

Questionnaire for Candidates for Gibsonville Board of Aldermen (voters may select two)

Questions	Bryant Crisp	Paul Dean	Irene Fanelli	Paul Thompson
Gibsonville taxes and spending (general)				
1. Is Gibsonville's tax rate too high, too low, or about right?	1. [Refused to respond.]	1. About right	1. About right.	1. About right.
2. At what level (cents per \$100 valuation) should the town's tax rate be set?	2. [Refused to respond.]	2. —	2. 0.53.	2. .53 current rate.
3. What area(s) of city spending do you feel should be increased or decreased? [50 word limit]	3. [Refused to respond.]	3. —	3. Increased: Short term, we need additional funding for a stand-alone Police Department, repairs/upgrades to the Fire Department and infrastructure repairs. Longer term, we will likely need additional funding for all departments given our expected growth. With good financial planning, there should be no need to increase taxes.	3. Increased – Town maintained streets need improvement badly; Police Department.
Board member salaries and benefits				
4. Members of the board of aldermen are currently paid as follows: mayor, \$3,400 annually; mayor pro tem, \$3,000 annually; and aldermen, \$2,700 annually. Are those amounts adequate and fair?	4. [Refused to respond.]	4. No response.	4. Yes.	Decreased – None.
4a. Would you vote to increase the amounts during your term or keep them the same?	4a. [Refused to respond.]	4a. Keep the same.	4a. Keep the same.	4a. Keep the same.
4b. If raise, by how much, or to what level?	4b. [Refused to respond.]	4b. N/A	4b. N/A	4b. —
Town Departments				
5. With regard to each of the departments below, do you believe they are adequately funded, need more funding, or need less funding.	5.	5.	5.	5.
a. Police	5a. [Refused to respond.]	5a. More.	5a. More.	5a. More.
b. Fire	5b. [Refused to respond.]	5b. More.	5b. More.	5b. Adequately funded.
c. Public Works	5c. [Refused to respond.]	5c. More.	5c. Adequately funded.	5c. Adequately funded.
d. Parks & Recreation	5d. [Refused to respond.]	5d. Adequately funded.	5d. Adequately funded.	5d. Adequately funded.
e. Library	5e. [Refused to respond.]	5e. Adequately funded.	5e. Adequately funded.	5e. Adequately funded.
6. If more, would you be willing to raise property taxes, if necessary to provide additional spending for the department(s).	6.	6.	6.	6.
a. Police	6a. [Refused to respond.]	6a. Yes.	6a. No.	6a. No.
b. Fire	6b. [Refused to respond.]	6b. Yes.	6b. No.	6b. No.
c. Public Worksd. Parks & Recreation	6c. [Refused to respond.]	6c. No.	6c. No.	6c. No.
e. Library	6d. [Refused to respond.]	6d. No.	6d. No.	6d. No.
7. Police chief Ron Parrish has consistently told aldermen he needs significantly more new positions in order to "properly staff" the department. In your opinion, do you think that the police department is understaffed?	6e. [Refused to respond.]	6e. Yes.	6e. No.	6e. No.
7a. Why or why not? [50 word limit]	7. [Refused to respond.]	7. Yes.	7. Yes.	7. Yes.
	7a. [Refused to respond.]	7a. I believe the Police Department should keep up with the growth of the town. While I was on the board we gave the Police Department 5 new officers.	7a. We need an SRO at Gibsonville Elementary. We also need more officers on the street for community policing and building networks with the residents. At present, there are times when there are no officers in town. This creates a safety risk for the residents and the officers.	7a. Based on call volume and the number of residences under construction and planned the Town will need to add at least 4 officers in the next 2 budget years to keep up with the growth.
7b. If understaffed, how many additional officers do you believe are needed/justified and/or can be afforded by the town?	7b. [Refused to respond.]	7b. 2.	7b. 3-5	7b. 4
8. Are there any departments, excluding police, that you would consider to be understaffed? If so, please elaborate. [50 word limit]	8. [Refused to respond.]	8. Fire Department.	8. Not currently. However, Chief Todd and Rob Elliott have said with our current rate of growth, we will need additional staff at the Fire and Public Works departments in 2-4 years. I expect other departments will as well.	8. I don't think there are other departments understaffed at this point, however additional staffing will be needed at public works and the fire department in the near future (1-2 Years) based on the current developments in progress.
9. The police chief has also consistently suggested that the town should build a new, freestanding police department. How high a priority do you rate the need for a new police department building?	9. [Refused to respond.]	9. Medium.	9. High.	9. High.
10. Earlier this year, the town manager recommended that the town create an \$80,000 position for an economic developer. Would you support or oppose funding such a position?	10. [Refused to respond.]	10. Support.	10. Support.	10. Support.
