

KHRIS
FIELDS
FOR MAYOR 2028

MY PLAN FOR COMMERCE

2028

About Me



KHRIS FIELDS

Khristopher A. Fields

Khristopher A. Fields is a nonpartisan, Texas Attorney General's Office-Certified, Harvard-Credentialed and FEMA-Certified leader whose record of public service has been honored by both Republican and Democrat elected officials across the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of government at the federal, state, and local levels. He has also been officially recognized by the Harris County Attorney's Office and the Texas House of Representatives for his public policy experience.

SERVICE AND FAMILY TRADITION

Fields comes from a family with a strong tradition of military service. His grandfather honorably served in the United States Air Force, his older brother honorably served in the United States Army Texas National Guard, and his younger brother continues to serve honorably in the United States Air Force. Fields also served in the United States Navy before receiving a medical related separation. In 2023 he was named an Honorary Admiral in the Texas Navy, a ceremonial honor bestowed by Governor Greg Abbott.

Experience and Distinctions

Fields is a member of the East Texas A&M University community, College of Science, Engineering and Agriculture, where he is a non-traditional student pursuing advanced skills in tech management for public services. He has experience with the United States Department Of Defense, served as a credentialed Federal Emergency Response Official with the United States Department Of Homeland Security and received specialized training through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC). He is a former member of the American Federation of Government Employees. Fields is certified in Emergency Management for Senior Officials, Emergency Planning, Leadership and Influence, Public Works and Disaster Recovery, Decision Making and Problem Solving and Effective Communication through the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Disaster & Emergency Management University - Emergency Management Institute. He holds a certification in Mastering Operations & Development of Local Government Administration from Acacia University. He is Certified in Texas Open Government Law by the Texas Attorney General's Office. Furthermore, Fields holds several certificates through Harvard University's online learning initiative in leadership, communication, rhetoric, persuasive writing, and public speaking. Fields was also nominated by a sitting member of the Texas House of Representatives for an Honorary Doctoral Degree at Texas Southern University.

NOTABLE DISTINCTION

Among his many notable distinctions, Fields is a recipient of the United States Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award from the Executive Office of the 46th President of the United States of America.

A PUBLIC SERVICE PERSPECTIVE

Through his experience in federal service, military service, public policy, and leadership, Fields brings a unique perspective shaped by government operations, emergency response, and a commitment to public service.

Why I'm Running

THE OPPORTUNITY

As a future Mayor of the City of Commerce, Texas, who has studied our Home Rule Charter, our Code of Ordinances, and the priorities residents identified through years of public meetings and community conversations, I see a clear way to fix the problems our city is facing, using the powers we already have.

THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

Growth is headed our way. Towns all around us, Royse City, Caddo Mills, Greenville, are growing fast. That growth hasn't reached Commerce yet, but it's getting closer every year. When it does, it will put real pressure on our water, sewer, trash pickup, and roads. Towns that wait until growth shows up to start planning always end up behind and playing catch-up. I don't want that for Commerce. I want us ready before it happens, not scrambling after.

THE AFFORDABILITY TEST

Too many families are struggling. Money is tight for a lot of people in Commerce. Outside reports have ranked us among the poorer cities in Texas our size, and roughly a third of our families live below the poverty line. That's not a knock on our town, it's a fact we have to plan around. We can't fix everything by simply raising taxes or fees on people who are already struggling. We need to find money from outside Commerce, not just from the people already living here.

THE INFRASTRUCTURE GAP

Our streets and pipes are wearing out. Because money has been tight, our roads, water lines, and sewer system haven't gotten the upkeep they need over the years. That means more breaks, more repairs, and more headaches for regular people, and it will only get worse if we don't act.

READY BEFORE GROWTH ARRIVES

A practical plan built around the powers Commerce already has, and the people who call it home.

The Legal Foundation for This Plan

WHO DOES WHAT

Our Charter sets up a council-manager government. The City Council, including the Mayor, decides policy, passes the budget, and adopts the ordinances that protect health, safety, and welfare. The City Manager runs day-to-day operations and answers to the Council.

THE AUTHORITY ALREADY IN PLACE

Because Commerce is a home-rule city under Article XI, Section 5 of the Texas Constitution, the city already has broad authority over local matters, streets, water systems, property standards, business regulation, and quality of life, without needing state permission for most of it.

