Mayor Questionnaire

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

With over forty years of neglected infrastructure, we will need to identify and pursue multiple sources of revenues including:

* Implement Type B sales tax funds for street reconstruction approved by voters in 2016
* Implement approx. 10 million in residential streets reconstruction funds voter approved in 2016
* Compete for new funds allocated from State and Federal grants
* Continue private public partnerships
* And identify a dedicated long-term funding source for street reconstruction similar to the Street Preventative Maintenance Program.

Also, under my leadership, we quadrupled the number of streets maintained since 2012 and strategically initiated a plan to consolidate our waste water treatment plans with investments in utility capital improvements while minimizing impact to utility ratepayers. In addition, we put together a proactive comprehensive water quality plan to stabilize our water distribution system.

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

I have been a long advocate for public transportation well before I was in elected office. I will continue to work toward affordability in all modes of public transportation including partnerships with the Regional Transportation Authority, Vehicles for Hire and stakeholders with bicycle network connectivity. I was a resource in supporting college students at the Texas A&M University Corpus Christi with their innovative idea for affordable transportation. The idea/company is a ride-share app that would exclusively use current college students as drivers. The plan complied with the city's regulation and was forward thinking! This service would be of great benefit to the Corpus Christi community and also help college students find a job that fits into their crazy schedules.

I also played a strong leadership role on the Metropolitan Planning Organization in moving us into the 21st century with our comprehensive mobility plan.

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

I will continue to build on investments with our city Type A (Now Type B) funds with Del Mar College, Texas A&M University, Workforce Development of the Coastal Bend and Craft Training Center with projects including college internships, skills training programs, engineering programs, unmanned aircrafts systems initiative, aircraft repair program, certified driver’s licensing program and process technology certifications.

In November of 2016, under my leadership, Corpus Christi was one of 12 cities selected nationally for The National League of Cities’ Leadership Academy in promoting education as the pathway in building our regional workforce. I will continue this needed commitment to work with all of our educational partners to promote postsecondary workforce success to address inequities in accessing and succeeding in higher education as well as gaining meaningful employment.

4. Do you support more non-discrimination legislation directed towards the LGBT community in Corpus Christi?

Yes, absolutely.

5. Aside from the roads and water, what would be your highest priority during your time in office?

In addition to restoring our aging infrastructure after decades of neglect, I would work toward stabilizing our utility rates through strategic planning of investments in capital improvements to minimize the impact on ratepayers, improve public safety for our families by building the capacity of our Police Department and continue to build on events like the Food Truck Festival, Dia de los Muertos, Fiesta de la Flor, First Friday Walk and design a community where people want to live, work and play.

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

Continue to partner with our Strategic Homeless Partnership Initiative programs in order to stabilize people through shelter, moving them into permanent, affordable housing, and implementing sustainable programs to keep them in their housing.

7. Do you support the ban on plastic bags? Why or why not?

Yes. Scientific studies have proven our ocean floors are a soupy mess with plastic bags and they are starting to outnumber the fish. It is no wonder so many cities across the state, nation and world have banned them. Plastic bags are not biodegradable and take hundreds of years to decompose. And when they do, they release toxins into our soil, lakes and rivers and oceans. Although you can recycle plastic bags, on avg. only 1% is recycled. And we spend 100’s of thousands of taxpayer dollars to clean them up. Plastic bags are a threat to animals that choke and strangle wildlife. Over 100,000 animals are impacted by these bags every year. Corpus Christi is known for its beautiful beaches, wildlife, fishing, hunting and birding. When you see a wrong, you make it right. It is the right thing to protect our most treasured assets in our beautiful city.

8. Do you believe in climate change?

Yes. The science of climate change has been proven with supporting factual data.

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?

A responsible party would need to be held accountable to the fullest limits of the laws including monetary consequences.

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

I have a strong track record of proactive initiatives in fighting pollution and protecting our treasured environment with our natural assets. I will continue to build on strong air quality standard programs, work toward addressing the challenges with water quality in our bay, continue to build on partnerships with the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries, raise the awareness of recycling, trash cleanup programs and outreach in our elementary schools to speak to our children on the importance of community pride.

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

Our city departments are competing for resources for fundamental basic services. Austerity measures are an ongoing practice in the budget process. Due to decades of neglects, our infrastructure will always need the most resources in order to launch massive efforts to fix them.

