

# Vienna Municipal Candidates for November 8, 2016 General Election

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## Vienna Mayor Candidates

Office Mayor Vienna  
Name Tom Azinger  
Party Non-partisan

### Biography

Born: Wood County, Lived in Vienna 40 years.

Graduate: PHS and WVU

Eagle Scout

Small Business Owner, Insurance agent for 30 years

WV House of Delegates 1994-2014

Delegate Committees: Government Organization, Veterans, Banking, Insurance, Small Business, and Seniors.

Wood County Senior Citizens: Former Board Member

- 1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**  
There could be more work done in the area of infrastructure. The paving budget has been increased, but I would try to give it another bump up. Would make sure all hydrants and valves are up to standard. The water is shut off several times a year so I would work on the water and sewer line upgrades/schedule citywide.
- 2. What do you want to accomplish as mayor?**  
As mayor, I want to continue strong support for the fire and police departments. Today public safety is the #1 priority. Would give support to the activities involving children, who are our greatest assets. Would become involved with the business community who is city's primary source of revenue. Would look very closely at expenses to hold them in line.
- 3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective mayor?**  
I get along with people well. I try to be frank, forthright, and not promise what I can't deliver. As a former bank director I understand finances and how to balance a budget. I am frugal. I have twenty years of experience working in the WV House of Delegates on the Government Organization, Banking Committee, and Small Business Committee.

Office Mayor Vienna  
Name Randall Rapp  
Party Non-partisan

### Biography

I am 62 years old and have been married to Cassie for 36 years. We have 2 daughters, Carrie and Shelly. I graduated from PHS and have a BA from WVU. I have 25 years' experience as a small business owner. I serve on many local boards and believe in working together to make Vienna the "Pride of the Valley".

- 1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**  
Overall, the infrastructure of the city is in good shape. The water tanks are new or refurbished. The sewer plant was rebuilt with new technology. We are constantly replacing old lines. We have a 5 year plan where we are working on the oldest sections of town first and replacing fire hydrants as needed.
- 2. What do you want to accomplish as mayor?**  
I want to help Vienna remain one of the top cities in WV; help our schools maintain their excellent ratings so our population base will grow; promote economic development so there will be good jobs for our graduates. I want them to stay and make our neighborhoods more stable. I want to eliminate drug abuse and promote healthy lifestyles.
- 3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective mayor?**  
I have 12 years' experience on city council. I have the respect of my peers and serve as President of the Mid-Ohio Valley Mayors' Association. I know the value of cooperation and strive to work with groups at local, state and federal levels. I have proven that I can lead Vienna through a crisis and still maintain our city.

Office Mayor Vienna  
Name Lawrence J. Wilson  
Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

Wonderful wife of 25 years. Two daughters, married, 7 grandchildren. AA College degree, Courses in Management and Accounting. 13 years of Federal Service in U.S. Army and 7 with Social Security Administration. Fought Corruption no matter the personal cost to myself. Firm and unflinching belief in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Please read my blog: [vienna-wvissues.weebly.com](http://vienna-wvissues.weebly.com).

- 1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**  
Needs of residential areas are totally inadequate. Many neighborhoods with no sidewalks which are a major Public Safety issue. Actual City property lines in many areas are unfair to residents and have resulted in huge expenses to them over the years. Routine City maintenance is seemingly poor and/or not done on timely basis?
- 2. What do you want to accomplish as mayor?**  
Sidewalks on at least one side of every street for Public Safety. Adjustments of property lines to give to adjacent property owners land they have maintained for years at their expense when in fact was City property. Repair/ replace faulty sewer/water lines. Improve hiring and promotional opportunities for Employees. Obey City Ordinances and Federal/ State Laws.
- 3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective mayor?**  
Integrity, Morals and Ethics. Absolutely no use for Cronyism, Favoritism or Nepotism. Years of Public Service where the customer is to be helped with no exceptions on who they are or know. Knows and respects who I would be working for: Residents, Taxpayers, Voters. Firm belief in Governmental Public Service. Strong ethical belief in helping the people.

### **Vienna Recorder Candidates**

Office Recorder Vienna  
Name James R. "Jim" Sims  
Party Non-partisan

## Biography

Lifelong resident of Wood county. Graduated from Parkersburg high school, married 37 years, 3 children, Adam, Angela, Abby, 3 grandchildren, worked 27 years City of Parkersburg as electrician, supervisor building grounds flood wall, director sanitation recycling. I serve on the board Latrobe street mission, vienna lions club, vienna planning commission, also ordained minister for over 20 years.

