

Detroit City Council Candidate Questionnaire

August 4, 2009 Primary Election

Shelley Iris Foy

March 28, 1954

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Employer: Detroit Public Schools and Retired from the Detroit Police Department as a Lieutenant

How Long? I returned to teaching after retiring from the Detroit Police Department on November 14, 2007. I have been teaching within the Detroit Public Schools since 1978 as both a fulltime and Substitute Teacher. I served twenty-five years with the Detroit Police Department from 1977 to 2005

High School Diploma? Yes Kettering Senior High June 1972

College degree? Yes Bachelor of Arts Political Science Mercy College of Detroit/

Bachelor of Arts Criminal Justice Mercy College of Detroit/ Associate of Arts Criminal Justice Mercy College of Detroit December 1976

Advance Degree? Yes University of Detroit Mercy Master of Science Security Administration May 2005

Please list any previous public office to which you have been elected or appointed, beginning with the most recent.

I have not been appointed or elected to any public office.

1. Explain, in 50 words or fewer, why you are seeking a seat on the Detroit City Council.

I am seeking a seat on the Detroit City Council to bring integrity to the Council as well as, assist in balancing our budget, foster a new spirit in regional cooperation were possible, increase public safety, assist Detroit Public Schools to provide quality education for all students and citizens, rehabilitate abandoned homes and demolish abandoned eyesore homes, and redirect resources to organizing our community organizations and block clubs.

2. Describe any professional, educational or civic experience that has prepared you to play a constructive role on the city council.

I am a life long Detroit resident and graduate of Kettering High School; BA, Political Science, Mercy College; BA, Law Enforcement, Mercy College and MS, Security Administration, University of Detroit Mercy. I served twenty-five in law enforcement with Detroit Police Department and retired in 1977. I was assigned to the Third and Seventh Precincts, Sex Crimes Unit, Commercial Auto Theft Section and was the Commanding Officer of the Child Abuse Unit for fifteen years.

When I became the Commanding Officer of the Child Abuse Unit, I developed several initiatives and received nearly three million dollars in grant funding from local, state and federal governmental agencies to reduce child abuse/neglect cases in the the city. As a result, Child abuse/neglect decreased approximately fifty percent.

I have worked with numerous civic organizations and currently a twenty year teacher with Detroit Public Schools. I also teacher at Wayne Council Community College. I am president of my block club.

3. What do you anticipate spending on your campaign? Approximately \$40,000.
How much have you collected so far? Approximately \$3800.
How many people have contributed? Approximately 250.

To make up for the lack of funding, I have been attending community meetings, churches, organization meetings, parades and mailings. Thus far, my message have been well received.

4. Please list what you consider to be the three most important core functions of city government.

To provide safety and health for the citizens; To provide education for the

children and citizens; To provide a balance budget for the citizens.

5. Please identify three governmental departments or functions you would be willing to eliminate.

At this time, I am unwilling to eliminate departments without detail study and the benefits elimination would have on citizens and the budget. However, I believe through shared sacrifice, departmental offices must be consolidated to conserve dollars. For example, within the Clerk's Office, we could consolidate the Public Information Department with the Voter Information Department. I am willing to consolidate some Neighborhood City Halls; This strategy employed through out will help cut our budget.

6. What changes in staffing, compensation, benefits or work rules do you believe will be required to assure Detroit's continued solvency?

It is clear that we must do more with less. This idea must start at the top. Both Council and Administration must sacrifice and improve quality service to our citizens. The Council and Administration should cut their budget by thirty percent. All cars provided to Council and Administration should be recall. Staffers including council members should be given milage for attending required meetings. I have promised the citizens of Detroit, if I am elected, I will not drive a city vehicle. After deleting these perks, we must proceed to city employees and open our books to them and ask for atleast a 12% pay cut and deductions in benefits.

Perhap consideration should be given to a four day work week for certain departments.

We must place Detroit in a position of having a balance budget for future years. The most logical way to do so is through shared sacrifice from all Detroiters and our employees.

7. With money available to tear down 3,000 to 5,000 a year, how would you speed up the demolition of the estimated 80,000 abandoned homes and building in Detroit?

First, we must assess these homes to ascertain if they can be saved and put back on the tax roll. Many of the homes I've seen can be save and offered to citizens at a nominal cost. I would estimate that 25 thousands of these homes can be saved. The remainder homes in need of demolishing should be bidded at

lower capped prices. We should state firmly that we will not pay more than the capped price. Using this method, we may be able to demolish an additional 3,000 homes.

Finally, we must get the neighborhood involved to watch these homes to ward off vandals.

As I have stated prior, there must be a shared sacrifice during these difficult times.

8. Detroit's dwindling population is distributed over a geographical area many times the size of other cities. Do you support efforts to concentrate residents in a smaller portion of the city? If so, how would you facilitate this, and what short-and long-term uses would you envision for vacated neighborhoods?

No, I do not support the force movement of our citizens from a less populated area to a more populated area. The use of eminent domain should be used sparingly. Many of these citizens have lived in their homes for numerous years- raised their children, watched their love ones die, paid their taxes, paid their mortgage off, invested in the up keep of their property and don't want to move. They have been model citizens. It would be heartless to require them to move.

I believe a program to provide "fill in homes" as has been done in a number of Detroit's neighborhoods should continue.

9. Do you support the agreement the Cockrel Administration negotiated to transfer the ownership and operation of Cobo Hall to a regional authority? If not, how would you propose to finance the expansion and operation of a convention center that costs Detroit \$20 million annually to support?

I support the lease of Cobo Hall to a regional authority.

10. How important is it to you to improve relations between the city of Detroit and the rest of the metropolitan region?
 Highest priority ___ Somewhat important ___ It matter but not critical ___ not very ___ not at all

11. How can the city provide better bus service?

I am in favor of discussions to regionalizing the bus system(Semta and DOT).

12. Which if any of the city's assets should be put up for sale to raise revenues or reduce expenses? How would you evaluate proposals to sell any such

asset?

I am more in favor of leasing the assets and /or increasing asset fees rather than selling them. For example, we should perhaps increase parking fees and increase fees to enter the Detroit-Windsor tunnel. After these points are analyzed, if we need to, I would be in favor of leasing these assets.

13. Is it a good idea for the city to raise money by selling for an up-front cash payment for its revenue from such sources as public parking or Detroit-Windsor tunnel tolls?

Raising money by selling for an up-front cash payment for our assets and selling our assets will provide us with a grace period for a couple of years. After a couple of years, bankruptcy will raise its ugly threat again and we will not have assets to sell. Then, what will we do? Fail. We will enter bankruptcy with out assets. There is no one to save us but ourselves.

I am sorry, but we must bit the bullet now. We must reduce our labor cost, benefits, perks, waste and redundancy. We have got to do more with less or we are going to hell (bankruptcy) in a hand basket. I see the inevitable. I believe it can be avoided.

If elected, I will do my utmost to inform our citizens that reduction is necessary in all areas except police, fire and medical personnel, but in these areas, waste must be rooted out..

I ask for your support. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to answer your questions.