

RenoElections.org Mayoral and City Council Candidate Questions

**TO: All Mayoral and City Council Candidates:
Lorton, Schieve, Dueer, Lawrence, McKenzie, Weber**

FROM: www.RenoElections.org

RE: Nonpartisan promotion of the Mayoral and City Council General Election

DATE: July 20, 2018

Our local nonprofit foundation, Stronghold Institute, is promoting an increase in voter turnout and a more informed electorate for the General Election through RenoElections.org, a nonpartisan activity. A comprehensive publicity campaign will invite voters to visit RenoElections.org to learn more about the mayoral, council, and school board candidates.

Each candidate has been invited to answer questions on critical issues. Their answers will be available on the RenoElections.org nonpartisan website beginning August, 2018.

RenoElections.org will also host a number of debate forums at a variety of times and locations throughout Reno. Candidates will be invited to participate in all of the debates which will be held regardless of the number of candidates participating. Debate dates will be provided to candidates with as much advance notice as possible to facilitate candidates' scheduling.

Again, the purpose of the written responses and personal appearances is two-fold:

1. To encourage a larger voter turnout for the general election, and
2. To help voters become better informed on issues, so they may select candidates based on issue positions, rather than political affiliation or personality

Instructions:

You have up to 75 words MAXIMUM to provide a written response for each of the following questions. Responses exceeding 75 words will be returned to candidates for editing.

Please email your responses to: white.pauld@gmail.com no later than

Wednesday, July 27, 2018.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Paul D. White
Director, RenoElections.org
9480 Gateway Dr., Suite. 100
Reno, NV 89521
(775) 685.8200
white.pauld@gmail.com

Mayor and City Council Questions

1) Leadership Vision

Reno's 2018 State of the City address described running a city as "an art form." Other communities say they operate as "a business."

Which vision of leadership is best for Reno's future?

2) City Debt

The 2018 State of the City Address claimed that the current City Council has decreased Reno's debt by nearly \$200 million. The June, 2018 estimate of Reno's public debt showed that it has only been reduced by \$38 million. Not mentioned was Reno's long-term debt, bringing the City's total indebtedness to an excess of \$900 million.

How would you address Reno's financial situation and future financial reports?

3) Ethical Behavior in Office

One role of elected leaders is awarding contracts, distributing funds, and filling jobs. This supports good government if done with integrity, impartiality, and transparency. Done unethically, it may be used to buy influence and votes.

How would you ensure that local jobs, funds, and contracts are distributed impartially and honestly?

4) Decision-Making

Within the past two years, Reno filled the two most powerful positions in city government: Chief of Police and City Manager. The individuals hired for both positions lacked many of the minimal job qualifications. Both hires were described as being the best possible candidates.

What is your assessment of the decisions to hire these inexperienced individuals for the two most important city jobs?

5) Reno's Current Homeless Situation

The 2018 State of the City Address expressed pride in how Reno's homeless issues are being handled.

The city's homeless-related crime rate/costs/population are high and increasing. They are hurting local businesses, driving away tourists, and costing the city millions of dollars. The homeless shelter on Record Street, a magnet for daily drug/alcohol abuse and criminal activity, has largely failed to rehabilitate its clients.

How would you evaluate Reno's handling of its homeless issues, and what, if anything should be done differently?

6) The Cause of Reno's Homeless Problems

City leadership believes that Reno shares the blame for its homeless problems because they have failed to provide sufficient housing and support services for the many homeless vagrants wanting to change their lives.

Other voices in the community believe the fault lies with the many service-resistant homeless vagrants themselves who have no desire to change their self-destructive lifestyles and utilize the abundant and available support services.

What do you believe is the cause of Reno's homeless problems, and what is the best way to address them?

7) Neighborhood Renewal

The 2018 State of the City Address declared, "Homes are the building blocks of strong neighborhoods:" specifically referencing Reno's desire to build more "affordable" (defacto subsidized) housing for low income residents. This perspective echoes the Vision Statement of "Reno's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness", that advocates subsidized housing for all the homeless ... indefinitely.

In contrast, many national studies do not identify low-income housing as a leading characteristic of great neighborhoods, but rather: a) A low crime rate, and b) Great schools. Reno has neither one.

What do you think is the best way to build strong neighborhoods in Reno's troubled areas?

8) Leadership Style

For years, Reno has worked with dozens of organizations and thousands of individuals in an attempt to collectively solve serious problems in the downtown area. Downtown's problems have worsened.

Consensus leadership gives everyone a voice in the decision-making process, but often results in a confusing overlap of services, making it difficult to accomplish goals.

Independent leadership can reach goals more quickly, but the public may feel left out of the decision-making process.

Which leadership style do you favor, and why would it be best for Reno?

9) City Leadership and Our Public Schools

The quality of Reno's schools and the future success of the city are inseparably entwined. Nevada's public schools rank last in the US. Over 60% of its annual graduates can't qualify for beginning level college classes. This is NOT good news for a community seeking to attract new businesses that require educated, top-quality workers.

How would you collaborate with the School District to ensure development of graduates who will contribute to, rather than burden, Reno's future?