

PUBLIC OFFICE CANDIDATE Q&A

Answers to community questions



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Introduction

This document compiles answers from the candidates running for Mayor, City Council, and School Board in the City of Cincinnati. Each candidate was asked the same set of questions on important issues facing our city. Their responses are presented here to help you make an informed decision on election day. We encourage you to read each candidate's answers carefully and consider their vision for the future of our community.

The Human Services Chamber of Hamilton County is a coalition of over 120 member agencies that strives to serve as the unified voice of the nonprofit sector in Hamilton County regarding policy and legislative issues. We also strive to create partnerships with other sectors so as to strengthen our community. To learn more or to join to Chamber please click [here](#).

Candidate Profiles - Mayor

Cory Bowman:

No photo provided.

Statement:

Questionnaire not returned.

Aftab Pureval



Statement:

I am originally from Southwest, Ohio and proud to serve as the 70th Mayor of Cincinnati.

Website: www.aftabformayor.com

Julien Spivey:



Statement:

[Community advocate, entrepreneur, and lifelong Cincinnati committed to inclusive growth.]

Website: Could not locate website

PUBLIC OFFICE CANDIDATE Q&A

Answers to community questions



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Candidate Profiles - City Council

Anna Albi:



Statement:

I focus on fostering safe communities by prioritizing gun safety, food access and housing.

Website: www.albiforcincinnati.com

Audricia Brooks:



Statement:

Ms. Brooks is a native of Cincinnati. She is a graduate of Walnut Hills High School, University of Cincinnati College of Nursing, BSN and the University of Kentucky MSN. She is a certified Family Nurse Practitioner.

Website: www.audriciabrooksnp.godaddysites.com

Laketa Cole:



Statement:

Former Council Member, mother, and small business owner working for a stronger Cincinnati.

Website: www.laketacole.com

Jerry Corbett:**Statement:**

I am a lifelong Cincinnati resident. I grew up in the west side neighborhood of Riverside near Anderson Ferry. I currently reside in the Mt. Washington neighborhood.

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/corbettforcincinnati>

Jeff Cramerding:**Statement:**

Price Hill resident Jeff Cramerding serves on City Council as the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. He is a founding member of Price Hill Will and a longtime labor lawyer.

Website: www.jeffcramerding.com

Don Driehaus:**Statement:**

Forty year city resident. Longtime volunteer with Bethany House, CMHA, Price Hill Safety Community Action Team, West Price Hill board Member.

Website: www.dondriehausforcincinnati.org

Brian Ennix:

No photo provided.

Statement:

Not provided.

Website: Could not locate website

Kevin Farmer:**Statement:**

The Full Story

If you've ever felt like your voice didn't matter, I'm here to say: You matter. Your story matters. And your future matters.

Let's build a city that works with the people—not just around them.

Website: www.votekevinfarmer.com

Gary Favors:**Statement:**

Army veteran, educator, and advocate with 25+ years serving Cincinnati students and families.

Website: www.favorsforcincinnati.com

PUBLIC OFFICE CANDIDATE Q&A

Answers to community questions



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Candidate Profiles - City Council

Steven P. Goodin:



Statement:

I was appointed to Cincinnati City Council in 2020 and served most of a term in the wake of the federal corruption arrests of three councilmembers.

Website: www.votegoodin.com

Ryan James:

No photo provided.

Statement:

Nonprofit leader who overcame homelessness, now working to uplift our residents in Cincinnati.

Website: www.ryanjamesforcincinnati.com

Mark Jeffreys:



Statement:

From janitor and union laborer to P&G executive, entrepreneur, City Councilman, and dad of four.

Website: www.votejeffreys.com

Dawn Johnson:

No photo provided.

Statement:

Empowering voices, building wellness, and transforming communities

Website: www.dawnforcincy.com

Scotty Johnson:

No photo provided.

Statement:

Cincinnati Councilmember, retired police officer, and lifelong community advocate.

Website: www.scottyforcincinnati.com

Jan-Michele Lemon**Kearney:**

No photo provided.

Statement:

Proud CPS graduate. Graduated cum laude from Dartmouth College. Masters degree and law degree from Harvard. Mom, Wife, Attorney, Realtor®, entrepreneur.

Website: www.kearneyforcincinnati.com

Liz Keating:

No photo provided.

Statement:

Liz Keating is a mom and proven leader who will serve as an independent voice committed to productive debate and results for our city.

Website: www.votelizkeating.com

Dale Mallory:**Statement:**

Dale Mallory is a former State Representative within that position he chaired the Brownfield Environmental Committee and has dedicated his retirement to community revitalization.

Website: www.malloryforcincinnati.com

Linda Matthews:**Statement:**

V.P., North Avondale Neighborhood Association. Trustee, Central State University.

Website: www.votelindamatthews.com

PUBLIC OFFICE CANDIDATE Q&A

Answers to community questions



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Candidate Profiles - City Council

Brandon Nixon:



Statement:

Brandon Nixon is a candidate for Cincinnati City Council with a strong record of community service and leadership.

Website: Could not locate website

Evan Nolan:



Statement:

Corporate/real estate lawyer w/ 15 years of political & civic experience; served on community council & church boards

Website: www.votenolan.com

Meeka D. Owens:

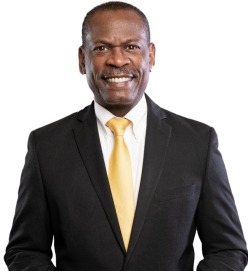


Statement:

I was born and raised in Cincinnati, attended CPS schools, raised my son here. I'm an organizer and problem solver. As a councilwoman, I'll continue to prioritize building housing, public safety, supporting small businesses, the environment and more.

Website: www.votemeeka.com

Raffel Prohett:



Statement:

Community advocate, retired firefighter and veteran focused on equity, public safety, and youth empowerment. Married, 3 kids

Website: Could not locate website

Stephan Pryor:

No photo provided.

Statement:

Not provided

Website: Could not locate website

Christopher E.C.

Smitherman:

No photo provided.

Statement:

Not Provided

Website: www.smithermanforcitycouncil.com

Seth Walsh:



Statement:

Seth Walsh is a nonprofit community developer working to keep Cincinnati growing, vibrant, & safe.

Website: www.sethwalshforcincinnati.com

Donald Washington:



Statement:

Disabled vet, small-business owner, community advocate for youth, safety, housing.

Website: www.votedonaldwashington2025.com

Aaron Weiner:

No photo provided.

Statement:

I am a fourth generation Cincinnati and resident of Clifton. I have 25 years of housing and development experience as a Realtor. My entire adult life has been devoted to community service.

Website: www.weinerforcincinnati.com

PUBLIC OFFICE CANDIDATE Q&A

Answers to community questions



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Candidate Profiles - School Board

Kari T. Armbruster



Statement:

Kari is a parent of three CPS students. She has a corporate background in sustainability and strategy.

Website: www.armbrusterforschoolboard.com

Brandon Craig



Statement:

I'm a product of CPS (graduate of Walnut Hills HS) & 2x grad of UC (BA & JD). I've worked in Civil Rights for 13+ years.

Website: www.craig4board.com

Jim Crosset



Statement:

Proud Walnut Hills grad, retired business exec. 20-year member of CPS Audit Committee. Appointed to the Board in 2024.

Website: www.crossetforcincinnati.com

Marcia A. Futel



Statement:

Financial Services Professional, mom of 3 CPS grads, 30+ years of volunteer service in the district.

Website: www.citizensformarciafutel.org

Kareem Moffett



Statement:

Educator, CPS Board President, Realtor & advocate for youth, families, and strong communities.

Website: www.drkareem4education.com

MAYORAL CANDIDATE Q&A

Mayoral Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Cory Bowman

Questionnaire not returned.

