

Questions for Missoula City Council Candidates

Roy Houseman, Ward 2

1. Are you a Democrat?
 - a. Yes
2. Are you seeking Missoula County Democrats' endorsement, why? Will you be seeking any other political party endorsement this election?
 - a. Yes, I will be seeking the Missoula County Democrats' endorsement because I know the policies that I believe are best suited within the Democratic Party.
 - b. NO
3. What have you done in the past to support or work for Democratic candidates, local, state, or national?
 - a. My support for political candidates began working on Jon Tester's campaign, helping with a mailing. As a treasurer for the Missoula Central Labor Council I interviewed public office candidates with Committee on Political Education (COPE). I knocked doors in support of working family issues in the Presidential Campaign of 2008. Lastly, I lobbied for Climate Change legislation in Washington DC on behalf of my Union.
4. How much or little do you agree with the following statement? Stewardship—acting now to maximize the well-being of future generations—is the primary responsibility of government and the lens through which policy making in areas as diverse as energy, transportation, education, health care, human rights and taxation should be focused.
 - a. In our local union United Steelworkers Hellgate 885, we have a steward system to make sure our contract is followed by the company. A steward is the first line of defense against irresponsible decisions. The concept of Stewardship is critical to the 400 families I now serve and what I see as a basic tenant to any democratic organization. Obviously, I would love to be a steward for the city of Missoula.
5. The Central Committee recently ratified the enclosed document, written by Missoula Democrats, that states our shared values. How will your work in local government reflect those values?
 - a. If elected, I will work to increase transportation access for alternative methods ranging from increased buses to bicycles. I will work to increase education about city government in all age segments of the community from children to seniors. I will work to best set growth policies that look to preserve the look and feel of Missoula while doing my best to slow sprawl and unhealthy development.
6. With respect to the issues caucus document, which positions (if any) on local, national or international issues do you disagree with? Why?
 - a. I don't see any positions that I disagree with.
7. What should government's role be in managing growth?
 - a. An open and available government must act in the best interest of the entire community. There are many facets to managing growth and how best to preserve the cultural identity of a community while making the most cost-effective decisions for the

community as a whole. Actively pursuing zoning in Missoula that reflects our increasing population and changing community is the responsible thing to do.

8. What should local government do to facilitate Missoulian's consuming less energy?
 - a. Missoula works hard at trying to reduce energy costs but more can be done. Energy efficiency upgrades to our publicly owned facilities are critical and easily achieved paths to consuming less energy. In this respect, I support Mayor Engen's initiative to employ performance contracting to audit and rehabilitate municipal buildings. Green Blocks, which provides incentives to families for efficiency upgrades is another great example of the city making it possible for people to reduce their energy consumption, and I support the concept of piloting a similar program for businesses. Increasing education about the importance of using less energy is always on the table. Getting more creative, we could sponsor efforts like energy reduction competitions, in which, say, the ward or neighborhood that reduces the energy consumption the most over a set period of time would win some sort of prize, varying from recognition to possible tax incentives. Another creative idea would be to have the city buy in bulk easy-to-install items such as roof insulation or energy efficient light bulbs and then resell those items back to the community at cost, passing along the savings.

9. Discuss how you would balance expanding road capacity and adding transit or bike-ped options when making transportation policy.
 - a. Dedicated bike lanes, complete trail systems and traffic management that reduces speed while providing ease of access are all priorities. Missoula is not 10th Avenue in Great Falls. Bigger roads don't mean better roads. Unfortunately, that also means that roads which have not seen as much traffic traditionally may see increased usage. We have to best mitigate those and also realize that Missoula is not just 2 or 3 busy streets anymore nor is it a Chicago or Seattle. If the city can advance public transportation methods as much as possible like light rail, increased bus usage, easy trail access we can better position ourselves for a future that is likely to include higher transportation costs, a large number of seniors dependent on transit and greater enrollment of graduate students at the university.