

Q3 The League of Women Voters will be holding a candidate forum on October 3 and ASMSU (the undergraduate student government of MSU) will be hosting a debate on October 14. What questions would you like to see asked of candidates at these events, and by ELi in our reporting?

Answered: 108 Skipped: 19

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Please comment on the eBay auction of land off Park Lake Rd. (Who, how, why) to a pre-selected limited number of bidders. What specific strategies would you support to return East Lansing's former single family homes from student housing to family owner-occupied or long-term rental properties?	10/12/2019 9:46 AM
2	For those to whom it applies, what do you think the Chamber of Commerce wants to achieve by endorsing you?	10/9/2019 1:42 PM
3	How many homes are owned in the city? Why isn't MSU paying more for city services since students outnumber home owners?East L	10/9/2019 1:35 PM
4	Do you plan to decriminalize air conditioning? What are your thoughts on TIF?	10/8/2019 4:04 PM
5	Will they pledge to operate an open and honest government that is accountable to residents?	10/7/2019 7:07 PM
6	Unfortunately I missed it.	10/7/2019 6:30 AM
7	How will you repair your relationship with MSU. What would the vacancy rate be on all these new apartments if MSU made students stay on campus for 2 years. What method are you using to distribute additional funds from the income tax. It appears that each department is doing a money grab when ever possible.	10/7/2019 1:01 AM
8	It often seems like the city council reverses direction based on the complaints of single, or few, citizens, in regards to plans previously agreed on (Lightspeed, neighborhood parking restrictions, etc). How would you respect their concerns without doing the same?	10/6/2019 2:38 AM
9	Forum already occurred	10/5/2019 7:33 PM
10	Do you encourage small business? How? Where was the last business downtown you shopped? How much did you spend?	10/5/2019 8:40 AM
11	position on bicycle and pedestrian transportation and also city budget process (how to keep special interests, such as big corporations, from dominating the town).	10/5/2019 8:21 AM
12	How do they think they will impact East Lansing? Proposal for all construction, getting tenants into empty retail spaces	10/5/2019 3:57 AM
13	What are your fresh ideas for development and working with the University to coordinate and complement efforts?	10/5/2019 3:11 AM
14	Unsure	10/4/2019 4:53 PM
15	What would you do to lower millage rates?	10/4/2019 4:18 PM
16	Why add more police officers? Too much is spent on their pensions already	10/4/2019 2:28 PM
17	Stance on tif, Brownfield, other incentives. Ebay sale.	10/4/2019 1:41 PM
18	Nothing	10/4/2019 12:15 PM
19	What ideas do you have regarding the pensions and budgetary concerns?	10/4/2019 9:56 AM
20	What will you do in office to correct/reverse the micromanagement of City affairs by City Council?	10/4/2019 9:22 AM
21	Maybe a discussion of what successful cities (possibly similar to EL) that they could take lessons from.	10/4/2019 9:17 AM
22	What specific policy ideas do you have to improve systemic racism and gender-based violence in East Lansing's government and institutions?	10/4/2019 9:14 AM

23	n	10/4/2019 8:47 AM
24	I was there ;)	10/4/2019 7:40 AM
25	What is your plan for improving the accessibility of the city for people with disabilities?	10/4/2019 7:26 AM
26	What cut of the pot business is mark meadows enjoying?	10/4/2019 6:14 AM
27	Why does EL make homeowners follow the "rules" but let's developers do what they wish?	10/4/2019 6:00 AM
28	Already passed	10/4/2019 5:54 AM
29	How are you going to maintain the unique environment of East Lansing? How are we going to make the financial burdens of the city work while ensuring we don't cut things like funding for parks and the arts?	10/3/2019 11:58 AM
30	How has the city implemented burden sharing in terms of cost cutting (see query on staff costs above) to complement the tax increases levied?	10/3/2019 11:05 AM
31	Do they actually have any plan for the city aside from short-term increases in property tax revenue?	10/3/2019 8:31 AM
32	What is your plan for monitoring future development? How will you support the arts in the community?	10/3/2019 8:07 AM
33	Vision for downtown development; commitment to maintain high quality fire and police services and suggestions for improvements; suggestions for improvement of parks and recreation programs	10/3/2019 8:06 AM
