

OMAHA CITY COUNCIL – District 4, 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,
Date Filed	1-14-13
Contact Info	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.

OMAHA CITY COUNCIL – District 4, Part 2 of 2

Question	Virgil Patlan (Nonpartisan)
Extra biographical	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
Date Filed	2-11-13
Contact Info	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.
01 Biographical	My wife Rebecca for 35 years. 4 children and 17 Grandchildren. www.patlanforomaha.com
02 Motivation	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 I hope to see that it gets repealed or send it to a vote of the people.
03 Qualifications	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.
04 Sustainable Development	This needs more study and I am not comfortable answering.
05 City Resources	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?
06 Animals	[not answered]
07 Illegal Immigration	[not answered]
08 Eminent Domain	I will work to see eminent domain is not abused and protect the rights of property owners.
09 Crime	Find more grant money to be used for crime prevention programs.
10 Jobs	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.
11 Representative Government	[not answered]
12 City Business Connection	NO
13 Homosexual Ordinance-Omaha	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
14 Governing documents	[not answered]
15 Constituents' concerns	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.
16 Family	I have the support of my wife and family without that I would not have run.
17 Personal/Political	[not answered]
18 Political decisions	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.
19 DOMA	I will defend DOMA with all my heart. Marriage is between a man and a woman.
20 Abortion/capital punishment	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.
21 Past President	Is the person Pro-Life and does the person agree to defend DOMA. No exceptions.
22 Anything else?	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.

See next page for actual questions asked.

OMAHA MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL Questions

Question Key	Actual Questions asked. “*” 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.