

OMAHA CITY COUNCIL – District 1

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Question	Pete Festersen (Democrat)
Extra biographical	married, Spouse: Paige, #of children: 2, High School: Central High School, College: Connecticut College, UNO, Degrees: B.A., Masters in Public Administration, Church: Dundee Presbyterian Church, www.petefestersen.com
Date Filed	1-16-13
Contact Info	3/5/2013, 7:33pm, resident of district caller assigned; No answer: 3/13, 8:15p; 3/13, 2:39p; 3/18, 12:30p, 3/21, 12:15p, 3/26, 8:25p; 4/10, 8:25p; 4/17, 12:00. 3/10/2013, Noon, sent report of extending to March 14 deadline; 3/14/2013, 2:06pm, reminder email of original 3/14/13 deadline extended to 3/16 and questionnaire emailed. After Primary: 4/19, 2:05pm, left message. 4/24, 4:40pm, reminder email saying 4/29 was deadline for being included in paper copies.

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Question	Ed Truemper (Republican)
Extra biographical	married, Spouse: Mary Jane, #of children: 1 stepson, High School: Marshall High School - Marshall, TX, College: University of Mississippi, Univ. of Miss. School of Medicine - Jackson, MS, Degrees: BS, MS, MD, Church: St. Cecilia Cathedral, Professional Associations: American Society of Neuroimaging, American Academy of Pediatrics, Society of Critical Care Medicine, NE Medical Association, Metro Omaha Medical Society, Civic Groups: Dundee Memorial Park Association, Benson Business Association, Organizations: Joshua Collingsworth Memorial Foundation - Lincoln, NE, Employer: UNMC Nebraska Pediatric Physicians, www.edtruemper.com
Date Filed	1-22-13
Contact Info	3/5/2013, 7:33pm, resident of district caller assigned; 3/10/2013, Noon, sent report of extending to March 14 deadline; 3/14/2013, 2:06pm, reminder email of 3/14/13 deadline; 3/14/2013, 5:43pm, candidate's office had understood a different deadline; 3/16/2013, 11:08pm, ANSWERS RECEIVED.
01 Biographical	My wife is Mary Jane and my stepson, Matthew, is a Senior at Creighton University. We are members of St. Cecilia Cathedral. I have been in Omaha for over 10 years working in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Children's Hospital and UNMC and also at Creighton University. I have been a Pediatric Critical Care Physician for over 25 years and licensed practicing physician for 30 years.
02 Motivation	My motivation comes from treating children and sending them back to their neighborhoods only to see them prisoners in their own homes because of the violent crime which has made it unsafe to go outside to play. I mentor a student from Central High School who has seen 3 of his friends killed in the past 5 months due to gun violence. As a pediatrician, I realized there was more that I could do for the future of our youth by working both inside and outside of the hospital. The key issues I hope to address are those I have heard while listening to my neighbors across the district while knocking on their doors: public safety that allows children and their families to be safe in their front yards, neighborhoods and playgrounds; maintenance and enhancement of our neighborhoods; improved efficiency and consistency of our public services; and meaningful transparency of our tax dollars and city spending so that the individual citizen can see how their money is being spent on their behalf.
03 Qualifications	First, I bring 25 years of experience of listening to families in dire situations to find a solution to their child's medical problem. Second, through these 25 years I have learned to fight for what is best for my families, and to continue to monitor progress once a decision is made to determine whether we have reached our goals or whether further adjustments need to be made in how we care for children. Finally, I have experience working with an entire community to bring a new children's medical facility into a small town to fit the needs of their families who had grown weary of having to send their children many miles away for medical treatment. I worked with community leaders, citizens, and families to find out what they needed in their community. I worked with over 400 people to create a children's inpatient and outpatient center and was able to come in millions of dollars under budget. I understand that in order to find out what is best for a community, I need to listen, gather information, and work with those who put the plan in place every step of the way.
04 Sustainable Development	Many of the ideas in the UN Agenda 21 plan are good ideas that we should be free to implement at our choosing. The problem that I have with Agenda 21 is that it mandates many of these ideas to those cities implementing the plans without consideration of what is best for the individual community and citizens. I believe the government's role in establishing green policy is to listen to its constituents to discover what is best for its community, rather than take their cues directly from a United Nations policy. Some local examples include our bicycling community and Restore Omaha. Both groups are better suited to let City Government know what they need than a one-size fits all mandate from the United Nations. Omaha is a great city and if we utilize the tremendous knowledge and passion we have in our own citizens, we can grow into the city we want to be, not into a cookie-cutter community that looks like many others across the world which in essence have not served their citizens to the degree they should.
05 City Resources	First, we need to look at many of the ordinances that our City has on the books to find out whether they are working, what adjustments need to be made, whether they are still relevant, and if their purpose has been served. Next, we need to look at all of our City Departments and make sure there are metrics in place to measure their effectiveness. In my experience as a physician, we are constantly looking for ways to make our care more efficient, relevant, understandable and affordable to those we serve and I believe the same should be said for City Government. I believe by finding efficiencies and listening to the citizens we serve about their needs, concerns, issues and ideas we will bring in new businesses and keep existing businesses in Omaha. Right now, we are losing new business as well as local businesses that want to expand to Sarpy County and Iowa. I have spoken with business leaders who have said that in our current climate, we are losing 9 to 10 businesses for every one that we bring in to the City. This is unacceptable. As far as retirement is concerned, we need to make sure that our pension board is setting appropriate rates of return based on the market because our taxpayers are on the hook for any shortfall if the money is not generated sufficiently from investments.

