

Candidate Questionnaire - KUNR Public Radio

November's general election is weeks away, but due to the pandemic, there are many voters who have not had the opportunity to meet the candidates on this year's ballot. Below is a set of questions meant to help voters learn more about you and your candidacy. Please take the time to answer the questions in full, providing at least a paragraph for each.

In order to publish your response in a timely manner, please submit this form no later than 11:59 p.m. PT on Wednesday, September 30, 2020.

Also note, other than formatting, KUNR will not edit your answers in any way. The published text will appear as submitted. However, KUNR reserves the right to conduct and publish relevant fact-checking as necessary. If there are technical issues, someone from the KUNR News Team will contact you. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Paul Boger at paul@kunr.org.

* Required

Name: *

Maurice "Mo" White

Occupation: *

Retired Diesel Mechanic

Party Affiliation: *

Constitutionalist registered with the Republican Party

Endorsements: *

Way to many to list here. Please visit my website MauriceForWard2.com

Website/Contact Info: *

MauriceForWard2.com, 775-297-6484

Why are you running for office? *

The Board of Supervisors needs to be a diverse group. Mo brings a viewpoint not currently on the Board of Supervisors. Current board members have primarily administrative backgrounds with narrow fields of experience. Aside from Mo's managerial experience he has extensive "in field" experience. His background gives him the advantage of having worked in a broad range of the project fields Carson City operates. Mo's in "the trenches" experience is needed to truly understand the projects city staff bring forward. Mo is the only candidate with the tools to diversify our Board of Supervisors. For over ten years Mo has studied Carson City operations and worked with the various Boards and Commissions that report to the Board of Supervisors. He knows the background on most of the issues facing Carson City today and in the future. Mo is ready to go to work on day one. He has the time and energy to work full time for all the residents and businesses of Carson City.

In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges facing Carson City? *

What must be a priority for Carson City are the health and safety items residents, businesses and visitors expect a local government to provide. This priority is met by finalizing the Asset Management Program. Most of the asset assessment work is done. It is time to now prioritize and fund the needs of the massive current and future asset needs. Equally as important, Carson City has serious Homeless and Mental Health needs that are putting pressure on our Fire and Sheriff departments. Mo is proposing that our MOST and FASTT programs that deal with mental health issues be bolstered by increasing personnel and types of services offered.

How would you rate Carson City's response to the pandemic thus far? *

Carson City has responded very well to this "pandemic". The budget has not been negatively impacted. In fact Carson City sales tax revenues finished the 2020 budget 5.2% ahead of projections. Other budget categories finished above projections as well. The main concern here is the Governor's \$1.2 billion black hole deficit will turn into unfunded pushdown mandates to the various Cities and Counties. Individuals, families, and businesses have been severely impacted but the City Budget is intact for now.

The City has loosened various regulations that will allow businesses the ability to stay in business. Mo advocates that we collaborate with the existing and new businesses to find a way to defer new business startup costs that could be paid later, after a revenue stream has been established by the new business. Carson City offers programs to assist residents that are struggling to pay their utility bills.

As a member of the Carson City Board of Supervisors, what would be your top three priorities? *

In no particular order of importance,

1. Provide the health and safety items our residents, businesses, and visitors expect a local government to provide.

2. Finish building and funding the Asset Management Program.

3. Bolster the MOST and FASTT programs. Insure highly functioning Fire and Sheriff departments are maintained.

It's no secret Northern Nevada has issues with housing insecurity. What steps should the city take to address homelessness? *

While Carson City does have a very evident homeless population there are myriad services to help with rental and utility costs along with mental health and educational services. As stated above Mo advocates for bolstering the MOST and FASTT programs. Carson City directly and in collaboration with various nonprofit groups provides rental assistance and placement services. Everyone who wants off the street has services available to them.

Carson City has had a continual relationship for many years with multiple agencies and nonprofit groups providing assistance to address this home insecurity. Here is a link to those services.

<https://www.carson.org/government/departments-a-f/community-development/planning-division/housing>.

The Carson City School District offers assistance as well.

In that same vein, housing costs in Northern Nevada continue to climb — pricing many families out of the area. What should the Board of Supervisors do to increase the supply of affordable housing in Carson City? *

Most housing projects in Carson City are presented as targeting the entry level market. The housing market in Carson City has no shortage of willing buyers and renters. Most buyers and new renters in Carson City are from out of the area. Carson City's population continues to grow at a steady rate.

The City just recently approved a "low income" apartment complex on City owned property.

Like nearly every municipality, Carson City's financial situation amid the pandemic is precarious, at best. Where would you look to balance the city's budget if cuts are needed in the future? *

As stated above the City Budget has not been negatively impacted by this "pandemic". As it is illegal to run an unbalanced budget Carson City always has a balanced budget. Our City however does struggle to finance some of the things it needs to do. Going forward we will need to reduce costs by working with our neighbors to consolidate and share services. Finding ways to cancel or modify contracts that don't work for Carson City is essential. It is also time for our State and Federal partners to pay their fair share of the services they receive in Carson City.

Since the killing of George Floyd, a Black man in Minneapolis who died after a white police officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes, activists around the country have demanded police reform. That includes some calls to dramatically shift money away from police departments toward social services. Do you support such reforms? *

Carson City is ahead of the curve with its MOST and FASTT programs. Recognizing that the wash, rinse, and recycle approach doesn't work, the MOST program, using a licensed clinician and a specially trained deputy, can divert low level non-violent offenders away from jail, and when appropriate, into mental health programs. From inside the jail the FASTT program works to reconnect offenders with long term services, their families, and careers. Carson City supports myriad programs and non-profit groups, including churches, to help provide the social services needs in Carson City.