



RESPONSES OF CLEVELAND MAYORAL CANDIDATE ZACK REED TO FOUR QUESTIONS FROM THE CLEVELAND DIGITAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

Received Tuesday, October 31, 2017

1. As Mayor or a Member of City Council of the City of Cleveland, will you propose and support City funding of at least \$1 million a year, starting with the 2018 budget year, for Neighborhood Technology Centers to a) provide basic digital literacy training for community residents, and b) help eligible residents to take advantage of existing affordable Internet programs?

While I support this program, in prudence, I cannot make a specific monetary commitment without first carefully reviewing the 2018 budget in its entirety. I am however, committed to bridging the digital divided and strengthening neighborhood tech centers. I plan to look further into the matter after the 2017 election.

2. As Mayor or a Member of City Council of the City of Cleveland, will you propose and support the expansion of the City's free public wifi network to provide Internet access to residents and neighborhood businesses throughout the city, within the next two years?

I strongly believe that lack of access equates to lack of opportunity. Too many of our residents have been left in the dark as it relates to equal access to high quality internet. To that end, as Mayor of Cleveland I will support the expansion of the city's free public wifi.

3. As Mayor or a Member of City Council of the City of Cleveland, will you propose and support the creation of a City-owned, city-wide optical fiber broadband network to provide affordable, very fast Internet services to Cleveland homes and businesses — as a City utility service, a delivery option for new competitive private Internet providers, or both — within the next four years?

I would like to enhance the existing fiber optics capabilities the city has. But we must better manage our existing public utilities better before we can expand to a city serviced broadband/fiber optic internet.

4. As Mayor or a Member of City Council of the City of Cleveland, will you propose and support the creation of a new Cabinet-level executive position, in the 2018 budget year or earlier, dedicated solely to leading City efforts to promote universal digital literacy and broadband Internet access — starting with the proposals described in Questions 1, 2 and 3?

I find this to be not only important but necessary. Again, we must be mindful of budgetary constraints as we seek to remedy a myriad of problems facing the city. Having said that, I can assure you that we will take ALL appropriate measures to ensure that digital literacy and universal access are made a priorities in my administration.