**1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**

As with all infrastructure there are parts we cannot see. I am sure there are parts that are aging and need upgraded. I am not aware of any real problem areas at this time.

**2. What do you want to accomplish as recorder?**

As Recorder I would like to make city government more user friendly, more transparent, and keep an open door policy. Keep and make the rules to work for all the citizens of Vienna.

**3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective recorder?**

I bring a great deal of knowledge of city government to the table. As with any new job I am sure there are things I will have to learn. But I bring a willingness to do so and also to be part of the team that keeps Vienna a great place to live for all. Thank you for your support.

Office Recorder Vienna

Name Cathy Smith

Party Non-partisan

## Biography

Raised in a military family, graduating from PHS in 1971. Worked for the Vienna Police Department following graduation and remained an employee till 2001. Have eleven years of service with Department of Veteran Affairs. Returned to VPD in 2014. Served on Vienna City Council since 2001, as Recorder since 2012. Mother of Steve Harris, Brittany Nolan and Holly Smith.

**1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**

Infrastructure is always an ongoing project in any City. Vienna spends a minimum of \$500,000 yearly on road paving projects. In 2015, the 28th Street bridge across Pond Run was replaced. The City has acquired a sewer camera truck for use in the sewer system and detecting sewer blockages.

**2. What do you want to accomplish as recorder?**

To continue preserving and maintaining the records for the City of Vienna and take an active part on Council striving to make Vienna the best and safest City to raise your family.

**3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective recorder?**

Having served the City of Vienna my entire adult life, I feel I have the familiarity, knowledge and expertise to continue serving the citizens of our community.

## Vienna City Council Candidates

### Vote for not more than 5 candidates for Vienna City Council

Office City Council Vienna

Name Roger D. Bibbee

Party Non-partisan

## Biography

I am a lifelong resident of Vienna. I served on the Fire Department for 28 years with the last 13 years as Deputy Fire Chief. I am a graduate of PHS and attended WVU Government Leadership Academy. I

have an extensive background in public safety and I'm a member of Fellowship Baptist Church.

- 1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**  
The infrastructure is adequate but it must be a work in progress. City Services and infrastructure must meet the needs of our citizens, homes, and business's. I will continue to support infrastructure upgrades which will also have an impact on community development. Infrastructure must keep up with the growth of the City.
- 2. What do you want to accomplish as a member of city council?**  
With the passage of Home Rule and the one percent sales tax I would like to start the process of rolling back property and B&O taxes. I believe this would make it easier for our citizens and encourage future business development. We must continue adequate emergency planning to keep our citizens safe.
- 3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective member of city council?**  
I will apply a common sense approach to city government. On any action before me I like to think about what will continue to make Vienna a great place to live, work, and raise a family. I have City Council experience and will represent all citizens with honesty, integrity, and will be accountable for my decisions.

Office City Council Vienna  
Name Jon W. Cain  
Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

Born and Raised in Wood County  
Graduate  
Parkersburg High School  
Parkersburg Community College  
West Virginia State University  
Served in the USMCR USNR  
Certified Public Accountant  
Real Estate Developer CM Properties  
Vice President WV Board of Accountancy

- 1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**  
Vienna has seen the challenge to its water system this past year and the citizens were left to drink bottled water for an extended period of time. An immediate emergency system was not in place to protect the city. There is a need for strategic planning to be installed.
- 2. What do you want to accomplish as a member of city council?**  
I want to bring transparency to our city government. All transactions and decisions have to be exposed to the general public and the public needs to be able to comment on these items.
- 3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective member of city council?**  
I would bring over thirty years of experience as practicing Certified Public Accountant. I have worked with clients from small business to multi-state corporations. As real estate developer I have managed multi million dollar construction projects. This base of knowledge will allow me to bring a fresh look at our government.

Office City Council Vienna  
Name Roger Conley  
Party Non-partisan

## **Biography**

I am Roger Conley. A lifelong resident of Wood County having lived in Vienna for nearly 10 years. I am married to Katherine for 42 years. We have 3 grown children and 5 grandchildren. Most of my career has been in upper management of the manufacturing industry. I have owned and operated Conley Fabrication LLC. For nearly 10 years.

**1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**

Our infrastructure will require a comprehensive continuous improvement plan addressing our aging water and sewer lines. Our streets and sidewalks need improved at a more rapid pace. Our storm drain system needs upgraded to prevent street flooding. This plan can and should be funded by annually earmarking a portion of the extra revenue received from the home rule program.

