



2018 City Council Candidate Questions

CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT

The public points out that last minute and significant changes at the dais by Council members is lacking in transparency and not good public policy. Furthermore, last-minute changes do not allow for staff analysis or public input. How can we better ensure the public has a chance to review and comment on these matters?

PAT BOONE

Transparency is crucial in government. I believe no measure should ever be approved without public comment or review.

No last minute changes should be allowed unless the public weighs in, no excuses.

In my opinion, closed session shouldn't be closed, City Council should never conduct the city business behind closed doors.

And the Council needs to be a check on the City Manager.

ALISON CORMACK

One option is for council members to vote no on amendments that include significant changes to the agenda item and the staff report.

TOM DUBOIS

By voting for thoughtful, moderate council candidates that have a track record of following through on what they say during election season after they are elected. By looking for council candidates with life experience and wisdom to make sure the city doesn't screw up and make a rash, late-night decision that will take decades to undo (like our unfunded pension liabilities). And by looking at past behaviors and voting for candidates that have shown respect to both the majority and minority opinions on issues and followed ethical and collegial processes to make decisions. We can disagree but how you disagree is a sign of mature leadership.

I have strived to focus on the issue at hand and debate the facts to come to good decisions for the benefit of Palo Altans.

I am a defender of open and transparent government. There have been occasions when it was necessary to speak up and I do speak up when needed. For example, after one particularly egregious last-minute change, I wrote this [editorial](#). The following week, apologies were made and the Comprehensive Plan was restored.

ERIC FILSETH

Elect a responsible and sensible council that does not govern by late-night head shot.

CORY WOLBACH

As a legislative body, Council's responsibility is to give substantive policy direction, rather than function as a rubber stamp for staff reports. But it is also our responsibility to listen. We hear from the public prior to deliberations so that we can, as appropriate, incorporate community input into our motions. When major changes are made during a first reading of an ordinance, we should bring it back for another first reading to enable and encourage more public comment.