



Economic Development Candidates' Forum Survey Questions

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Vision for Greensboro

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

Building public trust and a cohesive community
Creating jobs in a sustainable economy
Development based on compatible infill

2. What do you see as your most important challenge if you are elected?
Bringing diverse interests together in service to the good of the whole community.

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?

No. An Authority would still be steeped in the politics of who was appointed and why. The City Council needs to step up and act thoughtfully and responsibly, with a long-term vision. (Going back to having regular briefing sessions would help to be better informed on important issues.)

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?
Diversity helps provide a means for a cross-section of the community to play an active role in local governance, and provides a variety of perspectives. I will solicit applications from "under-served" sectors, and proactively interview all applicants from my District to make the best use of those willing to serve.

5. How do you plan to support continued business development in Greensboro?
By shopping with local businesses and encouraging the public to do so. By providing incentives for development in needed areas. Through low-cost loans. By maintaining the good qualities that make Greensboro an attractive place to live. By working with the local business community.

Public Funding Investments

6. Do you support public investment such as incentives in job creation?
I would on a limited basis for locally-based businesses, provided its available on an equal access basis so we're not putting another local business at a competitive disadvantage.

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?

Perhaps for small businesses, and green businesses.

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?

We should pursue federal and state financing options, but I disagree with the premise of the question. In the long-run Greensboro would be better served by putting our resources and planning into outstanding public transportation.

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.

I'd consider all options, depending on the particular need being addressed. Increased government efficiencies needs to always be on the table.

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

I would add a regional landfill solution to the list. I'd like to hear more about all of these. The only one I have immediate strong reservations about is (f). Each basin has the innate capacity to carry its own waste flow. When you do a transfer, you disturb the natural balance between water capacity and waste capacity. It can also have detrimental unintended consequences on aquatic flora and other life forms.

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?

On a contract for services basis.

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?

The current airport area is okay as is, though I'm not sure if you're referring to a larger area. The airport area is excellent for logistics and transportation-based businesses, as well as aviation technology. The GTCC aviation school is an excellent fit. In the wider area, its important to our security that we retain farmland to support local food production.

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?

I've just completed three and a half years on the Planning Board. Its clear to me our current policy of aggressive annexation does not serve the best interests of our community. It overextends services, consumes precious natural resources, and puts us in poor position to deal with future spikes in oil prices that will be coupled with declining availability.

I would emphasize neighborhood compatible infill development. Our land use policy needs to be wedded to a transportation policy focused on public transportation, bicycle, pedestrian, and other "alternative" transportation.

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.?

I'm not sure the city has a responsibility, but I like to see the City to facilitate access, and take the lead in seeing that all of the City is being served. Our Recreation Centers are of great value and merit emphasis.

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

I didn't care for the project when I first heard about it. But I've become a supporter. It provides both a symbolic and real connection between diverse neighborhoods. It's an excellent modality for exercise and relaxation. And it's a special feature to enhance Greensboro's image and livability.

Please return to:

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