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**Q&A
With
Our
Next
Mayor**

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Financial Freedom**

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july/august 2009
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Houston's Next Mayor!

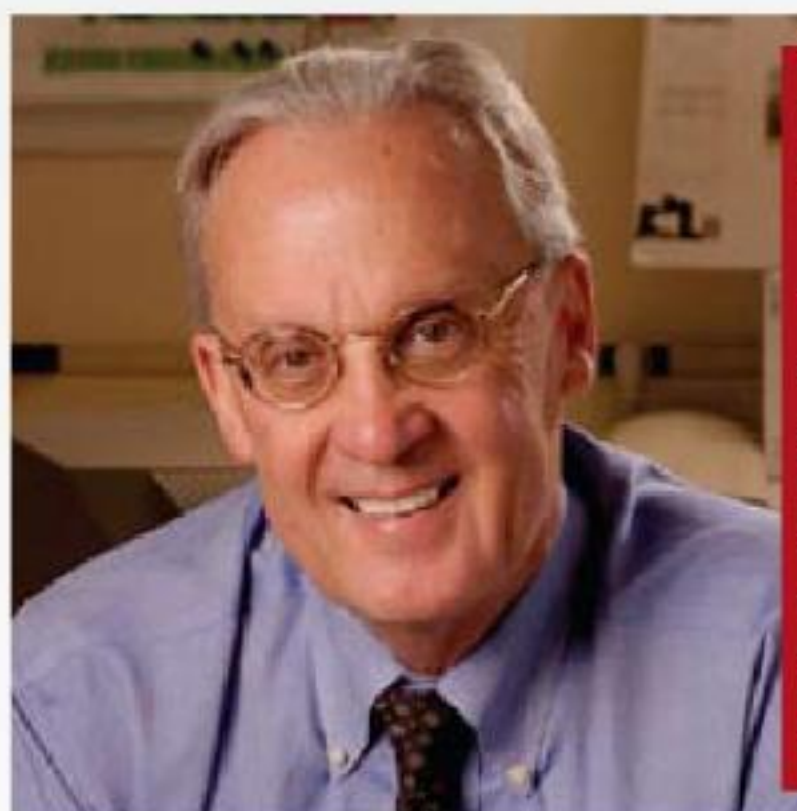
With Term Limits Another Popular Mayor Must Step Down



Annise Parker

Democrat

53 years old
Born in Houston
Graduated from Rice University
Worked in the oil industry for over 20 years
Council Member At-Large 1997 – 2003
City Controller 2003 – present



Peter Brown

Democrat

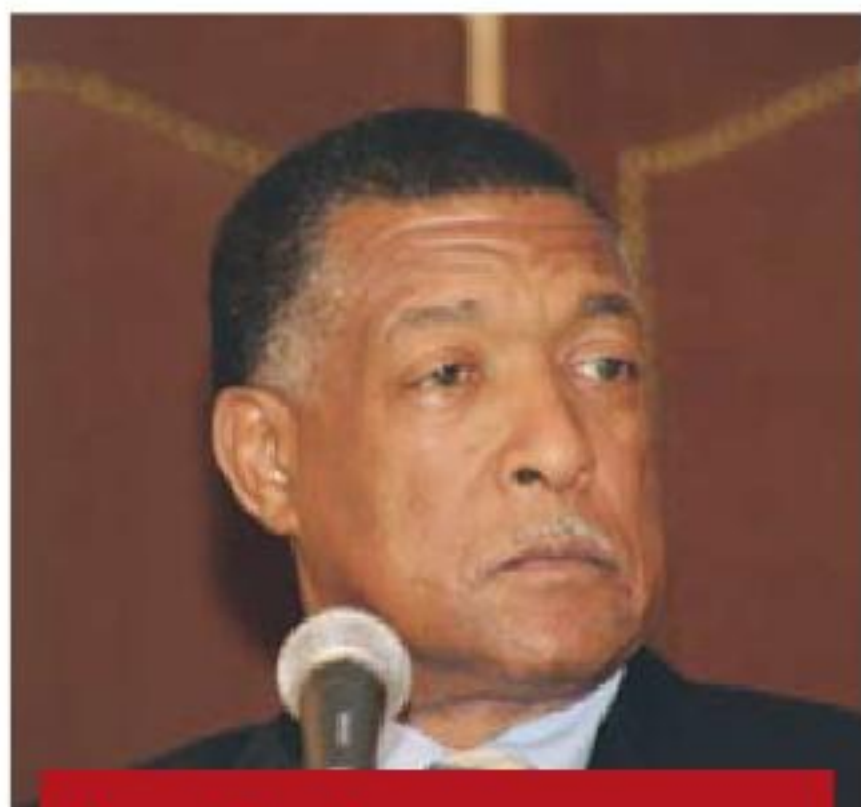
73 years old, U.S. Army veteran
Grew up in Houston
B.A. in Architecture from U of H
M.A. from the University of California at Berkeley
Masters in Architecture & City Planning
from the University of Pennsylvania
Fellow of the American Institute of Architects
Council Member, At-Large Position 1 since 2006



