

<http://mysouthsidestand.com/>

The Stand: South Side Newspaper Project

1. What do you do?

For a living, I work at UPS unloading truck trailers. In my free time, I am active in organizations and movements for social justice, labor, peace, and the environment. For fun, I read books, mostly history, economics, and politics.

2. Why do you do it?

The UPS job is a part-time with full-time benefits, which leaves me a lot of time for politics and reading.

3. How long have you been involved with the South Side?

Since I moved to Syracuse in 1991.

4. What is most people's perception of the South Side?

For those of us who live here, it's home, where our friends and family are. For too many outsiders, the perception is danger, crime, and violence.

5. What do you want outsiders to think about the South Side?

The reality: The South Side is a safe place to live and visit unless you are doing the wrong things.

6. What do you think is the best thing about the South Side?

The people. Most are friendly, hard working, and care about their community.

7. What does the South Side need more of?

Living wage jobs. Affordable child care. Youth programs after school, nights, and weekends in the parks and schools. Neighborhood businesses owned by neighborhood people. Credit for mortgages, home improvement loans, and businesses. Affordable housing with more people owning and fewer people renting. Convenient public transportation.

8. What can people do to help improve the South Side?

Get active in community-based civics, economics, and politics. Civically, get active in community organizations, Parent-Teacher Organizations, youth recreation programs, and so forth to strengthen our mutual aid and social networks. Economically, participate in efforts to develop community-owned worker and consumer cooperatives instead of relying on absentee-owned businesses that suck our income and wealth out of the community. Politically, declare your political independence from the two establishment parties. The Republicans are so few on the South Side that they are irrelevant. The Democrats have 27 of 29 public offices elected in the city counting Common Councilors, County Legislators, Mayor, Auditor, and City Court Judges. Are you happy with the results? We need to start electing independents from the community that

answer to the community, not more Democrats who take the South Side's votes for granted without delivering results because we never threaten to take our votes elsewhere.

9. What Common Council issue is most pressing for the South Side?

Equity. South Siders are not getting their fair share of jobs with the city and its contractors. The South Side is not getting its fair share of public resources for housing, schools, transportation, and economic development and jobs. The South Side has been redlined and discriminated against by banks and insurance companies for many decades.

10. Why are you the best candidate for the Common Council District 4 seat?

I have been a community organizer since the late 1960s who has helped many movements win demands, from ending the war in Vietnam and ending US investments in apartheid South Africa to getting living wages and public power on to the agenda in the city of Syracuse. I have done a lot by pushing from the outside. I can do even more by pushing from the inside. I will make sure the South Side's needs and demands are heard and heeded by Common Council.