

Ward 1 Council Candidate Information Form

BIXBY CITY COUNCIL

Name as it will appear on the ballot: **Joe Williams**
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Occupation: **Electrical Contractor**

Community Leadership /Political Experience:

1. Member of Bixby City Council - 1989 to present
2. Mayor of Bixby - 1989-1991, 1993-2006
3. Inductee - OML (Oklahoma Municipal League) Hall of Fame - 2008
4. State of Oklahoma Governor's Award - 1994
5. Bixby Chamber of Commerce "Progressive Leadership Award" - 1994, 1997, 2000
6. Bixby Chamber of Commerce "Chairman's Award" - 2001
7. Board of Directors - INCOG (Indian Nations Council of Government)
8. Board of Trustees - RMUA (Regional Metropolitan Utility Authority)
9. Board of Directors - Bixby Chamber of Commerce
10. Co-Chairman of committee established to provide for funding and building the
11. David L. Moss Regional Detention Facility
12. Leader in establishment of Tri-Cities Economic Development Association
13. Instrumental in the great success of the "Make It Happen" committees in Bixby

As a Candidate, my top priorities are:

Public safety is my top priority. This requires adequate resources and personnel in the police and fire departments as well as storm water management, street maintenance, and emergency programs. Quality of life improvements such as additional parks, playgrounds, fitness trails and sports facilities are also important. Economic growth is the necessary component in achieving the before mentioned goals. Therefore, encouraging controlled, quality, economic growth is also a top priority.

I am seeking office because:

I want to insure that the City stays on track regarding funding and completion of current projects. Bixby currently has \$850,000 of earmarked tax to spend on street repair. The Haikey Creek flood control is a \$12 million project. I believe my many years of experience in both the private and public sector enable me to be instrumental in controlling and directing the rapid growth that Bixby is experiencing. I believe I can be a stabilizing influence on the City Council in our desire to retain Bixby's qualities while at the same time embracing progress.

What specific experience makes you attuned to the needs of our business community?

I have owned and operated my own electrical contracting company since 1959. I have built apartment complexes which I have owned and managed, and I have built custom homes. I am a former real estate agent. These experiences in the business world uniquely enable me to understand the needs of the private sector.

What can the City Council do to encourage more businesses to open in Bixby?

The City Council can focus on providing its citizens with a city that is safe, crime-free, with clean air, clean water, good streets, and adequate utilities. The Council can insure an attractive city by improving or replacing blighted areas. Businesses will be drawn to a city that offers all of this. The City Council must also be "business friendly" by understanding the needs of the business man and balancing them with the regulations that are a necessary part of city government.

Bixby is obviously in a growth pattern. How do you feel about the expansion and growth? How would you balance the needs of the City versus the concerns of the community?

A city that does not grow will die. I welcome expansion and growth, but this growth must be controlled. Quality, clean business should be welcomed with open arms into a community. The increased revenue such business provides allow the city to provide services for its increased citizenry. The city must screen potential business and do all it can to insure that new business will not adversely affect private property values, will not pollute or cause flooding, and will fit nicely within zoning requirements. In exchange, the new business will provide new jobs, increase revenue for the city and its citizens, and will attract more quality enterprise.

What do you think that the three greatest challenges or opportunities are for the Bixby community and economy in the next 5-10 years

The greatest challenge will be to maintain balance in growth and benefit. Uncontrolled growth can do more harm than good, but growth is necessary for the city to be able to provide services and infrastructure. Bixby has a prime location which offers the best of both worlds. We enjoy the benefits of a rural setting but are close enough to a large city which offers higher education, entertainment venues, and medical facilities. With Bixby's location, excellent school system, low crime and safety record, and progressive city government, quality families and quality business will want to make their home here.