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.
### Basic Candidate Information

**Name:** G.T. Bynum  
**Date:** 7/22/09

**Campaign Contact Information:**
- **Campaign Manager:** Matt Pinnell  
- **P.O. Box 52483**  
- **City, State, Zip:** Tulsa, OK, 74105  
- **Phone:** (918) 344-4346  
- **Email:** gtdistrict9@gmail.com  
- **Website:** www.gtbynum.com

**Political Party:**
- Republican  
- Democrat  
- Independent

**Are you the incumbent?**
- Yes [X]  
- No [ ]

**How long have you resided in Tulsa?** 21 years

### Political Background

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Office or Board</th>
<th>Elected or Appointed?</th>
<th>Dates Held</th>
<th>Leadership Role (if any)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tulsa City Council</td>
<td>Elected</td>
<td>April 2008-present</td>
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If you ran for elected office but were not elected, please list those races below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office Title</th>
<th>Year of Race</th>
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**City Council Candidate Questionnaire**

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**Background**

**Why are you running for this office?**

I am running for the City Council because I want Tulsa to be the kind of place my kids want to live 20 years from now. Members of my family have worked to help build Tulsa since the 1870’s, and they helped to make it the kind of place where I want to raise my children. I want to continue that work for the next generation.

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

Based on my first term, I believe my most important personal traits as they relate to the Council are my experience in public policy development while working for 6 years in the United States Senate, my belief in listening to all sides fairly before making my conclusions, and my desire to work across Party lines for the betterment of our community.

**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.**

On the Council the three accomplishments of which I am the most proud are:
(1) the passage of the Fix Our Streets package in November 2008, which I worked with my fellow councilors - Republicans, Democrats, and an Independent - and Mayor Taylor to both pass out of the Council and sell to voters;  
(2) the funding and start of a performance audit for the Public Works Department (it is currently under way), the need for which became evident during the streets campaign; and  
(3) ending the decades-long practice of gassing animals from neighboring communities for less than the cost to the City. This was the first opportunity I had to use the oversight skills I learned while working in the Senate, and we were able to both save thousands of dollars and end a troubling practice.
Background

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

The job of a city councilor is to represent the citizens of their district within the Tulsa City government. This means not only representing their views from a legislative standpoint through the passage (or non-passage) of ordinances, but also carrying out oversight to see that their money is being spent wisely and to help the residents of your district when they don't believe they're getting the service they deserve from the City. To boil it down, a city councilor should be there to do the same thing someone in business should do for their customers: deliver a good product with great service at low cost. That's the goal.

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

I currently serve on the management team for Williams & Williams Worldwide Real Estate Auction, one of the fastest-growing businesses in the city over the last 5 years. I also served on the start-up team for one of our sister companies, Auction Network, which broadcasts auctions of all kinds for online interactive bidding. I've also served on the boards of directors for the Tulsa Historical Society and Leadership Tulsa.

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

The members of my campaign advisory committee are: former mayor Robert J. LaFortune (chairman), Bob Boyd, Jono Helmerich, Bonnie Henke, former mayor Jim Hewgley, former mayor Bill LaFortune, Ed Lawson, Judge Joseph Morris, Lee Paden, Hastings Siegfried, Bob Sullivan, Paul Thornbrugh and Dean Williams.
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?

The issue that originally drew me to run for the Council was river development, and I have worked closely with the Chamber to promote that both at the state and federal levels. Economic development is critical for our community and the best way to do that is to focus on those assets we have that can not be easily duplicated by competitor cities. The river is one of those assets and needs to be developed appropriately.

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?

Yes, I am committed to it and am currently a member of the Federal Issues subcommittee.

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.

As mentioned above, I believe we need to focus on those unique assets that differentiate Tulsa from competitor communities. Among those assets are the river, downtown, and our vibrant faith community. Our company brings in people from around the country every week to interview them for jobs. When looking for a home, those applicants invariably ask where the best schools are and where the best neighborhoods. They also notice where the streets are bad and where they aren’t. The goal for the City should be to provide the best basic services possible in order to make Tulsa the kind of community that attracts applicants, while at the same time working to build upon our unique assets.
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?

Presently City leaders are making decisions largely in a vacuum. We rely on internally-derived information. Yet every candidate that runs eventually talks about “seeking out waste”. I believe the best way to actually do that is implement a series of performance audits for each City department on a regular rotating basis. I have been successful in starting this with the Public Works department, but we need it for all departments. By bringing in outside experts who review municipal operations all around the country, we can learn if we have too many or too few employees in a specific area, if we are paying too generously or too little, etc. I believe this kind of outside business-minded approach can help us continue to balance our priorities.

