



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

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

Edmond's continued growth and development relies first and foremost on infrastructure development. Edmond is a great community, but as many who I have spoken with have noted, we are behind in developing our infrastructure to meet its current demands let alone its future demands.

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?

I see no reason to get rid of the policy if our business leaders and community believe it is having a positive impact, but I would certainly want to review the policy as should anyone who is elected to serve our community.

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?

I support an individual's right to vote on their taxation.

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

While I of course want to leverage state and federal dollars, I believe it's important our community believes and buys into the project as well.

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 am aware of the opportunity zone and I believe projects are already in development. Connecting UCO to downtown with a safe pedestrian thoroughfare has been a topic of

discussion for many years and perhaps this is the impetus needed to turn this into a reality. I'll address this issue further in question 7.

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

This gets to the heart of the issue that is holding our city back. This question asks about meeting infrastructure needs for future growth, but we aren't taking care of the needs we still have today. For example, the intersection at Covell and Coltrane should have been redeveloped a decade ago as the growth in this area was occurring. Now you have a highly trafficked area that is a part of an essential thoroughfare to reach our new Showbiz cinema and hotel and conference center. Technology is and will continue to play a role at our intersections, but we need to maintain and update our current infrastructure at a faster pace than is currently happening along with preparing for future growth. And great care must be taken to lessen the impact of these updates to our infrastructure by working with our local businesses and neighborhoods to ensure our businesses can continue to operate and our neighborhoods can continue to function.

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?

Edmond was once a community made up of big box retail and restaurants. This is changing, and I believe it is for the better. Current development appears to be aimed at bringing unique developments and businesses to Edmond, such as the Ice House and Creamery and the redevelopment of the lumberyard. The arrival of the Patriarch ushered in a new era to downtown Edmond which started with local businesses like Evoke and Native Summit. Not only are these businesses destinations for the community of Edmond, but they're also destinations for the greater metro area as well. The same will be true for the current developments occurring downtown and it's my desire that this trend continues down our 235 corridor as well. Entrepreneurs believe in our motto and I want to support that.