



KEENE CITIZENS GOVERNMENT REVIEW NEWSLETTER

A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO KEENE CITIZENS TO HELP THEM UNDERSTAND AND REVIEW KEENE GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND BUDGETING PROPOSALS WITH AN EYE TOWARD SENSIBLE SPENDING AND CONTROLLING PROPERTY TAX

WHO ARE THE COUNCILOR CANDIDATES?

VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

Here you are staring at the ballot on this voting day November 6th. You think you know who your choice is for Mayor but suddenly you are confronted with a slew of other candidates most of whom you know nothing about. So, you take a stab at the best sounding name simple to fill in the blanks. However, you walk away feeling inadequate or perhaps even a little guilty for not doing a better job of knowing the candidates. We have all gone through this scenario before. Well, the Keene Citizens Government Review is now attempting to rid you of this mini-trauma. You will see below a duplicate of an official ballot sheet with one major difference. Each candidate was asked a single powerful question and their response was placed under their name. The question was designed to flush out what they thought was the most important issue facing Keene today and how would they fix it.



HERE IS THE QUESTION:

What do you feel is the single biggest challenge facing Keene today? If you had your way, how would you fix it?

It is important to recognize whether or not the candidate actually answered the two-part question as stated and whether it makes sense in lieu of Keene's many challenges. **YOU DECIDE.**

Note: You might want to print out this sheet and fill in the OVALS before you vote.

SAMPLE BALLOT	SAMPLE BALLOT	SAMPLE BALLOT
<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>SAMPLE BALLOT</p> <p>MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION</p> <p>KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE</p> <p>NOVEMBER 6, 2007</p> <p>WARD FOUR</p> <p>INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS</p> <p>A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of the choice(s) like this: </p> <p>B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office</p> <p>C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>SAMPLE BALLOT</p> <p>MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION</p> <p>KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE</p> <p>NOVEMBER 6, 2007</p> <p>WARD FOUR</p> <p>INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>SAMPLE BALLOT</p> <p>MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION</p> <p>KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE</p> <p>NOVEMBER 6, 2007</p> <p>WARD FOUR</p> <p>INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS</p> </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">FOR MAYOR</p> <p>2 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE</p> <p>DALE PREGENT <input type="radio"/></p> <p>"BILL" BEAUREGARD <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(WRITE-IN) <input type="radio"/></p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">FOR WARD 4 COUNCILOR</p> <p>4 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN ONE</p> <p>KENDALL W. LANE <input type="radio"/></p> <p>JULIA MIRANDA <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(WRITE IN) <input type="radio"/></p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">KENDALL W. LANE'S ANSWER</p> <p>Keene needs to prepare for the challenges that face us in the next few years. This city has changed a great deal in the past 20 years, but much of the planning that has been done is based upon the Master Plan that was written almost 20 years ago. The City needs to come together to create a new long range plan for the future. This needs to include the availability and affordability of housing, the extent of commercial and industrial growth, how the city regulates development, and where the City needs to invest public funds in the future. There are always more needs than available public funds can support, so the City should prioritize its future needs based upon a new long range Master Plan and maintain stable and predictable public revenue to continuing Keene as a great place to live and work and raise a family.</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">JULIA MIRANDA'S ANSWER</p> <p>The biggest challenge facing Keene today is reversing the trend toward higher taxes. Current city councilors are not interested in this. To lower taxes, you should elect candidates like me, who are committed to reducing the size of government, instead of lawyers and bureaucrats. I'm the only candidate who has taken the small government pledge, as well as promised to give my paychecks back to sixteen lucky taxpayers! To lessen the tax burden, we must shift bureaucracies from coercive funding methods to user fees and other voluntary funding methods. If I am elected, I will only approve budgets that are smaller than the previous year's and let taxpayers know exactly where their money is going. Go to FreeKeene.com to learn more about and contact me.</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: right;">Patricia Little City Clerk</p>
<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; color: red;"> <p>NOTE: THIS IS THE WARD 4 BALLOT. THE WARD 4 BALLOT IS BEING USED AS A SAMPLE BALLOT BECAUSE IS THE ONLY WARD BEING CHALLENGED. ALL OTHER WARDS ARE UNCONTESTED.</p> </div>		

FOR COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE**(Vote for not more than five)****2 YEAR TERM****VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN FIVE****MARGARET A. LYNCH**

The single biggest challenge is to maintain the small city atmosphere of Keene, while still encouraging manageable economic growth and development. We need to avoid the creeping sprawl environment that we see in so many other environments.

I don't believe that anyone can "fix" a situation that does not yet exist in Keene, only work to prevent it from taking place. Having said that however, I also believe that it is part of a city councilor's responsibility to support responsible opportunities to increase the tax base for the city of Keene, keeping in mind the benefits and obligations associated with economic development.

MITCHELL 'MITCH' GREENWALD

The biggest challenge facing Keene today is to elect Councilors and a Mayor who will LISTEN to the citizens of Keene, PAY ATTENTION to what they say, and represent THEIR interests and concerns, putting them ahead of what the paid staff and consultants tell them to think, and certainly before their own interests. Once elected, the officials need to remember where they came from, and who elected them and continue to listen!

