

## Detroit City Council Candidate Questionnaire

August 4, 2009 Primary Election

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Employer: City of Detroit

Occupation: Detroit City Councilmember

How long? 11 years

High School Diploma: St. Florian High School, 1983

College Degree: Wayne State University, 1988

1. I love the City of Detroit and I want to continue working to pass progressive legislation and address the fundamental problems that continue to hold Detroit back.
2. Three-years as Wayne County Commissioner, 11-year veteran of Detroit City Council. Recently served seven months as Interim Mayor of Detroit.
3. \$150,000.
4. Public Safety, Sanitation, and core services such as lighting, street resurfacing, and water and sewerage services.
5. The questions shouldn't be looked at strictly in terms of elimination of services but whether or not the current number of departments is needed to provide those services. Departmental consolidation may be a cheaper and more effective way to provide services. For example, the services provided by the Human Services and Senior Citizens Departments could arguably be merged with the Health and Wellness Promotion Department to comprise a Department of Health and Human Services. Similarly, the Public Works Department could be merged with the General Services Department.
6. As Mayor, I directed the Labor Relations Department to negotiate a 10% pay cut with the City's labor unions. Though these negotiations were underway when I lost the election I still believe

such concessions are critical to creating financial solvency and should be pursued by the new Mayor.

7. One solution is to pursue additional funding from the federal government in support of these efforts. Another is more aggressive collection efforts aimed at recouping the cost the city pays to demolish privately-owned buildings. Thirdly, we must also recognize that not every building needs to be demolished. Some simply need new owners with the vision, money, and willingness to put them back into productive use.
8. Yes. As Mayor, I had directed the Director of the Planning and Development Department to convene a task force on "creative downsizing." This did not happen before the election but I intend to pursue the idea as Council President. Furthermore, as the Founder of City Council's Green Task Force I believe one strategy for re-use of depopulated areas is to green them for the purpose of urban gardening and farming. This would accomplish several goals. First, these areas would be beautified by doing so. Secondly, they would generate not only tax revenue but also dollars for the operators. Thirdly, such gardens or farms could easily be developed for residential or commercial use at a later date as development returns to Detroit.
9. As one of the architects and chief proponent of that plan I definitely still support it.
10. I would say very important though this is not one of your choices. However, Detroit must first get its own house in order. We need to learn to play well with each other internally before we can play well with others.
11. D-Dot should be merged with SMART to effect the creation of a single bus system that services Detroit and the region.
12. With the exception of some under-utilized parks I don't support a "fire sale" approach to the resolution of Detroit's budget problems. Asset sales generate dollars in the short term but they do not address the fundamental need to eliminate Detroit's structural deficit problem.
13. Yes. By doing so Detroit is able to produce cash but it retains ownership and control of assets for future use. This is something I advocated during my tenure as Mayor and I still support this approach.