



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 Rocky Frisco Date 7/23/2009

Campaign Contact Information:

Campaign Manager Dan Howard

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City, State, Zip Tulsa, OK 74104

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Website www.rocky4tulsa.com

Political Party:

Republican

Democrat

Independent

Are you the incumbent?

Yes No

How long have you resided in Tulsa? 69 years

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)
Board of Directors, Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame	Appointed	2005 to present	

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

Office Title	Year of Race
Tulsa City Council, District Four	1998
Tulsa City Council, District Four	2002
Tulsa City Council, District Four	2008
Mayor of Tulsa	1992

Background

Why are you running for this office?

I honestly think I'm the best candidate for the position and I also think my District deserves better representation that it has received in the last few decades. Over the years, I have gotten the impression that the Tulsa city government often behaves as though they are our rulers rather than our representatives and that the citizens are like employees to be managed in the effort to compete with other cities. I see Tulsa as my home town and I want it to be the best possible home town for people to live in, raise their children in and do business in and not be micromanaged in an attempt to compete with other municipalities.

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

I almost fanatically hate bullies and tyranny; I love individual liberty and the exercise of the individual human will. I am strongly opposed to any form of socialism, since all forms of socialism are based on force and the theoretical superiority of the group over the person. I strongly support the free market and the right of people to organize their own lives and make their own choices in their lives. I believe that our city will succeed to the extent that it respects and empowers its citizens. I don't care how Tulsa stands in comparison to other cities' sports and entertainment venues. I care very much about how well Tulsa protects its people and its children, the condition of the streets, the quality of policing, the reasonability of the level of taxation and the healthiness of the local environment.

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.

Many years ago, as a young man, I was suffering from panic attacks. I sat down and pondered this and came to the conclusion that I was terrified of the fact that I would die some day and that I needed to deal with this. I built a racing car and took the necessary training and began to drive in the races at Mosport and Harewood acres where I lived in Ontario, Canada. I became very good at it and lost my fear. I drove in the preliminary races at the Canadian Grand Prix in 1967, something I take pride in.

In March of 1996, I played piano at Carnegie Hall with the JJ Cale Band, on a bill with The Band, and received a small ovation for a short piano break, as can be heard on the "JJ Cale Live" album.

A few years ago, I engaged the services of a debt arbitration company and began the process of paying off my credit card debt. That process was completed satisfactorily earlier this year. I would like to see my city, state and country do likewise.

Background

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

I see the foremost duty as the representation of the best interests of the people and businesses of my District. This includes working to protect them from overreaching attempts at micromanaging their lives and businesses by government bodies and trying to keep taxes and utilities down as much as possible.

High taxes are counterproductive; there are many cases where taxes were lowered and the actual overall tax revenues increased.

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

During the years when I lived in Canada, I managed a restaurant in Hamilton, Ontario.

I have been a member of the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame since 2005.

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

I have obtained endorsements from:

Famous columnist, Dave Barry

Editor of the libertarian Rational Review News Daily, Thomas Knapp

I'm seeking endorsements from Congressman Ron Paul and former Senator Mike Gravel

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?

I find it difficult to choose merely one. Here are my choices:

1. Support Senator James Inhofe's request for \$50M for the Arkansas River corridor.
2. Support comprehensive immigration reform.
3. Support legislation that helps disproportionate share hospitals provide programs to the low income and uninsured.

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, since this is part of the job.

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.

Make sure that local laws, ordinances, codes and guidelines are not repressive to business, except in those cases where it's absolutely necessary to protect health, safety and the rights of residents. Cut red tape and meddling and let the free market thrive.

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?

This is a very difficult area, since the various sides of these natural conflicts of interest tend to stubbornly stick to their own side. I would hope to act as a mediator, seeking reasonable demands and cooperation.

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?

Somebody has to pay for these efforts and that usually devolves to the taxpayers. These are hard times and we need to try to protect our people from excessive taxation. There have been some significant cases where lowering taxes has resulted in higher tax revenues. At a time when citizens are forced to tighten their belts, the city needs to do the same.

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

The free market benefits everybody. If the market is excessively regulated, taxed, limited and meddled with, it's not free. If the city will allow its business people and entrepreneurs to create and deal, their success will benefit the city and its people. Nothing succeeds like success.

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?

The more the city government has tried to "develop" the downtown, the worse it has become. I firmly believe that if had been allowed to develop naturally, without all the wild ideas for "development," it would still be an exciting, successful part of the city. I would like to see the city government stop meddling with the downtown area, re-synchronize the traffic lights and stop killing the area with excessive revenue generation based on parking tickets, fees and fines. The first fatal blow was the loss of the Ritz, Orpheum, Majestic and Rialto Theaters; the second was the ill-advised "Downtown Mall." It has gone downhill from there. The time to stop "fixing" a thing, even when it's broken, is when every attempt to fix it breaks it worse.

