

Mayor Questionnaire

1. What steps will you be taking towards helping fix the infrastructure in Corpus Christi?

The City budget needs to be set up where major maintenance is a line item in the budget, and in the control of the Department head with less control by the City Council. Then an on-going and reliable funding source will be identified to support this budget item. Some tax money going to development will be diverted to fix our infrastructure. I'll look for opportunities to improve efficiency and productivity to free up funds for infrastructure. My last step will be to look at user fees and taxes. I don't like this last step, but I can't mislead people on how much the cost will be to fix our infrastructure.

2. When it comes to public transportation, what are your plans?

I use my bike for transportation and will encourage others to do the same. Bike paths and/or wider sidewalks will be a part of repairing our streets. As Mayor, I'll ride the bus to City Hall for ideas to get more people riding the bus. One concern I have is the needed population density to support shorter waits at bus stops which is critical to increase ridership.

3. What will you do to progress education in Corpus Christi?

I helped start the engineering program at TAMUCC and taught there as an Adjunct Professor and as a full time Visiting Professor. I have also taught at the Del Mar's Economic Development Center. Based on these experiences, as Mayor I see doing what I can to foster quality education for a quality labor force.

4. Do you support more non-discrimination legislation directed towards the LGBT community in Corpus Christi? I support practical legislation to fight all discrimination. A better question to ask is "how do we change the discriminatory attitude by some people?" This is a much harder question to answer.

5. Aside from the roads and water, what would be your highest priority during your time in office? After 5 years on the Ethics Commission, my priority is to end the "political games" at City Hall. Our infrastructure problems are the result of the political games that have been played over the years.

6. What are your plans to help fix the homeless problem in Corpus Christi?

The first step to solve any problem is to understand it. My plan is to get a better understanding of why Corpus Christi has so many homeless people.

7. Do you support the ban on plastic bags? Why or why not? I support a ban on plastic bags because they are not biodegradable and, like other plastics, they can harm the environment. We should go back to paper bags or cardboard boxes if we want the convenience of our "throw away" society. My wife and I use reusable shopping bags at the store most of the time.

8. Do you believe in climate change?

Having participated in solving the Earth's Ozone depletion problem about 20 years ago, my position is that the Earth's environment is no place to run an experiment. Those who do not believe in climate change can not argue my position.

9. If another water crisis is found out to be caused by a refinery or other business, how will you deal with the responsible party? The response has to be based on the severity of the

crisis. If the public health risk is severe, then you “throw the book at them”. This applies to everyone including residents.

10. What will you do to fight pollution and environmental problems in Corpus Christi?

My major effort is to fix our aging sewer system. It is old and decaying, literally. The smell of this problem hasn't yet reach the general public, but it is coming. The other is to reduce traffic by getting people to live closer to their work and to shopping. Car and truck exhausts add up despite the EPA regulations on cleaner vehicle emissions. I want to encourage the use of bikes for transportation instead of cars to reduce auto emissions.

11. What departments do you feel need more funding and less funding?

I've been told by several people that the Police Department is understaffed and I have been provided some information to support this. I will therefore look into the needs of the Police Department after becoming Mayor. For the other Departments, I need more information before saying if they need more or less funding.

12. What areas do you feel can be remedied during your term within the city.?

Government moves slow. The best that can be done in 18 months is to get the City headed in the right direction to fix our infrastructure and to end political games.

13. What will you do to revitalize downtown Corpus Christi?

Support the Reinvestment Zone #3 the City has implemented where tax dollars are being used to help rebuild downtown. This is important because of the impact of the new Harbor Bridge.

14. How would you lead the city?

By example, listening to people, and keeping an open mind. Most important is to always seek input by those who are impacted by my actions.

15. What will you do to show people that the water in Corpus Christi is safe?

As an engineer who understands water treatment and chemistry, I could explain all the technical details on why the water is safe to drink. But I think the most effective way is to drink the water myself.

16. The mayor's position is a non-partisan seat, how will you ensure that partisan politics do not take precedence while making decisions?

I am not involved with any political party. This question is related to my priority to end political games. I've seen enough of this while on the Ethics Commission. The Mayor has control of the Agenda and runs the Council meeting. I'll make sure the agenda is balanced and objective for all sides of an issue. Only items on the agenda will be covered at Council meetings. I will also use Roberts Rules of Order to fight any attempt for partisan politics and the catering to special interest groups.

17. How will your background help you be mayor?

The City Council needs someone familiar with projects, maintenance, and technology to solve our infrastructure problems. As an engineer with 40 years experience I'll bring this familiarity to the Council. Engineers are conditioned to be truthful and to not mislead people, otherwise bad things might happen. Truthfulness and not misleading people are drastically needed in our political system.

18. How will you be transparent to the citizens?

One aspect of transparency is where City documents are well organized for access on the Web Page. It also means minimizing the topics covered in Executive Session. Transparency is stating the truth plainly instead of “political double talk”. Regular review by the City Council Members of the Texas Open Meetings Act and Open Documents Act would also help.

19. Will you introduce any legislation to bring down hate crimes, domestic violence, or any other forms of motivated violence?

Introducing legislation requires a lot of homework on the problems and causes of hate crimes, domestic violence, and other acts of violence. Just writing the legislation in legal terms would be a difficult task. Unfortunately, I have not had the time to do the needed homework and therefore have to pass on this question for now. I will look into a Mayor's Council on domestic violence as was discussed at a recent candidate forum.

20. If you do not win the election, what're your plans?

I will enjoy my retirement with my wife by doing the things we had planned and talked about a few months ago. Unfortunately, recent events caused me to postpone my plans for retirement.