

Citizens for a Better Flathead
2009 City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Date _____

Candidate Name _____

City _____

Please return by September 30th, 2009 to citizens@flatheadcitizens.org; we prefer an electronic version; call if this is not possible for you (756-8993). Your total word count for your answers to questions 1-7 is 800 words. Spelling and grammar will not be corrected; your response will be printed verbatim. You may want to use more words on one question, but your word count should be divided somewhat equally so that each question is given a meaningful response. Your answers must address the question asked.

1. Transparency in Local Government--- Do you believe there is adequate transparency in government decision making in your city? What additional steps, if any, do you think need to be taken to increase transparency in government decision making in your city? Will you support placing your city's budget on line with quarterly updates of actual spending for each quarter?

2. The Local Economy/Economic Challenges --- What are the economic drivers in your city and what will you do to encourage the city to support these? Given the downturn in the economy, what economic challenges do you see facing your city? Do you feel that your city has adequate standards and policies in place to address these challenges?

3. The Public's Role in Decision Making and Civil Discourse--- Are there steps that can be taken to improve the public's role and the level of civil discourse in decisions that come before the city council? How do you view your role in considering public comments and making tough decisions?

4. Rapid Growth--- What overall grade (A-F) would you give your city for managing growth over the past decade and why? Do you feel that new growth is "paying its way?"

5. City-County Cooperation— What steps will you take to support your city's role in planning for growth outside of your city limits? What priority will you give to working to improve city-county cooperation? The County already has some 26,000 vacant subdivided lots. Given expected population growth it would take more than 20 years of growth to fill these lots. The cities also have a backlog of approved, but undeveloped lots as well. Do you feel that speculative development is an issue your city or the city and county can and should address?

6. Energy--- What role should the city play in encouraging sustainable and/or energy efficient development?

7. Air & Water Quality---What are the most significant air or water quality issues facing your community? How will you address these? Do you feel your city has adequate standards or policies in place to address these?

8. Please rank your position on the following issues.

1. Develop plans for highway entrance corridor in order to avoid continued and poorly planned commercial development along the highways among the three cities.

Not important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Very important

2. Adopt policies ensuring a percentage of permanent affordable housing is built yearly.

Not important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Very important

3. Maintain or put in place impact fees for transportation infrastructure and other city services demands created by new development.

Not important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Very important

4. Strengthen the role of existing downtown areas by prioritizing and funding redevelopment and infill plans and by directing transportation planning to support parking facilities and other such improvements as opposed to continued investment outside of the downtown area.

Not important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Very important

5. Encourage neighborhood plans within the city planning area that represent geographic neighborhoods and address neighborhood character and specific infrastructure needs.

Not important 1-----2-----3-----4-----5 Very important

6. If elected, what are the top three priorities that need to be addressed?

#1. _____

#2. _____

#3. _____