

<b>Biography – Council (50 word limit)</b>	<b>If the city has extra money in the future, what would you do with it? (75 word limit on all questions)</b>	<b>How will you restore the dignity and trust of the council which has been quoted as a “laughingstock”?</b>	<b>Will you publicly support the outcome of a decision of Council if you were in the minority?</b>
<p><b>David Henderson</b> Realtor, Real Estate One, Troy; Owned and sold a successful business in Troy; 15 years starting new franchises, Ziebart Corporation, Troy. In a 33 year career, I’ve analyzed numerous budgets. I value fiscal responsibility in both good and bad economic times. Husband 30 years, father and grandfather of 5.</p>	<p>Any overages in the city coffers is the peoples money. I’ll make sure the budget is balanced with full disclosure to the taxpayers. Council voted in November 2009 to keep a 15% fund balance for emergencies. Currently there is well over 17% in the fund balance. I’ll make sure that balance stays at 15%, any overages should be returned to the people via refund or an adjusted tax rate.</p>	<p>This council has allowed a shell game to be played with the budget for almost 2 years. I was told by three council members there was not irrefutable proof a millage increase was needed, yet one that is currently running for elected office, voted yes anyway. Then council spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on marketing efforts and special elections to “prove” to the people they needed a tax increase. I won’t allow that behavior.</p>	<p>The council votes as a body. I may not like the outcome on certain issues, but certainly appreciate the governing bodies purpose. I’ll let my dissenting vote speak for itself on those issues. This is a far different issue than being a concerned citizen speaking out against the governing bodies decisions over the past two years. That is the right of the people.</p>
<p><b>Edward Kempen</b> Troy resident for 21 years. MBA-Oakland University, BS-Industrial Engineering. 22 years experience in automotive, information technology, and health care industries. City government experience – Troy BZA, Troy Advisory Committee for Citizens with Disabilities, Taxpayer Protection Amendment, Petition to keep library open with no new taxes.</p>	<p>When it is certain that Troy’s fortunes are turning around, I would support returning a portion of the recent tax hike back to taxpayer and continue investment in projects to enhance our city. Some redevelopment projects should be undertaken, park improvement projects, and modernization of our library. Pathways project should be reintroduced as it will contribute to the character and support future growth in our city.</p>	<p>It is sad, but the public just doesn’t believe council anymore. They don’t trust numbers, they feel they’ve been threatened to push an unnecessary tax increase. To restore confidence we need to ensure we truly listen for the residents voice and work with flexible options to make decisions. Fiscal transparency will do well for the public. I will guarantee budget flexibility that will put the public interest ahead of special interests.</p>	<p>While serving on the Troy Board of Zoning Appeals, I didn’t support every decision reached, but we as a group supported the process, discussed the issues in good faith, and reached conclusions to serve the public interest. We didn’t elaborate on issues after a decision. I would do the same when serving on council. If the council works in good faith to reach decisions, even tough decisions, neither the public nor minority should be offended.</p>
<p><b>Doug Tietz</b> Business owner, home owner, and taxpayer. Doug and his wife Amy moved to Troy shortly after getting married. Member of: Michigan Taxpayers Alliance, Toastmasters International, and Troy Community Coalition. Doug and Amy attend Our Shepherd Lutheran Church. Doug Tietz is a graduate of the University of Michigan.</p>	<p>Over and over again, citizens have been threatened that core services will be cut unless they passed a millage increase. If a surplus of taxes was, “discovered” I would ask for an investigation. Residents are cynical of the City and the budgets that they present to the public because they don’t believe they are getting the full story. We need more openness. The spending priorities are simple: police, fire, snow removal, and roads.</p>	<p>Stop the hysterics that certainly don’t belong in local government. Stop threatening to cut core services (police, fire, snow removal) every time there are difficult budget decisions. Publish the city’s check register online. Publish all salaries and benefits by job category online. Publish all city contracts, including labor contracts, online. Treat resident and businesses with respect they deserve.</p>	<p>I will not determine whether I will publicly support, or oppose, a decision based on whether I’m in the majority or minority. Residents are tired of candidates that promise one thing and then change their opinion when they see that they will be in the minority. My job is not to wait to see what is popular. My job is to represent the residents and their concerns in a respectful, thoughtful manner.</p>
<p><b>Neil Yashinsky</b> I work as a Technical Consultant for an eCommerce Software company. I own a small business that specializes in Internet marketing. I work as an election precinct chair. I am a co-founder of Troy Residents United for a Strong Troy or TRUST. I enjoy coaching for Troy Youth Soccer League/Birmingham YMCA.</p>	<p>We need to ensure that our police force is fully staffed. I would follow the ICMA recommendations and not lay off an additional 7 officers, and I would rehire the 4 who were recently laid off. Ideally we could find a way to restore Saturday service at the library.</p>	<p>I believe it is imperative to have a city council that is not only effective, but professional and dignified. I cannot control the actions of others on the City Council, only my own. I promise to conduct the people of Troy’s business in a way in which people can be proud.</p>	<p>While on the Council I will work to find consensus on the most important issues facing the city. If the Council takes an approach that is not my preferred approach, but will have a positive outcome for the city I will support it. If I believe the actions will be harmful to the interests of the city than I cannot and will not support it.</p>