

2011 OK-SAFE TULSA MUNICIPAL
ELECTION SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE



NAME: William P. Suliburk

OFFICE YOU ARE SEEKING: Tulsa City Council District 8

Campaign Phone: 918-809-3925

Residence Phone: 918-494-6824

Cell Phone _____

e-mail: SuliburkForCouncil@msn.com

Web site: www.SuliburkForCoucil.com

Name of your campaign manager or chairman: Myself

Phone: 918-494-6824

Name of your campaign advisor, if any: Terry Malloy

Phone: 918-747-1830

GENERAL: (If you want to answer any of the questions on separate sheet(s) of paper, please do so.)

1. Why are you running?

* To facilitate and advocate for District 8's residents concerning the services, capital spending, and quality of life issues related to the city's government. I will take South Tulsa's voice to city hall.

* To advance the general economic, social, and cultural aspects of the city so Tulsa is the location-of-choice for current and prospective businesses and families.

* To have a government with common purpose, not petty quarrels. To restore the constructive use of checks and balances among the mayor and city councilors to have Tulsa viewed as the innovative, can-do city that is its actual heritage.

2. What are your qualifications?

* My academic background and business career (from a small family owned business to large multistate banks) have provided strong analytical and management skills that will prove valuable as a councilor. Although the mayor and councilors oversee a large organization, few have the professional experience with such organizations.

* As a Tulsa resident of more than 50 years and South Tulsa for 30 years, I have an appreciation for Tulsa's heritage, transitions, resources, and potential.

3. Are you a member of a church or synagogue, and if so, which one? Church of St. Mary

4. What is your occupation? Retired banker.

5. List no more than 10 people who have endorsed you or are supporting your campaign.

* James E. Frasier

* George Krumme

6. List any college degrees and/or professional certifications (e.g. CPA) you have attained.

* BA in Economics from Georgetown University

* MA in Economics from UCLA

* MBA from Harvard Graduate School of Business

7. List groups of which you are a member (e.g. Kiwanis, Tulsa Young Professionals, Chamber of Commerce).
 Currently:
 * City of Tulsa Sales Tax Overview Committee
 During my active career:
 * Director, American Cancer Society of Tulsa County
 * Director and President, Catholic Foundation of Eastern Oklahoma Diocese
 * Various committees of the Chamber of Commerce
8. List any political organizations or clubs of which you are a member. None
9. Other than your campaign, what other candidates have you volunteered for and/or contributed to? Multiple contributions over the years to political campaigns with candidates of both parties.

POSITION ON THE ISSUES:

10. Regarding the South Tulsa/Bixby bridge, a) how would you pay for it, b) what street should traffic flow into from the bridge, c) when should it be built?

I am not in favor of the South Tulsa/Bixby bridge. There are already two bridges in the 91st St. area plus the bridge across Memorial Drive. There is little, if any, need for another bridge for South Tulsans. Neither Yale nor "River Road/Delaware Avenue/Riverside Drive" were meant to be the equivalent of Memorial Drive. Only that volume of traffic and commercial development could justify and support the bridge.

11. On January 13, 2011 the Tulsa City Council adopted a consensus directing the Interim City Attorney to draft a charter amendment establishing a council-manager form of government, using Oklahoma City's charter as a model. Do you support or oppose this charter amendment?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

I oppose the Council/City Manager structure. The CEO should be politically accountable to the citizens. Tulsa is a large enough city that there are well skilled, senior civil servants to supervise the city's various operations. The CEO does not need to be a professional government manager. The Mayor currently has the authority to appoint "at will" senior aides who complement his own skills, just as a city manager would.

The analogy to the effectiveness of a Corporate Board/CEO structure is flawed. A corporate board of directors has a common constituency and goal. A city council does not have a common constituency with completely common goals. Therefore, oversight of the City Manager by the Council would also have confusion and conflict.

2011 OK-SAFE TULSA MUNICIPAL ELECTION; POSITION ON THE ISSUES (continued):

12. Do you support or oppose Petition No. 2010-01 (proposed by Save Our Tulsa)? This petition reorganizes the City Council to include three new at-large councilors elected by all the voters in the city but who will live in one of three new super districts made up of three regular districts from the North side, the East side and the West side. It will also make the Mayor the Chairman of the Council.

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

I oppose the proposal related to the addition of three at-large members. Just as with the current council, at-large members would have robust personal opinions. Adding another layer of legislators leaves more room for conflicting goals and additional logrolling.

