

Candidate Questionnaire - Tylor Slinger

BACKGROUND

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

A- No or N/A

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

A- I associate freely with person's of any political affiliation, and make no apologies for it. It's possible that my opponents will try to call me a Republican and the Republicans will reflexively apply the same tactic, in an effort to discredit me.

CAMPAIGN

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

A- I've already gone on record stating that I will not seek the endorsement of any major party as a principled stand against their undue influence in politics. My interest in the Green Party's endorsement comes from a long appreciation for the environment and my belief that my personal philosophy supports the protection of our Human and Civil Rights in a fashion that is compatible with green ideology.

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

A- In the past, I've not been involved with the political party as a unit, but have advocated for many issues that are near and dear to the political movement. During the initial build up to the invasion of Iraq, I spoke out about the philosophic implications of using unprovoked force against an unwilling citizenry. As part of statewide student organizations, I've served as a consumer liaison of sorts and spoke to the MN Legislature regarding high education funding and issues that face today's students.

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

A- Yes. During college I headed several student organizations, which had political components. These included GOTV and voter registration. More recently, I helped the Dayton campaign prior to the primary with its Voter ID efforts, volunteer recruiting, parades, and its GOTV efforts.

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

A- Historically, St. Paul City Council races have spent an average of \$40,000; however, all the races I've reviewed were pre-IRV. Additionally, Ward-3 races have used significantly less money to run, about \$20,000 for an election (Again this is Pre-IRV). I estimate that to run a competitive campaign in this ward will require about \$7,000, of which I've already raised \$3,500. The remaining money can be easily raised from my family, close associates or through the use of volunteer work.

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

A- We will need to average of 10 volunteers showing up to help with the campaign activities, starting in May thru November. If we do three group activities per week, we would need a group of 30 dedicated volunteers (to rotate) , or about 50 total volunteers (accounting for no-shows/busy) giving one day a week. Local Friends and Family are being contacted to create a base of highly dedicated volunteers that show up multiple times per week. Additionally, voter ID calls can be made from almost anywhere, so I will have close family from out state MN help with that effort. Lastly, we will be asking local groups to take on small tasks.

6) What role will the following strategies have in your campaign and how much time will you devote to these activities: doorknocking, direct mail, phonebanking, lit drops, candidate forums, screenings of other organizations, filling out forms for other endorsements?

A- I've attached a copy of my campaign plan for your convenient reference. To summarize, we'll start by doing Voter ID for about three months, then were going to go door to door and make persuasive calls to identified Undecided Voters, each voter contact will include a follow up mailer, and GOTV mailers to each supporter/ likely supporter. Also, we'd like to do one or two mailers to specific voters identifying issues. GOTV efforts will start a few days before the election and include calls and mailers. Yards signs are almost always a must, so I will invest in those and request that supports have them placed in their yards.

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

A- I'm currently a member of the Libertarian Party of Minnesota, so I will ask them for their support financially and with volunteer hours. Additionally, I serve as the campus outreach committee chair, so I will ask student

organizations that I work with for their help in volunteering.

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

A- Libertarian Party of Minnesota, St. Paul Police Federation and St. Paul Firefighters Local 21

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

A- If endorsed, I'd ask for help in reaching out to your local supporters to advise of the endorsement. Additionally, I would ask for help with a specific segment of the persuasive part of the campaign. Likely reaching out to a specific segment of the electorate.

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

A- I am always open to learning new skill sets and would absolutely consider doing other trainings. In the past, I've attended Campus Camp Wellstone and more recently, I attended local campaign training, both of which was allowed me to put together a campaign plan that I think can win.

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

A- I would absolutely be happy to provide updates regarding the campaigns progress throughout the campaign, including metrics, or budgetary updates.

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

A- One of my main goals it to shake up the city council a little. They seem impervious to listening to people who come and speak at public hearings. I've only once seen them engage a speaker, who isn't a member of the council. A main role and privilege of a minority voice in a democracy to have their voice heard and bring light to issues that the majority would have silenced. Majority can rule, but the minority always has the right to have their message heard. Additionally, as part of the campaign and the endorsement, I would like to build a coalition between the Greens and the Libertarians. To often minor parties get marginalized because they align with those most similar to each other. We have many similarities, and we should focus on those which propel us towards a common goal.

THE OFFICE

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

A- City Council is the legislative part of a cities government, so they primarily pass city-level laws. Also representatives from the Council serve as members of several boards including, Saint Paul RiverCentre Convention and Visitors Authority, the Saint Paul Port Authority, the Joint Property Tax Advisory Board (JPTAC), and the Board of Water Commissioners. Further the Council hears appeals regarding zoning variances. Additionally, they approve licensing actions and the assessment of fees.

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

A- The City of St. Paul receives a significant amount of money from the State of Minnesota via Local Government Aid, so as a matter of funding they interact with the State. Representatives from the Council serve as members of several boards including, Saint Paul RiverCentre Convention and Visitors Authority, the Saint Paul Port Authority, the Joint Property Tax Advisory Board (JPTAC), and the Board of Water Commissioners. In addition, the city funds 17 district councils which serve as neighborhood organizations, and they help the city with activities including: planning and advising on the physical and economic development, identifying needs, initiating community programs and sponsoring community events.

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

A- The liberty and Green perspectives align on multiple areas including defending small business from corporate favoritism. Sharp increases in property taxation hurts poor renters and homeowners. The individuals and their corporations should be held responsible for damage they cause to the environment. More diverse candidates and political speech are represented through the use of Instant Run-Off Voting. Finally, members of minor parties have the same right to political speak as

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

A- I think working for a financial institution during this unprecedented time of economic unrest has allowed me to better empathize with those the citizenry. Like most folks, I've been working through these hard times trying to make the best of a bad situation. As a long time member of the service industries, my focus is always on clients or in the role of City Council, the constituents. Also, being a member of a minor party allows me to work across borders that would likely not be breached by a Major Party candidate.

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

A- The three issues that my campaign will focus on will include public safety, local taxes and the closure and redevelopment of the Ford Plant. Additionally, while not central issues to the campaign, I'm not accepting any PAC money and will only seek reelection once, effectively limiting my term to 8 years. The office I'm running for has key decision making power regarding budgeting and planning for all the issues that are important to the race. The council sets the max tax levies, establishes the public safety budgets and will have a vital role in the redevelopment of the Ford Plant.

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

A- The main concerns of Ward - 3 can be categorized into Taxes/Economy, Public Safety, and Ford Plant/ Zoning. We need a balanced and common sense approach that acknowledges the continued need for growth within the city. Sharp and regressive tax increases hurt the poor and middle class, and won't propel our economy forward. We need to shape a sustainable local tax base. Regarding the Ford Plant Redevelopment, we need to ensure that organic growth and development of this area is encouraged. Any business opportunities should be viable in both the short and long term forecasts.

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

A- I am open to working across divides within the political spectrum. Ideology should not stop us from continuing to be neighborly with each other and to work towards mutually beneficial outcomes. As for political party affiliations, I intend to work under the inclusive libertarian umbrella.

8) How will you balance the political need to compromise with your interpretation of Green values? Give an example of where you are willing to compromise and where you would be unwilling to compromise.

A- A great thing about democratic politics is there is not requirement to compromise. The minority is always given the opportunity to have its voice heard. As a matter of practicality, some progress towards a goal is better than no progress, but if the council is doing something that is bad for the community, there is no need to buy into it.