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Question	Ed Truemper (Republican)
06 Animals	I believe the issues regarding animals and pets in the city include making sure all animals/pets are legally licensed. We need to ensure that pet animal waste is disposed of in an appropriate manner rather than contaminating runoff water which then filters into our lakes and streams. Pets also need to be controlled by their owners so that children and other folks will not be harmed. Animals that are not being bred should be spade or neutered to prevent unwanted animals that could be. Cats and dogs should receive rabies vaccinations at appropriate times.
07 Illegal Immigration	The city should use E-verify to examine each employee and future applicant for a city position to ensure legal status within the United States. No illegal immigrant should be allowed employment by the city. Private firms should by law verify through E-verify that all their employees are legal residents if they are providing services or working on behalf of the citizens of Omaha and funded by city government. Illegal residents who commit felony level offenses should be reported to the immigration and naturalization service.
08 Eminent Domain	I believe that private property rights are rights that should not be taken lightly. I am concerned that the new programs the City is implementing in regards to deeming homes vacant/abandoned is constructed in a way that will be a slippery slope in the future. Destruction of derelict properties should only occur when properties would cost more than the cost of replacement, or no group, association, corporation or individual is willing to take on the rehabilitation of the property.
09 Crime	First, deny gang members access to our children through programs that keep children occupied after school and on weekends. Use local groups such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, Boy and Girl Scouts, and many other organizations to get kids into positive mentoring and individual and group activities. We need to get the Omaha Public School system to allow anonymous screening of our kids to determine how and where gang members are getting access to our kids and those that are most vulnerable to gang membership. Only then can we truly target our efforts and maximize our gain. Second, gang members who have committed theft, burglary, vandalism or violence should have driving privileges taken away. It will limit their ability to roam and do further harm. Third, disrupt gang leadership by targeting their financial activities and prevent them from profiting from the benefits of selling drugs and theft.
10 Jobs	We should partner with Metropolitan Community College and our schools to train students who have a talent for the trades. By educating our students to be prepared for the workforce, we can have a number of workers ready for jobs that are currently high in demand.
11 Representative Government	An open dialogue. There needs to be a functional working relationship between the Council and the Mayor in which all involved are researching problems and discussing different solutions that have been found. The politics that have gone on in this city need to stop. We all need to remember that we represent our constituents not only in our District, but city wide and get back to working together and using each other and our resources to find the most efficient, effective way to run Omaha.
12 City Business Connection	As a physician working within several hospital systems we serve the citizens of the community which includes city employees. I and my family members have no financial or business relationships with the city.
13 Homosexual Ordinance-Omaha	I will wait until the time that it is on the ballot before I make that decision and will listen to all sides of the argument before I make a decision.
14 Governing documents	I have read the Constitution and believe that this founding document of the United States is the ultimate governing document in my decision making. I will uphold the ordinances of Omaha and the laws of the State of Nebraska and will ensure that my decisions will not be counter to these lawfully enacted statutes.
15 Constituents' concerns	I plan to continue walking door to door in the neighborhoods, attending neighborhood and community meetings, and I will be holding quarterly town hall meetings and sending out quarterly newsletters in order to remain aware of my constituents' concerns and desires.
16 Family	My family has been very supportive and has helped out on my campaign. I believe being a City Councilman will help me to make sure the time that I do have to spend with my family remains a priority and is quality time.
17 Personal/Political	My principles are based on the many mentors that have taught me how to live and practice medicine, the principles outlined in the U.S. Constitution, and on my religious faith. For my decisions, I will first look to the citizens of Omaha for inspiration and instruction. I will listen to all relevant parties involved in any issue. I will seek the knowledge of these experts within and outside of Omaha for data, knowledge and wisdom before making decisions.
18 Political decisions	The principles that are espoused in the Bible such as humility, faith, charity, respect and love will continue to guide my decisions both in private and public life.
19 DOMA	Government should not be in the business of deciding who marries and who does not. Marriage is a testament before God that two people will honor and respect each other during their marriage and maintain fidelity to each other both in word and life. Marriage is left to the individual churches' teachings and decisions for their respective flocks. The government should be able to regulate civil unions since these are binding contracts between two people in essence binding themselves to each other. Marriage and civil unions are not the same.
20 Abortion/capital punishment	I believe that life begins at conception. In short, reproductive rights occur before conception and human rights begin after conception. The ending of a fetus' life should only occur when a mother's life is at serious risk. Even in these instances, after understanding the risks, the mother may decide to keep the pregnancy. I believe we should look at the capital punishment issue in our society to make sure it is applied fairly and consistently, and consider whether the costs of trials to taxpayers are worth the punishment. The drawn-out nature of capital punishment appeals should also be addressed.
21 Past President	Prior experience in private and public life, personal commitment to service for others, ability to listen to all sides, work ethic, ability to inspire and lead diverse groups of people in a common course of action.
22 Anything else?	My personal mission can be summed up as "My mission is to save not only lives but also lifetimes". My decision to step outside the hospital doors and run for political office stems from my belief that the best way to care for children and their families is not only take care of their children when they are sick and eliminate the ignorance, fear and loneliness that many family members experience during that time, but also to ensure that children and their families have the means to have great lives outside the hospital.

