

Chris Clark - Mayor

Here are my responses to the questionnaire sent out recently.

1. I chose to run for mayor because of all the additional tax burden by the current mayor and city council. There is no fiscal discipline.

2. I grew up in Omaha, Nebraska. Moved to Minneapolis ten years ago this month to be exact. I was drawn to the fact that Minnesota elected a wrestler to be governor. The concept of charter schools were attractive.

While growing up in Omaha, I participated in many social organizations. After moving here, I participated in social benefits for two former U.S. Senators, ran for City Council in 2005 and Minneapolis School Board in 2006.

My recent experience was with the Northeast Citizens Patrol (NECP) from 2006-2007. A wonderful hands-on experience. Community activism at its best! Recently, I became a recipient for the President's Award for Outstanding Service at the University of Minnesota.

To be considered for the President's Award, individuals have provided exceptional service to the University, departments and service units. Have gone well beyond their regular duties and have demonstrated an unusual commitment to the University Community.

3. If elected, I'll have to look out and consider possibilities for all the neighborhood organizations. The economy and poverty play a role in this. With constant state aid declining and property taxes increasing, the city spending and priorities are out of whack.

With constant proposed taxes and fees from city, state and county government, foreclosures will surface in greater numbers. Homeowners and businesses share the biggest portion of being taxed to death. Quality of life deteriorates.

We're all in this together for a better quality of life. I suggest we attract new high tech businesses from outside the state. A more favorable tax regime for setting up business and keeping them here in Minneapolis long term.

Green technology is the way of the future. Remember, businesses create jobs and help sustain our economy along with spending by the consumer. The more tax base we generate as a city, more money will be used for projects and basic services such as safety and the neighborhood revitalization program.

4. Top priorities range from no more astounding tax and fees increases. Neighborhood Revitalization Program is in dire need of help. Cutting out wasteful spending on unnecessary projects.

The mayor should be a leader in the public schools system especially with our superintendents staying a short time every term. Without education, we don't have a future.

No more school closings. Children should be able to attend school in their neighborhoods.

Job creation and prevent anymore foreclosures in the city of Minneapolis. Basic services should be restored before anything else occurs. Within my first term, I'd like to see the number of city council members decrease from 13 to 10.

5. Without neighborhood organizations, Minneapolis would be nothing. Another plain, boring

city. There are so many community leaders who are behind the scenes which makes Minneapolis unique.

I am afraid of what will happen once the funding for the neighborhood revitalization programs runs out. As I said before, attract more high tech and one of a kind companies here to offset the tax burden from homeowners and small businesses.

Use more of those revenues for these wonderful neighborhood programs and basic city services. Without the basics, we don't have much of a foundation.

Sincerely,

Christopher Clark