

Newton Sustainability questions: Travis Moore East Ward Post 2

When you hear the term “SUSTAINABILITY,” what does it mean to you? How would you implement sustainable measures in your jurisdiction?

Sustainability, to me, means balancing our community's well-being, environment, and prosperity. To implement sustainable measures, I'll promote responsible development by collaborating with local businesses for eco-friendly practices, supporting clean energy initiatives, and investing in greener infrastructure—always supporting initiatives that make sense for our community's unique needs. While some may question a city council's impact, I believe in starting at the local level.

In a 2022 study funded by the City of Covington, the consulting firm Urban3 performed an "Economic MRI" of the city's tax revenues and cost of services to determine which types of development produce a positive cash flow for the city, vs. those costing more to service than the revenues generated. They found the best economic performance in areas with multi-story, more compact, mixed-use development. However, city residents often raise concerns about the impacts of density. As an elected official, what would be your philosophy for balancing those interests/perspectives in your municipality?

This has been a central theme of my campaign. As a member of the Planning and Zoning Committee, I've witnessed the consequences of irresponsible development in recent years.

The study's findings show that multi-story, mixed-use development can bring economic benefits. However, I understand residents' concerns about density. My philosophy is to strike a balance that respects our community's character while promoting responsible development.

We must put an end to irresponsible development and prioritize well-planned, quality projects that benefit our city in the long run.

Businesses and educational institutions in our community are implementing "Zero Waste" programs to dramatically reduce the volume of waste reaching the landfill from their operations. What investments, if any, would you support your government making to pursue similar objectives

Being responsible stewards of our citizens' money is a top priority. While pursuing "Zero Waste" objectives is a commendable effort, I would support government investments only if they demonstrate clear financial benefits for our community.

If these initiatives can reduce waste, lower disposal costs, and potentially generate revenue through recycling or other means, they deserve our consideration. We must scrutinize the financial viability and long-term savings these investments can offer before committing taxpayer dollars. It's about striking a balance between environmental responsibility and fiscal prudence to ensure we're making the most of our resources.

In our area, the governments of Athens-Clarke County, Atlanta, Augusta, Clarkston, DeKalb County, Decatur, Savannah, and Winterville have all set clean energy targets for 2050 or earlier. Would you be willing to propose/support clean energy targets in your jurisdiction?

I commend the efforts of those jurisdictions in setting clean energy targets. It's crucial to aspire to a cleaner, more sustainable future. However, I believe that as elected officials, we must strike a balance between such

commendable goals and the financial well-being of our citizens and businesses.

While I support the idea of clean energy targets, it's essential that we don't place an undue burden on taxpayers and businesses, potentially putting them at a competitive disadvantage.

The state of Georgia and the Atlanta Regional Commission have received EPA grants for \$3 million and \$1 million, respectively, to develop collaborating climate pollution reduction plans. These plans will open grant opportunities for municipalities in the 29-county metro Atlanta area to reduce their climate pollution. Drawdown Georgia, a statewide initiative led by researchers from UGA, Georgia Tech and Emory University, identifies 20 Georgia-specific climate solutions that provide a roadmap for reducing climate emissions across the state. What climate pollution reduction actions would you prioritize and seek funding for in your city?

Identifying actions to address climate concerns is important. We'll explore various options to see what fits Covington's needs while being mindful of our financial well-being.

We may consider:

1. Efficiency Measures: To cut costs and be environmentally conscious.
2. Energy Exploration: Looking at cost-effective energy alternatives, including renewables.
3. Resource Management: Evaluating waste strategies for resource savings.
4. Community Planning: Assessing development practices' impact on our town and the environment.
5. Awareness Initiatives: Informing our citizens for informed choices.

When seeking funding, we'll carefully assess financial implications for Covington, finding a balance between our community's prosperity and

addressing environmental challenges. I believe that as an elected official one of the main things we can do to help our city's environment is to ensure we give citizens reasons to take pride in our wonderful community.