
Candidate Questionnaire

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To: "tacamahilltoplibrary@gmail.com" <tacamahilltoplibrary@gmail.com>

Good Afternoon,

Please find my attached questionnaire! I look forward to continuing to talk about how we can support libraries in Tacoma!

John

 **Hilltop Library.docx**
15K

1. What can the city do to provide quality equitable library services to members of all ages and circumstances in the Hilltop?

As a current library trustee, I want to see more library services across the city, including on the Hilltop. The city is currently in the process of conducting a feasibility study to best assess how to provide quality, equitable library services to the Hilltop and I am eager to see the results.

While on the council, I will advocate for additional funding so that the Library can continue to expand staffing and hours at all of the branches. Once the feasibility study for the Hilltop Library has been completed, I look forward to working with the community to ensure that its findings are put in place.

In the short term, we have worked to locate a Micro-Library Kiosk somewhere on the Hilltop to give access to library services. This Micro-Library Kiosk will have staff assigned (which we have hired) and programing supporting literacy.

2. What kind of library facilities do you envision for the Hilltop? (For instance, remodeling an existing neighborhood structure, new construction, or leasing ground-floor space in a new housing project.)

I would like the library to further examine opportunities for co-location of services. A library is the heart of a community, a place that should be its civic center. I think leasing space in a housing project or in conjunction with a community center will ensure that the library is used.

Also, by locating it near other services or in housing, we can support equitable access for all. Many of our library patrons need access to multiple services and by including multiple partners in once space, they can better meet those needs.

3. What steps will you take to ensure a library is placed in the Hilltop?

First, I will make sure that the feasibility study is completed and that its findings are discussed and implemented.

Second, I will continue to advocate for expanded library funding and access through the city's general fund. As a teacher and a library trustee, I will be a powerful advocate for the expanding of services.

Third, I can also serve as a bridge between multiple community partners and enlist more allies to support the Hilltop Library. I think Metro Parks, Tacoma Public Schools, and the Tacoma Housing Authority, along with other community groups and non-profits can push to ensure we have partners to make the library work.

Fourth, I would like the city to look at running another Library Bond in the near future. The last one by the city was in the 1980s and our libraries are in need of important capital improvements. A Hilltop Library, pending the outcome of the feasibility study, would be part of that bond.

4. What is the most important challenge facing the city in building a library in the Hilltop?

The most important challenge is finding on-going funding for the library. In years past, the library has seen its budget cut when a deficit occurred. Within the last 3 years, there has been discussion of closing another branch in the city. In order to open and maintain an additional library, the city needs to protect its funding and commit to further investments to ensure it is maintained and staff so that it can be an asset in the community.

I am deeply passionate about libraries and if elected, I will be the best advocate for their funding and expansion on the council. I will fight to ensure it is funded.