



## **Business Owners' Questionnaire for 2019 SSL City Council Candidates**

**PLEASE GET OUT AND VOTE!**  
**(Updated October 3, 2019)**

SSL City Council Candidates have answered your questions!  
Congratulations to the eight candidates who have advanced to the general election on November 5, 2019!

We first shared this information in late July, and are pleased to offer this once again. Please see the candidates' answers to our nine questions below.

Please VOTE! Return your mail ballots by the deadline of October 29, or vote in person on November 5.

We have listed the candidates alphabetically, as well as noted whether or not they responded to our questionnaire.

### **Responded to our survey**

Jared Fitts  
LeAnne Huff  
George Kellogg  
Portia Mila  
Natalie Pinkney  
Mary Anna Southey  
Clarissa Williams

### **No response received**

Shane Siwik

### **Contact information for all 13 candidates**

Below is the link to the listing showing all 8 candidates and the council districts they want to represent.  
Click on each name for phone and email information.

<http://www.southsaltlakecity.com/city-government/election-2019>

## Question #1 / Name & years in South Salt Lake

- Jared Fitts:** A resident of the city for 34 years. Raised in SSL, attended Granite HS, graduated in 2000. He and his wife have six children.
- LeAnne Huff:** Resident of SSL since 2014.
- George Kellogg:** Resident for nearly three years.
- Portia Mila:** Resident for 19 years.
- Natalie Pinkney:** Resident of SSL for one year; four years in the valley.
- Mary Anna Southey:** Resident of SSL for three years.
- Clarissa J. Williams:** Resident of South Salt Lake for 10 years

## Question #2 / Current employment information

- Jared:** COO of U.S. Novelty and a leadership role since 2003.
- LeAnne:** Masters in Education and a license in clinical mental health counseling. Work for the state of Utah as a program administrator of state-wide mental health crises services.
- George:** Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the U of U Main Hospital.
- Portia:** 5.5 years with CUNA Mutual Group, insurance company for credit unions.
- Natalie:** Associate Director of Student Success for Education at Work, a nonprofit that gives college students part-time jobs and tuition assistance.
- Mary Anna:** Semi-retired and largely self-employed. Managed my father's art business and now the sole dealer of his remaining work. Substitute teacher at Rowland Hall St.Mark's. I keep busy with my volunteers jobs, too.
- Clarissa:** I am currently employed with FLSmidth, a company located in Midvale, Ut., where I am a lab technician in the Analytical Laboratory.

## Question #3 / Skills, training & experience that qualify you for the council

- Jared:** I have been a resident of South Salt Lake for almost my entire life. I attended schools in the community, from Woodrow Wilson to Granite High. My first job was a janitor at the old Woodrow Wilson elementary school. I work for a business that has been doing business in South Salt Lake since 1922. I bought a home here in 2005 and worked with the building department on several renovations. I have chosen to raise my 6 children here.
- As a business leader I understand the importance of relationships and communication. I have had the opportunity to hire and train many employees. I have also developed leadership skills throughout my career and serving in my local church. I have been around city government since a child. My family has served the city in many roles since the incorporation of the city. I know how difficult it can be to get things done and understand what it takes to make changes on a city government level.
- Brent:** I have over 30 years' experience in business and community leadership positions including:

### Volunteer

- 4 years in PTA leadership
- 4 years as a member of the Weber State University MBA Alumni Board with 3 years as community service chair
- 1 year as the leader of an organization in downtown Salt Lake City providing weekly activities for a special needs group
- 3 years on the board and running a youth soccer organization
- 10 years as a local leader in the Boy Scouts of America

### Professional

- Over 20 years as a project and program manager in business
- I help companies develop solutions to solve business problems