Roy Morales

Republican

B.A. in Psychology from UT Dallas
B.S. in Computer Science from Chapman University
M.S. in Space Operations from the
Air Force Institute of Technology
23 years in the U.S. Military
Harris County School Trustee since 2006



Gene Locke

Democrat

62 years old
Born in Conroe, TX
B.A. in Political Science
from the U of H
Graduated from South Texas College of Law
Chief of Staff to Congressman Mickey Leland
City Attorney for Mayor Bob Lanier
Partner at Andrews Kurth LLP



T.J. Huntley

Republican

37 years old
Owner of Huntley Real Estate since 1995 in
Lebanon, MO
Director of The Venue at Grace Community
Church

Intown Q&A With Houston's 2009 Mayoral Candidates

Annise Parker

Annise Parker was born and raised in Houston, attended Rice University, and worked 20 years in the oil and gas industry before moving on to public office. She then served six years as an at-large member of the Houston City Council, where she garnered overwhelmingly positive voter approval along with awards and accolades.

In 2003, Annise was elected City Controller, a position whose importance and weight is trumped only by the mayor. She was re-elected to this post in both 2005 and 2007.

Q. Do you have any plans for an expansive, reliable mass transit system and, if so, how do you propose to initiate your plan?

A. Houston must have multiple transportation options. We need a fully integrated mass transit system that includes appropriate bus routes, Park & Ride buses, expansion of METRO rail, commuter rail, the addition of more bike lanes and better roads. I am in full support of expanding METRO rail; however this cannot be done at the expense of our current bus system. Also, METRO must be transparent with all costs. What good is mass transportation if you can get across town, but not across your neighborhood?

Q. What do you propose to keep Houston's economy from sinking any lower and leading to increased unemployment?

A. I believe our starting point should be making sure that jobs funded by our tax dollars go first to Houston families. That's why I will implement, as Mayor, a Hire Houston First policy to encourage the hiring of local residents for taxpayer-funded projects and give a preference to local firms seeking city contracts.

In today's economic crisis, maintaining and upgrading our aging infrastructure is more than just a problem to solve — it's an opportunity to create good, local jobs that will power our local economy while responding to pressing needs. For example, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that \$1 of infrastructure spending can

boost the economy by up to \$2.50. That's why I have proposed reforms to stabilize funding for and modernize our infrastructure.

I will also use my 20 years in the oil and gas industry to ensure the long-term economic stability of Houston by bringing research universities and our oil and gas companies together with the city to ensure that Houston becomes the world headquarters for alternative energy.

Q. Which of Mayor White's policy decisions did you agree and disagree with and what would you have handled differently and how?

A. Mayor White and I have worked closely together to move Houston forward based on sound economic policy, not divisive politics. Like any new mayor, I anticipate making some changes in the leadership team. And faced with a different set of circumstances than Mayor White was — the economic downturn — my priorities will be driven by the need to lead Houston through these tough times to a strong economic recovery.

Q. What, in your mind, are the three most important issues facing Houstonians in the upcoming election and how do you propose to handle them?

A. Economy, economy, economy! Seriously, the economy is on the top of most Houstonians minds, as it should be. Public safety and infrastructure — especially flooding — are also pressing. I have shared detailed plans at AnniseParker.com for creating jobs and modernizing our infrastructure.

Even in this tough economy, we can't afford to give up the progress we've made on crime and safety. Although statistics show a drop in the crime rate, they have little relevance to the victims of crime or their families. We need more officers, and they should be the best paid, trained and equipped in the State.

