



[Comments](#) 0 | [Recommend](#) 0

Council seat, mayor's post on Lewisville ballot

09:08 AM CDT on Monday, April 27, 2009

By **BRANDON FORMBY** / The Dallas Morning News
bformby@dallasnews.com

Lewisville residents will elect a new mayor and City Council member. Dealing with illegal immigration and economic development are top goals for the five candidates vying for the two seats.

Longtime Mayor Gene Carey is stepping down after nine years at the city's helm. City Council member Dean Ueckert and broadcasting network director Winston Edmondson Jr. are squaring off for the seat.

Ueckert, a 58-year-old insurance company owner, said he wants local, state and federal officials to work together to find new ways to combat illegal immigration. He also wants to steer the city through changes that will come with the expansion of Interstate 35E and the Denton County Transportation Authority's planned rail line.

He said the city needs an experienced leader to oversee such transportation changes that will create redevelopment opportunities.

"That allows you to bring in a new tax base that adds to your existing tax base," he said. "And you can, in turn, use that money to revitalize other parts of your city."

Edmondson, 31, wants to do away with a day laborer site along I-35E that he says attracts illegal immigrants. He criticized the current council's leadership on that and other issues. He also said he wants to create a social networking Web site for residents and promotional videos for businesses. He'd also like to encourage more resident participation in city government, he said.

Edmondson said the council has too many members who do not listen to residents and whose long tenures prevent new ideas and new ways of doing business.

"The citizens want their city back, and I intend to be the mayor that's the voice of the people," he said.

According to the most recent campaign finance reports, Ueckert raised \$5,800 and spent more than \$4,500 through March. According to the filings, Edmondson did not take contributions and spent more than \$3,500 of his own money on his campaign.

Both men have been involved in civil proceedings in the past. In the 1990s, Ueckert was a passenger in a one-vehicle accident. He sued the driver but later dropped the suit after reaching a settlement with the driver's insurance company.

In 2006 and 2007, Edmondson was involved in foreclosure proceedings on a home in Denton and two lawsuits brought by creditors. Edmondson said he and his wife owned investment properties that they rented to tenants who stopped paying rent and wouldn't move out. Edmondson said that created financial burdens as he and his wife tried to pay multiple mortgages and keep up with credit payments. The matters have all since been settled, he said.

Three people are vying for the unexpired term on the Place 4 seat that Ueckert is vacating to run for mayor.

Thomas "T.J." Gilmore, a 36-year-old regional account manager, said he wants to focus on spurring development in the area affected by I-35E's expansion and the DCTA rail line's creation.

"Those are going to be great economic opportunities for us, and if we don't take advantage of them, we're not going to have another window for a long time," said Gilmore, who serves on the city's community development block grant committee.

John Gorena, a 47-year-old computer services company owner, wants to tackle illegal immigration. He criticized the sitting council for not doing more to discourage illegal immigrants from coming to Lewisville.

"If we don't enforce these laws, we're going to lose this country, and we're going to lose it one city at a time," he said.

Gorena, who ran unsuccessfully for a council seat last year, also wants the council to end out-of-city planning retreats and to increase the police force.

Margie Rochelle, a 50-year-old medical billing specialist, said she wants to spur economic development in Old Town. And she, too, wants to focus on the areas around the rail line and I-35E.

"It will be a once-in-a-lifetime chance to rejuvenate that area and really put a stamp on it that says, 'This is Lewisville,' " said the former city police dispatcher and property and evidence technician.

Meet the candidates for Lewisville mayor, Place 4
MAYOR

Dean Ueckert

Education: High school diploma; licensed insurance agent; 10 years leadership training, National League of Cities

Age: 58

Phone: 972-317-5050

E-mail: dean@deanforlewisville.com

Campaign Web site: www.deanforlewisville.com

Winston Edmondson Jr.

Education: bachelor's degree in government and politics, University of Texas at Dallas

Age: 31

Phone: 214-415-7929

E-mail: winston@projectinnovation.net

Campaign Web site: www.electwinston.com

PLACE 4

Thomas "T.J." Gilmore

Age: 36

Education: bachelor's degree in social and behavioral science, University of Arizona

Phone: 214-649-6076

E-mail: tjgilmore@gmail.com

Campaign Web site: www.gilmoreforcouncil.com

John Gorena

Education: bachelor's degree, emergency administration and planning, University of North Texas

Age: 47

Phone: 972-315-5377

E-mail: john.gorena@gorena.org

Campaign Web site: www.gorena.org

Margie Rochelle

Age: 50

Education: certified instructor, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education

Phone: 214-557-8376

E-mail: marjorierochelle@tx.rr.com

Campaign Web site: www.electmargierochelleforlewisvillecitycouncil.com