List of Richland Hills boards and committees that are no longer active. Did you know these existed?

~~Baker Boulevard Task Force~~

Charter Review Committee

Committee on Land and Resource Management

Comprehensive Plan Review Steering Committee

Ethics Review Commission

~~Kate Baker Building Replacement Committee~~

Keep Richland Hills Beautiful

Library Advisory Board

Parks and Beautification Advisory Board

Public Transportation Board

~~Red Light Camera Citizen Advisory Committee~~

Teen Court Board

**Cost to Run for Office – financial costs only**

Necessary Expenses approx.. $2,300

Signs $750 (after 50% discount) for 150 signs (quotes ran as high as $2900)

Business Cards – 500 for $33.55 (online Visaprint was cheapest)

Brochure/Flyer – self-designed ($$$ if you need professional help) – printing $300-500 per printing

 We personally put out about 2000 flyers and then a donor had a company put out 3000 (paid for 3000 but received ?) - Estimated cost $1500

Essential Expenses approx.. $300-400

 Time – lots of time –

 Park & Backyard Meetups – used my own canopy ($100 if you need to purchase), spent about $200 on water, ice and general dollar packaged snack items.

 Gas – put at least $80 in van each week as I drove around town, inspecting complaint items, visits businesses, and talking to folks. My normal usage is a tank every 2 weeks, so if you just count the extra weeks for a 2 month campaign - $80 x 4 wks = $320.

Special Event – Townhall meeting to discuss visions, economic growth & safety approx. $780.00

 Outside Vendor $300 (snow cones)

 Used same items as covered above for $200 (water, ice and snacks)

 Cotton Candy machine & Popcorn $100

 Games - $80 (could have skipped this expense)

Poster Board and Printouts - $100

Approximate cost to run a full-fledge campaign $4,000-5,000 – for a position that is unpaid – seems a little crazy.

**Things I learned and would like to share about running for a local office:**

It is important to take an available opportunity to meet the candidate. If the candidate is offering a meet and greet, go and hear their ideas and share your own. They are not asking for anything more than your time and your engagement. My vision for RH never changed, but it expanded with each meeting as I learned from residents all over RH about the history, the good times and the issues facing different areas.

Once you select your candidate, support them, especially if you seek peer style representation (someone that understands your struggles):

1. Financially - $10 from 100 people pays just for the signs that you need to introduce your candidacy to the community. A candidate that has never run for office, can’t recycle signs…and signs with current inflation were anywhere from $1000-3000 for just 150 signs. I found an online site that offered a 50% discount. Then there are flyers – about $0.50 per home in a town of 3000 homes…and you need at least 2 flyers – one to introduce and one to encourage voters to get out and vote. Then there is the unspoken costs of gas to drive around town, talking with residents and businesses. I will never again ignore the cost of a candidate to run for office. A local campaign can cost $3000-5000 depending on how well known, or not, you are.
2. Emotionally – anyone sane will face fear and trepidation when deciding to run for a public office. The worry that you will be embarrassed, that you and/or your family will be harassed, that people will attack you (and they will), and finally the fear that you might not be able to make positive changes. It is important to pray for candidates and their families, and to give words of encourage often. I prayed daily for my family’s protection and for grace to handle the harassment.
3. Physically – I grew up in another city close by, I attend a church outside of my community – since moving to RH, my husband and I have often worked multiple jobs to finance our home rebuilt (it was a HUD repossession, very bad shape) and time to socialize was very limited. All this to say that when I decided to run for office, my support system was small. Myself, my husband and my son, along with Jenny and Bill walked the streets delivering flyers and talking to residents. So, support your candidate by helping with distribution of information – even if it’s just in your own neighborhood or facebook page.
4. Take a risk – in today’s cancel culture and in the ‘good ole boy’s club’ style of government, many people are concerned about publicly supporting a candidate. When you can openly support a candidate in person or social media, that helps tremendously. A candidate can only reach a limited number of people, but when others join in the chain, it branches and reaches many. On the flip side, some friends are also concerned that they might hurt your campaign. People need to understand that a candidate is running on their own platform, for their own reasons (which you had an opportunity at a meet and greet to learn). Friends can be supporters, without being advisors or devious behind-the-scene puppeteers. I have friends of many different groups of thoughts and actions – I can enjoy and learn from a difference of opinion, if it is equally respectful of my own.

"The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The leader adjusts the sails.”- John C Maxwell

Come on Richland Hills, let’s adjust the sails. – Joyce Fiaccone