

richmondrail.org

Candidate Questionnaire

RichmondRail.org is a grassroots group of residents, business owners, workers, and students living and working on or near Richmond. We are civic leaders and professionals with a stake in Houston's quality of life and economic vitality. We are landowners and institutions with a specific interest in the long term health of Richmond Avenue. We are voters in the thirteen inner-city precincts that represent a key swing vote area which, according to Dr. Richard Murray, usually determines the winning candidates in citywide and district elections.

We will be endorsing candidates in your race and would like to obtain your answers to the following questions in order to consider which candidate will best represent our views in local government. Please complete the below questionnaire and send it back to Joe Webb, 3701 Kirby, Suite 916, Houston, TX 77098, or joe@richmondrail.org before October 5, 2007.

Our endorsements will be announced at a community meeting on October 16, 2007. We will contact you with the time and location of that meeting after we receive your completed questionnaire. We will also be distributing printed materials with our slate of candidates prior to the election and on Election Day.

Please complete the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Office sought: _____

Political Affiliation: _____

1) What political office do you currently hold or, if you are not an officeholder, what is your current line of employment? _____

2) What political offices have you held and/or sought in the past? _____

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- 3) We want to preserve and enhance the quality of life and vitality of our neighborhoods, businesses and institutions. We want to ensure the long term quality and success of our neighborhoods through the development of light rail along Richmond Avenue from Main Street to Cummins. Do you support Rail on Richmond from Main to Cummins?

YES

NO

- 4) If elected, will you vote to approve the franchise agreements necessary to allow for the construction of rail on Richmond from Main to Cummins?

YES

NO

- 5) Experience in other cities shows that walkable streets - defined by wide sidewalks and shade trees - contained in attractive, well maintained streetscapes, especially those within reasonable walking distance of transit stations, encourage transit ridership. If elected, will you work for, and vote to fund, such improvements along Richmond Avenue in order to make our new light rail system truly neighborhood and pedestrian friendly? Specific examples of improvements along Richmond Avenue include sidewalks at least 6 feet wide with trees in tree wells between the curb and the sidewalk; wide sidewalks extending into adjacent neighborhoods with well marked crosswalks at every street that intersects Richmond; and amenities such as benches, trash receptacles, and bicycle racks.

YES

NO

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- 6) The construction of new transportation infrastructure (light rail) has long term benefits for the City and the region. However, it also creates short term challenges for businesses and residents in neighborhoods where light rail is being constructed. Limited access during construction and loss of parking during and after project completion can severely hurt local business and inconvenience drivers. Will you partner with Metro and the Community to develop meaningful programs to mitigate the negative impacts of the light rail projects?

YES

NO

- 7) What programs will you seek or propose to mitigate local impacts on the businesses along Richmond Avenue? Examples of such programs used in other cities include offering financial support, marketing services, clearly established lines of communication and information dissemination. How would you work to make this a neighborhood improvement project rather than a transportation improvement project?

- 8) Are you an active member of a civic association? If so, which one?

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9) Do you live and/or work in the Richmond Avenue area? If so, where?

YES

NO

10) If you receive the endorsement of RichmondRail.org will you prominently display that endorsement on your campaign literature and website?

YES

NO

By: _____
Candidate Signature

Date: _____

Please send your completed questionnaire **before October 5, 2007**, to:

Mr. Joe Webb
RichmondRail.Org
3701 Kirby, Suite 916
Houston, TX 77098

or Joe@Richmondrail.org