



Mike Kieffer <mkieff@gmail.com>

Re: Questions for Eagle Mountain Candidates (Due: 6/15/2021)

1 message

Maria Hopkin <mariahopkin@gmail.com>

Tue, Jun 22, 2021 at 2:48 AM

To: Mike Kieffer <mkieff@gmail.com>

Hi Mike,

I have responded to the questions individually below. Thanks!

Maria R. Hopkin**Vote4Maria.com**

On Tue, Jun 8, 2021 at 9:54 AM Mike Kieffer <mkieff@gmail.com> wrote:

As promised, here are the questions I would like for you to answer so I can publish them on [i84005.com](https://www.i84005.com). Let me know if you have any questions. I would like to have them by 6/15/2021. This will give me some time to create the posts and to run them a few a week so residents have time to read and ingest the information. Please limit your answers to each question to a paragraph or two. I know that can be difficult to do, but it makes the posts shorter so people will read everyone's responses.

How can you balance property rights while protecting residents from predatory development behavior?

As an elected official, it is important to understand and adhere to the policies in place, while looking out for our residents' best interests (current and future). If there is a recurring issue around predatory development behavior, or a policy is too ambiguous and needs clarification to offer more protection to residents, then as a Councilmember, I would be ready to revisit the existing policy to see if something needs to be changed/updated.

In your opinion, what type of housing is needed in Eagle Mountain?

In my opinion, we need a variety of housing options in Eagle Mountain to reflect the diverse conglomerate of residents we have now, and will continue to attract. In our 40K+ population, we are far from homogenous when it comes to phases of life, socioeconomic status, family size and make-up, etc., so I think it unfair to large groups of people when there is too much focus on one (or a limited number of) idealized lifestyle/housing need(s). We need housing that will fit the needs (and budgets) of seniors, as well as newlyweds; growing families with one income, as well as young professionals; homesteaders/farmers, as well as apartment-dwellers. It's not the type of housing that determines the quality of person who inhabits it. Safe, healthy neighborhoods are built as people from all walks of life feel welcome and valued as they integrate into their community.

In your opinion, what type of housing do Eagle Mountain residents want?

I think people want options that will fit their particular lifestyle, values, and phase of life, and, as mentioned before, those are varied and diverse across our city. Some really value a spacious house/yard, and are okay with the responsibility of lawn care and property maintenance. Some value the simplicity of living in a small apartment. Some like to be somewhat removed from neighbors. Some don't mind sharing walls. I think the only "type" of desirable housing that can

be agreed on by all is that it be safe and affordable.

What is the biggest factor that brings new residents to Eagle Mountain?

When my family moved here eight years ago, I would have said it was the low home prices, coupled with the distance from big-city-living, but with an acceptable proximity to services/places of employment that brought people to Eagle Mountain. Now that population has almost doubled in size since then, and home prices have tripled, I would still say it has the suburban appeal, but replace 'low home prices' with 'safe neighborhoods'.

Eagle Mountain already has more vested houses than houses that are built in the city. What do you feel is the best way to deal with this surplus of vested unbuilt properties?

I will admit this is not an area of strength for me, and don't have a lot to offer on this subject currently. Without a lot of background knowledge and experience to work from, I would say the best way to deal with these vested unbuilt properties is to carefully consider the proposals that are brought to Council through the lens of the needs and wants of, and the impact on, our residents, then guide the growth with those things in mind.

There has been some talk about a building moratorium. Do you think a building moratorium is in order, legal, or necessary in Eagle Mountain?

One thing that I am extremely grateful to have in our city is a City Hall full of administrators who are intelligent, well-informed, and highly invested in the health and well-being of our communities, in every aspect. Their perspectives and combined knowledge are both respectable and valuable. If they are the ones recommending a building moratorium, I think we should listen and give it serious consideration. However, I think we will always have people who want the construction to halt, for a variety of personal reasons; and because of the fairly extreme growth trajectory, there will likely be some tension for a long time between land owners/developers and residents.

