

BIOGRAPHY

Mayor John Cowman is always looking ahead. At ten, he started mowing lawns. That same year, he made a promise to himself that he would make enough money to buy a car when he graduated from High School. The next year, he used his lawn-mowing money to buy a weed-eater and self propelled lawnmower, and he saved his money. John bought his first car one week before graduation; a 1976 Ford Ranchero. For John, tomorrow is always better than today.

John has carried this passion for a better tomorrow throughout his career and to the City of Leander.

Cowman is serving his second term on the Leander City Council after being re-elected with 100 percent of the vote in 2006. John has focused his work on the Council on promoting new urbanism, transportation issues (especially public transportation) clean energy, accessibility issues, Parks and Recreation and on establishing mixed-use density zones throughout Leander.

He led the effort to make Leander the regional leader in Transportation Oriented Development; led the extremely successful effort creating a spirit of cooperation between regional leaders and cities within the region. Creating regional partnerships: public/private, public/public and public/private/public, has been a strong suit of John's. Partnerships with private and public partners such as HEB, PEC, ACC, LISD, CTRMA, CapMetro, BCRUA, have now become the norm, rather than the exception to how a region works and becomes sustainable. All seem to have John's thumbprint all over them. He has also gone outside the region to help other regions such as Birmingham Alabama, Elgin and Corpus Christi learn our recipe for success.

His initiatives include sponsoring the Leander Arts Ordinance, the Library Foundation, and the Mayors Committee on People with Disabilities. All are a reflection of John, and our city.

Cowman is the lead proponent of Leander's Commercial Design Standards and Mixed Use Ordinance, and Leander SmartCode which is the region's first comprehensive enactment of Envision Central Texas land use policies. He was named Local Leader of the Year in 2005 by the John Ben Sheppard Society, a Leadership Award for an Elected Official for his efforts in this area and Best Public Servant Award in 2008 from the Hill Country News.

Before City Hall

John graduated from Duncan U. Fletcher Senior High School in Neptune Beach, Florida then paid his way through Austin Community College. He is a licensed Texas Real Estate Broker and Real Estate Developer.

John's commitment to fairness and responsibility has grown out of his extensive volunteerism, first as a mentor, then through working with organizations focused on accessibility, transportation, child abuse and the security needs of low income young people.

John's Family

A native of California, John grew up surfing and playing baseball. John enjoys playing Golf, Tennis, and cycling.

John's daughter Megan graduated from Texas State University and now lives and works in the Washington D. C. area; daughter Victoria attends Wiley Middle School and is preparing for High school, and youngest daughter Carter Anne attends Steiner Ranch Elementary and enjoys cheerleading.

John's sister Janis and his Mother live in Georgetown; his brother Jim lives in the Lake Travis area.