

OMAHA CITY COUNCIL – District 4 Page 1 of 2, Part 1 of 2

Question	Garry Gernandt (Democrat)
Extra biographical	single, High School: Omaha South High, College: University of Nebraska at Omaha, Degrees: BS in Criminal Justice and Political Science, Church: Lutheran, Civic Groups: Am. Legion, GI Forum, SO Eagles, SONA, SOBA, DPNA, Employer: City of Omaha,
Contact Info	Date Filed: 1-14-13. 3/2/2013, 10:34pm, resident of district caller assigned; 3/10/2013, Noon, sent report of extending to March 14 deadline; 3/12/2013, 4:10pm, Partial ANSWERS RECEIVED.
Summary	I can sum up the 22 item questionnaire by four key components I've worked by for nearly 12 years in elected office. 1. I'm RESPONSIVE by maintaining communications via phone, email, texting, letters, and good old fashion face to face. 2. Being OPEN MINDED on issues that come before the Council. 3. Staying ATTENTIVE to the needs of the District. 4. DEDICATED to achieving constituent goals.

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Virgil Patlan (Nonpartisan)		Question	Jacob Perasso (Nonpartisan)	
Date Filed: 2/11/13. 3/2/2013, 10:34pm, resident of district caller assigned; 3/10/2013, Noon, sent report of extending to March 14 deadline; 3/14/2013, 5:59pm, reminder email asking for 3/14/13 deadline; 3/18/2013, 5:41pm, ANSWERS RECEIVED.		Contact Info	Date Filed: 2-19-13 3/2/2013, 10:34pm, resident of district caller assigned; 3/10/2013, Noon, sent report of extending to March 14 deadline; 3/14/2013, 5:59pm, reminder email asking for 3/14/13 deadline; 3/15/2013, 5:05pm, candidate said would send questionnaire later that evening. 3/15/2013, 11:39pm, ANSWERS RECEIVED.	
My wife Rebecca for 35 years. 4 children and 17 Grandchildren. www.patlanforomaha.com		01 Biographical	A long-time defender of the Cuban Revolution, Perasso has joined struggles for unions and in defense of immigrant rights in recent years. He has joined fights against police brutality and campaigns to free political prisoners locked up in the U.S.	
I was very disappointed when the city council voted for the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Ordinance. I hope to see that it gets repealed or send it to a vote of the people.		02 Motivation	Working people need jobs that provide sufficient income of which there are fewer and fewer here in Omaha, the United States, and around the world. We support a federally funded crash public works program to put millions to work at union scale to build schools, roads, and public transportation. We are for organizing working people to fight for guaranteed unemployment compensation at union scale for all workers until they find a job and to increase the federal minimum wage to union scale. We oppose all cuts in medical benefits for any worker laid off from their job and guaranteed lifetime medical care and retiree pensions for all.	
I served 25 years enforcing laws. Also have worked on several boards that oversee large not for profit agencies. I have a heart for the community and what to see our children grow up in a safe clean community.		03 Qualifications	[not answered]	
This needs more study and I am not comfortable answering.		04 Sustainable Development	The idea that "green" companies will stop or even slow the exploitation of land and labor under capitalism is a fraud. The reasons for the destruction of the common environment that we rely on for food, shelter and our livelihoods is rooted in the profit-driven production under the capitalist system and can only be slowed and ultimately stopped by the revolutionary mobilization of millions of working people in our own interests.	
The city has debts to pay CSO, Police and Fire pension. Every budget item needs to be examined. Can we consolidate some services? Can some green solutions be found to reduce the cost of the CSO?		05 City Resources	So long as ruling capitalist families hold political power in the united states through the Democratic and Republican parties we will continue to face higher taxes and layoffs and cuts. We reject the fake trade-off between workers' jobs, workers' pensions and higher taxes. It is the labor of working people that creates the massive surplus value that capitalists appropriate and from which they derive their profits and power. Nothing workers get in terms of schooling, medical care, or pensions is charity-it's all produced by us. At the same time, everything we have-above and beyond what bosses must pay in wages to maintain and reproduce the labor power they need to keep production up and profits rolling in-is the product over decades of what working people have fought for, won, and defended in struggle. That, too, comes from nowhere else.	
[not answered]	07 Illegal Immigration	We are for immediate legalization of all immigrant workers now without conditions to unify the working class! Attacks on immigrants are aimed at maintaining a permanent category of workers with fewer rights who are more vulnerable to superexploitation. The bosses' goal is to push down the wages, conditions, and confidence of the entire working class-U.S.- and foreign-born.		
I will work to see eminent domain is not abused and protect the rights of property owners.		08 Eminent Domain	[not answered]	
Find more grant money to be used for crime prevention programs.		09 Crime	The problem of gun violence, and other violence workers confront, has its roots in the capitalist system and the violence used by the tiny minority of super-wealthy families to maintain their rule here and around the world. The problem of crime in working class communities will be greatly alleviated when we organize a movement in our communities to end the exploitation of the many by the few, growing our self-worth in the process.	
If we work to fix the pensions and control the cost of the combined sewer overflow mandate, and lower taxes we could be a business friendly city attracting companies that will bring jobs.		10 Jobs	We are for a federally funded crash public works program to put millions to work at union scale to build schools, roads, and public transportation. In the city of Omaha, this would mean mobilizing the resources of the city to create tens of thousands of jobs with a livable income.	
Nebraska voters ended special rights. No one should receive any special rights except those given to us by the US constitution. I will vote NO		13 Homosexual Ordinance- Omaha	One of the important results in the national 2012 elections was the victory in four states-Maryland, Maine, Washington and Minnesota-of ballot measures that overturned discriminatory marriage laws based on prejudice against individual's gender or sexual orientation. These results reflect changing attitudes within the working class, striking a blow to a form of prejudice and strengthening workers' unity and capacity to be the standard bearers in the fight against all forms of discrimination.	
I currently have a campaign office in south Omaha city hall I will try to keep this open and meet with voters. I will also keep a website to post events and facebook.		15 Constituents' concerns	[not answered]	
I have the support of my wife and family without that I would not have run.		16 Family	[not answered]	
I believe that Bible has all to answers to life. I will not hesitate to seek the wisdom that is found in God's word.		18 Political decisions	[not answered]	