To do that we must continue to look for ways to get more out of our public safety tax dollars with enhanced technology and better coordination among police agencies. We also need to be proactive in community education and conflict resolution programs and

ultimately better management — starting at the top. I plan to launch my detailed public safety plan within the next month.

Gene Locke

Gene Locke has been a familiar name around the Houston political scene for some time now. A definitive though not native Houstonian, Locke attended both the University of Houston and South Texas College of Law. He served as Chief of Staff to Congressman Mickey Leland and as City Attorney for Mayor Bob Lanier.

Q. Do you have any plans for an expansive, reliable mass transit system and, if so, how do you propose to initiate your plan?

A. We need to have a transportation plan that is regional in scale that will provide an implementation blueprint for sustainable, responsible transportation development for years to come.

We need to improve coordination between the various government bodies and stakeholders in the region. Our transit system must provide a diversity of options. Light rail is important and the next mayor needs to build out the rail lines that the voters approved as quickly as possible. We also need a more effective and efficient bus system. There are many people in this city who are transit dependant and rely on the public transportation to move around the city, we need to ensure our public transit system serves this population.

Q. What do you propose to keep Houston's economy from sinking any lower and leading to increased unemployment?

A. There are a number of things that a mayor can do to bring help improve the economy and bring jobs to the area. Our economy must continue to grow and create jobs. Two specific policies that I will undertake are the use of tax abatements to bring businesses to the area and encouraging larger businesses to create partnerships with area small businesses to create more good-paying jobs.

"I believe our starting point should be making sure that jobs funded by our tax dollars go first to Houston families." Annise Parker

“As mayor I will be extremely aggressive in seeking to bring new businesses to the city.”

Gene Locke

As mayor I will be extremely aggressive in seeking to bring new businesses to the city. The use of tax abatements to draw businesses to our area is something that I will strongly consider using here in Houston. In today's competitive environment we need to use every possible tool to bring good paying jobs to the Houston. We need however to ensure that companies fulfill their promises. If the city offers tax incentives for a company to relocate to Houston and the company fails to create jobs as promised, the City must work aggressively to retrieve those tax dollars.

Q. Which of Mayor White's policy decisions did you agree or disagree with and what would you have handled differently and how?

A. Mayor White has done an outstanding job. One place where I will be more aggressive than the current administration is in seeking to bring businesses to Houston, specifically in using tax abatements. We are currently competing with cities all over the world and the mayor needs to take a leading in role in selling our city. I will use every tool that I have available to me by law to draw new jobs to Houston.

Q. What, in your mind, are the three most important issues facing Houstonians in the upcoming election and how do you propose to handle them?

A. 1) Public Safety - A Mayor's first job is keeping our citizens safe. I will make sure that our police, firemen and other first responders have the best technology and training. We need to reemphasize community oriented policing, encourage our officers to live in the City of Houston and reduce pathways to criminal activity through drop-out prevention and after-school programs.

2) Economic Development – We need to continue to grow our tax base and that means maintaining the job growth we have seen in the area in recent years. Houston has a lot to work with; we

have a diverse workforce and incredible economic engines in the Port of Houston and the Texas Medical Center.

3) Quality of Life – Houston has a special quality of life. We need to increase access to public transportation (this means an improved bus system as well as light rail) protect neighborhoods from development that changes their character while bringing new businesses and development to others.

Peter Brown

Candidate Peter Brown has held office as at-large Councilman for the City of Houston since 2006. He was appointed by current Mayor Bill White to chair the Council Committee on Sustainable Growth, a body that seeks to promote environmental health, energy efficiency and conservation.

Peter Brown also maintains a career as an architect and urban planner. He is also a U.S. Army veteran, adjunct professor of Urban Planning at Texas Southern University, and board member of a number of local non-profit organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, Inprint, Trees for Houston, The Main Street Coalition, Blueprint Houston, The Gulf Coast Institution, The Houston Grand Opera and others.

Q. Do you have any plans for an expansive, reliable mass transit system and, if so, how do you propose to initiate your plan?

A. A well designed mass transit system would be invaluable to Houston. It would help decrease traffic congestion, lower transportation cost, reduce smog, expand the economy and improve our quality of life.

