

## COGS Candidate Questionnaire

Instructions: Please fill out the information requested and return it by **3/23/24 via email to: [copperphillips@cox.net](mailto:copperphillips@cox.net)**

Upon receipt of your completed questionnaire, you will be contacted to schedule an appointment for an interview with the COGS Board of Directors.

*Your complete and unedited responses will be posted on the informational COGS website for public review, along with those of the other candidates. Please keep your answers brief.* However, if you need more space the box will expand to accommodate you. If needed, please continue on an additional page.

No.	Question	Response
1.	<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b>	
1.a.	Name	Stephen H. Casares. Major, United States Army
1.b.	Home Address	
1.c.	Phone	480.201.0583
1.d.	Years living in Scottsdale	Approximately 22 years, moved here in 1998 (short change in residency while living in DC)
1.e.	When did you register to vote in Scottsdale? Have you failed to vote in any Scottsdale or General Election since you registered?	Re-registered in July 2023. Voted every election cycle while Active Duty for AZ, minus 2020.
1.f.	Have you been elected or appointed to City positions including City Task Forces, Boards, Committees or Commissions?  If so, please list.	No.
1.g.	Please list any Civic Activities or organizations you belong to.	VFW Post 3513. American Legion Post 117. West Point Field Force Representative, CD AZ 1. Veterans Heritage Project.
1.h.	Education/Training	West Point, Class of 2009. George Mason University, Class of 2021.
1.i.	Current Occupation or Pre-Retirement	Military Intelligence officer, US Army. Currently waiting to teach at Notre Dame Prep.
1.j.	Other personal information that you would like to share:	
2.	<b>CAMPAIGN INFORMATION</b>	
2.a.	Address	19777 North 76 <sup>th</sup> Street, Unit 3213. Scottsdale, AZ 85255
2.b.	Phone	480.201.0583
2.c.	Fax	N / A
2.d.	<b>Web-site address**<i>important</i>*</b>	<a href="http://www.steveforscottsdale.com">www.steveforscottsdale.com</a>
2.e.	E-Mail address	<a href="mailto:Stephen.h.casares@gmail.com">Stephen.h.casares@gmail.com</a>
2.f.	Endorsements	N / A.

## COGS Candidate Questionnaire

No.	Question	Response
3.	Why have you decided to become a candidate for City Council?	This is my home, it's our home. I represented our Congressional District as a cadet—allow me to continue to serve. All three of my parents live here, my friends are here and have beautiful young families. I am going to teach at my old high school. That alone is worth fighting for.
4.a.	Identify 3 major issues facing the Council.	Resource Management, Population growth, Crime.
4.b.	Identify 3 major issues facing the City.	Resource Management, Population growth, Crime.
5.	If elected, what would you like to accomplish?	My three personal initiatives are Veteran Advocacy, Mental Health Care, Resource Management
6.	Are there matters that may come before the City Council in which you would have a Conflict of Interest?  If yes, what would the conflicting issues be?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
7.	<b>Identify citizen/city processes that you believe need to be:</b>	
7.a.	Created	Aggressive recruiting for first responders. Aggressive recruiting for educators in our school system.
7.b.	Improved	Forecasting—water management. They are doing a good job, but we need to manage that against population growth.
7.c.	Reduced	None I can think of at this time.
7.d.	Eliminated	None I can think of at this time.

## COGS Candidate Questionnaire

No.	Question	Response
8.	<b>Please state your position and/or action on the following zoning and land use issues:</b>	
8.a	What is your position on citywide rezoning requests, text amendments, and General Plan Amendments that significantly change land use or increase height and/or density, especially in proximity to single family residential neighborhoods?	Strongly inclined no, but I need to see the plan and zoning maps before legislative deliberations.
8.b	Conditional Zoning approvals currently do not have time limits for construction to begin and/or unless the project is amended. Should the approved conditional zoning revert back to the original zoning after a specified time period? Please provide the rational for your position.	I need to research more on the conditional zoning via an attorney. But my inclination is yes. Citizens need stability and continuity in government.
8.c	<p>In "The Outpost" project rezoning case, Rural land was rezoned to commercial adjacent to residential large- lot Rural lands, against staff recommendations, breaking with a longstanding policy prohibiting such rezoning. Another project being proposed is to rezone Rural lands from R-190 (5 acre) to R1-43 (1 acre) for a gated development which prohibits horses, adjacent to rural horse operations and stables.</p> <p>What will be your position on these and similar future rezoning cases?</p>	Under the stated conditions of what was submitted by Swaback Partners, no.
8.d.	If a Conditional Use Permit holder is not in compliance with ALL of the major CUP conditions and stipulations, how should the city respond?	I need to research more on CUP. Unable to provide definitive answer.

