

CITY COUNCIL OF BOSSIER CITY

The Bossier Chamber of Commerce reached out to candidates for City Council of Bossier City ahead of the March 29 election date.

The Chamber asked all candidates the same questions.

- 1. What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to you as a council member?**
- 2. What do you consider the most pressing issues facing Bossier City, and what are your plans to address them?**
- 3. How should the council collaborate with other government agencies, such as the parish or neighboring cities/towns to address regional issues?**
- 4. How would you balance representing the needs/wants of your home district and making decisions that will benefit the whole city?**
- 5. What is your vision for economic growth and neighborhood development/redevelopment in Bossier City?**

*The Bossier Chamber of Commerce publishes these questionnaires exactly as they were received from the candidate. The Chamber does not endorse candidates for public office. This questionnaire is purely informational so our members can learn where candidates stand on important topics.

Councilman

City of Bossier City

Debra W. Ross

District 2

CITY COUNCIL OF BOSSIER CITY

Name and District: Debra W. Ross District 2

QUESTIONS:

1. What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to you as a council member? The skills and experience that I have that would be beneficial to the council is integrity, accessible, problem solving, good communication skills, negotiate, empathy, compassionate and building relationships. These skills and experience I learned from being a registered nurse working with various surgeons, nurses, surgical techs, different departments in the hospital and operating room at LSU/Ochsner and being a professor teaching students in surgical technology program Southern University and Bossier Community College. Working with different personalities and having to problem solve, be proactive, critical thinker, anticipate ,having integrity ,doing the right thing when no one is looking. These are a few skills and experience that I have to make me beneficial to be a city council.

2. What do you consider the most pressing issues facing Bossier City, and what are your plans to address them? I think some of the pressing issues are housing rehabilitation for our seniors that's on fixed income. To correct this issue, I would seek out grants to assist our aging population to keep their independence as long as possible. Also, we have a homeless population. I again will seek out grants and meet with my constituents to help with a solution to try the solve the problem. Safety in our communities. I would recommend the city inquire about more lighting ,camera in high risk area, law enforcement visible throughout the communities on a routine basic if possible.

3. How should the council collaborate with other government agencies, such as the parish or neighboring cities/towns to address regional issues? I think the council could collaborate with other government agencies by clear communication, share their goals, and have meeting regularly.

4. How would you balance representing the needs/wants of your home district and making decisions that will benefit the whole city? To balance representing the needs/wants of your home district would be to work inside out to reach each community . Work on improving streets, drainage system, sidewalks, vacant property. If we as city council work together to get all the communities what they need , that would be a reflected for the whole city .

5. What is your vision for economic growth and neighborhood development/redevelopment in Bossier City? The vision for economic growth and neighborhood development is to work with community leaders to ensure safe neighborhood. Some communities do not have activity for the youth. I would like to see recreation centers and wifi available in communities centers. Seek out business owners to work with the city council to search for companies that would be interested in building factories in our area.

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Councilman

City of Bossier City

Donzell Hughes

District 3

Donzell Hughes District 3

1. I am a people person. I have been the Senior Pastor of the St. Elizabeth BC in the BIG City of Grand Cane La. for over 28 years. I am very good at organizing and administration. I was the President of the Bossier NAACP for a 2 year term. I have always been active and helping people in various communities in Bossier City. I believe I will add to the council by making decisions from my heart not just a political position.

2. I think one of our pressing issues is Property Standards and transparency. With the tremendous growth in our city and our communities. We must look into better parking and our residents keeping up their property. Transparency with getting our citizens more involved with what is going on with our city and having concerned citizens gatherings and letting them be more of the process from the beginning not just at the end when everything is done.

3. It is very important that we collaborate and partner with surrounding agencies. What happens in Bossier City does affect the surrounding areas and vice versa.

4. The balance will not be a hard thing to do based on the fact that it will be what is best for my district and the entire city of Bossier.

5. My vision for my city of Bossier, Is definitely more Businesses that will bring more jobs, and our children can stay home and start their careers and families. To bring more businesses to Pierre Bossier mall, the boardwalk, more retail stores in the heart of Bossier, and hotels and a outlet mall close to Brookshires arena. The best is still yet to come for Bossier City La.

