

124 SW Adams, Ste. 300
Peoria, Illinois 61602-1388
P: 309.676.0755
F: 309.676.7534

PROGRESSIVE PEORIA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE CANDIDATE SURVEY

Peoria City Council at large survey

Name: Donald Cummings

Occupation: Legal Administrator

Address: 809 E. Republic Street Peoria, IL 61603

Phone: 309 687-6348

Email: Don.Cummings@lba93.com

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?

- (1) Formulate a working program to deter crime. .
- (2) Revitalize Older Neighborhoods
- (3) Seek to revitalize the Downtown Business District

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

- (1) Foster an environment that creates good paying jobs.
- (2) Create a level playing field for all individuals wishing to do business in our City.
- (3) Demand transparency in how City Hall conducts business.

I will bring together all department heads to collaborate with other governmental bodies.
I will ask that we have a change of attitude with dealing with the public in City Hall.
Create the office of Ombudsman in City Hall to address and find solutions to peoples problems dealing with City Hall.

124 SW Adams, Ste. 300
Peoria, Illinois 61602-1388
P: 309.676.0755
F: 309.676.7534

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

Create the office of Ombudsman
Demand transparency in City Government
Maintain and establish a Citizens Task Force on Business in Government

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

Treat people with respect who deal with City Hall.
Establish a Citizens Complaint line where those who feel they have been disrespected can call and leave a message without reprisals to the Ombudsman Office who answers only to the Mayor.
Continue and maintain dialogue with all other governmental bodies where we have a mutual interest.

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?

How do we deal with rising health care cost that make up approximately 80% of the City's Budget?

How do we generate fees to offset ever rising future liabilities in our City?

I propose that we at least review the City garbage Tax to modify or implement a new fee that charges a fee based upon the amount of use by residents and businesses alike so that schools, hospitals, and universities that pay no real estate taxes are also sharing part of the burden of the rest of our citizens.

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?

124 SW Adams, Ste. 300
Peoria, Illinois 61602-1388
P: 309.676.0755
F: 309.676.7534

By having an ad hoc committee from each taxing entity be a standing committee of the whole of the City Of Peoria that is informed well in advance on all issues facing their deliberative body and to have a meeting at least every other month with the City Council.

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

I believe that it is an excellent idea to revitalize downtown by eliminating a lot of red tape for those wishing to bring life and revenue back to Downtown.

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

Have an open door with the City Manager and/or Ombudsman.
Treat with respect all people dealing with the City.
Review the Citizens Complaint line and reprimand or discharge those individuals who do not respect the rights of anyone dealing with City Hall. This would be done only after those who have been the named as a source of the complaint have a right to tell their side of the story and ultimately an independent arbitrator decides the facts and conclusions.

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

I would like to explore the possibility of electing (2) members from each district running at staggering terms so that we have 10 districts instead of the current (5) at Large and (5) District positions.

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

We should maintain the level that we are contributing now but require that all outlining communities that benefit also pay their fair share.