



A **non-partisan** resource to give Nebraska voters the **information they need** to make an informed decision when voting. A non-edited opportunity for candidates to state their position **in their own words**, online for **free**.

BELLEVUE CITY COUNCIL – Ward 1 – Special Election

<p>Steven A. Carmichael Party: Republican Website: www.carmichaelforcouncil.org.</p>	<p>Dave Compton Party: Republican Website: .facebook.com/DaveComptonForBellevueCityCouncilWard1</p>	<p>Steve Dawes Party: Democrat Website: stevedawes2013.com/</p>	<p>Michael Knebel Party: Libertarian Website: facebook.com/electmichaeknebel</p>
--	---	--	---

Note: Usually we provide responses in alphabetical order, but based on number of words, order has been rearranged.

Contact Information - Details of when we inputted the candidate's responses, including attempts to establish contact and other communication.

Steven A. Carmichael	7-30-13, 11:28pm, questionnaire emailed with answers to similar questions provided in 2012 Primary. 7-31-13, 8:07am, candidate emailed, said would do the questionnaire. 8-11-13, 4:07pm, sent reminder email with offer to post next day if answers in by midnight. 8-12-13, 2:00pm, ANSWERS RECEIVED. Answers copied and posted 8-15-13
David Compton	8-2-13, left message on business phone giving email address. 8-5-13, 7:38pm, candidate replied to email. 8-5-13, 11:24pm, questionnaire emailed. 8-8-13, 7:39pm, candidate emailed to say would work on the questionnaire on the weekend. 8-11-13, 4:06pm, sent reminder email with offer to post next day if answers in by midnight. 8-16-13 2:28pm, ANSWERS RECEIVED. Answers copied and posted 8-17-13.
Michael Knebel	8-3-13, 7:45pm, questionnaire emailed with answers to similar questions provided in 2012 Primary. 8-4-13, 3:01pm, ANSWERS RECEIVED. Answers copied and posted 8-12-13
Steve Dawes	7-30-13, 11:31pm, questionnaire emailed with answers to similar questions provided in 2012 Primary. 8-11-13, 4:01pm, sent reminder email with offer to post next day if answers in by midnight. 8-17-13, 10:51pm, sent "please verify" email. 8-18-13, left phone message. 8-19-13, candidate emailed to say questionnaire emails had been in spam folder, aiming for responding in a week. More than 12 emails/phone calls back and forth from 8-27-13 until 9-22-13, 7:49pm ANSWERS RECEIVED. Answers copied and posted 9-23-13.

***Please include biographical information you consider important for voters to know and/or reference your website.**

Steven A. Carmichael Please go to my web site at www.carmichaelforcouncil.org

David Compton My name is David Compton, I am 50 years old, and I reside at 113 W. 22nd Ave. I have lived in Bellevue for approx, 28 years. I have been a business owner in the community for 20 years. I have 2 daughters, Whitney, age 22, & Ashley, age 20, both were born and raised in Bellevue, and still reside here today. I can be reached either by cell phone, 402-679-9457, or by email, at mrdcelectric@gmail.com.

Michael Knebel I was born and raised in Lincoln Nebraska, and went to Catholic school up until college when I enrolled in UNL. I now live in Bellevue with my wife and daughter. We are expecting our second child to be born any day now. My wife went to school in Bellevue and is a nurse with Hillcrest. I recently received a promotion with TD Ameritrade working in our Active Trader area. I firmly believe in remaining active and engaged, and have done numerous outreach programs through my work and church. More information on my campaign can be found on my Facebook page: facebook.com/electmichaelknebel