MAYORAL CANDIDATE Q&A

Mayoral Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Aftab Pureval

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

Human Services Funding is crucial to advancing our shared goals for the City, even as we navigate challenging economic times. I am committed to ensuring that the City is a strong partner in empowering organizations to further these goals.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

Our City's Alternative Response Program (ARC) is a key program managed by the Emergency Communications Center to assist in a mental health crisis situation.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

This council has invested in housing for our disabled community, expanded access to handicap port-o-lets at large city events and legalized ADUs to allow seniors to age in place.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

I have appointed accessibility champions to CABA and worked with the board to study accessibility wide, and as mentioned above, we worked with AARP to legalize auxiliary dwelling units.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

Yes.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

CMHA (Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority) is best positioned to provide housing for families in that AMI (average median income) range. We partner with CMHA on a range of issues to help them both build and maintain their housing stock.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

There are a number of workforce development organizations working in the city at the local, state, and federal levels. The city should continue convening those groups to ensure collaboration rather than working at cross purposes.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

Attracting New Americans is important for our continued growth. My job as Mayor is to protect all Cincinnatians, regardless of their immigration status, and CPD should be focused on public safety, not on immigration enforcement.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

I am disappointed that the Department of Justice has suspended lep.gov that provided a centralized resource for those with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). I am dedicated to supporting new ways for immigrants to access City services.

MAYORAL CANDIDATE Q&A

Mayoral Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Julien Spivey

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

I support a transparent, needs-based approach prioritizing housing, health, food security, and youth programs. Input from the Human Services Chamber and community advocates should guide decisions, ensuring funds go where they're most needed.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

Work with hospitals, universities, nonprofits and faith groups to expand crisis response teams, school-based counseling, prevention programs and mental health clinics. Normalize seeking help and leverage state/federal resources.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

Create advisory councils for older adults and disabled residents, partner with CABA and Age-Friendly, and conduct accessible surveys. Require representation in planning, invest in accessibility upgrades and allocate funds to meet their needs.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

Meet regularly with CABA, AARP Age-Friendly, and advocates to incorporate their recommendations into budgets, zoning and transit. Support accessibility training, housing upgrades and inclusive programs to make our city welcoming.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

Yes, if the increase is limited in scope, time-bound and dedicated to affordable housing and economic growth funds. We must pair new revenue with transparent oversight and ensure it relieves the housing crisis and promotes job growth.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

Leverage public-private partnerships, low-interest loans, tax credits and streamlined permitting to reduce costs. Expand the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and coordinate with nonprofits to secure gap financing for projects serving 0-50% AMI families.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

Develop sector-specific training with nonprofits, community colleges and employers. Provide childcare, transit, and wraparound services so residents can work. Align economic development efforts with workforce programs and hire locally.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

Promote Cincinnati as a welcoming, sanctuary city by supporting immigrant resource centers, cultural programs and legal aid. Advocate for fair immigration policies, protect families, and celebrate the economic contributions of New Americans

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

Expand language access by translating materials, hiring interpreters and partnering with community organizations. Establish multicultural liaison offices and mobile service teams to ensure all residents can navigate city services.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Anna Albi

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

I fully support City Council allocating 1.5% of our budget for Human Services funding across gun violence prevention, homelessness prevention and workforce development. I also fully support HSAC being the decisionmakers for allocating that funding.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

This is an area where I've done some digging, though failures in the American healthcare system make it hard. My hope is to increase access to emotional/mental support through schools, rec centers and libraries to bring the resources to the people.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

I believe in making Cincinnati accessible to everyone. I am open to conducting an Accessibility Audit, though I would need to better understand the cost, what would be measured, and what kinds of possible solutions it would help us identify.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

I have met with the Council on Aging and ProSeniors, and I am happy to engage with more! One area I'm very concerned about is food access for our aging residents, which is why seniors are eligible for our grocery assistance pilot in Winton Hills.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

If Council were to propose an income tax, we must truly understand the possible ramifications on all our residents. Unfortunately, the State prevents us from implementing a progressive income tax, which would make high-earners pay their fair share.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

I'm supportive of the City incentivizing 0-50 AMI housing projects, and would like to see more City funding through the CDF affordable housing leveraged fund directed towards projects at 60 AMI and below.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

One of our Human Services priorities is workforce development, and I support the millions we invest in our community partners every year for this work. I'd also like to see increased connectivity with CPS through Career Pathways and apprenticeships.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

I condemn the Trump Admin's immigration policies and approach. That's why it was important that Council funded groups like Immigrant and Refugee Law Center, Compass, Santa Maria, Catholic Charities and the Hispanic Chamber in our FY26 budget.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

City services must be offered in many languages, and when necessary, we should partner with translators to be sure that any Cincinnati can access City services.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Audricia Brooks

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

Public Safety, fiscal health and delivering of basic services, thriving communities with civic engagement are my priorities. Absolutely HSCHC should have input and recommendations in setting priorities

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

Depression in our adolescents is a paramount concern. I recommend including Children's Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) in addressing this issue. CHMC is a world class facility anchored in health and wellness for the pediatric population.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

Officials like the mayor and council members should work to insure inclusion by committee or other forums. So that the welfare, safety, job opportunities and education are available. Those with disabilities should be represented and invited to participate. Easter Seals, Cincinnati Association for the Blind as well as the Hamilton County Board for Developmental Disabilities is a good place to start. We have a moral obligation to those most vulnerable in our communities.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

Incorporate agencies like the Council on Aging by accepting their recommendations in alliance with current data to provide current research in planning and implementing services.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

I agree to raise the earnings tax and allocate those resources to the fire department, affordable and low income housing.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

This is an area I need to research more to provide an intelligent answer.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

The city can invite members of the nonprofit sector to engage with city projects. This could help the city appear to be more responsible in its corporate affairs. This could improve feelings of engagement and loyalty.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

Our community clinics should be a safe place. Written information as well as translators need to be available in those highly populated areas. Home/community visits by bilingual providers. Home visits are better. Because it doesn't require the individuals to travel or make childcare arrangements.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

Bilingual providers with cultural sensitivity are crucial. Even when you can't speak the language, the sincere expression of care is universal. Especially when that care is delivered with respect towards the recipient.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Laketa Cole

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

The city currently prioritizes Human Services Funding through a formula that looks at poverty levels, equity, and need. While that framework is helpful, it does not always capture the real-time challenges communities face. As a former council member, I have seen how city funding decisions can either close opportunity gaps or deepen them.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

The mental health crisis is affecting children, families, and older adults in every part of Cincinnati. Too many residents lack affordable or accessible care, and the stigma around mental health prevents many from even reaching out. I believe the city must take an active role in expanding partnerships that connect residents with trusted resources.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

Older adults and residents living with disabilities deserve more than just a seat at the table—they deserve active outreach and representation. I will champion going out into communities to hear directly from seniors and those with disabilities, ensuring that their feedback shapes city decisions.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

Making Cincinnati a truly age-friendly and accessible city requires collaboration with organizations already leading the way. I will work closely with groups like CABA and Age-Friendly Cincinnati to bring their recommendations into council conversations and policy decisions. Their expertise must inform city planning not only for compliance but for innovation.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

When I served on Council, the earnings tax was 2.1%, and most people didn't mind paying it because they felt they were receiving quality services in return. If the city is going to consider raising the earnings tax, residents must see a clear benefit. That means making sure basic services—trash collection, street repair, snow removal, public safety, and recreation centers—are reliable, efficient, and improved.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

Families at 0 to 50 AMI face the most severe housing challenges, and the city must step up to close financial gaps in development. My strategy is to support targeted incentives and city-backed tools that prioritize deeply affordable housing, while working in collaboration with nonprofits and developers

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

A thriving workforce depends on collaboration between the city, nonprofits, employers, and educators. Nonprofits play a critical role in preparing residents for success, particularly in underserved communities. The city should align incentives with nonprofit training programs, creating pipelines that connect education and skills training directly to job opportunities.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

Immigrants are helping Cincinnati grow and thrive. To support and attract New Americans, I will champion immigrant-friendly policies, highlight their contributions, and collaborate with community organizations that are already leading the work. Creating opportunities for immigrant entrepreneurs and ensuring families feel welcome in schools, neighborhoods, and city services will strengthen our future as a city.