34	I would love for the incumbent candidates to explain what steps they have taken to address the city's race/representation problem. The city is diverse, as Meadows stated in his State News interview, but when you go to the library, the staff is white. When you go to city hall, the people of color are mostly there paying tickets, not working. When you go to other city facilities, the staff is white, and the programming is white for white people. Even this news organization is virtually all white. The uncomfortable issue should be addressed in a concrete fashion.	10/3/2019 7:55 AM
35	1.Do you support continuing expenses and legal action against the Charlotte Baker excluded from the Farmer's Market? 2.Will you cease harassment of the owner of the driveway that was approved by the city, pay for damages and commit to never let our government behave in such an incompetent, petty and abusive fashion to one of our own? 3.Will you commit to ending the city income tax early if pension/infrastructure/police/fire needs are met? 4.Will you commit to providing no more TIFs for developers in East Lansing, letting each stand on its own merit, barring some great benefit to the city that the project provides.	10/3/2019 7:02 AM
36	What is your vision for East Lansing? How can East Lansing operate within its means? What do you think should be the process for determining how to develop large projects?	10/3/2019 6:33 AM
37	See answer to #2 and add urban deer management.	10/3/2019 6:29 AM
38	Where does each candidate stand on overlay issues for neighborhoods?	10/3/2019 6:11 AM
39	If elected, what will you do to help make East Lansing stand out as a model for environmental sustainability?	10/3/2019 6:02 AM
40	Will you support the construction of more apartment or hotel housing along Grand River and in the downtown area? What are your feelings about the amount of licensed marijuana retailers in the city? Do you intend to continue the annual East Lansing Art Fair? Do you support the addition of arts and cultural festivals in the city?	10/2/2019 7:41 PM
41	I would like the League of Women voters to find out why the city has not changed the 1992 policy resolution into an ordinance and does little to keep the "good faith effort." https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/DocumentCenter/View/366/PR1992-1-Procurement-of-Minority-Women-Business-Enterprise-PDF If the city really wants to encourage minority and women owned business contracts, they should make it a law, not just a policy. They should also make sure there is an annually updated list to send vendors.	10/2/2019 10:37 AM
42	How many times have Altmann and Meadows voted for tax breaks for developers? What are the costs to the city for those tax breaks?	9/30/2019 12:15 PM
43	Whether or not we need to consider how to transition college rentals back to residential housing as more and more luxury apartments glut the market.	9/30/2019 12:01 PM
44	where does EL stand on climate change plans for future of Hannah Community Center How does proposed new development plan for Evergreen property affect city budget	9/30/2019 10:26 AM

45	n/a	9/30/2019 9:32 AM
46	Questions related to the above two topics.	9/30/2019 7:24 AM
47	How will you balance the budget and handle the legacy costs that created our budget problem?	9/29/2019 6:26 PM
48	What can be done to make downtown EL more appealing/affordable to businesses in order to attract and maintain quality establishments?	9/29/2019 5:27 PM
49	Describe your skills at examining expenditures & revenues to develop innovate insights for City government to provide the very basic service, i.e., safety & infrastructure	9/29/2019 3:20 PM
50	For current council members, how can you run for re-election with a straight face after what you've done? Also, why aren't you in jail?	9/29/2019 12:45 PM
51	Opinions on selling property on Coleman Rd. Ways to vitalize downtown area.	9/29/2019 12:37 PM
52	Do you believe downtown East Lansing have too much, too little or the right amount of high rise buildings? Are you concerned about the amount of money EL is spending in various lawsuits, and its tendency not to win them? How would you justify limiting bidding on city-owned properties to perhaps a dozen or so bidders, rather than opening the process to any qualified bidder?	9/29/2019 11:24 AM
53	How many apartments do we really need? What is your opinion of the proposed court consolidation? Does anyone have a plan for maintaining our local streets and can we keep improving as a pedestrian and bicycle friendly town?	9/29/2019 4:13 AM
