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Franklin Named as One of Top 50 Cities to Start a Small Business *According to Business Week Magazine Franklin Best in State*

Franklin— Business Week online has named Franklin, Tennessee as one of the top fifty cities to start a small business. The magazine states Franklin has universal qualities such as affordability, availability of a talented labor pool, existence of a thriving business community and quality of life. Business Week chose one small city in every state based on 11 factors that shape a city's entrepreneurial climate, from education level of the workforce to the amount of venture-capital investment to the number of startups.

"The City of Franklin is an obvious choice for best in the state for small business owners," said Franklin Mayor John Schroer. "Being a small business owner myself, I see every day how the citizens of Franklin embrace entrepreneurs. They would rather do business with a locally owned company and they respond positively to local businesses. Franklin's small business owners have that can-do attitude which is really the character of the Franklin community as a whole."

"I am thrilled Franklin was named one of the top places in the country to start a business," said Williamson County Mayor Rogers Anderson. "Our new 5-year economic development strategic plan calls for a renewed emphasis on initiatives that support entrepreneurs. Promoting and supporting a culture of entrepreneurship provides long-term stability for the economy in Williamson County and is critical to the long-range success of the area."

In addition to the large corporations like Nissan North America, Mars Pet Care, and Community Health Systems that call Franklin home, 21 percent of the workforce in Williamson County is classified as entrepreneurs, a higher percentage than Austin, Texas.

Business Week used ZoomProspector to select the cities with population between 20,000 and 200,000. For more information on how Franklin was chosen for the best small cities for startups go to http://images.businessweek.com/ss/09/03/0327_smallcity_startups/index.htm?technology+slideshows.

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