Steve Dawes I was born in Omaha and grew up in the small town atmosphere of Florence. I attended Mc Millan Jr High, where I was an active participant in football and wrestling. While a student at Mc Millan, I founded RECAP or "Recycling Environmental Conservation Action Program" at the Florence Presbyterian Church. I continue to be active in environmental causes. While attending high school at Omaha North, I was elected to the student council. I was a Life Scout in Troop 320. I was also a member of the Order of the Arrow. As a young adult, I ran for Omaha City Council, first district, in 1982. I placed tenth out of 18 candidates without the benefit of campaign funds. This race became the impetus for becoming even more deeply involved in community activism. I have served as a Deacon and Session member at Miller Park and Florence Presbyterian Church. I also served as youth director at Florence. My faith plays an important role in my life. I'm familiar with many functions of how local government works. I held a summer job with Douglas County while in high school. I have been with the City of Omaha for twenty-four years. My various duties included the Central Garage, the bailer station, Hummel Park Summer Camp, both the Benson and Hitchcock (now Motto McClean) ice rinks, the Dodge Park Marina, Warren Swigart Golf Course, caretaker at Brown Park for nine years, Mo River, and my current assignment I will retire from someday, with the Omaha Police Dept. In 2001, I founded the Indian Hills Theater Preservation Society and served as Chairman. I was also a founding member of 2020 Omaha. 2020 is a group of like-minded citizens interested in preserving Omaha's 20th century architecture and landscape. That experience and the resultant network contribute to my knowledge and interest when working to improve Historic Olde Towne--the heart of Ward 1. I had a role in the two documentary films about the fight to save the Indian Hills Theater: Saving the Indian Hills : <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0378712/>, Preserve Me a Seat: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0852991/> My wife Marta shares my interest in historical sites and we developed and own several websites of historic cemeteries in the area. (See http://www.graveyardsofomaha.com/bellevue/bellevue_main.htm, and <http://www.graveyardsofomaha.com>. We have four adult children and four grandchildren. Since moving to Bellevue, We have been active in the community. I am proud of the fact that Marta got a Masters degree from Bellevue University. Avid supporters of the Bellevue Farmer's Market, we make it a point to support this event each weekend I don't work. Many of the Olde Towne merchants recognize us. We actively support the Olde Towne eateries with our dollars and presence. I know that historic Olde Towne is the heart beat of Ward I, and every dollar spent here helps our local businesses AND is one more dollar that stays in Bellevue. Since moving to Bellevue I have participated in volunteer activities at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans Home and Hillcrest Health. I've been active in the farmers market. I became a regular at city council meetings. I've been a regular blood donor at city hall and the fire training facility off Cornhusker. In my free time, I enjoy classic cars, E-bay, relaxing with family on our scenic deck, bird watching, theater, good-local food, music and friends.

***What has motivated you to seek this office? Is there a key issue you hope to address?**

Steven A. Carmichael The desire to see Bellevue remain a great place to live and raise our families.

David Compton I have always had an interest in our city and county government. I have participated in many ways over the past 20 years. Both by volunteering my time & acting as a public servant. My motivation is to bring back olde towne and serving in Bellevue's growth.

Michael Knebel My motivation comes from the idea there is a time in every person's life where they must stop talking about what should be done, and take action to see that the goal is completed. My wife, my daughter, my faith, and my determination to shrink government to a level where it is accountable to the citizens are what drive me in this campaign. The key issues I hope to address are simplifying the city code enforcement, keeping the city within budget, and bringing new and fresh ideas to the Council. I firmly believe we need representation for the younger families in the Olde Towne area, and that is what I will bring if elected. I also will work to lower the city sales tax, so that we may be more competitive with the neighboring cities. Every year we lose tax revenue to Iowa because of their tax holidays.

Steve Dawes The budget issues and the lack of attention paid to historic Olde Towne. Changing state law so MUD would provide less costly natural gas service to Ward I, like the rest of Bellevue already has. This keeps more dollars in the metro area and let's us vote on the board of directors, unlike Black Hills Energy.
In 2012 the riverfront buyout was a major issue for me. As it turned out after my making this an issue, the coucil reconsidered and approved the buyout. The great plus is that FEMA's contribution brought the cost in well under the agreed to cost. Bellevue's cost will be about \$90,887, down from the \$250,000 the city was initially expected to pay.

What three primary qualifications do you bring to this office?

Steven A. Carmichael a. Twenty seven years' experience as a public servant
b. A strong desire to represent the citizens of Ward One.
c. A strong conservative Republican view of the mandate of government.

David Compton I believe I have a wealth of knowledge that comes with me. I am serving on the Bellevue Planning commission, Olde Towne Development committee, and Bellevue chamber of commerce board. With that, I stand for what is in the best interest for our citizens and our city.

Michael Knebel Youth, determination, and ethics. When I speak of youth, I speak of the possibility that resides in someone who has not worked in the city government for two decades. I have new ideas and a fresh outlook on government. I'm a pragmatic Libertarian in that I understand government has a role in our lives, but it must be a limited one. My determination can best be shown in what I was able to do for Joplin relief in 2011. Within a week of the tornado I managed to hold fundraisers and get enough volunteers so that I could drive down two trucks and a trailer full of supplies to help with the clean-up. Finally, I will bring an ethical approach back to local government. As a city councilman, I will be Bellevue's employee, not its manager. I have a strong desire to follow both my faith and the Constitution, while realizing that the government should not seek to legislate matters of personal belief and lifestyle.

