

Lisa Howze

Age: 35

Current Occupation: CPA/Professional Speaker

Education: Ross School of Business, 1995, Bachelor of Business Administration; Walsh College, 2004, Master of Science in Finance

Felony Convictions: None

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Why are you running for Detroit City Council?

Detroit is in a state of financial crisis. The ability to provide city services to citizens is in jeopardy; city workers' jobs are at stake; and the tax base in Detroit, supported by business and residents alike, is eroding day by day. Detroit needs a City Council that is prepared to address these tough issues and provide focused solutions to resolve our budget deficit. I will work with both residents and businesses to strengthen Detroit communities; provide youth-based services, job creation, and economic development.

I am the only certified public accountant running in the City Council race. I have 14 years of public accounting and client service experience. The City of Detroit was one of my local government audit clients while I was in business advisory services at Arthur Andersen LLP. I want to use my skill and experience in accounting and business to bring fiscal responsibility to City Hall. With integrity and professionalism, my goal is to restore confidence in City government and its elected officials.

What are your top 3 priorities for Detroit? *

My top 3 priorities for Detroit with explanation are as follows:

- 1) City's image
- 2) Eliminate the budget deficit
- 3) Disposition of city assets

Re-branding and repairing the City's image should be a top priority for City Council. For many, perception is reality, and unfortunately that reality is stalling our progress as a city and as a region.

The opportunity to streamline the cost of various City departments will help our budget concerns. The City Council through the Office of the Auditor General can order managerial and operational reviews, to determine where there is waste and duplication of effort, and then eliminate unnecessary costs.

In addition, there should be a review of the city's long-term plan and recommendations provided by the City Planning Commission, an advisory board to the City Council. The findings from the review should be discussed with the Director of Planning and Development, whose department is responsible for proposing amendments to the Master Plan, among other things, including maintaining and selling City-owned property.

Of critical concern is the disposition of City-owned assets. The executive branch and the legislative body should work in concert to evaluate the city's portfolio of physical, financial, and human capital assets. They should determine whether the assets are performing or underperforming. The criteria for selling a physical asset should not be limited to the need to balance the budget. Though, there would be an upfront cash payment that could help balance the budget, long-term assets should not be used to resolve a short-term budget deficit. The city needs to get its spending under control and optimize the use of its assets to ensure a maximum return on those assets, and place the City and her constituents in a favorable position.

What have been your 2 greatest contributions to the public good? *

In my role as Detroit Chapter President of the National Association of Black Accountants, Inc., I accomplished the following: 1) Provided local area high school and college students more than \$60,000 in scholarships; 2) Mentored hundreds of young men and women and exposed and prepared them for careers in accounting and business; and, 3) Last but not least, aided Detroit families with small children during the holiday season through NABA's Adopt-a-Family program, a partnership with Salvation Army.

What is the unique characteristic that makes you stand out among the 167 candidates running for City Council?

As previously stated, I am the only certified public accountant in the City Council race with 14 years of business advisory and client service experience. My skill set is need at the City Council table, as a vacancy will be created in the Finance, Budget and Audit Committee in City Council with the retirement of Councilwoman Sheila Cockrel. Her role cannot be filled with just any candidate, but someone with the right skill set.