

## Preserve the Valley QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES FROM AT LARGE CANDIDATES

**\*Note: N/A denotes no response given**

### **JEFF FUSCO (Incumbent)**

#### **1. How do you propose to increase citizen engagement in government decision-making? (Not to exceed 500 words)**

Akron City Council last year introduced a weekly e-mail program. The weekly Legislative Spotlight highlights ordinances and resolutions passed by the council the previous week, as well as items that have been proposed. We also educate the community through "Did you Know," a segment of the weekly update about the rules of the City Council. Please visit our website to sign up at [www.akroncitycouncil.org/](http://www.akroncitycouncil.org/). In addition, we have been exploring increasing our presence on social media. We have always welcomed citizen input. On February 23, Akron announced a partnership with Zencity to gather information; the engagement platform can be found at [akron-oh.cicilspace.io/](http://akron-oh.cicilspace.io/). We have also been discussing widening our parameters for the conditional use process.

#### **2. What steps do you believe should be taken to balance development with the protection of natural resources and the environment? (Not to exceed 500 words)**

I like the question because the balance between developing and protecting natural resources must be a priority. The excellent work of Cuyahoga Falls and Akron, the residents, the business community, Preserve The Valley, and many others in developing the Merriman Valley-Schumacher Area Master Plan has shown us a path forward. Due to this good work, the neighborhood conservation districts will be one of the proposals coming forward.

That primarily focuses on residential. There's much more work to be done to protect our natural resources. Newer EPA rules his increased stormwater management for recent developments through Summit County soil and water. We have seen increased attention to protecting our environment. We have also discussed reducing our zoning code reference parking and encouraging walking. By doing this, less stormwater will need to be treated by the city of Akron. I just wanted to let you know that more to come on that. We've also discussed incentivizing developers and working with them for greener development.

#### **3. Would you amend the current 15-year property tax abatement program to incentivize redevelopment in the urban core and remove incentives for green space development?**

NA

#### **4. Do you support 100% conservation for the 45 acres of Theiss Woods? Yes or No**

NA

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**FRAN WILSON**

**1. How do you propose to increase citizen engagement in government decision-making?  
(Not to exceed 500 words)**

The police-killing of Jayland Walker, White Pond development, Thiess Woods, and LaDue fracking are just a few examples of issues that underscore the broken relationship between Akronites and city leadership. Dirty and dark interests dictate too many decisions at city hall, there is active suppression of the public's voice, and a general lack of efficacy and creativity in outreach to the community on important issues.

In approach, as representatives of the public, we must throw out ego and champion the burden of digging deep into issues, calling out corruption, channeling the public's interest or frustration into solutions, and doing everything in our power to follow through.

In action, council and the administration should make it a priority to lead from on the ground, host town halls on legislation and budgeting, make legislative and budget documentation more publicly accessible, and bring the decision-making table to those directly affected by the issues.

As an organizer, I have been on the frontlines of Justice for Jayland protests, worked alongside Save White Pond, and helped to take down the LaDue fracking deal. I am firm in the belief that we need more Akronites at the table and will continue to organize alongside the community when elected. Vote Fran for one of the three open Akron City Council At-Large seats on May 2.

**2. What steps do you believe should be taken to balance development with the protection of natural resources and the environment? (Not to exceed 500 words)**

Akron leadership must fundamentally reconsider the value and approach to care of our resources. But we cannot do that while shying away from the reality of out-of-state, corporate, and dark interests that seek to profit from the loss of Akron's natural spaces and environmental assets — from fracking near LaDue Reservoir to luxury housing developments on the White Pond wetlands.

Legislatively, I think we need to: (1) prohibit the city from mineral rights leasing and fracking (2) make our city's ethical codes stricter to halt backroom dealing, (3) increase the number of public hearings and build in automatic switches for traffic and environmental studies on deals over \$500,000 and/or land sales/leases over 25 acres, (4) and restructure the 15-year tax abatement to actually benefit everyday Akronites.

