

2017 Branch Forum Candidate Questionnaire

Please return this questionnaire with you Name, Office for which you're running and the answers to no later than April 12, 2017 to
cld@orionrealty.com and poetschke@gmail.com

Branch Forum will publish your unedited answers on our website shortly after we receive all the questionnaires. We thank you for your willingness to serve the citizens of Farmers Branch,

Branch Forum Board of Directors

Questions to be returned no later than April 12

1. Should there be a limit on campaign contributions in the Mayor and Council races. Why or why not? Currently there is none.

This a very tough question. Campaigns are not cheap. There are many qualified citizens that want to run for office but do not have the resources or connections to do so. Therefore, many dreams are destroyed due to the lack of money and our democracy suffers. The other problem is the reporting system. With special interest groups, lobbyists and PACs, it seems there are many ways to circumvent the system. The local candidates in local races are hit the hardest since many of rules are set at the national or state level. Additionally, incumbents have a tremendous advantage since they can keep their campaign accounts open after races and keep collecting money and create a war chest. However, I would like to see reasonable limits on campaign contributions. Incidentally, one of the best ways to control campaign contributions are term limits; this should be done for all of our local, state and national offices.

2. What's your favorite place to take a visiting friend or relative in Farmers Branch?

I actually have two places that are my favorite places. If the idea is just to get outside an enjoy nature, I take my friends or relatives to Rawhide Park and walk the trail. The trail is approximately 2.21 and one can enjoy the creek, trees and ducks. Half way in the walk, one can stop at the library and maybe read a magazine and get a drink of water. In the evening, you can catch a beautiful sunset. It's a great place to walk and think about life. The other place that I take friends or relatives to is the Farmers Branch Historical Park. If there is a concert or a program like the Fourth of July, we walk to the Park and enjoy a free program. It's a great place to socialize, have a hamburger and coke and enjoy an evening with friends or relatives.

3. Farmers Branch was the first white settlement in North Texas. The Gilbert House at the Historical Park is the oldest house in North Texas on its original foundation. The Park celebrated its 30th birthday last year. What do you envision the Park will look like 10 years from now and what role will it play in our city?

As Mayor, I will promote the Farmers Branch Historical Park and try to make it a destination spot for North Texas. I believe it is one of the jewels of this region. I would like to expand the Park by acquiring property across Farmers Branch Lane so that citizens and visitors can walk from it all the way to Manske Library and back. We can connect areas between these two spots to include City Hall, the gardens, Liberty Plaza, Farmers Market, the Star Center and the Dart station. It may take 10 years to complete but if we use our resources to include funds from the hotel/motel taxes combined with private funds, this would be a reality. If I am unsuccessful in becoming Mayor, I will still try to work on this goal since one of the reasons we moved to Farmers Branch was the Farmers Branch Historical Park where we found our current home which is approximately one block away from the Park. I am a Life Time member of the Friends of the Farmers Branch Historical Park, a volunteer and a former member of the Historical Park Board.

Andy Olivo