Although not a perfect analogy, consider the following: Would adding three more Congressmen from each state (a similar one-third expansion) who were each elected by all US citizens make the federal House of Representatives or the entire federal government work more smoothly?

13. Do you support or oppose Petition No. 2010-02 (proposed by Save Our Tulsa)? This petition returns the terms of the councilors to 2 years and they will run in November of the even numbered years when the national and state elections are held.

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

I favor returning to two year terms for councilors. The councilors, just like our state and federal "House Representatives", should be "close to the people". Two years is sufficient time for citizens to make judgments about their representatives' qualities.

14. Do you support or oppose Petition No. 2010-03 (proposed by Save Our Tulsa)? This petition makes the elections in the City of Tulsa non-partisan.

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

There appears to be a misunderstanding about the implications of "non-partisan" elections. It simply means that, as far as filing for office and voting ballots, the political party of the candidate is not applicable or shown. However, candidates remain free to campaign as Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. Party affiliation can remain on campaign materials and in speeches.

Voters sometimes use party affiliation as an indication of strategic philosophies, but Tulsans have generally shown they vote for the "candidate" not the party in local elections. Activities of Tulsa's government are seldom related to strategic philosophies of political parties. Additionally, in districts where there is a substantial majority by one party, there are frequently no minority party or independent candidates - even with "open" offices. There may be only a primary election and not be a general election with full voter participation.

Furthermore, there will be broader candidate participation when multiple candidates of a single party can be in the general election. Strong, qualified candidates do not have to overcome "fiefdoms" within their own party in order to be on the general election ballot.

15. Did you support or oppose the river tax proposal that was on the ballot in October 2007?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

16. Did you support or oppose the street bond proposal that was on the ballot in November 2008?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

17. Would you support or oppose forensic audits of city departments in the City of Tulsa?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

The term "forensic" has recently become popular, but large corporations have always used internal and external audits, along with continuous business performance measures, to determine whether departments are performing their assigned tasks, and, if so, whether the departments are effective & efficient along with acting with the appropriate level of risk.

Based upon my business career, I strongly favor such oversight.

18. Would you support or oppose any city ordinances that would privatize any city services that are currently performed by city employees?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

Limited X

There are nuances to this topic. It is important in all goods and services that there be competitive markets to ensure consumers, producers, and workers receive cost effective results for their spending, investment, and wages. Some functions currently performed by city employees may not be crucial to the "duties" of city governance. For such functions, it may make sense to go beyond "benchmarking" relative to other government bodies' performances (which is a form of competition) and to determine whether competitive bidding is appropriate. Where bidding is appropriate, it is important for employees to be given the opportunity to participate in the bidding process.

Never-the-less, there can be overriding strategic issues for city ownership and management. For example, there have been constituents' comments about the KPMG and City water study, with some residents having the impression

that the City may be "selling our water system to private companies". As background, residents remember that the Spavinaw water project of the early 1920s was, at the time, the most remarkable civil engineering accomplishment in the United States.

The Tulsa Metropolitan Utility Authority is appropriately using the KPMG study as an opportunity to take a fresh look at the water system. There are always opportunities for improvement in large enterprises. The Authority has hired a consulting firm to help review governance, operations, and finances. But, as a baseline, "it will be a cold day in hell" before Tulsans should lose political control and accountability over the water system. Further, it is important that our water system be used in cooperation with surrounding communities so that the metropolitan area can thrive; but, the primacy of our interests must be retained.

19. Would you support or oppose a measure or proposal that would raise the sales taxes or property taxes in the City of Tulsa above the levels that they are right now? SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

I might consider an exception for a project on the scale of the "Boeing" (now "Spirit") initiative from several years ago. It was focused and not "implementable" unless the company made a favorable location decision. A strict financial analysis would have to be made.

20. Would you support or oppose the City of Tulsa taking private property under eminent domain to transfer that property to private developers? SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

This is nothing less than "crony capitalism", with its resulting corruption.

21. Do you support or oppose the construction of light rail in the City of Tulsa as an alternative means of transportation? SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

The time for light rail was potentially 25 to 30 years ago when user corridors could have been developed as a result of light rail service. Tulsa is now way too spread out. With this urban spread, Tulsa no longer has a concentrated employment area to have heavy enough "destination to and from" ridership which could support the financial requirements of light rail.

22. Do you support or oppose the imposition of an urban growth boundary to force dense development of the City of Tulsa? SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

23. Do you support or oppose limiting the size or attendance of churches in the City of Tulsa by restricting what and where they build? SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

However, churches should support standard zoning codes, being "good neighbors" to nearby residents and businesses.

