


# Logan Election Forum

<b>Questions</b> 	<b>1. What previous experiences have you prepared or qualify you for city council service?</b>	<b>2. How do you think the municipal council should address the issue of housing affordability within Logan?</b>	<b>3. What are your thoughts on air quality in Cache Valley? Are there more efforts you think Logan should be taking to address the issue?</b>	<b>2. What is your vision for the future of Logan?</b>
 <b>Mark Anderson</b> 435-753-9099 askmarkanderson@gmail.com	I help people find solutions every day. As business owner, I understand budgeting, how to stay under budget, and the value of money and time: I will bring fiscal responsibility to the City Council. I also serve on a Board of Directors for a large manufacturer, and that experience working with a group of strong personalities and sharp minds has taught me to cooperate with others, do diligent research, and listen to knowledgeable people to help me make wise decisions.	The affordable housing problem effects all of Utah; there is not an easy fix. As a City Council, we must find ways to help developers create opportunities with new affordable housing options as well as encourage current property owners to renovate, revitalize, and expand existing lower income housing. It will take time and a solid plan of action to create affordable opportunities for housing with both short and long term solutions for our community.	Before true change can happen we must educate our residents that a serious problem exists, caused predominantly by our own personal choices, and then present alternate choices: encourage less driving, use more efficient vehicles, plant more trees, use cleaner fuels & energy sources, and more. As a community, we have the power to make a difference one person at a time, and if we all join in, we can, as a group, make a dramatic change in our air quality.	We have amazing opportunities here for recreation, arts and entertainment, jobs and business, and especially for training and education. Every day we enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds us and interact with the friendly, industrious people that we live with. These are the things I love about Logan & Cache Valley. I want to preserve and promote those opportunities and qualities that makes us love this place and want to live here. I also realize that our community is growing. Finding a way to balance our cherished, beautiful and bountiful way of life with growth is what I envision for Logan.
 <b>Keegan Garrity</b> 435-512-7905 or 435-227-5437 keegan.garrity@gmail.com	Over the last 15 years I've lived in 5 of the 7 neighborhoods in Logan including as a student, establishing a career, and raising a family. I currently serve as the co-chair on the Woodruff Neighborhood Council. I serve in a leadership capacity in my local church congregation. I'm also involved as a leader in strategic planning and execution at Malouf where I work—a company that has experienced rapid growth over the last 5 years.	I support the city's moderate income housing plan which includes: increasing options for special needs residents, mixed use zoning, and working toward a more equitable distribution of affordable housing across Cache Valley. When discussing this topic, the conversation often centers around making housing cheaper. We should also work toward raising the median income through good jobs. Logan has a marketing problem and we would benefit from actively pursuing companies and encouraging them to set up locations in our valley.	The shape of our valley combined with tailpipe pollution and methane gas from livestock sometimes results in our air quality being the worst in the nation. While wood burning restrictions and vehicle testing have improved conditions, we still have room for improvement. CVTD routes running every 15 minutes at peak times could help encourage public transit usage. Cycling is a great alternative in fair weather but in the winter, we can avoid idling, encourage car-pooling, and consolidate our trips.	I envision a city where businesses thrive, where companies treat their employees well, and all organizations and individuals contribute positively to the community. Spending is responsible and expenditures would do the most amount of good for the most amount of people. We'd have a vibrant downtown that would be accessible by car, bike, foot, and bus. Our scenic open spaces wouldn't be compromised, and traffic and parking would be tolerable. Public information would be easily accessible in a consolidated format so everyone would have an opportunity to participate, and the ice cream truck wouldn't play Christmas music in the summertime.
 <b>Ken Heare</b> 435-213-1723 ken4logan@gmail.com	For most of my adult life I've worked in some capacity as a mediator, negotiator and organizer. I hold a Masters in Mediation and Applied Conflict Studies and a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies in Justice Studies and Sociology. I have served in various capacities with community non-profit organizations and professional associations. Through my experiences with these groups I developed the skills to facilitate effective communication, collaborative problem solving and community building.	Affordable housing comes down to scarcity and until we solve that issue, home prices and rents will continue to creep up. We must consider a variety of housing solution, like density of single-family homes, developer incentives for building affordable rental units, single-family conversions with accessory units or condominium developments. Some options might not be desirable, but to adequately address the issue of affordable housing we need a collaborative problem-solving approach to look at all the options.	Unfortunately, some issues affecting air quality, like topography and weather are not in our control. We can mitigate our contribution of contaminants in the air by encouraging use of public transportation, minimizing car idling and creating a walkable city, but these steps are a small part. The most important action we can take as a community is holding State and Federal Representatives accountable to ensure we have strong policies in place to reduce contaminants that are emitted into the air.	Moving forward, I hope to see a robust downtown core that brings living, working, shopping and entertainment together. We are already on that path with the Mayors plan for the Center Street and Center Block projects. I hope to see a new library complex capable of hosting a variety of community events and educational programs in addition to the stellar programs they are already providing in a horribly inadequate space. Ultimately, the vision of Logan is what our residents make it and I hope you'll come to the table and help make the decisions that will shape our community.