See next page for actual questions asked.

OMAHA MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL Questions

Question Key	Actual Questions asked. “*”d” questions offered as minimums to answer
Date Filed	The date the candidate officially filed with the County election office.
Contact Info	Contact Information - ranging from the details of when we inputted the candidate's responses, to attempts to establish contact, to if we still need a volunteer caller, to if the candidate is unopposed and therefore not on the list to contact.
01 Biographical	*Please include biographical information, e.g. family members, church affiliation, employment, etc., you consider important for voters to know and/or reference your website.
02 Motivation	*What has motivated you to seek this office? Is there a key issue you hope to address?
03 Qualifications	*What three primary qualifications do you bring to this office?
04 Sustainable Development	* Discuss how the sustainable development presented in the UN Agenda 21 comprehensive plan can be a benefit or detriment to the citizens. What do you believe should be the government’s role in establishing green policy?
05 City Resources	*What specific plan do you have for making the best use of taxpayer dollars? For example, what priority would you put on zoning, business incentives, personnel management, etc. Should each year’s budget include funding for future retirements?
06 Animals	What are the hot button issues concerning animals/pets in the city?
07 Illegal Immigration	What are your convictions regarding illegal immigration? What role do you believe the city should play in dealing with this issue?
08 Eminent Domain	*Describe your thinking on eminent domain and private property rights.
09 Crime	What should the city do to decrease the consequences of gang violence and other crime?
10 Jobs	Even though the unemployment rate in Nebraska is nearly the lowest in the nation, the unemployment rate for some minorities is excessively high. How can the city help in job creation? What specific ideas do you have for jobs?
11 Representative Government	What do you recommend for efficient interplay of the responsibilities of the executive (mayor) and legislative (city council) branches of city government in serving the constituents each is elected to represent?
12 City Business Connection	Do you, a family member, or your employer have any business relationship serving the city? Please describe.
13 Homosexual Ordinance-Omaha	*If the people’s petition to rescind the ordinance giving special rights to homosexuals some day appears on the ballot, how will you vote? In your opinion, what should be required to qualify for special rights?
14 Governing documents	What do you see as the major governing documents for this position? Have you read them? What does it mean to “uphold the Constitution” in the position you seek?
15 Constituents’ concerns	*What plans do you have for remaining aware of your constituents’ concerns and desires?
16 Family	What role has your family played in your seeking this office? In holding this position, how do you foresee it affecting your family?
17 Personal/Political	To what degree should an office holder’s personal principles be reflected in political decision making? To whom/what will you go for counsel in decision making?
18 Political decisions	Is it appropriate to use the Bible or other religious writings in making political decisions? If so, what would you use? If not, why not?
19 DOMA	The Department of Justice has refused to uphold the Defense of Marriage Act. What is your personal view on this legal irregularity? What is your personal view on the Defense of Marriage Act?
20 Abortion/capital punishment	*What definition do you give for each of these terms: pro-life, pro-choice. Which is your view and to what level of conviction do you hold that view? Some say capital punishment is a pro-life issue. What is your perspective?
21 Past President	*What key considerations did you use in deciding how you voted for President in 2012?
22 Anything else?	Declare anything else you want voters to know about you.
Extra biographical	Biographical information from what candidates provided the Douglas County Election office and/or other web resources. Candidates are asked to email kathy@voterinformation.org if any information is inaccurate. When known, candidate's website is noted.