

OMAHA CITY COUNCIL – District 3

Note: Both candidates advance to the General Election

JR Jasso (Republican)	Question	Chris Jerram (Democrat)
single, #of children: 3, High School: Omaha South High, College: Creighton University, Degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Church: Catholic, Employer: Creighton University,	Extra biographical	Employer: Kelley & Jerram, PC, LLO Law Firm,
2-06-13	Date Filed	2-01-13
3/7/2013, 7:33pm, resident of district caller assigned; 3/9/2013, 4:40pm, questionnaire emailed to candidate speaking on the phone; 3/10/2013, Noon, sent report of extending to March 14 deadline; 3/12/2013, 11:40pm, authorized sending responses by email.; 3/12/2013, 8:59pm, candidate asked if could send answers by email; 3/14/2013, 5:50pm , email reminder of 3/14/13 deadline; 3/15/2013, 4:43pm, ANSWERS RECEIVED.	Contact Info	3/7/2013, 7:33pm, resident of district caller assigned; 3/9/2013, 4:00pm questionnaire emailed to candidate after leaving phone message; 3/10/2013, 3:46pm caller emailed asking candidate to do more than LWV guide; 3/10/2013, Noon, sent report of extending to March 14 deadline; 3/14/2013 5:48pm requested response by email.
answers copied from email response received 3-15-13	Contact Info	
JR Jasso, age 52, Republican, first time seeking public office. Five sisters, two brothers. Catholic. Marketing & Communications at Creighton University for 14 years. BA Creighton University	01 Biographical	
I want to serve my neighbors. Key issues I will address are taxes, cutting city spending, crime, and lack of faith in city government officials.	02 Motivation	
Lifelong Omahan with a vested future in Omaha. I'm a listener, conservative, and a problem solver.	03 Qualifications	
I am not familiar with UN Agenda 21. I believe we need to, as a society do all we can to become greener if for nothing less than to preserve the quality of life on earth for future generations.	04 Sustainable Development	
The best use of taxpayers' dollars is to treat them as the money is our own household budgets. Don't spend what we don't have. Make the distinction between wants and needs. As far as funding future retirements my constituents no longer want to foot the bill for some else's retirement. They want the playing field to be level.	05 City Resources	DECLINED
I believe that a slight problem still exists with certain breeds of dogs. However, I think citizens are becoming more and more educated and are taking steps to be		06 Animals
I believe the country's immigration policy is flawed. We need to deal with it as a nation of immigrants, compassion and laws. I believe as a city we need to be made aware of possible conflicts regarding immigration and address them head on.		07 Illegal Immigration
Eminent domain can be a contentious issue. I believe as a city we need to work to provide a workable solution that satisfies all sides. While I would want each citizen to have the opportunity to view their homes as their castle, there can be times when we must do the greater good for the greater number of citizens.		08 Eminent Domain
As a city we need to provide opportunities which are worthwhile that will allow those who may turn to gangs to have an alternative. This alternative must be met with trust from both sides.		09 Crime
The city can offer a lower tax rate to businesses which will allow the possibility for employers to grow and thus add jobs and economic growth to the city. My idea would be to pair business owners with trades or trade schools to get good people good jobs with good pay.		10 Jobs
I believe the executive and legislative branches of the city of Omaha work with one common goal and the goal is the well-being of the hard working citizens of Omaha. Politics and personal agendas must be set aside.		11 Representative Government
No family members that I know of. As far as my employer Creighton University, we are definitely a good corporate citizen.		12 City Business Connection
If it's the "people's" petition I think that in itself says they collectively have spoken. My constituents have made it clear they want it to be rescinded. As far as criteria to qualify for special rights it will take a compelling argument to persuade me one way or another. We need to be careful about making special rights for a group or entity; the law should be about equal rights for all.		13 Homosexual Ordinance-Omaha
The city charter. Yes, I have read it. I believe the section in which the city must live within a balanced budget is monumental. The Constitution is a sacred document, not just words. We must treat it with respect, but also understand it is a living, breathing document which serves as a basis for interpretations.		14 Governing documents
I hope to meet with as many of my constituents as would want to meet with me. I need to hear their issues and concerns because I work for them.		15 Constituents' concerns
My family is the bedrock for my decision to seek office. If it were not for their faith in me, it would be more difficult for me to move forward with the endeavor of representing my neighbors.		16 Family
I believe my principles will help me in making the best decisions for my neighbors with that I mean I will be beholden to high standards. While I may not be a content expert in all issues I will seek those with knowledge of a topic to further educate me so I can make the best decision for my bosses, the citizens of my district.		17 Personal/Political
While I may not use the Bible to help me make a decision, I would hope that my wisdom will help guide me to make the right decision.		18 Political decisions
I believe marriage first of all was to enable a man and woman to procreate. However, as a society the world is being more progressive. It will be a very long time before we know if it was right or wrong. I'm not seeking to become the Pastor of District 3, but the best city councilman.		19 DOMA
Pro-life - for no reason to bring death. Pro-choice - to make the decision to end life. I am pro-life. I will defend the meaning of life. Capital punishment is applies to oranges. I don't believe they are to be put in the same category.		20 Abortion/capital punishment
I believe the country needed change. That's why I voted for Governor Romney.		21 Past President
I will bring transparency to this position. I will restore faith in government to the people. I will be conservative with taxpayer's money. I will be held accountable for my decisions. I will be accessible. I will listen. I will learn when I don't understand. I will take the time to do something right the first time, not to do it twice. I will show compassion. I will work tirelessly. I will do my best for my neighbors in District 3.		22 Anything else?

See next page to view 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?
(These last questions we ask regardless of what office is being sought. You may not think these relate to your office, but how you respond to these controversial questions might help the voter know how you would respond to other controversies in office.)	
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.