Steve Dawes 25 years' experience in local government in various skilled areas. A lifetime as a leader or volunteer in community-centered projects. I believe it is the City of Bellevue's responsibility to continue to provide the level of service we are used to. Anything less and people will leave our great city. We can't be attractive to outsiders without these services either. That leads to a reduction in property values to business and home owners.

***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?**

Steven A. Carmichael As an avid outdoorsman and gardener, I understand and appreciate green initiatives and their benefit to our lives. I have a differing opinion though with some of our present elected officials with respect to this issue. I do not believe that we, as elected officials, should have the ability or authority to enact programs and legislation based on our personal views. We are solely elected to represent the public's desires, not dictate it. When the general public expresses desires for public programs that deal with green initiatives, I will support those. It is my opinion though, that fiscal responsibility must go hand in hand with any program that the city undertakes. The cost/benefit to the public must be the overriding or deciding factor in implementation of these programs.

David Compton I think the plan needs more study and research.

Michael Knebel UN Agenda 21 is a detriment to the citizens, because it seeks to find a one size fits all solution to a problem that is much more complex than people seem to understand. Government should step aside and let the citizens and private industry develop a sustainable green policy. The solutions should always come from the people. The ingenuity comes from persistence and hard work and freedom of thought, not from government regulation.

Steve Dawes UN Agenda 21 is completely voluntary measures and offers a general blueprint for cities to pick and choose what to do.
- In relation to Bellevue, we need to lead from city hall. Alternate fuels in city vehicles and energy saving remodeling design for the new city hall. Educating citizens on our Cox community channel. Working with the Bellevue school system to start our next generation on a path to green for a lifetime.
Continue to promote the bike routes that were requested by some local businesses and Bellevue residents. Green spaces in the master plan including areas under our jurisdiction outside the city limits. Expanding the MAT bus service to twin Creek was deemed to be too expensive, but should continue to be explored. Promotion of private parks like First National did in downtown Omaha should be encouraged.

***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, updating technology, personnel management, etc.**

Steven A. Carmichael I believe that my position statements give the public specific and quantifiable positions for plans which I will pursue if elected. Some of these include, the elimination of the city's present course of purchasing private land with no public purpose, the elimination of the cooperative of public/private investment of public funds in private development, eliminating or substantially reducing the contracting of professional services, the hiring of full time legal staff and eliminating contract legal services.
Zoning: Our Planning Department has some very intelligent, competent staff who diligently prepare, interpret and enforce the various rules and regulations which the City adopts. The city has recently updated our zoning ordinance to current standards, which is a huge accomplishment. The problem which still exists though is the enforcement mechanism which these documents require has been piecemealed out to other departments who really have minimal knowledge of the requirements and functions of this department. These need to be consolidated back under the Planning Directors authority. Our zoning regulations, zoning districts, and other land use regulations must be evaluated and relaxed in economically depressed areas of town to facilitate business investment and the redevelopment of residential areas.
Business incentives: We, as a community, must formulate proactive, long range plans to entice business and business investment back into old town. Creating enterprise zones, relaxing zoning and building code regulations, reducing or forgiving permit fees and tax incentives for new businesses and the rehabilitation

***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, updating technology, personnel management, etc. (continued)**

Steven A. Carmichael (cont.) of existing business and residential structures all must be evaluated to encourage new growth. We must have the ability to think outside the box on these issues, as our present philosophy simply is too reactionary. Simply stating that we want to bring a grocery store or bakery into old town doesn't adequately address the core problems associated with our depressed areas of town.

Personnel management: Our community must be more vigilant in our personnel contract negotiations with the unions and employee associations. The citizens of Bellevue have seen, all too frequently, news articles and stories concerning the salaries and benefits which our employees accrue, the banking of vacation and sick leave in violation of policy directives by the City Administrator and Council, and the lack of managerial responsibility for these issues. Holding our employees accountable, and more importantly, holding our managers responsible for enforcing these policies is critical. Additionally, the recent rash of employee and union/employee association lawsuits, employee terminations and alleged harassment is of particular concern. The leadership of our community must be held accountable when these actions occur, and holding them accountable must be the policy and practice of our leaders.

Updating technology: Our IT technology is fractured at best, with no central core or responsibility between departments. Our department IT programs cannot and do not transfer data between them in an efficient manner and several departments have private servers which they rely on for databases. Coordination and the combining of our data into an efficient system will benefit all departments and the public in general. The inclusion of GPS tracking devices on all city vehicles will promote a more efficient use of our fleet, and will give managers a more detailed real time accounting for employees.

