

Candidate Name: **Larry Bennett**

NEIGHBORS UNITED FOR FULLERTON CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Space provided is not intended to limit the length of your response; use the space you need.

1. What is your vision for Fullerton?
 - I believe that this election is about the future of Fullerton. We have the opportunity to make Fullerton better. We must decide what we want to keep and what we need to change to make our community safe, financially sound and a desirable place to live, work, educate and raise our families. I have my ideas and I want to hear your ideas. You can share your opinions with me by email at larry@bennettforfullerton.com or by calling me at home 714-449-1629.

2. Why are you running and what impact do you think you will have, if elected?
 - I have been involved in the Fullerton Community since I came here to start my business in 1980. I've been involved in the Chamber, Rotary, Boy Scouts and the largest grief camp in the U.S., Comfort Zone Camp. I've served on multiple commissions and committees including my current position as a Fullerton Planning Commissioner. I've raised my children here and they both graduated from Fullerton Schools. I'm not a politician and I've never held elective office. But I do believe in staying involved. I think I can bring a unique skill set and perspective to the council as a business owner and Certified Financial Planner. I want to bring the community and my fellow council members together so that we can insure our community stays safe, financial strong and continues to provide a quality of life we all deserve and want.

3. What do you hope to accomplish?

I have 5 priorities I would like to focus on while serving on the council. They are:

 - Fix Fullerton's roads, sidewalks and sewers.
 - Maintain high standards of public safety
 - Promote and support Fullerton businesses and job creation by removing needless regulation and costs.
 - Push to make pensions sustainable for both taxpayers and employees
 - Protect our quality of life by supporting schools library and parks.

4. Please share your thoughts on the following:
 - a. Fullerton's Parks
 - Our parks provide important open space for recreation and exercise as well as sports fields for our youth and adult teams. They have suffered from a lack of watering and our trees are in danger of dying. We must devote adequate resources to maintain these valuable open spaces.

- b. West Coyote Hills (development, Measure W results and city response)
 - I believe that some development is needed in West Coyote Hills in order to open the majority of West Coyote Hills to the public for our enjoyment. I understand that not everyone agrees with that opinion. While the controversy surrounding measure W is still hotly debated, I prefer to focus on a good path forward. That path forward is to purchase as much property as possible for open space, while allowing responsible development on the rest of the property. The development fees will allow us to open the space to the public for us and our future generations.
 - c. Development Policies
 - Development will be a major issue in the coming years. I believe in responsible development which respects both property rights as well as the community concerns about density, scale, impacts on traffic and water. As a planning commissioner I listen carefully to public comment and made my decisions after careful consideration. I've been an enthusiastic supporter of adaptive re-use zoning tool and skeptical of mixed use for our commercial zones. While on the General Plan Amendment Committee I fought to retain our commercial and industrial zoning to protect jobs and provide shopping that is close to our homes.
 - d. District Voting
 - I was not a fan of the District voting system. I was concerned that the Districts would divide us and not unite us. It might take away some of our power to influence council members outside of our District. However the reality is the CA Voter Rights act essentially mandates we adopt a District system. Therefore I believe the map that the council selected is a good starting point. Each District meets in our downtown which is the heart of our City. The map provides a majority Asian and two majority Latino Districts. If all Council members keep the good of the entire City as their top priority, it will work well.
 - e. "Surplus" Property, the Hunt Library, etc.
 - Surplus property needs to be evaluated for its current as well as future potential use. If the property is truly surplus it should be sold in a fair and open bidding situation. This one time money should be used for one time expenses like capital improvements to our streets. Library services are changing. Books and periodicals are available online. We should expand our offerings of online tools. We need to provide services in a form that works today. Students are as likely to study at Starbucks, the B&G club or with the Joya Scholars as they are to use our Library. A community center rather than a dedicated Library might work better for the West Fullerton Community.
5. Is there anything you would like to add?
- I'm happy to have the support of a broad cross section of elected leaders, community leaders and business leaders. A list of those supporters can be found on my website at www.bennettforfullerton.com . I would be honored to have the support of the NUFF community too. Thank you for your consideration.