Answer:

I will champion the expansion of translation, interpretation, and bilingual staffing, but just as importantly, I will advocate based on recommendations from organizations already doing this work. By taking their insights and creating a more fluid ecosystem between the city and immigrant-serving organizations, we can remove barriers and improve service delivery.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Jerry Corbett

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

City Council prioritizes funding based on their policy objectives. These objectives change as new councils are elected every two years. The United Way is charged with administering the funding for the recipient agencies. Yes, I would absolutely be open to input from the HSCHC. Who better to give informed advice than those that deal with the issues on an ongoing basis.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

One of my first initiatives would be to recruit a group of mental health professionals with varied experiences in the mental health field. My plan would be to put together a panel that would meet on a regular basis to discuss the problems and hopefully find some solutions. This may be the most important issue to address in this generation. It must be addressed on an ongoing, persistent basis if there is going to be any hope of improving the crisis.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

In a lot of cases we must go where they live. Set up meetings at senior centers, assisted living facilities, nursing homes etc. The only way to make any situation better is to hear from those affected.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

I would definitely seek their input on all issues concerning Accessibility for the elderly as well as those with disabilities. As a community leader it is your responsibility to seek the input of those with the most knowledge of any issue in question.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

The need for affordable housing is obvious. How we fund it is the tough part. Having worked for the City of Cincinnati for 30 plus years I know there are savings that can be made on the day to day operating budget. During my time at the Water Works I was able to identify cost saving measures that improved efficiency without cutting staff. I would like to have the opportunity to try this approach before considering a tax increase.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

I support property tax abatements for low income families. I would also look for any grants available or possibly targeted TIF's. It is going to be a bigger challenge over the next few years with the federal funding cuts that are anticipated for cities around the country.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

There are many great organizations that are performing great community service every day. Santa Maria Community Services come to mind as an organization that tries to instill the necessary skills and approach to making local residents more appealing to employers. They are not the only agency that provides these services and to make Cincinnati stronger we must work closely together to improve the economic situation that a lot of our neighbors are facing.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

We are a nation of immigrants. Welcoming people from around the world has been a primary reason for America's great success, especially over the past century. When we close the door to certain groups of people it is not adhering to the principles on which this country was founded. I also fear that it will lead to America losing its' competitive edge in the world. I believe any immigrant living in this country that has not broken the law while living here should be given a pathway to citizenship

Answer:

Immigrants can be referred to an assortment of agencies that are equipped to address their questions and lead them in the right direction. Cincinnati Compass would be a good starting point but there are several others who could offer help, such as Hamilton County Job and Family Services, Immigrant and Refugee Law Center etc.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Jeff Cramerding

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

Council sets the priorities based on need. I favor having a smaller number of critically important priorities and funding them to the greatest extent possible. Yes, I am open to and would value input from HSCHC

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

Over 60% of the city's budget goes to police, fire, and public safety. Obviously, this is an enormous resource. Partnerships and a focus on the mental health crisis should be a strategic and tactical priority.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

In addition to consulting with groups like CABA and LADD to find areas for improvement, I will continue to support our community budget survey which is mailed to people's homes to ask them their thoughts on the budget rather than requiring them to attend an in-person meeting.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

Yes, I will work and value information from these important organizations. Housing targeted towards these groups is important. We have many great neighborhoods with beautiful, historic housing, but that housing is sometimes not conducive to older adults.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

Yes, I support the Futures recommendations and would support an earnings tax increase to fund housing development. Without this or a similar proposal, the city does not have the resources to catalyze housing in a meaningful way.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

This mayor and council has clearly made housing a priority. We have invested tens of millions of dollars in housing (including \$5 million annually when the city closes out its fiscal year), and passed comprehensive zoning reform.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

In addition to supporting our existing workforce development programs like the Building Futures program the city operates with the Urban League, the city can give nonprofit partners more notifications of job postings and other opportunities.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

Cincinnati has only strengthened its outreach to immigrant communities this year. In the most recent budget, we gave additional financial support to the Cincinnati Hispanic Chamber and Asianati to continue their work promoting immigrants in the city.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

I will continue to advocate for the city to perform outreach to immigrant communities. One specific goal of mine is to streamline the city's 311 app and make it easier to use. The current app can be confusing and is only available in English.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Don Driehaus

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

As a nonincumbent, I cannot speak directly to how the city funds Human Services. There are a plethora of charities and NFP's supporting Cincinnati. We need to see who is most impactful and support their efforts.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

We need to work with the County, State and Federal government to address this issue. I am in talks with the county in how to deal with the mentally ill and the chronically addicted in our streets. We need a bolder plan of action.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

Care of the elderly is essential. I work with seniors at Western Hills retirement center and finding proper care so seniors can live independently as possible is key. Providing regular contact and companionship is crucial.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

I have not worked directly with CABA but as mentioned above I have multiple years experience working with Seniors

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

I do not agree with raising the earnings tax. I agree with smart housing development

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

We can incent builders and developers to coordinate efforts with the community building groups.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

Mainly working with the trades and local businesses to provide a career path for all our young people, especially those now in school.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

I work directly with the Hispanic community in Price Hill. We've worked actively to support their efforts and families. We are standing up to ICE and do not believe good people should live in fear.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

We work with immigrant liaisons to help with education, business development and community engagement. These efforts have gone on for years.

A thriving immigrant community leads to a thriving City.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Brian Ennix

Questionnaire not returned.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Kevin Farmer

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

The city sets Human Services Funding priorities through data analysis, community input, and alignment with strategic goals. While effective, it faces challenges like limited engagement and political bias. Improvements include more inclusion, transparency, and focus on root causes.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

To address the mental health crisis, I'd foster inclusive, data-driven partnerships, engage impacted communities, expand existing services, promote education and early intervention, secure diverse funding, and ensure transparency and measurable outcomes.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

To include older adults and people with disabilities in policy and planning, I'd ensure accessible outreach, partner with advocacy groups, hold tailored listening sessions, include them in decision-making, collect relevant data, and commit to ongoing engagement.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

Partnering with groups like CABA and Age-Friendly Cincinnati, I'd promote accessibility, healthcare access, inclusive planning, and public awareness. Early engagement and strong communication ensure older adults and people with disabilities are prioritized.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

I support exploring an earnings tax increase to fund affordable housing, recognizing its importance for stability. However, it's vital to assess economic impacts, ensure transparency, and include safeguards to use funds efficiently and equitably.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

To close housing gaps for low-income families, I'd use city incentives, align with state/federal funds, support public-private partnerships, and ensure accountability. For a thriving workforce, city-nonprofit collaboration must target training, access, and equity.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

No answer provided.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

Immigrants strengthen Cincinnati's schools, economy, and culture. I'd support inclusion through accessible services, community partnerships, immigrant protections, support for students and entrepreneurs, and direct engagement to guide city policies.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

To ensure immigrants with limited English can access City services, I'd expand language access, hire bilingual staff, require department language plans, partner with community groups, boost outreach, and create feedback channels for continuous improvement.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Gary Favors

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

I want to improve how funding priorities are set by working with United Way and HSAC while also ensuring input from an independent nonprofit advocacy group like HSCHC. Their unbiased perspective is vital for fair, balanced, and transparent decisions.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

As Councilman, I'll partner with hospitals, schools, nonprofits, and faith groups to expand mental health access, support early intervention and crisis care, reduce stigma, and invest in community programs for a healthier, safer Cincinnati.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

I will proactively engage older adults and people with disabilities by ensuring accessibility, partnering with trusted organizations, valuing diverse voices, and including them as equal partners in shaping policies that impact their daily lives.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

I will work with CABA, Age-Friendly Cincinnati, and others on accessibility audits, support age-friendly initiatives, and engage older adults in planning to ensure policies and budgets build a more inclusive, welcoming city.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