54	How can the City Council have more outreach to neighborhood concerns and less obsession with the downtown. Is there a quid pro quo that some candidates are being backed by the Chamber of Commerce PAC?	9/28/2019 7:09 AM
55	Transparency	9/28/2019 4:05 AM
56	EL has seen significant recent housing development in recent years. What would be your approach to future proposals? What is your plan for how to connect to the interests of the wider EL community (including students, northern neighborhoods, etc). How do you think EL land sales should be approached? Asking about how agenda items should be placed.	9/27/2019 9:06 PM
57	How do you plan to bring new talent to EL? How do you hope to grow the community by retaining talent? What are your goals for making EL a more affordable place to plant roots? How do you intend to bridge the relationship between EL and Lansing, and in particular, along Michigan Ave? What specific policies do you plan to introduce to place EL at the forefront for fighting climate change?	9/27/2019 8:47 PM
58	1. What is the evidence of your past active commitment to full rights and equality for all regardless of racial, religious, nationality, economic status and ethnic, gender, and sexual identities. 2. Do you support the EL tax policy approved by voters and the Council last year in dealing with the city's financial problems around legacy funding.... as was opposed by the Greater Lansing Chamber of Commerce? 3) Do you believe that East Lansing has a global/international role to play in its decisions and use of its resources? 4) What do you believe should be the relationship of members of the Council and of the members of the city staff and administration with companies and individuals involved in opening new commercial businesses and building new structures in the city? Do you think those relationships have been transparent and ethical in the past? How should changes be made in this regard?	9/27/2019 6:21 PM
59	How to repair relationship with Msu, lansing, and the chamber	9/27/2019 4:28 PM
60	Are there plans for development of single-family housing?	9/27/2019 4:23 PM
61	Explain why the sale of the property near Cosco was not more widely publicized? Why was ELPL funding shifted from budget line item to a separate millage?	9/27/2019 1:42 PM
62	What is your vision for the city center beyond student housing? How do you propose controlling the local deer population?	9/27/2019 1:24 PM
63	How does your previous experience help you in negotiating with big time developers? What do you feel Council can do to help encourage unique small businesses to thrive in East Lansing?	9/27/2019 12:36 PM
64	Do you support the City income tax? If you think it was necessary, please explain why you think it is necessary? (I know this vote has already happened, but I think it reflects people's views about City finances.)	9/27/2019 12:13 PM
65	What expansions are you in favor of with respect to rentals in East Lansing	9/27/2019 11:57 AM

66	Questions related to items in #2	9/27/2019 11:11 AM
67	What is your stance on the lawsuit against Country Mills?	9/27/2019 9:31 AM
68	See above answer.	9/27/2019 7:30 AM
69	When will downtown EL get business and restaurants that are not student-focused? What do you have to say about the closing of Mackerel Sky after a long year of construction? How do you propose to incentivize creative, locally-owned small businesses in the downtown?	9/27/2019 7:12 AM
70	How are they going to prevent further mismanagement of funds by the council? What measures are they going to put in place to prevent these obvious blunders from happening again? Are they supporters of the sunshine laws?	9/27/2019 6:17 AM
71	Candidate Stanfield 's platform focuses on "inexperienced young people", MSU students, and non-permanent residents (such as "foreign nationals"). I wonder, how would his inclusion on council help the permanent residents of the City of East Lansing who pay income tax and property tax to the City? Or is the plan to tax the permanent residents and not represent them? In a world where people have their groceries delivered to them or loaded at the curb, how would you plan to modernize Council to lower barriers for public participation? Has East Lansing's government been transparent enough with citizens and FOIA requests? If no, how might you change this moving forward?	9/27/2019 5:55 AM
