



Friday, April 26, 2024

Your Details

Basic information about yourself

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I am a candidate running for...	Spokane County Commissioner, District 5
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Getting to Know You

This next section will give you the opportunity to provide details about who you are as a person, candidate, and member of the community.

Tell us about yourself.

I am a Vietnam Era Marine Corps Veteran and a University of Idaho graduate with a degree in Architecture and a minor in Business Finance. I am a licensed architect and real estate developer. I have owned my own companies and have had as many as 105 employees at one time.

I am the senior County Commissioner on the Spokane County Board of Commissioners and have been in office since 2011. Prior to being elected to the Spokane County Board of Commissioners I served for eight years on the Spokane City Council (2002-2009). From 2010-2014 I served as the PCO for my precinct.

My leadership philosophy is "servant leadership", I'm here in service to my community, my god, my country and my family. My time in public service has led to me receiving leadership awards at the local, regional, state and national levels. Most notably I am the only elected official in the State of Washington to receive the single national "Outstanding Board Member of the Year" in 2008 from the American Public Transportation Association.

I have been elected by County Commissioners from across the state to

represent the collective interest of Counties on various state boards and commissions. I have been recognized as a creative thinker that is very outspoken and not shy about sharing my opinion on issues even when not popular. An example of this is my service on the Washington State Building Code Council where I openly and publicly opposed the Governor's efforts to ban natural gas as a fuel source in the State of Washington.

The State of Washington has legislatively, administratively or via executive order systematically eliminated many of the freedoms that the US Constitution guarantees us. Whether they are restrictions on the use of our lands, freedom to assemble, freedom to bare arms, or the freedom of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness we are not as free as we were intended to be. I fought for this country, but this country is not the country I fought for and not the country I want to leave for my daughter and grandson. I am committed to fight for and protect our God given rights and freedoms.

List any relevant experience, leadership, or service.

US Marine Corps, 1969-1972
University of Idaho School of Art and Architecture, President and National Regional Director of the Student Chapter of the American Institute of Architects
Owned my own companies and have had 105 employees at one time
Nevada-Lidgerwood Neighborhood Council President 1996-2001
Holy Family Hospital Foundation Board 1991-1995
Spokane City Planning Commission 1996-2001
Spokane City Council 2002-2009
Republican Party PCO 2010-2014
Spokane County Commissioner 2011-2024
Washington State Association of Counties Board 2011-2024
Washington State Association of Counties Legislative Steering Committee
Municipal Research Service Center Board 2012-2022
Washington State Building Code Council 2016-2023
County Road Administrative Board 2018-2024
Washington State Transportation Improvement Board 2022-2024
Washington State Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board 2023-2026
Many other boards and commissions, to many to list

Describe your duty to the office you are running for and how you will achieve success.

The office of County Commissioner is the second highest elected executive officer in the state. Commissioners are responsible for the administrative, legislative and quasi-judicial functions of the county. We manage a \$750 million annual budget with 2000 employees. The largest portion of the budget funds the criminal justice system and public safety. Spokane County has the largest road system of any county in the state with 2600 road miles, 5200 lane miles. The county owns and operates one of the most efficient water reclamation facilities in the country processing approximately 8 mil gallons per day. Commissioners are responsible for the economic stability and growth of the county through managing land use policy, regulatory environment construction of capital facilities and infrastructure.

As a conservative business owner with over 105 employees, I understand how to manage a budget and

manage employees to achieve a specific goal. I was the visionary that created the West Plains Public Development Authority, now known as S3R3 and have led that organization to bring over \$3B of new construction and over 6500 new jobs to the West Plains. I have four new companies that are in the pipeline to come to Spokane with another 600 jobs. Recruiting new businesses to a community is something that I have been doing for over 45 years and want to continue that work for the county. There is no better way to empower an individual than the financial security that comes with a good paying job.

Regarding public safety I have been endorsed by previous Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich, current Sheriff Nowles, Prosecuting Attorney Haskell and Brockett. I am a graduate of the Citizen's Police Academy, Fire Training 101 and am a FEMA Certified Trainer for Community Emergency Response Teams. To support our men and women on the front line I think that you need to know what it takes to walk in their shoes, and I have taken those steps. I am the only candidate with these endorsements, training and experience in this race.

What does success look like for this position and what key performance indicators should voters use to evaluate you?

There are three tag lines that describe my leadership; Promises Made - Promises Kept, Experience Matters, and A Leader With Solutions. I have sworn an oath to protect and defend this country against all enemies both foreign and domestic. I take that oath very seriously. That oath extends to protecting our freedoms following the Constitution and Bill of Rights.

As a conservative I am anti-tax and have not raised taxes for the last two years and pledge to not raise taxes for 2025. I firmly believe that government should live within its means. Revenue growth should come from a growing economy and not the taxpayer. I take great pride in the new industries I have brought to the county and the thousands of jobs that came with those industries. No other candidate and no other commissioner has brought the number of industries and jobs that I have.

What community activities are you engaged in? Have you held leadership roles in any of these organizations?

As your current county commissioner, I have been engaged in a full range of activities throughout the county. I currently sit on 40 boards and committees at the local, regional and state and chair a third of them. Below is a list of some of the Boards and committees that I currently sit on;

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, Chair

Spokane Transit Authority, Chair

Spokane International Airport Board

Spokane Regional Transportation Council, Chair

Steering Committee of Elected Officials. Vice Chair

Wa State Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board

Wa State County Road Administrative Board

WA State Transportation Investment Board

Fairchild Air Force Base Honorary Commander

Your Political Beliefs

This section contains a series of questions about your alignment concerning broad governmental philosophies as well as some specific issues.

Where do our rights as citizens of the United States come from? Under what conditions can government infringe or suspend them?

Our inalienable rights come from God and articulated in the US Constitution and Bill of Rights

Government should NEVER infringe or suspend these rights

Do you consider yourself a constitutional originalist or do you prescribe to it as a living document? Please explain.

I am a constitutional originalist. Government of the people and by the people is the best government. The people should hold all of the power and leaders use that power for the benefit of the people and judiciously.

What is the purpose of government? If elected, how will you perform your duties based on that "purpose?"

The purpose of government is to serve the people that elected them. As I have mentioned earlier, my leadership style is that of a "servant leader". I am here to serve the community.

When does life begin and at what point does the government have a duty to protect it?

Conception

Do you have any criminal convictions, ever filed for bankruptcy, have any active or unresolved tax liens, any conflicts of interest that may jeopardize your candidacy?

No

Describe how you will make yourself available to your constituents and vote as their representative, adhering to the values and answers you've provided in this questionnaire.

I make myself available to the public in many ways. I host morning coffees in the district where folks can visit with me on any topic. I attend a variety of community meetings so that I am available for anyone to reach me. I host townhall meetings and maintain social media sites for folks that feel more comfortable in that environment. My phone number is public and I answer the phone 24 hours a day and weekends.

Please provide any feedback, comments, or questions that you have for the SCRCC.

I fear for our country and the erosion of our freedoms with government over-reach or executive abuse. I recently read Mark Levine's book "The Democratic Party Hates America" and witness the scenes described in his book in our society every day. We need to restore God's presence in our schools, businesses, communities and every level of government. I run into folks my age all the time that tell me that they miss the America they grew up in and I do too. When I doorbell or when I'm out in the community I run into seniors all the time that are afraid for where this country is going. I've prayed at the doorstep with senior ladies who have lost their husbands in the military and fear their death was in vain because this is not the country they died for.

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