Not currently, people support leaders they trust. Before asking for more taxes, we must show we care, manage resources responsibly, and act accountably, building trust so citizens are willing to invest in our shared future later.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

The city should investigate gap financing, grants, low-interest loans, tax incentives, and public-private partnerships, while leveraging federal and state programs to ensure affordability and project viability.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

The city can partner with nonprofits to remove workforce barriers, co-locate services, expand youth and re-entry programs, and create earn-and-learn opportunities, providing clear, inclusive career pathways for all residents.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

Cincinnati can support immigrants by expanding multilingual services, training staff in cultural competency, partnering with community groups, promoting job training, supporting immigrant events, and running campaigns like "Know Your Rights" to foster inclusion and engagement.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

The city can help immigrants access services by translating websites, documents, and signage, providing multilingual staff and interpreters, and partnering with community organizations for targeted outreach and guidance on essential services.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Steven P. Goodin

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

The City's current approach – which largely outsources leveraged support determinations to the United Way based upon council-approved criteria – is a step in the right direction. Having councilmembers and staff hash out the allocations behind closed doors was never the best approach for the community or for the non-profits involved. That said, I am certainly open to other voices entering the mix and I do have concerns with how the United Way establishes metrics to determine the success of the awards.

Answer:

The issue of mental health is a huge and often-unacknowledged issue in Cincinnati – especially among the youth in our urban core where untreated violence-related trauma creates significant impediments to success. I believe council should identify this as a focus area in our next set of impact criteria and should specifically direct the United Way (and this body) to think outside the box on ways to better integrate those services with CPS.

Answer:

There is no silver-bullet response to this question. I have been concerned about data collection at City Hall for many years, but especially with this current administration where everything from economic development data to crime statistics seems tainted by sloppy methodology and obtuse criteria. We need to be much more intentional about including ALL voices in data collection across the board – including, but not limited to, those residents living with disabilities.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

During my time on the SORTA board, I learned firsthand our City's unique challenges in terms of public transit and accessibility more generally. Cincinnati's narrow European-style streets and focus on Italianate architecture renders many buildings difficult to access. As my dear friend Kevin Flynn taught me, many of our most beloved buildings (like the University Club) are simply inaccessible to many seniors and individuals who utilize wheelchairs. As our population ages, I would prioritize making sure no one is blocked from enjoying a city attraction due to an imposing set of concrete steps.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

I agree we may need to revisit the earnings tax but disagree that any new proceeds be limited to use for housing development and/or preservation. We are facing a generational crisis in public safety, especially in terms of our outmoded fire stations and fire equipment. We also are experiencing a deferred maintenance crisis which the railroad proceeds alone will not fix. So, in the short term, it is unclear to me whether focusing on housing alone would be in the best interests of the City.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

As someone who spends hours every day working on the development of new housing, I can tell you that the biggest drivers of cost in Cincinnati right now are myriad: 1) regulatory uncertainty (with City departments stumbling over each other in terms of approvals and enforcement; 2) a lack of coordination between CPS, the County Auditor and the Port Authority on the treatment of distressed properties which could be returned to productive use; and 3) a lazy approach by City elected officials as to the allocation of NOFA funds.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

My biggest piece of advice in this area is to re-engage with the trade unions. My strong sense is that the trade unions, non-profits and City officials are more siloed than ever in regard to job training. The unions do it best. As the son of a lifelong UAW member (and recipient of numerous union endorsements), I will strive to bring all these parties to the table if the voters return me to council. It seems to me the only way to craft a more robust and sustainable workforce training ecosystem. We must think of job training and actual employment as part of the same continuum, and not as separate endeavors.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

Cincinnati stands in a strange place in regard to our national immigration policy – we are a sanctuary city on paper only. This City needs to give full-throated support for its immigrant population. I've read that up to ten percent of CPS students are learning English as a second language. While Cincinnati has almost no input on national immigration policies, we must use our bully pulpits to ensure that law-abiding immigrants are treated fairly and compassionately.

Answer:

Given the fact that many immigrants currently fear interacting with government agencies of any kind, this is a tall order. But I would be open to making this an area of focus for FY 2026 human services impact funding.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Ryan James

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

Early intervention is key. I'd partner with schools, rec centers, and grassroots orgs to expand mental health access, reduce stigma, and bring culturally competent care directly to youth and families where they live.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

Early intervention is key. I'd partner with schools, rec centers, and grassroots orgs to expand mental health access, reduce stigma, and bring culturally competent care directly to youth and families where they live.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

As someone with a learning disability, I know how frustrating it was to feel misunderstood in school. It's a priority for me to ensure that individuals and organizations that support older folks and those with disabilities have the resources they need and a seat at the table for decision-making.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

I have not worked with CABA in the past but absolutely would be honored to partner with this organization as a Councilmember.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

Generally speaking, yes. It needs to be determined how this tax increase may impact the lowest-income Cincinnatians, but investment in housing and housing improvements is needed for our city to grow.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

We need to better use tools like tax abatements, low-cost city-owned land, and local TIF dollars to fund deeply affordable housing. I also support the Housing Trust Fund and Community Land Trusts as key partners in long-term affordability.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

I've spent my career on nonprofit and workforce partnerships. We can grow this by investing in sector-based training programs, aligning job training to housing and childcare support, and improving coordination with major employers and unions.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

I will make Cincinnati a champion for New Americans fighting back against anti-immigrant policy, funding immigrant-serving organizations, and supporting CPS and nonprofits as they welcome and uplift newcomer families.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

I'll advocate for multi-language 311 support, translated city documents, and stronger partnerships with immigrant-serving groups to reduce access barriers across departments like permits, housing, and emergency response.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Mark Jeffreys

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

Each year the administration drafts a list of Human Services organizations and ranks them by priority, to which Council suggests adjustments. While I believe this approach works, I am always open to input from the HSCHC on ways to improve funding.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

I've been one of the largest advocates on Council for mental health reforms in Cincinnati and will continue to do so. Partnerships with organizations like Lighthouse and Easterseals are essential to continue providing comprehensive support networks.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

I will work with stakeholders to ensure that these often overlooked populations receive the funding and support they deserve. This can be done through targeted community input surveys, as well as by the administration in ranking funding priority.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

Yes; I have actively engaged with CABA and older/disabled residents to determine what kinds of services are needed including on legalizing Accessory Dwelling Units.. I will continue to do so in the future to keep Cincinnati a place for everyone.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

I oppose raising the earnings tax now. We must first run the city more efficiently, align economic goals, leverage tools like TIFs and private investments, and tighten the budget process. Only after these steps should a tax increase be considered.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

I support using the Affordable Housing Leverage Fund, TIFs, and other tools to close financing gaps, paired with foundation and private dollars, to build affordable housing. And support continuing the 1.5% of our budget for human services.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

The city can better partner with nonprofits by further aligning on job training and housing initiatives, continued investment in workforce programs, and reducing barriers so residents can access good jobs and employers can find skilled talent.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

As the son of an immigrant, I am fully supportive of expanding access to educational opportunities for all students. While recent policies have made this more difficult, I will continue to advocate for Cincinnati as a place for everyone.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

I believe that Cincinnati should provide readily accessible services to residents from all backgrounds, whether they speak English or not. I support using interpreters where needed in order to help those in need navigate needed services.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Dawn Johnson

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

The city funds 1.5% of its budget for Human Services. I'd increase investment in mental health, housing, and youth programs while ensuring equity and transparency in funding. I'll advocate for increased funding, push for data-driven allocation, and ensure services reach the most vulnerable while showing long-term cost savings of prevention.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

Provide resources that address root causes like poverty and trauma. If youth still choose violence, enforce stricter consequences. Prevention and accountability must go hand in hand.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

I'd expand survey access beyond online forms, use accessible formats, partner with trusted groups, and create advisory boards so their voices guide planning and funding.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

