

Mayor Pro Tem Brewster McCracken is serving his second term on the Austin City Council. While in office, he has focused on promoting emerging technologies—particularly film, wireless, clean energy, biotech and digital media, and on establishing mixed-use density zones along Austin’s major corridors.

He led the successful effort to make Austin a founding partner with the University of Texas in the Austin Wireless Initiative and the UT Bioscience Business Accelerator. He was also instrumental in the launching of the Pecan Street Project, which made Austin Energy the first public utility in the world to open its grid for emerging clean energy companies to test their technologies.

His initiatives in film and digital media include sponsoring the successful bond election to upgrade Austin Studios into the nation’s premier digital filmmaking studio for independent filmmakers.

Brewster chairs the Council’s Emerging Technologies Committee and the Land Use-Transportation Committee. He is the lead author of Austin’s Commercial Design Standards and Mixed Use Ordinance, which is the region’s first comprehensive enactment of Envision Central Texas land use policies. He was named a national nominee for the American Planning Association’s Distinguished Leadership Award for an Elected Official for his efforts in this area.

A native of Corpus Christi, Brewster graduated from Ray High School then paid his way through Princeton on an Army scholarship where he graduated with honors. He earned a Masters in Public Affairs from the LBJ School and a law degree from the University of Texas School of Law. He holds a mediation certification from the University of Texas Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution.

He worked as a prosecutor in the Harris County District Attorney’s Office, where he tried his first jury trial on his sixth day of work. He rose to the level of felony prosecutor before he returned to Austin.

Brewster’s commitment to fairness and responsibility has grown out of his extensive volunteerism, first as a school mentor, then through working with organizations focused on child abuse and the security needs of low income young people, battered women and isolated seniors as a member of the United Way’s Safety and Security Committee.

Brewster is married to Sarah McCracken. Sarah is the Programs Manager at the LBJ Library. Like Brewster, she is an avid reader, and she regularly beats Brewster at Boggle. Brewster’s son Ford was born on Texas Independence Day, March 2, 2004. Ford loves music and riding his tricycle, and when he grows up he wants to be a T-ball player, a soccer player, or an electric chord.

Brewster still plays guitar, surfs occasionally, and Ford is starting to pressure him to play T-ball.