

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	Mary Manross
1b.	Address	10415 N 81 st St Scottsdale, AZ 85258
1c.	Phone	480 948-9120
1d.	Years in Scottsdale	36
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?	1972 No.
1f.	Elected or Appointed Positions	Mayor 2 terms, Council 2 terms, parks commission 8 years, planning and zoning commission 4 years
1g.	Civic Activities	Church activities, city activities
1h.	Education (include graduation dates)	B.S. Political Science 1969 Secondary Education Teaching Credential 1970
1j.	Occupation	Mayor
1k.	Other personal information that you would like to share?	Married 41 years 4 children, 2 grandchildren
2.	Campaign Information	
2a.	Address	10415 N 81 st St, Scottsdale, AZ 85258
2b.	Phone	480 948-9120
2c.	Fax	
2d.	Web-site address	www.marymanross.com
2e.	E-Mail address	Mary.manross@cox.net
2f.	Chair	Husband, Larry Manross
2g.	Major sources of funds:	Widespread contributions.(200 on most recent filing)
2h.	Endorsements	Bob Parsons, Brad Casper, Dr. Art DeCabooter, Jamie Drinkwater Buchanan, Jim Bruner, Virginia Korte, Ellen Andres-Schneider, Carla, Dan Schweiker, Scottsdale Area Chamber

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3.	Why are you a candidate for City Council?	<p>My reasons for running for a third term are very clear. Our city has turned around over the past 8 years. Our Preservation efforts have continued to move forward. We have become a national leader in Green Building and Energy Efficiency. We have a record \$3.3 billion in new investments in downtown and southern Scottsdale. We have maintained a AAA bond rating for six consecutive years. Our crime rate is at a 23 year low. We have created over 20,000 new jobs. And we have lowered Scottsdale's portion of the property tax rate by 50%, from \$1.57 to \$.79 which is less than half the rate currently levied by neighboring Phoenix.</p> <p>I have a proven track record of success, of bringing positive changes to Scottsdale. I have a proven track record of a strong and unwavering commitment to Preservation, Revitalization, Financial Strength, and Quality of Life. I am running to ensure that the community's vision in each of these areas is fulfilled.</p>
4.	Identify the major issues facing the Council.	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Preservation</p> <p>Economic Vitality</p> <p>Revitalization</p>
5.	If elected, what would you like to accomplish?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued success in our Preserve efforts. 2. Revitalization in Southern Scottsdale. 3. Continued downtown private investment. 4. Continued leadership in sustainability. 5. Continued development of SkySong as a global portal for innovation and research.
6.	<p>Are there matters that may come before the City Council in which you would have a Conflict of Interest?</p> <p>What type of issues would these be?</p>	No
7.	<p>Are there any citizen/city processes that need to be changed?</p> <p>Describe.</p>	Continued improvement and refinement of the communication process with the community and continued improvement of the public participation process.
8.	What is/was your position on the following issues and what did/would you do to support your position?	

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8a.	Growth and rezonings that increase density.	I do not support such proposals unless they can clearly demonstrate that they bring added value to our community and are consistent with our General Plan in all respects. Bigger is not necessarily better! I will continue to carefully scrutinize and weigh all requests to see if they protect our neighborhoods (residential and commercial) and add real value.
8b.	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.	I do not want to emulate Phoenix, Chicago or Tempe. Scottsdale is known and respected for its uniqueness. We have successfully created an Historic Preservation Program to preserve the character of our diverse downtown districts. (The hotels and residential developments were built under the 1985 downtown plan). The community has been considering and evaluating these questions pertaining to the downtown and the Airpark. There may be a few locations where some height may be justified in order to be able to revitalize or rebuild, i.e. the hospital. I do not support a high profile built environment as our neighbors have pursued.
8c.	Code Enforcement: Is it a problem and, if so, how would you solve it.	As a sign of our commitment, the Code Enforcement department and operations have been significantly expanded and improved over the last several years. It is a challenge with 185 sq. miles. Overall the department does an effective job. More inspectors would allow a quicker response. The Becker Property is a unique challenge. He never has brought a plan before the City Council and yet he expresses misplaced anger at the Council. Although we continue to be in court and prevail, he continues to add blight to his property. It is a serious concern for the community.

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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>In fiscal year 2007-2008 Westworld hosted 69 equestrian events and 43 special events. Multiple and diverse events occur at the same time. (151 days hosted 2 or more events)</p> <p>Westworld is a thriving facility that we continue to upgrade every year. We should continue with both equestrian and special events. Westworld is a critical component of our tourism offerings.</p> <p>The outgrowth of the discussions I have held with Craig Jackson, Rachel Sacco of CVB and John Holdsworth of the TDC have resulted in the forming of "Destination Scottsdale", a process that will be managed by the Tourism and Development Commission. All key stakeholders will participate in the process of determining what venues and events will be needed to keep us at the top. Westworld, of course, will be a part of that effort. .</p> <p>While some may be anxious to sell the 80 acres, I suggest caution. First we need to seriously evaluate the needs of our economy, our budget needs, and our signature events to ensure that these events are maintained and are able to thrive in our community.</p>
8f.	<p>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.</p>	<p>Scottsdale has judiciously and successfully utilized performance based incentives a few times over the last two decades. Nordstrom's (public parking) and Canal Bank improvements and public parking were effective, successful projects which bring significant revenue to allow us to maintain a high level of services and create our Preserve.</p> <p>I do not support such an ordinance. Scottsdale has had a balanced and successful economic development strategy. It has served our community well. Flexibility and creativity must be maintained in order to continue to be successful in the future.</p> <p>The government should create an environment to allow and encourage businesses to thrive. I have strongly supported businesses in Scottsdale. That includes the creation of SkySong, and downtown and southern Scottsdale revitalization. We have used only very conservative and well targeted incentives which have been extremely successful and financially rewarding for our community.</p>

