



DeKalb County Democratic Committee  
| comm@dekalbdems.com

## 2021 Municipal Elections Candidate Questionnaire (Responses) N<sup>o</sup>: 4

26/10/2021 02:32

Google Forms User  
v 1

Timestamp	2021-10-11T15:51:31.461Z
Name	Robin Biro
Municipality	Tucker
Position for which you are running	Mayor
District and seat (if applicable) for which you are running. If not applicable, please type "N/A."	N/A
Do you support your municipality's Nondiscrimination Ordinance (NDO)? Or, if your city does not have one, do you support passing an NDO? Please explain.	Tucker does not have an NDO, but I pledge to get the draft NDO on the council agenda for consideration and debate by city council within my first 60 days as Mayor.
Do you believe armed police officers should be dispatched to mental health calls? Please explain.	No, we need a different and more effective way of handling mental health crisis calls. Several people have been shot and died who called themselves for suicide prevention calls. I am a combat veteran - I have friends who are severely impacted with mental illness, these persons need to be met where they are and given empathic help from mental health professionals or at least persons trained with de-escalation.
Do you believe citizens should be arrested for possessing small amounts of marijuana? How is your view similar or different from the current policy in your municipality? Please explain.	Our municipality needs to decriminalize the possession of small amounts of marijuana. If the truth be told the biggest users in our community are the moms in our community. Decriminalize now. I don't want anyone's mom going to jail. The current policy is absurdly outdated.
The pandemic has presented unique challenges to cities in many different areas. What is your position on masking and vaccine mandates?	I pledge to follow any guidance from DeKalb county health department and CDC.
Please explain how you would address the current housing crisis at the municipal level. How would you help people who are homeless/unhoused in your city?	We need to re-examine the urban camping ban, but more importantly we need to take a leaf out of the playbook from other municipalities and take a proactive approach to the unhoused. Tiny houses have been working famously well, some as little as 65 square feet, which are heated and air-conditioned and give people some of their humanity back and a chance to secure their belongings. We can also look at initiating programs through parks and recreation to teach homeless new certificate-level skills to make them more competitive in the changing job market as some of our residents lose jobs to automation, etc.
What would you change about how development is being approached in your municipality? What is your position on affordable housing and making homeownership more accessible?	I want for council to examine developer paid impact fees - we can at least have the discussion. I want more strict penalties for violating ordinances that protect large diameter trees from being unlawfully removed. We need more single-level new ranch style housing for seniors. Obviously we need more affordable housing for first time homeowners - \$2,000 a month is not a first time homebuyer, and that's the product that has been coming online recently.

Do you consider the way your city government operates to be transparent, accountable, and effective? What would you change?

Our municipal governance has been criticized by the public for its lack of transparency. I would like for meetings to be recorded and archived for the public to view, without having to do a freedom of information act request or open records act request, which is currently how residents have to go about it since our incumbent Mayor is opposed to having past meetings posted online. I pledge to continue to stream meetings online, as it provides greater accessibility for seniors and the elderly, who often feel disenfranchised from society.

Please give an assessment of your municipality's current infrastructure needs (roads, sidewalks, etc.). What would you change or do differently?

We have a good plan for sidewalks, but we have over 200 collapsed storm drains within the city limits. The drains are the responsibility of DeKalb County, but residents are having to sue to get any action from the county, so I would propose that we hire a Citizen Responder full-time to coordinate the repair of these between the city, the county, and with the backing of our city attorney since many residents here cannot afford to hire representation of their own in order to get the county to take action.

Are you satisfied with the number, quality and management of trails, parks and green space in your municipality? If not, what would you change?

We have 11 parks within the city limits, I am satisfied with the number of parks. We have plans to link them all with sidewalks, we just need to be able to fund those plans. We could always use more green space, there just isn't a lot of undeveloped land available for them, so we could look at acquiring disused commercial properties that have outlived their economic life-expectancy, with the long-term objective of deconstruction and preserving green space. The greatest example of this right now is the 10-acre vacant distribution center off of Hugh Howell, between the new elementary school and the new Publix - that building likely is very close to the end of its economic life, but sits on ten acres of land that could be used as greenspace, activity fields, etc., if we have the budget for it.

Please list, in order, your top 3 priorities or things you would like to accomplish, should you be elected or re-elected.

1) Place the nondiscrimination ordinance on the council agenda for consideration within my first 60 days as Mayor, so that we can ensure that anyone who does business here is protected from discrimination and to make us more competitive with surrounding municipalities who already have NDO's in place. 2) Infrastructure - Hire a full-time Citizen Responder who can coordinate between our homeowners, DeKalb County, and our City Attorney to get these collapsed storm drains replaced. 3) Budget - there are no plans for the city budget beyond 2026. I would like to develop long-range budgeting plans to ensure that we have ways to sustain our parks, and the roads that we are responsible for per our agreement from accepting SPLOST funds, and I would like to establish a long-term plan for ultimately taking over stormwater from DeKalb county so that we can have more efficient local control once our new Citizen Responder has coordinated enough improvements on existing infrastructure.