

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	Daniel Ishac
1.b.	Address	13530 E Onyx Ct, Scottsdale AZ 85259
1.c.	Phone	773-454-5557
1.d.	Years living in Scottsdale	10
1.e.	When did you register to vote in Scottsdale? Have you failed to vote in any Scottsdale or General Election since you registered?	2017 I believe I have voted in every election
1.f.	Have you been elected or appointed to City positions including City Task Forces, Boards, Committees or Commissions? If so, please list.	Board of Adjustment
1.g.	Please list any Civic Activities or organizations you belong to.	HOA Board (President, Treasurer, member, committee member) Church Parishioner and Choir member
1.h.	Education/Training	Harvard Business Executive Leadership Program Fellow of The Society of Actuaries Carnegie Mellon University, B.S. Applied Mathematics and Industrial Management
1.i.	Current Occupation or Pre-Retirement	Actuary/Human Resources Consultant at Willis Towers Watson (retired)
1.j.	Other personal information that you would like to share:	Parishioner and choir member at St. Bernard of Clairvaux (and previously at Our Lady of Perpetual Help)
2.	CAMPAIGN INFORMATION	
2.a.	Address	13530 E Onyx Ct, Scottsdale AZ 85259
2.b.	Phone	773-454-5557
2.c.	Fax	N/A
2.d.	Web-site address**<i>important</i>*	www.DanForScottsdale.com
2.e.	E-Mail address	DFI.Scottsdale@gmail.com
2.f.	Endorsements	I have not formally sought endorsements at this time

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3.	Why have you decided to become a candidate for City Council?	After retirement, I wanted to give to the city that has brought me such enjoyment. I spoke with several City Council members and was appointed to the Board of Adjustment. After a year of attending virtually every City Council meeting, and with the encouragement of City Council members, I decided that my background could serve the city well as a Council Member. Our city is at a crossroad, and we need policies that will help us to remain strong and thrive.
4.a	Identify 3 major issues facing the Council.	<p>Strength – Maintaining and improving our financials so that we can continue offering the services/amenities that make Scottsdale so desirable.</p> <p>Sustainability – Ensuring that we protect our open areas, the Preserve and green spaces, while addressing environmental needs such as the heat island impact and water supply.</p> <p>Security – Residents and visitors need to feel safe at home, out enjoying our activities or downtown. Funding and supporting our police and other first responders are crucial.</p>
4.b	Identify 3 major issues facing the City.	<p>Strength – Maintaining and improving our financials so that we can continue offering the services/amenities that make Scottsdale so desirable.</p> <p>Sustainability – Ensuring that we protect our open areas, the Preserve and green spaces, while addressing environmental needs such as the heat island impact and water supply.</p> <p>Security – Residents and visitors need to feel safe at home, out enjoying our activities or downtown. Supporting and funding our police and other first responders is crucial.</p>
5.	If elected, what would you like to accomplish?	The most important thing is for the city to remain financially strong and sustainable. We can do this by making sure that the Council makes decisions based on facts and data.
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>	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
7.	Identify citizen/city processes that you believe need to be:	
7.a.	Created	Neighborhood groups to gather information for the City Council and Staff to consider in reviewing initiatives.

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7.b.	Improved	The city is particularly good at soliciting public comment and input, but participation is low. We need to identify ways that will be more successful in obtaining community input.
7.c.	Reduced	Bureaucracy and fees that create obstacles for residents and businesses.
7.d.	Eliminated	None, at this time.
8.	Please state your position and/or action on the following zoning and land use issues:	
8.a	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?	I am skeptical of citywide and broad changes. I believe that individual requests should stand on their own merits and that the City and Council must approve or deny changes based on facts and data, rather than emotion.
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>	Time limits are a reasonable expectation of any special rights granted to ensure that the city will benefit as expected.
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>I believe requests for additional height should come with details including specifications, location, timing, transition, etc.</p> <p>Fashion Square is one of the jewels of the city, appealing to tourists and locals while providing revenue to the city. Fashion Square is critical to our financial strength.</p> <p>We must recognize the critical role of Fashion Square when deriving our policies for Downtown, and we should be open to considering their requests when they provide a positive impact.</p>