**2. What do you want to accomplish as a member of city council?**

I will utilize decades of experience as a successful business man, economic development and as a proven job creator to bring growth, new jobs and job retention to our city while keeping it a safe place to raise our families. We can cut cost in many ways while reducing taxes/fees and remain fiscally strong. I look forward to assisting.

**3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective member of city council?**

I bring strong leadership ability, the key to any successful organization. I understand how to create budgets and work within that budget while spending money based on a good ROI (return on investment). I think we would be better served if our leaders signed the front side of more checks than the back side as I do.

Office City Council Vienna

Name Mike Elam

Party Non-partisan

## **Biography**

Lifelong resident of Vienna. Wife of 13 years, Melissa. Sons, Chaz 9 and Tyson 3. Employed by Stonerise Healthcare as an Administrator. Bachelor's Degree from Marshall University. Attend North Parkersburg Baptist Church. Actively involved in Vienna Rec. My faith and family are the two most important things in my life.

**1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**

I want to make sure all policies and procedures are being followed and are up to date. Infrastructure maintenance, improvements, and replacements should be reviewed periodically to ensure we are doing things in the best interest of the community. A few to start with would be flooded side streets and street paving and maintenance.

**2. What do you want to accomplish as a member of city council?**

Business development throughout the commercial district and Spencer's Landing development. I'm concerned about so many empty buildings and closed businesses. I want to help revitalize our city. I also want to make sure we are being proactive as a community in the dangerous drug movement coming into the Mid-Ohio Valley. It effects health, families, businesses, and public safety.

**3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective member of city council?**

As a nursing home administrator I know how important it is to surround myself with good people. I believe as citizens we should surround our mayor with a council that will be wise, discerning, positive, and productive. In life, I'm not a participant, I'm a competitor. I can bring

that same focus to the responsibilities involving our city.

Office City Council Vienna

Name Gail Gaines

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

Vienna has been my home my entire life. My parents, grandparents, daughter and granddaughters were all raised here as well. I spent a few years in other states & gathered various life experiences that I feel will add to my qualifications. I have a background in finance, real estate, insurance & appraising.

**1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**

Leadership is key to any well run City. Our citizens should be proud of the accomplishments this year. The undertaking of projects such as Spencer's Landing, improvements to both parks & the quick, efficient handling of recent water problems. Drugs & crime are a growing problem everywhere but good leadership has kept us below the crime rate of neighboring cities.

**2. What do you want to accomplish as a member of city council?**

Vienna has grown to be a beautiful city. Good leadership has enhanced the flavor of this growing city without losing its small town charm. I do not want to see that change. Vienna is doing great things and my interest in running for office is simply that I would like to be a part of what makes this city great

**3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective member of city council?**

My recent retirement allows me to devote my time to things that interest me. I feel this is the direction I am being led. I promise to devote myself to learning the needs of the citizens, attend meetings, serve on committees and work to promote the well being of our beautiful city.

Office City Council Vienna

Name Larry Godfrey

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

I am an avid Christian and Native of West Virginia. Resident of Wood County for 54 years. Resident of Vienna for 13 years, attended WVUP 1979-1980, honorable discharged US Army Reserves 1966. Completed numerous training programs and seminars on local governance and effectiveness. Member of North Parkersburg Kiwanis Club, member of Mt. Olivet 3 and Scottish Rite Bodies.

**1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**

Yes, however, the infrastructure needs of Vienna will increase dramatically in the next 20 years. The City has a current operating budget of approximately \$8,522,321 and the infrastructure budget will be in the range of \$25,000,000 to \$40,000,000 during this period. Now is the time to start preparing for this influx of major additional funding.

**2. What do you want to accomplish as a member of city council?**

My commitment is to serve the citizens and the employees of Vienna. I will be available for you at any time to discuss your problems and concerns. I would like to complement Vienna City Government and the employees. They have done an excellent job of maintaining a strong financial and stable environment.

**3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective member of city council?**

I am dedicated, qualified, experienced and committed to serve the citizens of Vienna. I have served 12 1/2 years as an elected public official. I have served on several community and

service organizations. My public service consist of serving 8 1/2 years on Parkersburg City Council and four years on the Wood County Board of Education. Retired DuPont 35 years.

Office City Council Vienna

Name Norman Harris

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

Graduate of Williamstown High School. I have been a citizen of Vienna since 1990. I am employed with the City of Vienna as the Parks and Recreation Director and have been a department head for twenty plus years. I have gained considerable knowledge of the working operations of the city in my employment.

