

CRAMERDING

Candidate for City Council – Responses

The Chamber reserves the right to publish responses to this questionnaire across various channels in the process of informing our members and the public about the election.

- 1. What motivated you to run for council/re-election, what parts of your professional and personal experience qualifies you to serve, and what measurable outcomes should voters hold you accountable for if you are elected?** I was and am very concerned about the city's budget and long-term financial soundness. I, along with others, called for a Smale-like Commission, which became the Cincinnati Futures Commission (CRC). It is my goal to see as many of these measures passed or on a path to success before my tenure on council ends.
- 2. Last year the Cincinnati Futures Commission released its report containing recommendations that chart a fiscally sustainable path forward for the City and develop a community-informed economic agenda for the future.**
 - a. How would you accelerate the implementation of the Futures Commission, and which specific recommendations do you believe are the top priority for the City?** This has been my top priority and highest frustration. We need to collectively decide on a path forward on pension and water. We need to overhaul the city's economic development structure, including the Office of Strategic Growth, and fund it through the proposed 0.1% earnings tax.
 - b. Do you support the creation of the Office of Strategic Growth?** Yes.
 - c. Are there recommendations you believe the City should not pursue?** The idea of a trash tax has merit. It should be pursued but separately from Cincinnati Futures for political reasons.

I do not support selling municipal golf courses. The golf courses were purchased and improved by Ohio Natural resource grants. Any divestiture would require the city to obtain an equal amount of green space, so there would be little financial gain and could very well be a loss. Further, the golf courses are an enterprise fund so they do not require or use taxpayer dollars. Finally, the golf courses are run by a third-party vendor and are the city's most used recreational asset.
- 3. The City's budget is constrained, with major obligations to the pension, public safety, and infrastructure. Please describe your budget priorities, including where you believe the City can save money and where the City should grow its spending. What tradeoffs would you be willing to make to fund your key priorities?** The city needs to focus on core city services—police, fire, roads, trash, and parks/recreation and economic development. Anything else is not a priority.
- 4. Do you support an increase in the City's earning tax in the next Council term? If yes, how much would you increase it and what would you utilize the revenue for?** Yes, I support the earnings tax increases outlined in the Futures report.

5. **The City has a number of external partners like REDI Cincinnati, The Port, CincyTech, Cintrifuse, 3CDC and others that help it achieve its growth goals.**
 - a. **Do you support continuing to provide funding to these organizations?** Yes, and as budget and finance chair I successfully advocated for them in the last budget.
 - b. **Do you support continuing to fund the Affordable Housing Leverage Fund with the City's waterfall?** Yes.
 - c. **What actions would you take to support job growth and site development?** I have worked very hard with partners, including the Cincinnati Development Fund, to build and fund a better structure to catalyze and fund housing and economic development..
6. **Do you believe Cincinnati needs to grow? If so, what do you believe is Cincinnati's greatest opportunity for growth and what tools should City Council provide to make it successful?** Yes. Absolutely. The Cincinnati Futures Commission provided an outline and roadmap for growth. It should be implemented.
7. **Connected Communities was passed to increase housing supply through zoning reform. Do you support this policy? What additional zoning or land use changes, if any, would you support to add new housing in Cincinnati?** Yes. I support this policy. It is a tool for growth. For it to be successful, we need to pair financial resources with zoning reform to build housing and economic development. I am working on a "bridge" program to catalyze development in the short term. In the long term, we need to enact the reform and changes proposed by the CFC.
8. **In 2021 the Chamber released *Embracing Growth*, which laid out a number of policy recommendations. Since then, Council has considered a number of policies to increase housing supply.**
 - a. **What specific actions should Council take to expand housing of all kinds across the City?** See answer to #8.
 - b. **Would you restore the residential tax abatement program if presented with evidence that housing production has slowed?** Yes.
 - c. **What role do you believe that TIF districts should play in advancing the City's growth agenda? How do you think TIF funds should be utilized? What role should City Council play in prioritizing their use?** TIF are an important tool. They need to focus solely on economic development and housing.
 - d. **How would you improve the city's permitting and development process?** We need an office of strategic growth. To the extent possible, we need to outsource these functions or work with partners so developers are not working directly with city hall.
9. **A number of development projects and policies in the last Council term have sparked debate over density, affordability, and neighborhood character. What**

responsibility does City Council have to advance pro-growth housing policy when individuals, advocates, or neighborhood organizations oppose specific projects, and how should Council weigh the importance of population growth and citywide housing needs against localized opposition? The city needs to standardize and formalize its community engagement process to ensure that it is comprehensive but not hinder growth and development.

- 10. The Chamber believes economic incentives have been essential to Cincinnati's growth. What role do incentives play in Cincinnati's future growth, and which types of projects do you think most warrant increased incentives? Those that create the most housing units and most jobs.**
- 11. Cincinnati's economy depends on attracting and retaining talent. What role should City Council play in ensuring we grow a skilled workforce and remain attractive to young professionals and families? We need to focus on basic city services. This is the foundation for attracting all people. I do believe that combining the city's Parks Department and Recreation Department is necessary. As currently housed, there is a gap and no one is focusing on bike trails, outdoor activities, and other programming that attracts young people.**
- 12. Violent crime, quality of life issues, and residents' perception of safety are all pressing concerns in Cincinnati. What short- and long-term strategies or policies would you champion to improve actual safety and strengthen the community's sense of security, especially in the urban core? How would you measure success in both areas? Visibility is critical to reducing both crime and the perception of crime. This starts with the police and ensuring that we have adequate police officers and that appropriate numbers are visible in the form of walking, bike, and other patrols. The 3CDC ambassadors are also a successful program. I have successfully advocated for more funding for both.**
- 13. What is one concrete way you would engage business leaders to improve public safety outcomes, and how would you ensure accountability? I have a strong relationship with business leaders. I was in a consistent community with them through the events of the past few months.**
- 14. Cincinnati's small businesses are the lifeblood of neighborhood business districts. How would you support long time and new small business entrepreneurs? Housing and population. Businesses need people to support and patronize their businesses. In many neighborhoods, we do not have the population and/or the income levels necessary for businesses to thrive.**
- 15. What is one existing barrier to growing small, minority, or women-owned businesses in Cincinnati, and what is the City's role in removing that barrier? Our current permitting and development process is overly difficult, meaning that smaller organizations will have a harder time navigating it than larger firms with experience and connections. If we streamline the process, it will help put these other businesses on a more level playing field.**

- 16. The City funds arts, cultural institutions, and major events in different ways. Which types of cultural or tourism investments do you believe should be prioritized, and how would you pay for them?** I believe that events that will help grow the city should be prioritized. If it will attract outside investment and spending and improve the city, we should incentivize it.
- 17. Solving major policy challenges, delivering efficient public services, and funding critical infrastructure projects requires the City to work with county, regional, state and federal leaders, some of whom are from different political parties. How will you engage these leaders to support the City's needs?** The city's job is to provide basic city services—police, fire, trash removal, infrastructure, and parks & recreation. These should not be partisan issues. I will work with leaders at every level, regardless of party. Cincinnati's priorities like infrastructure, public safety, and economic growth benefit the entire region, so I'll work with all who share those goals.