

Candidate Name: Joshua Ferguson

- **I plan to attend the September 19 Meet and Greet at the Library.**
- I am submitting the questionnaire and would appreciate receiving NUFF's endorsement upon approval of the membership.
- I do not plan to attend the September 19 Meet and Greet at the Library
- I do not plan to request NUFF's endorsement so I am not responding to the questions below.

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 don't personally have a specific vision for the city of Fullerton as I feel it is a bit hubristic to think one can have the single right idea for a city of over 120,000 residents. My vision for the Fullerton City Council, however, is to have a council that is responsive to the needs of the citizens and not simply the council's donors and benefactors.

2. Why are you running and what impact do you think you will have, if elected?

I am running because it doesn't seem to many people that our current city council represents the long-term interests of our city or residents. As our debt piles up they continue to kick the can down the road all the while adding and planning more large-scale projects without thought to the infrastructure needed to support their grand schemes. There never seems to be any real thought to fiscal responsibility in any of the planning, projects or budgets that are voted upon.

3. What do you hope to accomplish?

Enough votes to win a seat on the city council. Other than that I don't hope to accomplish anything but fiscal responsibility as opposed to buckets of debt for our children. It's not the job of the city council to "hope to accomplish" things, it's their job to run the city properly.

4. Please share your thoughts on the following:

a. Fullerton's Parks

Which ones? Union Pacific Park that was closed due to toxicity and can't be used? Hillcrest Park that was neglected and run into the ground until the cost to fix it ran into the millions? The several parks which are full of homeless people and drug addicts ruining the space for the

families who live nearby? There are so many parks with so many problems with which to choose. Craig Park is lovely, as is Tri-City but those county run so it doesn't count for this purpose.

b. West Coyote Hills (development, Measure W results and city response)

This one is a bit nuanced because it's a big bag of questions. I believe in property rights so I have a hard time swallowing the idea that Chevron can't sell their land or build upon it unless done so in exact accordance of people who have zero financial liability at risk save perhaps their own property values. It's easy to demand things when you're spending the money of others. Measure W was seen by many as a "best case scenario" and by many more, based upon the vote totals, as still not good enough or good at all. The results are what they are and I voted the opposite direction out of practicality so I'm not thrilled by the result. The City Response, if by that you mean the continuing deal with Chevron that's been written about, shouldn't be surprising considering that this city is broke and the property taxes from the housing plan would bring in a lot of money. When you promise money to workers that you can't pay you have to find some way to pay the piper and this and high-density housing seem to be the cure-alls that the current city council has in mind.

I don't really have an answer on the park because there are a lot of moving parts. If it had been developed there's a chance it wouldn't have burned not that long ago. There's a chance we would have a privately paid for park that my kids could enjoy. There's also the chance that the congestion would make driving our already nearly un-drivable roads worse as well as slam too many students into the local schools with no new schools or education considerations forthcoming. There is no good simple answer to this issue that will please anybody so some voters are going to get burned no matter what happens besides the status quo of continued bickering with no changes and closed door policies.

c. Development Policies

Fullerton's development policy seems to be to slam as many bars and high-priced eateries along with as much high-density housing as possible into as few areas so long as it doesn't affect the Skyline or other expensive neighborhoods in which most of our city council and lawyers live. As I cannot afford to own a home in Fullerton, or much of California, it is a somewhat bitter pill to hear people talk down lower-priced housing when they bought their now 3/4 Million dollar plus homes for \$30,000 40+ years ago. Congrats, you got lucky market-wise and made a smart decision before I was born so now I get to suffer with rising prices and worse options.

There's also the problem of foot dragging and bad planning. When my wife and I first started dating back in 1997 there were signs all over town to "Save the Fox" and now we're approaching 20 years into our relationship (next October) and yet the Fox still isn't really saved. The Empire State Building was built in 410 days back in 1931 and we can't sort out a fiscal plan or real plan of attack in nearly two decades for a movie palace rehabilitation project? That's just pathetic mismanagement.

d. District Voting

I don't like it.

I understand it but ultimately it will only further balkanize the city regardless of which map is chosen. I prefer at-large voting because I reject the premise that choosing a candidate based upon demographics will make them a better fit for public office as corruption comes in all colors. If we have a diversity issue on our council it is an issue of diversity of ideas more so than diversity of melanin.

e. "Surplus" Property, the Hunt Library, etc.

The government at any level, let alone a broke city, has little need to own property that is not benefiting the citizens and less need to continue to pay for it. Either use the land to it's best and fullest potential, rent it for a profit so we aren't losing money for the sake of losing money or sell it to the highest bidder with input from the residents to make sure the sale isn't just a sweetheart deal for a guy who knows a guy who once donated money to a guy or gal. Transparency is key here as much as anything.

5. Is there anything you would like to add?

Not particularly. I'm an independent candidate who plans to spend more time parenting than I plan to spend fundraising and as I'm not a known quantity in Fullerton politics I hope people will give me a shot to prove that the content of one's ideas & character matter more than the quantity of money thrown at a problem.