



TULSA METRO CHAMBER
City Council Candidate Questionnaire



You may fill out this PDF questionnaire online, and hit “send”. If you cannot send electronically, you may print this form and fax it to (918) 599-6126 attention: Government Affairs Department.

Please complete the questionnaire and return it no later than Friday, July 31 at 5:00 p.m.

Send

Print Form

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name Bill Martinson Date 7/31/09

Campaign Contact Information:

Campaign Manager _____

HQ Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Website _____

Political Party:

Republican

Democrat

Independent

Are you the incumbent?

Yes No

How long have you resided in Tulsa? Since 1978

Political Background: Beginning with the most recent position, please list all public offices you have held. Include positions on appointed boards or commissions.

Public Office or Board	Elected or Appointed?	Dates Held	Leadership Role (if any)
City Council District 5	Elected	Since 2005	

If you ran for elected office but were not elected, please list those races below.

Office Title	Year of Race

Background

Why are you running for this office?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

Describe your most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

Please describe one to three accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. These examples should illustrate skills and capabilities you think apply to the office you are seeking. These accomplishments may have occurred at any time during your personal, professional or public life.

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

Background

Please describe the duties of the office you seek, in your own words. Which are the most important duties and why?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

What previous experience do you have running a business, managing employees or controlling a budget?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

What endorsements do you now have, or are you seeking?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

ISSUES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, JOB CREATION AND RETENTION

Are you aware of the regional One Voice legislative agenda and its priorities?

Yes

No

If yes, what is the most important issue on the regional One Voice legislative agenda?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

Are you committed to being involved in the process by which the regional One Voice legislative agenda is crafted, and approved by the Mayor and City Council each year?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

How would you encourage job creation and retention in the Tulsa area? Please describe the model/tools and/or incentives you would support to boost economic development.

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

ISSUES

Considering the city's increasingly limited revenue stream, how would you work with the widely unionized labor force to provide public safety, parks, streets, water and sewer services the citizens expect?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

How would you describe the impact of VISION 2025? Would you support a process to begin assessing community investment priorities for renewal of that funding stream as it comes to a close in 2016?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

What role, in your view, does the business community play in promoting the city and the region?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

ISSUES

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

How important do you view downtown Tulsa development in relation to the rest of the city, and what are your priorities for such development?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

RIVER DEVELOPMENT

How important is Arkansas River development, and what are your priorities for such development?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

ISSUES

EDUCATION

What role should municipal government have on education issues, from pre-kindergarten through post-secondary levels, especially as it relates to the workforce?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

If elected, what will be your highest priorities in enhancing, improving and reforming educational opportunities?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

ISSUES

TRANSPORTATION

How should the city respond to outstanding surface transportation issues, including the four-laning of main arterials in south Tulsa and reconstructing existing roads that were not addressed in the Fix Our Streets or 3rd Penny tax programs?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

CITY BUDGET AND FINANCE

What are your top five budget priorities for the next fiscal year?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

ISSUES

What is your position on new revenue streams, including increasing current sales tax revenue, for the city to address basic services such as streets, water, sewer, public safety, and other city services?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

What traditional municipal services would you consider putting out for competitive bid?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

Issues

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND GOALS

What in your view is the relationship between the Mayor and City Council? What is the main function of each, and where are certain responsibilities shared?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

How do you propose to create a positive working relationship?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

In your opinion, should the city consider a City Manager form of municipal governance? (known as the council-manager form of municipal government)

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

Issues

In your opinion, should the city consider participating in a regional government form of municipal governance as cities such as Louisville, KY and Nashville, TN have done?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

How would you strengthen the level of talent in city government?

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

Please list your top three to five priorities you will champion to move the city forward.

See response to the last question in the questionnaire

Is there anything else you would like our membership to know about your candidacy?

An e-mail for a July 20 fund raiser for Chris Trail was forwarded to me from several sources. The invitation and message from Susan Harris, a member of the Chamber staff, clearly validate the rumors that the Chamber supports my opponent, Chris Trail, as a candidate for the City Council. The hostess for the fund raiser has ties to Kathy Taylor and her husband, Bill Lobeck. Mr. Lobeck's attendance at the event substantiates Mr. Trail's claim that he was recruited and is being supported by the Mayor. The Chamber and Mayor Taylor have previously worked with AH Strategies (Karl Ahlgren and Fount Holland) and Mr. Trail credits her with arranging AH Strategies as his campaign advisor. As much as I appreciate receiving your candidate questionnaire, I see no need to provide detailed responses since you and your team have already decided where to direct your support.

I am a CPA with over thirty years of varied business experience and have successfully managed the same manufacturing company since 1996. In addition, I have represented the citizens of District 5 since 2005. My wife and I have owned and occupied our current home since 1981 and our kids, now grown, all attended Tulsa Public Schools. While those qualifications and credentials may fail to meet the Chamber's standards, I ran unopposed last time and my only challenger this year is your handpicked candidate who recently moved into Tulsa and rented a house in my district in order to run for the City Council. This scheme, clearly designed to influence representation on the Council, demonstrates an appalling level of contempt for the value and intelligence of the voters in District 5. Perhaps they will appreciate it is they, not you, that I hope to serve and represent.

Chamber leadership typically advocates and practices blind obedience, and this situation is no exception. You, and the Chamber you represent, are free to follow and support whomever you choose, however, your membership and visitors to your web site may learn some of Mr. Trail's history from an article, "Legal Woes Haunt Candidate", published in the Tulsa World on July 21, 2009 (http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=262&articleid=20090721_11_A5_IkesCh442214&archive=yes). Mr. Trail's documented legal and integrity issues aside, I fail to see how his limited qualifications and recent relocation to the City comply with the statement in your July 20 letter that "The Tulsa Metro Chamber understands the importance of a strong, responsible city government...."; especially since the City of Tulsa is facing perhaps the most difficult financial time in its history. Your attempts to establish a shadow government may ultimately succeed, although I hope the voters prevail, for I remain enough of an idealist to believe it is still their City.

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