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?

I'm a big fan of Vision 2025, and particularly of its crown jewel - the BOK Center. The BOK Center has provided a venue for community excitement and pride unlike anything I've seen in my lifetime in Tulsa. That being said, I would not support a new package of priorities because the streets package approved by voters in November picks up that funding level when Vision 2025 concludes. To add another package on top of the streets package would result in an overall tax increase, which I don't believe benefits Tulsa from a competitive standpoint.

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

In my opinion the business community plays the most important part in promoting our region. When trying to attract new businesses or when talking to lawmakers in OKC or DC, you want Tulsa's business leaders explaining why they've chosen to invest here.
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?

I've supported downtown development on the Council through my votes in favor of the new stadium improvement district. Downtown is one of Tulsa's unique and defining characteristics, and needs to be leveraged to benefit the entire city.

RIVER DEVELOPMENT

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

The reason I first ran for the Council was because I wanted to work for river development. I believe it is the greatest untapped asset in the region, and could be a centuries-long economic development magnet if we develop it appropriately. Out of this belief, I've worked with the Chamber to promote river development funding both at the state and federal levels. I've also worked with my colleague on the Council, Rick Westcott, to push a tax increment financing district for the West Bank that would help spur private development in that part of our city.
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?

I am a great proponent of early childhood development programs and have worked to steer a portion of the City's Community Development Block Grant funds to several of those programs. Beyond this, however, in my experience the City has little actual authority over education in Tulsa beyond paying the school crossing guards. This has been a cause for concern because the quality of education available in Tulsa is so vital to our long-term economic development, both from the attraction and development of an educated workforce. There should not be such a divide between the School Boards and the City.

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

I have several friends on the Tulsa School Board, and would like to work with them to develop a better level of communication between the School Board and the City.
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?

We need to begin preparing for the next Fix Our Streets proposal. The first 5-year program was never intended to be the final solution but rather a first step.

CITY BUDGET AND FINANCE

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

1. Police
2. Fire
3. Streets
4. Other Infrastructure
5. Utilities Maintenance
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?

I don’t believe we should start talking about new revenue streams until we can prove we’re effectively utilizing the revenue streams we have right now. That’s why I am proposing a schedule of performance audits for all City departments.

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

I believe in the idea of "managed competition", in which City departments compete with private contractors for City business. I would consider putting any City service other than those related to public safety up for competitive bid. That being said, I also believe there are areas within public safety that we could put up for competitive bid.
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?

On a basic level, the City Council is the legislative branch and the Mayor is the executive branch. More specifically, the City Council is the budget- and policy-making body for the City. The Mayor is the chief executive officer with responsibility for carrying out those policies and budgets. Both bodies represent the City.

How do you propose to create a positive working relationship?

I believe communication, respect, trust and a desire to see things from the other's perspective are critical for the mayor and council to have a positive working relationship. That being said, there is a natural tension between most any executive and legislative branch. That tension isn't unique to Tulsa.

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

I am opposed to the city manager form of government. Under our charter, the Mayor is free to hire a city manager if they choose to do so. The oft-cited claim that the job of mayor is "just too big for one person" doesn't pass muster with me when you see the President of the United States and governors in all 50 states with more complicated responsibilities than a mayor. I believe we benefit from having a strong mayor form of government.
**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?

I am opposed to a regional form of government because I believe municipal government should be as local as possible. That being said, I believe there are many efficiencies that could be worked out between the County and City governments. One of my goals for a second term is to create a taskforce between both governments to develop an overall strategic partnership between the City and County. In the past, we’ve partnered up as issues arose (library system, health department, jail, etc.) but I think we’d benefit from a more thorough strategic partnership. I think this approach would afford us the benefits people think of when they discuss regional government without robbing Tulsans of their local emphasis in municipal government.

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

The best way for elected officials to strengthen the talent level in City government is to lead by example. I’ve tried to do this during my time on the Council by being deliberative, open-minded, respectful and fair. I don’t always succeed but I do think it is important to try. As a young professional, I’d also like to think my work on the Council (like that of my predecessor, Cason Carter) has encouraged younger Tulsans to get involved and consider a run for office.

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

1. Develop a strategic partnership between the City and County.
2. Begin work on the next streets package.
3. Implement a schedule of rotating performance audits for all City departments.
4. Continue to push for river development.
5. Fund our Police and Fire Departments at the appropriate levels.
Is there anything else you would like our membership to know about your candidacy?

I have benefited greatly as a councilor from my work with the Tulsa Metro Chamber, and am eager to continue doing so in my second term.