

**Questionnaire – Pflugerville City Council Candidates
Pflugerville Council of Neighborhood Associations**

Question 1	Denise McGillivray – Place 2	Jason Wilson – Place 2	Starlet Sattler – Place 4
Why are you running for City Council?	I care about our city! It is just my nature to help, or volunteer, and just a natural step for me.	I was asked to run by a group of concerned citizens from Pflugerville to run for office. At the time I filed, it appeared no one was going to contest the open seat on Place 2. Last year, no one challenged either incumbent and our elections were cancelled. To try to stop this undemocratic trend, I felt compelled to participate. I submitted my paperwork on the last day to file. I am not a real estate developer. I am not a realtor. Neither is anyone in my family. My goals are to lower taxes and implement a sustainable stormwater runoff plan for Pflugerville. We can do this in a way that is future-focused and puts power back to the citizen in our decision-making. I am also a strong supporter of the Texas Open Meetings Act and transparency in our government.	I've served the community in many capacities including the past 3 years on Council and want to continue in that capacity to work on some projects to come to fruition. I appreciate the privilege to serve.
Question 2	Denise McGillivray – Place 2	Jason Wilson – Place 2	Starlet Sattler – Place 4
How will you actively stay informed about what neighborhoods and resident's concerns are before you vote on issues that impact them?	It would make good sense to me to have non-partisan, nonprofit organization that is committed to providing a forum and a voice for the citizens of Pflugerville who want transparency and accountability from their city government that can collaborate effectively with our elected officials. Communication is the key to understanding, as well as negotiation.	I'll attend our City Council meetings and will address citizen concerns. I will also utilize social media, mass media, email, letters and telephone to communicate with residents or our city. I'm a good listener and am passionate about our system of government.	It's impossible to know what every single resident wants, likes or dislikes, however I have found that if they do have concerns, they contact us, either via email, phone calls and or come to meetings. I do, however, talk to people around town about different thoughts, concerns and issues to get firsthand information. That is why we have the open process that we have in place so that they can be as knowledgeable as they individually choose to be.

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Question 3	Denise McGillivray – Place 2	Jason Wilson – Place 2	Starlet Sattler – Place 4
<p>Now that Pflugerville's population is nearly 50,000 and based on citizen input for the 2030 Comprehensive Plan, how would you prioritize spending city budget resources on police and safety, parks and recreation, city operations like utilities, streets, etc., long term capital improvements, new economic developments, and other needs?</p>	<p>I am sure that my thoughts are much different than most citizens, and I looked at this question from two entirely different standpoints. At first sight of this question, I thought to myself, why isn't the shelter not one of the items on the list? But I look back at how we got started! We came together as a community and we have achieved some major goals with our current shelter and it is a positive change. Together we can make it a great place to have our homeless dogs. Most importantly, I believe that the city's SAFETY is number one in priority, and of course our city's operations need to function properly by giving us better functioning city. At the same time I am a big advocate of family, family outside our homes enjoying the Parks that bring us back together as a family. Strong parks, strong families! We are also growing, and we need to grow with it by bringing businesses that FIT with our community, and allow jobs to grow within OUR community. We also need to continue the path we've started by bring down our property taxes!</p>	<p>If elected, long-term capital improvements such as a comprehensive stormwater runoff system to maximize water use and re-use would be a priority. I would like to do a cost-benefit analysis of the city funding to the police department's aerial surveillance program. I am not certain that our local police need a helicopter or aircraft. Previous commitments to new park and recreation services need to be honored at some point. Utilities and streets need to be built in a sustainable way and the savings passed on to the taxpayer. New economic developments would have to generate a return on investment and a share of any profit should be returned to the taxpayer.</p>	<p>I think with the 50,000 mark approaching us quickly that we continue to follow the desires and direction of the Comp plan. Safety is always a concern and as our population change and increases is as important as anything else. Our city has never had an abundance of funds to spend in any one place and I feel that we have allowed that to be seen as much as anywhere in the parks, I'm hoping to be able to put more importance on park development as much as park land acquisition.</p>

