day-laborer site?

Mr. Gorena: No. "It encourages more illegal aliens to come here. We're making it easier for illegal aliens to get a job. We're sanctioning that it's OK to hire people underneath the table."

Mr. Tierney: No. "In 2001, when we first discussed it, I was very much for it. But the problem is we can't spend taxpayer money to support people here illegally. There's no feasible way to make sure we're servicing only legals."

Would you support eliminating all language-translation services (except where required by state or federal laws) and making English the city's official language?

Mr. Gorena: Yes. "We should make it a policy that you need your own translator. We should publicly say, 'Hey, look, if you're illegal, you're not welcome here in Lewisville.' "

Mr. Tierney: Yes. "Our population is heavily Spanish speaking, but you open the door to that, and we also have Chinese, French, German and a whole lot of other languages. It would save the city money not to translate newsletters and other documents."

What can Lewisville do to further spur revitalization?

Mr. Gorena: "We can stop giving away tax abatements and use that money to revitalize. Get a policy to chip in money for landscaping, something we can do. A lot of places aren't attractive because they're so rundown." Mr. Gorena said he also wants to encourage landowners to tear down old buildings.

Mr. Tierney: "The city needs to invest [in infrastructure] like we have here in Old Town. Offer incentives to property owners to maintain upkeep, refurbish... We also have to revitalize decaying shopping centers across town."

PLACE 3

David Fogle

The 45-year-old is a structural engineer who has lived in Lewisville for 24 years. He is a political newcomer. For more information, go to www.voteogle.com.

Lathan Watts (I)

The 32-year-old is a political manager who has lived in Lewisville for five years. Mr. Watts was elected to Place 3 last year to fill the remaining year of an unexpired term. For more information, Mr. Watts can be reached at 214-236-0342.

How are you and your opponent different?

Mr. Fogle: "I've been here a long time. I want to help the poorer people in the community."

Mr. Watts: "People are glad to see someone who represents the new influx of residents."

Should Lewisville build a day-laborer site?

Mr. Fogle: Yes. "I think so – to move them off the highway. I think it's a pretty big problem. I know we have police who monitor it, but they seem to rush in the street for cars."

Mr. Watts: No. "It sends the wrong message – that we'll build a place where you can come and get hired."

Would you support eliminating all language-translation services and making English the city's official language?

Mr. Fogle: Yes. "I don't mind seeing that. English is the language of the U.S." Mr. Fogle said immigrants should learn English. "My wife and I teach an English class."

Mr. Watts: Yes. "I am always looking for ways to save the city money. Beyond that, English is the language of opportunity in this country. You do a disservice to people when you accommodate their lack of understanding of English."

What can Lewisville do to further spur revitalization?

Mr. Fogle: "In the old parts of town, the streets need to be fixed and code enforcement needs to be

boosted up. Most of the businesses around here are pretty good, but the Business 121 corridor is a little rough."

Mr. Watts: "Repair streets and put in new sidewalks. Education and outreach through police and code enforcement... I'd like to be more aggressive, bringing long-term, career-oriented jobs to Lewisville."