To be economically competitive, we need a transit system that will be attractive to all Houstonians, comprised of Light and Commuter Rail, with an improved, integrated bus system.

Additionally, I believe that an effort to expand public transit needs to start by engaging the public to not only build support, but a shared vision to ensure its long-term success. I consider the Main Street Coalition, of which I was the co-founder, is a model for an effective

community transit coalition, and I'll use my experience both in working on rail transit projects and at bringing folks in the community together to help move these projects forward.

Q. What do you propose to keep Houston's economy from sinking any lower and leading to increased unemployment?

A. Houston continues to be one of the most vibrant, dynamic economies in the world, but we're facing a global recession and we need to make sure we work to create new, well paying jobs, while also protecting the ones that are already here.

Instead of hoping for businesses to move to Houston, we must be proactive in luring domestic and international business to our City. As Mayor, I would establish an Office of Job Creation and Economic Development, to help bring new jobs and new businesses to Houston, assist local companies, and promote our City around the world. In order to continue to be competitive in the long run, we need a business plan. That's why when I'm Mayor, I will work with the business community to develop a long-term blueprint for economic growth and success.

Q. Which of Mayor White's policy decisions did you agree and disagree with and what would you have handled differently and how?

A. Mayor White has laid a great foundation and as Mayor I will continue moving Houston in the right direction. I think it's important to expand upon our progress by shaping a long term vision that will improve our great City.

Q. What, in your mind, are the three most important issues facing Houstonians in the upcoming election and how do you propose to handle them?

A. I believe that building a stronger local economy, improving the quality of life, and keeping our city safe are three of the most important issues facing the residents of Houston and they'll be a priority for me when I'm Mayor.

I'll work to bring new businesses and new jobs to the City, by forming an Office of Job Creation and Economic

“A well designed mass transit system would be invaluable to Houston.” Peter Brown

“The proven way of stimulating an economy is to let the people spend their money when and where they choose - NOT GOVERNMENT.” Roy Morales

Development. The stronger our economy is, the more jobs we'll have and the more tax relief we'll be able to provide for residents.

You cannot have a strong economy without a high quality of life. As Mayor, I would work to improve the quality of life in Houston by reducing traffic congestion, improving the environment, lessen flooding and protect our neighborhoods.

Lastly, I'll make Houston a safer, more livable City with a tougher, smarter approach to fighting crime, with more community-based policing, better communication between law enforcement agencies and the best strategies and technologies for fighting crime.

Roy Morales

Roy Morales has the most extensive military background of any candidate this election, with over 23 years with the United States Air Force. This service extended to joint operations with NASA where Roy took on the post of Operations Director for the Space Shuttle Operations Division in California. These duties included mission control as well as the training of astronauts.

Roy Morales has served not just the nation, but Houston as well. He headed the City of Houston Emergency Center while maintaining another position as Chief Technology Officer. Roy achieved more local success when he led the Houston Metropolitan Area radio project, a new step that now allows government agencies to communicate with each other.

Q. Do you have any plans for an expansive, reliable mass transit system and, if so, how do you propose to initiate your plan?

A. First, I believe that the Metro Board should be an elected board by the people. An elected board would be a great step towards transparency. Until that happens I will appoint board members that will provide

more transparency and develop a comprehensive plan that will provide a diverse modal transportation system. It should consist of downtown trolleys, buses, a monorail system and commuter rail to the outlying parts of the county. I prefer the monorail system over the current light rail because it's cheaper, less obstructive during development because it is above ground and if the monorail breaks down it will not interfere with the surface traffic.

Q. What do you propose to keep Houston's economy from sinking any lower and leading to increased unemployment?

A. I will stimulate the region with jobs, jobs and more jobs. The first phase of my economic plan is to attract new businesses from around the world to Houston and keep our current Houston businesses in BUSINESS. What we have to do is make Houston a tax and business friendly city once again. My plan includes property tax relief to families and businesses and to stop interfering with business. This is not time for gimmicks like cold call telemarketing or business regulation. The proven way of stimulating an economy is to let the people spend their money when and where they choose - NOT GOVERNMENT. I will also entertain TIRZ to attract businesses to invest in blighted areas. We need to revitalize areas like downtown and the East End which in turn will provide jobs and future tax revenue.

Q. Which of Mayor White's policy decisions did you agree or disagree with and what would you have handled differently and how?