RIVER DEVELOPMENT

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

The River is obviously more than just a geographical feature to Tulsa, but I would like any development to concentrate on usefulness to Tulsa's people and not cosmetic projects to advance the area as a source of postcard pictures. A good example of the kind of project I like is Tom Dittus's group and the new restaurant and club planned for the area of the former River's Edge facility. I think we should encourage commercial and private development rather than adding to the tax burden. We should seek federal funding to clean up the river environment to support the health of our citizens.

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?

The more we throw federal funding at our schools the more we get miseducated, dumbed-down kids. This is explained in John Taylor Gatto's excellent book, "The Underground History of American Education." The idea that children must be dumbed-down to fit into the workforce is an evil idea, but it has been a significant influence since the late mid-nineteenth century. Using our children as guinea-pigs in ridiculous experiments has had dire results. We need to return to the ancient, effective methods of teaching. These experiments in "new" methods of teaching the essentials have given us generations who are virtually illiterate, innumerate and unable to reason and think clearly. Modern kids can use computers, cell phones and the internet, but they can't spell or use proper grammar, so they are illogical and have no grasp of history. Education is showing a person how to learn; indoctrination is telling a person what to think. No wonder the best and brightest must be drugged so they won't act up or walk out.

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

I'm running for City Council, not the School Board, so I expect my influence will be limited. I still am dedicated to do all I can to return the schools to tried, proven methods of education and not the latest fads and bells and whistles designed to withdraw maximum funds from local taxpayers.

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?

I am dissatisfied with the usual local street conditions and the fact that repairs in Tulsa don't seem to last very long. I lived for a while in Ontario, Canada, where the temperatures during winter were far below zero, placing maximum stress on road surfaces and the streets were far superior to ours and the repairs lasted much longer and were accomplished far more quickly. Perhaps we need to study the methods other cities use for dealing with these problems and emulate these methods.

CITY BUDGET AND FINANCE

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

1. Lower taxes
2. Lower taxes
3. Lower taxes
4. Lower taxes
5. Lower taxes

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?

This City needs to tighten its belt and learn to live within its budget without tax increases. The citizens and businesses of Tulsa are already overtaxed. Often other cities have lowered taxes and seen an increase in actual tax revenues.

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

Security at civic events
Bus Service
Transportation and Maintenance
Information Technology

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?

Either the Mayor or the Council should make proposals.

The Council should then discuss and tune the proposals.

The Mayor should then either approve or disapprove these proposals.

Both entities should encourage citizen comments and suggestions during the entire process.

How do you propose to create a positive working relationship?

Maintain transparency, allowing for informed citizen oversight.

Protect whistle-blowers from retaliation.

Discourage hidden agendas, influence from hidden backers and bias.

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

We can't just keep on changing the rules and forms of government, since we invariably end up with the same problems. That's like continuing to buy new uniforms and repainting the bleachers to try to get a winning team.

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 comment above.

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

Adjust pay scales to levels of comparable municipalities. This was attempted recently, but the increase was too much and was rejected. Any increase should be reasonable, taking into consideration that we are living in difficult times.

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

Encourage the creation of a television facility or mobile broadcast unit to produce a monthly PBS program based on our magnificent local musical and artistic talent, similar to "Nashville Skyline" and "Austin City Limits." This will encourage and exploit this excellent resource and promote tourism. Bringing outside talent to our venues takes money from Tulsa and sends it out of the area, while competing with local talent for limited resources. By promoting local artists and bands in monthly TV broadcasts, we can turn that flow at least partly in the other direction.

Encourage the creation of a new amusement park, possibly near the River. Many Tulsa citizens still resent the cavalier way Bell's was shut down and the blatant favoritism shown toward the water park at that time. Perhaps Bell former management could be made part of this process.

Study ways to remove the sales tax from essential drugs and food to make life easier during these hard times.

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

All Government is based on force or the threat of force. The more government we have, the less liberty we enjoy. The less liberty we have, the less success we enjoy. Freedom just naturally produces success; that's what made America great. As the federal government tightens its coils around us, the nation begins to fail. We are fortunate in these hard times that our local banks tend to be more conservative than those in most other areas, so we are not yet hurting as much as they are. We must not become complacent about this, but take what steps we can to protect and preserve our freedom as things naturally get worse.

City governments, like any government bodies, tend to continually accrue power and to use it to create ever more rules, ordinances, laws and codes, until citizens and businesses become snarled in red tape and paperwork. This tendency to micromanage must be vigorously resisted, especially at a time when the entire country is gasping for relief from these bad policies.

Socialism is the natural result of the abuse of power, since every form of it depends on the use of force. Groups are made up of individuals. If the group agenda is judged to be more important than individual rights, then the group will be made up of frustrated, disempowered people, yearning to be free. The best way to protect the quality of the group is to protect the rights of the individuals who make up the group.

I don't know everything about governing a big city like Tulsa. There may be areas where my knowledge is severely lacking, but I'm educable. The statement above outlines my core beliefs and values; those will not change. I propose that these will stand me in good stead to represent my constituency without bias or any personal agenda.

I'll be turning 72 on July 26th. I'm asking you to give me a shot at this while my mental and physical health is still good.

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