

The BeaconNews

Candidate Questionnaire

If the economy continues on its current path, what is the first step you would take to reduce spending? Would you cut jobs in that effort?

Eliminate all non-essential programs and services, postpone any new ones, review current budget proposals to find expenses not yet incurred, propose wage freezes and furlough days to all employees, and put off the purchase of new vehicles.

Layoffs of existing personnel should be as a last resort, but must be considered if other options are not available.

Would you consider raising taxes in order to plug a budget hole?

I would consider some level of increased income through taxes that are first, primarily borne by non-residents, like hotel-motel taxes, and second, are considered discretionary in nature, like alcohol or tobacco taxes.

How, specifically, can voters distinguish your approach from your opponents' on economic development? On job growth?

I have an established 16 year track record, my opponent has never held public office, and both economic development and job growth go hand in hand. Our First Street Redevelopment project is off and running, with new spaces and offices filling as this is written, along with new jobs being created in the process. Our Randall Road corridor with world class business partners like Mercedes Benz, Harley Davidson, and Costco, have brought hundreds of jobs to the community. Legacy Business Park on Kirk Road, and the recently started Corporate Reserve Office Park on West Main Street will continue to bring new commerce, and associated new employment opportunities to St. Charles.

Please list a few ways you would encourage new businesses to locate to St. Charles. Do you believe financial incentives, such as tax rebates, are a good tool for commercial development, or should they be used sparingly?

By promoting our above average demographics, a well educated work force, our lower than average infrastructure expenses like water, sewer, and electrical service, our proximity along major state and county thoroughfares allowing unfettered flow of goods, services, and customers, and a proactive municipal development philosophy that is

willing to look outside the box to attract new business opportunities to the community.

Incentives have become a necessary evil in commercial and retail development, given the significant revenues that can be created by these new investments, but they must be used judiciously, and only offered in those instances where the return of investment can be justified.

What can be done to responsibly develop the city's west side? Would you consider mixed-use developments? Is there a way to expand the corporate tax base to decrease property taxes?

The Towne Centre project currently moving through the review process is the type of project that can bring new life to the old St. Charles Mall property. Its mixed uses of retail, restaurant, hotel, entertainment, and residential, represent the new urbanization of suburban re-development projects, creating centrally located, yet strategically created urban centers that rely on internal movements of residents, who live, work, and shop, in an area not dependent on traffic generation and vehicle movements.

Retail sales tax revenues make up the largest percentage of the city's revenue stream. By continuing to find ways to increase those revenues, the city can continue to hold the line, and hopefully in the future, reduce the property tax burden on our residents and property owners.

Citywide, what are your top three specific priorities?

Maintain a high level of municipal services in the face of a troubled economy with declining revenues.

Continue to promote and attract commercial development and re-development.

Maintain a stable municipal environment that our other sister government entities like schools, parks, library, can count on to maintain economic stability and continuing revenue consistency.

What's working well in St. Charles these days? What's not?

All of the above.

For the challenger – Why should voters choose you over the incumbent?

For the incumbent – Why should you be re-elected over the challengers?

The perspective of a life long resident, 16 years of qualified municipal experience and dedication, the recognition as a regional leader through work in various regional municipal organizations, and having laid out a plan of reducing the tax burden on our residents, revitalizing commercial development, and having maintained and improved municipal services to our residents, business owners, and those who have chosen to invest in St. Charles.

