

Scottsdale Mayoral 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	John Washington
1b.	Address	3518 N Chambers Ct 85251
1c.	Phone	480.229.1831
1d.	Years in Scottsdale	15
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?	1995, I do not think I have missed a Scottsdale election since.
1f.	Elected or Appointed Positions	None.
1g.	Civic Activities	Past Chair, Coalition of Greater Scottsdale
1h.	Education (include graduation dates)	BS Aerospace Engineering, 1985. Commercial Pilot's License with Seaplane, Multi-Engine, and Instrument ratings, 1989. Graduate Studies, Biomechanics, 1997-98.
1j.	Occupation	Engineer
1k.	Other personal information that you would like to share?	Wife Keri is 4 th generation native of Scottsdale, daughter Meg is 5 th generation. We reside in the Downtown neighborhood of Peaceful Valley, as we have for about the last ten years.
2.	Campaign Information	
2a.	Address	3518 N Chambers Ct, Scottsdale, AZ 85251
2b.	Phone	480.229.1831
2c.	Fax	480.425.9818
2d.	Web-site address	www.ScottsdaleCitizen.com
2e.	E-Mail address	John@ReactionResearch.com
2f.	Chair	John Washington
2g.	Major sources of funds:	Self.
2h.	Endorsements	None.
3.	Why are you a candidate for Mayor?	I want to improve the tone of conversation between City leadership and the citizens, and to restore mutual trust and mutual respect.

Scottsdale City Council Candidate Questionnaire

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4.	Identify the major issues facing the Council.	Erosion of the aforementioned mutual trust and respect is at the root of most of the problems in the City. We have many challenges facing us, but we cannot even hope for success in addressing those challenges without being able to work together.
5.	If elected, what would you like to accomplish?	In addition to championing mutual trust and respect, I would like to initiate an ongoing dialog about civic character. We should ask ourselves what it is that makes our community unique and special, and what we need to do to nurture those qualities. If we successfully address these fundamentals, all the other challenges will be a lot easier to face.
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?	None of which I am aware.
7.	Are there any citizen/city processes that need to be changed? Describe.	The City could improve almost all aspects of citizen outreach to get more accurate input from the citizens. I would like to see the City's web-based efforts improved dramatically.
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.	Rezoning cases should only be approved only when traffic and congestion issues are fully addressed, and with direct input from adjoining neighborhoods.
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 personally believe buildings taller than current limits, along with the density they will bring, will further erode the civic character of Scottsdale and further exacerbate traffic and congestion. This is true both for the Airpark and for Downtown. Any modification of current limits should be presented to, and approved by the voters.

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8c.	Code Enforcement: Is it a problem and, if so, how would you solve it.	Code enforcement is an area where we can always do better. We need more inspectors, better training, and an improved process for engaging constructively with violators in order to be more effective.
8d.	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>We should do what we can to maximize utilization of, and income from Westworld, but we should also do so while being mindful of the equestrian users' needs.</p> <p>I believe the community has always seen Westworld as an equestrian facility first, followed by more general use as an event or exhibition center.</p> <p>If the City doesn't have a pressing need or use that will occupy the 80 acres, we need to either sell it or put it to use generating income in a manner that doesn't negatively impact the surrounding neighbors.</p> <p>Perhaps we can use it in a trade situation for Preserve needs, as long as we do so in a manner that respects neighbors of the parcel.</p>
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.	<p>I cannot think of a single situation in which it is appropriate to use taxpayer funds to subsidize the private sector. Further, I believe the city should not contribute non-monetary subsidies such as infrastructure improvements, or height and density concessions.</p> <p>Codifying such restrictions would go a long way toward leveling the playing field and eliminating confusion for everyone who wants to do business in Scottsdale.</p>
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?	<p>An agreement for a period of perhaps up to 5 years would be appropriate for any large user of public facilities. Events such as the Barrett-Jackson auction are best planned well into the future. However, I do not support unreasonable concessions or leases of ridiculous length. Sky Song is a case in point for both issues.</p> <p>I believe the leadership in the City has set a tone that they can be bullied into giving away the store. We need to make it clear to all that we are reasonable, but not gullible.</p>

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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.	Condemnation is obviously an important tool, but like with any tool we have to know how to use it, to use it when appropriate, and to use it carefully. It is not a panacea, and it will not make up for lack of sound fiscal policy or poor planning.
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>Completion of the Preserve is an important goal. Completing it in a fiscally responsible manner is even more important. I would very much like to see it completed and will work for that.</p> <p>I do support the DDC. We do not yet know enough about its final form and function to be able to say how we are going to build and/or fund it.</p> <p>I personally do not like the idea of a large venue. However, mine is not the opinion that matters most on that subject. The neighbors of the area, the users, and the stewards are the ones who will be most impacted by the DDC, whatever its final form.</p>
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?	Emphatically, NO. I think the TMP study was so bastardized that the results are virtually useless.

No.	Question	Response
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>I do not, and will not support light rail or any other fixed-route mass transit. I think we have a well-established bus and trolley system that works pretty well, but needs some tweaking to meet the needs of long distance commuters especially within and to/from North Scottsdale. I would like to see more express buses.</p> <p>I would like to see a BINDING vote on any light rail or similar system.</p> <p>I do NOT support Scottsdale's membership in Valley Metro Rail.</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 have not personally witnessed such a morale problem, but I'm aware of the press it has gotten. However, if the employees have been treated anything like the citizens, it wouldn't surprise me at all that they are demoralized. Firing the City Manager was a great first step. Hiring a good replacement is essential. We have a great City Clerk, and need quality, permanent leadership in all our Charter positions, including City Attorney.
9.	Services – Identify City functions that need to be:	
9a.	Created	None of which I am aware.
9b.	Improved	Planning and Zoning outreach should be improved, Planning Commission and DRB are seriously out of touch with the citizens, individual council members should have their own appointments to all boards and commissions, we should continue to bolster public safety through police hiring and funding.
9c.	Reduced	None of which I am aware.
9d.	Eliminated	None of which I am aware.
10.	Identify City revenue sources that should be:	
10a.	Created	None of which I am aware.
10b.	Increased	Tourism should be promoted and enhanced. This improves bed tax collections, enhances sales tax revenue, and brings money into our community from outside it.
10c.	Reduced	We should reduce reliance on development fees.
10d.	Eliminated	None of which I am aware.

COPP Forum
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No.	Question	Response
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

Signature _____

Please type your name for your electronic signature.

Date

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