



South Padre Island City Manager Position Profile

The Community

South Padre Island is a vibrant community with a rich history. With unparalleled beaches, a thriving business community and an economy based largely on tourism, South Padre Island offers year round opportunities to work, live, and play for residents and visitors alike.

The Island of South Padre was given its current name to honor Padre Jose Nicolas Balli who is considered the modern founder of the area. The Town of South Padre Island was incorporated in 1973, and became the City of South Padre Island when the Home Rule Charter was adopted in 2009.

The City of South Padre Island is located on the southernmost tip of Texas on a barrier island along the Texas Gulf Coast. South Padre Island is linked to the mainland by a two and a half mile long bridge, the Queen Isabella Memorial Causeway. The City is home to an estimated 5,000 people, and according to the Convention and Visitors Bureau, over one million people visit the Island each year.

South Padre Island is served by two regional airports, the Brownsville/South Padre Island International Airport, located 22 miles away, and Valley International Airport in Harlingen, less than an hour away. The City provides a free fixed route public transit system called the WAVE to travel around South Padre Island and Port Isabel. In addition to the WAVE, shuttles are available to provide transportation to both regional airports and into Brownsville.

The weather in South Padre Island is perfect. Beautiful winters have an average temperature of 65 degrees; breezy summers have an average temperature of 82 degrees; and there is an average of 253 days of sunshine. To help residents and visitors enjoy the ideal weather, South Padre offers an abundance of outdoor activities. Known for its beautiful sandy beaches (Padre Island has the longest sand beach in the United States), water activities such as wind surfing, kiteboarding and jet skiing are available year round. Ecotourism is also a bustling industry in the Island. Activities such as birding, sea turtle watching, and dolphin boat trips create fun educational family outings.



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The Community, continued

South Padre Island has the lowest tax rate in Cameron County. The median household income is \$53,594 and the median home price is \$248,486. Students residing in South Padre Island attend the Point Isabel Independent School District (PIISD) located on the mainland and serves grades K-12. The PIISD has an enrollment of 2,575 and serves five communities. Higher Education opportunities can be found nearby at the University of Texas Brownsville, Texas State Technical College, and the University of Texas Pan-American.

Governance and Organization

South Padre Island is governed by a Home Rule Charter with a Council-Manager form of government. Voters elect six citizens to serve as the City Council, including the Mayor, each serving three year staggered terms. The City Council appoints the City Manager who is responsible for the day to day operations of the organization. The City Manager serves at the pleasure of the City Council.

The City Manager hires and directs 165 full time city employees, including 11 direct reports: Assistant City Manager, Executive Assistant To City Manager, City Secretary, Finance Director, Administrative Services Director, Information Services Director, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Convention and Visitor's Bureau Director, Public Information Officer, and Coastal Resources Manager. In addition to 14 departments providing services to residents and businesses, the Convention and Visitors Bureau has recently been realigned to report directly the the City Manager. This allows for more direct oversight of conventions and visitors operations, a huge economic driver for the City. The City Manager oversees an FY 2013-2014 annual operating budget of \$21 million. The City's tax rate is \$0.252701 per \$100 of valuation.

Leadership and Innovation

Tourism is the major economic driver in South Padre Island. The chosen candidate must demonstrate an understanding of tourism and business relations. A strong knowledge of planning and zoning will be beneficial. Preservation of the beach is critical to tourism and the City's economy. The ideal candidate will have general knowledge of beach maintenance and erosion practices.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the convention center renovation project. Additionally, a roadway improvement project of Gulf Boulevard, the major arterial roadway directly behind the hotels and closest to the beach, will soon be underway.



Mission

The City of South Padre Island is a unique, friendly seaside resort community that values its residents and tourists, preserves and protects the natural environment and provides for quality sustainable growth and development that is highly diverse and responsive to changing economic conditions.

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Leadership and Innovation, continued

An environment that fosters trust and understanding is key to managing the critical relationships between residents, businesses, developers, and the City. The chosen manager will need to demonstrate strong interpersonal skills and be politically astute. A strong commitment to open and honest dialogue will be critical to success.

Ideal Candidate

It is essential for the successful candidate to be a -visionary leader- with a successful track record of supporting growth in a tourism based community. Strong understanding of convention center business is desired.

The new City Manager will have to effectively cultivate and manage relationships with staff, other jurisdictions, businesses, residents, and the tourist community. It will be essential to create a respectful work environment.

The ideal candidate will be able to build a strong leadership team that includes succession planning to insure long-term success of the City.

The City seeks a new City Manager with excellent communication skills, strong financial management skills, and a leader who can delegate and hold staff accountable to the highest possible performance levels. A steadfast adherence to a strict moral and ethical code is a must.

The next City Manager should have a dynamic personality that displays confidence and a level of trust in others.

A high energy level, with great passion and enthusiasm for making South Padre Island a better place in which to live, play and work, is highly desired.

Education and Experience

A Bachelor's Degree in public administration, business administration, or a related field is required. A Master's degree in public administration or business administration is preferred. Management or senior executive experience is strongly desired, but a minimum of 5 years experience as assistant city manager or department head in a tourist based city will be considered.



Core Values

S = Service
P = Professionalism
I = Integrity

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Compensation and Benefits

The City of South Padre Island offers a competitive starting salary, depending on qualifications and experience. The City participates in the Texas Municipal Retirement System (TMRS) at a 7% employee deposit rate with a municipal matching ratio of 2:1. A full range of leave and insurance benefits is also provided.

Application Process

Please apply online at: <http://apply.governmentresource.com>

For more information on this position contact:

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Ron@GovernmentResource.com
214-676-1691

The position is open until filled. For the review status of this position, please visit:
www.GovernmentResource.com/pages/CurrentSearches.

The City of South Padre Island is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity in its workforce. Applicants selected as finalists for this position will be subject to a comprehensive background check.

Resources

City of South Padre Island
www.myspi.org

South Padre Island Convention and Visitors Bureau
www.sopadre.com/index.html

South Padre Island Chamber of Commerce
www.spichamber.com

