

## **Manchester mayoral candidate Joyce Craig releases plans for economic development and fiscal responsibility**

Mayoral candidate Joyce Craig released two plans today; her “Economic Growth and Opportunities” plan and her “City Management and Fiscal Responsibility” plan. Craig believes that these important issues are related. She is issuing these platforms together to give Manchester residents a comprehensive understanding of the approach she would take to managing the city’s finances and encouraging economic growth to build a stronger Manchester for the future.

“Manchester needs a mayor with the energy to promote economic development and foster community that will allow us to build a stronger Manchester,” said Manchester mayoral candidate Joyce Craig. “We should be doing everything we can to expand on the work of community-led initiatives and make Manchester an appealing place for people to live and work.”

“Our city has lost opportunities in the past due to poor city management and it needs a mayor who will make smart and fiscally responsible decisions,” Joyce Craig continued. “My plan to improve city management will ensure that Manchester is always prepared to seize opportunities to help our city grow. We need to set priorities in Manchester that reflect our values, while respecting the tax cap.”

Joyce Craig began rolling out her campaign platform last week with her plan for “Transparency in City Government.” After this week’s release of her “Economic Growth and Opportunities” and “City Management and Fiscal Responsibility” plans, Craig will continue by issuing plans relating to public safety and education.

### **Economic Growth and Opportunities**

Manchester has incredible opportunities. We need a vision for short and long-term improvements that develop a sense of community and promote economic development throughout our city. Manchester should be a place where people want to live, work, and raise a family. Creating spaces for people to come together is important and we should expand upon community led projects, such as Manchester Connects, to revitalize our public spaces and make our city an inviting place for businesses and residents. We need a Mayor that will create a climate that encourages businesses and entrepreneurs, and spurs growth to expand our commercial tax base.

#### **As Mayor, I will:**

- Establish Mayor’s Business and Economic Development Council to create a plan for long and short term economic growth
- Reinstitute matching grant programs such as façade improvement and code compliance program to support small local businesses
- [Adopt recent state legislation](#) granting tax relief for manufacturing and other commercial and industrial businesses that open or expand in Manchester, this will allow companies in our

millyard, like Dean Kamen's ARMI project, to grow and expand, while attracting more innovative businesses

- Actively engage with the Manchester Development Corporation (MDC) to ensure the city is utilizing available resources to support economic development opportunities
- Partner with Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission (SNHP) to expand economic development and grant opportunities in Manchester
- Create a more pedestrian and bike friendly city
- Advocate for the riverwalk project and creatively connect the downtown district to the riverfront
- Work with private rail service to extend proposed line from Nashua and Bedford to Manchester's millyard
- Cultivate community and celebrate our city's history, culture and diversity through public art and community spaces and events
- Make Manchester a more attractive place for new and existing businesses by addressing long ignored issues such as parking, road quality, and traffic congestion
- Propose more flexible and modern zoning regulations such as performance zoning to promote growth

### **City Management and Fiscal Responsibility**

Manchester needs smarter management of city departments to protect taxpayers. Our city has lost tens of millions of dollars in revenue under Mayor Gatsas. Surrounding towns left our school district resulting in the loss of \$15 million in revenue, the Mayor killed the solar array project which would have created tax revenue and saved the city energy costs, and the city's bond rating was downgraded. This demonstrates poor fiscal management that Manchester taxpayers cannot afford.

Manchester is stronger when we work together to accomplish our goals. Effective city management, smart fiscal planning and implementation is crucial to protecting our hard-earned tax-dollars and building a stronger Manchester. Our community should come together around shared values to accomplish an agenda that makes Manchester a better place to live, work, start a business and raise a family.

### **As Mayor, I will:**

- Present a budget to the Board of Mayor and Alderman that respects the tax cap
- Set citywide goals to improve education, public safety, and grow our economy

- Develop a long-term infrastructure improvement plan to prioritize infrastructure projects
- Evaluate the processes for selling city property, amending zoning ordinances, and approving developments to protect homeowners and neighborhoods from outside interests
- Issue a request for proposal (RFP) for renewable energy options such as solar and wind to decrease city energy costs and increase revenue
- Create a tax assessment relief for solar installations on residential, commercial, and industrial properties to encourage clean energy development by property owners and allows them to save on energy costs
- Regularly visit businesses across Manchester to promote job growth and economic development and assess needs from City Hall
- Establish regular meetings with all department heads to monitor progress on goals and stay ahead of problems
- Improve communication between the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the School Board to produce better outcomes for our students
- Hold regular meetings with Manchester's state legislators to discuss city priorities and legislation that will help us build a stronger Manchester
- Improve senior services to ensure seniors have access to and understanding of available city benefits including the senior property tax exemptions