

Ara James Najarian

1. I am running for re-election for the same reasons that I ran for election four years ago:

To make Glendale a better place to live for all the residents,
To protect our neighborhoods,
To maintain the highest quality of public safety,
To create and maintain an energized and vibrant downtown,
To increase transit use,
To increase traffic and pedestrian safety,
To move toward greater sustainability in resource usage,
To move toward greater sustainability in building design,
To increase parks and recreational facilities,
To improve our quality of life.

2. Some of the notable accomplishments achieved during my tenure:

Creation of historic districts for our neighborhoods,
Passed campaign contribution limits,
Passed nationally recognized smoking ordinance,
Passed park and library impact fees to build new facilities,
Passed phase one of ethics reform,
Passed Downtown Specific Plan,
Passed Downtown Mobility Plan,
Elected to MTA Board of Directors,
Obtained Millions of dollars for the City of Glendale in MTA funding for transit and infrastructure improvements,
Cooperated with GUSD to develop recreational facilities,
Enforced compliance with all regulations for developers,
Provided representation to all residents of Glendale and not singling out special interests.

3. I have championed:

Park impact fees on new development,
The design and construction of an aquatic center,
The expansion of parks and soccer fields,
Real ethics reform,
Traffic and pedestrian safety,
Quality growth in the downtown area,
Improvements in our transit system,
Improvements in our transportation infrastructure.

3. I will continue to champion:

Improved traffic and pedestrian safety,
The construction of an aquatics center,
Construction of new soccer fields,
Creation and maintenance of hiking trails and campgrounds in our mountain spaces,
Real ethics reform,
Quality growth in the downtown area,
Improvements in transportation infrastructure,
Improvements in transit capital,
Representing all Glendale residents.

4. Important issues facing Glendale Government are:
Properly adjusting our budget to compensate for fluctuations in revenues,
Revitalizing our local economy in the face of a global depression,
Improving traffic and pedestrian safety,
Preparing for the severe water cutbacks looming from the MWD.
5. I was in favor of the Downtown Specific Plan and therefore would offer no major changes at this time. This plan was the result of many months of study and designed to focus quality development downtown while preserving our neighborhoods and hillsides from development. Creating an exciting and vibrant downtown core, pedestrian friendly, with new residences and retail opportunities is critical to maintaining the downtown as a destination.
6. The mobility plan was a very bold effort the council's part to deal with traffic and parking issues in the most contemporary means. The plan is now being phased in and is not yet fully implemented. I am confident that the principles advanced in the plan will be successful for us.
7. I will deal with the deficit in a straightforward manner. In the face of declining revenues, expenditures must be cut. Most of the expenditures in our general fund are labor costs. The charge of the council is therefore to decide the priorities in services which the city provides. My personal priority is to preserve public safety.
8. My issues in the upcoming budget negotiations will be always maintain the relationship of trust between the city and the labor entity. Also, the city must be sure that fair packages of wage, salary and benefits are being offered.
9. I support the city manager.
10. I personally support the UUT tax reduction proposition that is before the voters. The measure is revenue neutral and the revenue funds many important aspects of our city. Additional; cuts in serviced will be needed if the UUT revenues are eliminated from our budget.
11. During my term as Mayor, I maintained oral communications at the beginning of the council meeting. I also allowed priority to those wishing to address the council for 3 minutes. I have strictly adhered to the rules of the Brown Act.
12. Closed sessions are held for the protection of the city and often deal with matters of pending litigation, contract negotiation and personnel matters. Very little can be done to eliminate these types of issues.
13. Expenditures have been reduced as needed to balance the budget. I have also supported the policy to backfill the general fund reserve.

14. A requirement that public safety personnel live within 5 miles of the city is unenforceable and void as against current California case law as currently interpreted by the courts. I do believe that they should be encouraged to live as close as possible to the city.

15. Many of the projects listed have received stage 2 design review approval by the City Council and the Redevelopment agency, unfortunately the collapse of the credit market has made the financing of many of these projects unfeasible at the moment. We make sure that all significant development in the city is done with the highest attention to quality materials, design and architecture. Quality projects take time to be reviewed by all staff and the appropriate agency. Often plans are sent back for redesign with varying degrees of refinement which may take several months for the design professionals to complete.