David Compton Zoning is very important as sales tax is flat in Bellevue, so this makes business incentives very important for drawing large companies to our city.

Michael Knebel I would vote to do away with the personal spending accounts for the Council. A council member gets a salary and a spending account, which is a misuse of tax payer funds. Also, I would look at trimming some city services by seeking to privatize. At a local level this makes more sense as we can get locally owned businesses to do some of the jobs of the city. As far as business incentives, we should look at possibly offering a lower tax rate to open a business in Olde Towne. We need to make the area more attractive and competitive so that we can grow and prosper. Technology always needs to be updated, and any investment in technology is one that can save the city more money down the road. The sooner you upgrade for the future, the better.

Steve Dawes Working with the legislature to change Ward 1's natural gas service from Black Hills Energy to MUD should be a priority. That is an economic stimulus for every user of natural gas in the 15% minority of Bellevue served by Black Hills. Imagine saving over 20% of your gas bill! For the average house that saves almost \$150 a year. The same for Bellevue City Government, the public and private schools, your Olde Towne business, and your church.

Bellevue used to have its own fresh water and sanitary sewer facilities. It was less expensive to use MUD for water, so the plant was closed. We also closed our wastewater treatment plant and switched to the City of Omaha sewer system and the Papio Treatment Plant to save tax payer hard earned dollars.

One of the first times I went to a city council meeting to ask the mayor and council for stronger building codes. Bellevue had so many storms with hail and wind damage two years ago. Out of state contractors came in and performed substandard work. Now those roofs need warranty work or corrections for defective work. Residents and businesses that used those contractors have nowhere to turn.

The fire Dept. employees negotiated a first contract without going to the Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations. That saved an estimated cost to Bellevue taxpayers of approximately \$150,000. Just a certified job study costs thousand of dollars. Bellevue just completed such a study. Remember we have no FULL time legal staff, but desperately need it. The police and civilian unions continue to negotiate and settle in the same way. Again a savings to the bottom line for Bellevue tax payers.

We need to have a common technology that allows all of our different users (workers and citizens) to communicate, get the work done, and stay on budget during the upgrade. The City of Omaha is changing over to Google for its email for several good reasons.

What do you recommend for supporting businesses in Olde Towne now that the city offices are moving?

Steven A. Carmichael The creation of an enterprise zone, waiver of permit fees, tax incentives and a relaxation of Zoning requirements should be implemented immediately to create incentive based development, both for existing businesses and to attract new businesses to this area of Bellevue. We have witnessed the continued decline of what was once a destination for those of us fortunate enough to grow up in Bellevue. We need to support the business community in their efforts to increase visibility and customers' attraction into this area of town.

David Compton First off, I have always been a huge supporter for olde towne. My company has been located in Olde Towne for the past 15 years. As the city vacates, it is very crucial that we have a plan in place. It is very detrimental to the survival of the birth place of Nebraska. We are currently working on a plan to replace old with new development.

Michael Knebel The sky is the limit on this one. My main recommendation is talking with the residents to find what they want Olde Towne to look like. And then, I would talk with developers and business owners in areas like Dundee and even reach out to areas like Bowling Green and others that have redeveloped a downtown and river front area. Olde Towne needs to be a place that will attract residents to spend their time and money. We can do this by expanding the options for businesses and entertainment.

Steve Dawes Swine dining in Olde Towne is a perfect example of what Olde Towne needs. They took a sub-standard building and remodeled it into success story. They bring in much more sales tax dollars than the gun shop ever did. This story needs to be repeated to every prospective business thinking about opening shop in Olde Towne. Throw in some incentives and Olde Towne becomes a desirable must be there location. For the Wild Birds moved to Olde Towne from its former location on Fort Crook Rd North. It has since expanded with a second location in Omaha. Another success story to brag about. This was done without any incentives. And now they are leaving Olde Towne over lack of building code enforcement. Because of my experience with the Indian Hills Theater, I have a network of professional friends in historical preservation and urban planning just a phone call or email away for help and advice.

How can the city council help in job creation? What would you do to make the city more business friendly? What specific ideas do you have for jobs? (continues on next page)

Steven A. Carmichael As I responded to in the question for Olde Towne, similar incentive based ideas need to come from government. We simply cannot say that Bellevue is open for business and expect business owners to invest money into new opportunities. We need to actively offer the specific things governments can do to attract new jobs and business. If that means installing new sewers and roads for large clients or simply the reduction of taxes or fees associated with these businesses, all avenues should be examined. For too long our sister cities to the West have had an inside edge because of geographic advantages. I don't believe that City Government can create jobs, but we can offer incentives to the private entities who do to make Bellevue a more saleable and viable place to locate their businesses. That, will create jobs.

