








Logan Candidate Forum

(Candidates were asked to answer these questions in 75 words or less)

Questions

MAYOR'S RACE

CITY COUNCIL RACE (VOTE FOR TWO)

Questions	What is the major issue facing Logan residents right now?	What, if anything, should the city do to be involved in keeping downtown vibrant and busy?	Do you feel Logan as a government is friendly toward business?	What does Logan government do well?	What can Logan city improve on?
 Craig Petersen	<p>Ongoing — the prudent use of tax dollars. A specific issue — deterioration of core neighborhoods. I have been knocking on doors all over the city. A common concern is that occupancy laws are not adequately enforced, resulting in parking, noise, and maintenance problems. A second concern is that some neighborhoods lack basic infrastructure. A third is that recent citywide zoning changes were imposed without enough citizen input. As a result, some neighborhoods have been negatively affected.</p>	<p>Downtown used to be the retail hub of Logan, but not now. Currently, 38 percent of downtown space is used for professional/government services and only 27 percent for retail. Several things need to happen. Mixed-use residential development, high visibility restaurants, a theater, and/or a hotel would generate evening traffic without causing parking problems. Also, there needs to be consolidation of some properties that would allow a large “anchor” retail store to locate in the downtown area.</p>	<p>Not like it should be. I have spoken with dozens of local business owners. Consistently, and often quite passionately, they expressed frustration about doing business with Logan city — that the process takes too long, what is required of them is a moving target, and the compliance expense can be prohibitive. Safety standards must be maintained, but what’s needed is a thorough review of procedures and a new approach that stresses facilitating rather than frustrating businesses.</p>	<p>(1) Logan has well-motivated, capable employees who do a great job, but they need to feel valued and supported. Nothing is more important to an organization’s success than cultivating a healthy workplace environment. (2) The city has done a good job in facilitating communication between citizens and government through the neighborhood meetings. The next step is to make these meetings more substantive and to build confidence that, when possible, suggestions made by citizens are implemented.</p>	<p>These are my eight priorities: (1) Improve core neighborhoods, (2) Make Logan city government more citizen-friendly, (3) Make Logan City government more business friendly, (4) Leverage tax dollars to do more, (5) Perform city services more efficiently, (6) Make the city a better steward of the environment, (7) Reduce congestion on city streets, and (8) As mayor, use an involved, hands-on approach to city management. And I will always be careful with your tax dollars.</p>
 Randy Watts	<p>The biggest issue facing Logan residents is the new wastewater treatment plant and the impact that it may have financially on the city and on our citizens. This is a huge project which will take significant time, energy and expertise to complete. Other major issues include getting our hydro plants fully operational again, and the completion of 1000 West, which will greatly benefit businesses and Logan residents.</p>	<p>The city can continue to work together with downtown businesses in improving things such as sidewalks and lighting. Since historic downtown is part of an RDA (redevelopment project area), we’ve been able to tap into RDA funds to make improvements. We are now looking at expanding the work on sidewalks and lighting further north, and on making 100 North, west of Main, more pedestrian-friendly with improvements in parking and midblock crossings.</p>	<p>Yes. We have streamlined our plan review and permit process, and moved to online business license renewal. Yet, there is always room for improvement. The city is responsible to protect the “health, safety and welfare” of its citizens. We do this is through inspections and licensing, making sure that buildings meet fire and safety standards, and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements, which sometimes puts the city in an adversarial position with businesses who may be out of compliance.</p>	<p>Our departments do an excellent job at managing and administering their different functions. We have professionals in each department who care about the citizens of Logan, care about their work and excel at what they do. For example, our light and power department is proactive in finding ways to provide reliable and efficient power to our citizens. When the lights in the county are out with Rocky Mountain Power, Logan is usually shining bright.</p>	<p>There is still work to be done with our neighborhoods. The work I began eight years ago reclaiming older neighborhoods and cleaning up properties needs to continue. We need to make sure that people are living in safe conditions. We may want to increase our city-wide cleanup events. We should continue to improve our communication with neighborhood residents, and reach out to our growing minority population to make sure they know they have a voice.</p>