**LeAnne:** Some important skills to being an effective council member include being able to listen to people respectfully, have an open mind, willingness to devote time, and to make determinations on what is best for the community as a whole. My education, training, and experience have helped to foster all those skills. Since 2004 I have worked in crisis response, answered crisis calls, and responded to mental health crisis in the community. In order for me to be effective I need to be a good listener, to listen to their issues from their point of view, and maintain support in intense situations. I also need to communicate well with other partnering agencies involved in crisis response including law enforcement and fire. In my current position as a program administrator I work with different community partners throughout the state to implement best practice in crisis response. It is important for me to work collaboratively and make decisions that are in the interest of the state as a whole, also recognizing that the needs of varying communities are not the same. While serving on the mental health coalition and the planning commission of SSL, I have learned about the uniqueness of SSL, its strengths and its challenges. I also understand the importance of listening to constituents, businesses, and those that work in the city.

**George:** I have seen the City of South Salt Lake during long nights of security patrols, as an armed patrolman for a private security company. I have also served as a 911-dedicated EMT in the City of Phoenix AZ and I have renewed my EMT, as a hospital employee. I have worked in the emergency room in Salt Lake and I have seen firsthand the effects that the streets have on our youth and more senior city residents. I hold a Master's degree in Security Management (Bellevue University) and I took Ethnic Studies, Public Health and Psychology courses at the University of Utah-Denver and the Community College of Aurora. I understand many issues faced by people and their children in our community.

I currently hold the position of the Shades of Blue Utah Chapter President. This is new to Utah and the organization is focused on teaching our young people that there are opportunities out there for them in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. We teach them principles of goal setting and leadership that will serve them well in ANY career field they choose. I see the importance of young people and families succeeding, having raised three children. Families can succeed only as far as opportunities are made in their community and families know how to reach for them.

**Portia:** Worked in a local SSL credit union for 12 years (many SSL City employees and residents were members) + 5 years at another credit union in the valley. Served on the SSL Chamber of Commerce Board for many years (2004-2005 & 2008-2013) also chair of the Women in Business Committee and a Chamber Ambassador. Served on the planning commission prior to being elected to City Council. But I believe that my four years of service on the council gives me an advantage over other candidates. There is a learning curve to serving on the council, I am ready to hit the ground running.

**Natalie:** Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Marquette University and Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Policy from the University of Utah. As a talent acquisition expert and training in policy, I understand how talent drives a city's economy as well as understand how policy is researched, introduced, and implemented. In addition to my full-time work, I am an adviser for March for Our Lives SLC, on the Board of Directors for Shimmer Sparkle Shine Project, on the Engagement Team for the University of Utah Prison Education Project, and council member of the Salt Lake County Behavioral Health Services Advisory Committee.

**Mary Anna:** I am currently on the South Salt Lake Planning Commission which has been a great learning experience. I have been attending City Council meetings as well and have learned a lot about the issues that face us and about the dynamics of our city government.

**Clarissa:** I have an Associates in Pre-Engineering in Chemical Engineering. I have 7 years of experience in working in an analytical laboratory. I served 2 years on our HOA, as board president. Working alongside our management company to ensure that our community was safe.

#### **Question #4 / Primary motivation for erving on the council**

**Jared:** I love living in South Salt Lake. It has a great community feel and is a wonderful place to raise a family. I know we are transitioning to a new era in our community, we have seen increased building of high density apartments as well and new commercial centers on State Street. We need strong leaders to help navigate the changes that are taking place in our city, someone who has lived here and understands the history of South Sat Lake.

**LeAnne:** In addition to being a resident of South Salt Lake, I have had the privilege of serving on the planning commission for over a year. Prior to joining the planning commission I participated in the mental health coalition that was created by the Mayor to address the mental health needs of SSL residents. While participating in the mental health coalition I learned about Promise South Salt Lake and how this program is helping so many individuals learn the skills they need to be successful in school and life. In these positions I have worked with city staff and have first-hand knowledge to their dedication to making

our city a safe and great place to live. I want to be part of the team to keep South Salt Lake on the Move.

**George:** My motivation is to see that our community, our residents, get fair representation in our local government. I want our people to see that they have a voice in our community's affairs.