David Compton With more economic development, comes more jobs, and more sales tax revenue to help our city through tough times. The city needs to work with local and new businesses.

Michael Knebel The City Council can best help in job creation and making the city more business friendly by taking a step back. We don't need to over regulate our local businesses. We need to give them room to breathe, to grow, and to thrive. We can create an environment that rewards ingenuity, but does not seek to play favorites with subsidies to particular businesses or industries. We can simply lower the tax rate across the board to attract more business.

How can the city council help in job creation? What would you do to make the city more business friendly? What specific ideas do you have for jobs? (continued)

Steve Dawes

Start with closing the deal on the former Coreslab site. Working with the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce to revitalize the Fort Crook corridor (as well as Olde Towne). We have already seen the new Hoogeveen Chiropractic Wellness Center and the new La Mesa Restaurant buildings in that area. Both are new builds and beautiful. And La Mesa's old building is being remodeled. A positive attitude in selling Bellevue and showing what has already been accomplished goes a long way in attracting companies and jobs. And listening to what companies want like the bike lanes. That was an easy request to do with very little cost to tax payers.

What existing city ordinances would you like to change?

Steven A. Carmichael

After spending twenty five years enforcing a multitude of ordinance and code requirements, there are numerous sections that I believe we need to review. Simply altering or changing ordinances though is sometimes not the answer. For example, a long time Bellevue resident and Business owner was essentially run out of business because an ordinance revision or interpretation concerning paving of an unimproved lot was deemed a violation of our Zoning requirements, even though when he first installed this storage lot he completely complied with the requirements in effect at that time. Many times, the ordinance has good intentions but the interpretation is what causes consternation and unrest with the public. If we are to be a business friendly community we must act like one, not act like the approving hand of Big Brother. When ordinances are passed, the clear intent of that legislation must be clearly understood, and Department Heads who are tasked with implementation of those laws must be held accountable.

David Compton

Any ordinances that are a detriment to new development need revised.

Michael Knebel

I would like to eliminate a lot of the ordinances, not simply change them. There are too many rules in Bellevue. And too many tax dollars used to enforce those rules. I would seek to end random code enforcement sweeps through our neighborhoods. The only time you would have a Code Enforcement Officer coming to your door is if there was a specific call or if your house was undergoing major renovation. I would seek to eliminate many of the permits that we have to file for, both personal and business. I would go line by line through our city code and work to simplify all of it in the next three years. The city of Bellevue deserves a lot more personal freedom with their property, and they deserve respect.

Steve Dawes

Omaha Mayor Stothert recently mentioned (Aug. 9 Omaha World Herald) that an increase in building code collections and fees had helped close the gap in Omaha's current budget crunch. The fee structure on these proposals needs to be enough to cover the cost of new enforcement employees and could also provide much needed funds for the general budget.

***What should be done to provide library service to the growing southwest areas of Bellevue, for example: additional library, e-resources, Sarpy cities library coop, etc., without damaging the services provided in the current location?**

Steven A. Carmichael When we purchased the land at 36th and Capehart one of the primary reasons was to have land for the construction of a new library at this location. That has never moved past discussion to the best of my knowledge. We have done nothing with this land with the exception of giving a parcel of it to the veterans, which I support. Library services in this area of town are sorely needed, as this is and was the area of town with the greatest growth. We must budget adequate funds to commence the development of public services to this area of Bellevue, not just library, but all functions of government.

David Compton Right now, with the current budget cuts, it would be a blessing just to keep our current library open without budget cuts.

Michael Knebel The city should always have library services available. This is something that doesn't cost a lot, and it provides a benefit to all citizens. We should look at e-resources and keep all options open in order to make sure something as basic as a library is able to be sustainable.

Steve Dawes My sister lives in the Bryan High area. A perfect example of an area of Bellevue that is underserved because of the distance to our single library. A shared jurisdiction site in Western Bellevue would provide service at a savings.

***Discuss the pros and cons of government having more revenue from gambling.**

Steven A. Carmichael The State of Nebraska limits "gambling" to pickles, lotteries and Keno. As an employee of Council Bluffs I see the great benefit of gambling revenue being funneled back into the community. Whether you support or oppose gambling, it does augment and help offset the taxpayers' costs for operation of government. The monies which flow into the city from gambling revenue should not be used for anything other than public improvements.

David Compton Bellevue takes in revenue from keno and pickles sales which provides for some services which may not be budgeted.

