

Gainesville Tea Party Local Candidate Questionnaire

1. A. The actual oath that was sent to me by the City Manager's office doesn't mention the U.S. Constitution. Obviously, using the Constitution as the foundation for each decision is presumed. Representing my fellow citizens has been a dream of mine, and if elected it would be a responsibility that I would take seriously. Our forefathers made the goal of an elected official SERVICE-not a career.
 - B. As a realtor for 30 years, protecting private property rights has been my number 1 priority. We are so fortunate in the county to actually be able to own property-many countries prohibit the citizenry from owning property. The most common uses of eminent domain are for public utilities, highways, railroads. Local government should be required to offer to purchase the property before resorting to the use of eminent domain.
 - C. The 10th amendment states: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." According to my research, judicial interpretation considers this Amendment a "truism". The best thing as an elected official that I can do our constitutionally protected liberties is to do as I said in A-use the Constitution as my standard, and demand it be upheld.
2. A. No, do not support the biomass plant. As an internationally experienced contract negotiator, I would never have voted for it for many reasons: the company that the city contracted with, The size of the plant, the lack of energy customers for the excess production, number of trucks on the road, no buyout clause-just a few. I would look at what was presented on an issue, but would look at what was presented on an issue, but would dig deeper. I would not be a Commissioner who voted for something, then regretted it leaving the taxpayer with a million-potentially a billion dollar liability. My big picture would get it right the first time.
 - B. Good management and fiscal responsibility must be the standards to judge what vehicle would be-city owned or privately owned. GRU could be a positive asset to the taxpayers, and should the above two guidelines be met, I am in favor of it being owned by the public, because in theory they would have more control than if the ownership were privatized.
 - C. In my opinion, purchasing power from an already existing reliable and cost effective power Provider would have been better. Had Mr. Skop when he was on the PSC not voted for the Biomass plant, and former commissioner Poe not supported it-we would have had that

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choice available.

D. I never accept things at face value. Both sides present compelling arguments to defend their positions. When elected, if the biomass plant remains our option for future power, then I will be vigilant in making sure that GRU is protecting our environment with the best of current and future technology

E. GRU is the taxpayer-so why are we taxing the already overtaxed taxpayer?

3. A. It would be great to think that the power of one could be strong enough to abolish what I want. However, we have 7 commissioners, so to abolish anything, it would take at least 4 votes to eliminate any department or board. I do know that as a business person I would like to eliminate the development board as it delays the time a business can start. Having attended several board meetings over the last few months, and been a member of the Code Enforcement Board, I would push for full boards with qualified citizens participating.

B. The City of Gainesville's website says that the following are strategic goals and initiative for 2011/2012. 1. Public Safety 2. Economic Development and redevelopment. 3. Human Capital-assist every person to reach their true potential 4. Governance 5. Infrastructure and transportation 6. Neighborhoods. 7. Environment and Energy All these are noble goals, but each comes at a cost. Currently, we are sitting on over a billion dollar debt service- so encourage economic development, make this a safe place with wonderful neighborhoods surrounded by our wonderful environment, so businesses will want to come, and provide the infrastructure for easy access.

C. No. We do not need the expense of the membership. We have many world renowned experts on all the issues they promote-right here in Gainesville. Let's use our talent to make this the best place possible to live.

4. A. The essence of a free market is where prices are determined by supply and demand. Production of products is by private entities. States usually only get involved in collecting taxes. In real estate, the free market exist when a buyer and seller get together to obtain and release their rights to a piece of property in a non adversarial climate. Price is determined by supply and demand. Usually due to the spirit of free competition, prices tend to decrease and quality tends to increase. One of the weaknesses of the free market is when deviant sellers manipulate the supply, then the cost of the product is too high, and people are priced out of the market. People can choose to go elsewhere. Also a different supplier may enter the market, and then supply is back up. Strengths-good old competition.

B. First I would push for having the City adopt a budget ordinance similar to chapter 129, Florida Statutes. We need to have a yearly budget. Second "That is how it is done" is not a proper, and ethical way of accounting. We need to be more fiscally responsible. The budget should be a best guess, an estimate. An unacceptable best guess is underestimating the budget by FOUR million dollars. We need a total overhaul of the "way we do business". I would bring my experts in-CPA's and Actuarials.

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C. According to its own Study-we need to make the process of doing business in Gainesville more consumer friendly. There has been the suggestion of creating an ombudsman position. Small projects should not have to go through the same process that large projects do. We do not need to create an overlay every time a new project comes up. What we do need to do is work as a team-perfect example is the new Innovation Hub. The project moved swiftly and efficiently towards its inception.

5 A. Absolutely. Most people are not willing to give up their cars. We need to address the need for road repairs before we move ahead with any other transit projects.

B. No. Rather than going for bigger buses and rapid transit lanes, I would opt for smaller buses, more routes, and more frequency especially in areas where a large part of the population depends on getting to work by bus.

C. Possibly.

D. No, I do not. As someone who lives off University, where we have buses, cars, bikes and pedestrians-we do not need narrower lanes. As far as the 16th Avenue project, it is my understanding that the project is on hold. The road does need resurfacing, and the medians do need maintaining.