

COGS Candidate Questionnaire

Instructions: Please fill out the information requested and return it by **May 4, 2022 midnight** via email to: info@cogsaz.net Upon receipt of your completed questionnaire, you will be contacted to schedule an appointment for an interview with the COGS Board of Directors..

Your complete and unedited responses will be posted on the informational COGS website for public review, along with those of the other candidates. Please keep your answers brief. However, if you need more space the box will expand to accommodate you. If needed, please continue on an additional page.

No.	Question	Response
1.	DEMOGRAPHICS	
1.a.	Name	Solange Whitehead
1.b.	Address	13281 N. 99 th Place, Scottsdale 85260
1.c.	Phone	480.510.3480
1.d.	Years living in Scottsdale	26
1.e.	When did you register to vote in Scottsdale? Have you failed to vote in any Scottsdale or General Election since you registered?	1996
1.f.	Have you been elected or appointed to City positions including City Task Forces, Boards, Committees or Commissions? If so, please list.	City Council, 2018 McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission 2000
1.g.	Please list any Civic Activities or organizations you belong to.	Board member, Waste Not Volunteer, Granite Reef Sr Center
1.h.	Education/Training	BS Electrical Engineering
1.i.	Current Occupation or Pre-Retirement	City Councilwoman
1.j.	Other personal information that you would like to share:	Thank you COGS for all your research and advocacy 😊
2.	CAMPAIGN INFORMATION	
2.a.	Address	same
2.b.	Phone	
2.c.	Fax	
2.d.	Web-site address**<i>important</i>*	www.SolangeForScottsdale.com
2.e.	E-Mail address	SolangeForScottsdale@gmail.com
2.f.	Endorsements	Scottsdale Fire Fighters Association Police Officers of Scottsdale Association

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3.	Why have you decided to become a candidate for City Council?	I ran for office to bring community priorities to City Hall.
4.a	Identify 3 major issues facing the Council.	Continue to improve on these areas: lead by example, listen more, and respect every voice.
4.b	Identify 3 major issues facing the City.	Water, Short Term Rentals (tied to housing demands), and restoring a “Scottsdale Premium” to ensure future development honors and enhances our valuable brand.
5.	If elected, what would you like to accomplish?	<p>Extend the Preserve tax to include the Greenbelt/Parks.</p> <p>Complete the emerald necklace in downtown including completing a new park on the canal.</p> <p>Approve a Downtown Character Area plan that protects our heritage and brand.</p> <p>Complete the following ordinance changes STR, noise, Public Safety, and building codes.</p> <p>Continue investments that ensure a sustainable water future for Scottsdale.</p> <p>Recruit and hire public safety personnel for PD and FD, complete the 101/Hayden Fire House/</p>
6.	<p>Are there matters that may come before the City Council in which you would have a Conflict of Interest?</p> <p>If yes, what would the conflicting issues be?</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p>
7.	Identify citizen/city processes that you believe need to be:	
7.a.	Created	<p>Preserve Tax 3.0: Protect, Preserve, and Parks – to expand acquisition and create a maintenance fund</p> <p>Downtown Stakeholders Group</p> <p>Emerald Necklace path system (in the works)/Canal Side Park</p> <p>Senior Affordable Housing Task Force</p> <p>Sustainability Plan/Heat Mitigation Plan/Tree canopy plan (in the works)</p>