**Portia:** I've lived, worked and served in this community for 19 years. I understand the unique issues facing SSL and want to continue to be part of creating solutions to make our city a better place.

**Natalie:** To be a servant leader in it's truest form. I believe that elected officials represent and serve all the voices in their community. I believe that cities do their part in providing a fundamental need for all residents. When we have thoughtful leaders, an engagement community, and services that aim to be resources for those fundamental needs, we can all thrive.

**Mary Anna:** I am excited to be in a smaller city where it really feels like one person can make a difference. And my recent brush with breast cancer inspired me to do more with my life. I am lucky to have the time and energy to try to make that difference and to make our little corner of the world better.

**Clarissa:** What is your primary motivation for seeking a seat on the city council? I want to make our city safer, successful and make it one of the best places to live in Salt Lake Valley. South Salt Lake is unique that we are not quite big, but we are fastest growing city.

### **Question #5 / Share top 3 priorities for serving and plans to accomplish them**

**Jared:** My top priority is to help solve the budget problems the city is facing. As a business owner, I understand you can only cut so much from a budget. We need to find ways to raise revenue for the city and have a clear sustainable vision for the city. My next priority would be to take care of our first responders and city employees. They all work so hard to provide excellent services for all the residents. We need to find ways to increase revenue to increase pay for employees as well as upgrade facilities in the city. My next priority would be increasing the level of the services the city provides. We need better lighting on our streets, better parking enforcement, and we need more resources in the winter for snow removal.

**LeAnne:** My top priorities are our public safety, promoting strong communities and smart growth. I will support our first responders by working with our city to come up with a long-term sustainable solution to bring up their pay and to keep local control of our public safety. The economy is strong along the Wasatch front and is bringing opportunities to South Salt Lake. I will work with residents to advocate for smart growth that supports the needs of businesses, and workers, and improves the quality of life for the residents. The strength of our communities influences many aspects of our lives, including better health and

wellbeing. I am committed to our community and will be proactive to create ways to include and listen to the residents because we are stronger when we work together.

**George:**

1. No unnecessary taxes and thorough research on all taxes deemed necessary before they are actually made policy; transparency is essential in our city government when we are considering taxes and funding for major projects and city employees. This includes our First Responders.
2. Increase opportunity for our young people and for them to understand that this a place where they may learn to thrive.
3. Safety and Security in our neighborhoods by combining community, police, and city governance efforts. There are projects such as street lights and general road maintenance that have been neglected or managed poorly. I will do all I can to ensure safety and security for our community.

**Portia:**

1. Find a sustainable funding source to competitively pay our first responders what they deserve.
2. Continue to work with Salt Lake County to ensure that our new library will be an amenity for all our residents
3. Prioritize improved street lighting to help reduce crime in our neighborhoods.

**Natalie:**

A) Participatory Budget (creating budget committees and delegates who work with the council and experts to have a process each year where the city votes on what should be done with discretionary funds of the budget).

B) Community/Neighborhood Councils (establishing a neighborhood council similar to the other 15 cities in the valley that allows for more community engagement and sense of belonging)

C) Increasing Creative Revenue Streams (looking at ways our daytime and uniqueness can serve our community by implementing creative streams that have been done successfully in other cities in the country)

**Mary Anna:**

*Smart Growth.* I see how our city is changing so rapidly and want to make sure we do it right. We need to concentrate density along transit lines so that traffic and parking problems don't develop and we need to make sure that infrastructure is there to support the growth.

*Clean, walkable, and well-lit streets.* I walk my dog every day and now I'm walking our neighborhoods canvassing. I see a lot of room for improvement with respect to walkability. Walkable neighborhoods are healthier and friendlier and higher walkability scores mean higher property values. I would like to see more crosswalks and better street lighting. I know that the city has plans for these things but actually getting them funded is the problem. I would like to make it a budget priority. I am also trying to do my part to keep the streets clean by picking up litter everywhere I go as a candidate and as a dog-walker.