Question 4	Denise McGillivray – Place 2	Jason Wilson – Place 2	Starlet Sattler – Place 4
<p>What is your opinion on the City issuing bonds without obtaining voter approval by using Certificates of Obligation to finance capital improvements?</p>	<p>Absolutely, after all it is your future tax paying dollars that go to these capital improvements or new businesses, shelters or even libraries. Those decisions, in my opinion need to be a transparent transaction. It is your future tax money.</p>	<p>I'm opposed to the City issuing bonds (or taxes) without voter approval.</p>	<p>We issue COs for roads, utilities, and a limited number of other facilities. This has been a very cost effect method in the past. We issue debt according to the needs. If we have a \$10 million dollar road, and it will take three to five years to pay for it, we issue debt as it is needed. An example is Pflugerville Loop. It took several years to complete the project. Each year the amount to be spent is bonded. This helps to save taxpayers because it greatly reduces the amount of interest. Interest on \$10 million at one time is quite significant. These items are essentials; roads, drainage, utilities, etc. We do not issue COs on items such as Police Station, Recreation Centers, Swimming Pools, Libraries, etc. These are somewhat luxury items and the citizens should get a vote on these and have voted on these.</p>

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Question 5	Denise McGillivray – Place 2	Jason Wilson – Place 2	Starlet Sattler – Place 4
<p>Recently, the Pflugerville City Council considered committing taxpayers to pay \$40m over 35 years to assist in the financing of a residential-commercial development along West Pecan Street. What limitations or requirements would you place upon subsidizing new business or residential developments before agreeing to incentives such as bonds, tax reimbursements, tax abatements, economic development payments for utilities and water lines, streets, parking structure reimbursements, and Tax Increment Reimbursement Zone (TIRZ)?</p>	<p>In my opinion, financing has to stay strictly to businesses with a SOUND business plan that has been identified by the expert planners that identify a good fit with our community. I also believe that there should be limits finance wise and that does NOT mean a residential/commercial development.</p>	<p>Risk should not be subsidized if profits are privatized. A share of the profits of any taxpayer funded venture should be returned to the taxpayer. Another requirement should be sustainability. We need to raise our standard for how we build. Sustainability should pay itself off over the long-term. We need to have a special focus upon “reuse, repurpose, and recycle” for further development in Pflugerville.</p>	<p>The Pacana development you are referring to is non-existent at this time and part of why it didn't work out is that we had a number of clauses in it to protect the City. I do believe that we need to offer developers some incentives as it makes sense as to that business. I don't believe in offering incentives to just any business nor do we; however I believe we need to for certain businesses that we want to have in our city. Business promotes more business, and by bringing those in we are removing some of the tax burden from our homeowners. Without offering some of the incentives that we have, we wouldn't have much of the retail we currently enjoy and certainly wouldn't have the new Cinemark.</p>
Question 6	Denise McGillivray – Place 2	Jason Wilson – Place 2	Starlet Sattler – Place 4
<p>Currently, Pflugerville requires 20% of registered voters to sign a petition for a referendum or initiative to be placed on the ballot. There are approximately 22,000 registered voters in Pflugerville; so 4,400 signatures would be required. In the most recent election, only 3.8% of registered voters voted. The petition requirement in Round Rock is 5% and Austin is 10%. Would you be willing to approve a charter amendment to allow voters to lower the petition requirement to 5%?</p>	<p>YES, this is how it works. If only 5% of the total voters in the taxing area sign a petition, and less than 5% of the eligible voters actually vote in this type of election. It would take more voters to get an approved petition than to elect a new city council. This is basic math, and basic principles of fairness.</p>	<p>Yes, I would approve a charter amendment to allow voters to lower petition requirement to 5%.</p>	<p>I will leave that to the Charter Review Committee.</p>

