

## Candidates Viewpoints

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**SIX**  
It is not possible for a candidate to have enough facts to evaluate fairly where specific economies are possible. However it is evident that the city government of Birmingham is fast becoming Big Business. As with any business of this size and complexity, inefficiencies creep in unnoticed as conditions change and operating methods do not keep up. This requires continuous attention and study.

**George W. Mullin**  
**ONE**  
Yes contrary to what some would have you believe all our children do not have access to a country club.

**TWO**  
It seems to me that the off street parking program has been kicked around long enough and it should be brought to a head and settled.

**THREE**  
How to finance an off-street parking program is something that requires more study than your deadline permits. Any parking in the City of Birmingham may provide cash and will be used by people living outside our city limits. In view of this I do not feel that the taxpayers of Birmingham

should pay for an off-street parking facility thru taxation. If means are available whereby those who benefit from such lots and those who use them will pay for them the city should do all in its power to promote and police them.

**FOUR**  
When the parking problem is solved and the congestion on Maple and Woodward can be corrected with less difficulty—either as you suggest or by other means.

**FIVE**  
Personally I have never experienced a parking problem in Birmingham. I may have to walk a block or two but I would have to do this if lots were provided. Even at Northland Shopping Center people will not be able to park in front of each store they wish to visit. Adoption of the City Planning Commission's program for preventing more parking problems will help.

**SIX**  
Any division of government to-day can and should practice economy—Mr. Eisenhower cannot do it all from Washington. No one who has not had access to the records and books of the City of Birmingham should attempt to answer this question. You may be sure the writer will be interested in what becomes of our tax dollars and advocate economy anywhere and everywhere possible so long as it does not harm the community.

**SEVEN**  
The major responsibilities of the City Commission in this growing community are:

Protect the City so far as our laws permit from making it the center of multiple housing developments that overtax the capacity of our streets, our water supply, our sewers, our parking facilities, etc.

Provide more adequate recreational facilities for our children and adults who do not have access to country clubs.

Resist the efforts of real estate promoters, who want lands annexed to the city on their terms, without regard for the public interest and abutting property owners.

**ESTABLISH MEANS** for greater cooperation between the Birmingham School District and the City of Birmingham which are not one and the same.

Back up the City Planning Commission in their efforts to limit multiple dwellings of any sort and control the building or expansion of business property without provision for proper parking facilities.

See to it that every tax dollar the home owner spends purchases a dollar's worth of service or convenience.

Provide adequate water supply and fire protection.

Provide adequate water supply and sanitary facilities at the lowest possible cost.

**H. J. McGowan, Jr.**  
**ONE**  
I would not favor an increase in the annual appropriation for the recreation board until I was sure that the present moneys were being used efficiently.

I believe that self supporting recreational facilities such as a swimming pool and an artificial ice skating rink would give pleasure to all Birmingham residents and most importantly help our youth solve some of their problems.

**TWO**  
I also advocate the installation of more neighborhood play areas where family and neighborhood groups of children and adults can play games such as soft ball or touch football on an unorganized or pick-up basis.

**THREE**  
If elected, I would try to accelerate off-street parking for shoppers, customers and clients, by prompt utilization of all vacant or available property for this purpose.

I believe that such land could be leased and operated for parking on a temporary basis pending the adoption of a long range program.

**FOUR**  
Basically the cost of off-street parking should be pro-rated by a realistic formula among the following groups; commercial, property owners, the city at large and the parkers. I believe that the original acquisition and construction costs can be financed on a cash or relatively short term basis and paid for by assessments, appropriations and by parking fees. Additional space should be provided as the need continues or grows and as the money is made available.

**FIVE**  
I would not change the parking regulations on these streets until I had corrected the cause for the congestion. In my opinion, the congestion is caused by shoppers double parking and block circling while waiting for what few parking spaces are presently available.