*Public Safety.* I believe that we need to retain local police and fire departments that can be responsive to our specific needs. And we need to pay them competitively. We have to acknowledge that we are part of a larger regional economy and respond accordingly.

**Clarissa:**

- 1.) Police and Fire. Ensuring that our men and women are compensated well, that it not only keeps them within our city. Even if this means increasing city taxes. It's a small amount, compared to how much they are willing to risk every day for our city.
- 2.) Infrastructure of the city. With SSL growing at a rapid rate and we need to ensure that our city is up to task of handling that growth. We can't expect problems to fix itself, we need to work together with city staff to understand where and what the greatest needs are of the city.
- 3.) Listening to the residents that have elected us. Work with them and seek ways that we can make our city a better place to live. Everyone has ideas of what can make our city better, and we need to begin by listening to the residents. And seek ways of how we can make them a reality.

### **Question #6 / Plans for ensuring a strong City Economic Development Department? Recent budget cuts have made it difficult to provide high quality service with the City's rapid growth**

**Jared:** I would invest more resources into both departments. We need to hire more employees to staff the departments. The city should also put time and effort into continuing to grow the economic community. Our chamber should be active in helping grow businesses within the city, helping with promotions and marketing.

**LeAnne:** As a planning commissioner, I have seen the struggles the city is having because a lack of staff to process all the growth that is happening in SSL. In order for the SSL to be effective, efficient, and grow smartly, we need to have fully staffed and appropriately paid departments. Instead of making budget cuts to already strained city departments, I would propose a long term solution of sustainable income for our city. I understand it is not popular to raise taxes, however SSL has not raised taxes since 2006. Raising public safety salaries is an issue across the Wasatch front and most cities are proposing either a fee or a property tax increase that is dedicated to law enforcement while keeping the needed staff in the Department of Community and Economic Development as well as the other city departments.

**George:** Economic development may be bolstered by reducing or at least no increasing taxes on businesses. I have never believed that you may tax a people into prosperity. A budget review may be in order to see what funds, if any, can be spared to help increase the strength of our Community and Economic Development. We do need to adjust for city growth. Keeping a finger on the pulse of the city budget will be necessary to allocate funds reasonably and fairly across the board for all departments.

**Portia:** Our Community & Economic Development department must be properly funded. One big issue is that many of our ordinances are outdated and make it difficult for staff to work efficiently. This would be the first problem that I'd like to solve, and this means dedicating staff and financial resources in the effort.

**Natalie:** Economic Development of SSL is critical to our perseverance and survival. I would like to see more private-public partnerships to increase small businesses and entrepreneurship. With a large population of low-income, people of color, there are ways we can make sure that the talent we have is being met with jobs opportunity, housing opportunity, and resources that allow for new businesses.

**Mary Anna:** I feel strongly that the recent cuts are penny wise but pound foolish. Trimming the budgetary fat is one thing, but the draconian cuts throughout every department are quite another. We need to invest in our city, especially during this time of growth. And investments in Community and Economic Development come back to us in spades.

**Clarissa:** Communication. Communication between city staff, elected officials and potential business developers/owners. Also listening to the ideas of our residents and based on those ideas, a city can make plans to determine the type of businesses that would boost the economy of South Salt Lake.

### **Question #7 – Plans for building a strong city & business partnership?**

**At a minimum, this includes listening to and working with the businesses that provide a substantial portion of the City's revenue.**

**Jared:** A strong relationship with businesses is crucial for a well-run city, we need business to be strong and grow in the city. I view the relationships in the city as 3 groups, the residents, the business community and the city government. We need each other and when we work together to make our community a better place we all prosper. Strong businesses mean more revenue for the city, more revenue means the city can provide better quality services at lower costs for residents. Lower costs for residents and higher quality services make for a higher quality of life and makes living in the city more enjoyable. Helping business thrive in the city is best for everyone.