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7.b.	Improved	<p>Plans & Ordinances: Downtown Character Area Plan, Green Construction Building Codes (coming forward in May), Short Term Rental ordinance, Noise ordinance to include bass (in the works),</p> <p>Infrastructure (some samples): Water pumping capacity south of Shea (in the works), Septic to Sewer financial incentives (in the works), Pickle Ball courts at Indian School park, green waste at Pima transfer station (in the works)</p>
7.c.	Reduced	Rework contracts to better favor tax payers at tourism venues (in the works)
7.d.	Eliminated	
8. Please state your position and/or action on the following zoning and land use issues:		
8.a	<p>What is your position on citywide rezoning requests, text amendments, and General Plan Amendments that significantly change land use or increase height and/or density, especially in proximity to low-scale residential neighborhoods?</p>	<p>Continue my focus to stop bad development, versus delay it.</p> <p>Set high standards, update ordinances, and negotiate investment.</p> <p>In four years, there are numerous “firsts” including performance contracts that can reverse zoning and expanded community investment.</p>
8b	<p>Typically, zoning entitlements are granted based on a promise to build to a specified development plan, with defined stipulations, that presumably provides specific Public Benefit. Once granted, if the property is sold, the new owner does not have to build what was originally promised in exchange for the entitlements.</p> <p>Do you support Conditional Zoning approvals that have time limits for construction to begin and/or unless an amended project, the approved zoning would revert back to the original zoning?</p>	<p>My negotiated performance contract, according to staff, was the first in Scottsdale history. The time commitment is now “standard” with every proposal in the City.</p> <p>All development agreements tie the approved project, stips, and zoning with the land, not the developer.</p>

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8.c	<p>Recently, Scottsdale Fashion Square redevelopment was granted significant increases in height, without the location(s) for the height increase being identified.</p> <p>What is your opinion of this type of open-ended provision?</p> <p>Scottsdale Fashion Square contributes about \$13 million and 7% of the sales tax collected in Scottsdale.</p> <p>What are your recommendations to maintain its viability and tax revenue stream?</p>	<p>This project undercut existing residents for the benefit of the developer and was the type of vote that led to my decision to run for office. FYI - I was able to negotiate some sound protections for the residents of Optima in 2019.</p> <p>What is good for Fashion Square is good for 5th Avenue. Our local and national merchants need full-time residents, year-round. Many of the projects approved in my first term will bring new shoppers to these areas.</p>
8.d	<p>In “The Outpost” project, rezoning case, Rural land was rezoned to commercial adjacent to residential large- lot Rural lands, against staff recommendations, breaking with a longstanding policy prohibiting such rezoning.</p> <p>What will be your position on similar future rezoning case?</p>	<p>I’ve opposed all such up-zoning in these last remaining rural areas. My efforts to remove the proposed 128th Rd was crucial to protect this fragile and rural area. Up-zoning in the North increases costs that all residents pay.</p>
8.e.	<p>What is your position on the prompt and precise enforcement of the conditions and stipulations prescribed in a Conditional Use Permit?</p> <p>What is your position on the revocation of a Conditional Use Permit whose holder was not in compliance with all major CUP conditions and stipulations that negatively impact neighbors?</p>	<p>The City has revoked two CUPs in its history.</p> <p>The second revocation was initiated by the City based on my work with residents impacted by a business.</p> <p>The best time to protect residents against CUP violations is prior to the CUP approval. I have successfully negotiated site plans with applicants that will prevent future resident-CUP operator conflicts.</p>
8.f.	<p>Should the city government have any role in the increased housing costs that are resulting in essential city workers and young families not being able to live within city limit</p> <p>How would you describe the effects upon the city with the addition of numerous multi-family apartment complexes citywide and the rezoning of single-family parcels into multi-family parcels?.</p>	<p>Scottsdale, again, is operating like a community and there is a strong desire to protect our character yet still house our workforce. Workforce housing & local workforce housing have become standard offerings in development proposals.</p> <p>Separately, the City is focused on the root of the problem which includes getting approved projects built and implement true-cost fees on STRs to incentivize the conversion to long term rentals</p>

