

COGS Candidate Questionnaire

Instructions: Please fill out the information requested and return it by **May 4, 2020** via email to: **cogspc1@gmail.com**. Upon receipt of your completed questionnaire, you may be contacted to schedule an appointment for an interview with the COGS Political Committee.

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	Virginia L. Korte
1.b.	Address	8222 E. Gail Road, Scottsdale, AZ. 85260
1.c.	Phone	602-228-9818
1.d.	Years in Scottsdale	33 years
1.e.	When did you register to vote in Scottsdale? Have you failed to vote in any Scottsdale or General Election since you registered?	1987 No
1.f.	Have you been elected or appointed to City positions including City Task Forces, Boards, Committees or Commissions? If so, please list.	City of Scottsdale Los Arcos Study Area Committee, 1994-1995 Los Arcos Revitalization Steering Committee, Chair, 1995-1999 Transportation Commission, Chair McDowell Mountain Task Force, Chair McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission Redevelopment Board McDowell Road Corridor Task Force Scottsdale City Council member Capital Improvement Projects Subcommittee League of Arizona Cities & Towns – Neighborhood & community Subcommittee National Assoc. of Cities and Towns – Transportation Subcommittee
1.g.	Please list any Civic Activities or organizations you belong to.	BUSS – Business United for Scottsdale Schools
1.h.	Education/Training	AA – Glendale Community College BS – NAU MS - NAU
1.i.	Current Occupation or Pre-Retirement	Consultant
1.j.	Other personal information that you would like to share:	no

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2.	Campaign Information	
2.a.	Address	P.O. Box 4981, Scottsdale, AZ. 85261-4981
2.b.	Phone	602-228-9818
2.c.	Fax	
2.d.	Web-site address	KorteScottsdale.com
2.e.	E-Mail address	korte@kortescottsdale.com
2.f.	Endorsements	Go to webpage: https://www.kortescottsdale.com/supporters
3.	Why have you decided to become a candidate for City Council?	<p>You mean candidate for mayor ...</p> <p>I love this city, it's past, it's people and it's potential</p> <p>My 33+ years of civic engagement demonstrates this</p> <p>With the sudden economic downturn and health crisis, Leadership Matters. I have a history of strong financial stewardship in business, nonprofit organizations and government to address our current challenges.</p> <p>I am known for collaboration and cooperation with all for success with common goals.</p>
4.a	Identify 3 major issues facing the Council.	<p>Economic contraction due to COVID19 and rebuilding a resilient community that is economically diversified</p> <p>Lack of a long term shared vision – how do we continue to adapt and change while maintaining our Scottsdale culture</p> <p>Maintain quality of life – managing the Preserve, growing tourism and implementing a Urban Forest program</p>
4.b	Identify 3 major issues facing the City.	Same as above
5.	If elected, what would you like to accomplish?	<p>Regain our economic health</p> <p>Implement an Urban Forest Program</p> <p>Scottsdale Visioning 2050 - Bring our community together with a year-long commitment by community members (open invitation to whomever wished to commit) to create the themes and shared vision for the future Scottsdale</p>

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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 type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p>Not that I know of presently</p>
7.	<p>Identify citizen/city processes that you believe need to be:</p>	
7.a.	<p>Created</p>	<p>1. Begin a year-long Vision for 2050– a community-wide visioning process to create a citizen shared vision for the future.</p> <p>2. Implement an Urban Forestry Program</p>
7.b.	<p>Improved</p>	<p>DRB and Planning Commission increased focus on quality architecture</p>
7.c.	<p>Reduced</p>	<p>none</p>
7.d.	<p>Eliminated</p>	<p>none</p>
8.	<p>Please state your position and/or action on the following zoning and land use issues:</p>	
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>Protecting neighborhoods is a priority and I evaluate each case on its own merits.</p>

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8b	<p>Typically, zoning entitlements are granted based on a promise to build to a specified development plan, with defined stipulations, that presumably provides some benefit to the city. 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>Would you support conditioning zoning change approvals on building exactly what was promised, and if it wasn't, the zoning would revert back to the original restrictions? If not, how would you hold the property owner, and any subsequent owners, to the plan promised in order to get the change?</p>	<p>May look at stipulating expiration dates</p>
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 SFS's viability and tax revenue stream?</p>	<p>I continue to support SFS's development plan to increase diversity of uses. This strategy will maintain its viability</p>
8.d	<p>In "The Outpost" project, rezoning case, rural land was rezoned to commercial adjacent to resident large lot rural lands, against staff recommendations, breaking with a longstanding policy prohibiting such rezoning.</p> <p>What impact do you believe this action had and will on similar future rezoning cases?</p>	<p>I evaluate each case on its own merits. With regard to the Outpost, the setbacks and stipulations on the architecture and uses makes this project fit into the area. The adjacent users – a commercial horse facility and a church are not residential. Plus the 640K power lines that are positioned directly south are a detriment to this site.</p>

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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>I support the current CUP process.</p> <p>I also support revocation if the applicant fails to conform</p>
8.f.	<p>Identify any impacts (good and bad) upon the city with the addition of numerous multi-family/apartment complexes citywide and the continued rezoning of single-family parcels into multi-family parcels.</p> <p>How do you think the changing demographics of our residents will impact future demand for housing types?</p> <p>How will it impact what you believe the majority of residents want their city to be?</p>	<p>Multifamily development has contributed to the viability and affordability of our community.</p>
8.g.	<p>Would you support a designated Entertainment District with its own unique Noise and Event Ordinances?</p> <p>What should be done to protect adjacent neighborhoods?</p>	<p>I support the Entertainment District and the current ordinance. It has proven to reduce the impact on the neighborhoods</p>
8.h.	<p>Scottsdale is currently reviewing the existing noise ordinance. What changes, if any, would you recommend to the existing allowable noise levels and ordinance?</p>	<p>Given new technology with the ability to measure the “bass band width” I support revisiting our noise ordinance to include some restrictive levels on bass.</p>