**LeAnne:** I believe this partnership is paramount to the success of smart growth as the city's economic development generates 40% of SSL revenue each year. Strong collaborations between cities and businesses result in ability to efficiently process and complete important projects and plan strategic growth. No matter who you are, everyone wants to be heard. Listening to each other is the foundation of any successful partnership. I am always learning and I will work hard to promote a strong partnership with the city and businesses. I will continue to educate myself by listening to the businesses in SSL, their ideas and concerns and work together on promoting smart growth. I have been very excited about the new businesses coming to south salt lake that are attracting people from surrounding cities, including the new restaurants, breweries, and music venue.



**George:** I certainly agree that a strong business and city partnership is needed to ensure that enough business stay in South Salt Lake to keep us growing and prospering. I want the businesses and citizens of South Salt Lake to have a voice and for the city government to be transparent in plans for growth. The revenue of our businesses is essential and we need to listen to the business leaders from small businesses to major corporations.

**Portia:** Our city is unique in the fact that we are primarily made up of businesses. Elected officials would be foolish to ignore our business owners and the necessary revenue they provide. I have and will continue to support our local businesses, including a strong partnership with our chamber.

**Natalie:** I think this is one of many keys to building our city, is with partnerships. I want to work to create more partnerships including thinking of innovative and creative ways. This includes, using our current city population as a local asset that drives local purchasing and buying powers by increasing our anchoring institutions and I believe that partnerships is one vehicle for that goal.

**Mary Anna:** South Salt Lake is supported in large part by our businesses. We need to support them and encourage an environment of communication. Locally owned, independent businesses are part of the fabric of the community and we need to welcome more of them and make our city an even better place to do business!

**Clarissa:** In order for a business to be successful, it needs to backing of great people. But that all starts with careful planning and communication between business owner, they city and city officials. How can the city keep them successful in SSL, by providing some small business training or hosting an event where the city staff can provide insight into areas such as finance, publicity or even legal advice on how to get started. Business owners have to know that they are not in this alone.

## **Question #8 – Do you support the SSL City Police & Fire Departments? Do you have any plans to consider joining Unified Fire and/or Police? Why?**

**Jared:** I support both the Police and Fire Departments of the city. They both do an incredible job keeping us safe and providing top quality service to the citizens of South Salt Lake. I know both the Police and Fire Chief a little bit, we have had a few conversations about the challenges with pay and keeping quality individuals. They both run very high quality departments and we as a community are lucky to have great leaders leading our first responders. I wouldn't support joining UPD or UFA, I think the control of the departments should remain with city leaders. I also think it's very important to have great working relationships with both agencies, they have resources we can't afford as a small city. I know some of the police officers from the many programs they offer to the community and schools. I know a few of the firefighters as well and have spoken to several about the challenges the city faces with pay and keeping quality people.

**LeAnne:** I strongly support the SSL City Police and Fire Departments. In my current position with the State of Utah as well as previous employment I have made it a top priority to build

strong relationships with our first responders at the local and state level, as they are the de-facto response to mental health crisis. If we better support our first responders, we better support our community. I provide oversight to the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program state contract. Part of the CIT program is providing law enforcement training on how to respond to mental health crisis, with the main focus on building strong community partnerships between police, mental health and advocacy. I am responsible for coordinating the annual Mental Health Crisis Response Summit of Utah that brings together first responders around the state including, police, fire, dispatch, EMS, mental health, ER staff, etc. Chief Jack Carruth has been a support, and briefly sat on the planning committee for this summit providing law enforcement representation. Currently we have representation from our SSL Fire Department on this planning committee. In these positions I have met regularly with our SSL Police and Fire departments. I support keeping local control of our public safety and I don't support contracting out to Unified.

**George:** It goes without saying that supporting our local First Responders must be supported if we are to have proper first response in our city. I have worked with the police and fire in my career at the hospital and with that security patrol company I worked with earlier. I have volunteered with the SSL police department as a citizen to help out from time to time. I am scheduling, soon, a ride along opportunity with the SSL police to witness firsthand what is happening with our police and fire in the night when most people are asleep.