**SIX**  
I suggest that the local business people help themselves by parking their own cars outside of the congested area, thereby making more off-street space available for their customers.

**SEVEN**  
Since it is my understanding that Birmingham has just about reached its maximum growth at least within its present corporate limits, and since most of the effects of our recent rapid growth are known, it should be possible to provide the necessary facilities and services at a lower per capita cost than heretofore possible.

**THREE**  
It is my opinion that the present commission and its predecessors have served our city well. I am grateful to its members for having done so well under trying conditions brought about by rapid growth, inflation and shortages. If

selected, I shall be proud to be a member of the commission and do my best to continue its record of service to Birmingham.

**Gilbert Goode**  
The Eccentric has received no reply to the questionnaire which also was sent to Mr. Goode.

**James Couzens**  
**ONE**  
I feel that an increased budget for the recreation board would be a great help but any increase should be earmarked for a specific purpose so as not to be lost in the over-all picture. I also feel that better cooperation and coordination between the City recreation board and the Board of Education would be a great asset to the recreation problem as a whole.

**TWO**  
I think off-street parking is essential to the proper development of Birmingham and certainly would take steps to accelerate such a program. I feel, however, that the homeowner should not be taxed to pay for this program. It can be financed through the use of Revenue Bonds along with a special assessment spread through the Business district.

**THREE**  
I can not definitely say that I know the most practical way to finance off-street parking. I understand, however, that it could be accomplished through use of a Revenue Bond which would not tax the homeowners but would be paid for from the revenue produced by the lots themselves. The business district would, I believe, agree to the spread of a special assessment district to pay their share of the costs.

**FOUR**  
I think that it is necessary to remove parking from parts of some main streets. I would apply any such action until parking was arranged elsewhere to handle cars removed from the streets.

**FIVE**  
I feel that the provision of off-street parking lots is probably the only solution to improving our parking situation.

**SIX**  
Generally speaking, some economies can be made in any government but finding them and correcting them is a matter of thorough study of the general financial picture as well as each individual expense item. There are no glaring extravagances at the present time that I know of.

**SEVEN**  
Birmingham has a rapidly developing water and sewage problem. It looks as though there will be a possible water shortage in the next few years and I feel that we should look ahead to procuring water from Detroit or some other source. With regard to sewage, the River Rouge apparently cannot handle the sewage and drainage problem adequately and it seems necessary that we plan to join a proposed interceptor from Detroit.

Until now, we have had adequate fire and police protection but with the rapid growth of the city, it is necessary that our fire protection be expanded.

**James C. Allen**  
**ONE**  
Increasing this appropriation would have no great effect. The Board is advisory only and does not expend funds for facilities; it recommends. I have been and will be sympathetic to the worthwhile recommendations of the Board.

**TWO**  
I will accelerate such a program but not by advocating unwise and hasty ordinances. Private enterprise should be given first chance to produce adequate parking. The wisdom of this is shown in the Wake-Jacobson plan.

**THREE**  
Where private enterprise cannot produce parking appropriate to the needs of the citizens, it should be financed by a combination of special assessment on the benefited business properties and direct city participation.

**FOUR**  
Police traffic studies now started may show some justification for these moves. With proper provision for the routing of through traffic and additional parking, I do not believe it will become a full time necessity.

**FIVE**  
There are now available areas suitable for parking that are not well used for parking. By creation of a new zoning classification for commercial parking we can make this use practical for the owners without hurting residential values. State laws should be fostered to allow financing of parking on a pay-as-you-use basis. It can now be done only by assessment on present use without considering future development.

**SIX**  
Not without, impairing services desired by the people to maintain Birmingham's atmosphere. I will argue that we continue to hold down city tax rates.

**SEVEN**  
In this paper will be found an advertisement showing my program in other serious issues facing Birmingham. Practical experience is an asset: I have served on the Commission. A deep rooted feeling for Birmingham is vital: Our families are now raising the fifth generation of Birmingham children.

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