Michael Knebel I would like it if more people in politics would realize that Nebraska's current stance is completely hypocritical. Why can we have Keno, dog racing, and Powerball and yet not allow other forms of gambling? Bellevue is only a quick car ride away from the casinos in Iowa. If someone here has a gambling problem, they have plenty of access to the source. Not allowing casinos in our state is not going to stop this issue. When done in moderation, gambling may not be harmful. But despite the harm that it inflicts on some, is it the government's responsibility to help these individuals, or does that help reside in some other form? Legislatively, I think the pros of gambling revenue outweigh the cons. Personally, I don't need to gamble, but that doesn't mean others in this state shouldn't have access to it.

Steve Dawes I'm a Presbyterian. Gambling is considered a very bad vice. To allow new gambling in Bellevue would drive up crime, increases cost for the Police Dept, and lowers what Bellevue can be. But if the citizens want a voice, it should be put on the ballot for a vote. State law would need to be changed first, however, and I don't see that happening.

***Describe your thinking on eminent domain and private property rights.**

Steven A. Carmichael Eminent domain is a very powerful mechanism government employs. I am opposed to its use for anything other than the acquisition of land for public right of ways or the extension of public utilities. Private property rights with respect to government regulations are also an issue. I believe that zoning and building code enforcement are an essential government functions for the safety and use of properties and buildings in our community.

David Compton I think there are some occasions that a city or state has no choice but to exercise eminent domain, when it comes to the growth of our city. But I also believe when this happens, whatever government body is exercising the eminent domain, needs to be fair with whomever they are taking land from.

Michael Knebel Private property rights are key and at any time you allow the government to use eminent domain you open the door for them to do it on a larger scale. I do not favor eminent domain in any form. We have rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And part of that liberty comes from working hard and being able to have property that you can call your own. We must protect private property rights.

Steve Dawes It is a case by case basis. The circumstances of improving the community vs. the land owner need to be addressed every time. IF we change state law, MUD would take over Black Hills Energy by public domain. That is truly in Bellevue’s best interest.

Please briefly describe a situation where you had to stand alone for what you thought was right when the momentum was pushing the other way. What was the result?

Steven A. Carmichael As the Chief Building Official for the City of Bellevue I have had many instances where I was forced to make decisions which put me on the negative side of political interests, even though my decisions were based on pure Building Code requirements. Every person makes decisions every day which, in essence, have the potential to adversely impact others. If you have the moral imperative necessary to understand what is right and what is wrong and then make the correct decision, even though it may adversely impact you or your employment, I would respect that individual. Making the right choice sometimes is hard, but it is necessary in public service.

David Compton On the planning commission, we had a vote on Gilmore lake road for a housing development. Gilmore lake road was supposed to have been paved many years ago in a previous housing development, and it fell through the cracks. I did not want to proceed unless this issue was corrected. I stood alone out of 9 commissioners; the vote was 8-1 to send it through without having a plan for Gilmore road. It went to the council, and they voted the same as I did. I am happy about the decision I made, for now there is a plan in place for Gilmore road & we are getting a new development.

Michael Knebel I’ve registered Libertarian, so every day presents situations like this. But in all honesty, I’ve never truly been alone in a situation like this. There is always someone else that shares my beliefs or convictions, and is able to help stand up for what is right. But I live everyday standing up for what I believe in, and for the Constitutional rights of all people. I spoke at a gun rights forum this winter on Creighton campus and spoke up for the rights of the individual. I, being in a room with people across all political spectrums, spoke of the fact that our issue isn’t with guns, but it is with how we treat each other and the respect we show for one another. I stated we needed to treat all people, black, white, male, female, gay, straight, born and unborn all with the same respect and value for life. After saying that at the gun forum, I had a lot of Republicans and Democrats both coming up to me and telling me I was spot on.

Steve Dawes When Methodist Health System in Omaha announced it was going to demolish the Indian Hills Theater, I was shocked. I immediately founded the Indian Hills Theater Preservation Society. In two months’ time the group won popular public support. We had three backers willing to put up \$6,000,000 to buy and restore the theater. But Methodist refused to sell, even at a large profit. Now what could have been a tourist attraction after a dozen international AP news stories is still today a parking lot. And Methodist had such grand plans for the land.

Do you, a family member, or your employer have any business relationship serving the city? Please describe.

Steven A. Carmichael	I have no connections through any entity which will interfere with the decision making process required of me to be a councilman. I have decided not to accept any political contributions during the primary and will not accept any donations from anyone who has any financial connection to the city to ensure that my commitment to honest representation is upheld.
David Compton	I have a business relationship with the city, for my company is an electrical contractor. I have stated that I will not do any service work for the city, if elected. I think it is only fair to have that transparency.
Michael Knebel	No.
Steve Dawes	None!

