

Candidate Questionnaire

BACKGROUND

1) Have you ever been convicted of a felony, sued successfully, or had a restraining order placed against you? If so, please explain.

No.

2) Is there anything we should know about your background which could be used against you fairly or unfairly?

I have a DUI on my record over 5 years ago. I am currently in a payment arrangement for back state and federal taxes. This came about as a result of back to back job losses by my wife and me within a two year period. Consequently I had to retain all of my earnings and forgo tax payments by filing extensions over several years in order to keep our home from being foreclosed upon. I have a payment arrangement set up that will allow me to pay the amount due including interest and penalties over time.

CAMPAIGN

1) Why are you seeking the endorsement of the Green Party, as opposed to any other party or running independently?

I have always had an affinity towards the GP and have hoped that it could become a viable 3rd party. I have attended one official GP meeting and have talked with GP leadership at fundraisers and other informal gatherings. I can say that I have not felt the kind of energy and enthusiasm from a political party in a long time. That enthusiasm combined with intelligent strategists with a broad range of political, technical and analytical skills make the GP a very attractive choice for any candidate who supports the GP platform.

2) What has been your prior involvement with the Green Party?

My first real introduction to the Green Party was through Cam Gordon who took care of my kids in his day care for 7 years. I contributed to his campaign and he remains a close friend whose career I have enjoyed following.

3) Have you worked on prior campaigns, as a worker or candidate? If so, please describe your role and what you achieved.

Not particularly aside from phone banks for the Franken and Wellstone campaigns.

4) How much money do you believe you need to raise to run your campaign successfully? How will you go about raising that money?

I have been told anywhere from 14K to 30K. Frankly I think that 7-8k is about the max I could reasonably expect to raise. I would need to count on friends and family. I am a Macalester graduate and have many classmates still in the area and out of state that along with professional contacts might get me 2- 3K.

I have friends in the music industry some of whom have bands that attract a large following. Mike Runyon from the Nook and Shamrocks has always encouraged me to run for city council (not sure how he feels about GP) I could envision events at Shamrocks that could be a fundraiser (split the door kind of thing) - other than that its backyard barbeques and house parties. I have thought about doing a once a month breakfast burrito/meet the candidate in my backyard. Since we raise chickens I could serve fresh eggs and talk about urban agriculture among other topics.

5) What personnel do you believe you need to run your campaign? Who have you approached to be on your campaign team?

Up to this point it has been my wife, niece and nephew. I have thought of going to the internship office at Mac to get students who may be interested in a grass roots campaign and the GP. Same could go for St. Kates or St. Thomas which might also get some additional student votes.

6) What role will the following strategies have in your campaign and how much time will you devote to these activities:

Doorknocking – *Very important I think I would need to devote 3-4 hours a week more as the election draws closer*

Direct mail – *Given the expense this would be limited and targeted based on precinct research*

Phone-banking – *this requires human capitol and infrastructure so if those were available I think this could be a good strategy. I wonder given the fatigue people have with telemarketers and the like how effective this would be unless to remind supporters to go to the pole or ask if they need a ride absentee ballot etc.*

Lit drops – important probably more so than mailings since there is hopefully face to face contact

Candidate forums – VERY important this is where I would think those who intend to vote and are most active politically would be. I believe my strength is getting in front of people and letting them get to know me and the contrast between me (experience personality vision) and my opponents.

Screenings of other organizations – I assume this means screening for endorsements if so yes for same reasons as the candidate forums

Filling out forms for other endorsements – Important getting as many people to know me either personally or as an individual increases the opportunity that they will either vote for me or list as 2nd choice.

7) What civic organizations do you belong to? What role have you played in those organizations? Who will support you from those organizations?

I am a board member of the St. Paul Blackhawks, and the Metropolitan Inter-faith Council on Affordable Housing. Since they are nonprofits they cannot endorse me but I am well respected and liked so hopefully I can capture votes and endorsements (personal or professional)

8) What groups will you seek endorsement from, beside the Green Party?

Not sure at this point but it would be good to get a labor endorsement of some kind and business and environmental groups.