72	To any of the current council members, why aren't you in jail for your unethical, illegal and horrible actions and behavior? You are an embarrassment to humanity.	9/27/2019 5:30 AM
73	Would you support a secret auction of city property on eBay? Are you in favor of punishing whistle blowers? Do you think we need more student housing downtown? Should we arrest people when the city cannot figure out how to approve driveway construction? How do you feel about TIF financing for large projects? I have had two home invasions in the past year - how will you address crime in East Lansing?	9/27/2019 5:05 AM
74	How do we attract employers of knowledge workers to downtown?	9/27/2019 4:58 AM
75	1.Did you support selling city land on eBay? If so, why? 2.How do you explain a citizen being treated by the government you supervise as the owner of the "driveway" property was? Given approval, revoked, given approval, halted, threatened, offered inadequate compensation, forcing litigation. How should we as citizens feel if we know you personally allowed this to happen to one of our own on your watch? 3.Would you commit to retiring the city income tax as soon as fiscally responsible or will you just expand spending on unnecessary programs as the city's financial situation improves? 4.Will you commit to ceasing and avoiding unnecessary legal entanglements that are not part of the bailiwick of a small municipal government, but rather that of state or federal government? 5.Will you commit to insuring that all monies obtained by the income tax are committed to retiring debt, not just getting it down to a level enough to avoid state scrutiny and then spending it on other unnecessary things.	9/27/2019 4:37 AM
76	If you are elected to the city council, will you work in a collegial manner with the other elected city council members and the volunteers who serve on city committees?	9/27/2019 4:19 AM
77	Why is the city so confrontational with just about everything. From the current driveway lawsuit that is on going to the whistle blower lawsuit to actually bring up another ordinance of how rent is collected? Our city council has lost its way with with ordinances. Instead of trying to work with people or an issue they just write another mostly non enforceable ordinances. People I work with just laugh when something is printed in the Lansing state Journal always something negative.	9/27/2019 4:07 AM
78	What can be done to prevent corruption in city hall such as the eBay land sale or the absolutely insane story dubbed "driveway drama"?	9/27/2019 3:58 AM
79	How would you like to see the City of East Lansing when your tenure is up if you are elected? How do you see that happening with budget cuts?	9/27/2019 3:50 AM
80	See previous question :)	9/27/2019 2:47 AM
81	My question will be to ask what specific steps the candidates will take to preserve neighborhoods and to keep the student rentals at bay.	9/27/2019 2:21 AM
82	Why did you sell our land on Ebay without notice to the general public?	9/27/2019 12:57 AM
83	how can we make East Lansing affordable for young families	9/26/2019 8:24 PM

84	Describe your approach to decision-making around the city's commercial and residential development planning? Will you use existing planning recommendations and the master plan as a key part of your decision-making? How will you address the shifting rental market and encourage conversion of vacant student rental houses into non-student housing? Aside from housing, what other priorities would you have, if elected?	9/26/2019 7:53 PM
85	Pasd	9/26/2019 7:43 PM
86	Can we plan downtown development better? Why give away our courts?	9/26/2019 7:32 PM
87	What are your three tangible priorities for the community? What do you see as the biggest challenge for East Lansing? What are your ideas to address this problem? How do you learn what the community wants?	9/26/2019 7:30 PM
88	Do you believe East Lansing should have less government oversight of the downtown development? Do you believe past government interference has hindered progress and driven up costs for taxpayers? What would happen if East Lansing stopped working with developers by approving TIF plans? Many working families experienced a tax increase from the new income tax while senior citizens got a tax break due to retirement income being exempt, why did you support an income tax over a special millage or property tax increase?	9/26/2019 7:12 PM
