

Answers to questions from candidate Kevin F. Dunne:

1:

I am running for council because I can make Alexandria more competitive, efficient, transparent, and strategic. No other candidate is focusing on these issues to my satisfaction.

We need an economy that not only tracks regional performance, but sets itself as a standard to follow. To get here, we need smart but flexible planning and strong collaboration with the private sector.

I am a more recent member of our community, the youngest candidate in the race, but determined to seize the great opportunities we have. I have a background in communications, development, language translation (Mandarin), and analysis. I will leverage my experience in development and communications to empower Alexandria as it builds a more robust brand. One of our key strengths is our civic and historic identities. I sit on our city's beautification commission to improve our brand and I am a board member to a local Del Ray bike nonprofit.

Another emphasis of my campaign is listening well. Without careful listening, our government does not work for, but instead parallel to us. City government can do better to heed the concerns of residents.

Given my age, I am used to being mentored and listening well. These reinforce my belief in teamwork, respectful engagement on all sides of an issue, and a sense of constant self-improvement. The city needs more of this incorporated as well. Rather than becoming complacent with business as usual, we need a council that will focus on constant improvement. This requires flexible and energetic governance. I would be a flexible, energetic individual on council.

2:

We need to devote attention to these three major categories:

A: simplifying and shortening the permitting process.

B: enriching our attractiveness to tourists.

C: improving strategic deliberation.

Alexandria needs to appreciate the quickly changing nature of the market by further streamlining the permitting process. We need public and green space, thorough audits of city assets such as the Torpedo Factory, and experimentation with niche markets. For a city with so much history, Alexandria could better promote its vibrancy and increase tourism. One potential

area of growth is in reenactment and living history. With our layers of history, this would be unique, meaningful, and productive for the city. Finally, we need consensus on council for creating an abiding master strategy to coordinate all our efforts. With a deeper tech footprint and more creative energy, we will get results that are impactful and best serve our neighbors' interests.

3:

We cannot pursue all five goals at once and with equal force. Instead, we must adopt a strategy that prioritizes these goals. Alexandria needs stronger growth in revenue. Fewer taxes, quicker permitting, and better integration and use of data are essential for this to occur. When the city makes headway here, we can more vigorously confront long-term issues. The issue that first stands to benefit most is school capacity and quality. With a better financial outlook, the city can stabilize, then develop broader support for our schools. This will have the general impact of improving opportunities for our students, city-wide.

4:

I want routine permitting procedures fast-tracked by city staff. City council should only concern itself with reviewing special cases and appeals. I also want to expand the resources provided to departments and quasi-departments that help us attract business. Finally, I want us to create a competitive audit task force that advises council on how to improve city performance against our peer competitors.

5:

I believe these are the biggest regional issues we face right now:

A: the repair status and general health of WMATA.

B: building materials inflation and its impact on the Combined Sewer Outfalls and Potomac Yard Metro projects.

C: DMV-area population and economic growth and its impact on the city.

D: tourism trends in the DMV area.