With the climate crisis, we need to be vigilant and do our part. I will continue to listen first, show up, and speak out. Vote Fran for one of the three open Akron City Council At-Large seats on May 2.

**3. Would you amend the current 15 year property tax abatement program to incentivize redevelopment in the urban core and remove incentives to greenspace development?**

Yes.

**4. Do you support 100% conservation for the 45 acres of Theiss Woods? Yes or No**

Yes.

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**JOHNNY OSBY JR**

**1. How do you propose to increase citizen engagement in government decision-making?  
(Not to exceed 500 words)**

ANSWER: By canvassing, attending block clubs and neighborhood organizations. Collecting data and analytics to come up with some type of consensus. And introducing those solutions and conclusions/consensus to legislation. So it may enter the legislative process.

**2. What steps do you believe should be taken to balance development with the protection of natural resources and the environment? (Not to exceed 500 words)**

ANSWER: Nature is the most important thing on this planet. We must respect and protect it at all costs. I believe keeping that understanding in the forefront would monitor our decision making and steps moving forward.

**3. Would you amend the current 15 year property tax abatement program to incentivize redevelopment in the urban core and remove incentives to greenspace development?**

ANSWER: I am not qualified to answer, this requires more information. My apologies

**4. Do you support 100% conservation for the 45 acres of Theiss Woods? Yes or No**

ANSWER: Yes

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**JARREAU MCCLENDON**

**1. How do you propose to increase citizen engagement in government decision-making?  
(Not to exceed 500 words)**

1. I plan on increasing citizen engagement in government decision making by stressing what this means to them. I feel a lot of the issues are filled with jargon that the everyday people don't speak or understand. My objective is to present them with clarity on all issues so there is no question of what the issue means to them. I will be doing a live video forum each week after city council meetings that they can watch which allows them to know what the city is talking about doing, in which wards and what they can or should do in these instances. Overall I plan to make myself accessible for the people so questions are answered when they need to be.

**2. What steps do you believe should be taken to balance development with the protection of natural resources and the environment? (Not to exceed 500 words)**

2. Though the protection of natural resources and the environment are vital, the advancement of us as people are as well. I feel as though the steps to take when it comes to development are easy though, we replace and replace what we destroy. My mother used to always say once you use something to put it back. We cannot use up the trees and land without cultivating it in other places. If property must be used to enrich our living and create buildings for living, business and other things then once it has been constructed we need to environmentally construct as well. Planting trees, looking after wild life and even using other sources of energy all should be done when Mother Earth has been tampered with to ensure she can keep providing.

**3. Would you amend the current 15 year property tax abatement program to incentivize redevelopment in the urban core and remove incentives to greenspace development?**

3. No

**4. Do you support 100% conservation for the 45 acres of Theiss Woods? Yes or No**

4. No

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**GINGER BAYLOR (Incumbent)**

**1. How do you propose to increase citizen engagement in government decision-making? (Not to exceed 500 words)**

Expanding our digital landscape is one major way to increase citizen engagement. This brings communications to their finger tips making information more accessible and convenient. For citizens that are more hands on, workshops town halls and informational public forums can be scheduled around important topics going on in the city that may affect our neighborhoods and our citizens well being. Posting opportunities on our website and providing regular newsletters with information about the happenings, up coming events and opportunities can also help increase connections and engagement with our citizens. The goal is to create more diversity in the way we communicate thus providing a greater service for everyone we serve.

**2. What steps do you believe should be taken to balance development with the protection of natural resources and the environment? (Not to exceed 500 words)**

We could put together a sustainable strategy that creates a balance and addresses them both. However we must base this strategy on realistic and achievable outcomes. Looking at how we use energy land and water. This can be done with input from citizens, participation from organizations and extensive research.

**3. Would you amend the current 15 year property tax abatement program to incentivize redevelopment in the urban core and remove incentives to greenspace development?**

**4. Do you support 100% conservation for the 45 acres of Theiss Woods? Yes or No**

3 & 4 N/A