No answer provided.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

No answer provided.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

The city must expand affordable housing with land trusts, mixed-income developments, rent stabilization, and supportive housing to keep families secure and neighborhoods thriving. Prioritize housing first, expand shelter capacity, invest in wraparound services like mental health.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

No answer provided.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

No answer provided.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

No answer provided.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Scotty Johnson

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

Cincinnati sets Human Services Fund priorities by Council, focusing on equity, safety, housing, and stability. I support this but want more flexibility, equity focus, and input. Yes, I'd welcome HSCHC's guidance in shaping these priorities.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

I'll expand non-police crisis teams, partner with schools, nonprofits, and community groups, fund mental health services, and use data to guide programs—welcoming input from experts and residents to address Cincinnati's mental health crisis.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

I'll ensure older adults and individuals with disabilities are included in surveys, advisory committees, and policy discussions so their needs guide planning and funding decisions.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

I work with CABA, Age-Friendly Cincinnati, and community groups to improve accessibility, transportation, housing, and programs, ensuring older adults and individuals with disabilities are included and supported citywide.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

No response.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

I'll expand the Affordable Housing Trust and Leverage Funds, use LIHTCs, and offer tax incentives to help nonprofits develop and renovate housing for families earning 0–50% AMI, ensuring long-term affordability and access.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

I'll partner with nonprofits and workforce programs to align training with employer needs, expand opportunities in underrepresented communities, and create clear pathways to quality jobs for a stronger, inclusive Cincinnati workforce.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

I'll expand language access, support integration programs, advocate for inclusive policies, promote job and business opportunities, and foster community connections to ensure Cincinnati remains welcoming for New Americans.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

I'll expand translation and interpretation services, partner with immigrant organizations, and ensure City policies support limited-English residents to make services accessible and equitable for all.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

The work of our Human Services organizations is the backbone of the City. Council has increased funding for human services, worked with administration to create a more streamlined leveraged support process, and supported the Human Services Advisory Council through the United Way. When I first came on Council in March 2020, there was talk of cutting funding to human services organizations in the 4th quarter due to the COVID crisis, with the rationale that funding wasn't needed. After my staff and I called 33 organizations, I knew that the funding was indeed needed. I was the one "No Vote" on cutting funding.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

In one of my recent Healthy Neighborhoods Committee meetings, we brought in organizations that focus on suicide prevention to make the public aware of resources. We also connect constituents to our City Health Dept.'s services. In my Healthy Neighborhoods-CPS meetings, we often talk about mental health issues and the availability of mental health support for each school. We have to be vigilant in ensuring that our community is not only aware of the resources, but has access. But we need to do more.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

I have been going to nursing homes to meet with residents and to discuss their needs. In addition, I formed an Accessibility working group last year. We have policy recommendations such as incentives for universal design that we are bringing forth to Council.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

Members of CABA were in the accessibility working group mentioned above. I recently shared the City's "Age-Friendly City" report with residents of a nursing home in Pleasant Ridge. We talked about their needs and discussed existing resources, and what was missing. The feedback was robust. We have a lot of work to do!

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

Yes, there are some elements of the Futures Commission Report that I support and this was one of them.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund, now with more than \$100 million and receiving an additional annual stream of income from the City's carryover budget, is one source of funding. The AHTF priority is for 80% AMI or lower. While we have built more affordable housing in the past few years than any other City Council, we are nowhere close to the 28,000 more units of affordable housing needed in our City.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

I created the Office of Opportunity with Scotty Johnson to close the wealth gap; brought to Cincinnati the "Building Futures" program to get unemployed and underemployed residents into good union-paying jobs, and now am working on an initiative to get certifications for AI and other tech jobs for young people and veterans.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

Our Neighborhoods-CPS joint committee highlights resources for our immigrants, and I am working with immigrants who are business owners in Price Hill. Their restaurants are suffering because people are afraid of ICE raids. Students are not coming to school for the same reason.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

In our Healthy Neighborhoods Committee, we have had English-Spanish translators in some meetings, and at some events. The City also has readily available translation services. When I met with a young man from Senegal who mainly spoke Wolof (mixed with French), we were able to get a translator on the phone within minutes.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Liz Keating

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

When I served on Council, we restructured Human Services Funding to target the city's greatest needs and empower outside experts to guide grants. This keeps politics out and impact front and center. I welcome input from HSCHC to help shape priorities.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

The mental health crisis is bigger than any city budget. I'll leverage state and federal funds and partner locally with nonprofits, schools, and providers to expand access to care and ensure help reaches those who need it most.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

I'll ensure older adults and people with disabilities are included in surveys, policy, and funding by engaging them directly. My work with adaptive athletes taught me how vital it is that their voices shape planning so every resident is supported.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

On Council I've listened, done my homework, and delivered solutions. I'll work with CABA, Age-Friendly Cincinnati, and others to identify barriers and improve accessibility in housing, transit, and public spaces so every resident can thrive.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

I don't support raising the earnings tax now. Families are strained and Council lacks fiscal discipline. Before new revenue, we must spend responsibly. I'll support housing in a balanced budget, but ultimately this decision belongs to voters.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

I support expanding missing middle housing - duplexes, triplexes, quads - along transit lines. It's the fastest way to add affordable units, expand homeownership, and create small business opportunities while closing the housing gap for families at 0-50% AMI.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

On Council I launched hack-a-thons to solve tough challenges like eviction prevention. I'll expand that model - partnering with nonprofits, universities, and businesses to innovate, save taxpayer dollars, and strengthen Cincinnati's workforce.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

Immigrants fuel Cincinnati's growth and workforce. I'll leverage state and federal funds to expand job training, while ensuring safe neighborhoods, strong services, and clear job pathways so all can thrive here.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

I'll partner with groups like the HSCHC to identify gaps and expand access. From better translation to simpler outreach, I'll ensure all residents can access City services with dignity.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Dale Mallory

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

Listening to a broad group of voices for input is extremely important for good public service. You can count on me to consider the advice and consultation from HSCHC. Lead is a key issue in our campaign and for Human Services, there is funding available from the State and we should be using it for lead abatement. Lead poisons our public, its very dangerous and it destroys the soil when demolitions happen making it impossible to grow food. Lead abatement is a key issue for human health and services.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

We need to work with all of the agencies and stakeholders through communication. Everyone needs a seat at the table and we need to be certain all federal and state grant dollars are available for the professionals to use in order to address the mental health crisis.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

Seniors and people with disabilities are under attack by the Trump administration. I plan to be proactive as a council member by opening a pathway for these good people to meet the federal mandates in jobs that are meaningful and amenable to the needs of our community.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

I am a retired person, I regularly communicate with seniors and you can expect that I will continue to connect with them and have an open door for communication. Considering these issues and working to address them is the only way we can make our community and quality of life better.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

There is extreme need to keep people in our communities and make housing affordable. I am a strong supporter of managing development in our neighborhoods to preserve our historic city while encouraging progress. If it requires tax dollars to make this possible, I will listen to that proposal and act in favor of the community.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

I have dedicated my retirement to working with families that have low to moderate incomes. My efforts have been successful in the community. We have operated a gun turn in program. In addition, I use my skills as a gardener to work with the youth in low to moderate income areas to gain growing skills. This will assist in addressing food desserts. We have also networked with multiple community partners to bring 4-H into the schools and also out of school to engaged youth in STEM and agriculture. The school system now has multiple schools with FFA, all of which I have partnered to promote. In schools with FFA graduation rates have been dramatically impacted for the positive.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

I support a city policy that works through non-profits, of which there are many to identify individuals that need training and get them that training. I work specifically with nonprofits that work with youth and adults to get experience in agriculture to help them get jobs in food processing and agriculture careers through innovative initiatives like growing industrial hemp for industry use.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

New Americans are a good thing. They are hardworking people and sometimes benefit from our human services. We need to fund human services to provide the help they may need. We also need to ensure our public services have the access to translators and materials that are translated. I am working with our schools to introduce agriculture education to give all students more opportunities to connect with natural resources and career development.

