

Basic Candidate Information

Candidate Name _____ Today's Date _____	Political Party:
Campaign Contact Information:	Republican <input type="checkbox"/>
Campaign Manager _____	Democrat <input type="checkbox"/>
HQ Address _____	Independent <input type="checkbox"/>
City, State, Zip _____	Are you the incumbent?
HQ Phone _____	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Manager cell phone _____	How long have you resided in South Bend?
Campaign Email _____	_____
Manager Email _____	
Campaign Website _____	

Political Background: Beginning with the most recent position, please list all public offices you have held. Include positions on appointed boards or commissions. (If more space is needed please indicate and provide separately)

Public Office or Board	Elected or Appointed	Dates Held	Leadership Role (if any)

If you ran for elected office but were not elected, please list those races below. (If more space is needed, please indicate and provide separately.)

Office Title	Year of Race

Background

1. Why are you running for this office?

2. Describe your 3-5 most important personal characteristics or traits as they relate to the office you seek.

3. Please describe one to three accomplishments or contributions of which you are most proud. These examples should illustrate skills and capabilities you think apply to the office you are seeking and why these accomplishments may have occurred at any time during your personal, professional or public life.

Background

4. Please describe the duties of the office you seek, in your own words. Which are the most important duties and why?

5. What previous experience do you have running a business, managing employees or controlling a budget?

6. What endorsements do you now have or are you seeking and why are they important to you?

ISSUES

Economic Development, Job Creation & Retention

7. What do you believe are the three most important issues facing South Bend today and what are your plans for addressing them?

8. How would you encourage job creation and retention in the South Bend area? Please describe the model/tools and/or incentives you would support to boost economic development and the kind of jobs we should be going after?

9. What is your position on using tax phase-ins (abatements) to entice economic growth and development? How effective do you think South Bend's current tax abatement ordinance is?

ISSUES

Economic Development, Job Creation & Retention

10. As the CEO of the city, the Mayor has the responsibility to lead employees with varying skill levels, education levels, and responsibilities. How would you work to bring all employees together to buy-in to your vision for South Bend?

11. What is South Bend's biggest hurdle impeding economic development and how do you intend to jump it? What are South Bend's strengths for economic development and how should we use them?

12. Are you aware of Project Future and its mission? If so, how would you envision working with Project Future to foster economic development? Or do you envision a new way to handle economic development?

ISSUES

Economic Development, Job Creation & Retention

13. Given the recent ranking in Newsweek as one of the top 10 dying cities in America, how would you respond to someone when being questioned about the article?

14. Are you aware of the impact on economic development through visitor spending and how do you foresee strengthening the continued growth of the tourism industry in South Bend?

Downtown/Entryway Development

15. How important do you view downtown South Bend development in relation to the rest of the city and what are your top 3-5 priorities for such development?

ISSUES

Downtown/Entryway Development

16. The northwest and southern entryways into downtown South Bend have been blighted for years. How do you plan to address these areas and the first impressions given to visitors?

River Development

17. How important is new development on the St. Joseph River and what are your priorities for such development?

Education

18. What role should municipal government have on education issues, from pre-kindergarten through post-secondary levels, especially in the workforce?

ISSUES

Education

19. If elected, what will be your highest priorities in enhancing, improving and reforming educational opportunities?

City Budget and Finance

20. What would your top five budget priorities be?

21. What are your ideas for new revenue streams, including increasing current income & property tax revenue for the city to address basic services such as streets, water, sewer, public safety and other city services?

ISSUES

City Budget and Finance

22. As revenue streams continues to shrink, would you consider outsourcing traditional city services and if so, which ones?

Government Structure and Goals

23. What in your view is the relationship between the Mayor and Common Council? What is the main function of each position and where are the most important responsibilities shared?

24. How do you propose to create a positive working relationship with the Common Council?

ISSUES

Government Structure and Goals

25. In your opinion, should South Bend consider participating in a regional government form of municipal governance or combined services as cities such as Indianapolis, Louisville or Nashville have done?

26. How would you strengthen the level of talent in the staff in city government?

27. What are your overall top 3-5 priorities and what you will do to move those priorities forward?

28. Is there anything else you would like our membership to know about your candidacy?

[Empty response box]

This questionnaire has been completed by the candidate (or candidate’s designees) running for Mayor of South Bend. I hereby affirm that I am in full knowledge of the answers and will stand behind them.

Signature of Candidate

Date Signed