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8.i	<p>Currently, all rural land parcels, regardless of size are in a single category of "Rural", allowing a five-acre zoning to be rezoned to one-acre parcels with only a Minor General Plan Amendment (simply majority of council needed).</p> <p>Do you support a change to the General Plan Update to create the 2 Rural zoning categories-</p> <p>1] parcels of 1 to less than 5 acres</p> <p>2] parcels of 5 acres or more,</p> <p>requiring a MAJOR General Plan Amendment and super majority vote to subdivide a 5 acre or greater parcel? Why or why not?</p>	<p>I support the GP and I support the current process to update the GP in 2021. Citizen input is critical.</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>Scottsdale has the 2nd lowest retail sales tax rate in Maricopa Co. It's time for a complete reassessment of our sales tax, especially since the .02 cent preserve tax will be expiring in 2024. We need to review our tax structure to meet the future needs of our citizens. This review should include a citizen's task force to evaluate different uses to support: arts and culture, fire department, transportation, capital projects and perhaps eliminating the food tax. In that discussion should be the preserve tax and what to do with the remaining dollars.</p> <p>I would support using the remaining dollars for an "endowment-like" fund to help maintain our Preserve. This will need to go to a citizen vote.</p>
10.	Please state your position and/or action on the General Plan:	
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>A vibrant city that embraces the rural nature of the north, the suburban nature of the mid area, and the urban nature of the south.</p>
10.b	<p>How should the city grow to remain desirable and become and remain sustainable?</p>	
10.c	<p>Scottsdale voters have not approved an updated General Plan since 2001.</p> <p>Why do you believe the prior updates have failed?</p>	<p>When there is a complex issue with opposition, voters tend to vote no.</p>

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10.d	<p>The city council, in a study session, shelved the Citizens' Task Force 2012-2014 draft update and did not submit it to the voters.</p> <p>They approved the 2001 GP plus the required AZ state elements without a public vote to be used during a new draft 2035 attempt.</p> <p>In 2020 one member from specific city council-appointed boards and commissions were selected for a General Plan Review Committee who are meeting online.</p> <p>What recommendation do you have for the success of this 2035 final draft? What do you project will be its weaknesses?</p>	<p>I support those citizens willing to spend countless hours on the GP. I am hopeful the COVID19 issue will subside so that this committee can meet in person.</p> <p>I believe we will have plenty of time for thoughtful considerations and public input going into 2021.</p>
11.	Please state your position and/or action on the following finance issues:	
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>What ideas do you have to:</p> <p>1] restructure the city budget with respect to budget cuts or other financial stop gaps?</p> <p>2] revive our economy, business, and tourism amidst pandemic fears?</p> <p>3] support small businesses as they struggle to re-open?</p> <p>4] create a sustainable budget?</p>	<p>We do not have the data to know the depth of economic contraction.</p> <p>I believe we should invest more resources into our Economic Dev. Dept. so that they can take the lead in providing programs to revive our economy, tourism, and perhaps provide some business grants to help our small business owners.</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>My support depends upon the project.</p>

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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>Are there other non-profit organizations that have the talent? I would support competitive bidding.</p>
12.	Please state your position and/or action on the following transportation questions:	
12.a	<p>What solutions would you have for the current traffic congestion problems occurring throughout the City (types of mass transit, traffic control devices, etc.)?</p>	<p>We must direct our Transportation Commission to re-look at our transportation plan and include community-wide conversations on possible solutions. I do not support Light Rail penetrating our city. Though we could provide some frequently running links to the light rail so that we can transport our workforce and visitors into Scottsdale.</p>
12.b	<p>Within the Downtown area, the city has charged in-lieu parking fees when a developer had not provided enough real parking spaces. These phantom spaces have been used repeatedly instead of actual parking availability. It was generally assumed these fees would be used at some point to build a parking facility. However, that apparently was not the case, as the city cannot account for these funds as they were not placed into a separate budget line or fund.</p> <p>How do you propose to deal with Downtown parking issues and the use of in-lieu parking fees?</p>	<p>The city council recently directed staff to further study current parking in downtown and the impacts of in-lieu parking fees.</p>
Q	Please state your position and/or action on the following questions:	
13.a	<p>What steps would improve Public Safety to reduce impaired driver/pedestrian traffic deaths in our downtown?</p>	<p>I am not aware that there are higher-than-average deaths in our Downtown.</p>
13.b	<p>Residents citywide have expressed concern about the lack of responsiveness or fine enforcements by of the Code Enforcement department.</p> <p>How would you improve this situation? I believe code enforcement works within protocols that give our citizens and businesses ample time to correct a possible violation.</p>	

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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>	Yes
14.	Identify city services that you believe need to be:	
14.a	Created	Urban Forestry Program
14.b	Improved	
14.c	Reduced	
14.d	Eliminated	
15	Identify city revenue sources that should be:	
15.a	Created	City sales tax reform – eliminate the food tax, citizen task force review of the preserve tax, discussion on meeting the future needs of our community with possible quality of life tax – for arts & culture, Fire Department, transportation, capital projects
15.b	Increased	
15.c	Reduced	
15.d	Eliminated	
16.	Is there anything in your background that you would not like publicized on the front page of local newspapers?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes (If yes, please explain). NO
17.	Additional Comments:	

Virginia L. Korte

May 1, 2020

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, 2020 to: cogspc1@gmail.com

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