A. I disagree with the excessive spending by our city. Over the last five years, the city's general fund budget has grown by \$1 billion. Have we received an extra \$1 billion of City services? I think not. Over the last 5 years, revenues have increased by 37% (your tax dollars) while expenditures have increased by 49%.

Q. What, in your mind, are the

three most important issues facing Houstonians in the upcoming election and how do you propose to handle them?

A. Issue 1. I will overcome this economic storm and propel Houston into economic prosperity. This is the responsibility of the Mayor. I will take on these challenges and turn them into opportunities. My economic strategy is described in question 2. At the same time, the looming city financial crisis must be solved. Over the last 5 years there has been an operating deficit of \$1.5 billion in the general fund. In other words, our city officials have spent more money than they have received through your taxes! There is more bad news. The city wide budget which includes the long term debit obligations is at an unrestricted asset of a negative \$1.3 billion. On most balance sheets of corporations that means they are bankrupt.

Issue 2. I will strengthen public safety, emergency services and homeland security.

Issue 3. I will ensure that the city improves the day-to-day services like trash pick-up, clean drinkable water to homes and businesses, repairing streets, and granting building permits in a timely manner.

T.J. Huntley

T.J. Huntley is this race's youngest candidate. He began his first enterprise, a construction business, at the age of 21.

Huntley is active in his community, serving in outreaches, missions and as director of The Venue, the city's largest young adult church service. This group, located at Grace Community Church helped get storm victims back on their feet in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike.

T.J. Huntley is also a staunch conservative, adamantly pro-life, anti-gay marriage and pro-gun rights.

Q. Do you have any plans for an expansive, reliable mass transit system and, if so, how do you propose to initiate your plan?

A. The plans for the expanding the

“The plans for the expanding the mass transit system will be to build the rail to the outermost parts of Houston into the metro areas.” T.J. Huntley

mass transit system will be to build the rail to the outermost parts of Houston into the metro areas. We will also sync the Metro buses with the MetroRail to provide timely pick ups so the citizens of Houston will not have to spend time waiting and can make it to home and work on a more timely basis.

Q. What do you propose to keep Houston's economy from sinking any lower and leading to increased unemployment?

A. We are going to advertise

Houston to the nation and to the world and bring businesses in and jobs here so the citizens of Houston can be employed. We are going to offer businesses a tax break and an incentive to get them here and along with having the advantages we have over other cities, they will come. We have the Port of Houston, some of the best universities, we are the Energy Capital of the World, we are a very diverse city and we have a low cost of living that beats all the other cities. Houston is one of the nations best kept

secrets. After we advertise what the city has to offer along with the tax break and incentives we are going to offer, the businesses and jobs will move here.

Q. Which of Mayor White's policy decisions did you agree or disagree with and what would you have handled differently and how?

A. I really like how Bill White is adding more green to the city. We have a major global warming issue in the world today. We need to make Houston an example city to live by. I would add more wind turbines, hybrid vehicles for the city employees and encourage more recycling. In addition, I am talking with an ethanol company about bringing in more E85 stations and offering their product at a reduced cost to make it cost efficient to the citizens of Houston.

Q. What, in your mind, are the three most important issues facing Houstonians in the upcoming election and how do you propose to handle them?

A. Jobs. Mass marketing Houston as I have said before will bring jobs into Houston. Houston is a great place but if no one knows how great it is, no one will move here. We will advertise through television, radio, emails, Internet sites, whatever it takes we will get the word out and get those businesses here. Crime. We are going to hire more officers to patrol the streets and also set up cameras in high crime rate neighborhoods. We are going to have all the cameras networked into one data base. That database will have a facial recognition software installed so we can not only be watching what is going on 24/7 but also constantly be scanning for criminals that have warrants out for their arrest. A study has shown that cameras alone can reduce crime by 90%. Installing these cameras is a must. We can also use this system to find kidnapped and missing victims. Public Transportation. Out of all the major U.S. cities Houston's public transportation system is the one that needs the most improvements. Building more rail and syncing the bus schedules with the MetroRail is a definite to ensure Houston will be a mobile city.

LIFE DOESN'T STAND STILL AND NEITHER SHOULD YOUR INVESTMENTS.

Time can affect you as much as your investments. While you can't stop change, you can make sure your investments match your current circumstances and goals.

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