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8.g.	<p>Would you support a designated Entertainment District with its own unique Noise and Event Ordinances?</p>	<p>For three years, I have helped advance a noise ordinance change that will improve complaints in the district and citywide. I have supported an effort to install monitoring stations that automatically detect and report noise violations, and I support the addition of lights and alley redos to raise the bar on safety and cleanliness of the district. I also advanced a proposed ordinance change that will increase requirements of the bar owners – from litter to public safety.</p>
8.h. 8i	<p>In your opinion will the new city Short Term Rental controls and fines improve the neighborhood experience?</p> <p>Should all new projects be required to meet Green Building standards or offered bonuses (i.e. increased height or density or other amended standards)?</p>	<p>STR (a few priorities) Three Strikes You're Out ordinance revoking operation rights in Scottsdale.</p> <p>Fee Structure that covers a minimum of 5 FTEs in code enforcement and tax collection.</p> <p>Occupancy Enforcement – 6 adults per house.</p> <p>GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS: Yes, the proposed changes to the green building code will be citywide, will help reduce future resident utility bills, enable the EV future, increase shade, and reduce urban heat</p>
8.j	<p>Up-zoning increases the intensity of land use and density. Under what conditions do you support Up-zoning?</p>	<p>Infill projects in urban settings replace commercial with residential make sense at times. New buildings – with newly adopted codes – use less water per person etc. The right project, in the right location, and with the right community investment is very good for Scottsdale.</p>
9.	<p>There are not enough Preserve tax funds remaining to allow acquisition of all the remaining land within the voter approved McDowell Sonoran Preserve Boundary.</p> <p>Should the city council determine if citizens want to complete the Preserve and if so how to pay for it?</p> <p>If not, how do you propose utilizing the remaining and future dedicated Preserve funds?</p>	<p>My motion to put land acquisition back on the strategic plan in 2019 passed (6-1). Staff is moving forward.</p> <p>Citizens should decide.</p> <p>Existing preserve funds: land acquisition and land bridge and debt service reserve (for a rainy day).</p>
10.	<p>Please state your position on city council Homeless policy and the current COS programs.</p>	<p>The Mayor has several initiatives in early stages that have my support.</p>

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10.a	<p>What is your vision for the city?</p> <p>What should Scottsdale look like in 10, 20, or 30 years from now?</p>	<p>Scottsdale's wealth is in its beautiful sonoran desert opens spaces, views, unique character. These are the aspects that should define Scottsdale in 10, 20, and 30 years.</p>
10.b	<p>What is your position on thea merchants' proposed Construction Mitigation Plan ordinance that requires downtown projects to park their supplies and employee vehicles off public streets?</p>	
11.	<p>Please state your position and/or</p>	<p>action on the following finance issues:</p>
11.a	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a severe toll on Scottsdale's finances, businesses, and tourism industry. While an exact dollar figure is not yet available, we know it is in the millions.</p> <p>At the April 26th, 2022, city council meeting the Fiscal Report by the city treasurer outlined current financial status. What is your opinion on the current financial sustainability of our city?</p>	<p>Every aspect of Scottsdale's financial health has improved over the past four years:</p> <p>City doubled reserve fund requirements</p> <p>Infrastructure is funded.</p> <p>Millions of dollars of negotiated community investment from private sources from trees, to public plazas, and historic preservation.</p> <p>Increased funding for future Public Safety retirement commitments</p> <p>Strategic sale of public land has brought in \$1M+ per acre.</p> <p>Improved contracts on all fronts.</p> <p>Tapping grants and rebates to fund water infrastructure and green investments that will reduce future costs.</p>
11.b	<p>Do you support using taxpayer funds to subsidize or enter private-public partnerships for private sector investments such as buildings, stadiums, promoted events, etc.?</p>	<p>Public dollars spent must have equal or greater public access benefit. My work has led to renegotiated contracts that favor residents and I've required that tourism dollars, not GF dollars, pay for tourism related expenses.</p> <p>The TDC approves grants to benefit proposed (new) events in Scottsdale that the members believe can grow, thrive, and fill hotel rooms. I support this program.</p>
11.c	<p>At present, the City has awarded multimillion-dollar contracts to the Scottsdale Cultural Council and Experience Scottsdale without going through a bid process.</p> <p>Are you for or against continuing this practice and why?</p>	<p>Scottsdale Arts and Experience Scottsdale contracts have (or are in progress) of being renegotiated to favor tax payers. These are substantial changes that will protect tax payers while still benefitting from the work of both groups. At the present time, there are no "similar" organizations that would qualify for a RFP.</p>
12.	<p>Please state your position and/or</p>	<p>action on the following transportation questions:</p>
12.a.	<p>The Transportation Master Plan was approved by city council at the April hearing. What decisions in that document would you encourage to change in the future?</p>	<p>Like GP 2035, the TAP reflects community priorities, protects the Preserve, prevents road projects that enable development, and has prioritized cost-effective, proven public safety road improvements.</p>

