

Answers to Vanguard Questions: From Bob Yousefian

Why are you running for election?

I am running because as a 32 year resident of Glendale and a councilmember for the past 8 years, I have the diligence, experience and insight necessary to deal with the challenging issues facing us during these turbulent times.

In the term being completed, what were your accomplishments?

Although too numerous to identify here, my main accomplishments are as follows.

Insured the completion of the Americana at Brand.

Insured completion of the Embassy Suites Hotel

Voted to implement Historic Districting Guidelines

Voted to fund comprehensive mobility study in 2007 that examined Glendale's traffic, transportation, and parking issues – currently in implementation phase

Voted to approve the installation of Red Light Photo cameras in 4 busy intersections that will result in the reduction of traffic accidents

Added over 100 acres of open space

Voted to build several new parks, including Adams Hill, Cerritos, Cedar.

Voted for the adoption of The Downtown Specific Plan in 2006.

Voted to modify Anti-mansionization and Hillside ordinances to achieve neighborhood compatibility.

Voted for the development of 7 new affordable housing projects.

Created the potential for new jobs in Glendale by approving a new 128,000sq.ft addition to the Dreamworks Campus and a new 125,000sq.ft office building in Downtown Glendale and phase one of a 250,000sq.ft expansion of Disney's Grand Central Campus

Voted to dedicate Montrose as Glendale's official "Old Town"

Supported adoption of a balanced anti-smoking ordinance in 2008

What issues have you championed during the term being completed?

I have championed campaign reform and contribution limits.

I have championed an ordinance prohibiting council members from aggressively soliciting funds.

While Chair of the Redevelopment Agency spearheaded an event called “Invest in Glendale”

As Chair of Housing: Organized a housing summit in 2008 that provided citizens with vital legal and house related information.

And most importantly I have been a strong proponent of accountability and transparency in local Government.

What are the 3 main issues facing Glendale government?

The number one issue facing Glendale is the unprecedented challenge to its future revenue generating ability.

Number two is our growing need for municipal services.

Number three is the external pressure from other governmental agencies and their mandates.

How will you deal with those issues?

Just like many Americans who now sit at their kitchen table to determine how to tighten their belts, we must go through our City budget with a fine-toothed comb and cut out the frills to focus on the basics. Basic needs and services like safety, utilities, parks, libraries and road infrastructure need to come first.

We also need to look for creative ways to partner with private industry to increase our revenue generating opportunities.

We need to work hand in hand with our respective representatives to the state and federal government to extend the timeline or modify their cost prohibitive mandates until we are more able to realistically comply.

Your thoughts on the Mobility Plan Implementation?

In short, it is taking much too long to implement.

Do you support the city manager?

I think our city manager is a very competent individual. The ills of this city cannot be blamed on the city manager if the council lacks the fortitude to demand more accountability and performance. How can you expect more from him if you have not taken the opportunity to evaluate him or the performance of his departments over the last 4 years?

What is your position on the ballot proposition for the utility users tax?

My position is to allow the taxpayers of Glendale to have their say. That is why I voted to put it on the ballot. Why? It's their money and they should be the ones to decide how to spend it.

What have you done to have a more transparent and open government and Council?

I have always been available to the public, have spoken plainly and asked many questions, (even though I knew the answer) to better inform the public. I have not attended closed session meetings when I have felt them to be inappropriate, and have said so publicly.

