

**CITY COUNCIL  
CANDIDATE  
PROFILE &  
QUESTIONNAIRE  
OF**

**JULIEN SAVOIE  
WARD 6, SEAT B**

In an effort to educate its members and the public, the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce has created a brief profile and asked questions of each of the candidates seeking election or re-election to the Rochester City Council

**A SERVICE PROVIDED BY:**

**Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce**  
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**CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE PROFILE OF JULIEN SAVOIE**

**JULIEN SAVOIE**

**PERSONAL**

**Age:** 55

**Marital Status:** Married

**Spouse:** Kathryn

**Children:** 2 -Jil and Brandon

**ADDRESS:** 18 Birchwood Ave., Rochester

Own home

**PHONE:** 603-332-8189

**EMAIL:** [papamchn1@aol.com](mailto:papamchn1@aol.com)

**EDUCATION**

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Assumption College

**MILITARY**

US Navy-Honorable Discharge

**HOBBIES**

Running, camping, hiking

**EMPLOYMENT**

Liberty Mutual Insurance Co./Special Examiner-Claims

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

Insurance claims professional-31 years

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

NH Adjuster's Assoc.

**POLITICAL EXPERIENCE**

Police Commission Advisory Committee, Riverwalk Committee  
Squamanogonic Committee

**COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS**

St. Mary Church, eucharistic minister, religious education catechist,  
912 Project, Boy Scouts of America-Abnaki District

QUESTIONS

**1) WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR ROCHESTER IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS?**

**2) IF YOU ARE ELECTED, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN THE CITY?**

**3) WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND WHAT ROLE WOULD YOU TAKE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ROUTE 11?**

ANSWERS

Business growth  
Downtown revitalization  
Residential growth  
Prosperity

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Reduce red tape in the business application process. I would like to poll business permit applicants who chose NOT to establish themselves here and get their input regarding what drove their decisions.  
Promote Rochester as a destination for business investment.  
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As a city councilor, I would use my vote to support and encourage business growth.

QUESTIONS

**4.A) WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON AFFORDABLE WORKFORCE HOUSING?**

**4.B) WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM INITIATIVES IN WARD 4?**

**5) TRANSPORTATION IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CITY'S SUCCESS. WHAT TYPE OF TRANSPORTATION PLANS DO YOU ENVISION AND WHAT STEPS WILL YOU TAKE TO IMPLEMENT THEM?**

**6) WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE SHOULD BE THE PRIORITIES IN DELIVERING CITY SERVICES THROUGH THE USE OF CITY FUNDS IN THE NEXT BUDGET CYCLE?**

**7) AS ISSUES ARISE THAT IMPACT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, HOW WILL YOU SEEK INPUT AND LEADERSHIP FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR?**

**8) WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WILL YOU DO TO IMPROVE THE CITY'S TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY IS BEING USED TO MAXIMIZE SERVICES TO CITIZENS AND BUSINESSES?**

ANSWERS

Rochester has already extended itself to provide affordable housing.

The goal is to redevelop Lafayette Street into a less-densely populated, owner-occupied residential neighborhood. It involves the city buying housing, rehabilitating it and reselling it on condition of owner occupancy. I am not confident that government officials have competence in real estate development.

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Traffic congestion through downtown Rochester is the problem. Construction on the Spaulding Turnpike has aggravated the situation as drivers seek alternate routes around the highway construction. Traffic flow through downtown has always had periods of daily congestion. There is no easy solution.

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Public safety  
Education  
Infrastructure

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The business community knows its problems best. Their input is critical on matters of public policy that may affect them. Input from those directly affected should be solicited.

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I am unaware of shortcomings in technology.

QUESTIONS

9) DO YOU FEEL THE CITY IS STAFFED WITH ADEQUATE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

10) FROM THE LIST PROVIDED, RANK YOUR PRIORITIES FOR ROCHESTER (1 BEING MOST IMPORTANT)

11) WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON VARIOUS CITY FINANCING OPTIONS (I.E. CITY BONDING, RSA 79E, TIF DISTRICTS, OTHERS) TO SUPPORT PROJECTS?

12) FROM THE LIST, WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES TO THE FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF ROCHESTER?  
(PLEASE CHECK THOSE THAT APPLY)

FOR THOSE YOU IDENTIFY, PLEASE EXPLAIN ANY INITIATIVES YOU WOULD SUGGEST TO MITIGATE OR RESOLVE THE PROBLEM.

**CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE PROFILE OF JULIEN SAVOIE**

ANSWERS

We have well-trained, well-equipped police and fire personnel. We update our city facilities. We encourage our teachers to continue their professional training. Our roads are given regular maintenance.

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- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Economic Development efforts in attracting and retaining business
  - 10 \_\_\_\_\_ Reduce spending
  - 9 \_\_\_\_\_ Riverwalk in Rochester
  - 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Public Health and Safety
  - 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Improving Rochester's reputation
  - 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Completing the Comprehensive Rezoning process
  - 11 \_\_\_\_\_ Preserving open space
  - 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Maintaining a stable tax rate
  - 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Infrastructure improvements (Roads, Utilities, Public Facilities)
  - 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Improving Education
  - 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Cap
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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As much as possible, we need to pay as we go. Taxes collected should represent spending.

Bonding: Long-term capital improvements such as roads are appropriate for short-term bonding.

RSA 79E: Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program. This provides tax relief for property owners conducting substantial rehab of property. Allows the city to keep the tax assessment stable for 1-5 years. Acceptable.

TIF (Tax Increment Financing). This uses Federal and state money/finance sources for community projects. The money goes to development, such as infrastructure, to encourage other development that will improve the tax base. Very limited use. We can accomplish more with lower taxes and less red tape.

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- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Availability of developable industrial & commercial land
  - 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Adequate workforce and young professionals
  - 4 \_\_\_\_\_ Transportation and road infrastructure in the City
  - 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Level of arts/cultural facilities in the City
  - 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Current zoning ordinance and planning regulations
  - 7 \_\_\_\_\_ Image of Rochester
  - 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Level of property taxes
  - 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Capital resources
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS**

**ANSWERS**

**13) HOW DO YOU FEEL ROCHESTER RATES IN TERMS OF BUSINESS-FRIENDLINESS? (1 BEING BEST, 5 BEING POOR) PLEASE EXPLAIN**

Three—I believe we discourage business investment by requiring permits from both the Zoning and Planning boards. One permit should be sufficient. When reviewing prospective businesses, we should leave it up to the entrepreneur to decide if Rochester has enough similar businesses already.

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**14) WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE SCHOOL BUDGET? PLEASE EXPLAIN.**

I believe it is adequate. The School Board should continue to look for efficiencies and opportunities for savings without sacrificing results.

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**15) DO YOU SUPPORT CONTINUING TO PROVIDE ROCHESTER MAIN STREET WITH 1/3 OF ITS FUNDING FROM THE CITY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND? PLEASE EXPLAIN.**

I would need to see what they've accomplished, what it has cost the taxpayers and how they would spend additional public money to benefit the people.

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**16) WILL YOU SUPPORT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS THAT IMPROVE THE CITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE (WATER, SEWER, ROADS) TO ENCOURAGE FUTURE INDUSTRIAL GROWTH? PLEASE EXPLAIN.**

I support capital improvements that are the city's responsibility, when needed. I think it's more important to maintain what we have.

**QUESTIONS**

**ANSWERS**

**17) HOW WOULD YOU USE YOUR POSITION TO ENHANCE THE IMAGE OF ROCHESTER?**

I would use my vote to support economic development, tax relief for homeowners and prosperity for all citizens.

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**18) WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE TAX CAP? ADVANTAGES? DISADVANTAGES? PLEASE EXPLAIN.**

The Tax Cap provides predictability and stability for all taxpayers and for anyone planning to work and live in Rochester. On the negative side, it is an unfortunate reflection of the public's distrust of government ability to control its spending.

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**19) DO YOU SUPPORT TERM LIMITS FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL? WHY OR WHY NOT?**

I do not support term limits for any public office in New Hampshire, except possibly the Governor's office. New Hampshire gets it right in this regard. Our elected officials are among the lowest paid in the United States. This encourages only those who desire to serve the people, instead of their personal interests, to run.

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**20) WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF "PUBLIC INPUT" AT COUNCIL MEETINGS? WOULD YOU PROPOSE ANY CHANGES?**

I find public input works very well and support it fully as long as it is civil. If it is used to disrupt or unreasonably delay proceedings, it should be limited by the Mayor.

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**21) WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL'S USE OF ITS "COMMITTEE SYSTEM"? DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTED CHANGES?**

Very good. I would recommend formation of an ad hoc committee to assess why downtown development continues to lag.