GREGORY KLAUS

Why, in your opinion, are you qualified for this office?

I believe I am qualified to serve as Bastrop County Judge because of the experience I have gained through military service, business ownership, community involvement, and county government. I am a lifelong Bastrop County resident, a United States Navy veteran, and have more than 45 years of professional experience, including 30 years owning and operating a local small business. Those experiences taught me budgeting, accountability, problem-solving, leadership, and responsibility.

Since being elected County Judge in 2022, I have gained firsthand experience with the responsibilities of county government and the challenges that come with serving a rapidly growing county.

Please highlight your experiences and accomplishments that you feel have equipped you to serve in an elected capacity:

During my term as County Judge, Bastrop County has moved forward on several major projects, including the ongoing jail expansion, construction of a new Development Services building, planning for a new Justice Center, establishment of the Public Health Department, creation of Emergency Services District No. 3, and planning for the future expansion of the county animal shelter.

Being part of these efforts has given me practical experience with county budgeting, long-term planning, public safety, infrastructure, and coordinating across departments to move important projects forward.

List your involvement with community organizations over the last 24 months:

Over the past 24 months, I have remained actively engaged throughout Bastrop County, continuing to show up, listen, serve, and stay connected with the people and communities that make our county home. My involvement has included civic events, community celebrations, veteran and first responder recognitions, business and economic development events, faith based gatherings, local government programs, and opportunities to meet directly with residents, community leaders, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses.

I have been honored to participate in the annual Red, White & Blue Veterans of Bastrop Banquet, Honor Flight activities, the Bastrop Area Cruisers Veterans Tribute Ceremony, Bastrop High School NJROTC 9/11 Memorial Ceremony, the First Responders Luncheon, and National Day of Prayer ceremonies. I have also continued to support the traditions that bring our communities together by participating in the Bastrop Homecoming Parade, Smithville Jamboree Parade, Smithville Fourth of July Parade, the Bastrop, Elgin and Smithville livestock shows, Juneteenth celebrations and the Harriet Tubman statue unveiling ceremony, as well as numerous other community gatherings throughout the county.

Please rank what you feel are the top 3 campaign issues, explaining your position and why

1. Public safety is a core responsibility of county government. I support providing law enforcement, fire and emergency services, and our Emergency Management Office with the resources necessary to serve Bastrop County residents.

   As our county grows, we must continue planning for the public safety and emergency-response needs of our communities while using county resources responsibly.

2. I support responsible growth that considers the effects of large developments, including data centers, on roads, drainage, water, emergency services, neighboring property owners and our quality of life. I will continue advocating for reasonable tools that allow counties to address those impacts while protecting private property rights.

   Growth and large-scale development can place additional demands on county infrastructure and services. County decisions should focus on the responsibilities and authority the county actually has, while continuing to work with the Legislature when additional authority is needed.

3. I believe county government must be responsible with taxpayer dollars by prioritizing essential services, planning for long-term needs and carefully evaluating county spending.

   Bastrop County has growing infrastructure and service needs. Responsible budgeting means addressing those needs while remaining mindful of the financial impact on taxpayers.

Additional comments:

I, Judge Gregory Klaus, respectfully ask for your continued support in the November 2026 General Election. It would be an honor to continue serving the residents of Bastrop County.

What are your suggestions to increase voter turnout?

I think we can increase voter turnout by making sure people know when and where to vote, reminding them about early voting, and by continuing to get that information out into the community.