

124 SW Adams, Ste. 300  
Peoria, Illinois 61602-1388  
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## PROGRESSIVE PEORIA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE CANDIDATE SURVEY

### Peoria City Council at large survey

Name: **George F. Jacob**

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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?

- 1. Provide a healthy and thriving economic environment to grow jobs and conduct business**
- 2. Provide for efficient and effective government while continuing to work and advocate for a closer working relationship with our educational partners (e.g. District 150, etc.)**
- 3. Advocate for neighborhoods – strong safe neighborhoods, retain a quality local workforce and contribute needed revenues to our tax base**

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

- 1. Develop opportunities to grow logistics, distribution, and manufacturing jobs. We need to leverage our competitive resources (e.g. river, infrastructure, and rail). We have outstanding opportunities with the southern gateway. Rather than ship people to jobs, let's bring jobs to people.**
- 2. Delivering city services efficiently and effectively. Many of our expenses relative to staff continue to increase at a rate above that of our revenue stream. These costs may place pressure on the businesses and homeowners to provide additional fees and/or taxes to fund these costs. Pressure to add public safety will continue. Our job is to manage these costs and to create an environment of innovation among our staff. We need to continuously seek ways to improve our productivity.**

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3. **Continue to pursue opportunities to diversify our economy by expanding our medical, research and innovation initiatives.**
4. **Engage and nurture minority business development.**

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

**Continue to streamline processes, implement technology to leverage performance and engage employees and management in targeting focused solutions. We need to continue to improve the effectiveness and reach of electronic communication and have taken steps to do so.**

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

**Much of the tenor is set by the city council and needs to improve in some areas. We need to better foster an environment that nurtures risk taking among our staff by challenging them to look at obstacles and opportunities with a fresh perspective. We need to create a culture that consistently respects business and the citizenry.**

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?

1. **Addressing our structural deficit**
2. **Managing employee benefit costs**
3. **Improving efficiencies, while continuing to build an effective and goal oriented staff**

**I believe we must work to live within the constraints of our current tax base and revenue sources.**

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?

**I have worked on this issue throughout my time on the City Council. With some of the changes in local bodies there may be excellent opportunities to improve communication and joint efforts. All entities will benefit, particularly the tax payer. I enjoy excellent relationships at Peoria County, Greater Peoria Sanitary District, etc., and also have strong rapport with our state and federal legislators. This allows for better cooperative efforts to serve our taxpayer.**

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

**Form based codes are very effective in many areas, and may be necessary to spur redevelopment in some cases. There is some concern among developers that "New Urbanism" and form based codes may be used as a tool to reduce growth in certain areas. We need to work with the development community to develop trust, and secure further input to move this process forward effectively.**

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

**Thank them for their business! Provide opportunities to drive businesses and investors to our region. Expand recognition of business. Communicate, communicate, communicate.**

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

**It is a dated system and distorts the democratic process. It needs to be eliminated in the future.**

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

**We need to continue this partnership. We need to work to eliminate redundancies wherever possible. We also need to improve communication between the stakeholder bodies. The Economic Development Stakeholders Committee provides an excellent step in this direction. My opportunity to chair this group has been quite rewarding as we see better communication and results among the respective groups.**