

Michael Teahan

Why are you running for Council?

I bring a thoughtful and reasoned voice to the deliberations at city council, something I think necessary to face the economic and political challenges we face. I don't believe that those who live and work in Glendale are adequately represented, the interests of the community and the interests of city council members should be in sync.

What unique qualities do you bring?

I am a consensus builder and I move things forward. I am only concerned about solutions and have little tolerance for drama and political machinations.

Who would you like to replace?

None of them.

Why?

This is not about who I think needs to be replaced, this is about who the people of Glendale choose to represent their interests and their children's future. This is a core value that I have about the democratic process that is lost in most political discussions. It is not about what I want—though I have goals and a political philosophy—it is about what the community wants.

What are the 3 main issues facing Glendale Government?

3 among many:

1. Business licenses. The city has little control or enforcement power over how business is conducted in Glendale and can use the revenue generated to close the budget gap in harsh economic climates and invest in infrastructure to benefit the business community in times of prosperity. License fees pegged at 50% of surrounding jurisdictions would raise revenue and still provide an incentive to locate and remain in Glendale. Residents pay taxes to live in this city, businesses have an obligation to share some of the burden for the rewards they reap.

It also provides for a badly needed avenue of enforcement for businesses that operate in violation of zoning and conditional use permits. The process in place is too vague and provide little protection or accountability for the city.

2. Giving a voice to underrepresented areas of Glendale. Only one home owners association exists south of the 134, leaving thousands of residents—many of whom do not own their homes—and businesses without a voice in Glendale city policy formation. I have been a member of neighborhood associations in other communities and have found them to be a valuable conduit to the city to insure that their needs are considered when decisions are made that affect their communities.

The city should work to assist in the formation and development of these neighborhood

associations and actively seek their participation in issues that affect them.

3. A comprehensive hillside and view protection ordinance. This is not a petty or menial issue for residential areas in Glendale. Virtually every building permit in Adams Hill requires a use variance and never results in a parking mitigation solution. In an area where the city has determined that emergency vehicle access is in some cases impossible, this has real life and death implications. This goes beyond simply protecting the value of our homes, but the safety of our community.

How will you deal with those issues?

Propose, build consensus and pass. Business licenses are an easy template to follow, neighborhood associations are common in most well functioning communities and not complicated to implement and the Hillside and View Ordinances have largely been formulated and are ready to move forward.

Your thoughts on the Downtown Specific Plan?

I think it is a step in the right direction, but would like to see three components integrated into the plan:

1. A means to facilitate a better pedestrian focus and flow between the areas in the DSP, perhaps including bike paths and larger green spaces as bridges between them.
2. Integration of Laura Friedman's San Fernando development proposal for an enhanced residential and arts district.
3. A concerted effort to bring a museum and gallery district to the city core.

Your thoughts on the Mobility Plan?

I think it could go further to develop a pedestrian focused plan for the downtown core. The development of shuttles to facilitate movement into the district is appropriate. Looking at what other cities have done to discourage multi car ownership should be considered. Even though Southern California has a long cultural history of car ownership, we may be unable to sustain it in the future.

It needs funding to succeed, and sources are currently in short supply. A business license for Glendale could help build the infrastructure we need.

How will you deal with the deficit?

Find efficiencies where possible and adopt a business license for Glendale.

I have considered eliminating staff infill requirements for fire crews, requiring paramedics respond to fire calls when a crew is temporarily short staffed. This would result in five emergency responders to a scene instead of four, with two of them performing logistical and medical support outside of the structure. Since fire crews respond to all paramedic calls, it wouldn't be much of a stretch and worthy of a pilot program. We could save money and maintain full 4 man crews for Glendale.

We must continue to invest in our cities future, finding efficiencies where possible. No business has ever grown or succeeded without maintaining a commitment to a quality workforce or investing in its future. While we must accommodate and contract when necessary, a policy that simply cuts services for the sake of fiscal starvation does not serve this community.

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

Insure that programmed salary increases are not simply tied to adjacent communities, working with neighboring jurisdictions to find a reasoned approach to establishing salary guidelines.

Classify some positions as management, paying them appropriately and removing overtime from their compensation packages. Managers should be well paid but we willing to work to get the job done without regard to punching a clock. It is how corporate America works, and a it can be proposed here in Glendale for public service.

Insure that any unfunded obligations are in clearly indicated in all budget publications.

Require that any position be vested for at least 2 years before qualifying for pensions based upon the new salary levels.

What Boards and Commissions have you testified?

Planning, Design Review and the Zoning Administrator.

Issues?

Hillside Ordinance, View Protection, Historic Districting, Conditional Use Permits, Variances.

Results?

Mixed. Some success, some failures.

Do you support the City Manager?

The City Manager is not an elected position.

Why?

I do not view the role of the City Manager as a point of conflict as some may have. The position is in the public service and his role is to implement the policies and ordinance implemented by the City Council. It is the responsibility of the City Council to work with and provide the guidance for the City Manager to do his or her job effectively.

The responsibility for how well or poorly the City Manager executes their office rest with the City Council. This is not and should never have been an adversarial relationship.

What is your position on the Ballot Proposition for a Utility Users Tax?

I will personally vote in favor.

Why?

Changing technologies that circumvent accepted and previously approved revenue streams require a change in the code to accommodate them.

How will we pay for roads when all the cars are plug-in hybrids? It is appropriate to accommodate changing technologies.