

The Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
2009 City Council and Mayoral Candidates
Questionnaire
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District 8

1. Economic Development, Job Creation, and Retention: How would you encourage job creation and retention? Please describe the model/tools and/or incentives you would support to boost economic development in San Antonio. What are your thoughts on addition organized labor entering the San Antonio region?

In order to create and retain jobs in San Antonio we must bolster our efforts to entice new industries to move here, and to continue develop in a manner that allows people to want call our city home. This can be achieved through smart, precise, and responsible city planning. Some incentives that might be used are tax breaks for new businesses depending on how many new jobs they bring, and their contributions in giving back to local communities. Organized labor is an entity that is spurned from the people to protect themselves, if we in the city government take on the responsibility to insure a fair standard of living and wages for our citizens then organized labor would become obsolete. Until then...

2. Emergency Services: Do you believe that the City of San Antonio provides adequate Police and Fire protection and other emergency services for its citizens? Please explain. If additional personnel are required, what funds will be used to pay for service enhancements?

The public servants that protect our communities as police and firefighters as we all know are our first line of safety and defense. In San Antonio we do have adequate protection from these two departments, for the moment. But as part of my advocacy for smarter, more precise, and more responsible city planning we must realize that our city is growing, and we'll continue to grow, and so that we must plan for the future. We must think about saving moneys soon to be dispersed by the economic stimulus plan to put towards future needs such as more police and fire personnel, as well as other infrastructure needs that may arise.

3. Education: What role should local government have on education and workforce issues? How can the City be involved in student mentoring and dropout prevention programs? If addition monetary resources are being recommended, from where will they come?

One of the greatest things we in the city government can advocate is the education of the citizens in our community. Therefore, we must support and promote education any way we can. One thing that we can do is to have open lines of

communications with teachers, students, and school districts to listen to their needs and concerns and respond to them to the best of our abilities. The economic stimulus plan is giving us an opportunity to address issues such as education that in most instances has been overlooked. Education should be one of our top priorities and we must find new ways to contribute to this issue on a local level. One issue that particularly disturbs me is the notion of “better schools” in the public school system. As leaders in the community we should work towards equality in the quality of education provided in all public schools regardless of where you live.

4. Water: What do you think about the status of water with regard to the current drought? What is your plan to improve the quantity and quality of water for our City and region? How will your proposal(s) be funded?

One of the most important responsibilities we have in city government is to maintain sustainable utilities such as water. Droughts it seems are becoming more and more common in and around our community and we must work to protect and conserve this precious resource. I am an advocate for the introduction and use of water recycling for our community. I also support responsible development on and around the aquifer recharge zone. We must continue to fund research that will provide efficient solutions to relieve the pressures stemming from the growing demand on our aquifer.

5. Transportation: What transportation projects would you recommend and support in order to alleviate our traffic congestion issues? How would your proposed projects be funded? Please share your thoughts on the recommendations of the San Antonio Bexar County Transportation Task Force.

Around the country there are untold successes with light railways in major cities, and this is one transportation project I defiantly support. Though the report was put together in only a few short months it is very promising in its recommendations, especially in its call to keep the community involved, by proposing that items be put to vote, and keeping an open dialogue with the public as we move forward. Communicating effectively with the community is the only way to insure that we are moving forward to a successful future, because without the community we have no need for infrastructure, no need for city planning, and no need for local government.

6. Energy: Do you believe our municipally owned electric utility has done a good job diversifying our energy mix, including coal, natural gas, nuclear power, wind and solar? Please share your thoughts on the importance of each of these sources.

The four principal plan which includes: pursuing energy efficiency and conservation, increasing the supply of renewable energy, supplying low-cost competitive power, and maintaining a commitment to the environment, recently proposed by our municipally owned electric utility shows a dedication to responsible planning for the

future. Clean renewable energy is the way to a more efficient and environmentally responsible future. It seems that quietly our local electric utility has taken upon itself the burden of moving away from depending on non-renewable environmental toxic fossil fuels, and for that I commend them.

7. City Budget and Finance: What are your top five budget priorities for FY 2009-2010? What is your position on increasing revenue streams for the City to address basic city services, such as streets, drainage and other infrastructure improvements?

For the fiscal year of 2009-2010 my top five budget priorities should focus on: economic development, preparing for the possibility of more nationwide economic down turn, planning for the most efficient use of stimulus moneys received which may include: local infrastructure and educational programs. Last, I would like to continue to revamp efforts for a new and more efficient mass transit system. Increasing revenue streams is something that comes along with the territory so to speak, but I would advocate more community inclusiveness and awareness before any new tax increases.