

Sampling of LB City Council Candidate forum questions asked for the 2016 Election

Laguna Beach Taxpayers Association – 7 September 2016

- 1) Do you approve of the City's use of consultants?
- 2) Will you vote for the 2% TOT increase, and if approved do you support using the revenues generated to float a non-voter-approved bond?
- 3) Do you support spending \$1million/yr to attract tourists to LB? Do you have a plan to manage an increase in tourists?
- 4) What actions as a CC member will to take to ensure that residents are your 1st priority?
- 5) The City's 10yr capital improvement plan identifies > \$98million in projects; another \$57million are listed...What are the top 3 projects needed? Do you believe a Community Arts Center is warranted?

Random Questions-

1. How do you propose to improve the homeless problem in LB?
2. How will you work to ensure greater transparency between the City Council and residents?
3. What's your plan to address LB/s ranking as the most dangerous city of its size for bicyclists and pedestrians? Do you support the “Complete Streets” protocol?
4. Do you agree or disagree that the continued growth of LB's employee base at >220 should be limited or reduced?
5. What's your vision for LB's future & is it congruent with the 2030 plan?
6. There's much discussion of adding parking; when the businesses are the primary beneficiary of accommodating more cars, why should the residents pay for a parking structure?
7. How should LB mitigate pension costs?

Audience Questions-

- 1) As an artist living here >50 years, how do you envision continuing our tradition as an artist colony and providing ongoing affordable housing?
- 2) We're a spark away from a major fire disaster. If you don't support Measure LL, then how do you get the tourists to help support the services needed for safety? (Matt Lawson).
- 3) LB hosts 38% (?) more visitors per year than Yosemite; and there, you can't bring a vehicle into the park. Could LB institute a similar vehicle ban?
- 4) What is the formal policy of LB City Employee housing-purchase assistance to help entice some to come work for us? Is there a set policy for who is eligible?

Laguna Beach Arts Alliance – 10 September 2016

- 1) What is the role of the City Council with regards to the arts?
- 2) Personally, how do the arts affect your life & what arts organizations are you a member of? (and of those are you a volunteer or supporter)?
- 3) The newly adopted XXXXplan calls for a “Community Arts Center” here in LB. Do you support the idea and if so, where should it be located and how would it be paid for?
- 4) Is it a realistic objective/goal to provide low-cost artist housing? There have been calls, but nothing has been built. Do you support building low-cost housing for artists?
- 5) Do you favor an increase or decrease or maintaining the number of parking spaces in the arts district? Do you favor building a 2nd level of parking at the ActV peripheral lot?
- 6) Getting around town – Does the City face any challenges in maintaining the free-trolley system?
- 7) Do you support extending the Arts District to the LCAD in the Specific Plan?
- 8) Do you think there's room for growth for arts education in LB?

- 9) The Playhouse and FoA have apposed a multi-level parking structure built behind the Playhouse. How do you feel about this idea?
- 10) So, what's the answer to our parking issues? If you had all the power and resources how would you solve the parking problems in Laguna?
- 11) Summer Events – What about the off-season? The cultural Plan calls for more events in the off-season. Do you support this idea and if so, what types of events?
- 12) A constant challenge for artists in LB is the cost of living here. Do you have any other ideas about how to help artists to ensure they can continue to live here?
- 13) What would you like to see in our public art in LB? How do you feel about our existing public art?
- 14) Issue of propriety of publicly funded & displayed art. Do you think we can/should support displaying nude art?

Canyon Alliance of Neighborhoods Defense Organization (CANDO) – 22 Sept 2016

- 1) The canyon has been proposed as the most likely site for affordable housing. Is there any way to address this need without increasing housing density?
- 2) In the Laguna Canyon planning study, the MIG recommended
 1. Density – no > 10 units
 2. Lot coverage no more than 40% of area
 3. Building height no more than 36'

Do you agree with these recommendations?

- 3) At the recent Planning Commission meeting, the LCAD president said that the max. Students at the school would be 625. Now, with the \$15.x million bond/loan, of which \$11 million is to purchase additional properties at Big Bend, they will expand to the largest student body size ever. What's going on? How should the CC manage them?
- 4) Policy 9- Would you support updating the maps between the Coastal Plan with the Canyon Plan?
- 5) If each property along X were built out to their maximum allowed capacity, the density in this area would be incredible and change the character of the neighborhood. What are your thoughts on this?
- 6) Should the City contribute to preserving the wildlife corridor at Big Bend and if so, how could the City contribute?
- 7) Currently, BID matching funds are be channelled to the arts because this attracts tourists to LB. But nature and trails also attract tourists. Would you support a new balance of use of the BID funds? Perhaps alternating uses on different years?
- 8) Question regarding “Canyon Walls”...