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Question 7	Denise McGillivray – Place 2	Jason Wilson – Place 2	Starlet Sattler – Place 4
<p>With the population growth of Pflugerville and the building of all the chain malls, how do you plan to keep the Pflugerville German feel the town has, which may be lost with all the new development?</p>	<p>In my opinion, I like the small town feel in DOWNTOWN Pflugerville, and to continue to take away from that will only lose its historical German feel. We can continue to build around it like Georgetown.</p>	<p>Germany is a world leader in green building and sustainability. Germany is also a world leader in architecture. Pflugerville can find a niche in Green business and show Texas something great. We don't need to do cookie-cutter developments and have enough strip-malls for the time being. It's time to raise our standard and sense of value.</p>	<p>I'm not sure that the "chain malls" is what is potentially making some feel the German feel is leaving, I think that it may be just the fact of the population growth that may be doing it. I think we have to continue to try to educate our residents in the rich history of Pflugerville. We continue as a city to have festivals, Heritage house events and such to celebrate that wonderful German Heritage. One thing we do have is very high building standards. All the new construction in the shopping areas is friendly and safe.</p>
Question 8	Denise McGillivray – Place 2	Jason Wilson – Place 2	Starlet Sattler – Place 4
<p>The City's population has increased almost 80% since 2006, yet the number of developed parks has only increased around 20%. Additionally, there are approximately 400 acres of undeveloped parkland and over 10 neighborhoods that paid into the park escrow fund that still have not received any parkland. What are your plans to ensure that park development catches up with the population increase and that all neighborhoods have access to a City park within walking distance? How do you feel parkland development should be funded?</p>	<p>In my opinion, every neighborhood should have easy access to a park, and that doesn't mean on the other side of town and no access to it with trails, or sidewalks. I am a strong believer of getting outside with your family, and friends by walking the trails. Those trails should all be connected and accessible. If a home builder promises land that has been set aside for a subdivision park, that builder better be held accountable for those promises, otherwise the city, in my opinion should fill that gap.</p>	<p>We need to honor our commitment to the neighborhoods that paid into the park escrow fund. In order to do this, we will need to assess how much is left in the fund. We also need to make this data readily available for all and account for how such monies are spent.</p>	<p>This is an interesting question; I think sometimes people may feel that because there may not be play equipment that there is no parkland. We have a lot of undeveloped parkland as open space which I also feel is important. I also believe that the Parks Commission is working on this topic as we speak, and I look forward to hearing what they've come up with and how we can move forward to make that happen. One area of funding in the past is grants and developer built and paid for parks. Right now there is a limited amount of development taking places and the City also lacks the funds for matching the grant funds. As the tax base broadens or funds become available we will be in a better position to develop our many acres of land that is available for park use.</p>

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Question 9	Denise McGillivray – Place 2	Jason Wilson – Place 2	Starlet Sattler – Place 4
<p>What is your stance on the No Kill equation for the animal shelter? Are you for or against the following: Feral cat Trap Neuter Release programs, Mandatory spay/neuter and Bully Breed Legislation/Discrimination?</p>	<p>I am a strong advocate of “NO KILL” within our city. It would quiet silly not want to be a part of this proven and successful program, and I know of such folks that can give us statistics showing money well spent vs. cats and kittens running at large, and we can have TNR program, we just have to say YES! I believe that all animals need to be spay/neutered and it does not matter of the breed. Bully Breeds are only bully breeds because they are taught to be bullies for either gambling purposes or just sheer stupidity because they will end up at the shelter, and because they’re violent dogs, more than likely they will be put down. It is about responsibility with the pet owner, and our city by being proactive in our quest to be Pflugerville Pfriendly with our citizens and our animals.</p>	<p>I favor a No Kill animal shelter. I would need to learn more about the other legislation cited. We need to focus on reducing animal neglect and cruelty, legislation is not always the way, education could be provided to pet owners.</p>	<p>I'm excited about the movement towards a no kill shelter; in my research I've found there are a lot of grants a shelter can apply for once they've become a no kill shelter. I think I understand what the Legislation is trying to do, however I think that any dog could be a "bully" so I'm not sure it's being gone about the right way. An additional problem with a release program is rabies. Animals in Central Texas need to be vaccinated against rabies. Although there is now a three year vaccination available, rabies is a public health issue. Rabies is a real threat.</p>

