

Jeff Downing

TCR CITY OF HOUSTON ELECTIONS 2009

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. DO YOU SUPPORT CAPPING RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX APPRAISALS AT A MAXIMUM 5% INCREASE PER YEAR?

I do support capping residential property tax appraisals at a maximum 5% increase per year. Property appraisals are rising faster than the market price. This disparity should not be propagated by constant property tax hikes.

2. DO YOU SUPPORT A REQUIREMENT THAT THE CITY NOT RAISE TAXES WITHOUT A SUPERMAJORITY OF AT LEAST 60% OF CITY COUNCIL?

I do support a requirement that the city not raise taxes without a supermajority of at least 60% of city council. A decision that will impact every citizen, business, tourist, and others should not be decided by a simple majority.

3. DO YOU SUPPORT A SPENDING CAP LIMITING THE INCREASE IN CITY SPENDING TO THE RATE OF GROWTH OF POPULATION PLUS INFLATION?

I do support a spending cap limiting the increase in city spending to the rate of growth of population plus inflation. We cannot spend ourselves into a deficit that we would not be able to recover from.

4. DO YOU SUPPORT ESTABLISHING A "GRACE" TYPE COMMISSION TO IDENTIFY WAYS FOR THE CITY TO ELIMINATE FRAUD, WASTE, ABUSE, INCOMPETENCE AND SUGGESTED OPERATING EFFICIENCIES?

I do support establishing a "grace" type commission to identify ways for the city to eliminate fraud, waste, abuse, incompetence and suggested operating efficiencies. With a budget shortfall this year and projected shortfalls in the years to come, making certain the City of Houston functions at the most effective and streamlined level is necessary.

5. DO YOU SUPPORT THE CONSOLIDATION OF CITY FUNCTIONS WITH HARRIS COUNTY WHERE IT IS PRACTICAL?

I do support the consolidation of City of Houston functions with Harris County functions where it is practical. There is no need to spend the time, money, or resources on redundancy. Streamlining and consolidation is necessary to allow the tax dollars to go further.

6. DO YOU SUPPORT ENDING RACE AND GENDER BASED AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS TO BE REPLACED BY A NEED BASED SYSTEM?

I support ending race and gender based affirmative action and replacing the by a need based system. We must be getting the best, most qualified people to carry out the tasks of administering the City of Houston. We should not be forced to hire or contract with a someone who is less qualified merely based on race or gender.

7. DO YOU SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO ADD ITEMS TO THE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS?

I support the right of City Council Members to add items to the City Council agenda if approved by a majority of the members. This would allow the Councilmembers to better represent their constituents and their concerns, rather than being dependent on the Mayor to place the item on the agenda.

8. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE PRIVATE PROPERTY FROM INDIVIDUALS OR CORPORATIONS FOR THE "GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY" WITHOUT PAYING FAIR COMPENSATION?

I do not believe that government should take property from individuals or corporations for the "good of the community" without pay fair compensations. An unfair or unconstitutional taking of land and/or property is wrong and should not be tolerated at any level of government.

9. DO YOU SUPPORT THE GRANTING OF PUBLIC TAX FUNDS FOR PRIVATE OR SEMI-PRIVATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS THAT ARE NOT ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED?

I do not support the granting of public tax funds for private or semi-private economic development in areas that are not economically disadvantaged. Why should public monies go to private enterprise to develop areas that are not economically disadvantaged?

10. DO YOU SUPPORT EXPANSION OR REORGANIZING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT SO THAT OFFICERS PATROL WITH A PARTNER, AT LEAST DURING NIGHT HOURS?

I do support the expansion or reorganizing the police department so that officers patrol with a partner. Two man teams in HPD patrols are essential to safety. With the dwindling number of recruits and high number of retirees from the Houston Police Department, we need to make certain that the officers we do have on the street are well protected. Two man teams can help achieve this goal.