Answer:

I will support increased access to translators and materials in multiple languages.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Linda Matthews

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

This current city administration prioritizes Human Services funding based on friendships rather than results and outcomes. It is the wrong approach. I would move and vote for City human services funding to be dispersed and audited totally by the United Way of Greater Cincinnati and City Council provide oversight to UWGC. I am open to input from everyone.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

The mental health crisis continues to grow across the globe. I would move and vote for the Cincinnati Board of Health to partner with UC Health and CCHMC to expand access to mental health services to families who live in the city.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

If and when legislation is placed on the Council agenda that impacts the elder or disabled community, I would call stakeholders at the County DDS and the Council on Aging of SW Ohio to hear their thoughts on the given issues.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

I will work with CABA and others to ensure Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

I do not support raising the earnings tax.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

Tax breaks for development partners who build market-rate rental housing.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

Partnering to ensure the City residents have access to job readiness that will train on in-demand jobs in the region.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

I plan to vote for pro-growth policies that will attract global talent to Cincinnati.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

Encourage legal immigrants to fully embrace and learn the English language.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Brandon Nixon

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

The City prioritizes Human Services Funding through set categories like housing, food insecurity, and violence prevention. While important, this approach can overlook long-term prevention and youth development. I believe funding should balance urgent needs with root-cause solutions. Yes, I would welcome HSCHC input to ensure priorities reflect community needs.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

requires strong community partnerships. I would work with hospitals, schools, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations to expand access to care and bring services directly into neighborhoods. By focusing on prevention, early intervention, and reducing stigma, we can make mental health support more accessible to all residents.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities must be intentionally included in policy and funding decisions. I would expand outreach through listening sessions, senior centers, and partnerships with disability and aging organizations. Their input should directly inform needs assessments and budget priorities so resources reflect the realities of all residents.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

I will work closely with CABA, Age-Friendly Cincinnati, and other partners to make sure the voices of older adults and people with disabilities are included in city decisions. Their input should shape policies on housing, transportation, and public spaces. Accessibility must be built into planning from the start, not added later.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

Housing development and preservation must be a top priority. I support allocating more resources to housing but would be cautious about raising the earnings tax without first reviewing current spending and exploring efficiencies. Any new revenue should be transparent and clearly directed to housing initiatives.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

I would support housing for families 0–50% AMI through city incentives like tax abatements, fee waivers, and low-interest financing to help nonprofit and development partners close financial gaps. Transparent oversight would ensure funds are used effectively. I would also foster public-private partnerships and leverage philanthropic resources to make projects sustainable and truly affordable.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

The city can partner with nonprofits by aligning workforce programs with local business needs and creating clear pathways to employment. I would support apprenticeships, job-readiness training, and continuing education initiatives for underserved communities. Regular collaboration and shared resources would ensure programs lead to real, sustainable jobs. Together, the city and nonprofits can strengthen Cincinnati's workforce and economic mobility.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

I support policies that welcome and support New Americans, ensuring access to city services, education, and workforce opportunities. I would work with immigrant and refugee organizations, schools, and businesses to help newcomers integrate and thrive. Protecting these communities from discrimination and unnecessary enforcement is key to keeping Cincinnati safe and inclusive.

Answer:

I would ensure immigrants with limited English proficiency can access City services through multilingual resources, clear signage, and translated forms. Hiring and training bilingual staff, plus partnering with community organizations, would expand support. Making services accessible and culturally responsive ensures all residents can fully participate and benefit from city programs.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Evan Nolan

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

City prioritizes issues by relying on community experts providing the services. Approach is improving, though not perfect, and requires regular evaluation and improvement. Needs and policy approaches are always changing. I've sought and will continue to seek HSCHC input on City priorities.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

I'll leverage HSCHC's Mental Health Committee to explore and foster partnerships to alleviate mental health crisis. I'll continue to sit down with community experts and discuss the important issues and identify opportunities for the City to support initiatives demonstrating strong results.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

It's vital to include representation for all constituencies and demographics when discussing policy. HSCHC can help identify any that have been overlooked or underrepresented and make recommendations for inclusion.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

I am open to work with CABA and many others to ensure Cincinnati is a welcoming place for all, including older adults and individuals with disabilities. HSCHC can offer oversight on where any breakdowns might be and make suggestions for improvements.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

Yes, I support the proposed earnings tax increase and allocating dollars to housing development. We have the recommendation but need a more public evaluation and then need to take action. The housing crisis affects all Cincinnatians. The more we delay action, the more we exacerbate the issues.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

We must utilize and leverage all resources available under federal, state, and municipal law and maximize those resources for development at lowest AMI. We must invest in the AH Leverage Fund through CDF. We must simplify the City development process to prevent delays and expedite development.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

We must ensure that workforce development and training programs are available to develop the workforce of tomorrow – tech jobs, green jobs, and skilled labor. We must continue to invest in programs like Access to Counsel and Children's Savings Accounts to address barriers to career development.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

I will continue to engage with the organizations that support New Americans to ensure they feel welcome and ensure that the City funds these organizations without compromising their status or funding with the federal government. We must balance our show of support with risk of overexposure.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

I will rely on the organizations that I have partnered with, like the Hispanic Chamber, for recommendations on providing better and more accessible City services. I can tap into HSCHC's New Americans Committee for support as well.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Meeka D. Owens

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

Through the Human Services Ordinance we invest a minimum of our General Fund to go towards the Human Services Fund. This is separated into categories that are then sent out through an RFP process every 2 years. Then the Human Services Advisory Group reviews submissions and recommends projects and organizations for funding.

Answer:

We need to break down silos and find where there are intersections between issues. We need to acknowledge that there are deeper pockets for housing developers but we are probably aiming to build housing for those who might be, actively, in a mental health crisis. I have an open chair mentality when I come to any conversation so that we can find effective collaboration between multiple sectors.

Answer:

I have been grateful for the time that I have spent with individuals from LADD and have engaged with Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities many times, and Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisor. I think that we need to always think about those who are most marginalized and work upward. We have to formalize feedback from these groups that might be more traditional.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

Yes. I have engaged with both of these organizations. I have been in early conversations about conducting a disability assessment for the city. I am committed to seeing this assessment being completed and being accountable to results. Furthermore, after my recent visit at a nursing care facility, I immediately engaged with a member of CABA to share thoughts and ideas around housing developments and infrastructure.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

Yes. I think more importantly we need to see where there is room to increase resources across the board. By increasing/preserving housing stock we can get more residents, more residents means more taxpayers. We know that funding from the City for Human Services Organizations is tied to General Fund revenues. This could be a prime example of where rising tides can raise all boats.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

First, I am incredibly proud of the work that community non-profit developers have been doing to create and preserve housing across many of our neighborhoods. I believe we need to continue to use financial incentives to help improve proformas for our community non-profit developers. Additionally, TIF funding is accessible for those organizations and the top use of those funds are for housing revitalizations work.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

I am a believer in reducing silos. In my nearly 4 years on City Council I have seen an opportunity to bring resources together for maximum impact. We are a community that is resource rich. We need for there to be better communication between city hall and the nonprofit sector. Particularly as it relates to making sure we have the workforce and talent pipelines to deliver the services that are critical.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

First, given this federal climate around immigrants and deportation, I worked with the Mayor to ensure greater support for organizations who serve the immigrant community with "know your rights" resources. I continue to be a strong advocate and collaborator. We can't afford to turn away anyone from our region. Our social diversity makes us strong.

