

The Pasadena Chamber is hosting Your Pasadena Mayoral Forum on Tuesday March 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:30pm at the Pasadena Convention Center. Due to the number of candidates (7) in the race and each participating in the forum, time will be limited on the number of questions the candidates will be able to answer on the stage. Each of the candidates were asked to provide a 75 word or less written response to the below 3 questions. The Chamber requested input from the community at large on the questions of interest and then were polled on the most important questions to be asked. For citizens unable to attend the event, it will be filmed and made available through video link following the event. The event is free and open to the public.

The Pasadena Chamber is a politically neutral organization and does not endorse individual candidates. The purpose behind hosting the forum and providing candidate responses is strictly informational as the chamber serves as the voice for business and seeks to connect your community.

Responses to each question are listed in alphabetical order of candidate's last name and are made available as received without editing from the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce.

**1. Many of the challenges Pasadena faces are regional issues. How would you propose working with other community and government partners to address issues that impact the broader community?**

**David:** As a coastal city, we should be doing more to protect our last remaining watersheds. I'm currently speaking with individuals that will make a large impact and show that Pasadena, TX is not only one of the largest growing city in the U.S. but a leader in doing our part in protecting our environment. By showing this initiative and its importance, we can invite bordering cities and work to take part in this environmental impact.

**Gloria:** As the Associate Superintendent for Special Programs I have experience working with parents, civic groups and businesses across the city. I know what it takes to bring people together for a common goal.

**JR:** I firmly believe that ALL of Pasadena deserves top-quality services. Our taxpayers deserve to have good infrastructure and safe neighborhoods for their families. As Mayor, I will work closely with our law enforcement and neighborhood associations to ensure we stop crime. I'll push our contractors to build better roads on-time and under budget. And I will forge new partnerships for smart development that will strengthen and revitalize each part of our City.

**Gilbert:** With the expansion of the Panama Canal and the Port of Houston which allows bigger cargo and containers ship. The Port of Houston businesses want to increase weight limits that trucks can carry from 80K to 90-95K. This increase in weight will cause more infrastructure damage to cities along these routes and also increase the danger to drivers. I will continue to work with cities, counties and state government to oppose this weight limit increase.

**Robert:** First, one needs to know who these folks are. Then set up a quarterly meeting to exchange ideas and plans.

**Pat:** Partner with county for roads. Work with county and neighboring cities for better repair rates for roads that overlap jurisdictions. Co-ordinate with school districts to alleviate traffic congestion. City: add sidewalks near schools, turning and stacking lanes, and adjust signal timing. Schools: encourage walking to school and improve vehicle stacking off-street. Continue representation on H-GAC and Port Commission: regional traffic and job training. Participate in Chamber, Economic Alliance, and BAHEP; networking and awareness of issues.

**Jeff:** Understanding and being proactive in addressing issues outside of our city that may influence the health and welfare our citizens. My first steps to approach these issues will be through partnerships. Partnerships will be one of the most important tools that I will use within my administration. Placing the city as stakeholders within regional issues but also the utilization of inter-local agreements between other governmental entities to leverage available city funds for specific projects.

## **2. Can you name a specific project or initiative you've observed from another city in our nation that you believe Pasadena would benefit from mirroring?**

**David:** Zero-base budgeting (ZBB) has been shown in many cities to save millions of dollars. In the first year of this system being implemented, Chicago saved \$21 million. ZBB moves the city away from incremental budgeting, where last year's budget is the starting point. Instead, the starting point becomes zero, with the approach that past patterns of spending are no longer taken as a given.

**Gloria:** Early Matters-Undertaken by the greater Houston partnership, a program to help kids be literate and be successful by third grade. We must be proactive in preparing our future labor pool.

**JR:** I will implement the plan our City had prepared by RUDAT that collected input from our entire community. Our taxpayers know well what is needed – repaired streets and drainage, safe neighborhoods, good paying jobs and quality parks & public spaces. It's time we turned away from our bad headlines, and got back to those basics that ensure a high quality of life.

**Gilbert:** The city of Stafford, TX has a pay-as-you-go plan which helps to keep taxes low. I'm not sure how it works but, my understanding is that they don't start a major project until they have the funds to pay for it. I would like to see if something like that could work in Pasadena.

**Robert:** You can look close to home by observing how the Gulfgate Mall was rebuilt and the rebuilding of the downtown Houston district by the use of management districts.

**Pat:** Application for boards and committees. This should encourage wider participation from people who might not have inside connections. Supervisor training, to teach employees interested in promotion about budgeting, doing evaluations, and supervisory/management skills. Post the full text of agenda items on-line prior to council meetings. More information on-line and at the Permit office about city code and the permit process.

**Jeff:** There is a national initiative, that is being adopted by cities throughout the United States called Safe Routes 2 Schools. As Mayor, I will initiate a community based committee that will help formulate the first Pasadena Safe Routes 2 Schools program. This program will already have the availability of an 80/20 partnership funding tool. I'm open to any options where I can apply this type of tax dollar leverage through inter-local agreements.

### **3. How would you make Pasadena more of a destination to attract visitors to our community?**

**David:** Investing into the historical side of Pasadena to build attractions and places to know local history and culture. Employing an effective social media campaign. Social media outlets can provide attractive, professional pictures of Pasadena and its many events throughout the year. Our downtown is another important asset that we can use to help spur our economy. Downtowns helps define a community's identity through distinctive, historic architecture; shops and restaurants; and community gathering places.

**Gloria:** Change the image of Pasadena-Rebrand the city. We are a community of young families that is diverse and eager to work. We have

vibrant small businesses environment. Those are strengths that we should promote and capitalize on.

**JR:** Mainly, we need to take care of the basics. Having high quality services, great education, safe neighborhoods, and strong, lasting infrastructure – including an up-to-date civic center will go a long way toward attracting new businesses and entertainment options. Families and companies looking to move or visit look at these basic amenities first. When we revitalize Pasadena, we will not only attract new people, but truly help our families living here first and foremost.

**Gilbert:** Pasadena has been mention as one of the top ten cities to live in and as mayor I will continue to work to grow and advance the social well being of our community with a strong Police presents, a resourceful fire department, safe parks, strong services for seniors and rebuilding our infrastructure.

**Robert:** Improve the major streets and infrastructure in the town. Offer a good first impression by attracting first class entertainment, restaurants or shopping locations.

**Pat:** Improve the appearance coming into Pasadena, to attract residents and businesses. The city could advertise more in magazines with event listings. Better lighting in retail areas should be part of economic development, and would be more inviting for shoppers. We need a better tourist brochure, showing attractions in Pasadena and emphasizing our location as central to Houston, Galveston, and NASA, as a base for visiting. Include both hotels and other local lodging options.

**Jeff:** We need to expand our convention center so we can attract state and national conventions. Also, begin constructing a hotel that will be able to accommodate a convention of that size while being able to provide our city with other means of entertainment.