



**Alexandria Chamber
of Commerce**

2018 Alexandria City Council Candidate Survey

1. Introduce yourself and describe why you are seeking a seat on the Alexandria City Council.

My name is Mo Seifeldin. I'm an attorney, small business owner, and a mentor. I'm running for City Council to help make sure that city government works for all Alexandrians. I hope to help improve the City's revenue in order to sustain our growing infrastructure needs, fund the school system, enhance our workforce housing, the environment, and to protect our aging adults and vulnerable communities.

2. Attract— How do you think the City should approach attracting new businesses to locate in Alexandria.

Often governments spend resources in an attempt to attract big business in the hope that big business will bring in revenue and employment. While this is true, local governments often neglect efforts to attract small business. Most of Virginia's economy is based on small business. To that, Alexandria must offer more incentives to small business on top of big business. In the aggregate, small business should bring in as much revenue and employment as big business. The City's location is very attractive. However, the City must do more to attract businesses to locate to Alexandria. First, offer attractive incentives, responsive services that make it easier for

business to conduct business, improve zoning ordinances in certain areas, and partner the community and address those needs.

3. Sustain— How do we maintain and enhance Alexandria’s position as a complete community with thriving commercial and retail businesses, highly ranked schools, workforce, and affordable housing, vibrant and walkable neighborhoods and open spaces for recreation?

Alexandria is rich in human capital and we must utilize it to make our community more livable and solves our challenges. As we celebrate our diversity, which the City’s studies concluded is a positive to the City and the Commonwealth, we must ensure that we stop the workforce house bleeding and partner with private and non-profit organizations to that end. With respect to schools, we must provide ACPS with the necessary funds to improve the results of our students’ performances, which depends on a vibrant responsible economic growth. We must follow through with our efforts to enforce the Paris Climate Agreement and ensure that future growth does not negatively impact the environment.

4. City Process — What’s your plan to simplify City government processes that affect the ability of businesses to invest, open, operate, and be successful in Alexandria?

I touched on this above. There needs to be an emphasis on partnering with our business community, listen to their needs, and how the city can address said concerns. For example, deal away with old zoning laws that do not fit within modern business needs. A case that I thought was curious before council is the tattoo shop case, which was classified as an amusement. Simply put the government needs to keep up with societal norms. Of course, reducing the time wait on Council to act is a positive step towards that end.

State and Regional Issues— what do you feel are the most pressing state and regional issues affecting Alexandria.

Transportations and infrastructure are of concern as metro attempts to remedy its challenges, frustration with the process and delays are notable. Next year Alexandria's metro stations will undergo construction, which will have an impact on residents and some businesses. As VDOT works on improving our infrastructure, some regional projects have not progressed or move forward as they should have. Rapid Transit Bus lanes connecting Alexandria and Arlington from the Westend of Alexandria would help reduce congestion and enhance movement. Of course, the poverty rate and health matters and where Alexandria ranks within the Commonwealth are state and regional issues I'm concerned with as well.