



Neighborhood Questions for Candidates

Community Council questions for Mayoral and City Council candidates

Community Council members responded to a survey by Invest in Neighborhoods to gather questions specifically about neighborhood concerns or issues they wished to pose to the candidates. These questions were distilled into questions which capture the priority issues for neighborhoods.

Please take a few minutes to answer these questions. We will post each of the candidates' answers on our web site and through social media.

**Thank you,
the team at Invest in Neighborhoods**

1. PUBLIC SAFETY: How will you address the opiate addiction epidemic?

With two people dying per day, we must invest in treatment. Funding for the CCAT house and its detox program has been severely cut. We need to replace that, and to fund more treatment. We need 10 more of each of the two most effective programs - Prospect House and First Step Home.

2. NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION: How will your administration help community councils hold property owners accountable for blight?

The current Housing Docket at the Courthouse seems to go after the poor, instead of the bad absentee landlords. We need to fund People Working Cooperatively to help the elderly and poor homeowners who cannot afford repairs. We also need to be more willing to ask for criminal penalties for absentee investors and owners.

3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & EQUITY: How will you invest in neighborhood business districts in a way that bridges the developing equity gap?

Working with and through CDCs, community councils and neighborhood business associations, we need to be sure that residents and entrepreneurs in communities have the training and finances to open their businesses in their neighborhoods.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & EQUITY: What will you do to ensure there is adequate supply of affordable housing in Cincinnati?

Creating an Affordable Housing Trust Fund, well funded enough to begin to reduce the backlog of 28,000 affordable units needed in the city, is the biggest step we can take. The Affordable Housing Advocates, a collaboration of more than 40 housing and housing services providers and supporters, have submitted draft ordinance and proposal to City Council, which has asked the administration to respond in 30 days. Many groups, including CDCs, are supporting this solution. We must do everything we can on all fronts – rental and homeownership, single and multi-family, mixed income and mixed use, and more density in and around neighborhood business districts. This provides customers to the businesses, and helps grow the next generation of homeowners in that neighborhood.

5. GOVERNANCE, REGULATION & INCLUSION: What will you do to increase and provide stability to Neighborhood Support Program funding stream?

My op-ed in the Enquirer on October 18, titled City must keep neighborhood partnering, promises that when we take our seats as a new Council on December 1, our first order of business needs to be increasing Neighborhood Support Program funding to the level of \$25,000 for each community council each year. The rules and structure for the program also need updating and simplifying.

6. GOVERNANCE, REGULATION & INCLUSION: How will you help community councils gain more influence in development decisions ?

There are examples around the country, and a proposal here in Cincinnati, showing various possibilities and ways to increase neighborhood strength and influence. The new Council can take action on this issue very quickly after taking office.

7. GOVERNANCE, REGULATION & INCLUSION: What will you do to create a culture at City Hall that promotes civic engagement, and is responsive to neighborhood plans and citizen concerns?

Since I was raised in active strong neighborhoods, I have experienced the decision making process in neighborhoods, and know that all decisions are richer when everyone is included. We need to make sure all of City Hall, administration and City Council, buys into real civic engagement.

8. TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE: What is your plan for improving frequency and reliability of our bus system?

The system is a shambles. I am a member of Cam Hardy's Better Bus Coalition, to fix this broken system. Let's focus on having bus routes that go where workers need them and at the times they need them. We also need to provide more and longer cross town routes,

9. TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE: What will you do to improve multi-modal infrastructure that includes pedestrian and cyclist safety?

To be a world class city, we must have a world class infrastructure, with a focus on safety. We must move forward now. There are so many good ideas and plans that will improve safety for all, that can be implemented. We need a City Council Committee just focused on this topic.

10. TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE: How will you champion environmental sustainability?

We are already becoming known as a world class city in this area. We need to support Ollie Kroner in those efforts. Cincinnati needs to stay at the forefront in leading these changes. Green and sustainable are critical for us, and, as the owner of a green and sustainable company, I will champion these efforts – especially training workers to install solar panels on neighborhood homes, creating good paying jobs and reducing energy bills for homeowners.

11. NAME

Brian Garry