

**Phil Kramer
Candidate for
3rd Ward Councilman**

My wife and I moved to Franklin 11 years ago. At that time our taxes were \$6,500. The next year they were \$7,500, then \$8,500, then \$9,500. About the same time they hit \$10,500 I noticed a little red sign stapled to a telephone pole advertising some group called

“Taxpayers United in Franklin”.

The next day I went to TUF headquarters (Chip Hoever’s office) and asked how I could help. Chip gave me ten signs and told me to put them up.

I put up the signs and came back half an hour later and said, “Ok, now what?” Chip gave me 50 signs and again told me to put them up. I put them up and came back the next day and said, “Ok, now what?”

That’s how I got started in TUF. Chip realized I meant business and we began to work together to bring real change to Franklin. Our goal was to let people know what was going on with their government so that they could take action. Our first big move was an anti-tax rally at a Council meeting at Sept 9, 2003. 250+ people attended. This clearly let Council know people were mad.

I then began to attend Council meetings and in the past six years I believe no one has been to more Council meetings than I. As I learned more I began to speak during the public sessions and write for TUF. With the help of TUF I became the loudest voice in town against public officials who had appeared to care little about the citizens and more about their campaign contributors. I made sure that before I spoke or wrote anything I would first thoroughly research everything, I would always go with what I thought was true (popular or not) and if I turned out to be wrong to admit my mistake. By doing this TUF began to gain readers and credibility.

As I continued to battle an administration that was out of control and clearly in league with developers many members of the Democratic Party began to see that their own leadership was putting politics before the interests of Franklin. A movement began to reform the Democratic Party and change the leadership.

They saw me as a credible hard worker for the people and recruited me to help. While I had been a Democrat already, that was how I became an active member of the party. Curiously because I had always put people before party and spent so much time working against the prior administration, which happened to be Democrats, many thought I was a Republican.

Through TUF and hard work I believe that I have been a, if not the, leading voice for successful change and reform in our local government. Frequent readers of this site know my accomplishments. The most prominent are:

- **Outside review of School Budget** - This to my knowledge is the **largest tax savings in Franklin History and will improve education**. While others were involved this would not have happened without me.
- **Convinced the BOE to televise their meetings** – This has increased the public's awareness of the actions the BOE and has increased attendance at the meetings. Again, while others were involved this would not have happened without me.
- **The Recall** – This single measure, initiated by Chip Hoever, has had a tremendous impact on Franklin. Not only did it take power from that prior administration but it prevented the building of over 600 homes on Bennetts Lane. So many homes that the School Board President stated that it would require the building of a new school. I was instrumental in the success of the recall. Besides organizing people to collect signatures and providing them with technical help, I collected over 600 signatures myself. The next closest was 350 signatures. In total we collected 1621 valid signatures, barely 100 more than required. While there were other essential people involved in the only recall in Somerset's 321 year history it would not have succeeded without me.
- **Televising Township meetings** - I was involved in the very beginnings of televising Council meetings and pushed hard to get the Planning Board and Zoning board televised.
- **Successfully lobbied to change our Township Attorney** - The prior township attorney appeared to serve the Council members that voted him in rather than the people of the Town. He readily gave information to those Council members but kept it from Mayor

Levine. When talks began to consider replacing him I was instrumental in including both parties.

- **Bipartisanship** - I believe that I have been the most successful bi-partisan in town. My method was simple, always agree with who is correct and never consider party when it comes to making a choice that affects the Town. I believe that no one in town is better able to speak to both parties than I.
- For a more accomplishments visit <http://kramer2009.com>

If you look through the pages of TUF you'll see that I rarely boast about myself, doing so makes me uncomfortable. This however is an election and in an election one has little choice but to do just that. That being said...

I have been your political watchdog for 6 years, who better than I to keep an eye on Council.

I will watch every dollar spent, I will cut out unneeded spending and I will do what I've done for the last 6 years, watch out for the citizens of Franklin. The difference is, putting me on Council will allow me to do it even better than I have before.

**Nov 3rd Please Come out and Vote
And
Please Vote for Phil Kramer**