



CENTRAL STREET NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION MAYORAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: *Elizabeth Tisdahl*

Ward: *7*

Voting Address: *2 Martha Lane, 60201*

Years you have lived in Evanston: *37*

Campaign Website URL: *elizabethtisdahl.com*

Campaign Phone: *(847) 864-0227*

Best E-Mail for campaign purposes: *ebtisdahl@aol.com*

Other websites on which you post campaign statements or positions: *Roundtable, Evanston NOW*

Campaign Chair: *Margaret Lurie, Hecky Powell, Sandra Hill*

Treasurer: *Nicki Pearson*

Campaign Manager or consultant(s): *Daniel Biss*

No. of petition signatures filed: *900, 1500 collected*

Elective or appointive public or party offices previously held including dates:
ETHS Board of Education Member 1989-2001, Board President Nov. 1998-Nov. 2000, Chair ED-RED, 7th ward alderman appointed 2003-2005, elected 2005-2009

Other elective offices for which you have been a candidate:

What is your primary occupation? *Investment analyst/alderman*

Briefly list your past civic activities. If numerous, list here the 5 most important.

- 1. Founding member of board of ETHS School-Based Health Center*
- 2. Mothers Against Gangs, Drop-In Night Co-Chair*
- 3. Board member, Evanston School Children's Clothing Assn., shoe room*
- 4. Martin Luther King Lab School PTA Co-President*
- 5. MLK Lab School, 3rd & 4th grade co-ed softball coach, 13 years*

What subjects have you studied and what experience have you had which will be most helpful to you in the office you seek?

I have tried to become an expert in the City's budget, which has enabled me to identify and begin solving serious problems in our public pension system. I voted against the proposed sale of pension obligation bonds that would have bankrupted the city. Before the collapse of the market, the city would have fully funded the pensions who would then have had to invest 45% of the 145,000,000 in equities. I argued that the market was about to collapse and it would be a disaster. The city manager and finance director supported the sale. We won a split vote and saved the city from disaster.

What candidates have you supported? Please describe your specific role in any campaign. *I worked as hard as I could for Barack Obama, including door-to-door work in Iowa prior to the caucus and in Indiana prior to the general election, in addition to giving financial support. I have been financially supportive of progressive Democratic candidates from our area and around the country.*

Please list all endorsements you have received so far. *Jan Schakowsky, Jeff Schoenberg, Julie Hamos, Larry Suffredin, Debra Shore, Lorraine Morton, Jay Lytle, Steve Bernstein, Anjana Hansen, Delores Holmes, Lionel Jean-Baptiste, Ann Rainey, Cheryl Wollin, Melissa Wynne, and Evanston Firefighters Local 742.*

Campaign budget: \$45,000. How much have you raised so far? *\$35,000*

How many people are on your campaign staff? 1__ How many volunteers are on your list? *550*

1. How many of the following have you attended in the past 2 years? (approx.)

All City Council meetings

5 Plan Commission meetings

All but one Planning & Development Committee meetings

0 Zoning Board of Appeals meetings

0 Site Plan and Review Committee meetings

Other: *Human Services, Economic Development Committee*

2. In recent years, the City undertook the Central Street Master Plan, the Downtown Plan, the Lakefront Plan, the West Side Plan, the Climate Action Plan, a Bicycle Plan, a Multimodal Transportation plan, and a blue-ribbon commission on pension funds. Please identify which you participated in, and your contributions.

I attended meetings of all the groups. I successfully encouraged including the North Branch Library as an important part of Central Street. The West Side Plan was changed because many of us wanted to have the concerns of Cahill and other businesses addressed.

3. Many Evanston residents feel they are not being listened to. Do you agree? If you agree, please give examples and state what you will do about it. If you disagree, please state why, and how will you combat the perception.

Public comments are an important but unsatisfying part of a City Council Meeting. No conversation is possible. As Mayor I would hold town meetings similar to the ward meetings that many alderman have. I would try to attend ward meetings whenever possible.