24. Do you support or oppose the adoption of any version of a Form-Based Code in the City of Tulsa as an alternative to our existing zoning codes? SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

Again, there are nuances to this. It does not seem appropriate for a city-wide basis.

25. If you support the adoption of a Form-Based Code as an alternative to our existing zoning codes, do you support or oppose adopting it city wide to force development according to New Urbanism principles?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

26. Do you support or oppose allowing current property owners in the City of Tulsa to continue the use of their property according to the zoning codes that were in place when they purchased their property?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

receiving perhaps \$1,800,000 annually from the city for the COC's efforts. I would have politely indicated that I did not want to be included in endorsements or funding.

I think it is inappropriate for COC to recruit and fund candidates for city elective offices while receiving money from the city. First, I think it is an ethical issue, whereby the COC should keep itself neutral in such a monetary/functional partnership. Second, I think it may be shortsighted for the COC's best long term interests. Over a couple of election cycles, it is likely that there will be a number of officials elected who are opposed by the COC. It will be highly unlikely that those officials - who believe they are doing their jobs well - will vote to continue the relationship with the COC that is trying to thwart them or remove them from office. The COC will have poisoned the well for a continuation of its partnership.

The COC needs to choose whether to continue its formal economic development partnership or to be an electoral force. If the COC stops its electioneering, I would favor retaining the contract and partnership.

35. Would you support or oppose a vote to extend the Vision 2025 county sales tax when it expires?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

36. If elected, would you support or oppose holding regularly scheduled press conferences and inviting all members of the media in the City of Tulsa? SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

37. Upon reversal of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, would you support or oppose a law that would protect the lives of unborn children and prohibit abortion except to prevent the death of the mother?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

Abortion is not a topic for City of Tulsa governance. So, I am hesitant to discuss it, as it can allocate time away from city issues. However, I want to give you some of my perspective.

Even under Roe v. Wade, the government has a proper role in the regulation of abortion. As a matter of doctrine, we Catholics have a stricter standard, not allowing abortion even to prevent the "death of the mother". However, I am unsure where the exact lines are among various other faiths, and some of those faiths have less restrictive perspectives than "death of the mother". Legislators must be cautious about imposing the doctrines of their specific faiths without recognizing doctrines of other faiths. In regard to the abortion subject, my sense is (1) that it would be unfair for me to impose the "Catholic Doctrine" and (2) that imposing only the "death of the mother" exception may not fairly represent the moral standards of other faiths. If I were a state or federal legislator, I would have to better learn about those broader standards - e.g., rape, incest,

38. Do you support or oppose any taxpayer money being used for Arkansas River development?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

As I indicated above, I voted for the Arkansas River develop project. I believe proper development would be transformative for the city. I generally would look at broad public uses with some private commercial uses.

39. Tulsa Mayor Dewey Bartlett has stated, "Police officers are not here to send people back to their home country. That's not their job." (Source, Tulsa World, June 15, 2011) Do you support or oppose this stated position of the Mayor that it is not the job of police officers in the City of Tulsa to enforce federal immigration laws? SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

Again, nuances: Tulsans have always welcomed legal immigrants. We were also welcoming to the special exception for South Vietnamese immigration following the Communist North Vietnamese take over in 1975. TPD does not have the resources to conduct sweeps of the population for illegal immigrants and should not be diverted from its core public safety tasks to do so. However, whenever TPD, in its normal course of law enforcement, does come in contact with illegal immigrants, the immigrants should be subjected to federal regulations. Tulsa should not be a "sanctuary city".

40. Do you support or oppose making Tulsa's city attorney an elected position?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

This is not a singular issue to be voted on during this election cycle, although it is an element of the Council/City Manager proposal. I would prefer that the City Attorney be appointed by the Mayor with confirmation by the City Council. There has been an tendency in recent administrations for the City Attorney to rationalize the positions of the Mayor - which is not difficult to accomplish with the voluminous, imprecise, and sometimes conflicting city charter, city ordinances, and state legislation. I would propose an initial four year appointment which is done two years into a Mayor's term. The attorney would eligible for re-appointment and re-confirmation for one additional four year term. He/she would be limited to eight years total service.

41. Do you support or oppose the decision of the Mayor to proceed with a major restructuring of the Public Works Department without prior support from Tulsa's City Council?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

I read the applicable areas of the Charter when this controversy arose. Unfortunately, the Charter uses the terms "departments" and "divisions" in different sections. As a businessman's interpretation, it is clear to me that, regarding the highest level of the City's organization, the Mayor is supposed to have the prior support of the City Counsel - regardless of whether it is called a "department" or "division". And, Jim Twombly originally agreed. The difficulty is, as noted above in #41, an attorney can parse the charter and rationalize the interpretation that the Mayor wants.

