

2019 General Election Candidate Statement For Michael D. Tsikouris

Dear Citizens of Campbell,

I am indeed proud to have served as your First Ward Councilman for the past 18 years. Please allow me to review important events that have transpired during my tenure and update you regarding the progress we have made since then.

On August 15th, 2002 Cold Metal Products, a manufacturing facility on Wilson Avenue employing 116 workers, notified the City of Campbell that they would be closing the plant and permanently laying off all employees. This action had a reverberating effect on our finances. Financial projections reflected a funding deficit of \$600,000. By June 10, 2004 the City was declared in Fiscal Emergency. However using a combination of budget cuts and new sources of revenue the City emerged from Fiscal Emergency on October 2, 2013. I am grateful to the citizens of Campbell for approving the operational levies which aided our financial recovery.

Later the Administration and Council saw the need to address our aging infrastructure. We proposed a 3 mil levy for street paving and also a \$3 assessment to address EPA mandated storm water issues. Once again the citizens responded and these monies are being used as matching funds for State and Federal grants. Street paving and catch basin repair/replacement is progressing well.

A new Finance Director was hired in 2017 and after two years of effort training staff and reconciling past transactions we now have accurate and current reports which allows us to make informed financial decisions.

For several years now our water plant has been operating at a deficit due to ever increasing and costly EPA mandates, thus burdening the city's General Fund. With only 3200 water customers to bear the additional cost of these mandates it became evident that we could not continue to maintain the plant without putting a heavy financial burden on them. After several public meetings regarding the sale of the water plant, the overwhelming consensus was to put it out for bid. Aqua was the only bidder and the sale was completed in August of this year.

Finally our Property Specialist continues to make progress on registration, code enforcement, repair, and demolition of residential and commercial properties. Demolition has progressed exceptionally well with the City using minimal funds thanks to the Mahoning County Land Bank.

Much has been accomplished since 2002, yet many challenges remain. With your support I believe we can meet these challenges. It has been a pleasure to serve the citizens of Campbell and look forward to serving you in the future.