Councilman

City of Bossier City

Cliff Smith

District 3

CITY COUNCIL OF BOSSIER CITY

Name and District: Cliff Smith, District 3

QUESTIONS:

- 1. What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to you as a council member?**

I grew up in a family business, my dad opened Smith's Shell on Barksdale Blvd in 1962. In the mid '80's, I owned and operated the business. I went to work in a technical field and later as an outside salesman, where I was not afraid to fight for my customers, which is something I believe a councilman would do, fight for his constituents. I was the president of the Parkway Band Boosters and when our group of officials took over, there was a \$0 balance in their account and when we left four years later, there was over \$150,000 in their account.

- 2. What do you consider the most pressing issues facing Bossier City, and what are your plans to address them?**

The thing most people aren't talking about is the deficit; we have got to get the budget under control and stop unnecessary spending. There is a difference between wants and needs, and we need to focus on the needs. Our infrastructure is getting old and we need to address staying ahead of the problem of broken water and sewage lines. We also must address the retention of our employees, especially the police and firefighters. I plan to work along side of the other council members to plan to identify the needs, address the aging infrastructure with the engineering department and work to find solutions to retaining our current work force.

- 3. How should the council collaborate with other government agencies, such as the parish or neighboring cities/towns to address regional issues?**

Bossier City is not on an island, we are part of the greater region. We must work well with the School Board, Police Jury, Sheriff's department as well as our neighboring towns and cities. What affects one, possibly affects everyone. We must keep an open dialog with all of our neighbors and be cheerleaders for all as I would expect them to be for us.

- 4. How would you balance representing the needs/wants of your home district and making decisions that will benefit the whole city?**

My first responsibility is to represent district 3, to make sure the needs of the district are met, but the citizens of district 3 must communicate what those needs are. There are plans for town hall meetings to occur on a quarterly basis so we can have communication about those needs and to keep the citizens informed of the happenings within the city. The things that will make Bossier City better as a whole, will make district 3 better, whether that is bringing in more jobs/businesses or improving the driving experience in our city.

- 5. What is your vision for economic growth and neighborhood development/redevelopment in Bossier City?**

My desire is to make it easier for people to do business in Bossier, to make it enticing for an entrepreneur to want to open a boutique or restaurant or a hardware store. I believe we are in a position to attract business in the technological world, as well as new industries. I would love to see citizens take pride in their neighborhoods and take pride in their homes/yards. I feel that as we are out of room to the north and the new toll bridge comes in

on the south, we will see new subdivisions coming to south Bossier and we need to prepare for new streets, drainage and water.

Councilman

City of Bossier City

Vince Maggio

District 5

From: Vince Maggio, District 5

1. I'm a successful small Business owner and have been fortunate to be a part of the beginnings of the East Bank development.
2. I consider Safety the number 1 concern for Bossier City and then the second would be to have a smooth traffic flow by coordinating with the parish and state.
3. We need the Parish and State to see the neighborhood development outside of the city. This includes traffic flow and water + sewage for these newly developed districts. Working with the federal and state legislature to fund more grant money.
4. In every decision I make I always consider how it will affect the whole city.
5. Finding new businesses that would bring a new source of tax dollars into the city. I think bringing a unique blend of old + new to our city could also include new recreational and cultural development.

Councilman

City of Bossier City

Lee A. Jeter, Sr.

At- Large

Lee A. Jeter Sr., At-Large

1. What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to you as a council member?

I believe the amount of leadership and life experience I have will be beneficial to both myself as a council member and to the rest of the council. As a veteran and the only candidate in my race with military service, my time in the Marine Corps has molded me into a leader with a distinct and valuable perspective. I have had the privilege of living all over the world and each experience has provided me with invaluable leadership opportunities. I also dedicated myself to working in the nonprofit sector for over 25 years. During that time I collaborated with a wide variety of agencies to support those in need within our community. As a candidate I offer both fresh ideas and a steadfast commitment to uniting our city through compassion and experience. I am ready to serve all citizens of Bossier City.

