



2022 City Council Candidate Questions

CITY OPERATIONS

With the planned fiber expansion, should we fund more districts to be undergrounded?

ALEX COMSA

Yes, underground

LISA FORSELL

I'd love to see city blocks and neighborhoods undergo a modernization that includes upgrading and undergrounding the electric infrastructure, installing fiber, and potentially, removing natural gas lines. (The city would have to incentivize/subsidize/finance the electric appliances to replace the gas ones; which might be possible with federal dollars from the Inflation Reduction Act.)

BRIAN HAMACHEK

Yes, I think that underground utilities are an investment well worth pursuing. Beyond the obvious aesthetic benefits of undergrounding, there are numerous safety benefits as well.

ED LAUING

No. While I would love to get rid of our overhead wires (for both safety and aesthetic reasons), this is not an opportunity we should jump on.

1) Even if undergrounding of fiber is underway the **additional** cost to transition other utilities to underground is very expensive and not the right funding priority.

2) This likely would require a lengthy extension of massive disruption in neighborhoods during the construction period.

JULIE LYTHCOTT-HAIMS

Yes. Most importantly, undergrounding is safer for our community and can even improve town character. Power lines are unsightly and even dangerous, and relocating them underground is a better option for our community. Furthermore, underground power lines are less likely to be interfered with by storms or other natural phenomena. That being said, undergrounding is not my first priority as far as city operations go. The fiber project and the phasing out of fossil fuels from our electric grid are crucial and urgent projects; ideally, we would be able to accomplish a little bit of undergrounding in tandem with the fiber project and the shifting of the electric grid to sustainable sources.

DORIA SUMMA

Undergrounding is certainly more aesthetically desirable! I plan to study if there are advantages other than financial for not undergrounding.

VICKI VEENKER

Fiber would be undergrounded from the start. Generally it's a good idea to underground utilities: not only is it safer, but it also reduces the chances of those utilities going offline in case of a heat emergency, storm or earthquake. I'm not clear whether the question is asking whether we should simultaneously underground electric power or other utilities when we trench for fiber. If so, I am not sure if the two are compatible; there is a possibility that microtrenching will be used for fiber.