I am not making a judgment on whether the Mayor's reorganization can lead to better performance. I don't think the Mayor has ever shown the detailed planning and metrics for review. Again, in a large corporation, that analysis would have to be completed and shared before such a fundamental structural change could be made.

42. Do you support or oppose increasing the parking meter rates in the City of Tulsa to \$1.00 per hour?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

I do not know enough about the meter rates in the various areas of downtown. The "remote" areas used to have lower rates from the "high density" areas, which is reasonable.

43. Do you support or oppose increasing parking fines in the City of Tulsa from \$15.00 to \$30.00?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

\$15.00 seems to be a reasonable penalty compared to parkers' alternative of using a parking lot. Something higher might be okay. But, \$30.00 is just "government being a hard ass".

2011 OK-SAFE TULSA MUNICIPAL ELECTION; POSITION ON THE ISSUES (continued):

44. Do you support or oppose a proposal to allow the City of Tulsa to charge for Fire Department service calls?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

We already pay for Fire Department services through taxes. Should we similarly pay extra when the police need to help us?!?

45. Do you support or oppose increasing security alarm certificate renewal fees in the City of Tulsa?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

A modest increase would not be unreasonable given the "stretch" of our police staffing. But, it should not be a "large" increase that is a substitute for a tax. (Note: This is a separate circumstance from my comment in #44 where there is a confirmed need for police protection. Alarms frequently give false signals.)

46. Do you support or oppose the decision of the Tulsa Police Department to suspend Captain Paul Fields for two weeks without pay because he wouldn't attend a Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (at a mosque) hosted by the Islamic Society of Tulsa? (Various news media have indicated that Captain Fields believed this was an infringement upon his freedom of religion.) SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

A "Captaincy" requires willingness to follow the chain of command and "show the flag". He was not being required to attend or participate in a religious service. However, I think that the Captain's commander should not have forced the Captain to require subordinates to attend. The commander should have made that request directly to the subordinates.

47. Do you support or oppose increasing utility rates in the City of Tulsa?

We citizens have to pay the appropriate rates to support our utilities - e.g., water, sewer, trash, The effectiveness with which our water system handled one of the worst recorded droughts this summer demonstrates the foresightedness of Tulsans being willing to invest in infrastructure even when the short term costs may seem unnecessary. However, the Mayor and Councilors must insist that utility board members apply strict scrutiny to the effectiveness and efficiency of the utilities' operations. Unfortunately, the TARE board has been unwilling to be transparent with its proposed transformation of the trash service - especially by not including a bid option for current services that could show whether there is added expense due to TARE's ideology. This has led to distrust of our utility governance.

Note: The City Council has nothing to do with gas and electricity rates.

48. Would you support or oppose the establishment of more Indian casinos within in the City of Tulsa?
SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

In general, I would be opposed to tribes purchasing additional private land and then putting it into tribal land trusts so that casinos could be established.

I would not want to interfere with tribes' use of their traditional lands.

49. Do you support or oppose the position taken by the City of Tulsa to move city hall offices to the One Technology Center? SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

Although the price of the building/move was described as a "bargain", the owner would have been lucky to get half the price that the City paid. What is worse, a deeding/financing option was used to avoid the standard governance approval for such a substantial venture. Furthermore, everyone knows that an "independent consultant" can jiggle the figures to show whatever the client wants; it was a low point for Roger Staubach's reputation.

50. A few months ago a City Attorney issued a legal opinion that, under the Tulsa City Charter, only the Mayor of Tulsa has the power to initiate budget amendments. Do you support or oppose this legal opinion?

SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

Again, from a businessman's perspective, it is clear that the charter allows the Council to disagree with the Mayor's proposed budget; oversight of the budget is the Council's principal function. But, parsing the verbiage allowed the City Attorney to issue his ruling. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that such a small adjustment to the

verbiage would make it to a vote of the people. The Council simply has to be aggressive in its negotiations with the Mayor over the final form of the budget. The Council ultimately has the power of the purse.

51. Do you support or oppose the downtown assessment district fees on businesses to pay for the ballpark?
SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

It is not appropriate for property located far from the ballpark to be assessed at the same level as property that is a few blocks away.

