



Economic Development Candidates' Forum Survey Questions

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Office Sought: **Greensboro City Council At Large**

Vision for Greensboro

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

- **Economic Development**
- **Public Safety**
- **Infrastructure**

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

Jobs and Economic Development - In June the unemployment rate in Guilford County was 11.7%. By itself that figure is alarming, but it does not account for people who are under-employed or who are no longer in the 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 that the City Council must be accountable to the taxpayer's for setting the water and sewer rates, planning maintenance projects and capital improvement projects. I would not be in favor of abdicating that responsibility to an appointed board.

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?

Boards and Commissions should be representative of the community. Whenever a Board or Commission is weighted in favor of a particular outcome, or group, it negatively impacts the public trust. More time and discussion should be spent on future appointments to establish social and professional diversity.

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

- **Maintain our resources**
- **Plan for future infrastructure needs**
- **Focus on Public Safety**
- **Capitalize on our logistics capability. We are the "Gate City".**

Public Funding Investments

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

Yes, I believe our incentive guidelines are fair.

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?

I am not in favor of expanding our incentive program to include the retail industry. I think incentives should be reserved for companies that will provide above average wages and benefits.

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 am not in favor of the current proposal to "loan" the money to the State of NC to expedite the completion of the Urban Loop. There is no guarantee that the State would repay the money. We need to lobby our State and Federal legislators to make sure that we get our fair share of transportation dollars.

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 – **NO**
- b) Increased user fees – **NO**
- c) Increased car registration fees - **NO**
- d) Impact fees - **NO**
- e) Real estate transfer taxes - **NO**
- f) Increased property tax – **YES, when circumstances demand it**
- g) Use of special taxing districts - **NO**
- h) Bonds - **YES**
- i) Certificates of Participation - **MAYBE**
- j) Increase permit, inspection and plan review fees – **NO**
- k) Increased government efficiencies - **YES**
- l) Cuts in government services - **NO**
- m) All options should be considered. **I am receptive to new information.**

Future Outlook

10. What options are you willing to pursue to promote regional cooperation?

- a) Tax sharing – **Need more specifics.**
- b) **Merger of certain departments - YES**
- c) **Multi-jurisdictional infrastructure projects - YES**

- d) Multi-jurisdictional development projects (public) - YES
- e) Multi-jurisdictional development projects (private) - YES
- f) Support for inter-basin water transfers - YES
- g) Economic development recruitment - YES
- h) Regional planning collaboration - YES
- i) Technology compatibility - YES
- j) Regional water & sewer solutions or authority – YES (landfill also)
- k) A structured, formal framework for regional collaboration – YES – In order to be successful we must have a structured formal agreement to clearly outline cost-sharing and revenue-sharing.

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?

- Streamline permitting procedures
- Allow for flexible design standards
- Encourage mixed use design
- Sustain a visible police presence
- Maintain city owned facilities
- Keep the streets clean

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 was an Airport Authority Board Member for six years and I know that the airport is an economic catalyst for our region. The City (and the County) must be cognizant of the airports future growth plans when considering land use issues. We need to capitalize on our airport improvements, roadway system and the existence of FedEx.

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 support our current policy of "voluntary" annexation, but I think it needs to be done in a more orderly fashion. We must be able to provide city services without burdening our current service levels. Newly annexed areas should be in close proximity to City amenities (such as libraries and parks) I do not support satellite annexations due to the difficulty of effectively supplying comparable City services and amenities.

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.?

Quality of life programs are important to the overall health of a community. To help sustain these programs I would advocate instituting User Fees for non-City residents who utilize City supported facilities and programs.

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

I like the Downtown Greenway plan, but in this economy, it is not one of my priorities. Last November the voters approved a Street Improvement Bond and \$7M of that bond has been allocated for this project. It is a worthwhile project but any additional funding would have to be weighed against pending needs.

Please return to:

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