

**Progressive Peoria PAC  
Candidate Survey  
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1.     **Please include a resume and any campaign literature you would like to share with the Progressive Peoria PAC.**

*See attached.*

2.     **What are your top three priorities if elected?**

*While looking around at all the needs of our City and Neighborhoods, it would be great to commit to finding solutions for each and every item or issue. However, due to resource constraints, we MUST be very focused in the selection of priorities. So, I have selected those I personally feel are in dire need of being addressed.*

**A. Economic Development**

- *Attract, retain and grow business within our community*
- *Develop a business friendly profile - creating an Office of Business Assistance*
- *Conduct a Regional Economic Summit*
- *Develop a marketing plan for our Med Tech and Peoria Next efforts*

**B. Efficiency in Local Government/Regional Cooperation**

- *Increase the use of technology to gain efficiency (pay fines on-line, fees/permits)*
- *Application of Metro Government where possible (Indy/Louisville/Kansas City)*
- *Work with Local and Regional officials on near term and long term goals*
- *Evaluate current processes (develop 6 Sigma effort)*

**C. Neighborhoods**

- *Implement NDC plan for Neighborhood improvements*
- *Focus plans for upgrading and re-enhancing neighborhoods  
(Economic inducements - tax based)*
- *Develop and implement a Neighborhood Policing Plan i.e., (2 Stops a Night)*
- *Increase resident confidence of Neighborhood Public Safety (crack house)*

**D. Quality of Life and Community Outreach Effort**

- *Coordinate with Park District on Youth Programs and activities*
- *Create a city-wide Youth Commission*
- *Literature Development for the Hispanic Community (7%)*
- *Develop a “We Care” effort for the growing Senior Citizen community*
  - \* *available services*
  - \* *volunteer involvement*

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

*Currently, one of the key issues regarding business in the Peoria area is the fact that many on the Council don't see the necessary importance of supporting business initiatives. I believe a commitment to business initiatives will not only help create the dollars to pay for basic, essential services, but will also create growth and jobs in our community.*

*There are four key initiatives that, if implemented, I feel would create a more business friendly City Hall.*

- A. *Implement a Developers/Investors Advisory Committee. Those who have the resources to invest in our community have continuously complained that their ideas aren't listened to or accepted. This would provide a format to capture their insight and ideas while soliciting their involvement.*
- B. *Create an Office of Business Assistance (OBA). The OBA offers a variety of economic development tools to help businesses grow and thrive in our community. We would be especially interested in sound businesses with strong potential for future growth that will invest and create jobs. The Office would also assist businesses to access local information from appropriate public and/or private economic development resources.*
- C. *Create a single point of contact position to lead possible investors in our community through every step of the process.*
- D. *Develop a closer interface with the Economic Development Council while assisting with a joint strategy and funding.*

#### **4. What will you do to make Peoria City government more effective?**

*Implementation of the Peoria Cares Program to address citizen concerns and complaints was a major step forward in developing a more effective Peoria City government. Now we must adopt and instill a “Show We Care” attitude in all of us involved in making City Government work.*

*We must train our workforce to do a better job of addressing the needs and requests of those we serve. Another way to help government workers more effectively serve residents is to teach residents more about how government works. Ordinary residents rarely know and understand the full extent of government responsibilities and challenges. To address this problem and get residents more involved in shaping and holding government officials accountable, one Mayor established a Citizen Academy to gain knowledge and insight about city services, programs and responsibilities.*

*By seeing firsthand some of the challenges facing city government, budget limitations and day to day operations, the participants will gain new knowledge of how government works, a better understanding of the vital role of citizen participation and an appreciation of the challenges that government workers face.*

*Lastly, we must continue to survey our citizens annually to see what works, in addition, we must include or make citizen aware of each step as we go through the budget process.*