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12.b	<p>Within the Downtown area, the city has approved under-parked projects by charging in-lieu parking fees at the last rate approx. \$13,000/space which is under current value of \$50K to \$60K to construct.</p> <p>This fund was to be used to build public parking facilities in the future. Staff reported that funds have been used for non-garage funding and is too small an amount for land purchase or garage construction.</p> <p>How do you propose to deal with Downtown parking issues and the use of in-lieu parking fees?</p>	<p>After multiple denials, developers are less inclined to include in-lieu on submissions. A trend that I will continue to encourage.</p> <p>In my 4 years, there are many hundreds of new public parking spaces in the pipeline and negotiated at prices that save tax payer hundreds of thousands. Protecting street parking has been successful, too. With construction prices are at an all-time high, I've prioritized the contracted parking, surface parking lot improvements, protecting street parking, and better signage. Tapping bonds when there is a dip in construction activity</p>
13.	<p>Please state your position and/or</p>	<p>action on the following questions:</p>
13.a.	<p>What steps would improve Public Safety to reduce impaired driver/pedestrian traffic deaths in our downtown?</p>	<p>Increased enforcement, expanded public outreach.</p>
13.b.	<p>Residents citywide have expressed concern about the lack of responsiveness or fine enforcements by of the Code Enforcement department. Additionally, the COS Audit 2021 for that department summarized sub-standard performances.</p> <p>How would you improve this situation?</p>	<p>Strengthening ordinances, increasing resources, and adding code enforcement officers</p>
13.c.	<p>Do you believe that the mindset of your supporters and contributors is representative of Scottsdale residents' values and vision?</p> <p>If so, why?</p> <p>If not, why?</p>	<p>Yes. I have knocked on enough doors to know that Scottsdale voters share many of the same vision, priorities, and goals. People "choose" Scottsdale and care deeply about our City</p>
14.	<p>Identify city services that you believe need to be:</p>	
14.a.	<p>Created STR code enforcement unit, Invasive Plant eradication</p>	
14.b.	<p>Improved</p> <p>Expand FD fire prevention and code enforcement</p>	

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14.c.	Reduced	
14.d.	Eliminated	
15	Identify city revenue sources that should be:	
15.a	Created	Short Term Rental fees to cover FTEs
15.b	Increased - Fines on a variety of code violations,	
15.c.	Reduced – Costs and barriers that limit public access to City amenities.	
15.d	Eliminated library late fines (done!)	
16.	Is there anything in your background that you would not like publicized on the front page of local newspapers?	X No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (If yes, please explain)
17.	Additional Comments:	Thanks you guys!

Signature _____ Date _____

Please type your name for your electronic signature.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of each response.

Please email your completed questionnaire **by May 4, 2022 midnight** to: info@cogsaz.net

ALL completed candidate’s questionnaires will be posted on the COGS website at www.cogsaz.net

Thank you for taking your valuable time to complete this questionnaire.

The COGS- Coalition of Greater Scottsdale—Board of Directors

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Andrew Scheck, Jim Davis, Howard Myers, Marilyn Atkinson, Chris Schaffner, Stan Morganstern, Copper Phillips and Sonnie Kirtley