

Questions for Dover City Councilors

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City Earth News

Steve Durgin Publisher / Editor in Chief

(603) 380-1753

PO Box 222 Portsmouth NH 03802

sdurgin@cityearthnews.com

Dear Dover City Councilor,

My name is Steve Durgin. I live in Portsmouth New Hampshire. I believe the Dover, Portsmouth area is a great place to live. However, the major daily and smaller newspapers in this area are sometimes deficient in their reporting. For this reason I am starting City Earth News. I want to deliver comprehensive reporting on important issues in the Dover and Portsmouth area. There will also be an online companion edition at www.cityearthnews.com.

City Earth News will start as a quarterly journal. In the first issue I would like to give readers the chance to learn a little more about their City Councilors and where their City Councilors stand on some important local issues and also a few state and national issues. The attached sheets contain questions. I hope you might take the time at your convenience to answer these questions. This will give your constituents the opportunity to learn more about what you hope to accomplish on the Council and your views on some important issues. You can return the answers via e-mail or regular mail. If you prefer, I would be happy to take your answers at your convenience in person or on the telephone. Your written or spoken answers will be published unaltered.

Thanks very much,
Steve Durgin

- 1) Why did you run for the City Council?
- 2) What do you see as the most important issues facing Dover?
- 3) What do you hope to see the Council accomplish regarding these issues and in what direction do you see the Council moving regarding these issues?
- 4) Are you involved in, or are you the prime advocate of any special tasks or projects regarding any issues? If so, could you explain your work?
- 5) Do you see any other issues coming down the pipeline not currently under discussion but you foresee as being considered by the Dover City Council in the future?
- 6) Do you believe Dover should have charter schools?
- 7) Do you believe staffing levels in Dover City departments are too large too small or about right?
- 8) Do you think the salaries of city officials are too high?

- 9) Could you comment on enticement offers (if any) and financial operating agreements, e.g. rental subsidies abatements, building upgrades, made by the City Council that brought the Children's museum to Dover. Do you think this agreement is fair to the residents of Dover?
- 10) Do you believe the McConnell Center delivers benefits to the residents of Dover commensurate with the cost to the residents of Dover? If so why? If not why?
- 11) What do you currently see as important issues on the state level and what impact might these issues have on Dover residents?
- 12) Do you believe the Federal stimulus plan, the bailouts and the Federal budget currently being formulated represent good decision making for America?
- 13) There appears to be no guarantee jobs that may be created by the Federal stimulus bill must go to American citizens. Do you believe congress should pass legislation that requires these jobs go to American citizen workers?

- 14) The Federal government continues to issue H-1B and H-2B visas which fast track foreign workers into American jobs. This program originated years ago in response to companies claiming a lack of qualified American workers. With millions of Americans currently out of work at all skill, experience and education levels, do you believe the president and congress should pass a moratorium on the issuance of these visas?
- 15) Do you believe the Obama administration is taking our country in the right direction?
- 16) Do you plan to run for another term on the City Council?

Thanks for your participation.