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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.

Resume attached

What are your top three priorities if elected?

I have four top priorities they are (1) Fighting crime and violence in order to provide safety to all Peorians (2) Providing quality basic services to the citizens of Peoria (3) Economic Development (4) Revitalization and sustainability of neighborhoods

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

The key issue is to retain, grow and attract business in Peoria. We need to insure quality service delivery to the business community, establish ongoing revitalization strategies and a broad based growth plan. A continuing process must also be developed to insure the focus for short term and long term success by identifying and using best practices.

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

In order to make Peoria city government more effective, we must first define what we want to be and what we believe in as a community. Citizens need to act in partnership with each other and our government in order to have more control over our common future.

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

Every employee of the city from the Mayor down needs to remember that the only Product the city can provide is quality service to all Peoria citizens. I will accomplish this by (1) having meetings specifically with the business community in order to establish partnerships and ask them what is needed from the city, (2) look at other cities that are considered to be business friendly and see what they are doing and replicate when possible and (3) establish an on going Customer Service Commission to evaluate the culture and climate of the City Hall toward business.

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?

First and foremost the budget should provide revenue for quality basic services, economic development opportunities, safety to citizens as well as sustaining our neighborhoods.

Yes, there is an array of various alternative funding sources, but first we must define what our funding needs are.

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?

The most important factor to insure successful intergovernmental relationships is to have an open line of communication concerning the needs and the direction of each government group. The point must continually be made that any action that benefits one of us surely benefits all of us.

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

We need to insure whatever zoning and codes that have been proposed are clearly defined and understood by everyone involved, such as the strategy for the new TIF district.

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

The City must be pro-active in attracting and retaining business in the City through streamlining development processes. The city should have a lead person to “close the loop” on public/private partnerships. This should be an administrative person that understands and works with the community and development to further improve the City.

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

Cumulative voting or bullet voting is one form of proportional representation. Proportional representation was developed in order to provide a sense of voting equality in diverse communities, such as Peoria. This type of voting helps to allow diversity of women and minorities in politics, which I support. Cumulative voting in Peoria is a result of the settlement of a claim filed in 1987 alleging violations of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

If cumulative voting is eliminated, there would have to be another venue established in order to insure diversity in our At-Large City Council elections. This might be accomplished by changing the city to 10 districts instead of the 5 that we currently have or by electing 2 people to the 5 existing districts.

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

In order to have an economically healthy business community, we must be continually nurturing, investing and creative. Economic development efforts must be sustained through a combination business, nonprofit, and local government investment, tax increment financing, federal grants and volunteerism. We’re all working for the best quality of life for our citizens, if that means funding is needed from the City than we must do that.