- 1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**  
I feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being addressed, but more attention of the water, sewer, and storm water lines need to be addressed. The age and in some cases the sizing are not adequate. We need to place these items on a yearly replacement or redesign some areas, just as the street repair or repaving have be done
- 2. What do you want to accomplish as a member of city council?**  
I would like to review and implement reduced taxes or reduced fees to the citizens. Implement all infrastructure repair on a yearly basis. Work on strengthening council to be the governing body that it should be. Work on traffic control in the city, some streets need to become one way
- 3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective member of city council?**  
I bring to the city a proven record of improvement, as I have done with the parks and recreation for the city for the past 20 years. Managing budgets to get the most out of the money to give back to the citizens.

Office City Council Vienna

Name Harry Helmick

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

Married 43 years to Patricia Helmick living in Vienna where we have raised three children. Carie Walker, Melissa Barnhart, Alex Helmick. Retiring from the Insurance industry about four years ago and received extensive training in Financial needs. Experience that will be valuable as a City council member working with large sums of money and budgets. Making sensible decisions for the

- 1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**  
Vienna can do a better job meeting the infrastructure needs of all residents. For example, some small streets and alleys in the city need work. Some residents can hardly access their properties or garages, while other side roads are poorly maintained and destroy vehicles and other property. As well as small streets that should be one way only
- 2. What do you want to accomplish as a member of city council?**  
As a member of city council, I want our residents to know I am their voice. I want to hear from them and push for what is best for all our city's residents. I want to have more debate and public hearings so our community feels we are being responsible with their tax dollars.
- 3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective member of city council?**  
I have been in the private sector for 50 years. I have managed large budgets, and know how to effectively work with colleagues and neighbors. I will always do what is best for the city I love

and have lived in for several decades. I want this to be the place where future generations will continue to thrive

Office City Council Vienna

Name Jim Leach

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

Lifelong education and service to others are the hallmarks of leadership. My background includes 20 years legal experience, a Masters in Energy Law from WVU in 2015, being CEO of Business Systems, a 50 year-old Vienna business, and being a general/electrical contractor developing real estate in Vienna. My family and I have created jobs in Vienna for 30 years.

**1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**

We are blessed in Vienna to have a strong tax base and stable city government backed by dedicated and long-tenured city employees. The consolidation and streamlining of our maintenance and utility support facilities is visionary and of long-term benefit. Vienna is a model community and I look forward to contributing to our continued progress and prosperity.

**2. What do you want to accomplish as a member of city council?**

First, be a good council member. My passion, however, is Johns Manville. With a Masters in Law in environmental and hazardous waste law, I understand contaminated property. I also own the Texaco tank farm and the Brockway Glass plant. I have experience with those sites. With this education and experience, I can help our leaders remediate Manville for our city.

**3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective member of city council?**

In my view, effective action comes from teamwork. I coached Vienna sports for almost 15 years, where I learned that teamwork builds synergy, a powerful force for achievement beyond what any individual can do alone. I also like to analyze issues before deciding upon a course of action, but then focus intensely on the desired result until it is accomplished.

Office City Council Vienna

Name Jim Miracle

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

I am Retired US Navy and currently working at the Parkersburg and Wood County Library. I am the Chairman of the Landmarks Commission and Coordinator for Carlin's Battery.

I am looking forward to serving the citizens for another term. He was appointed to serve on Tree and Beautification, Vienna Planning Commission, CVB Liaison and the Utility Board.

**1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**

I do feel the infrastructure needs of the Vienna have been meet. I have had the pleasure of working with my fellow Councilmembers to rebuild the Utility Board and Public Works Department. The New Complex on 60th Street eliminated using many smaller buildings. Thereby, having one centralized facility, with easy access for the citizens of Vienna.

**2. What do you want to accomplish as a member of city council?**

I would like to see the City Grow, by supporting the Business' we already and bringing in more business prospect. To finish the rehab and development of the John Manville site. We also need to try to get some relieve for the citizens in the some form of tax reduction if at all possible

**3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective member of city council?**

I have tried to do the best for the citizens and love working to solve problems. I am a Citizen of this city just as you all are. I would love to serve you again and see our city GROW..

Office City Council Vienna

Name Rick Phillips

Party Non-partisan

**Note that the late Rick Phillips' name will be on the ballot. If he were elected, a vacancy would exist and the new city council would name a replacement after taking office in January 2017.**

Office City Council Vienna

Name Brian Rader

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

I am a lifelong resident of Vienna, married to my wife Susan for 22 years and have a 21 year old daughter named Mackenzie. I have worked for the Wood County Sheriff's Department for the last 18 years and have a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal justice. I am a local business owner.

