



Questionnaire with Edmond City Council Candidate Jim Martin, Ward 1 (Candidates answers are recorded in red)

1. If elected to City Council/Mayor, what will be your top priorities?

A. I want infrastructure in place before our growth demands it. B. I want to promote harmony and better communication between the Council and our citizens to eliminate the need for petitions and demonstrations over zoning and growth issues. C. I want to safeguard the property values of our current homeowners through wise planning.

2. Do you support the continued use of the Edmond Development Authority's incentive policy to recruit new business and assist existing business? Why or why not?

A. Edmond must grow to survive. The Development Authority is our primary recruitment agency for responsible and consistent growth. B. We need to look at various incentives to entice the kind and type of businesses we want within our city. C. Yes – let's work with the current incentive policy but remain aware that changing times and circumstances require changing tactics.

3. Do you support allowing voters to decide whether to tax themselves to build a Regional Transit/Commuter Rail System in central Oklahoma (to connect, for example, Norman, Edmond, OKC and Tinker AFB)? Why or why not?

We should always have the full support of those taxed! We can only know if we have that support by calling for a vote. In my opinion, the cost of such a project will require that the citizens be convinced of the benefits before being asked to pay for it. A functioning, reliable, rail system can relieve a lot of the commuter traffic congestion we now face and which will only increase in the future.

4. Do you support the use of city funds to implement a railroad quiet zone in Edmond city limits? Why or why not?

Currently, the Edmond City administrators are negotiation with the railroad on the cost of creating a quiet zone. The issues are complex and deal with liability as well as structural and technical renovations. Yes, when the facts and figures are available, it may be quite feasible for the City to pay for our share of the cost. How we chose to reimburse or continue to pay will

have to be decided at that time. A quiet zone will have a positive affect on growth and development in the downtown and west side areas.

5. Are you aware of the Federal Opportunity Zone located in downtown Edmond and what is your view on how this area should be developed?

I feel that the Federal Opportunity Zone is a good idea. I don't know how we qualified as an "economically depressed" community – but we did. There may be several advantages to downtown development through the Zone. Not only adding tax base construction and payroll revenue streams to the economy, we may benefit through increased infrastructure – like street improvement and additional parking.

6. What is your view on the best solutions for the increased traffic areas that are part of the future growth of Edmond?

As in the previous question, a commuter rail system may be a somewhat longer term answer. In the short term, we need to develop more feeder streets into Edmond. Highway I-35 can help move traffic into town as we also develop the east side of the highway. Wider feeder roads from I-35 west into town can relieve some of the current commuter traffic. Very soon we need to look at one-way streets or more right-turn access lanes.

7. As you know, sales tax is the primary source of revenue for cities in Oklahoma. What is your opinion on how to drive sales tax generation and growth for Edmond?

Our sales tax base will increase greatly if we can attract high dollar or high volume retailers into our city limits. We could have benefited from Costco building in out town instead of "just over the line". One of the considerations in recruiting business should be how a specific business will increase our tax base.