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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 will judge each case on its unique facts and circumstances, and I will balance the input of affected stakeholders and our 250,000 residents. Individual cases do not create precedents.</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>Conditional Use Permits are exactly that – conditioned on specific uses. If we find an owner is in violation thereby impacting residents or the city, we should take action following due process. Revocation is an option if the owner does not come into compliance.</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>The city needs to support investment that will strengthen us and meet our needs, while insisting that development meets our quality standards, taking into account traffic, infrastructure, density, visual appeal, etc. There are some areas suitable for multifamily development.</p> <p>City workers and young families not being able to live within the city is a real problem. We have dozens of unfilled openings in our police department, for example. Honor Health reports challenges retaining essential staff, and like all of Arizona, we are struggling to retain teachers. We must balance the needs of current residents with future needs.</p>
8.g.	<p>Would you support a designated Entertainment District with its own unique Noise and Event Ordinances?</p>	<p>Noise and event ordinances should apply throughout the city to ensure that we protect residents and neighbors. There should not be only one specific area for entertainment venues, nor should the enforcement of ordinances vary from area to area.</p>

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8.h.	In your opinion will the new city Short Term Rental controls and fines improve the neighborhood experience?	The city must do whatever we can to ensure that short term rentals do not negatively impact neighborhoods. I support funding the new Short-term Rental Task Force so that it can enforce all applicable ordinances.
8i	Should all new projects be required to meet Green Building standards or offered bonuses (i.e. increased height or density or other amended standards)?	We must judge each project on its specific facts and circumstances, including its contribution to the city. Sustainability is a key platform of my campaign, and I would expect projects to demonstrate how they address the heat island effect, as well as energy and natural resource use. I would like to see more use of heat reflective materials, water reclamation, shading, etc.
8.j	Up-zoning increases the intensity of land use and density. Under what conditions do you support Up-zoning?	I will review each request based on its own merits, facts and circumstances. Increases need to demonstrate a benefit to the city, whether supporting our financials or addressing a key community need. Analysis must also include the impact on the surrounding area.

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>I am not in favor of increasing taxes without a direct benefit and net positive financial return to the city song with overwhelming support of our residents.</p> <p>I am a major fan of the Preserve, and we should explore the ability to use remaining funds as an endowment for future maintenance and fire prevention.</p>
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10.	Please state your position on city council Homeless policy and the current COS programs.	Our first responsibility is to ensure that our residents are safe, and we do not become a haven for encampments or harassment. But we also need to address the issue by directing homeless persons to resources available throughout the Valley, whether housing, mental health support or substance abuse programs. We also need to be sure police and other responders have de-escalation training to ensure everyone's safety.
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>	Scottsdale is a vibrant and thriving city. That is why I decided to move here 10 years ago. We must maintain the aspects of the city that make it attractive to residents and to the tourists who help fund so many of our services and amenities. Scottsdale must continue to attract residents, businesses and tourists to support our financial and infrastructure needs. We must keep moving forward, thoughtfully, using facts and data.

