Tucson Metro Chamber

City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate: Steve Kozachik

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Ward: 6

Occupation: City Council Member

Education: M.Ed - Higher Ed Mgmt

What relevant experience, knowledge or perspective would you bring to the City Council that prepares you for this position?

Have served for 12 years as Ward 6 representative. Am very engaged on a variety of issues.

What is your vision for Tucson?

Be the best that we can be given the resources we have to work with.

What are your policy priorities and how do you see yourself partnering with the Chamber on these issues?

Please review the past 12 years of successful economic development in the downtown core to see how our partnerships have worked for the region. Current policy priorities include PFAS water issues, 5G cell towers, plastic reuse program, continued fiscal stability, full funding/staffing for public safety

In your opinion, what are the top three most important issues small businesses in Tucson face today?

post-pandemic survival (financial - rent/utility support), workforce retention and training, reluctance of the public to resume shopping habits from pre-COVID times.

What is the relationship between the business community and government and how can they work together to promote a business-friendly climate?

I think we have a 'business friendly' climate. At least in my office we do. We dedicate hours p/week intervening on behalf of small business operators, helping them through a cumbersome permitting process and looking for creative solutions when codes aren't in their favor. My office is in regular contact through DTP, FAMA and individual outreach from business partners we've established relationships with.

What is the City's role in economic development and business growth?

Our current Econ. Initiatives dept is the best it's been since I started doing council work. It's still too small in staffing, but I work regularly w/Barbra Coffee on both immediate opportunities, and longer range initiatives. We should facilitate. The private sector should be the driver of the growth though.

What role should local government play in ensuring an adequate workforce is available to meet employers' needs?

We partner w/groups such as Job Path, Pima CC, and JTED to assist in providing a strong local workforce. The city should not get involved with direct training. There are groups better suited for that work than we are.

What specific efforts do you propose the City can implement to reduce the current level of poverty and homelessness?

We can talk for an hour on this topic alone. The complexities are immense. In brief, I and my staff are involved with multiple agencies addressing this issue. Pima Council on Aging, Tucson Pima County Homeless Coalition, Pima One-Stop, TPD homeless unit, TPD mental health support team and Crisis Intervention Center. Our focus is getting people into the services they need. But with SMI and drug dependencies, it's a terribly difficult set of problems to address. Happy to discuss, but there is no single silver bullet b/c there is no single cause.

What unmet needs do you see in the area of infrastructure (roads, internet and transportation)?

"Water security and residential road repair are the two most immediate.

On the next page you list a bunch of Yes/No questions. The issues presented aren't that simple so you're going to see a lot of them left unanswered. We can talk about them if you'd like, but most of the topics you are presenting don't lend themselves to that simplistic of an answer"

Do you support a dedicated City tax for infrastructure?

No response given.

Do you support a dedicated City tax for education?

No

Do you support the City's participation in RTA Next?

No response given.

Do you support the expansion of the Central Business District and the use of the GPLET?

Yes

Would you support the City of Tucson becoming a designated Sanctuary City?

No

Would you vocalize support for the F-35 to be stationed in Tucson?

No

Do you support policies that shift infrastructure improvements to developers and the private sector?

No response given.