

Dustin Epperson

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### Pataskala City Council Applicant Questions

**1) Is there a cause, event or subject that made you apply for this opening?**

From the time that I applied to be on the Planning and Zoning Commission, I had a want to be on city council. The chance to have the privilege to be a leader in the community that one lives in is a great honor. I feel that I can positively contribute to this city and will work hard to help develop it in a responsible way.

**2) Please tell me about your complete history of volunteering in your community.**

While stationed in Goldsboro, NC I volunteered to coach two seasons of youth soccer. From the time that I returned to Ohio in 2009 I have been volunteering. While living in Gahanna, I volunteered as a little league coach for five seasons. After moving to Pataskala, I continued to volunteer as a coach for t-ball, coach pitch baseball, and Upward basketball. I have volunteered to coach the young people of our community for 12 seasons.

I also volunteer to be the "Popcorn Kernel" for the 120+ scouts of Cub Scout Pack 141. The Kernel is responsible for ordering, organizing, tracking, and depositing all the popcorn and monies that the sell generates, for Pack 141. This is the Pack's largest and most profitable fundraiser.

I am currently on the board of my HOA and have been for four years.

I am also currently serving as part of Grace Fellowship Church Safety Services team. We are responsible for the safety and well being of all the members and visitors to our church. Along with Safety Services, I also volunteer for the church impact team. The impact team plans and organizes all the outreach functions of Grace Fellowship. Some of those impact events involved the Pataskala Christmas Parade, Pataskala Fourth of July, grounds maintenance for SWLSD and LHSD schools, and helicopter Easter egg drops.

I continue to volunteer to be Watch Dog at the three SWLSD elementary schools that my kids attend.

**3) What is your philosophy on volunteerism and how it works with a city?**

Volunteerism is an important part of any community. From a city/town, school, church, neighborhood, etc. the want to contribute one's knowledge, skill sets, time and energy to the betterment of a community or organization is a special and selfless thing.

Most times an organization may not have the funds or people to solve a problem or accomplish a goal. The help from people who want to help can be powerful. There are many ways that anyone could volunteer to assist a city. One could volunteer to coach any of the youth sports leagues that the city hosts. One could volunteer to pick up trash and debris from the city's roadways. You could also volunteer to assist the elderly folks of your city who may have trouble caring for their homes or yards.

All these acts add to the collective improvement of a city's citizens, appearance, and sense of community.

**4) If placed in this position would you intend to run again when the term is up?**

Yes

**5) In your opinion what is the #1 issue that Pataskala is dealing with currently? Why?**

I feel that the #1 issue that Pataskala is dealing with is the strain and over burden that fast population growth is continuing to cause on the city's infrastructure and police department. The population growth of Pataskala is continuing to outpace the City's ability to improve roads/traffic, water and sewer systems, and police presence within the city.

**6) Please describe your philosophy regarding development and how it affects Pataskala**

As a current member of Pataskala's Planning and Zoning Commission, I have firsthand knowledge of the continued residential growth the city faces. Residential developers continue to look for property to develop within the city. Most want to put as many homes as possible on a property and leave the city to deal with the strain the added homes produce.

Though I am not opposed to growth, I believe that it needs to be done responsibly and paced. Unchecked explosive growth will tax the infrastructure of the city and city resources.

Residential growth can be good. It should make the citizens of Pataskala feel good that we have a great city with small town charm and that other people want to enjoy that by living here, but if done irresponsibly, we risk losing the character of our community. I feel that the city needs more commercial growth, not just places for people to live. We need more business to move into Pataskala. Businesses not only generate more tax revenue but are far less of a burden to the infrastructure, resources and schools of the city.

**7) Generally, the departments of the city are listed below. (excluding Finance) Please rank them in order of importance to you:**

**Drainage/Water and Sewer/Police & Protection/Parks and Rec./Roads/  
Development**

1. Roads
2. Development
3. Police & Protection
4. Water & Sewer
5. Drainage
6. Parks and Rec.

**8) If the annual city budget was \$100 how much money would you assign to each department (I am roughly looking to see what percentage of 100 you would assign to each subject)**

Roads – 35%

Development – 10%

Police & Protection – 25%

Water & Sewer – 20%

Drainage – 5%

Park and Rec. – 5%