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

Restoring our aging infrastructure after 40 years of neglect, with a special emphasis on ensuring water quality and identifying resources for reconstructing residential streets; Stabilizing our utility rates through strategic planning of investments in capital improvements to minimize the impact on ratepayers; Improving public safety for our families by building the capacity of our Police Department and building a city where our residents can live, work and play.

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

I will build on the strong momentum with Downtown initiatives that grew under my leadership including more lighting downtown, vibrant festivals, increased police patrol, and encourage adaptive reuse of existing buildings. I will continue to build on the downtown performance based incentives with theTax Increment Reinvestment Zone #3. On August 25, 2015, we [approved a Project Plan](http://www.cctexas.com/Assets/Government/Deputy-City-Manager/Business-Liaison/Files/TIRZ%20_3AmendedProject_FinancingPlan.pdf), creating the following incentive programs:

* Chaparral Street Property Improvement Grant Program
* New Commercial Tenant Finish Out Grant Program
* Downtown Living Initiative
* Project Specific Development Agreement

This program is administered in partnership by the City, Corpus Christi Downtown Management District and the Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation. It has proven to be successful tools in revitalizing the heart of Corpus Christi Downtown area.

14. How would you lead the city?

I will lead our city with integrity, transparency, decisiveness, respect for my fellow council members and staff, fiscal accountability and a strong and clear vision in moving our great city forward.

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

Our water quality and distribution system has been stabilized. I will continue to implement the best practices with the city’s Comprehensive Water Quality Plan. Communications is critical and full transparent disclosure of water quality compliance reports will continue to be available online with an outreach to our citizens through social media, city website and public meetings.

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

Fixing our streets, water quality, safe neighborhoods and the garbage collection are not partisan issues. I have a strong track record of making decisions based on merit, priority and fiscal accountability.

17. How will your background help you be mayor?

My proven leadership roles nationally, statewide and locally, as well as my successful business career and years of volunteerism set the foundation to serve as your Mayor. Additionally, my track record of building consensus on a broad range of initiatives utilizing my in-depth experience in balancing budgets, leveraging cost efficiencies, strategic infrastructure planning, and playing a key role in recruiting over $40 billion in new job-creating investments in our region will serve me well as your next mayor.

18. How will you be transparent to the citizens?

 Tell it all, tell it fast and tell the truth. I have a strong track record of straight forward communication to the media and to the public at large. I return my own calls, I answer my emails, and you will see me front and center whether it’s good news or bad news.  This is a leader's responsibility to those we serve.

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

I will continue to support a city legislative agenda to always fight against hate crimes, domestic violence and initiatives fighting against related to violence.

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

My parents taught me this life is not worth living unless you are helping people. I will always give back to my hometown. I love Corpus Christi.

You can also include a short bio of where you are from, your education, past experience, and where to find more info about yourself.

**Nelda Martinez**

Whether it is building her own business or public service, Nelda approaches each task with the same determination and energy to get things done.

Nelda founded and served as President of First American Closing Office and later sold the successful business to a national company. Nelda has owned and grown successful businesses. Today, Nelda serves as President, Owner of Adlen, Enterprises, Inc.

Nelda is the former Mayor of Corpus Christi. She broke historical barriers in Corpus Christi city council elections becoming the first woman and first Hispanic to be the highest vote-getter in an at-large election, a feat she continued for three elections and became the first Hispanic Woman to be elected Mayor.

Under Nelda’s leadership as Mayor of Corpus Christi, she began to tackle the over 40 years of neglect in addressing the city’s crumbing streets and infrastructure with unprecedented capital investments. In Nelda’s first term as Mayor, the critically needed Street Preventative Maintenance Program was implemented. Since, 2012, streets maintained have quadrupled. Nelda also pushed for long needed reforms in the city’s water quality in order to stabilize the water distribution system. Another critical priority was to secure a long term regional water supply in the Coastal Bend’s growing Global Economy. Nelda’s steadfast approach to water planning led to a unanimous vote on the construction of the Mary Rhodes Pipeline Phase II securing a water supply when Corpus Christi was in danger of running out of water.

Nelda has served on numerous local, state and national boards including Board Chair of South Texas Public Broadcasting Systems, Inc., where she organized fundraising for the PBS documentary on Dr. Hector P. Garcia’s courageous life, “Justice for My People.” Nelda also served on the National League of Cities, Transportation Advisory Committee and multiple committees for the United Conference of Mayors including the Mayors Water Council. She also served as a Trustee for the CHRISTUS Spohn Health System Foundation and the Advisory Board of Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas. She is a current Board Member of Foster Angels of South Texas, an organization supporting foster children. Nelda also served on the board of Texas Municipal League (TML) and is a past President of TML.

