David Colby Young

the two Auburn City Councilors at-large for the following reasons: I have been an Auburn City Councilor since January 2009. I have been a voting member of the Auburn School Committee for 10 years, and was elected to serve both the City Council and the School Committee for the same four year period. I am team player. I will be an asset to the Auburn City Council for the next 2 years.

2. Other than the biggest issue of the

merger, which does not now look like it will pass, we need to continue to find ways to grow our tax base if we want to have a strong voice in Augusta, keep people here, and also attract people from everywhere to move here. Having two different options has to be a better plan than just one.

3. This is a difficult question because I was not ready to pass this year's budget, so I voted against it. Many times we need to be careful of the debt we are loading up on the taxpayers. Having said that, I will support the budget as it stands. The good move was

our support of the Auburn School Budget, with the agreement that any extra funding from the state be used for tax relief for the 2017-2018 budget. The school committee wanted to use it for future tax relief, but that was not what the City Council and the voters agreed to in the vote in June.

4. This is a great question — it is going on now. Things do not happen as fast as (people) would like. We have to ask the question, are we working for our goal or against our goal? I would say a better measurement of our growth is needed. 5. The question of the merger is not the answer. If it is the will of the people, we will find a way to make it work, but it is not what the people want. The merger is a plan that most people feel comes with more costs than savings. The people I talk to are coming here to get away from Portland. Yes, they are still working in Portland, but there are not looking to move to "another Portland." We would do better to look at Auburn and Lewiston as two different options for Portland workers to live and play here.