Personally, I had a very limited view of the kind of city Eagle Mountain even is, until I began researching our history, understanding the original framework and vision for the city; getting involved in the community through developing public arts programming; and helping to establish the EM Chamber of Commerce to better support our local business community. These things had me attending city council meetings, asking questions to understand how community-building works, and having wonderful, insightful conversations with city administrators and elected officials all along the way. I was able to see, firsthand, the amazing, tireless, and often thankless work that is going on behind the scenes -- all the constantly moving parts and shifting pieces -- that are the growing pains of a city like ours. Something like a building moratorium seems to me like an unnecessary, radical measure that could have unintended negative consequences, as so many aspects of the city's processes are intricately tied together.

Currently, the City Councilmembers are elected by a city-wide vote, what are your thoughts on breaking the city up into districts and having each district vote for one of the City Councilmembers?

I can see pros and cons in each form of governance, both the current city-wide vote and a district division. While I love seeing the divide lessen between The Ranches and City Center, it would be a shame for every elected official to live in one concentrated part of the city, and maybe not fully represent the people, or understand the unique issues, that are in other areas of the city. On the other hand, I think having a city-wide vote makes every candidate more willing to look at the 'big picture' of what is going on in the city, rather than hyperfocus on their 'home'

district. I would need to do more research on this particular proposal before deciding if it was right for our city's dynamic to get the best representation, but I would certainly be willing to consider the possibility.

Do you feel that the City communicates effectively with the residents and media?

I do feel the City does an excellent job reaching those who want to be reached. They are active with regular updates on their facebook page; they have the option to sign up for text/email notifications; the monthly newsletter is always informative; and I really like the new electronic signs that have been installed.

What should the City of Eagle Mountain do about the housing crisis, and what is your definition of the housing crisis?

The housing crisis we face in Eagle Mountain is so multi-faceted, I don't know that there is a simple answer for solving such a complex issue. We have a paradoxical-type situation, where some say we are growing too fast and need to stop building, while there is growing concern in other circles about the housing shortage, which, as we know, is driving up prices and making life interesting for anyone who needs housing at the moment. What can our city do about the crisis? I'm curious about this as well, because until this question came up, I never thought of local governments as bearing a lot of influence on the housing market. I would love to have further conversations about this with those more informed than myself.

In a survey I did, one of the biggest reasons people move to Eagle Mountain is for a "Rural Living" what is your definition of rural living?

I can see how EM might feel more rural to someone relocating from a densely populated place, that perhaps had a bustling public transportation system, and an abundance of services on every city block. However, my definition of rural living more or less revolves around my own experience of growing up in four separate small towns across Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming, which averaged in population about 100 residents each. Rural, to me, means the smell of dairy farms; being surrounded by cultivated farmland; tractors seen almost as often as cars on the road; riding the bus for an hour to get to school; and a lot of 'making do' because there was no store to 'run and grab something real quick.' It was a meticulously-planned, hours-long ordeal to go into town and run errands, once every week or two. Now, I don't mean to discount anyone who does think of Eagle Mountain as rural, because I do love the open skies and small-town feel we are lucky to find out here; but I am also appreciative of the growing access to resources, jobs, and the variety of businesses that we are so fortunate to have in our community. I think it possible to maintain a sense of that 'rural living' for those who came here looking for it, by being deliberate and responsible about both our preservation and our growth, and fostering the small-town feel through providing opportunities for our residents to establish meaningful connections to both the city and the incredible people in it.

What can you do for Eagle Mountain that someone else cannot do or you were unable to do if you are running again?

My focus as a City Councilmember will be to put my unique perspective, energy and skills to work identifying and meeting the needs of our citizens. I have a powerful combination of experience, education, skill set, and record of taking action to creatively solve issues; connect people to the resources they need to thrive; and build community networks for increased quality of life. I know the key to collaboration and synergy is a healthy balance of the willingness to both listen and use my voice to speak up for those I have stewardship over.

Are you running your campaign on your own, or are you using a campaign manager? If you are using a campaign

manager, who are you using and how can someone contact them?

I am not using a campaign manager.

Thanks,
Mike Kieffer
[iNSIDER i84005.com](https://www.insideri84005.com)