What do you see as the major governing documents for this position? Have you read them?

Steven A. Carmichael	The Constitution of the United States, The Nebraska State Statutes and the Code of the City of Bellevue.
David Compton	Comprehensive plan & zoning regulations, I have had to comply with them being on the planning commission and as a business owner.
Michael Knebel	The Constitution and the city’s by-laws. Yes I have read them.
Steve Dawes	The city by-laws, Nebraska state statutes since we have no charter, and building codes. I read them when I ran in the primary last year.

What does it mean to “uphold the Constitution” in the position you seek?

Steven A. Carmichael	As a public servant and American citizen, I am obligated and bound by oath to protect, serve and uphold the Constitution of the United States. Rest assured that I will completely fulfill my obligation to the citizens of Bellevue and the United States of America.
David Compton	My position on the city council comes with very large responsibilities. When sworn in to office, you are acknowledging that you will look out for the citizens of Bellevue and the city as a whole. This should not be taken lightly.
Michael Knebel	Upholding the Constitution means you govern as a representative of your constituents by trying to maintain the maximum amount of freedoms for everyone. The type of government that works best is that which governs least. The Constitution is a living document, still very much applicable to our lives. At times, there have been points in history that we have sought to amend the document, but this type of responsibility should not be taken lightly. As a public servant you are called to make sure that all citizens have the same access and opportunities. Upholding the Constitution means equal rights, not equal outcomes or specialized treatment. It means we have the right to our land, to freedom of speech and religion, to own guns, and to be free from illegal searches. It means the government should not get involved in your private lives. The antithesis of the upholding the Constitution is seeking to pass legislation such as SOPA, NDAA, and the Patriot Act. It also means that we should not, as a government, force the people to purchase things like health insurance. The Constitution is in favor of personal responsibility and the free market, and we must be as well.
Steve Dawes	“We the people” will always be my boss when I’m elected to the council.

What role has your family played in your seeking this office? In holding this position, how do you foresee it affecting your family?

Steven A. Carmichael My mother and father instilled a great sense of patriotism and love for my country in me. My father often gave me this piece of advice, "I don't care what you choose to do in life, but whatever it is, be the very best at it you can be." That is the promise I offer the citizens of Bellevue, I will always do my very best for you.

David Compton My adult daughters have played a very large roll in seeking office. I think it was an eye opening experience for them to attend a city council meeting with their father. I look for it not to affect my family life.

Michael Knebel My family has been very supportive and understands that we are put here for a short time on this planet, and we must use that time wisely. To respect that I have chosen to use that time to try and serve others.

Steve Dawes My wife and I are empty nesters. Marta has always supported me on running for the council. It will mean time away from home. The things we do for love.

***Discuss your view on how an office holder's personal life and/or values affects his/her political performance.**

Steven A. Carmichael I believe that a politician's performance is directly related to the ethical and moral values they espouse.

David Compton I truly believe, any time you hold office for any government affiliation; you need to set a good example, and maintain the personal values that go with the position.

Michael Knebel A person's faith can have an effect on their decisions. And I think that a person's idea on personal redemption can play a big role in how they govern. Personally I feel that everyone can and does make mistakes, myself included. But we must realize that we can always be given a chance to make things right and live the life we were called to live. We base a lot of our decisions on who we vote for by how that person is viewed as a leader. I take a personal journey of growth each day, and strive to be a better person and leader. You can see in my personal life how I try to value each person I meet, and love nothing more than helping out someone. I do this, not because I am forced to by government regulations, but because it is the right thing to do.

Steve Dawes My most personal value is "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness". Something I will strive to provide for all Bellevue citizens and business owners.

Discuss your view on the recent decision by the Supreme Court concerning the Defense of Marriage Act.

Steven A. Carmichael I firmly believe that marriage should be between a man and a woman.

David Compton These issues do not affect the policies set by the city council

Michael Knebel Government shouldn't define marriage. And if the government is going to offer benefits for two adults engaging in a contract, then it should be open to all. Our personal beliefs on what marriage is should never be dictated by what government tells us they will recognize.

Steve Dawes Gay marriage is prohibited by the State of Nebraska Constitution and is not a local issue.