 Jess Bradfield	<p>While there are many important topics, business and employment are critical issues for most Logan residents. Too many of our children and USU graduates cannot find careers in Logan, which forces them to leave the valley. If we want our families to have the opportunity to stay in Logan, we need more industry. Furthermore, more business opportunity and economic growth will help offset the costs associated with city projects, lowering the tax burden on residents.</p>	<p>Abustling downtown is representative of a healthy city. I will donate 25 percent of my salary to new and/or struggling downtown businesses. Furthermore, we can relax fees, explore ways to improve downtown’s congestion and parking, and examine incentives that will bring more businesses into the downtown area. I’ll work with small business owners and residents to develop a viable downtown solution. Since I don’t own any shops on Main Street, I’ll treat all businesses equally.</p>	<p>There’s always room for improvement. We are competing with hundreds of other cities for businesses. If we honestly believe that business is the lifeblood of the community, and we want to recruit and retain businesses, we need to be willing to admit that we can do better. Then we can assess the needs of our local businesses and develop incentives that will make Logan a destination for businesses that can support families and prosperity.</p>	<p>Logan has always excelled at keeping residents safe and maintaining an orderly city. There is little doubt that the industrious and peaceful culture of Logan residents contributes to the success of Logan’s safety, but the city should be commended for maintaining the “safest city in America” recognition.</p>	<p>Communication. Many residents have expressed gratitude for projects the city implements. However, residents have also expressed a desire to be better informed of projects before they begin, and to be updated as projects are implemented. Since all city projects are funded by residents, I believe the city has an obligation to make a greater attempt to keep citizens informed. It will take some innovation, but we can make it happen.</p>
 Holly Daines	<p>The most prominent issue now is wastewater treatment. Logan’s sewage lagoons have been a good, inexpensive system for many years. With new EPA regulations for nitrogen, phosphorus and ammonia, we must build a very expensive mechanical treatment plant to comply with discharge requirements. Planning has already begun; completing those plans, then financing, building and operating the treatment plant will be the largest capital project Logan has undertaken to date.</p>	<p>Logan should follow the Downtown Specific Plan: preserve downtown’s beautiful, historic character, improve walkability, recruit new business, promote mixed-use development (housing, retail, restaurant and entertainment) and strengthen the Downtown Alliance. We should also encourage connections between downtown and the university.</p>	<p>I believe Logan is business friendly. Two local examples: the owners of Al’s Sporting Goods development on North Main and the Cache Valley Bank remodel/addition in downtown have both praised the city for their cooperation. Recently, two large international companies have visited Logan with an interest in locating here. Staff has helped with questions about zoning, transportation, water, sewer and power needs. Both companies are interested in follow-up meetings.</p>	<p>Logan city is financially very well managed. We balance our budget and provide necessary services without frills. We have a 20-year Capital Expenditure Plan for infrastructure and have been building reserves for upcoming projects. We have great department heads and staff that get things done. We have outstanding public safety services. Our Neighborhood Councils are an excellent resource to help us fix problems in neighborhoods. City administration and council members work well together.</p>	<p>The city should make greater efforts to improve air quality by working with the county, state, health department and other partners to make needed changes; we have made strides with sidewalks, trails, transportation projects and some fleet upgrades but need to do more. We also need to further build on the success of the neighborhood councils to better communicate with citizens and increase efforts to get more families back in our core neighborhoods.</p>
 Gene Needham	<p>Logan residents share in a nation-wide malaise of uncertainty over governmental confusion and misdirections. This is tied to a continued weakness in the community. Utah, and Logan in particular, has had a stable economy. But like everyone, Logan’s residents are watching to see how well their own city is doing. Being a traditional community, national changes in morals and sometimes open governmental dishonesty and waste has seemed connected to the persistent sluggishness of the economy.</p>	<p>The downtown represents Logan’s historic self-identity. Logan city should help foster the downtown’s future. The community can benefit from tourism by the downtown generating higher levels of small enterprise retail, becoming increasingly a place for entertainment, specialty shops and diversity of eateries. People need to realize modern “big store” shopping cannot be made to fit in the small area of the three blocks of the traditional downtown and preserve the downtown’s historic buildings.</p>	<p>Logan has a record of good-will expressed by able administrators and workers. There are some whose personalities may discourage business. Largely, the intent of past mayors and department heads has been to encourage positive outreaches to potential businesses. It is to be expected that some businesses have been discouraged. But then, not all ideas conceived or circumstances proposed can be allowed. Much depends on economic potentials and the city’s own legal guidelines.</p>	<p>Logan has a history of mosquito abatement, snow removal and prompt garbage service. Workers pick up branches and debris from the winter, taking leaves in the fall. They largely keep their own grass green and remove branch overgrowth from trees from time to time. They respond to fires and work to keep electricity functioning. Downtown is lighted for Christmas. Firemen and policemen are well attired; the latter most often give tickets with a friendly smile.</p>	<p>Regarding Logan’s past, continuity itself could evidence improvement. The city, known for human values and safety, needs to keep moving steadily forward as it has for 150 years. The din of the traffic on Main Street, the winter smog and the unfortunate mudslide on Canyon Road represent indications of hurdles to be jumped. Being civil, respecting difference and promoting prudence in our dealings all represent worth aspirations that would constitute constant improvement.</p>