4. Would you support any change in executive session or how it is used?

The laws governing executive sessions are clear. The city attorneys must be more vigilant about following them.

5. The City building code is not online. To see if their property meets "Code," a citizen has to go to the library or purchase a copy at the Civic Center. Would you support making all City ordinances available online for free? YES NO

6. Which of the governmental changes, if any, would you support:
 Returning the Council to 2 aldermen per ward
 Increasing the number of wards
 Adding one or more at-large aldermen to the Council
 Making mayor a full-time paid position half-time paid position
 Making alderman a full-time paid position half-time paid position
 Eliminating the city manager position; department heads report to mayor
 Mayor-manager form of city government
 Other:

7. Which of the following constituency communication methods will you commit to?
 Answer all e-mails within 48 hours
 Maintain my own mayoral website
 Regular posts or blogs on community websites
 Monthly meetings (citywide or in wards)
 Regular but less frequent public meetings
 Regular office hours at Civic Center
 Regular newsletter
 Other:

8. What is your position on the Civic Center?
 City should stay at Civic Center and repair it
 City should sell the Civic Center and build a new one elsewhere
 City should stay at Civic Center and remodel/expand it
If you checked "stay", should the City sell or lease part of its land at the Civic Center location to pay for repairs and/or remodeling/expansion? YES NO
If you believe a new Civic Center should be built, please identify what location and cost level you would support:

9. Should the City of Evanston have an affordable housing plan? YES NO
If yes, what should be the main components? If your answer is no, why not?

Mayor Morton created a Blue Ribbon Committee to draft an affordable housing. I do not want to design a plan before they finish their work. We need to pay attention to the work of the incredibly talented citizens who volunteer.

10. Scientists warn that the earth is at a critical juncture because of greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere. Do you agree? If so, what recommendations of the Climate Action Plan, if any, will you work to implement in your first year of office?

I agree. The aspect of the Plan that accomplishes the most, placing windmills in the lake, requires the cooperation of Northwestern University. I will help work on that at once. The Network for Evanston's Future has already begun dialogue with NU.

11. Would you have vetoed the planned development ordinance for 1700-1722 Central Street? YES NO Will you support or oppose another extension of time for the development of the site? YES NO

12. Has Evanston gotten equivalent value for what it has spent on consultants in the past 2 years? YES NO What changes, if any, would you make in the use of consultants, especially for planning and development?

13. Is the current blend of City revenues sources fair? How would you change it?

The City of Evanston's water department has plans to expand its sales of water to other municipalities. We need to obtain money from the Federal Government's Stimulus bill to begin rehabbing our water department, renegotiate our current contract and expand our sales.

14. What reductions in City spending would you support? Please identify specific measures, departments, programs, etc., and the amounts you believe would be saved.

In the past four years the city has reduced staff by 6%. Stiff cuts cannot continue without impacting programs. The City plans to send a survey to all the citizens asking what services they think are essential and which ones can be cut; I support such a collaborative approach to cuts. I have proposed delaying spending on the Lakefront Plan.

15. Are there any specific ordinances that should be repealed, modified, or enacted?

Searching for ordinances to repeal would be a great community service. I would welcome suggestions. Charging for parking after 6pm should be eliminated.

16. What changes, if any, would you like to see the City make in how it has used tax increment financing (TIF)? If none, please state that.

None

17. What changes if any would you support in how the City regulates parking in north Evanston, including hours, permit parking zones, tickets, and towing?

Towing cars that are parked on the street in front of homes on football game days is swift and efficient. Ticketing fans who park illegally is random at best. Parking should be free after 6pm.

18. Check whether you support or oppose the following:

Support Oppose

Oppose Initial proposal for a 49-story building at 708 Church

Oppose Revised proposal for a 38-story building at 708 Church

Oppose Raising as-of-right height in the Central Core Dist. to 275'/25 stories

Oppose Raising max. height in the Central Core District to 385'/35 stories

Raising the West Traditional (Davis St.) district to 42'/88'

If you oppose any of the above, state what you intend to do to about it.

Vote NO and encourage others to do the same.