THE TOOLS AVAILABLE NOW

Our Code of Ordinances currently spans Chapters 1 through 98, most recently updated through Ordinance No. 2025-09-09 (adopted September 16, 2025). Within that code are the specific tools I'll use as Mayor: the chapters governing utilities, streets, and solid waste; the zoning appendix; the subdivision appendix; and the chapter establishing how the city itself is organized and enforces its rules.

Leadership Beyond the Desk

LEAD WHERE THE PROBLEMS ARE

I believe effective leadership happens beyond a desk. Under the City of Commerce Home Rule Charter and the City's own description of the Mayor's role, the Mayor is responsible for providing vision for the future of the City, setting policy, and adopting ordinances, resolutions, and policies relating to public health, safety, and welfare. I would lead by being present where the problems actually are.

SEE IT FIRSTHAND

Instead of waiting for complaints to reach City Hall, I would go directly to the source: meeting residents where problems exist, inspecting neglected properties, standing at dangerous intersections, and seeing failing infrastructure firsthand. That firsthand knowledge is how I would fulfill the Charter's responsibility to set informed policy and protect public health, safety, and welfare.

DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY

When government agencies or utility companies fail our community, I would demand answers publicly and persistently, using formal letters, public meetings, press conferences, and community forums until action is taken and residents are kept informed. This is consistent with the Mayor's duty, as a steward of the public trust under Code of Ordinances Chapter 2, Article VI (Ethics), to administer and enforce the City Charter and city ordinances in an ethical manner and to avoid any appearance that the City is not acting on behalf of its residents.

BE PRESENT IN THE COMMUNITY

My commitment would extend beyond fixing problems. I would be a constant presence in our community: championing local nonprofits, recognizing teachers, volunteers, and

first responders, celebrating small businesses, listening through regular town halls, and clearly explaining every major decision that affects our city.

THE STANDARD

I believe public office under the Charter is not about occupying a seat at City Hall. It is about being present in our neighborhoods, standing alongside our people, and delivering the results the people want to see.

LISTEN

Regular town halls and direct conversations.

SHOW UP

See problems firsthand.

DELIVER RESULTS

The Commerce I Want For Us

A Commerce where families can put down roots, raise their kids safely, get a good education, and still be close enough to enjoy everything the Dallas/Fort Worth area has to offer. Every vote I cast as Mayor will be measured against that goal.

How I'll treat you and your tax dollars:

- **Responsive:** I'll answer you quickly, not make you wait weeks for a callback.
- **Effective:** I'll try to get things right the first time, not half-fix problems.
- **Accountable:** I'll check whether what we're doing is actually working, and change course if it isn't.

These four promises weren't invented in a room by themselves, they reflect what I heard talking with neighbors and small business owners, and they track closely with the priorities residents already identified in the city's own Strategic Plan process. They're listed in the order residents told me they care about them.

MY 4 PROMISES

Four practical priorities for a stronger Commerce.

1

Bring In New Money

Use the Council's budget and policy authority under the Charter to bring in money from outside Commerce.

2

Fix Our Pipes & Roads

Fund water, sewer, streets, and solid waste service, and stick to a schedule.

3

Clean Up Our City

Use the city's existing tools to address neglected property and help owners fix problems, not just punish them.

4

Improve Daily Life

Use the Charter's authority over quality of life and public safety to make Commerce a place families choose to stay.

BRING IN • FIX • CLEAN UP • IMPROVE

Bring In New Money

Our roads and pipes need real work, and that work costs real money, but a lot of families in Commerce are already stretched thin. I don't think it's fair to keep asking you to pay more when your paycheck isn't stretching any further. So instead of raising your taxes first, I'll use the Council's budget and policy authority under the Charter to bring in money from outside Commerce.

WHAT I'LL PUSH FOR

- More community festivals throughout the year, spring, summer, fall, winter, including a family-friendly event with the Children's Museum, to bring visitors, vendors, and their dollars into Commerce.
- Going after every state and federal grant we qualify for, instead of leaving money on the table.
- Using Chapter 380 economic development agreements and targeted tax incentives, tools already available to home-rule cities, where they genuinely grow the tax base rather than just shifting cost around.
- Welcoming new homes, shops, and businesses under our existing zoning (Appendix A) and subdivision (Appendix B) rules, so growth pays its own way instead of landing on people who already live here.
- Finishing the Downtown and Farmers Market revitalization work already contemplated in the city's long-range planning, so empty buildings become places people actually visit.