## COGS Candidate Questionnaire

No.	Question	Response
8.e.	Should the city government have any role in the unaffordable housing costs that are resulting in essential city workers and young families not being able to live within city limits?	Yes.
8.f.	How would you describe the effects upon the city with the addition of numerous multi-family apartment complexes citywide and the rezoning of any parcels into multi-use (apartments plus small business complex) parcels? Please discuss positive and negative impacts such as housing costs, tourism, traffic congestion, parking, Look and feel of the Scottsdale, etc.	This is important to me. I moved here in 1998 with my family. I went to high school here, I came back on military leave every opportunity which was available. This is our home. The proper frame of debate are the unintended consequences. Economically speaking, multi-units generate growth, support tourism, our core businesses of art galleries, tourism, corporate HQ, and airpark businesses. There is a cost—traffic congestion, high rises, crime. Ultimately, I want to preserve the unique identity of the Scottsdale I came to as a boy; while finding a balance to support economic viability.
8.g.	Would you support a designated Bar/Entertainment District with its own unique Noise and Event Ordinances? Please explain why or why not.	Inclined no, but would need to see the details in the proposed ordinance.
8.h.	Do you support complete control of short term rentals reverting back to cities? The legislature has refused to hear any of the proposed bills to restrict STRs in this session.  Do you have solutions to share regarding the neighborhood impact of some short term rentals?	I need to educate myself more on the issue. Emotionally, neighborhood impact is that we don't know our neighbors and have a community feel.
8.i.	Should all new projects be required to meet Green Building standards? Should bonuses (increased height, density, etc.) be offered if Green Building standards are met?  Should such bonuses be given as a matter of routine or to truly exceptional additions to projects that outweigh the value of the bonuses?	No to both.

## COGS Candidate Questionnaire

No.	Question	Response
8.j.	Up-zoning increases the intensity of land use and density. Under what conditions do you support Up-zoning?	Compelling municipal interest.
9.	There are not enough Preserve tax funds remaining to allow acquisition of all the remaining land within the voter approved McDowell Sonoran Preserve Boundary. Please state your position on ending the current sales tax or extending it at the same or a different rate and for what period of years. Why or why not?	Extend, at a minimum current rate. Uncertain about time period.
10.	<b>Please explain your position on these city issues:</b>	
10.a.	What is your vision for the city? What should Scottsdale look like in 10, 20, or 30 years from now?	Most livable City, safe, pure, low crime, unique
10.b.	What is your position on the location of the new bond-funded parking garage in the Downtown area? Please explain why you have chosen the location you chose.	I need to research more. This goes back into zoning and funding.

## COGS Candidate Questionnaire

11.a.	<p>1. The concept of Fiscal Sustainability involves managing the annual operating budget by balancing income with expenses.</p> <p>Do you identify any of the city decisions as creating a negative impact on long-term fiscal sustainability?</p> <p>2. Focus your opinions on the city infrastructure, such as roads, city owned facilities, water and sewer, and public services, i.e., public safety, emergency response, communications. Do you support using bond funds on any of the above expenses? Why or why not?</p> <p>3. There are thousands of approved apartments in the pipeline. Please describe how you think these developments will impact the city's operating budget. Please include facts to support your position.</p>	<p>1) No.</p> <p>2) Yes, it is the duty of legislators and commissioners to keep public services viable and running.</p> <p>3) Unsustainable.</p>
11.b.	<p>Currently, the city allocates funds for events that are not within the City of Scottsdale, e.g., Final Four that is held in Glendale. What is your position on continuing such funding and why/why not?</p>	<p>Do not support. We can gain revenue with tourism and ordinary flow of travel to make up the difference.</p>
<p><b>12. Please state your position and/or action on the following transportation questions:</b></p>		
12.a.	<p>The Transportation Master Plan was approved by city council at the April 2022 hearing. What decisions in that document would you encourage to change in the future?</p>	<p>I need to research more on the TMP.</p>

## COGS Candidate Questionnaire

12.b	<p>Within the Downtown area, the city has approved under-parked projects by charging in-lieu parking fees at the last rate approx. \$13,000/space which is under current value of \$50,000-\$60,000 to construct.</p> <p>This fund was to be used to build public parking facilities in the future. Staff reported that funds have been used for non-garage funding and is too small an amount for land purchase or garage construction.</p> <p><b>How do you propose dealing with Downtown parking issues and the use of in-lieu parking fees?</b></p>	<p>I need to research. Having lived in Nashville, Indianapolis, DC as an Army officer, I intimately understand parking downtown and the adverse impacts it has for small businesses and Citizens.</p>
14. <b>Identify city services that you believe need to be:</b>		
14.a.	Created. N / A.	
14.b.	Improved . Recruiting aggressively for Scottsdale Police Department, Scottsdale Fire Department, and the Scottsdale Unified School District	
14.c.	Reduced	N / A.
14.d.	Eliminated	N / A.
15 <b>Identify city revenue sources that should be:</b>		
15.a	Created	N / A.
15.b.	Increased N / A.	
15.c.	Reduced	N / A.
15.d.	Eliminated	N / A.
16.	Other city issues/perspectives you would like to share a position on?	No.
17.	Additional Comments:	Thank you for your time and reading through my outlook. Thank you for what you do for the community and keeping Scottsdale “The West’s Most Western Town”. – Steve Casares

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## COGS Candidate Questionnaire

Please type your name for your electronic signature. Thank you for your time and careful consideration of each response. **Please email your completed questionnaire by March 23, 2024, to: [copperphillips@cox.net](mailto:copperphillips@cox.net)**

**ALL completed candidate's questionnaires will be posted on the COGS website at**

**<https://coalitionofgreaterscottsdale.org>**

Thank you for taking your valuable time to complete this questionnaire.

The COGS-Coalition of Greater Scottsdale—Board of Directors

Andrew Scheck, Jim Davis, Howard Myers, Marilyn Atkinson, Chris  
Schaffner,

Stan Morganstern, Cathy McKeever, Copper Phillips, and Sonnie Kirtley