Jeff Bauknight is the mayor of Victoria. He was born in Austin and raised in Victoria. Bauknight earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M University. He is married to J. Lynn, and they have two daughters. He founded Crossroads Mechanical, Inc., in 2004. He serves as Treasurer for the Texas State Board of the Association of Builders and Contractors and was a founding member of the Mid-Coast Construction Academy. In the community, Jeff is a member of the First United Methodist Church and the Victoria Rotary Club. In the capacity of Mayor, he serves on the Victoria Sales Tax Development Corporation, Victoria Economic Development Corporation and Victoria Airport Governance Committee. He was first elected to the City Council in 2013 and was elected mayor in 2021. Jeff was re-elected Mayor in May 2022, and his current term ends in May 2025.

The Mayor’s Youth Council idea was brought to the Mayor by a group of exceptional young people who have demonstrated a commitment to serving our community and making Victoria a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Through their dedication, hard work, and leadership, they have made a lasting impact on our city and its residents.
The mission of the Mayor’s Youth Council (MYC) is to promote civic engagement by youth. The MYC provides high school students with opportunities to learn about city government, develop leadership skills, and bring awareness to issues that are important to Victoria’s youth.

MYC is made up of junior and senior high school students representing the youth population of Victoria and is open to students from VISD, St. Joseph, Faith Academy, Industrial ISD, Bloomington ISD, and other homeschooled students. Members meet 1-2 times monthly during the school year to listen to presentations from City staff, outside organizations, and elected officials, plus organize volunteer opportunities and discuss issues concerning youth.

**Local Government:**
MYC members are led by elected officer positions within the council as follows: President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian. Members are selected to serve within their local districts to mirror Victoria City Council members with a maximum of 15 total members. Officers preside over meetings, coordinate with City staff, and engage fellow MYC members in leadership opportunities.

**Civic Engagement:**
MYC members create and join subcommittees that are focused on specific issues that impact youth. These subcommittees provide input to City Council and other elected officials when appropriate.

**Community Service:**
Semi-annually, MYC members participate in community service-learning projects collectively. Those unable to attend are expected to make up community service hours individually.

**Requirements & Benefits**
MYC members will:
- Learn and practice parliamentary procedure.
- Practice civic engagement
- Develop communication, social interaction, and networking skills.
- Engage with like-minded peers throughout the city.
- Network with City of Victoria departments, community organizations, and County, State, and Federal officials

**Eligibility requirements:**
- Students must be a junior or senior in high school during the corresponding school year.
- Commit to serving for one school year (August-May)
- Submit completed application.
- Maintain a 2.5 GPA or higher.
- Attend orientation.
- Attend & actively participate in meetings each month.
- Participate in semi-annual community service opportunities.

**Student Application**
In order to complete your application, fill out the following form online or via PDF with all sections completed. Once all sections are completed, email it to ksmith@victoriatx.gov along with at least one recommendation letter by September 1 of the school year in which you are applying.