RUTH R. VENEZIA

Keene First is my goal. Our city needs to expand our tax base to lower our overall property taxes. The growth of the Railroad land should help in that regard as should the development of the Gilbo Avenue site. We have other downtown areas such as the old Perkins lumber yard and Cheshire Tire. Both of which can pay more taxes then they are doing right now. Growth with insight should keep this a vibrant and desirable community. There are other items afoot that will keep Keene prosperous, several of which include the airport, and one very interesting biofuel processing consortium.

In summary my goal for Keene is commercial/industrial growth that will offset the homeowner tax burden and grow the community in an insightful and solid way.

KRIS E. ROBERTS

The biggest concern facing the city of Keene is the overall tax burden. The combined state, country, city, and school taxes places Keene 2nd out of over 230 communities in the state. From 1972-2005 Keene has only grown by about 1500 people while losing over 600 school age children. So Keene hasn't grown at all. Keene will continue to shrink in citizens (minus student rentals) unless the overall tax burden is reduced on the home owner and the local workers.

We have to have a short and long range plan to increase the tax base without destroying the soul of the community. Planned growth doesn't mean the death of the city as we know it. We have to really ask ourselves, do we need to do all these projects at the same time? Can we afford to make the city special, are we competing with other historic cities if so what happens when our citizens can't afford to live here? Even with increased uncontrollable costs we need to contain government growth. There has to be a balance because there are only so many resources .

JAMES P. DUFFY

In my opinion, the biggest challenge facing Keene today is "sustainability." I define sustainability as living within our means. When it comes to taxes, infrastructure, the environment, housing, public safety, the shrinking of the middle class, and the cost of living, we are faced with an enormous challenge.

We need to start somewhere: Develop a Comprehensive Master Plan that deals with these issues and allows for strong public input, reduce taxpayer burden for energy costs through conservation, retrofitting, and a purchasing consortium with the School District and County Government, and stop the continuing deterioration of our housing stock. Poorly maintained properties with absentee landlords increase the tax burden, and cause the taxpayers to pay disproportionately for the police and fire activity that is so frequent in these areas.

TERRY M. CLARK

Affordable housing is the by far the largest hurdle citizens must overcome in order to enjoy a fruitful life in Keene.

Zoning changes need to be made that reflect the needs of families, not developers. I'm glad we live in a free market economic system, but regulations need to be created to stop those who take unfair advantage of the system.

"BOB" SUTHERLAND

The biggest challenge facing Keene today is responsible spending. Too often, the council considers new spending as a matter of dollars and cents added to existing tax bills and somehow feels the need to add tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars to our budgets, pennies at a time.

I would like to be part of a council held to a higher standard, where the council members represent the taxpayers of this city and consider each opportunity to spend money as a possible burden to families and businesses. We need a city council to provide services and make investments in a fiscally responsible manner. If elected, I will challenge the excessive projects and demand more information to make decisions with primary consideration to the taxpayer.

"STEVE" W. LINDSEY

Competing successfully in a highly dynamic global economy. When looking at our future, we must find viable income generators that will be anchored in our region, provide jobs, and contribute to our culture and society.

Recently, I read a *Wall Street Journal* of the need for new medical schools. We are facing a doctor shortage. The shortage of general practitioners is felt keenly in rural areas and in the inner cities today. We must establish new medical schools for our citizenry. Why not here in Keene?

I am using my candidacy as an opportunity to call on the city to establish a study group of prominent citizens to consider the establishment of a medical school here. A secondary option would be to establish a pharmacist's school. Wisconsin recently supported the founding of a second pharmacists school at Concordia.

Healthcare is the most promising of industries. Why not a school for doctors, advanced nurses, or pharmacists? Why not a piece of the action for Keene?

KENNETH M. MCGEE II

Our biggest challenge is controlling the tax burden being placed on our citizens. The seriousness of this can be seen when one looks at the push back on the roundabout, the approval of the last school budget, and certainly with our tax rate versus other communities around the State.

If elected, I will take a two pronged approach to fixing it.

Budget & Capitol Improvement Program – Both of these must be approached with the understanding we cannot ask any more from our citizens, and as a new member of the City Council, I plan to challenge the status quo on both of these.

Get Businesses To Keene –We have a strong retail base, but must aggressively attract technology, manufacturing, and other key industries. Working with these types of businesses throughout the State, I have seen first hand how they can alleviate the tax burden from the citizens and pay wages that can help employees be able to afford to live in Keene.

ROBERT E. WILLIAMS

To me, it's always taxes. More specifically, the City budget. The City of Keene should be run on as lean a budget as possible yet resulting in as efficient a municipal operation as can be. My previous 18 years as a city councilor saw such a philosophy with my being fortunate enough to chair the council finance committee for 16 of those years. Keene cannot afford such luxuries as buying a former grocery warehouse for twice the price as the day before for a possible municipal center. The most flagrant move was council approval of the Main-Marlborough-Winchester Streets rotary project in the face of majority opposition by the electorate and eight former mayors of our city.

Fixing the problem requires reigning in frivolous spending.