Nelda served as President of the Corpus Christi Chapter of Executive Women International. In 1999, the Coastal Bend Area GI Forum Women’s Chapter honored Nelda as the “Outstanding Businesswoman of the Year,” the YWCA gave her the “Y Women in Careers Award for Corporate/Business Management in 2000 and the US Small Business Administration, awarded Nelda the 2007 “Women in Business Champion.” In 2001, Del Mar College Former Student’s Association recognized Nelda as a distinguished former student. And at the 25th Annual State Conference, the Hispanic Women’s Network of Texas honored Nelda as an Estrella of Tejas, Star of Texas. The Texas Speech Communication Association awarded Nelda the “Communicator of the Year for 2013-2014. In 2015, The League of Women Voters, Corpus Chapter presented Nelda a “Trailblazer Award.” And in 2015, The Masons, Oso Naval 1282 presented Nelda with the Annual Community Builder Award.

A Corpus Christi native, Nelda graduated from the University of Texas at Austin.  Nelda’s parents, Dr. Maria Consuelo Martinez and the late Roosevelt Martinez, and her eight brothers and sisters have grown used to her determination in making a positive difference in her community.

**Service: Community, City, State and National**

2017: Chair, Total Resource Campaign, United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce

2017: Texas A&M Corpus Christi President Search Committee

2013: Inaugural Member Texas Mayors of Military Communities

2015: Vice Chair, Texas Mayors of Military Communities

2015-2016: Regional Leadership Team for multi-party agreement for Harbor Bridge

2012-2016: Mayor, City of Corpus Christi

2014-2015: President Texas Municipal League

2012-2014: Advisory Board of Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas

2012-2015: Coastal Advocacy & Leadership Team for Legislative Windstorm Reform

2014-2016: United States Conference of Mayors Water Council

2014-2016: United States Conference of Mayors Housing Committee

2014-2016: National League of Cities Transportation Committee

2015-2016: Vice Chair Texas Municipal League Legislative Resolutions Committee

2010-2011: State Chair Texas Municipal League Policy Committee Utilities & Transportation

2012-2016: Board Member, Metropolitan Planning Organization

2012-2016: Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation, Board Member

2012-2016: MetroCom, Board Member

2012-2016: Council of Governments, Board Member

2012-2016: Chief Elected Official Council Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend, Member

2008-2016: State Board Member the Alliance for I-69 Texas

2012-2016: State Board Member for the Gulf Coast Strategic Highway Coalition

2000-2017: Board Member, Foster Angels South TX assisting Foster Children with Child Protective Service

1996-2004: Appointed by Governor George W. Bush, Public Member, Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners

1998: President Executive Women International, Corpus Christi Chapter

2000: Board Chair, KEDT- South Texas Public Broadcasting Systems, Inc.

2009-2010: Board Chair and current Advisory Board for the Palmer Drug Abuse Program

2009-2012: Trustee, Christus Spohn Health Systems Foundation Board

2000-2010: Finance Council Member for Diocesan Finance Council

2007-2009: Board Member for Development Board for John Paul II High School

1999-2006: Board Member for Corpus Christi International Airport Advisory board

1993-1996: Member, Affordable Housing Committee, Corpus Christi Association of Realtors

1995-1996: Chair Marketing & Communications Task Force Corpus Christi Community Cultural Plan

2008: Chair League of Women Voters Candidates Forums

2006: Co-Chair of WIN-Women in NAACP

2008: Treasurer, Del Mar College Bond Election

2005-2007: Trustee, Del Mar College Foundation

2001-2002: Past Co-Chair, YWCA-Y Women in Careers Annual Fundraiser

1999-2005: Former Trustee for South Texas Institute for the Arts

2003: Texas A&M Corpus Christi Advisory Council

1979: Mission Trip to Arteaga, Mexico volunteering in poverty communities with Saints Cyril & Methodius Church

1999:  Co-Organizer of the Inaugural Bishop’s Guild for Catholic Diocese

2004-Present: Member of the Clowns Who Care for Driscoll Children’s Hospital

2005: Vice-Chair Executive Board for Franklin Graham Festival Corpus Christi

2007: Volunteered with Projects Abroad for service projects in Tonala, Mexico Children's Orphanage and HIV AIDS Clinic

2008-2009: Volunteer for Habit for Humanity