52. According to the web site for ICLEI (The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) (<http://www.icleiusa.org>), the city of Tulsa has been a member of ICLEI since 2009. Do you support or oppose keeping the City of Tulsa as a member of ICLEI? SUPPORT OPPOSE UNDECIDED

X

I did some research as I had no idea what the organization was. The organization can provide resources related to ideas, planning, and measuring local environmental initiatives. So, it could be a reasonable organization from which the city receives concrete benefits.

Unfortunately, the organization is also an advocacy group related to climate change, carbon restrictions, and international mandates: the Rio +20 conference to be held next June is one of its major "projects". I do not know how much the membership fee is; it may be minor. However, with all the local public safety and infrastructure obligations to residents, I doubt that ordinary Tulsans think the city should be spending significant, scarce tax dollars on international environmental matters. If the City wants to retain the membership, it should make clear: (1) the cost of the membership is minor; and, (2) that it is not spending time or money on advocacy or attending meetings/conferences related to advocacy.

53. According to the PlaniTulsa web site (<http://www.planitulsa.org/>), "At their July 22, 2010 meeting, the Tulsa City Council unanimously approved the adopted PLANiTULSA Plan."

If you were an incumbent City Councilor on July 22, 2010, how did you vote on this plan? YEA NAY

If you were not an incumbent City Councilor on July 22, 2010, how would you have voted on this plan?

YEA NAY UNDECIDED

X

Like most regular residents, I was not close enough to be able to balance all the details and make a valid judgment. It appears that the City is beginning to move toward the PLANiTULSA Plan's guidance, but not in a strident way. It is inherently difficult to accept that future administrations, councils, and residents will want to accept in total the guidance of this single 2010 exercise. We have to ensure that future elected mayors and councils retain ultimate accountability and not allow an unelected bureaucracy "to plan the city".

2011 OK-SAFE TULSA MUNICIPAL ELECTION; POSITION ON THE ISSUES (continued):

54. On June 17, 2010 the Tulsa City Council considered and voted on a proposed revision to the City of Tulsa Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual relating to Section 102 (Non-Discrimination Policy). The proposed revision added sexual orientation to the city's nondiscrimination policy for personnel. The City Council voted 6-3 to add sexual orientation to the list of protected classes. (Before the addition of sexual orientation, the list of protected classes included race, color, sex, religion, political beliefs, national origin, age, ancestry and disability.)

If you were an incumbent City Councilor on June 17, 2010, how did you vote on this proposed revision?

YEA NAY

See below.

If you were not an incumbent City Councilor on June 17, 2010, how would you have voted on this proposed revision?

YEA NAY UNDECIDED

I don't think the City generally should be involved in "peoples' bedrooms" or private lives unless there are criminal violations or ethical conflicts of interest. I think that is a basic constitutional guaranty. So, the concept of neutral non-discrimination is all right. However, I would not agree with "protected" in the sense of having hiring and promotion "goals and time tables", as there have been with respect to race and sex. If this was the legal interpretation of "protected", I would have voted against it.

55. On June 17, 2010 the Tulsa City Council considered and voted on a proposed Ordinance amending Title 12 of the Tulsa Revised Ordinances by creating a new chapter entitled "City of Tulsa Taxpayer and Citizen Protection" and adopting and incorporating provisions of the "Oklahoma Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act of 2007" (HB1804). The Tulsa City Council voted 6-3 to reject this proposed city ordinance that would reduce illegal immigration.

If you were an incumbent City Councilor on June 17, 2010, how did you vote on this proposed ordinance?
YEA NAY

If you were not an incumbent City Councilor on June 17, 2010, how would you have voted on this proposed ordinance? YEA NAY UNDECIDED

Please see my answer to Question 39 above. I would add that businesses which use illegal aliens should not be city vendors and should be subject to prosecution. But again, Tulsa does not have (and will not have in the foreseeable future) the resources to substitute for federal authorities.

56. In 2010, the word "Christmas" was removed from the name of the annual parade in the City of Tulsa. The Christmas parade was renamed "Tulsa's Holiday Parade of Lights". On December 7, 2010 the Tulsa City Council voted 5-3 to approve the special event application of Tulsa's Holiday Parade of Lights.

If you were an incumbent City Councilor on December 7, 2010, how did you vote on this special event application? YEA NAY

If you were not an incumbent City Councilor on December 7, 2010, how would you have voted on this special event application? YEA NAY UNDECIDED

I would have required as a part of the application that the organizers agree to contact all donors to allow them to request a return of their donations, because the donors may not have wanted to contribute to a "non-Christmas" named festivity.