

Questions for Candidates for Municipalities
from the **Conservative Coalition of Montgomery County**

Please be concise & clear.

1.

Please list what government expenditures you are committed to significantly reduce or cancel, and explain why and how you propose to achieve the reductions.
Answer: Salaries would be reduced to what is in the budget. Gasoline expenditures would be reduced by the use of officer daily logs. I would definitely explore the need of such an excessive contingency account provided in the current city budget.

2.

Please describe the top 3 specific initiatives will you most strongly promote and why.
Answer: 1. Open records; currently it is almost impossible to access any city records on request. 2. State mandated budget; citizens have the right to know what was spent and received in the previous year and what the projections will be for the coming year. 3. After school programs; many of our children do not have access to the internet or homework assistance. I would like to help educate our children.

3.

Please explain why you will or will not vote to limit budget increases to a factor based on population growth and inflation.
Answer: I would vote to limit budget increases. With our national economic crisis, it is apparent that even local government should limit spending according to population growth and inflation.

4.

Please explain why you do or do not support requiring a 2/3 approval by voters <u>and</u> city council / aldermen for bond issues to pass.
Answer: I believe a 2/3 vote is necessary concerning any item before the public or the council. We are a government of the people, and the majority should rule.

5.

Please explain why you will or will not vote to increase municipal debt to fund road construction/maintenance.
Answer: The municipal debt should only be increased if the situation causes harm to the public good. I would like to make sure that we provide money in the budget to fund road maintenance.

6.

Please describe what needs or conditions would prompt you to change the current tax rate or exemptions and why.
Answer: I would only consider a tax rate increase if the city was unable to run efficiently within strict budget constraints.

7.

Please describe what you will do to improve current contracting practices.
Answer: I would make sure public notice was given using all possible means of advertising. I would not allow contracts to be awarded that go against the Nepotism law.

8. Please explain why you will or will not vote to award any contract with less than two qualified bidders.
Answer: If time permits, I would ask that the service needed would be republished for more bids.
9. Please describe how you have you ever reduced the size, scope, power, or expense of government or promoted such. Please describe when & why you took that action.
Answer: I have never been involved in government.
10. Please explain why you will or will not vote to fine businesses that knowingly employ illegal aliens.
Answer: I would vote to fine businesses that knowingly break any law. If people of any race want to work in my municipality, they should be given that right as long as they have gone through all legal channels to work here.
11. Please explain what creative ideas, within the bounds of current law, you introduce to address the illegal alien problem in your municipality.
Answer: I believe aliens should be given the opportunity to legally work and reside in my municipality. They should be given a certain time period to apply for legal citizenship.
12. Please explain why you do or do not favor having the city check register on-line and available to the public.
Answer: The check register should be available for public view according to the open records act. Any item that would disclose account numbers would be excluded from view.
13. Please explain why you do or do not favor spousal benefits for same-sex partners of municipal employees.
Answer: Same sex marriages are not legal in the state of Texas. Therefore, I would not favor spousal benefits that would go against state law.
14. Please describe your top 3 priorities during your upcoming term & what your plans are for each.
Answer: My first priority would be to provide the public with honest, open records. This would be in accordance with the open records act. Next, I would provide a state mandated budget that would show money received, money spent and cash on hand. Third, I would like to provide after school programs for our children.
15. Please list what government welfare programs should be provided by your municipality and how the funding level & sources of each should be determined.
Answer: I would like to provide welfare programs for our low income families and the elderly. I would have to look into grants available to Type A Municipalities.
16. Please explain your criteria for granting tax abatements.
Answer: I believe tax abatements are a great idea to promote business growth within a municipality.