

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.	Demographics	
1a.	Name	Tom Giller
1b.	Address	6847 E. Lafayette Blvd.; Scottsdale, AZ; 85251
1c.	Phone	(480) 947-3654
1d.	Years in Scottsdale	26
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?	August 19, 1982; No
1f.	Elected or Appointed Positions	None
1g.	Civic Activities	Scottsdale Sister Cities, Scottsdale Chamber, Valley Big Brothers, Sojourner Center
1h.	Education (include graduation dates)	B.S. Business Administration-Real Estate (1981)- The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
1j.	Occupation	Property Manager
1k.	Other personal information that you would like to share?	
2.	Campaign Information	
2a.	Address	6847 E. Lafayette Blvd.; Scottsdale, AZ 85251
2b.	Phone	(480) 947-3654
2c.	Fax	(480) 949-7824
2d.	Web-site address	www.tomgiller.com
2e.	E-Mail address	Votegiller08@cox.net
2f.	Chair	Tom Giller
2g.	Major sources of funds:	Individual contributions only-non developer
2h.	Endorsements	Bob Littlefield-Scottsdale City Council, Tom Silverman-former Scottsdale City Councilman, David Schwiekert- former County Treasurer, state legislator and candidate for US Congress, Tony Nelssen-Scottsdale City Council, Roberta Pilcher-former Scottsdale City Council member, John Kavanagh-Arizona House of Representatives-District 8

Scottsdale City Council Candidate Questionnaire

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3.	Why are you a candidate for City Council?	Concern for maintaining the character of the community as well as for the process by which City Council decisions are made without regard to neighborhood input.
4.	Identify the major issues facing the Council.	Controlled growth, improved development standards, improve transportation solutions and make the planning and approval process more transparent and responsive to citizens
5.	If elected, what would you like to accomplish?	I would like to: 1) Create an environment wherein the citizens and neighborhoods felt they were on equal or better footing than the developers and had some control over what affected their quality of life; 2) Improve code enforcement, maintain aging infrastructure and therefore enhance the quality of older neighborhoods; 3) Promote environmental and ecological progress including completion of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.
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?	Although I do not foresee any conflicts of interest, however my long time involvement in downtown may give rise to an occasion when I may recuse myself from voting. It is not just having a conflict of interest but having the appearance of having a conflict of interest which is problematic and I am committed to avoiding that appearance under any and all circumstances.
7.	Are there any citizen/city processes that need to be changed? Describe.	The citizen input is often distorted by development influences yielding a product which is not reflective of the desires of our community. This process must more fully represent neighborhood goals and concerns rather than those of the next development project and select special interests.
8.	What is/was your position on the following issues and what did/would you do to support your position?	
8a.	Growth and rezonings that increase density.	I oppose rezoning which would increase height and density unless the proposed rezoning is strongly supported by the neighborhoods which would be impacted.

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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>I believe that the resort character which has served our community well should be maintained and that this is and should be a lower density than those of our neighboring communities. I don not support increasing building heights in downtown or the airpark with the possible exception of changing our standards to accommodate LEEDS compliance (i.e. - 24 feet to 28 feet, 36 feet to 42 feet). I believe that there are particular traffic constraints in downtown and the airpark which would be further exacerbated by increased height.</p> <p>I think that the border with Tempe and Phoenix (at Papago Park) would possibly merit consideration provided there is a clear public benefit. Additionally, the actual hospitals (licensed acute care facilities) of Scottsdale Healthcare have operational considerations which make larger floor plates impractical for expansion and may merit special consideration if the need is clearly demonstrated.</p>
8c.	<p>Code Enforcement: Is it a problem and, if so, how would you solve it.</p>	<p>Code enforcement is a real problem. Currently there seems to be little regard for the new ordinance restricting political signs in public right-of-way. Additionally developers have been permitted to allow future development sites to deteriorate to the point such that it becomes a neighborhood eyesore and an inducement for the community to encourage city subsidies in order to spur project completion. I would require more and more strict compliance with current ordinance and support new ones to address these issues.</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>I believe that the facility should be mainly focused on equestrian events. Horses are a unique part of the heritage in Scottsdale and this should continue and be expanded to include professional rodeo. There is opportunity to host other events and exhibitions and the 80 acre parcel which the City purchased should be part of the expansion of those uses while providing expansion opportunities and flexibility of current programs and events.</p>

Scottsdale City Council Candidate Questionnaire

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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.	I do not support using taxpayer funds in any amount in order to subsidized private sector investments and would support an ordinance prohibiting this practice unless approved by the majority of citizens at a public vote or possibly a super majority council vote.
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?	I do not believe it is in the City's best interest to enter into a long-term agreement with Barrett-Jackson unless it is clearly beneficial to Scottsdale. While this is an important event, I believe it is as important to Barrett-Jackson as it is to Scottsdale and that Barrett-Jackson believes they will be able to negotiate a long term subsidy if they continue threatening to move the venue.
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.	For true public benefit such as acquisition of McDowell Sonoran Preserve land, libraries, fire stations and similar purposes the use of eminent domain can be a useful tool if done effectively. Thus far Scottsdale has shown no ability to use this tool with anything but inept and disastrous results. Condemnation should not be used for the benefit of private development interests.
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?	I am committed to completing and expanding the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and feel that the Desert Discovery Center can be a community enhancing facility. I do not think that the DDC should necessarily financed with taxpayer money at least to the extent that it takes resources from the actual Preserve. Further, I am concerned that the stewardship of this facility remain in control of the public and financed through contributions, admission and private sources. I do not feel that a large scale open-air arts venue is in keeping with the concept of a nature preserve; however, a unique educational and unobtrusive window to the Sonoran Desert's beauty and habitat would be a community benefit.

Scottsdale City Council Candidate Questionnaire

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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 yet to see any benefit to the TMP except perhaps to the consulting firms involved.
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?	I do not support light rail or the annual expenditure to join the Valley Metro Rail Study Group. Some high capacity transit solutions must be further studied but a fixed, prohibitively expensive plan such as light rail is not the solution for Scottsdale. I would only consider adoption of a major transportation program with approval by the public vote.
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?	In order to be a truly great City the quality of our employees and therefore their morale is very important. Based on turnover, I think it is clear that there is significant work that needs to be done to improve many aspects of Scottsdale City Government's personnel management.
9.	Services – Identify City functions that need to be:	
9a.	Created	None.
9b.	Improved	Planning and code enforcement.
9c.	Reduced	Subsidies.
8d.	Eliminated	None.
10.	Identify City revenue sources that should be:	
10a.	Created	None.
10b.	Increased	Revenue to acquire all the land within the voter approved Preserve Boundary.
10c.	Reduced	None.
10d.	Eliminated	Sales tax on food.

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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"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
12.	Would like to receive a copy of the compiled results?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Signature _____

Please type your name for your electronic signature.

Thomas W. Giller

Date July 1, 2008