Answer:

I plan before the end of this term to ask for the city administration to outline the process needed to publish documents in multiple languages so that they are accessible to as many of our current and prospective residents as possible. This term I asked for the administration to prepare a Cincinnati Tenants Guide.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Raffel Prophett

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

Currently, City Council sets policy priorities (homelessness, employment, violence prevention, addiction, and seniors) and United Way administers funding, with the Human Services Advisory Committee reviewing proposals. No. Current prioritization lacks community input from those most impacted. I'd establish equity-centered criteria prioritizing racial justice, housing first, and direct service delivery. HSCHC input is essential - you represent the frontline expertise we need.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

Expand crisis response teams with mental health professionals, not just police. Partner with community health centers, schools, and faith communities. Fund peer support programs and trauma-informed care training citywide.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

Mandate accessible community forums in neighborhoods, not just downtown. Provide interpreters, transportation, and multiple engagement formats. Include disability advocates on all planning committees and budget processes.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

I'll work directly with CABA and Age-Friendly Cincinnati to audit city facilities, transportation, and services. My firefighter experience showed me how accessibility failures can be life-threatening - we must do better.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

Yes, but only with guarantees that funds will go directly to affordable housing at or below 50% AMI and include tenant protections. We need progressive revenue for progressive solutions - housing is a human right.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

Create a dedicated affordable housing trust fund through linkage fees on luxury development. Offer tax increment financing for truly affordable units. Partner with community land trusts to maintain long-term affordability.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

Fund community-based workforce development programs that serve returning citizens, immigrants, and those facing barriers. Support living wage jobs, not just any jobs. Prioritize worker co-ops and social enterprises.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

Strengthen sanctuary city policies, expand municipal ID programs, and fund immigrant-serving nonprofits. New Americans built our neighborhoods - we must protect and welcome them regardless of federal policies.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

Mandate interpretation services at all city offices, translate key documents into the top 5 community languages, and hire multilingual staff. Language barriers shouldn't prevent access to essential services.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Stephan Pryor

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

The city prioritizes human services funding based on community needs assessments, stakeholder input, and available resources. This approach allows for data-driven decisions that reflect the needs of various populations. While this is generally a sound strategy, it could be enhanced by establishing a more participatory process that includes regular feedback from community organizations and individuals who rely on these services.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

To address the mental health crisis, I would prioritize building partnerships with local mental health organizations, healthcare providers, and community groups. This could include initiating collaborative programs that provide accessible mental health resources, awareness campaigns, and support networks.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

No answer provided.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

No answer provided.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

No answer provided.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

No answer provided.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

No answer provided.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

No answer provided.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

No answer provided.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Christopher E.C. Smitherman

Questionnaire not returned.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Seth Walsh

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

The city's model is sound but should keep improving. I'd welcome HSCHC's expertise to guide priorities and funding. Together we can better support community partners and adapt to a tough state and federal climate.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

We'll keep investing in HSAC and leveraged supports that address the mental health crisis. This term I worked with partners to secure new and continued funding so they can deliver critical services.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

I'm revamping the Urban Design Review Board to add disability representation so big projects prioritize accessibility. Though still in progress, I'll ensure older adults and disabled residents are included in assessments, policy, and funding.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

Happy to partner with CABA, Age-Friendly Cincinnati (AARP), and other advocates to co-design policy, review projects for accessibility, and align funding with their advice—making Cincinnati welcoming for older adults and people with disabilities.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

Not now. The Futures Commission flagged groundwork we haven't finished to deploy new tax dollars well. I support dedicated funding for housing at all levels, but I'm pursuing solutions using existing revenues rather than raising the earnings tax.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

We'll aggressively close gaps for 0–50% AMI projects. From my College Hill experience, I know these deals are hard. We'll keep reliably funding the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and leverage tools like TIF to stack resources and make projects viable.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

Partner by investing in proven workforce programs via HSAC and leveraged support, aligning training with employer needs. A skilled, inclusive workforce is essential to Cincinnati's future.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

Keep Cincinnati safe and welcoming by funding community partners and adopting policies that protect immigrant families. Expand access to good jobs, language services, and affordable housing so New Americans can put down roots and choose Cincinnati.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

We should make sure that City services are offered in multiple languages, so they are accessible to immigrants with limited English proficiency.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Donald Washington

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

Use data and equity to fund what works—youth mental health, violence prevention, and jobs. Yes, I'll invite HSCHC to co-set priorities and review outcomes so dollars follow measurable results.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

Put classes in all CPS schools; expand 988/co-responders; partner with FQHCs, hospitals, faith groups, and peers for clinics, tele-therapy, and trauma care—measured by reduced ER visits and suspensions.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

Require targeted outreach, accessible meetings, plain-language surveys, stipends for input, and advisory seats for seniors/disabled on funding boards—tie allocations to identified needs.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

Formal MOUs, quarterly dashboards, ADA audits, and “universal design” standards; fix sidewalks, benches, lighting, paratransit access; fast-track accessible housing and storefront upgrades.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

I support funding housing, but not by raising the earnings tax. Focus on growth, efficiency, and one-time “waterfall” dollars, plus private/philanthropic leverage to build and preserve units.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

Stack tools: AHLF gap loans, LIHTC support, land discounts, TIF for infrastructure, fee waivers, 15–30-year affordability covenants, and mission-driven acquisitions to preserve existing units.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

Co-fund paid apprenticeships and youth jobs, align with CPS/CTE and Cincinnati State, add childcare/transit stipends, and pay for completion—credentials, job placement, and wage gains

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city’s population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

Adopt a Welcoming Plan: small-biz help, credential transfer, community liaisons, safe-reporting policies, and cultural navigation—affirming Cincinnati as a place where newcomers can put down roots and thrive.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

Citywide language-access policy: 24/7 interpretation, translated forms, bilingual staff, website chat in multiple languages, and outreach through trusted community partners and schools.

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE Q&A

City Council Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Aaron Weiner

Question:

How does the city prioritize issues for Human Services Funding? Do you think this is the right approach? If so, why? If not, what would you do differently? Would you be open to input from the HSCHC when making decisions regarding these priorities?

Answer:

As a new candidate, I am not yet familiar with how the city prioritizes Human Services funding. I do think this is an important investment in the community and would welcome input from HSCHC.

Question:

How will you explore and foster partnerships and/or initiatives in the community to help alleviate the mental health crisis?

Answer:

I am an advocate for mental health and would work towards stigma reduction. Important to collaborate with CPD to ensure that mental health episodes receive proper treatment and care and not prosecution.

Question:

Older adults and individuals with disabilities are often overlooked or underrepresented in community needs surveys and decisions about policy & funding priorities. How will you ensure these groups are intentionally included in such assessments and policy discussions so that their needs are actively identified and addressed in planning and resource allocation?

Answer:

One of the things I hope to do is address housing. This includes safe and accessible housing for seniors that is affordable. In addition, working with county and state to advocate for better homestead exemptions so seniors on fixed incomes can afford their homes.

Question:

How have you worked (or will you work) with the Cincinnati Accessibility Board of Advisors (CABA), Age-Friendly Cincinnati as designated by AARP, and others to ensure that Cincinnati is a welcoming place for older adults?

Answer:

I would definitely prioritize securing that our elderly and people with disabilities are safe. Would welcome input from organizations that specialize in these areas to help write meaningful legislation.

Question:

The recently released Futures Commission report recommended raising the earnings tax and allocating dollars to housing development/preservation. Do you agree with this recommendation?

Answer:

The small increase encompassed many priorities including housing. I am in support of this.

Question:

What is your strategy, through city incentives/taxes (or other means), to helping fund the financial gaps for nonprofit or development partners who are working to develop and/or renovate housing that is targeted at families between 0 and 50 AMI?

Answer:

It is my plan to preserve our stock of naturally occurring affordable housing. This involves facilitating with the county to give property tax relief to landlords to sustain lower rents. As well, repair grants to improve buildings and not pass on costs to tenants.

Question:

How can the city and the nonprofit sector partner more closely and intentionally to ensure Cincinnati has a thriving workforce?

Answer:

Investment in infrastructure, development and growth create job opportunities across all industries. In addition, partnering with Universities, Community Colleges and trade schools to support job and business incubation and job placement.

Question:

Immigrants are the fastest growing population in Cincinnati Public Schools and are the main drivers of the city's population growth. At the same time, there have been a number of recent changes to immigration policy and enforcement. What will you do to continue to support and attract New Americans to the City?

