

## **BIOGRAPHY INFORMATION**

**Name:**

Ronald N. Howard

**Spouse's name:**

Cara L. Howard

**Children's names, ages:**

Caleb (14), Mickenzie (12), Michaela (11), Ruby (6)

**Education:**

Bachelor's of Science in (Video) Game art and Design

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## Questions:

- **What do you think are a mayor's primary responsibilities?**

The mayor is the heart of a city's government, acting as the chief executive officer and representative for the voice of the people. A mayor wears many hats and holds many crucial responsibilities. The ones I envision as most important are (in no particular order) as follows :

### **Crisis Manager:**

When emergencies strike, the mayor steps up to coordinate response efforts and keep the public informed. They are the calm in the storm, ensuring the city's safety and well-being during challenging times.

### **Government Liaison:**

The mayor represents the city's interests in dealings with state and federal governments, securing resources and support. They advocate for their community, ensuring that the city receives the funding and assistance it needs.

### **Infrastructure Overseer:**

The mayor ensures that roads, parks, and public buildings are well-maintained and developed, contributing to a high quality of life. They are responsible for the physical infrastructure that makes the city a great place to live.

### **Economic Champion:**

The mayor attracts businesses and investments to the city, boosting economic growth and creating jobs. They work to create a thriving economy, ensuring that residents have opportunities for success.

### **Community Connector:**

The mayor listens to residents' concerns and builds bridges within the community. They hold meetings, address complaints, and foster a sense of unity. They are the voice of the people, ensuring that everyone feels heard and represented.

### **Guardian of Safety:**

The mayor prioritizes the safety and security of residents, working closely with police and fire departments to implement initiatives that keep the city safe. They are the protector of the city, ensuring that residents feel safe and secure in their homes.

## **Financial Steward:**

The mayor manages the city's budget, ensuring that resources are allocated wisely to departments and services that impact the community. They are the responsible manager of the city's finances, ensuring that resources are used effectively.

## **Visionary Leader:**

The mayor sets the direction for the city, working with council members and officials to create policies that benefit everyone. They are the driving force behind achieving the city's goals, shaping the future of the community.

Overall, The mayor's role is complex and multifaceted, encompassing the progress of the entire city, and the well being of those who reside within it.

- **What is one thing you wish people knew about El Paso?**

I would like people to know just how special this community is. The fact that a town of this size contains such wonderful schools, parks, and loving/caring people is incredible. This town is also taken care of by so many willing helping hands paid and unpaid.

While it's not perfect (no town is) El Paso oftentimes feels like it is an Oasis. I didn't realize what a gift it was to live in this town until I moved here myself. I can see why so many people fall in love with El Paso when they come here.

- **What ideas do you have to improve El Paso?**

Most of my ideas concerning the improvement of El Paso deal with Energy and Food Independence. To be frank, I wish to look into ways to lower the electric bills not only for the city, but for every citizen in the city.

I wish to find ways to ease the lives of El Paso citizens while also providing them lower bills and ways to provide for the basic needs of food, power, and housing.

I also wish to implement quality of life changes such as sidewalks in areas of the town that desperately need them. Many of the workers who service us are forced to walk in busy streets on their way to work along 24 due to the absence of sidewalks.

This situation also has an adverse effect on the elderly, the handicapped, and those with disabilities.

It's an unnecessary risk that needs to be addressed sooner than later. Other than that? I am always open to any concerns that fellow citizens might have.

- **Why should El Paso residents vote for you? What can you bring as mayor that the other candidate(s) cannot?**

I feel like the two attributes I bring most are the following:

**Approachability:**

I absolutely love talking to people and hearing their issues. With me as Mayor you will never feel like you don't have a voice and that someone isn't willing to hear you out. You might not always get the result you want, but you will never have to worry about your concerns not being considered with contrite contemplation and sincerity.

