

1. In recent years the issue of police and official misconduct has become a prominent concern among the citizenry. What have you done to hold officials accountable for their actions and what do you intend to do as an elected official to ensure the equitable treatment of all citizens?

First, we should recognize the many hometown heroes in the RPD and RFD that keep us safe and are there when we need them.

A few RPD officers, however, have abused their authority and acted in an unprofessional manner without any consequences from their leadership.

As the number of lawsuits against the RPD has escalated, and Rochester has had to pay for these lawsuits from the City's budget, services to citizens have been cut to make up for the shortfall. If Rochester's Administration retains Police Chief Sheppard, then Rochester must either increase its revenue or, more realistically, create a Citizen Review Board with power of investigation and power of subpoena to handle police misconduct.

2. The issue of education has become the cornerstone of the current mayoral campaign even though the mayor has little input on school operations. What are your thoughts on the issue of education and what do you believe is the role of mayor, city council and the school board in regards to education policy?

The current problems in the Rochester City School District are a direct result of Rochester's high unemployment and high poverty. This has created unstable home lives for our schoolchildren which impedes school performance.

The Mayor's job and City Council's job is to create an attractive, vibrant and safe city with recreational and employment opportunities for its citizens. The School Board's job is to appropriate school tax money and determine school policies and procedures.

The greatest role in educating youths comes from parents, themselves. Parents must teach the importance of education. They must help their children with homework, and insure their children can read, write and do arithmetic at their grade level.

3. Other municipalities are using eminent domain laws to claim foreclosed properties. Should Rochester use eminent domain as a tool in its arsenal to fight the foreclosure crisis?

Yes. I love the idea of Rochester using its resources to help financially stressed families stay in their homes. Currently Rochester is using millions of dollars (these same resources) to fund wealthy developers' projects which will pay no property taxes for 15 – 20 years. Instead, this money can be used to help families stay in their homes while they continue to pay property taxes. The idea of using eminent domain laws is certainly better than having displaced, homeless families, and vacant, foreclosed properties blighting our city.

4. Poverty is rampant in Rochester with the average household income at \$30,000. How can our school system educate children whose main concerns are food, clothing and shelter rather than reading, writing and arithmetic?

Creating jobs is the most important thing we can do to help children succeed in school. Children who live in homes with the stability and structure of employed parents tend to succeed in school. Also, our youth need jobs. Students need to experience the possibilities and the rewards that come with employment.

5. Rochester residents often speak of being over-taxed and others complain of the tax incentives given to large corporations. What is your answer to the issue of taxation? Are tax incentives useful in attracting new businesses to the area, do residents suffer when others are awarded these incentives and is the current taxation rate for residents fair?

Currently, commercial properties pay a higher tax rate than residential properties. Rochester is the only city in the state with two different tax rates. However, commercial properties are usually extremely under-assessed, whereas residences are assessed at full value. New commercial properties are often assessed at 1% (or less) of the cost to build the property. Our tax policies are a mess – and certainly not fair. Rochester needs fair assessments on all properties, and fair taxation on all properties. I am not a fan of PILOT (payment in lieu of tax) agreements – where no taxes are paid - for wealthy developers. Everyone must pay taxes in an equal and fair manor.

If all properties were taxed fairly we would have a budget surplus.

The current Administration continues to give away the tax dollars we pay to their wealthy developer campaign contributors. This administration also sells millions of dollars in assets to these same wealthy developers for \$1 or \$2. If elected, I will oppose these tactics and support equal taxation for all.

6. Rochester was home to many historical figures who helped to shape local and national issues. How do you see the legacy of this city and what are your thoughts on the historic preservation of areas of local, regional and national importance?

I was upset to see the historic building next to the Genesee Brewery torn down. I believe its façade should have been preserved.

Boston uses its history and its early settler cemeteries to promote tourism and remind visitors of its history. Rochester has early settler cemeteries completely neglected and in ruinous disrepair. Rochester has volumes written by Frederick Douglas and Susan B. Anthony memorabilia which should be promoted in their own museum. Rochester can do far more to capitalize on its past and its historical legacy to promote visitation and tourism. If done correctly, Rochester can capture a portion of the tourism headed west along Interstate 90 to Niagara Falls from the East.

7. Rochester is home to many institutions of higher learning yet many of these students do not remain in the area after graduation. Also, many local residents leave for college and never return to Rochester post graduation. What can you do to stop the "brain drain" currently going on in the area?

Rochester must have enough possibilities to appeal to those who *want* to stay. Currently Rochester has a number of small business incubators which are helping to retain some of our students' brilliance to begin a new legacy in Rochester's history.

The current administration, however, has often failed to retain these local businesses because of discriminatory policies aimed against them. If elected, I will continue to advocate for small local business owners and for the property investors in our city who pay taxes.

(As a side note, the largest employer in Rochester is the University of Rochester. Rochester's educational institutions employ college graduates and attract some of the brightest minds in our country. Rochester can do more to tap into this resource when seeking solutions to our problems.)

8. There are many cameras throughout the city designed to ticket drivers who run stop lights. These cameras and the law allowing them is currently being challenged in court. What is your opinion of these cameras and their effectiveness? Would you want to continue this program or have the use of these cameras discontinued?

Currently, lower income areas of the city have more cameras than higher income areas of the city. If we retain the use of these cameras, all areas of the city must be covered equally.

9. What qualifies a candidate for the office you are trying to attain? Why should anyone consider running for public office in the Greater Rochester Area?

Any resident who can read the legislation and vote to represent their constituents is qualified to run for office.

If residents want more say in the direction Rochester is heading, they should get involved in running for an office. If we do nothing, then those who have created the current crisis in our government will continue to make decisions which affect us.

10. There are many candidates running for office. Choose a candidate other than yourself and speak to their qualifications. What makes them worthy of the public's trust and what can they offer the community that other candidates cannot?

I am impressed by Alex White. His desire and intent is always to help others, never to do harm. He is not impressed by money or power, and therefore cannot be influenced by money or power. He is fair-minded and fiscally sensible.

He is the kind of person who does not usually get involved in politics, but should.