

Final Question for Wards 1-7 and At Large City Council Forums

Question:

1. ¿Qué experiencia y habilidades tienes que beneficiarían a tu precinto y a la ciudad en su conjunto, qué problema cree que afecta más a los residentes de la ciudad, de su precinto en particular, y qué soluciones le gustaría explorar?
2. What experience and abilities do you have that would benefit your ward and the city as a whole and what issue do you feel most affects residents in the city, your ward in particular, and what solutions would you like to explore?

Answers:

1. Prior to serving on the City Council, as a nurse leader in different organizations I utilized my clinical and managerial skills to lead and develop programs and home health services for those who wished to receive care at home. These skills have helped me as a City Councilor. As a nurse and an executive in health care, helping other and solving problems are key to successful results. As Your Ward 5 City Councilor, I concentrate heavily on serving needs within the ward, but also devote time and energy to keeping informed on the broader issues of our city, such as the budget, tax rates and overall affordability.
2. **Key Issues** in our city and Ward 5 are
 - 1) **Public Safety & Quality of Life** and
 - 2) **High taxes** affecting homeowners, business owners and renters.

The recent increase in violence in our city is having a chilling effect on the entire city. Those who live where it occurs are fearful and others avoid traveling to areas where it occurs. This has a chilling effect on economic development and makes it more difficult to attract people to our city. High taxes (\$600 more per year for the average homeowner here-compared to Chicopee) have some concerned about their ability to remain in their home with the combination of high food costs, fees and health care costs.

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Solutions to explore:

1: **Public Safety:** We need to support our police and our neighbors need to look out for each other. The Neighborhood concept, where we all look out for each other can make a difference in each and every neighborhood. Enforcement of our laws needs to happen whether it is a minor or major violation. When traffic laws are ignored because they are not perceived as important enough to enforce it appears to lead to more negative actions overall. I support the shot spotter program. It has already identified a high number of shots fired and I look forward to more information on the results for saving lives of those injured and arrests of those breaking the law.

2) **Taxes:** We need to fund core services adequately before we look at adding positions to our government. It has been noted that 40,000 residents are funding a budget that was supported by a population of 60,000 in the past. The increased costs of energy, food, taxes, fees and medicine all contribute to the ever-increasing costs of doing business. These increases also cause higher rent rates. Solutions to explore include finding new sources of revenue other than the tax payer and ensuring the best use of the taxes paid by our hard-working residents.