This approachability also extends to acting as a representative of El Paso to those outside of our city limits. Whether it be to other government officials, administrators, or neighboring citizens, you can count on me to work fantastically well with others and represent El Paso in the wonderful light it deserves.

**Flexible Problem Solving:**

I might not be as quick on my feet anymore, but I am definitely quick when it comes to the mind! I also know how to remove myself from the situation and truly work for the interest of the citizenry. I will be more than happy to work with you as we build a future for our city through tackling any issues citizens may have, and come up with solutions that will improve the quality of life in our little town.

I understand what's important is not that a leader knows absolutely everything, but that said leader is wise enough to admit where his knowledge lacks and quickly obtain said knowledge via wise counsel and thorough research.

Point being, I might not have all the answers you need, however you can be sure I will stop at nothing to find them for you while remaining as accurate as possible.

- **In recent years, the City has focused on some accessibility improvements. What does accessibility mean to you, in practical terms, and how do you plan to improve accessibility for local residents?**

I believe this question neatly feeds into what I mentioned earlier when it comes to what my plans for the city are.

I wish to improve/provide sidewalks to parts of town that require work or simply have none.

I also wish to make sure and dilapidated buildings or other safety hazards are taken care of well in advance in order to ensure the safety of our citizenry.

As much as possible, I want to make sure that our older citizens, handicapped citizens, and disabled citizens are able to make their way around our town with ease.

These sorts of things are what accessibility means to me. Taking care of our town in such a way to make it easier for the citizens of El Paso to move about the town unhindered and able to enjoy all it has to offer.

- **If you received a \$1 million grant to use for the City, what would you do with those funds and why?**

To be perfectly honest, what I do with it would all depend on what the City budget looks like, and what the citizens of El Paso want to do with the money.

Most likely (if it didn't immediately disappear paying off some big fat debt), I would hold a meeting with the city council /city workers to see where they feel that money could serve citizens best.

I'd also like to hear from the El Paso citizens that sit in on the meeting before making any final decisions.

- **What strategies will you use to ensure El Paso's growth and resilience?**

Ensuring a city's growth and resilience is a multifaceted challenge that requires a combination of strategies. Here are some of the strategies I would use:

- **Community Engagement:**

Involve residents in the planning process to ensure that their needs and ideas are reflected in El Paso's operation and development. This fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility thus instilling a continued pride in taking care of the town they have helped build.

- **Emergency Preparedness:**

Development of comprehensive emergency plans and response strategies to address potential crises. This includes:

- Regular drills and community training.
- Clear communication channels during emergencies.
- Working hand in hand with our Police and Local Emergency Services, getting their input when it comes to planning for future events.

- **Proper Budgeting and City Financing :**

Making sure that every single tax dollar and grant is given the proper respect it deserves, by carefully budgeting and allocating funds to endeavors that will continue to maintain and grow a healthier El Paso.

- **Innovation and Technology:**

Leverage technology to improve city services and infrastructure. This can involve:

- Data analytics for city planning and emergency services.
- Integrated Computer systems that can share data with local townships and compare notes.

- **Veteran Care and Support:**

El Paso is home to many men and women who have served their country with honor. It is paramount that these Veterans feel heard and cared for by our town when they have given so much.

I personally work with multiple Organizations dedicated to helping Veterans that would be more than willing to provide support for anyone in town. Ultimately I want Vets to know that they will always be welcomed here in El Paso.

- **What concerns might people have about you as a candidate, and how would you allay those concerns?**

To be honest, I'm not sure what people might be concerned about. If anyone is worried about something, they can always just call me or stop on by and have a chat!

- **Any other comments or concerns?**

I'd like to just take this time to thank the El Paso journal for fielding these questions to myself and my fellow candidates. This is such a wonderful opportunity to get to know what we are all about.

I'd also like to thank my fellow El Paso citizens for reading through this paper, and I hope you gained the insight you were seeking that will lead you to the candidate of your choice.

See you April 1st!