2. What do you consider the most pressing issues facing Bossier City, and what are your plans to address them?

One of the most pressing issues Bossier City is facing is fostering sustainable community development. As a city council member, I would advocate for stronger collaboration between the city and the Chamber of Commerce to attract new businesses, support existing ones, and create new job opportunities. This would help ensure our city remains a competitive and attractive place for both businesses and residents, because a thriving local economy means a thriving Bossier City.

3. How should the council collaborate with other government agencies, such as the parish or neighboring cities/towns to address regional issues?

The council should establish positive relationships with the various governmental agencies in our region, especially those that assist in the planning and coordination of businesses. Working together alongside elected representatives we must share ideas that will contribute to the growth of our city, our region and improve the quality of life for our citizens.

4. How would you balance representing the needs/wants of your home district and making decisions that will benefit the whole city?

I would work with the Mayor and the other members of the council to ensure we are prioritizing the needs of our city. I would facilitate a community needs assessment by district to identify what a community needs and prioritize those needs based upon the results of the assessment. Through that process we will build trust with our residents. I would also like to collaborate with the stakeholders in our community to pursue a plan that will allow the city to allocate resources where they are most needed.

5. What is your vision for economic growth and neighborhood development/ redevelopment in Bossier City?

My vision is to utilize the community needs assessment to create an inclusive, engaging community that embraces new ideas and fosters growth while maintaining fiscal responsibility. I aim to introduce a youth council composed of local students. This council would enhance their understanding of local government and allow them to contribute ideas for creating job opportunities and recreational activities. This program will hopefully encourage young people to stay in or return to our city after completing their education. This approach will help ensure a vibrant and thriving community for future generations.

Councilman

City of Bossier City

Chris Smith

At-Large

Chris Smith, At-Large

1. What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to you as a council member?

As a business owner and current councilman, I have experience in budgeting, economic development, and strategic planning. My work in real estate has given me insight into growth, infrastructure needs, and responsible development. I have a proven track record of fiscal responsibility and government accountability, ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. My leadership skills help me work effectively with other city officials, businesses, and residents to solve problems. I am committed to common-sense solutions that prioritize the needs of Bossier City's citizens.

2. What do you consider the most pressing issues facing Bossier City, and what are your plans to address them?

Infrastructure, public safety, and responsible growth are the biggest challenges facing Bossier City. Our roads, drainage, and traffic systems must be improved to keep up with growth. I will continue advocating for strategic infrastructure investments, better traffic management, and smarter development policies. Public safety remains a top priority, ensuring police and fire departments have the resources they need. By focusing on fiscal responsibility and long-term planning, we can address these issues without overburdening taxpayers.

3. How should the council collaborate with other government agencies, such as the parish or neighboring cities/towns to address regional issues?

Regional challenges like traffic, flooding, and economic growth require teamwork beyond city limits. I believe in regular communication and joint planning efforts with parish officials, state agencies, and neighboring cities to align priorities. Shared resources and cooperative agreements can improve infrastructure, emergency response, and business development. We should seek state and federal funding for projects that benefit the entire region. A united approach ensures smarter solutions and a stronger future for all of Bossier Parish.

4. How would you balance representing the needs/wants of your home district and making decisions that will benefit the whole city?

As a Councilman At-Large, I represent the entire city, not just one district. I listen to concerns from all neighborhoods and ensure decisions prioritize long-term benefits for Bossier City as a whole. Every area has unique needs, but smart planning should create solutions that improve the entire city. I will continue to be accessible to residents and transparent in decision-making. My goal is to ensure that growth and improvements benefit all citizens, not just select areas.

5. What is your vision for economic growth and neighborhood development/redevelopment in Bossier City?

Bossier City must focus on attracting new businesses, supporting local entrepreneurs, and revitalizing older neighborhoods. I will work to bring in high-paying jobs, promote smart commercial development, and enhance infrastructure to support growth. Redeveloping underutilized areas will strengthen property values and improve quality of life. Public-private partnerships can help revitalize key areas while preserving the character of our city. A thriving economy and strong neighborhoods will keep Bossier City moving forward for generations to come.