9) What types of support are you hoping to get from the Green Party, besides our endorsement?

Campaign strategy and backroom support (web page mailing/contact lists) whatever other support.

10) Are you willing to commit to attending Camp Wellstone or a Green Party equivalent, in order to develop your campaign skills?

Yes

11) Are you willing to commit to twice a month regular updates about your campaign's progress?

Yes

12) Aside from winning, what do you hope to achieve by running for this office?

In addition to my response to the top issues I would like the Ward 3 council rep to be much more visible and engaged with the district council, business, and residents (including high school and college students).

THE OFFICE

1) What do you understand to be the primary duties of the office you're seeking?

Ensuring the city is sound financially and that within that structure fair and equitable distribution of city resources is achieved. I need to listen to each and every constituent's concern and do my best to satisfy or provide a reasoned explanation of why things must be done a different way. I know from my own experience that there will be contentious issues and that even the smallest of issues can be large ones to other people. It is so important to be as transparent as possible as soon as possible. So that a situation like the recent living wage waiver deal does not happen again since I believe that with more transparency and communication sooner would have resulted in a "third way" that would have been more palatable to all.

2) How does the office you're seeking intersect with other arms of government?

Again from my experience negotiating with the city and the developer it became quite apparent that the office of counsel person interacts with all the other arms of government – traffic, public works, parks, PED, fire, police the list is as long as there are departments in the city.

3) How would you integrate Green values into the office you're seeking?

First I would hold the city to the green/sustainability standards they already are on record either implementing or supporting, second I would push for more sustainable features in development projects. For example I would want to see the energy innovation corridor come to fruition in a very robust way and look for similar neighborhood by neighborhood efforts that replicate this.

I also have met a lot of new immigrant and minority families through my volunteer work with BHK soccer. I want to ensure that there is not just equal

opportunities but expanded opportunities for to allow the economically disadvantaged to get ahead through living wage ordinances and expanded business and business incubator opportunities.

4) Why are you the most qualified person to hold the office you are seeking?

I would approach the position first and foremost from a neighborhood perspective. Strong vibrant safe neighborhoods are the foundation for a successful city. I spent the first half of my career working in neighborhood revitalization (south Minneapolis). The second half was spent doing planning, deal structuring and project financing of development projects. I was the lead staff person who ran the Building Better Neighborhoods program for GMHF where we eventually published a critically acclaimed book on best practices (including sustainability). We have a companion Re-Building Better Neighborhoods book coming out soon that looks at existing neighborhoods and how to revitalize them in a green and sustainable way.. I have certifications from NDC in affordable housing finance and economic development finance. I believe my experience in these areas will serve me well as projects come before the city council including the Ford Plant redevelopment.

5) What are your top three issues and how can the office you seek influence or further those issues?

Green Jobs/Green Infrastructure especially as they relate to the Ford Plant redevelopment. Urban Agriculture is important to me and I think it will resonate well with voters. I need to get better educated on this. We have been raising chickens for several years and are continually expanding our gardens by removing grass and replacing with crops. I think large Urban Farms make a lot of sense too and should be actively promoted by the city.

Youth- I believe we can and should do more to promote youth programs involvement both to educate and be educated. The range of ideas is limitless from urban agriculture to business incubators to multi generational learning/volunteering.

Resident Involvement – Strengthening the district councils so that they can be a catalyst for this and to bring residents together to build a more sustainable neighborhood/city and one that increases opportunities for interaction between people from different walks of life.

A city government that is fiscally responsible in order to minimize the tax and fee for service burdens on residents, especially those who can least afford it.

This will require transparency at all levels especially those that have a financial impact on residents and businesses. Calculating savings should be based on short AND long term return on investment. The message would be going green will save \$green on how being green can save green\$.

6) What are the major concerns of the geographic area under your office's jurisdiction?

I would say all of the above with perhaps a bit more toward the tax side. Portions of my district are fairly conservative. The redevelopment of the Ford Plant is a big issue too.

7) How will you interact with the other parties in office? If applicable, who will you caucus with?

I had a lot of face time with the city council during Trader Joe's negotiations. I was well respected by them so I think I would interact well.