OUTSIDE MONEY. LOCAL RESULTS. Growth should help pay for the future without pricing out the people who are already here.

Fix Our Pipes & Roads

As nearby towns keep growing, more cities are finding out their water, sewer, and roads can't keep up. I don't want Commerce caught off guard. The Charter and Code make water, sewer, streets, and solid waste service a core city responsibility, the job is to fund it and stick to a schedule.

WHAT I'LL PUSH FOR

- A clear, published multi-year capital plan showing where our water supply comes from long-term and when major repairs happen, not a plan that lives only in a drawer.
- Finishing upgrades at the Water Treatment Plant so it can produce enough clean water for today and for the growth that's coming.
- Finishing sewer plant repairs to stop backups and cut energy costs.
- Moving street maintenance from reactive pothole patching to a regular, published rebuild schedule for our worst roads.
- Seriously evaluating a return of curbside recycling, a lot of residents have told me directly they miss it and want it done right this time.

PLAN IT. FUND IT. FIX IT.

A reliable foundation for Commerce's future.

Clean Up Our City

Chapter 22 of our Code, which adopts the International Property Maintenance Code and related building standards, and the chapter establishing the Building & Standards Commission and its enforcement authority already give the city the tools to address neglected property. I believe the city should help owners fix problems, not just punish them.

WHAT I'LL PUSH FOR

- Fair, consistent enforcement of health and safety codes citywide, not just in the easiest neighborhoods to target.
- A vacant/abandoned building registry requiring owners to register with the city, using home-rule authority to prevent empty structures from becoming magnets for crime and blight.
- Real investment in the city entrances, the first thing people see driving into Commerce should make them want to stop.
- A concrete plan with real deadlines to finally resolve the long-running problems at Live Oaks Apartments, 2224 Live Oak Street.
- A partnership with East Texas A&M University, our schools, and local artists to bring public art into our public spaces.

A CITY WORTH CARING FOR

Clean, safe, welcoming spaces tell residents and visitors that Commerce is moving forward.

Improve Daily Life

A city is more than pipes and pavement. Using the Charter's authority over quality of life and public safety, I want Commerce to be a place families choose to stay.

WHAT I'LL PUSH FOR

- A real, public conversation with residents about what our parks need, followed by budget dollars aimed at what residents actually ask for.
- Recruiting more restaurants, shops, and things to do, while helping local entrepreneurs start their own businesses.
- Seriously evaluating an affordable community center, since Commerce currently has no low-cost gathering space for the whole community.
- Re-entering the federal home repair/rehabilitation program Commerce used to participate in but left, helping families who qualify fix up their homes.
- Making sure the Police Department has the staffing and equipment it needs, public safety shouldn't get cut to cover other priorities.
- Connecting residents with job training so local employers can hire from Commerce first.
- Ensuring the Fire Department has working equipment and a real replacement plan for aging trucks and gear before they fail.
- Finishing the firefighter training grounds so our crews can train at home instead of traveling elsewhere.
- Running joint practice drills with police, fire, and emergency crews so everyone knows what to do before a real emergency hits, not during one.

Let's Build Commerce's Future, Together

The future is not something Commerce has to wait for.

It is something we can plan for, shape, and build together.

THE COMMITMENT

The Charter doesn't force us to sit around and wait until problems get worse. It already gives the Council, and the Mayor who leads it, the policy tools, the ordinance-making power, and the budget authority to plan ahead, bring in outside money, enforce rules fairly, and invest in the everyday lives of the people who live here.

THE TEST FOR EVERY DECISION

As Mayor, I will judge every decision by one simple question: does this help make Commerce a place where families can put down roots, raise their kids safely, find opportunity, and still stay connected to the wider region, without pricing out the people who are already here?

THE PROMISE

That is how we use the powers we already have. That is how we take charge of Commerce's future.

— KHRIS —
FIELDS
FOR MAYOR 2028

Together.

LET'S BUILD COMMERCE'S FUTURE