**Portia:** SSL Police and Fire have my unwavering support! I have endorsements from both the police and fire unions. My interest is strengthening and maintaining local control of both organizations. As well as making sure they are compensated fairly for the job they do for our city.

**Natalie:** I am the daughter of a law enforcement agent, I have respect, honor, and support the work our SSL City Police and Fire do. That is why it is crucial we build an economy that supports these entities to the fullest and that is beneficial to our city. I have begun having conversations with our Police Chief and Fire and it is my goal to continue these conversations. These conversations look like understanding the true needs of each department and how we can build community trust and engagement. I do not have any plans of contracting our current services to Unified as I believe that we currently have the ability to sustain our services at their current model.

**Mary Anna:** See my answer above for more about my support of the Police and Fire departments. I don't believe that joining Unified would benefit us. I don't think it would save us any money and the loss of local autonomy and control wouldn't be worth it even if it did. I have met with our police and fire chiefs and indicated my support.

**Clarissa:** I am a huge supporter of our men and women who serve our public safety. In the years since I have lived in SSL, I have worked closely with several officers in making our community safer, by making our community apart of the neighborhood watch. I also have family members who serve as Police Officers on the Navajo Nation. I was also a volunteer firefighter for 2 years on the Navajo Nation. I don't believe that a move to Unified Police

and Fire is ideal for South Salt Lake. South Salt Lake is a unique city, and so are the men and women who serve us. Many have built relationships with residents and business owners, that if that were to be taken away, those relationships get lost. It's because of those relationships, that we feel a sense of community with them. They aren't Police Officers or Firefighters, they become friends and often times, we feel them as family.

## **Question #9 / How will you work to develop a stronger partnership among all council members and the City's management team and departments?**

**Jared:** Finding common ground is crucial to building strong relationships. We all want the best for the city and the resident. Understanding each other and our concerns is important for open communication. The current city management team has done a great job navigating the challenges the city faces in our changing valley. I want to work together to help build a better South Salt Lake for all of us.

**LeAnne:** I will work hard to develop positive working relationships with city council members and city staff by having respect for our city's management team, listening and validating individual concerns, and respecting differing opinions while working toward mutual agreements. I will work hard on knowing that I always have something to learn, and will continue to educate myself on understanding the councils, and the city, legal and financial responsibilities.

**George:** The council members need to feel less divided by holding more open and honest dialogue with all departments they serve. The voters have a right, indeed, an obligation, to hold the city council accountable for their actions in the name of the voter. The voters need to see and understand what city management is doing and why they do it; as does the council. I would foster more transparency and openness with the city management teams and demand that the Mayor's office explains what is happening with tax dollars, how they are being spent and what the city's plans for major projects in the future. These plans would include those involving city landmarks, parks, historical sites, community centers and so forth.

**Portia:** It all starts with listening, and then once we truly understand each other's perspectives trying to reach compromise. During my first term on the council, I'm proud to say that I was always willing to talk to everyone both on and off the record.

**Natalie:** I hope to bring compromise, collaboration, and cooperation to the council and the city management. We need to be a council that doesn't use our city administrators as props to further our agenda or use the council as a way to increase our individual political goals. We are on the council to serve and to create a stronger city.

**Mary Anna:** I am disheartened to see how polarized and divisive our city government is. Whatever the outcome of this years' elections, there will be a new city council in 2020 that will have a fresh opportunity to open up the lines of communication with Mayor Wood and the dedicated professionals on the city staff. Should I win this election, I pledge to listen

respectfully to all sides of any issue, keep an open mind, and strive to be an independent voice of reason.

**Clarissa:**

Communication is the key to ANY relationship. As elected officials, we get elected with hopes that we can change everything to make a better livelihood for our neighbors and ourselves. We have to realize we can't do it alone. There are many people who work with the city, and they work there because they have an understanding of what they need to do and even how to do it. We can't expect a city to be successful, if we can't work city staff, or even the Mayor. We have to understand and trust that all who are employed with the city, are the best at what they do.

- ***End of document*** -