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10.b	What is your position on the merchants' proposed Construction Mitigation Plan ordinance that requires downtown projects to park their supplies and employee vehicles off public streets?	We already have extensive construction mitigation rules and guidelines to balance the needs of residents and businesses. These have evolved over the years and are routinely enhanced. I am not in favor of adding redundant regulations and burdensome red tape that inhibits business development. If there are gaps or needed updates, the city should make them.
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>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>As an actuary with a strong financial management focus, I have been impressed with the planning and reporting coming from our Treasurer, as well as initiatives to increase reserves to meet future challenges without increasing taxes.</p> <p>We are in a much better financial position than expected, though it is important to note that stimulus payments were a one-time shot in the arm. Further, overall projected revenues are increasing at a slower rate, while costs are increasing.</p> <p>Scottsdale's revenues are largely driven by tourism, sales taxes and other economic activity. This allows us to have the lowest sales tax rate in the Valley and exceptionally low property taxes.</p> <p>To remain financially sustainable, we must protect and enhance our tourism revenue stream. We also need to diversify revenue sources to protect from future shocks whether they are related to public health emergencies, labor issues (e.g., MLB lockout) or economic cycles.</p> <p>We also need to manage requests for increased staffing to be sure that in this period of economic strength, we do not overcommit or handcuff us in the future.</p>
11.b	Do you support using taxpayer funds to subsidize or enter private-public partnerships for private sector investments such as buildings, stadiums, promoted events, etc.?	No. Private enterprise should stand on its own. And my understanding is that our City Charter does not allow taxpayer funded subsidies.
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>	These two organizations have greatly enhanced Scottsdale and helped generate revenue for the city. There are pros and cons of open bids, and the least expensive solution is not always the best for our city. I strongly support rigorous contract reviews and audits of city providers. I am open to competitive bids when we feel they will improve the services and return for the city.
12.	Please state your position and/or	action on the following transportation questions:

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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>The Master Plan is a strong document that will help guide specific recommendations in the future. There are several good reasons it passed 6-1 and received such diverse support. It thoughtfully, cautiously helps us move our transportation forward for the next 10 years.</p> <p>I look forward to Staff making specific recommendations, particularly around congestion and parking, considering the needs of the community and costs. Any decision must use data, leaning on the experts in our city staff and gathering public input.</p> <p>As behaviors and transportation modalities evolve in the next 10 years, we must remain open to thoughtful changes</p>
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>We need to review in-lieu parking fees as well as the actual parking utilization throughout the city (time of day and week) so that we can create a long-term plan to address parking. Parking needs must be based on data, not anecdotes, and must serve the overall needs of our city.</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>We need to ensure that we appropriately staff and support our police force to address impaired and unsafe driving.</p> <p>The City Staff must continue to perform analysis to identify and address areas of concern involving dangerous intersections, speeding and pedestrian/bike safety.</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>My approach begins with analysis and actual reporting of data. Based on the previous audit and additional data collection, we should collaborate with Staff to create an action plan to address shortfalls and be sure there is transparency of reporting and enforcement of our codes</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>	<p>Yes. I gathered 1400 signatures in face-to-face interactions, I was encouraged to hear that my goals and areas of concern were widely held throughout the community. I heard this from families in the parks, retirees at the Senior Centers, individuals at libraries and hikers in the Preserve. Most residents agree that Scottsdale is a great place to live and want what is best to keep Scottsdale great, not extreme views in either direction. And they universally want financial strength to keep offering services and amenities while keeping taxes low.</p>
14.	Identify city services that you believe need to be:	
14.a.	Created	I have none currently. I will only support expenditures based on analysis, data and input from residents.
14.b.	Improved	I have repeatedly heard concerns about parking and nuisance enforcement (especially related to short-term rentals). Last year we had delays in bulk pick up, but City Staff appear to have resolved that issue.
14.c.	Reduced	I have none at this time. I will only support reducing services based on analysis, data and input from residents.
14.d.	Eliminated	I have none at this time. I will only support eliminating services based on analysis, data and input from residents.
15	Identify city revenue sources that should be:	
15.a	Created	Based on our current financial situation, I do not see a need for new revenues such as increased sales or property taxes. Nor have I seen a need to introduce new taxes on tourism. Ensuring that we diversify our economy and that we can sustain revenues should obviate the need for increased or new taxes.
15.b	Increased	We need to leverage the existing revenue sources and support growing them.
15.c.	Reduced	It is premature for me to suggest reduction or elimination of revenue sources without further data and analysis.
15.d	Eliminated	It is premature for me to suggest reduction or elimination of revenue sources without further data and analysis.
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)
17.	Additional Comments:	I am passionate about contributing to our great city in an elected capacity and to represent the needs of our residents and visitors.

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Signature Daniel Ishac

 May 4, 2022

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