Virgil Patlan (Nonpartisan)		Question	Jacob Perasso (Nonpartisan)	
I will defend DOMA with all my heart. Marriage is between a man and a woman.	19 DOMA	One of the important results in the 2012 elections was the victory in four states-Maryland, Maine, Washington and Minnesota-ballot measures that overturned discriminatory marriage laws based on prejudice against individual's gender or sexual orientation. These results reflect changing attitudes within the working class, striking a blow to a form of prejudice and strengthening workers' unity and capacity to be the standard bearers in the fight against all forms of discrimination.		
I am a strong pro-Life candidate. I believe God has fearfully and wonderfully made all of us, and formed us all in the womb. I always pray that all mothers would chose Life. The Death penalty is a separate issue. This is a result of a crime committed by a person. The baby in the womb has committed no crime.	20 Abortion/capital punishment	These are two separate issues. Defending a woman's right to abortion is of decisive importance to the working class. Without the right to decide when or whether to bear a child, women cannot participate as equals in economic, social and political life. And without the fight for women's emancipation, the solidarity the working class needs to fight the bosses-and to wage a victorious revolutionary struggle to take political power our of their hands-is impossible. We are for abolishing the death penalty under capitalism. The death penalty is a weapon of terror aimed at working people. As workers are increasingly forced to organize resistance to employer attacks, the bosses' government will seek to push them back with scabs, stool pigeons, legal red tape and an array of court tactics from injunctions against picketing to "conspiracy" charges to secret "evidence," to the death penalty and violence by armed bodies under the direction of the capitalists' state power.		
Is the person Pro-Life and does the person agree to defend DOMA. No exceptions.		21 Past President		[not answered]
I am running for city council because the City of Omaha needs new leaders. Leadership that will lower taxes. Reject the Gay agenda. Work to fix the pension system without bashing the firefighters and police officers. Defend the second amendment. I will never apologize for my faith and wisdom and strength that God's word has given me. I am asking for your vote.			22 Anything else?	[not answered]
married, #of children: 4, High School: Omaha South, Church: Non-denominational, Professional Associations: U.S. Army - Vietman era and Korea, Civic Groups: Burlington Road Neighborhood Association, Victory Boxing Club, This is Your Neighborhood, Catholic Charities, Organizations: Catholic Charities, PatlanforOmaha.com		Extra biographical	#of children: 4, High School: San Jose High Academy	

Neither answered: **06 Animals, 11 Representative Government, 12 City Business Connection, 14 Governing documents, 17 Personal/Political**

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.	03 Qualifications	*What three primary qualifications do you bring to this office?
02 Motivation	*What has motivated you to seek this office? Is there a key issue you hope to address?		
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?	22 Anything else?	Declare anything else you want voters to know about you.
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?		
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.		