89	How can they grow the business tax base to ease burden on citizens?	9/26/2019 7:04 PM
90	What are your spending priorities?	9/26/2019 6:36 PM
91	Which candidates support development, especially of blighted properties.	9/26/2019 6:21 PM
92	?	9/26/2019 5:53 PM
93	(For the incumbents): 1. Why did Lahanis (sp.?) get a 12% raise? 2. Why did Yeadon get a 25% raise? 3. Did the Mayor take a pay cut commensurate with the time he was out of the country in 2018? 4. Did Target's corporate leadership sign off on the city fire inspector's report on the building they now occupy in part? At the very least, have they acknowledged receipt of it and do they concur with it?	9/26/2019 5:20 PM
94	What is their position on following the development plan for downtown. Why has there been no discussion of affordable housing in EL to promote community diversity?	9/26/2019 5:18 PM
95	Plans to hold balance budgets while supporting infrastructure and environment	9/26/2019 5:17 PM
96	What has the current city council done that is most detrimental to the residents of East Lansing?	9/26/2019 5:09 PM
97	What are you going to do to advocate for and foster transparency of government? What will you do to strengthen partnerships and collaboration with neighboring municipalities?	9/26/2019 5:09 PM
98	Why was land sold on eBay? Do you see the rental market for expensive student housing becoming saturated with all the new development? How much is too much?	9/26/2019 5:05 PM
99	The issues stated previously.	9/26/2019 5:00 PM
100	For the incumbents - why on earth would you vote for an ordinance banning "conversion therapy," when such a regulation is clearly outside the authority of city government, and is an invitation for a lawsuit that will waste more of my tax dollars?	9/26/2019 4:53 PM
101	1. Concretely, what do candidates envision for the EL downtown. What do they consider the worst features of the central city; the best; and the features most in need of amelioration or enhancement?	9/26/2019 4:46 PM
102	1. Do you support the city's decision to ban The Country Mill from its farmers' market, and it's continuing participation in related litigation? 2. If the income of the city declined by 10%, which areas of the budget would you be likely to cut first? 3. If the income of the city increased by 10%, which areas of the budget would you want to add additional funds first? 4. A common complaint (really, spanning several areas of enforcement) is that the city does a poor job noticing and enforcing code violations. Do you agree this is a problem, and if so, how could it be fixed? 5. What, if anything, has the city learned or should the city learn from the bizarre legal drama involving resident Michael Zydeck's driveway? 6. East Lansing celebrates its commitment to diversity and inclusion, but many residents whose faith traditions (or other beliefs) reject part or all of the moral changes following the sexual revolution often feel like their opinions or even presence is undesired by the city. Should the city address this problem at all, and if so, how? 7. Do you support city efforts to mandate age-segregated housing in the downtown area? 8. Is the city attorney worth \$650,000 per year to the city, especially given his role in affirming several city actions that have now resulted in lawsuits against the city?	9/26/2019 4:21 PM

103	How important is conversion to 100% renewable energy to you? Are you willing to make this goal a financial priority for the city?	9/26/2019 4:19 PM
104	The entrances to EL from Trowbridge and Grand River have become completely sign and asphalt polluted. Visitors might think they are arriving to a freeway bypass, not a formerly charming town. Can we start valuing green space and trees over high rise apartments and parking spaces? The housing market is surely saturated by now and the dorms may suffer. Can anyone say with a straight face that the city looks better now than it did 10 years ago, even with the blighted bank building?	9/26/2019 4:14 PM
105	Ask "How do I know I can trust you to do/not what you say you will do/not do".	9/26/2019 4:04 PM
106	What will you do to increase transparency of EL government	9/26/2019 4:00 PM
107	related to the above	9/26/2019 3:48 PM
108	What is your position on neighborhood overlays? Would you vote to repeal them? Would you vote against new overlays? Do you think people ought to be able to rent their houses in the neighborhoods (beyond the grandfathered rentals and the sabbatical exception)?	9/26/2019 3:22 PM