- 1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**  
I feel our infrastructure is being addressed. There is always a need in continued improvements to our roads, water and sewer for the safety of our citizens. We need to assure our residents feel safe in their homes and businesses by providing our public safety departments the state of the art equipment and gear to protect and serve.
- 2. What do you want to accomplish as a member of city council?**  
As a member of council, I would fight in making sure we have a balanced budget yearly and take care of our citizens and personnel. I want to see Vienna develop and have an activity center for our young and seniors, and improve on our parks. I want to work towards seeing more businesses make our city their home.
- 3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective member of city council?**  
I grew up in Vienna and have seen how we have grown and prosper over the years. I am a local business owner so I know how to stay within my means. As a Vienna resident and being employed by the Sheriff's Office Confinement Operations I have developed a strong relationship with the employees, public works and public safety personnel.

Office City Council Vienna

Name Bruce Rogers

Party Non-partisan

### **Biography**

My name is Bruce Rogers and I was born in Wood County West Virginia. I graduated from Parkersburg High School. I received a BS degree from Marshall University and a MA degree from West Virginia University. I taught school for Wood County at Edison and Jackson Jr. (Middle) High School. I served in the US Air Force.

- 1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**  
In the past four years we, as council, have up-dated our sewer station with new pumps, relays and a back-up generator, renovated our water storage tanks and added two new tanks. We have put electronic reading systems on our water meters, developed an emergency plan, in conjunction with local churches, and placed emergency generators on City buildings.

**2. What do you want to accomplish as a member of city council?**

I would like to sell City property behind Cheddars and use it to clean-up the Manville plant sight so that it may be developed by businesses to bring jobs and economic development to the City. Develop Spencer's Landing with shelter, restrooms, and athletic fields. Use the newly purchased camera truck to decrease storm water in our sewer system.

**3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective member of city council?**

I hope that my educational background and experience that I have had while serving as a councilman would enable for me to continue be an effective council person.

Office City Council Vienna

Name Rod Shuman

Party Non-partisan

**Biography**

Life-long Vienna resident and PHS graduate 1978. Married to Vickie 36 years. Father of Matt Shuman and Shelley (Jason) Czerr. Grandfather of Bear Czerr. Graduated WV State Police 54th Basic Police Academy 1984. Wood County Deputy Sheriff 1983-1989. Vienna Police Officer 1989-2014, retired Sergeant. President of Vienna Recreation (member 30 years) and member Vienna Park Board approximately 20 years.

**1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**

There is always room for infrastructure improvement. Paved streets are being repaired adequately, but most concrete roads are in need of repair. There is grass growing in many cracks where tar used to be added regularly. Drainage is still an issue on many streets.

**2. What do you want to accomplish as a member of city council?**

I would like to update some of the City code using common sense. We have laws that I feel are detrimental to business growth. Parking space requirements for new buildings make demolition of old buildings implausible from 28th Street north on Grand Central. This area should be addressed differently regarding parking requirements.

**3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective member of city council?**

I have an open mind and can reason with anyone regarding differing opinions. I have been blessed with patience which I feel helps to make sound judgment calls. I have been a public servant virtually my entire adult life volunteering with Vienna Recreation Sports and in Vienna Parks.

Office City Council Vienna

Name Victoria "Vicki" Sopranik

Party Non-partisan

**Biography**

After graduating from WVU, I started my career in retail management, later attending WVU Law School. I first worked at a large firm focused on commercial litigation and civil defense and now work at a small firm assisting individuals. The skills I developed over my career give me a strong foundation to solve complex problems for the citizens of Vienna.

**1. Do you feel the infrastructure needs of Vienna are being adequately addressed? Please explain.**

Although the infrastructure in Vienna has improved, particularly the water filtration updates for C8 and the new Utility Board Facilities, there is more to do. The destruction and revitalization of Johns Manville property is highest priority. Improvements also need to be made to other

dilapidated buildings to create a base for new investment and job creation in Vienna.

**2. What do you want to accomplish as a member of city council?**

We need to reclaim and revitalize the Johns Manville property as well as other older properties to create new investment, create new economic development projects to create jobs, continue to improve our water resources to protect our citizens, improve the infrastructure of our schools and create a drug program to stop the epidemic of drug overdoses in our community.

**3. What qualities do you have to make you an effective member of city council?**

Being an avid reader of all genres has developed my ability to connect the big picture to individual's needs. My past experience in the legal field has honed my attention to detail, organization skills and ability to execute tasks quickly and efficiently. I would be honored to use these skills to help make Vienna the best city it can be.