11. Some jurisdictions have begun considering whether their employees should be required to be vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. Would you support or oppose such a requirement for municipal employees in Gibsonville?	11. [Refused to respond.]	11. Oppose.	11. Neither.	11. Oppose.
11a. Other areas have begun to consider "incentives" (cash bonuses, time off, etc.) to entice their municipality's employees to get vaccinated. Would you support or oppose such "incentives"?	11a. [Refused to respond.]	11a. Oppose.	11a. Neither.	11a. Oppose.
11b. Do you have a particular incentives approach you favor? [25 word limit]	11b. [Refused to respond.]	11b. No.	11b. No.	11b. —
11c. Are you, yourself, vaccinated against COVID-19?	11c. [Refused to respond.]	11c. Yes.	11c. Yes.	11c. —
Miscellaneous policies/issues				
12. In 2019, the board adopted a new ordinance which put limits on the operation of Airbnb-type rentals in the town, requiring residents to apply for annual permits, requiring no more than two bedrooms within a house be rented, and that the homeowner be present during the rental. Do you support or oppose these parameters for Airbnb rentals in the town?	12. [Refused to respond.]	12. Support.	12. Neither.	12. —
12a. If not, how would you recommend changing the Airbnb ordinance. [50 word limit]	12a. [Refused to respond.]	12a. —	12a. I do not see a need for changes to the ordinance.	12a. I think the ordinance is fine. It was enacted as a result of a few isolated incidents and intended to eliminate potential problems in the future. There have not been any problems since it was adopted.
13. Burlington's city council has recently expressed an interest in obtaining a grant to purchase Gibsonville acreage (about 130 acres) adjacent to Lake Mackintosh. Would you support or oppose the idea of selling that Gibsonville land to Burlington?	13. [Refused to respond.]	13. Support.	13. Oppose.	13. Oppose.
14. Additionally, the town apparently owns almost another 100 acres of surplus land. Would you be willing to sell any of the other surplus property to generate revenue?	14. [Refused to respond.]	14. No.	14. No.	14. No.
14a. Why or why not? [50 word limit]	14a. [Refused to respond.]	14a. No response.	14a. The Town is currently updating the Land Development Plan. It is my belief the Town should complete this Plan prior to selling ANY property. We should also assure the Town has considered its own possible use for the property that would be benefit to the Town or residents.	14a. I would not support selling any of our land until the Town determines its long-term plan. We are currently working on our 20-year Land Development plan and think we need to determine if we want to use any of the land for ourselves in the form of a park or recreational area. I would support selling it if we really needed it to generate revenue, but we are not at that point.
14b. If yes, what area(s) would you support putting the funds toward? [50 word limit]	14b. [Refused to respond.]	14b. —	14b. Not applicable given my current opposition to selling anything.	14b. If we decide to sell it, I would want to use it for further development, reduce capital expenditures, or for infrastructure.
15. How do you assess Gibsonville's racial climate/race relations? [50-word limit]	15. [Refused to respond.]	15. I could be wrong but I have not seen racial problem in town.	15. There will always be exceptions, but I have not observed race related issues in Gibsonville. I believe the BOA should engage in better communication with ALL residents so there is better awareness of issues that do arise, so there can be efforts to engage is resolution dialogue.	15. I think our Town's racial climate is as good if not better than most small towns. Our own is geographically diverse. I think our Mayor has done a very good job at recognizing and addressing any racial issues during his tenure. I am sure there is always room for improvement.
15a. What, if any, town policies should be changed or adopted to improve the racial climate/race relations in the town? [50 word limit]	15.a [Refused to respond.]	15a. —	15a. The BOA should divide Gibsonville into equal areas and assign a Board member to each so everyone has a voice and place at the table. I believe the BOA is obligated to assure all residents have opportunities for their concerns to be addressed.	15a. Better communications among all the citizens. The complaints I have heard resonate all over the Town. Better streets, better communications and more of a police presence (hence more officers).
16. What is your greatest area of disagreement with action(s) taken by the town's board of aldermen in the past 2-5 years? [25 word limit]	16. [Refused to respond.]	16. None. I was on the board 3 of the years.	16. Ignoring the need for big picture long term planning and doing study after study with no implementation of recommendations, are failures hurting Gibsonville.	16. None. I think our Board has done a very good job the past few years especially during the pandemic.
17. In your view, what are the three main issues facing Gibsonville during the next five years? [50 word limit]	17. [Refused to respond.]	17. Repair and pave some streets; Food store; SRO in Gibsonville School.	17. a. Assure the Town infrastructure, staff, community services and public safety keep pace with growth. b. Long term planning and communication with the residents. c. Work with NCDOT to assure measures ar assure measures are taken to address traffic congestion.	17. Public Safety and Public Works, Commercial Development and maintaining a small-town atmosphere.