

124 SW Adams, Ste. 300  
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## PROGRESSIVE PEORIA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE CANDIDATE SURVEY

### Peoria City Council at large survey

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Please include a resume and any campaign literature that you would like to share with the Progressive Peoria PAC.

### What are your top three priorities if elected?

- **Core Services** - Having adequate numbers of trained police officers and properly placed fire stations are key to a solid foundation for the safety and progress for our city.
- **Crime** –Ensuring punishment for criminal behavior. I support the drug court program and believe family responsibility can change criminal habits over time.
- **Economic Growth** – Partnering and working with developers to attract new businesses and jobs resulting in positive city growth.

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### **What are the key business issues in the city and what will you do to address these issues?**

**Economic Growth** – we need to market and attract people and companies that want to live, work and stay in Peoria. This is important as we need to grow not only our base of technology related jobs but our manufacturing job base as well.

**Vocational Education** – How can the city, local school districts and the higher education facilities work together to develop an education opportunity for high school students that want to stay and work in Peoria. I would envision a partnership with these groups that would afford the opportunity to grow, stabilize and expand our job base.

**City wide wireless** - this is a tool that will allow businesses/employee's to be effective wherever they are at within the city.

**Crime** – with the increase in crime across the city, we need to address the negative impact it has not only on residents, but also businesses. Reducing the number of crime events by utilizing neighborhood watch groups will improve city-wide morale and help us to be more attractive to residents and business owners considering our city for expansion and re-location.

### **What will you do to make Peoria city government more effective?**

I think it would be a good use of resources to do a process review by department. This would provide an opportunity to interact with each department employee, map out each job function and provide a benchmark for how things are done. The important thing that can be learned from a process review is what things work well and what things don't. Once we have the data, we can then begin to identify improvements that can make an organization more effective. This review would need to include city employee's and make them part of the evaluation process.

### **What do you believe needs to be done to make Peoria City Hall more business friendly and how will you accomplish it?**

To have a friendly atmosphere, you need to have a positive morale of all employees. If there is a perception that City Hall is not friendly, I think we need to look inward to try to determine the causes of a non-positive, non-productive environment. Employees need to be part of any improvement process and part of the solution.

I would recommend forming a small team of council members and staff to perform interviews with departments to search for ideas of improving how we could better serve our taxpayers. This interview and recommendation period should not last more than 60 days.

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**What do you see as key budget issues facing the City of Peoria? Would you consider alternate sources of revenue other than a real estate tax increase? If so, what alternative source do you prefer?**

**Cost of fire and police protection** - These are two items that are important for our city to have a solid foundation. With the growth of the city and the need for additional resources for these departments, we need to look at ways of operating more effectively or re-deploying our existing resources.

**Healthcare** – we must continue to look at innovative and cost effective ways to deliver this benefit to our employee's and retirees that will provide quality and dependable options.

**Inter-Governmental Cooperation** – joint initiatives that would allow us to leverage our resource buying power and the sharing of resources for better coverage throughout the city.

I would not consider alternate sources of revenue such as raising taxes unless I know that we are operating in the most effective manner possible. We must ensure we are utilizing technology to operate as efficiently as possible.

**How will you work to develop and maintain a cooperative intergovernmental relationship with other local units of government, particularly that of Peoria County and Peoria Public Schools?**

Relationships are built on mutual trust and respect. It is imperative that pro-active communication occur between all units of government. Relationships developed between the units of government can be a catalyst for the sharing of idea's and provide the foundation for working together. As an individual, I have built relationships my entire life and clearly understand the benefits. I would propose an annual inter-governmental retreat to share business plans or goals, quarterly meetings between the groups for idea sharing and the promotion of working together.

**What is your opinion on the Heart of Peoria Commission's proposed form based code for targeted areas of the City?**

I support form based coding as it allows flexibility with zoning and provides a simplistic approach. My understanding with this type of code is it will allow more compact, more livable and a more walkable environment and focus on using the structure we already have in place and building the code rather than make the structure fit our code rules. This type of policy will help grow our riverfront and downtown area.

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### **What do you believe the City should do to attract and retain businesses in the City?**

There are several things we need to do as a city to attract and retain business. Most important, we need to continue to have dialog with current business owners on how they are doing and are there policies we have in place that help or hurt their business.

We need to have in depth discussions on what kinds of creative things we can do to compete with the lucrative plans that are attracting businesses to move out of Peoria and to surrounding cities or not even consider Peoria as a viable location. Specifically, let's evaluate tax increment financing districts, enterprise zones, low interest loans and private funding alternatives.

### **What is your position on the use of cumulative voting for the at-large council positions?**

I am not in favor of cumulative voting. I believe that one person should have one vote. As an alternative idea, I would propose we evaluate the election of 2 council members each from the current 5 districts or re-evaluate the current districts and establish 10 districts throughout the city.

### **What is your position on City funding for the Economic Development Council of Central Illinois?**

I support funding for the Economic Development Council. Currently, the City and County both support this organization with an amount of \$50,000 each. The most important thing we need to do to that will grow our job base is to market our city. We need to devote as many resources as possible to let companies know what we offer and how well qualified our workforce is and how our cost of living and doing business is competitive with other cities in like size. Another important component of supporting the Economic Development Council is to encourage and support other organizations to work in tandem with this group like the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Peoria Civic Center.