

★ Cleveland Mayor ★

On the issues...

What would be your top priorities if elected mayor?

What is the greatest challenge facing the town?

Why should the residents of Cleveland vote for you?

"Aubrey" H. Junker Jr.

Challenger

Age: 50

Address: 120 Myers St.

Background: First-time candidate. Works as independent business consultant. Has lived in Cleveland for a total of 10 years. Member of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Cleveland, where he serves on the Budget and Finance Committee. Chairman of the board for Clearview Christian Academy, which is sponsored by the church.



"For me, the first thing would be to ensure that the town is in touch with the people ... The economy's not business as usual and operations should not be business as usual ... As an example, I think raising taxes or raising other rates if it's not necessary is not being in touch with the people ... The town should be run very much like a business, and you should evaluate the environment you're in for all the decisions you make."

"It's maintaining fiscal responsibility, but adapting to the economic conditions. I think that's a challenge for any business or community."

"While I've not had experience with municipal government, I have had a lot of experience in corporate America and am just a very strong believer in always doing what's right. You don't keep things from people. Sure, there are certain things that are confidential, but you always do what's right by the people ... The other thing I would say is I always try to be a person of my word and follow through on commitments. I always try to do what I say I'm going to do."

"John" Irvin Steele Jr.

First bid for mayor, has served on town board

Age: 66

Address: 204 Maple St.

Background: Completing eighth year on Cleveland Town Board of Commissioners. Retired as lieutenant colonel with the Air Force. Teaches part time for Appalachian State University at its Hickory campus. Does consulting work on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in veterans. Attends Third Creek Presbyterian, where he has served as elder.



"To continue with the sound, stable financial management which I think we've had ... Also, I'm concerned about improving the infrastructure of Cleveland, historic and present ... I would like to also continue to concentrate on restoring historic buildings in Cleveland ... That takes careful planning and judicious use of finances ... I hope the board will continue to press forward along those lines."

"To be able to stay financially sound, but also to recognize there is change coming and to deal with it. With the highway (U.S. 70) opening up, Cleveland is going to grow. How do we face and work with town growth and attract people to Cleveland as a nice, small, progressive community? That takes planning. We have to think in terms of what is Cleveland's going to be like in 50 to 100 years from now. We have to think about the future."

"I was raised in Cleveland. I know the people of Cleveland, and people know me. I'm approachable. I'm open to suggestions, and I think that we can work for the town's progress. And my availability to the people of Cleveland because I will be down there in the Town Hall frequently, meeting the people and talking with the people and asking them to tell me what they think they need. I came back to Cleveland to live after retirement. I love the town and people."