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

*We need to understand that over the next twenty to thirty years, substantial growth will occur in Central Illinois and nearly half of those that come to this area will more than likely live in the Peoria area. It is only common sense that any Council or governmental agency understand the benefits of that type of growth and develop policies that are business friendly to create jobs and opportunities within our Community. One way to start to address a business friendly attitude for this type of growth would be for the Mayor and Council to formulate a growth policy in coordination with the Chamber, the business community and other governmental entities. This team would set a series of policy directives to set the stage for fostering dynamic job growth, sustainable neighborhoods, and stronger regional cooperation in Central Illinois. This effort would not only show internal cooperation at City Hall but would also show the commitment and the leadership necessary to eliminate the concerns about City Hall not being business friendly because from this type of initiative, we all benefit.*

**6. 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?**

*It is important to note that Government, at the State level and the Municipal level, is in dire straits. Our Federal deficit is the highest in U.S. history, and, granted, there are good reasons for it. The States have suffered three to five years of record shortfalls. Cities and Counties are laying off policemen, closing schools and cutting services. Government leaders have been able to survive by patching together a combination of accounting gimmicks, one time fixes and increases in taxes and fees to relieve the fiscal pain. But, it is not going away. And, Peoria is no different than the rest of the country. We are faced with growing contractual agreements, GASB45, healthcare cost increases, increases in mandates, and a reduction in State and Federal funding. And, we have increased fees in every area of City government and still are finding it tough to balance the budget. The bottomline is, we must live within our means, learn to do more with less; and, fundamentally reinvent the way we spend the public's money. Municipal government is becoming increasingly trapped between escalating costs and lower tax rates, a condition that promises frustration and hardship for decades to come.*

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

*We have a good start with the District meetings that are held by the Chamber of Commerce with the City Council members. We now need to expand those meetings by including other governmental entities, such as the Park District, the County Board, and the School District. This group, led by the Chamber of Commerce, should come to the table quarterly to meet and discuss synergies that will ultimately reduce our costs, enhance our planning and allow us to think strategically for the long term best interest of our entire community. Corporations are doing it today. Other municipalities have done it and, with our inability to rely on taxes for the future, this strategic thinking is necessary for survival.*

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

*I continue to be supportive of both the Form Based Code concept and the Heart of Peoria Commission because I truly believe our community vision can be achieved with the use of a Form Based Code tool. However, my concern is will our checkbook support the things that we truly need to do to get onboard with form based code as evidenced in some of the decisions made during the budget session in October and November of 2006. We all believe in the Warehouse District, but budgeting or setting aside revenue to do those things necessary to achieve our dream of a Warehouse District or other elements of form based code , was questionable in the face of the associated expense of addressing high crime, the need for more police officers and the neighborhood concern about reestablishing Fire Station 11 to it's previous service level.*

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

*The Mayor initiated the process of reviewing all of our rules and regulations that would be detrimental to attracting new businesses to our community. Three Council people and a number of people from the business community started to take a look at what we needed to do to make Peoria a more business friendly community. A number of processes were looked at, reviewed and passed by the City Council. We now need to take the lead of a number of other communities that are aggressively doing things to attract and retain business. Number one is an Economic Summit inviting national, regional and local developers and potential investors to sit down to talk about all the aspects and benefits that could be realized by the City making various adjustments in our policies and practices. The next would be to develop a 555 Plan. That is to put together a team to address the issues and provide the funding to attract 5 new businesses, retain 5 businesses in our community and grow 5 businesses within our boundaries. These elements are just a start, but if done right and with the assistance of the Chamber, could be the catalyst to cause a major impact in attracting and retaining business.*

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

*I am a believer in one person, one vote. Cumulative voting has not worked as planned. As evidenced, it only helps those with specific agendas that can rally a limited number of voters for them and their issues.*

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

*Not only do I support direct funding to the EDC, but also increased levels of funding. If the City is going to expand business, retain business and develop the strategic alliance necessary for job creation, we must be prepared to provide the funding and support required to create the atmosphere to accomplish that effort.*