

John Kirkland has proudly called Bastrop County home since 2007. A sixth-generation Texan raised in Brownsville, he graduated as valedictorian of his high school and earned his Electrical Engineering degree with High Honors from the University of Texas at Austin. With over 30 years of experience as an engineer, he currently serves as a Principal Engineer for a leading semiconductor company, where he specializes in problem-solving, process optimization, and managing complex projects—skills he brings to city governance.

John resides on Main Street with his family and is deeply rooted in the Bastrop community. His three children grew up here, attending schools in Cedar Creek and Bastrop. His daughter graduated as valedictorian of Bastrop's Colorado River Collegiate Academy in 2023, reflecting the family's commitment to education and community values.

A dedicated community leader, John serves as a Deacon at Grace Bible Fellowship, where he also plays bass guitar and sings on the worship team. Beyond his church involvement, he has served as President, Vice President, and Treasurer of various community organizations. His personal interests include being a Certified Master Beekeeper and Expert Baker, as well as tournament bass fishing, woodworking, and brewing.

After traveling over **3 million miles in his career**, the COVID-19 pandemic brought his international travel to a halt. This shift led him to focus his expertise on **local governance**, where he applies **data-driven decision-making** to solve challenges facing the city. His leadership emphasizes **economic growth, infrastructure investment, and preserving Bastrop's identity while planning for its future.**

Key Achievements in Office:

- **Leadership Stability:** Strongly supports Bastrop's City Manager, the best we've had in decades, promoting continued stability and progress.
- **Economic Development:** Serves on the Bastrop Economic Development Board to attract and support businesses.
- **Infrastructure:** Quadrupled the road maintenance budget, ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with growth.
- **Business-Friendly Policies:** Reformed the B3 building code to make development fairer for residents and businesses and eliminate permit delays.
- **Historical Preservation:** Advancing plans to restore the **Historic Bastrop Bridge**, with construction expected to begin in early 2025.

- **Ethical Governance:** Advocated for accountability in city leadership, regardless of the personal cost.

As **Acting Mayor Pro-Tem and a BEDC Board Member**, John is committed to **maintaining a strong local economy, keeping taxes low, and ensuring Bastrop remains a great place to live and do business.** He welcomes feedback from residents and business owners and encourages open communication to help shape Bastrop's future together.