

# COPP Forum

## Scottsdale City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Instructions: Please fill out the information requested and return it by July 1, 2008. Your unedited responses will be compiled with those of other candidates. Please keep your answers brief. However, if you need more space the response box will expand to accommodate you. If needed, please continue on an additional page.

No.	Question	Response
1.	<b>Demographics</b>	
1a.	Name	Ron McCullagh
1b.	Address	7513 East Arlington Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85250
1c.	Phone	480-990-9200
1d.	Years in Scottsdale	16
1e.	When did you register to vote in Scottsdale? Have you failed to vote in any Scottsdale or General Election in the past 5 years?	1992 – I have voted in every election.
1f.	Elected or Appointed Positions	Scottsdale City Councilman; Vice Chairman, District 8 Republican Committee; Republican Precinct Committeeman; Republican State Committeeman. (Please note that Scottsdale City Council is a non-partisan position.)
1g.	Civic Activities	While a resident of Scottsdale: Valley Citizens League Past President and Board; Scottsdale Rotary Club Board; Scottsdale Leadership Advisory Board; Scottsdale Sister Cities Board; Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce Policy Committee; Arizona Tax Research Association Member; Arizona Town Hall Member.
1h.	Education (include graduation dates)	B.S. and M.S. Degrees in Business – University of North Dakota  Ph.D. Degree in Business Administration – University of Florida
1j.	Occupation	Retired from financial services industry and former university professor.
1k.	Other personal information that you would like to share?	Married 43 years to Mary Beth, 2 children and 8 grandchildren.
2.	<b>Campaign Information</b>	
2a.	Address	Same as above.
2b.	Phone	Same as above.
2c.	Fax	None
2d.	Web-site address	www.VoteMcCullagh.com
2e.	E-Mail address	Ronmccullagh@aol.com
2f.	Chair	Ron McCullagh
2g.	Major sources of funds:	Self and personal contributions.

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2h.	Endorsements	To date: Scottsdale Area Chamber of Commerce;
3.	Why are you a candidate for City Council?	Opportunity to translate interest in public policy into public service.
4.	Identify the major issues facing the Council.	Revitalization of south Scottsdale; Completion of McDowell Sonoran Preserve; and Implementation of Scottsdale Transportation Master Plan.
5.	If elected, what would you like to accomplish?	It takes 4 Council votes to accomplish anything. Here are some issues I would like to see the Council support: 3 issues in Item # 4; Desert Discovery Center; Arizona American Water acquisition; WestWorld; Noise ordinance; Museum of the West; Anti-subsidy legislation.
6.	Are there matters that may come before the City Council in which you would have a Conflict of Interest?  What type of issues would these be?	Not that I am aware of.
7.	Are there any citizen/city processes that need to be changed?  Describe.	It would be helpful if the DRB process were to precede the zoning process, because the Planning Commission would have a better idea of what applicants had in mind, before granting entitlements. As a practical matter, the potential cost to applicants to complete that level of detail, only to have zoning declined is probably too burdensome.
8.	<b>What is/was your position on the following issues and what did/would you do to support your position?</b>	
8a.	Growth and rezonings that increase density.	Growth cannot be stopped, so it must be managed.

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8b.	<p>With increasingly taller buildings planned in communities to our east, south and west, Scottsdale is being pressured to follow suit. Do you feel it is appropriate to modify Scottsdale's building height restrictions in favor of taller buildings? If so, why do you believe that would be proper, and in what parts of the city and to what height limits should modifications be proposed. Comment specifically on downtown and the Airpark.</p>	<p>Zoning is intended to protect investments and quality of life, and support the business community in Scottsdale. Height and density can be tools of destruction or revitalization. Preservation of specific districts and neighborhoods is critical to preservation of the City's character. I will be cautious in supporting any changes to the current zoning. Any relaxation of current zoning would need to be supported by a distinct advantage to the residents of this city.</p>
8c.	<p>Code Enforcement: Is it a problem and, if so, how would you solve it.</p>	<p>The City's Code Enforcement Department staff has been doubled in the past 2 years. Its effectiveness is steadily increasing with the additional staff and the public's awareness of the City's increased commitment to enforcement.</p>
8d.	<p>There has been much debate over whether Westworld should remain primarily an equestrian-event oriented facility or should become more of a regional exhibition center. What type of event facility do you believe Westworld should be and how does the 80 acres the city purchased north of Bell Road factor into that? Should the city keep or sell the 80 acres?</p>	<p>There is no clear public sentiment as to what WestWorld should become. I will await clarification of that sentiment.</p> <p>The 80 acres was purchased to insure that the City would have adequate parking for whatever WestWorld is to become, in the event that the City was unable to acquire the adjacent 70 acres for parking. The City was subsequently able to acquire that adjacent 70 acres. While I understand and am sympathetic to the City's change of mind and/or objectives in regard to the use of the 80 acres, I think there is enough parking to accommodate WestWorld without the 80 acres. In fact, if WestWorld cannot park the event on the 70 acres, that may be evidence that the proposed event is too large for WestWorld and the surrounding neighborhood.</p> <p>However, a portion of the 80 acres, in a public-private partnership, is a potential solution for steadily diminishing parking available for the FBR open.</p>