South Laguna Civic Association (SLCA) – 26 Sept 2016

- 1) What will be your top 3 priorities for the 1/4 of the population of LB who live in South Laguna?
- 2) What would you do to improve the level of service to the residents of South Laguna to mitigate the problems being caused by the increased popularity of our beaches and by parking being pushed from the downtown to South Laguna neighborhood streets?
- 3) What will you do to correct the economic imbalance between what the residents of South Laguna provide to the City government and the amount of resources allocated by the City government to provide services to the residents of South Laguna?
- 4) Two part question:
 1. What will you do to prevent wildfires in our local dry globally endangered Southern Maritime Chaparral?
 2. What will you do to ban smoking on all South Laguna beaches and parks?

- 5) How does the “Ocean Economy” relate to Laguna Beach?
- 6) What will you do to reduce ocean wastewater discharges in South Laguna by increasing recycled water and its beneficial reuse in all of Laguna Beach?
- 7) What is “Ocean swelling” and how does it affect Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs), recreation and marine mammal health in Laguna's coastal waters?
- 8) How will you reduce ocean wastewater discharges in South Laguna by increasing recycled water beneficial re-use in all of Laguna Beach?
- 9) Do you support community efforts to restore the Aliso Creek wetland estuary and “Bring the Lagoon Back to Laguna”?
- 10) Would you agree to the City's purchase of the garden as a city garden park, and if so what steps do you see taking as a council member to make this a reality?
- 11) What measures will you create to partner artists with residents seeking rental income? Are there rent subsidies available to support an “Adopt an Artist” program?
- 12) What role do historic buildings play in that unique character and what are some methods you see to accomplish saving them?
- 14) What is your position regarding drug rehab/recovery houses in residential neighborhoods?
- b) Is there any evidence that these actually do any good for the “Patients”?
- 15) What can the city do to minimize the impact of the South Coast Water District's 5-year tunnel project on the South Laguna neighborhoods?

21) Trolley questions:

1. Have the trolleys accomplished their original purpose?
2. Do the trolleys make parking in the downtown better at the expense of making South Laguna neighborhood parking problems worse?
3. What will you do to improve the situation for South Laguna residents?

23) Will you support updating and further implementing our City's Climate Protection Action Plan?

<23 questions in total, but because of the heat, the session was sped-up by jumping between questions>

Audience Questions:

- 1) Surpluses – why are we told we can't afford certain improvements when we have surpluses or the money has already been set aside but nothing has happened over years? (in reference to sidewalks).
- 2) LB legislated among the 1st plastic bag bans in CA. Now it is statewide but not enforced. There is a ballot proposition coming on 8Nov to overturn the ban. How do you feel about that?
- 3) So. Laguna sidewalk plan was approved in the 1980's. Why hasn't it moved forward and what would you do to make it happen?

Candidate Forum Sponsored by The Laguna Independent & LB Board of Realtors – 6 Oct 2016

- 1) What are your top priorities that you intend to pursue if you are elected and why?
- 2) Many residents cite strong sense of community – what's the biggest threat to this small town feel?
- 3) What's the progress on the Downtown Specific Plan & the performance of MIG in relation to that progress?
- 4) Cultural Arts Center – Multiple-use building was at the bottom of the priorities on the recent “residents' survey”. What are the obstacles for using FoA or Sawdust as an alternative Cultural Arts facility?
- 5) Your thoughts on the current Design review process and what is the experience of residents who have been through it?

- 6) Heritage Committee – Do you believe each property should have a known, declared, historical status and if so, how should it be managed?
- 7) The lease expires soon on the Hotel Laguna. What do you envision the role of this site to be for the future of the downtown, and should the City play a role in the negotiations for this future?
- 8) Do you foresee any effects of the Short Term Rental ban on hotel occupancy rates?
- 9) At least 35 businesses have left Laguna since the beginning of 2015. What ideas do you have to ensure the economic vitality of Laguna Beach?

Audience Questions:

- 1) To preserve our beaches, what policies do you support to assist in this goal? Is it an option to have police available to give tickets on the beach?
- 2) Question to Rollinger – Will you follow Village Laguna directives if you get on the council, even if their way goes counter to the rest of the council and/or residents?
- 3) Measure LL – Can you assure us that if it passes it will go towards infrastructure and not to fund ongoing expenses or pensions?