Answer:

Cincinnati's history rich with people coming to this country for a better life. We need to continue to embrace this legacy. I respect people who come to the city to make a better life and are entitled to due process and a clear pathway to citizenship.

Question:

What will you do to ensure that immigrants, particularly those with limited English proficiency, can access City services?

Answer:

Develop systems to secure that we have the proper resources through staff and or technology to ensure language barriers are alleviated in order to access services.

CANDIDATE Q&A

School Board Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Kari T. Armbruster

Question:

How do you plan to support the District's commitment to ensuring Resource Coordinators are in every school building?

Answer:

The work of resource coordinators is essential and funding for them should be secure instead of constantly at risk. We need to work to find grants and outside sources of funding for these positions. Our students require on site staff to be able to identify community needs.

Question:

How will you work with the other local and government leaders to create supportive environments for children?

Answer:

I have been meeting with our city and county officials to discuss strengthening the relationship between our district and their offices. We need to have shared goals that have measurable targets for success. Each group should have a vested interest in the success of our students.

Question:

How do you believe that the CPS Board of Education could be supportive of our sector's programs that help to provide after-school care, enrichment activities, summer opportunities, etc.?

Answer:

The BoE should enable these programs for our students to help drive engagement with our community and families. They can do these by building relationships and providing resources where possible. Students succeed if they have a place to go after school or during the summer that is safe.

Question:

How will the School District help to build and support the region's future workforce?

Answer:

By partnering with our robust corporate and labor community, the district can provide many pathways for students to succeed. Students can be exposed to job opportunities at a young age to keep them motivated to continue learning through high school. Finding them jobs that interest them early.

CANDIDATE Q&A

School Board Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Brandon Craig

Question:

How do you plan to support the District's commitment to ensuring Resource Coordinators are in every school building?

Answer:

As a vital part of our Community Learning Center model, we must define their role better and make sure we maximize their utilization while also focusing on individual school needs. This means sharing resources and adjusting to the new corridor system for allocating time and resources.

Question:

How will you work with the other local and government leaders to create supportive environments for children?

Answer:

I'll continue to advocate for more partnerships with community health organizations to expand access to healthcare, especially mental health care, for our students. We must also work with Metro, yellow bus providers, and City officials to ensure safe travel for our students to and from school.

Question:

How do you believe that the CPS Board of Education could be supportive of our sector's programs that help to provide after-school care, enrichment activities, summer opportunities, etc.?

Answer:

Stronger relationships with the Cincy Rec Centers, YMCAs, and other community-based orgs could help with pre and after school care. Additionally, we can use our welcome centers as an opening for orgs to provide enrichment and summer opportunities for our immigrant students and their families.

Question:

How will the School District help to build and support the region's future workforce?

Answer:

Career Tech is the forefront of the district's future and it starts with middle schools. Building stronger partnerships with labor, businesses, and community partners will create better training for our students & families; creating future job opportunities before and after graduation.

CANDIDATE Q&A

School Board Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Jim Crosset

Question:

How do you plan to support the District's commitment to ensuring Resource Coordinators are in every school building?

Answer:

Resource Coordinators are a key component of each school's success. It's a priority for me to protect these positions in upcoming budgets. We also need to cultivate more lead agencies & partners that can provide financial support.

Question:

How will you work with the other local and government leaders to create supportive environments for children?

Answer:

The role of the Board is always to advocate on behalf of the District when working with leaders who influence policy & budget outcomes that impact our schools. I will work to advance the priorities of the District & build the best environment for our students.

Question:

How do you believe that the CPS Board of Education could be supportive of our sector's programs that help to provide after-school care, enrichment activities, summer opportunities, etc.?

Answer:

I'm currently the liaison to the CPS Foundation, which focuses on bringing after-school activities to students. The Board should always seek ways to get new resources to our schools, such as recruiting volunteers & building partnerships with local orgs.

Question:

How will the School District help to build and support the region's future workforce?

Answer:

I'm currently the liaison to the CPS Business Advisory Council, which finds jobs & internships for CPS juniors & seniors. We will continue to develop more non-college career avenues for students. Our local Unions & career technical educator partners are key.

CANDIDATE Q&A

School Board Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Marcia A. Futel

Question:

How do you plan to support the District's commitment to ensuring Resource Coordinators are in every school building?

Answer:

The Board should develop districtwide policy for hiring & placing RCs. Performance evaluations for continuing to employ the RC should be based on impact on academic outcomes as a component.

Question:

How will you work with the other local and government leaders to create supportive environments for children?

Answer:

Establish regular collaborative meetings to discuss students' needs. Ex: Safe and healthy neighborhoods require resources for high-poverty families that support keeping children in school such as food, outerwear, and reliable transportation.

Question:

How do you believe that the CPS Board of Education could be supportive of our sector's programs that help to provide after-school care, enrichment activities, summer opportunities, etc.?

Answer:

CPS could host programming in the school buildings; share service information via parent networks; ongoing collaboration with staff, parents, and students to assess needs of the school community and best ways to address them.

Question:

How will the School District help to build and support the region's future workforce?

Answer:

Ongoing collaboration with Corporate and small businesses to understand the dynamic workforce needs and requirements and incorporating this into school programming and curriculum. Regular check-in on progress with the CPS Board

CANDIDATE Q&A

School Board Candidates



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Kareem Moffett

Question:

How do you plan to support the District's commitment to ensuring Resource Coordinators are in every school building?

Answer:

I strongly support maintaining Resource Coordinators in every school. They are vital for whole-child success, connecting families to academics, social-emotional care, and community support. I'll work to ensure efficient, sustainable funding so these supports remain in place.

Question:

How will you work with the other local and government leaders to create supportive environments for children?

Answer:

Public education is under attack. I will continue to meet regularly with city, state, and federal legislators to fiercely advocate for CPS and ensure safe, supportive environments where every child can thrive.

Question:

How do you believe that the CPS Board of Education could be supportive of our sector's programs that help to provide after-school care, enrichment activities, summer opportunities, etc.?

Answer:

CPS can strengthen student support by appointing a Board liaison and engaging in quarterly or annual updates with the Human Services Chamber to align on after-school, enrichment, and summer opportunities.

Question:

How will the School District help to build and support the region's future workforce?

Answer:

CPS is building career tech pathways but must go further. I'll advocate for urgent, community-driven action to ensure students are prepared for the 22nd century workforce.

PUBLIC OFFICE CANDIDATE Q&A



Human Services Chamber
of Hamilton County

Next Steps

Thank you for taking the time to review the candidates' responses. We encourage you to:

- **Register to vote:** Ensure you are registered to vote in the upcoming election.
- **Research the candidates:** Visit their websites or attend local events to learn more.
- **Vote:** Exercise your right to vote and make your voice heard!

Voting Information

Voter registration deadline is October 6.

Head to the Board of Elections website at www.VoteHamiltonCountyOhio.gov to learn more about registration, voting, sample ballots, and more.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to members of the HSC for participating in the Planning Committee for this event,

- **Lauren Bartoszek**, Director Community Health at [The Health Collaborative](#)
- **Ryan Braun**, Director of Community Relations at [Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities Services](#)
- **Nan Cahall**, Director, Government Relations Manager at [Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio](#)
- **Megan Folkerth**, Senior Director of Health and Policy Systems at [Interact for Health](#)
- **Rickell Howard Smith**, President & CEO at [YWCA Greater Cincinnati](#) and HSCHC Board Vice Chair
- **Teri Nau**, Vice President of Community and Donor Relations at [Talbert House](#)
- **Dimity Orlet**, Executive Director at [Pro Seniors](#) and HSCHC Board Chair

And to our moderators and conveners of the Candidate Forum:

- **Rickell Howard Smith**, President & CEO at [YWCA Greater Cincinnati](#) and HSCHC Board Vice Chair
- **Gina Marsh**, Principal at [Marsh Solutions](#)
- **Mike Moroski**, Executive Director at the [Human Services Chamber of Hamilton County](#)