



Questions from Candidates and the Public

1. What is the status of PARS and Unfunded Liabilities?

The most current CalPERS information is based on data from two years ago. This actuarial valuation is as of June 30, 2020:

Liabilities:

- Total Pension Liabilities - \$381,700,000
- Total OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) Liabilities - \$17,300,000
- Total Liabilities - \$399,000,000

Assets (Funds Being Held in Trust):

- Total Pension Assets - \$291,700,000
- Total OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) Assets - \$13,500,000
- Total Assets - \$305,200,000

Unfunded Liabilities:

- Unfunded Pension Liabilities - \$90,000,000
- Unfunded OPEB Liabilities - \$3,800,000
- Total Unfunded Liabilities - \$93,800,000

Funded Status:

- Pension – 76.4%
- OPEB – 78%
- Total – 76.5%

The City has set aside \$305 million to cover the liabilities; 76.5% of liabilities is funded. [See attachment](#) for details on unfunded liabilities.

2. Police: Does the total of 99 employees in the Police Department include 20 vacancies?

The Police Department has 99 sworn and non-sworn positions, currently 20 of those positions are vacant.

3. Police: I have heard at times there are only four officers on duty. Is this correct?

At times, UCPD has a minimum staffing level of four officers on patrol. That minimum number is only authorized during certain days and times based on call volume.

- 4. In the PowerPoint, there was a General Fund Revenues bar chart. Is that chart based on one year?**

The numbers are based on general fund revenues per capita from the Fiscal Year 2019-2020, before the 2020 Census.

- 5. The graphic in the PowerPoint stated that Union City is near the lowest in the Bay Area in per-capita revenue. Does it follow that Union City resident pay less in tax than our neighboring cities?**

On a per capita basis, Union City has fewer revenue resources than other cities. Other cities may have different revenue sources, such as more retail shopping centers or hotels, which may generate more tax revenue. It all depends on the city and its economic base.

- 6. Do we have a business listing or any report that shows businesses who have left or started to operate in the city?**

Currently, The City does not have a list available. The City does have a list of businesses operating in the City. Staff is evaluating is such a list can be generated.

- 7. What would be the impact to police and fire if the sales tax extension fails?**

The City Council is responsible for establishing the budget. If the tax measure is not extended, it will result in a budget cut of a least \$6 million. It is the City Council responsibility to make that determination on how services are cut.

- 8. I saw in the sales tax extension arguments we have a study on the sales tax and impact on consumer behavior. Do we have a study on potential impacts to business behavior (i.e., is it harder to attract businesses, have any moved for that reason?) Can we get a copy of the consumer study/survey?**

See the [April 26, 2022](#) City Council staff report on the Godbe Research sales tax survey.

- 9. What is the most recent copy of the development agreement for The Masonic Homes of California?**

[Attached](#) is the development agreement with The Masonic Homes of California.

- 10. How many calls for fire and ambulance does the City receive for the Masonic Home?**

According to ACFD (Alameda County Fire Department) [records](#):

- Fiscal Year 2021 - 21 calls
- Fiscal Year 2022 - 13 calls

(Fiscal Year = July 1st to June 30th each year)

11. Can you share more details about the unhoused population in Union City? What was the data from the most recent point-in-time count?

[Attached](#) is the Union City Point-in-Time data from EveryOneHome. The complete report can be found on their [website](#).

12. Can you provide a copy of the presentation shared with the City Council in the fall of 2020 regarding the proposed project on the hillsides?

Attached is the [Hillside presentation](#).

13. Can I hold a “meet the candidate” events in local parks? Is this permitted?

The City wouldn't prohibit the event that you are describing in public parks or other traditional public forums. Thus, you could proceed with your events. The only caveat is that if you want to have a more formal organized or larger event, which may require a permit.

14. Update on Direction to Staff regarding Campaign Signs

This correspondence is to address the broad concerns that have been brought to my attention regarding political signs. The municipal code states the following:

18.30.040 Exempt signs.

L. Political Signs. Temporary political signs provided that such signs comply with the following conditions:

1. Such signs shall not be allowed on sidewalks, street medians, public rights-of-way, public parks, or other property, or where they may interfere with vehicular or pedestrian sight distance, nor shall they be affixed to utility poles, street signs or any public utility company or railroad property without the specific permission of the utility, railroad, or public agency;

The code is clear about the placement of these temporary signs; however, the location of the property line may be difficult to ascertain in some situations.

As a result of recent conversations, I directed Public Works staff to not remove any signs behind the sidewalk unless there is a public safety concern. Staff will continue to remove signs placed on obvious City property such as lights, bus stops, medians, parks, public buildings, and roadway landscaping that is clearly public property. I have also directed Public Works that if there is uncertainty about a sign's location, it should not be removed. Moving forward there should be no ambiguity.

As a reminder, any signs that Public Works may collect are returned to the Corporation Yard and can be claimed at any time from a box in front of the building.

15. The City received a public records request from Bay Area News Group about Measure Z and the City's budget. [Attached](#) is the City's response.

16. The City has received questions from Bay Area News Group pertaining to the budget and Covid-19 impacts to its overall operations. [Attached](#) is the City's response.

References

- [July 12, 2022](#) City Council Adoption of Resolution of Half-Cent Sales Tax Ballot for Voter Approval
- [Five - Year City Strategic Plan](#)
- [Candidate Information Night Presentation](#) - August 15, 2022
- [Political Activities Memorandum](#)