

OMAHA CITY COUNCIL – District 6 Page 1 of 2, Part 1 of 2

Both candidates advance to the General Election

Question	Phil Klein (Republican)
Extra biographical	Single, High School: Maine Township High School East - Park Ridge, IL, College: Harper College - Palatine, IL / Metro Community College, Church: Lutheran, Civic Groups: Fraternal Order of Eagles, Organizations: Salvation Army, Morris Animal Foundation, Employer: Douglas County Highway Department,
Date Filed	2-07-13
Contact Info	3/2/2013, 9:27pm, resident of district caller assigned; 3/6/2013, Evening, candidate returned call; 3/6/2013, Evening, left phone message; 3/7/2013, Evening, emailed questionnaire; 3/7/2013, candidate returned call; 3/14/2013, 6:15pm, reminder email asking for 3/14/13 deadline; 3/18/2013, left phone message.

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Question	Franklin Thompson (Republican)		
Contact Info	Date Filed: 2-04-13. 3/2/2013, 9:27pm, resident of district caller assigned; 3/6/2013, left phone message at office; 3/7/2013, left phone message with treasurer; 3/8/2013, Evening, candidate returned call; 3/8/2013, Evening, emailed questionnaire; 3/10/2013, Noon, sent report of extending to March 14 deadline; 3/14/2013, 6:13pm, reminder email asking for 3/14/13 deadline; 3/17/2013, 6:06pm, ANSWERS RECEIVED.		
01 Biographical	-Married to Beverly with 4 kids (Kelly, Ivy, Franque, Jasmine) - Member of Life Gate (Trinity) Church - Education: HS Tech High '72, BS UN Lincoln '77, MS UN Omaha, Ed.S University of So. Mississippi '93, Ed.D. UN Omaha '97. I served 35 years as an educator: Burke HS, Creighton Prep HS, Blackburn Alternative School, UNO College of Education (current).		
02 Motivation	- Initially back in 2001, it was students at UNO who felt I needed to get my message out further than the 4 classroom walls. This time (2013) the reason is to address unfinished business. - Balance the budget, get union contracts under control, and bring fiscal stability to the city.		
03 Qualifications	- I am a proven incumbent with a strong voting record. - I serve BOTH my district and the whole city. - I am a collaborator who knows how to work across party lines.		
04 Sustainable Development	I like the overall philosophy behind being more sensitive to the environment. Yes, our behavior MUST change. It is an inevitable reality that even the staunchest conservative cannot deny. There are parts of the debate that have become unnecessarily politicized, however. If the moderates within the movement take control of the leadership, we can make some progress. If the radicals take the leadership, it will be a long struggle.	05 City Resources	-Do more with less. Yes, this is doable. It is not just a campaign slogan. There are excesses and imbalances that need to be addressed. - Invest in our children without unnecessary duplication. - Fund and promote educational and job training efforts. (Note: your last question is not totally clear).
06 Animals	Pit bull regulation, but we seem to have gained a handle on this problem as of late. A possible feral cat issue that hasn't turned into a big problem yet.	07 Illegal Immigration	This is a state and federal issue. The city does not have jurisdiction.
08 Eminent Domain	Unfortunately, the mayor and council are within their rights to do this. We must ensure, however, that there is a strict definition of the "public good" and that compensation is fair and accurate. Sometimes citizens are not given the fair market value they deserve.		
09 Crime	I believe in a five-fold plan: [1] An "ecological" approach that involves more than just police and schools. We need multiple agencies coming together at once in a crescendo to stem the tide of rising violence. Churches are curiously silent. [2] We need to step up our prevention and education efforts. [3] We need to have better programs that seek to rehabilitate. [4] We need options other than jail time. I have always liked a military duty option for those not deemed as hard-core criminals. [5] We must do a better job of empowering young people to speak to and work with other young people. When adults talk, they ignore us. When kids talk to kids, they listen. When enough of them say "enough is enough," then the problem will decrease dramatically.		
10 Jobs	Research shows that jobs moving out to the suburbs and robots/computers replacing humans in factories has been a leading cause of inner-city unemployment. The Chamber of Commerce should convene a think tank of stakeholders and address this issue. There are things that can be done. Not all students were meant to go to college. The closing of Tech HS in 1984 and subsequent downgrading of the trades at South HS has greatly added to East Omaha's employment and training problem.		
11 Representative Government	The current strong mayor form of government that we have handcuffs the council from having much administrative impact. We can exercise control with legislation and budgeting, but the day-to-day running of the government and the doling out of funds is under the purview of the mayor. Recently, the council took back from the mayor the power to negotiate union contracts, but that should only be an emergency move. Under normal conditions, it is easier (and better) for one person to negotiate for the city instead of seven. Still, I wish council reps had more authority to hand out pink slips for not properly doing things such as snow removal. It's frustrating for council reps to take the heat for things that the mayor and his cabinet have ultimate control over.		
12 City Business Connection	N/A		
13 Homosexual Ordinance-Omaha	In its current form, I would vote "No". I make no promises, but I might be willing to entertain an upgraded ordinance that is written better than the one we currently have.	14 Governing documents	At this level, the City Charter, City Code, and the State Constitution are the main documents. The National Constitution is a supporting document. Sometimes the will of your constituents have to be set aside to address the needs of (a) the whole city, and (b) disempowered populations.
15 Constituents' concerns	Attend neighborhood meetings and forums; Return all calls and emails. Have an open-door policy. Truly honor the public hearing process. Resist making your decision behind closed doors and just using the public hearing as a "dog and pony" show.		
16 Family	My family is 100% behind this. They help me campaign.		
19 DOMA	I believe that the legal definition of marriage should be between a man and a woman.		

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Question	Franklin Thompson (Republican)	
17 Personal/Political	I should be driven 50% by research; 25% by my beliefs, and 25% by the testimony of the public.	18 Political decisions My answer is "yes" I am motivated by my faith. There are times, however, where I must separate church and state.
20 Abortion/capital punishment	I am pro-life. I believe unwanted pregnancies should be given up for adoption. I believe a fetus in the womb should be protected by the Constitution.	
21 Past President	Political Party was my least consideration. I look at what the person has to say. I also look at whether or not the person can balance understanding the signs of the times, along with having the ability to encourage, teach and lead. I don't like people who trash traditions, but I also don't like people who are in denial of change.	
22 Anything else?	I don't make a claim to be a perfect person or a wise man. I only claim to be a good person who is willing to listen. I am also a person who understands a hundred shades of gray. This is both a gift and a curse at the same time. It gives me a tremendous amount of freedom and insight, but it also makes me an enemy to both Black and White, Democrat and Republican, straight and gay, educated and uneducated, etc. I have been this way since age 6. I strongly believe our salvation lies in the "critical middle." I don't believe that everything traditional is bad or unusable. I believe too many people are unwilling to compromise. I also believe that possessing the truth is not good enough. You must have both truth AND a meaningful process to communicate it to the people who don't understand or see it. What good does it do to champion a truth, while leaving a trail of blood behind and fostering the very counter-revolution that you are attempting to fight against?	
Extra biographical	married, Spouse: Beverly, #of children: 4, High School: Omaha Tech High	

OMAHA MAYOR and CITY COUNCIL Questions

Question Key	Actual Questions asked. <i>"*d"</i> 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.