

## Political Questions – Leonard Singer (2011)

**Why this candidate wishes to be a member of the House of Keys?**

To speak up for the town and the people whose voice has not been heard during the last 5 years. Not seeking election on the backs of the people for self promotion but to be available for them when needed. To promote and defend the Island but being prepared to challenge decisions which are detrimental to good government.

**How well does the candidate think that the present?**

Very poorly, Government has had no clear leadership, has not been prepared to face obvious problems and has continually had to u-turn on policies. The debacle on the Reciprocal Agreement, the bus timetable changes, Richmond Hill, the airport runway, overspends, longer and longer hospital waiting lists and the major future problems of the 'pensions' blackhole' and the 'Gawne roundabout' are just a few examples of bad management and Ministerial lack of ability.

**If the candidate were elected, what would their priorities be at a constituency level?**

Speak up for the people of Ramsey. To positively promote Ramsey to attract investment and reversing the apparent policy of promoting

**If the candidate were elected, what would their priorities be at a national level?**

Douglas as the only business centre therefore attracting more investment, more jobs, both full and part-time to our town. There is already area zoned for business development in the town. Working closely with the Commissioners and seeking the transfer of some powers to the Town on an agency basis including Planning.

Health, Education and ensuring the protection and support of the most vulnerable in our Society. Adopting a policy of joint equity to enable more people, particularly younger people, to take the first step on the property ladder. If job cuts are necessary to reduce spending within Government, this must be equally spread, including senior management. Promoting the Isle of Man to bring about further diversity within the economy creating opportunities for investment from both on and off island so that there will be less reliance on any particular sector. Adopting a Freedom of Information Act which does exactly that.

**What does the candidate view as the**

Politically, reducing the power of the

**main political and social issues facing the Isle of Man in the next 5 years?**

Council of Ministers bloc vote which at present has meant that public opinion can be ignored. Socially, ensuring in these difficult financial times that the weakest in our community are protected including children, the disabled and those who cannot speak up for themselves. Justice, recognising that there is seen to be more support given to the victim than the aggressor. Decisions within the Court system should reflect the seriousness of the crime. Keeping watch on population growth and preventing abuse of the work permit system. Protecting the beauty and peaceful environment of our Island.

**How would the candidate deal with the challenges/issues over the next five years - as stated in the Main Social Issues question?**

Being aware of the actions of all Departments and how close they monitor how their responsibilities are being undertaken fairly by the officers under their control. Listening to the general public as to their satisfaction or otherwise of policies related to Social care. To sum up, an MHK should have 'their finger on the button'

**What does the candidate feel has changed for the better, for Isle of Man**

In limited matters, public pressure has resulted in the actions of Government

**residents, in the past five years - giving examples?**

being overturned or reversed, such as the Reciprocal Agreement.

**What does the candidate feel has changed for the worse for Isle of Man residents, in the past 5 years - give examples?**

Government is no longer trusted by the people. For senior citizens, pension increases have not been anyway near inflation. Money has been wasted on projects which should have been put to much better use benefitting the Community. Off-Island travel. (Cheaper fares would result in more people travelling creating a balance of income to the Companies)

**Does the candidate feel that the Isle of Man has been too reliant upon the financial services industry?**

The reliance on the financial services industry has reduced in recent years due to the establishment of other industries and services. However, the finance sector is still a very important part of the economy and the Government has not succeeded in fully selling its advantages of a well regulated and stable industry to the UK or a wider world audience. We are still looked upon as a tax haven by some sections of the world's finance industry and greater efforts are needed to prove them incorrect in their assumptions.

**If The candidate feels there is too much Financial Services reliance, how does the candidate feel that they would further diversify the Manx economy?**

Identifying stable and growth economies in the world and targeting them,encouraging investment in the island both financially and with modern industry which is of high value but with staff levels that are suitable to the isle of Man.

**Is the candidate in favour of independence from the United Kingdom?**

Not at this time.

**Is the candidate in favour of -and if a standing member, did they vote for- a popularly elected Legislative Council?**

Yes

**Is the candidate in favour of -and if a standing member, did they vote for- a popularly elected Chief Minister?**

Yes, if a suitable method of election can be devised.

**Is the candidate in favour of nationalisation of air and or sea services to and from the Isle of Man?**

No

**Is the candidate in favour of onshore wind farms in the Isle of Man?**

No,unless they are in areas not affecting scenic beauty.

**Is the candidate in favour of Means testing for "universal" benefits and**

Depending on the level of the means testing.

**social housing?**