

Chahe Keuroghelian

Why are you running for Council?

Large number of residents are not properly represented by the current city council. Residents who have not mastered the English language, residents in multi-family buildings, youth who are not eligible to vote, families in precarious financial situations.

What unique qualities do you bring? A solid understanding of the needs of the communities most in need. A strong advocacy for youth. A long history creating opportunities for residents and children.

Who would you like to replace? All three incumbents. Two have already eight years in and the other has not fulfilled his promises to the community.

What are the 3 main issues facing Glendale Government?

1. A true concern for the residents. Developers and special interests appear to have the upper hand.
2. Affordable housing and housing ownership. The city never fully secured the advanced notification of rent increases and has not promoted affordable home ownership to large numbers of residents.
3. We need youth employment and resources to help out youth from at-risk families.

How will you deal with those issues?

I'd like to establish priorities. Family and youth issues must be catalogued and addressed systematically. We must be pro-family and use the funds from HUD more effectively and augment those funds from the general fund.

Your thoughts on the Downtown Specific Plan?

A mirage. Lots of input from large developers. Little open land and parkland for residents. Traffic congestion that will remain unabated.

Your thoughts on the Mobility Plan?

Parking meters on Brand does not make a mobility plan. Creating effective public transit does.

How will you deal with the deficit?

Some department of the city have grown so much that they now draw away the funds the community needs for its improvement and sustainability. I would Freeze the number of employees to 1% of the population and limit manager pay not to exceed three times the median income of Glendale residents. Benefits and salaries make up nearly 90% of the city's expenditures and they already enjoy safe and secure jobs.

Contract negotiations are coming up for the GFFA and GMA what would be your hot issues?

We can't afford high pension costs. Pensions should be reasonable and should not be more than the median income of the community. After 20 or 30 years of secure employment employees should have built other investments. We need year-to-year contracts and not get locked in to four-year contracts that do not reflect on the economic changes.

Do you support the City Manager?

We have not controlled city expenses and the city has had too many projects go excessively over budget. A new city council should demand accountability. If we can't achieve corrective policies, then we should look elsewhere.

What is your position on the Ballot Proposition for a Utility Users Tax? Residents are already overtaxed and not getting the benefits of the city's parkland, road repair, or facilities. If we can in any way reduce the tax burden, we should follow it. We should vote NO.