***What definition do you give for each of these terms: pro-life, pro-choice. Which is your view and what education or experiences drive you to hold that view?**

Steven A. Carmichael This single issue is probably the most divisive and polarizing issue which our country is engaged in. I do not believe that my personal opinions on this matter have any bearing on whether or not I will be a good public servant, and as such, I respectfully decline to offer any position on this matter. I will say though, that one of my children became pregnant as a teen and chose to give birth. I now have two grandsons who I love dearly and am grateful that I have the opportunity to share in their life, simply by her choice to continue her pregnancy. I'm glad she made that choice.

David Compton These issues do not affect the policies set by the city council.

Michael Knebel I long for the day when our society no longer tries to lessen any person's life, in or out of the womb. Scientifically speaking, life is formed when an egg is fertilized. What is the debate about? Abortion as an elective procedure should have never come into our mindset. However, in the case of medical emergencies, a doctor should not be legislated on what they can perform. I was pro-choice for many years, but over the time, my faith and personal experience with becoming a father solidified my ideals on abortion. The idea of 'viability' is a ridiculous one as I don't know one person that I would trust with the decision on who is or could possibly ever be 'viable'. We all have some form of viability and use, and should not seek to judge or destroy life based on what we feel is acceptable. Being a Libertarian says we should have freedom of choice when it comes to our life, and I agree 100%. But the limits are when it affects another life, and in abortion, it affects another life. I do not support elective abortion at all.

Steve Dawes In the case of a mother's health, rape, or incest, it should be up to the mother ALONE (or after discussion with the father in health cases) to make this deeply personal decision.

***What key considerations did you use in deciding how you voted for President in 2012?**

Steven A. Carmichael I choose not to answer this.

David Compton These issues do not affect the policies set by the city council.

Michael Knebel I voted my conscience and with the person I felt would best defend the Constitution. I voted Gary Johnson because I felt that of all the candidates, he had the best responses on dealing with the budget, drug war, immigration, and foreign policy.

Steve Dawes I voted early by mail. I avoided the long lines that way. The average wait time at the library last November was over an hour. Totally unacceptable.

Declare anything else you want voters to know about you. (continued on next page)

Steven A. Carmichael [not answered]

David Compton I am a leader who listens and knows how to get results. a. Ward 1 Business owner, b. A Highly informed citizen, c. Have a Vision for Olde Towne, d. Am a huge Local Community Supporter, e. Will Control Government Spending. I will represent the people of Bellevue well and bring my "get it done" attitude to the city council.

Michael Knebel Much like the challenge Rudy had with trying to get on the team with Notre Dame, so too do I have the challenge of getting elected to City Council. I'm not a city employee, and I'm not as well-known as the incumbent was. I wasn't born in Bellevue, but I chose to live here. I choose to stay here and to make this place a great town to raise children. If you had to know one thing about me, it is that I have optimism and trust toward people that I wish to share with the city. I want you, the voter, to know that if you vote for me it will be a vote for a new way of doing things. It will be the start of you having a voice in how government works, especially those who do not perfectly align with either the Democrats or Republicans. I think we all deserve more freedom, and more respect from our government. And we deserve a little more of our hard earned money back in our wallet. I just want to prove to you that one person can make a difference, and with any luck, that one person inspires others to make a difference too.

Declare anything else you want voters to know about you. (continued)

Steve Dawes

We already know there will be at least two new council members come next fall. The council has been divided at times. I have already shown I can work with the Republican Party. I endorsed Scott in writing for the Ward I general election. I called people I knew voted for me, and told my reasons why I was voting for Scott. Look at the primary and general election results. The margin was just 278 votes. You can see that was the difference in the outcome last fall.

At a recent council meeting, Councilwoman Saniuk and I had a difference of opinion over putting a sidewalk on the South Side of the Bellevue Cemetery. After a quick exchange of emails, we corrected a simple misunderstanding. We now have an understanding and agree on the sidewalk placement.

For someone that hasn't lived my entire life in Bellevue, I have learned a lot about Bellevue. It took a former outsider to make the connection on MUD. When state law allowed MUD to take over natural gas service in Elkhorn, I wondered why hasn't Bellevue ever tried to do this? I'm sure I'm not the only person in Ward I that read that story in the Omaha World Herald at the time.

It is time we made better use of our Cox channel. Education on Bellevue issues can be so simple.

My 25 years of experience of working for the City of Omaha are not in just one area, but several diversified and different areas and will be a positive factor for serving on the council.

I am against contracting out the snowplow drivers. A few years ago Bellevue was struck by a Christmas Eve/Christmas blizzard. Bellevue was plowed and finished a full five days before Omaha finished with its streets. Omaha uses a large number of contractors for plowing snow. You won't get the kind of work from a contractor