



Economic Development Candidates' Forum Survey Questions

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Vision for Greensboro

1. What are the three most pressing issues facing Greensboro?

1. Current economic circumstances, including falling revenue and relatively excessive present and expected debt. 2. Yet to be determined unintended consequences of State level spending cuts. 3. What could most likely be dramatically increasing crime rates as social services and unemployment benefits end.

2. What do you see as your most important challenge if you are elected?

Guiding the city through the financial impact of economic decline within a broken political and socioeconomic system.

Administration of the City

3. The City Council focused heavily on Water Resources during the budget discussions. There was discussion about the creation of a Water Sewer Authority to eliminate politics from the issues surrounding rate increases and projects. Would this be an idea you would support and why?

I believe the City Council pressured the Water Resources Department to levy a 0% pre-election increase knowing rates will most likely have to rise by 10% the following year.

<http://questionsforamerica.com/?s=water+rates>

We need to remove political meddling from the current system as opposed to creating additional bureaucracy.

4. What role does diversity play in the Boards and Commissions of the City of Greensboro? How do you plan to ensure they are more reflective of our community?

There seems to be a correlation between business interests and the percentage of those in the same industry serving on boards.

Unethical conflicts of interest appear to be at breathtaking levels.

There should be a ban on those with interests before boards from contributing to the future political campaigns of those serving.

My campaign is not accepting donations of more than \$100 from anyone or endorsements and/or donations from lobbyists or PACs.

5. How do you plan to support continued business development in Greensboro?

I believe that by not spending more than we make on what we don't need, we can emerge from the worst recession since the Great Depression with the least amount of debt, the lowest taxes, the safest community, and the most educated workforce, prepared to attract good paying jobs with our centrally located transportation and technology infrastructure, from areas where business will most likely flee high taxes, crime and debt.

Public Funding Investments

6. Do you support public investment such as incentives in job creation?

Depends on what is in the best interests of the City of Greensboro.

Let's not spend more than we make on what we don't need.

7. Do you see any area in which we should try to expand our incentive program (such as to the retail industry)? If so what?

If capitalism is dependent on creative destruction, what is it without destruction?

If the natural cycle of laissez faire capitalism revolves between risk and aversion, what should happen if government intervention perverts the process to forestall short term economic pain?

I believe some incentive programs/bailouts have perverted an organic American capitalism our country's founders sought to create.

<http://questionsforamerica.com/?p=1343>

8. Completion of road projects, such as the Urban Loop, is of critical importance in our community. What are your thoughts on financing options our community should pursue?

I believe the northern Urban Loop's current planned route should be routed north or cancelled, now that the DOT recently increased projections of 72,000 cars a day driving through, and studies have found noise levels much higher than advertized.

I see the need for industrial traffic to access 40 east off of 29, but now that expected traffic levels have materially increased as neighborhoods were allowed to be (what many believe) negligently overbuilt on the route

through northern Greensboro, we need to rethink the northern section of the Urban Loop.

From the negative response from neighborhoods along the southern route, the decision makers may be underestimating potential reactions.

Borrowing to lend to a financially strapped N.C. state government to purchase properties seems like an extremely bad idea that could create artificial distortions in the local property market that may benefit a few with influence at the expense of many.

9. Public funding needs exceed the city's available revenue. Which of the following options would you support as a way to finance public budget items?
- a) Additional sales taxes.
 - b) Increased user fees.
 - c) Increased car registration fees.
 - d) Impact fees.
 - e) Real estate transfer taxes.
 - f) Increased property tax.
 - g) Use of special taxing districts.
 - h) Bonds.
 - i) Certificates of Participation.
 - j) Increase permit, inspection and plan review fees.
 - k) Increased government efficiencies.
 - l) Cuts in government services.
 - m) All options should be considered.

Increasing debt is raising taxes.

If the city borrows to not raise taxes, they are raising taxes on the future income of our children.

There are three ways to maintain spending as revenue falls: tax increases, debt and spending cuts.

I will prioritize spending cuts first.

If we continue to offer up profligate off-the-cuff borrowing proposals, we may inadvertently create doubts in credit markets.

Increasing fees slows economic growth.

We are going to be faced with some tough choices if confronted with a 30% revenue drop.

Future Outlook

10. What options are you willing to pursue to promote regional cooperation?
- a) Tax sharing
 - b) Merger of certain departments

- c) Multi-jurisdictional infrastructure projects
- d) Multi-jurisdictional development projects (public)
- e) Multi-jurisdictional development projects (private)
- f) Support for inter-basin water transfers
- g) Economic development recruitment
- h) Regional planning collaboration
- i) Technology compatibility
- j) Regional water & sewer solutions or authority
- k) A structured, formal framework for regional collaboration

All of the above, if in the best interests of the City of Greensboro.

11. In what ways do you think the City government can continue to support and encourage DGI and Action Greensboro to facilitate and expand the growth of Downtown?

If Greensboro Partnership has connections to DGI and Action Greensboro, this may be an unethical question, especially if these organizations have received funding from the city and county.

It seems to ask, "How much money are you going to spread our way if we advocate our followers to vote for you?"

I believe in what is in the best interests of The City of Greensboro.

Isn't advocacy of corporate control of government something other than capitalistic democracy?

12. There is a growing Aerotropolis in and around the Piedmont Triad International Airport. How do you think Greensboro is best served in planning for the future development of this land?

I believe the Piedmont Triad should promote organic growth from the airport area outwards.

It is my understanding that large sums of money have been invested in real estate and Greensboro's political system in anticipation of favorable decisions.

I don't believe in the best interests of a few at the expense of many.

Planning/Land Use

13. The issue of municipal annexation has come to the forefront in recent years. What is your viewpoint regarding Greensboro's current annexation policy? Is there anything you would change about this policy and why?

Don't have enough data to say.

Quality of Life

14. What do you see as the city's responsibility for investing in programs that contribute to the quality of life, such as arts, development of trails/greenways, parks and recreation, etc.?

If investing means "pay as you go," I am all for it.

If investing means borrowing money from the community's children to enjoy some present benefits for some who won't have to pay the bill, I am against.

15. What is your position regarding the Downtown Greenway and what, if anything, would you do to ensure its success?

I believe the Downtown Greenway will be great. I just oppose borrowing from our kids to pay it, under current economic circumstances.

Please return to:

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