 <b>Tom Jensen</b> 435-770-0656 thomascarljensen@gmail.com	President Reagan said, "I will not exploit, for political purposes, my opponent's youth and inexperience." Education/Career: Cornell architectural degree, founded architectural practice that became largest in region, adjunct professor at two universities, currently business development at large construction company. Past Service in Logan: leader on Envision Cache Valley, Cache 2010, Downtown Logan Specific Plan, South-Corridor Plan. Boards: Library, Golf Course, Regional Hospital, Downtown Alliance, Chamber of Commerce, Currently: sixth year on City Council, 34-year resident of Logan.	Housing affordability is a national crisis because housing costs are rising faster than incomes which prices more people out each year. Also, new households are being formed faster than the number of housing units being built. Solutions include federal financial assistance, developing more efficient, compact designs, modifying our zoning regulations and encouraging other Cache Valley communities to share the burden. Logan Housing Authority currently provides federal assistance. We have recently modified zoning to increase affordable housing.	We have improved our air quality recently, mostly due to more efficient vehicles. The challenge is that with increasing population who drive more daily miles, our air quality will deteriorate. Logan must address the issue by reducing traffic congestion especially on Main Street, reducing carbon emissions of our buildings and vehicle fleets and increasing walkability and biking routes. We can reduce the use of combustion sources in homes and business through the development of zero-carbon facilities. It's possible.	Great communities are more than streets, utilities, buildings and parking. Meaningful communities connect people with each other. I envision a robust, walkable Town Center with unique shops, restaurants, entertainment venues, offices, varied living spaces with active plazas that serve as places to gather and celebrate. With an inviting Town Center, families will desire to live in nearby neighborhoods, to be able to walk or bike to the action. We must improve our neighborhood infrastructure, foster citizen involvement, create better links to USU and implement our traffic management ideas that will make Main Street a pleasant avenue again. It is underway.
 <b>Jeannie Simmonds</b> 435-512-0832 or 435-753-2833 jfsimmonds@comcast.net	For the past thirteen years, I have been focused on the present and future of Logan: 6 years on the Council, 6 on Planning commission and 1 on Historic Preservation. Additionally, I have served on local nonprofit boards and on city and regional committees. I am active in neighborhood meetings and participate in planning for Logan's future. I also serve on the Cache Valley Transit District Board and as a founding board member of the Cache Water District.	Logan is in an enviable position in Cache Valley because of our variety and relative affordability of current housing stock. We have been focused on the issue of affordability as long as I have been involved with the city. We continue to zone for and encourage a range of housing types to meet the needs of our citizens. We need to continue to utilize Redevelopment funds for affordable housing and encourage development that is both livable and close to transit.	Air quality is a valley wide issue. Our geography plays a role as do our lifestyles. Strides have been made through emissions testing and education programs. I believe that our continued investment in transit, in building residences close to work and school and a commitment to safe pathways for cyclists and pedestrians, will help alleviate the need to drive to everything. Clean air is critical to our quality of life and for the lives of our children and grandchildren.	In my vision for the future of Logan; traffic is calmer on Main Street; our downtown is a vibrant gathering space for all ages; we have maintained the beautiful vista as you enter Cache Valley through thoughtful planning and coordination with surrounding communities; we have developed sustainable energy resources and enhanced bike paths and walking trails; we maintain kindness toward one another and celebrate the world class university in our midst; our neighborhoods are healthy and we continue to provide housing for all income levels; and we have constructed a new library where generations can explore, learn, listen and experience.
 <b>Abraham Verdoes</b> 435-767-7644 verdoes2019@gmail.com	I have an interest in the future of Logan for many reasons including that I recently became a homeowner in the City. I have an educational background in STEM, along with a decade of experience in high tech industries, including pharmaceutical and manufacturing R&D. I grew up overseas, lived in college towns for graduate and undergraduate school. These experiences have created and informed my vision for smart 21st century governance that is pragmatic and implantable on a local scale.	The people of Logan deserve a municipal council that serves all every of its citizen equally, including those from diverse economic backgrounds. This includes providing affordable, quality housing in safe and inviting settings. It can be accomplished by ensuring zoning regulations are best practices and future proofed to promote smart development. Along with thoughtful urban planning, housing can provide a basis for sustainable economic growth. This growth will organically increase the tax base, which will benefit the entire city.	Logan should encourage and incentivize alternative means of transit to cars first and foremost. This means better and smarter bike lanes and bus routes, especially on corridors that connect the community and the university to local business. I think air quality is part of the larger local environmental picture. We need to also protect the rivers and streams in our community, find smarter recycling solutions along with creating economic incentives to use and develop ecofriendly options including transit and more.	My view for the future of Logan is a vibrant college town located in pristine and scenic Northern Utah, featuring smart and sustainable growth, and a commitment to eco-friendly practices that emphasizes efficient transit options and good air quality. I envision a city with a plethora of community events, a strong school system, and a local government with a balanced, thoughtful budget promoting a long-term vision creating a bright stable future. A city anchored around a historic downtown square with a growing high-tech economy, prospering local businesses, and a world class recreation outside the front door.

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