No.	Question	Response
8g.	<p>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?</p>	<p>Barrett Jackson has a business model which operates well with short term contracts. That is their choice. This is the model they have supported as their dynamic business has continually changed and expanded. They are very cautious, and rightfully so, with the changing dynamics within their industry, aging boomers, etc...They are not a static entity, but rather a very dynamic enterprise and the short term model has worked for them. Currently we have a contract to 2013.</p> <p>The outgrowth of the discussions I have held with Craig Jackson, Rachel Sacco of CVB and John Holdsworth of the TDC have resulted in the forming of "Destination Scottsdale", a process that will be managed by the Tourism and Development Commission. All key stakeholders will participate in the process of determining what venues and events will be needed to keep us at the top. Westworld and Barrett Jackson, of course, will be a part of that effort. I am very pleased with this approach and confident that Scottsdale will continue to be the long-term home of Barrett Jackson.</p>
8h.	<p>Condemnation: Include in your response your willingness to utilize condemnation, if necessary, to acquire land for the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, or other public good.</p>	<p>I believe it is appropriate to use condemnation for the public good when justified. However, it must be used very judiciously. The Preserve certainly qualifies.</p>
8i.	<p>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>	<p>Committed to acquiring all the land within the voter approved Preserve Boundary? Yes</p> <p>Do you support the proposed Desert Discovery Center at the Gateway to the Preserve,? Yes. And I am very pleased that we were successful in obtaining the land designated for the Gateway. Had we been less committed to the Preserve it would have been very easy to walk away from this parcel and say it was too expensive. However, the preservation community showed solid support for the Council's move to condemn the property.</p> <p>Recently we had our groundbreaking at the Gateway which was a wonderful celebration.</p> <p>The Desert Discovery Center should be financed in the most cost effective way. The goal is to secure significant private dollars. I would also consider future city participation through a bond election if necessary.</p>

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8j.	<p>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?</p>	<p>Explanation: The goal was to produce a document that would yield practical real-world results. And it did.</p> <p>The plan was the first complete, coordinated study of the city's transportation system since the 1980's. It was not based on the premise that we can pave and widen our way out of all congestion. Also, all areas of the community expressed opposition to condemning homes and businesses to widen roads. We have to be strategic about new roads, technology, trail systems, transit and trolley. We also have to be smart about how we use the streets and transportation system we already have, and also expand our intelligent Transportation system ITS.</p> <p>The city's plan identifies about \$1 billion in transportation projects that will be needed over the next 20 years. A significant amount of the funding will come from the current two-tenths of one percent city sales tax dedicated to transportation. But we will also need other sources for funding and will look for all opportunities to speed up regional, state or federal funding for projects which serve our city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement 21st Century Transportation Plan • Implement the newly approved Transportation Master Plan that is the first complete, coordinated study of the city's transportation system since the 1980's. • Along with continued implementation of currently planned capital projects, move ahead with Airport transportation solutions identified in the new Transportation Master plan. • Continue to make improvements at intersections, adding more turn lanes and new medians in strategic locations to greatly improve traffic flow as identified in the Master Plan. • Work to expand, improve, and increase ridership on Bus Rapid Transit. • Expand ITS , our Intelligent Transportation System which can speed trips by 8 to 25 percent and improve the carrying capacity of existing roads. • As I did with the HOV Lanes on the 101, while serving as Vice Chair of MAG, aggressively pursue all opportunities to move up the timing of construction of additional general purpose lanes on the 101. • Continue to expand the Trolley system through neighborhoods, along the resort corridors, and to points of interest throughout the city. • Continue to work regionally • Build all modes of transportation identified in the comprehensive plan.

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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>Do you favor light rail? No</p> <p>I support bus, shuttle, trolley, and bus rapid transit for our major corridors.</p> <p>Do you support a public vote if a future plan for light rail were proposed? Yes. If a future council were to ever entertain a rail proposal, it should go to the voters.</p> <p>Do you support the expenditure of \$50,000 annually to join the Valley Metro Rail Study Group? Yes. Joining the study group does not obligate us to support light rail in our city. Nor do we have any liability for rail in other cities. It does, however, give us a seat at the table with our neighbors. It is imperative that we know what they are contemplating and planning so that we can potentially influence their decisions and make better decisions for Scottsdale. We must not allow Scottsdale to become isolated. We are part of a region and must remain connected to our neighbors..</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?	Every organization deals with individuals and problems. That is part of the human condition. The vast majority of employees are proud to work in Scottsdale and do a wonderful job. However, we can always do a better job of communicating and supporting our employees and we have been making strides in that direction. One of the most common complaints from employees is that certain council members are openly disrespectful of staff. That is a problem.
9.	Services – Identify City functions that need to be:	
9a.	Created	A Building EB LEED program
9b.	Improved	Better coordination of utility and private sector development in public rights of way.
9c.	Reduced	
8d.	Eliminated	
10.	Identify City revenue sources that should be:	
10a.	Created	
10b.	Increased	
10c.	Reduced	
10d.	Eliminated	
11.	Is there anything in your background that you would not like publicized on the front page of local newspapers?	No
12.	Would like to receive a copy of the compiled results?	Yes

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Signature Mary Manross

7-1-2008

Please type your name for your electronic signature.

Date