Question 10	Denise McGillivray – Place 2	Jason Wilson – Place 2	Starlet Sattler – Place 4
<p>In a pattern of continuing criticisms by editorial writers, for example the Amarillo Globe News, our city was linked to a losing lawsuit as being opposed to the Texas Open Meetings Act. Do you think that the Pflugerville City Council should pass a resolution in support of the Texas Open Meetings Act to publicize its commitment to open government?</p>	<p>I believe in honest leadership! The public trusts that our elected officials conduct business responsibly and in the open.</p>	<p>Passing a resolution in support of the Texas Open Meetings Act would be symbolic, if not redundant. I strongly support the Open Meetings Act. It is the law. We need more transparency, not less. The incumbents on the current City Council challenged the law in court and lost. I oppose any challenge or further challenges to the Open Meetings Act and do not want to provide any cover to those do otherwise.</p>	<p>The City Council is absolutely for open government, we have no control over what others say about us as individuals or as a whole. What some do not understand is that it's not really about open government, but about the rights of the individuals on the council to be able to participate in open conversations outside of a posted meeting. It's not about them making decisions without being transparent. For example, you will notice that few if any councilmembers were in attendance at the two forums for the council race and this was to prevent a quorum therefore we as councilmembers are unable to participate like any other voting resident without possibly going to jail while trying to do a Volunteer job.</p>

Question 11	Denise McGillivray – Place 2	Jason Wilson – Place 2	Starlet Sattler – Place 4
<p>In order to expand citizen participation in the city's planning, what role should the HOA boards, neighborhood groups, and PFCONA have?</p>	<p>Collaborating is always important by including the HOA's and neighborhood group with city planning. It is the community that makes up the city, and so why would we not include our citizens by working together to decide our future goals, and planning.</p>	<p>HOA Boards, neighborhood groups, and PFCONA can frame the debate in planning. However, the role of individual should not be subsumed by group-think. Individual participants should be encouraged and factored into any consensus arrived at in planning.</p>	<p>I think that the HOA's, Neighborhoods and PFCONA should certainly do all they can do to get word out to their neighbors to be more active in what is going on around them and to work on increasing participation in those groups.</p>

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Question 12	Denise McGillivray – Place 2	Jason Wilson – Place 2	Starlet Sattler – Place 4
How will you personally make sure that citizens are kept well informed in a timely and comprehensive manner?	I strongly believe in communication; whether by our city website, our city council meetings, and being available to the citizens, stay active in your community is a sure way to stay well informed. You have to want to stay informed!	Communication is a two-way street. I would follow the same methods used in my answer to Question 2 (above): "I'll attend our City Council meetings and will address citizen concerns. I will also utilize social media, mass media, email, letters and telephone to communicate with residents of our city." I'm okay at public speaking and should be clear enough to understand.	I think the city has in place a very good plan on how to inform residents, I cannot think of another avenue that is not currently in use. There are signs on the land, if there is zoning or subdividing involved, we use the Key to the City, Website, newspapers, letters to immediate residents, and CDS of the meetings available at the Library, etc. We also publish proposed ordinances in the Pflugerville Pflag. As of the last month or two, the council meetings are streaming live (30 sec delay) on the internet.
Question 13	Denise McGillivray – Place 2	Jason Wilson – Place 2	Starlet Sattler – Place 4
What do you think are the most critical issues that Pflugerville will face in the next 5 years?	I believe that we need to continue down the path of bringing businesses to our city that bring jobs, and continue being environmentally active by utilizing sustainable development. I also believe we need to get on board by allowing college tuition rates that should be affordable. Times are tough, and getting tougher and tough means staying ahead of the curve in this competitive world we live in.	The most critical issues Pflugerville will face will be water usage, water quality issues, pollution, over development, continued economic hardship.	Roadways

Brad Marshall, Candidate for Place 2 declined to respond.

Please see the video of the City Council Candidate Forum hosted by PfCONA on April 25, 2011 at <http://pfcona.org/index.html>.