

Bountiful City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate: Jason Steenblik

1. Why have you submitted your name for consideration?

I have been a resident of Bountiful for most of my life and have loved living here. It is important that we have leaders in Bountiful that love living here and are happy to serve. I want to be one of the them and I want Bountiful to continue to be a wonderful place to live for many more years. While my children were in school I was heavily involved in the schools but now that they are graduated I have time to help in other places.

2. If appointed, what legislative issues/priorities are you most interested in pursuing?

I believe that Bountiful is on the right track. I want to help keep it going in the direction it is. I would be hesitant to propose or make sweeping changes. That being said, whatever duties the council needed me to take over, I would be happy to do so.

3. Please share your past service to the city as volunteer, community project participant, or other capacity.

Having grown up in Bountiful I have participated in all the activities that a Boy Scout would be part of. Specific to Bountiful, I have been on the Parent Community Council for Millcreek Jr. High for two years (one year as the president) and for Bountiful High (one year as the president.) More generally I served on the School Board for Spectrum Academy Charter School for 11 years (8 years as the treasurer and 3 years as the President.) This is a charter school with campuses in North Salt Lake and Pleasant Grove that has around 1,400 students, most of whom are on the Autism Spectrum. During my term. During my term as president we went through the public bonding process to take the debt of the school from private debt for the buildings to a public bond, the second charter school to be able to use the state's credit enhancement program. I am an active volunteer in my church community, holding many assignments.

4. Please discuss your ability to dedicate sufficient time to this position of service.

My children are grown up (mostly.) I work for the federal government so my employment is generally 40 hours per week, leaving afternoons and evenings open to serve in capacities like this.

5. What is your fiscal philosophy and under what circumstances would you consider a tax and/or fee increase?

My philosophy is centered on responsible stewardship of public funds. I am generally against new debt. I believe a city should spend less than it brings in. If it were determined that there were additional services and or needs that the city should provide, I would consider an additional tax/fee increase only after all the other options were weighed, including budget prioritizations.

6. List relevant work experience that you believe would help you fill the role of city council member.

I have an Accounting Bachelor's Degree and an MBA. I have worked for the Federal Government for nearly 20 years, at the IRS. For the first 6 years of this employment I was a field tax auditor, traveling to businesses to audit their taxes. The next 114 years I have worked in the tax mediation department, trying to resolve tax controversies without going to court. The audit experience gave me the skills to quickly assess financial information and identify possible issues with it. The mediation work gave the skills to work with individuals and businesses in stressful to resolve disagreements. This involved listening to all stakeholders before coming to any conclusions or recommendations.

While not "work" in the employment sense, my experience at Spectrum Academy involved monthly public board meetings, dealing with the various stakeholders (students, parents, employees, the State of Utah and the U.S. Department of Education.) As the treasurer of the board I gave monthly financial reports and as the president I conducted the meetings.