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8f.	Do you support using taxpayer funds in any amount to subsidize private sector investments? If so, please describe. If not, do you believe the city should be barred by a city ordinance from using taxpayer funds to subsidize private sector investments? If so, please describe.	Since local cities have shown no will to refrain from the use of incentives to attract or retain businesses, I have lobbied the legislature to enact laws which make the practice illegal. In the meantime, Scottsdale must compete in a business environment that utilizes incentives. I will not “handcuff” the City in its attempt to attract or retain the businesses that provide employment and a tax base. However, as they always have, incentives must continue to produce revenues that exceed their cost to the City.
8g.	Do you believe it is in the city’s best interest to enter into a long-term agreement the Barrett-Jackson Auto Auction? Why do you think that despite many years of attempting to come to a long-term agreement the city and Barrett-Jackson have not been able to do so?	Scottsdale currently has a 5-year deal with B-J. Neither the City nor B-J has had a clear vision of how WW should be developed. The City has provided every item that B-J has requested, except for a very expensive, loosely defined multi-purpose exhibition hall. In the meantime, B-J has continued negotiations with competing venues and his competitors are growing into formidable auto shows. Many industry analysts believe that, in the long-term, it may be more advantageous for the City to develop a multi-event “motor week” than a “B-J week”, thereby broadening its appeal and reducing its dependence on one entity.
8h.	Condemnation: Include in your response your willingness to utilize condemnation, if necessary, to acquire land for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, or other public good.	Most of the land, which is necessary to complete the Preserve, is State land. State Land Reform will play a much larger role in its acquisition than will condemnation. That is why I have been collecting signatures for the State Land Reform voter initiative, for the past month. While I support the use of condemnation in the acquisition of property for public use, I doubt if it will have much effect on completion of the Preserve.
8i.	Preservation: Are you committed to acquiring all the land within the voter approved Preserve Boundary? Do you support the proposed Desert Discovery Center at the Gateway to the Preserve, Thompson Peak Parkway north of Bell Road? Why or why not? How do you think its capital costs should be financed? Its operational costs? Do you think it is an appropriate location for a large, open-air arts venue? Why or why not?	<p>I am committed to acquiring all the land within the Preserve boundary.</p> <p>I support the proposed DDC.</p> <p>I think the public contemplated uses such as the DDC when it approved the second Preserve Tax.</p> <p>I would support an open-air arts venue at the DDC. But “large” conjures up visions of noise, lights, “tree people” out in the Preserve, and more intensive or frequent use to justify a large facility expense. Those influences are inconsistent with what I think anyone had in mind when the Preserve was planned. The “larger” the venue becomes, the less appropriate it becomes for the DDC.</p> <p>There may be more appropriate locations for a “large” open-air facility.</p>

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8j.	Traffic: Do you believe the Transportation Master Plan solved any of the city's transportation issues? If so, what part of the TMP do you support? What part do you not support?	I have said the Plan was long on analysis and short on recommendations. But, the Plan was a necessary step in the solution to Scottsdale's traffic issues. The Transportation Commission is prioritizing its recommendations, based on the Plan. Staff is estimating costs associated with the priorities. Council will set the Plan in motion this fall.
8k.	Do you favor light rail or other form of high capacity transit for Scottsdale? If so, what kind and where? Will you support the City Council's resolution that prior to adoption of a plan for light rail transit anywhere in Scottsdale it shall be put to a non-binding public vote to allow Scottsdale voters to voice their opinion? Do you support the expenditure of \$50,000 annually to join the Valley Metro Rail Study Group?	<p>The Transportation Master Plan consultant concluded that there is insufficient public interest or population density to support light rail in Scottsdale. I agree.</p> <p>I support referring a light rail decision to the voters. But it would be for a "binding" vote. Elections are too expensive and time consuming for "non-binding" votes.</p> <p>I support the \$50k annual expense of participating in the Valley Metro study group. Scottsdale will either be "planned in" or "planned out" of the Valley's transportation plans. In the long term, connectivity with the Valley cities is critical to our own prosperity. I much prefer to be part of the planning process. If Scottsdale is dissatisfied with the outcome, it can opt out of the group at any time. And, participation in the planning group does NOT obligate the City to anything.</p>
8l.	Much has been written and stated recently about a morale problem among city employees. Do you believe a morale problem exists, and if so, how can it be remedied?	I do not believe a morale problem exists. Scottsdale has the highest paid employees and most employees per capita of any City in the Valley. They work in the best facilities in the Valley. The turnover rate is very low. The employees communicate with their counterparts around the Valley, and are aware of what they have. And, we are lucky to have the best staff of any city in the Valley.
9.	<b>Services – Identify City functions that need to be:</b>	
9a.	Created	
9b.	Improved	
9c.	Reduced	
8d.	Eliminated	
10.	<b>Identify City revenue sources that should be:</b>	
10a.	Created	
10b.	Increased	
10c.	Reduced	
10d.	Eliminated	Perhaps the sales tax on rents.

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11.	Is there anything in your background that you would not like publicized on the front page of local newspapers?	<input type="checkbox"/> No
12.	Would like to receive a copy of the compiled results?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Signature Ron McCullagh

6-30-08

Please type your name for your electronic signature.

Date