



## CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE 2015 GENERAL ELECTION – CITY COUNCIL POSITIONS

City: Kennewick Position: At Large, Position 5

Candidate: Matt Boehnke

- Why are you running for office?

I am running to provide the citizens of Kennewick a unique, fresh and forward thinking voice on the city council. We stand at the precipice of success-- a critical time in our city's history with unprecedented potential in the form of multiple projects that if managed properly—stand to enhance our infrastructure, our economy and our quality of life for generations to come.

My three priorities are the development of Vista Field, Increased access to the Southridge/Southside of Thompson hill development, and the Bridge to Bridge plan. I have been engaged in the initial planning meetings and will remain so for the long haul—I am dedicated to and focused on establishing a collaborative, insightful and future focused Champion on the City Council. I am that voice—one that natively understands technology and innovation, has the vision to see how these tools can be used for fresh ideas and can create real and impactful results for our local economy.

I will ensure that the citizens of Kennewick are not constrained by, but rather partnered with the most efficient, effective and streamlined government possible—one that is accountable, transparent and proactively focused on the opportunities a sustainable future.

- Why do you believe you are qualified to sit on city council?

I am uniquely qualified to sit on the City Council.

I have demonstrated my leadership, accountability, passion, and integrity for over 35 years through Military, Community and Non Profit service. I retired in 2011 as a US Army Lieutenant Colonel after serving in various leadership positions for over 21 years in small, medium, and large multi-cultural organizations around the world. Upon my retirement, I continued serving my community by serving as a leader on the Kennewick Arts Commission, past president and lifetime member of the American Legion Post 4 and Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Officer Association of America – Lewis & Clark Chapter Legislative Liaison, Columbia Basin Badger Club, Columbia Basin Veterans Coalition, and volunteering at the Kennewick School District and Bethlehem Lutheran church. All this while starting my own Cyber Security consulting business Bravocon IT Services LLC, and working as a contract officer for the US Army Corps of Engineers McNary Dam, Energy Northwest Cyber Security Project manager, and currently Professor of Computer Science at Columbia Basin College.

- How do you see the various governments of the Tri-Cities working together to promote regional economic development?

It is paramount to our future success that multiple agencies collaborate as one. We continue to blur the lines between city, county, and regional influences as we work to build efficient and effective governments that reduce the burdens on the citizens throughout our region. As a leader of America's finest women and men, all from diverse and divergent experiences and walks of life—I can infuse the Tri-Cities with this experience and continue to foster a spirit of mutually beneficial collaboration. As a city council member, I will champion an environment that fosters support and open honest dialogue with all community governments and agencies that work with the city of Kennewick and its adjacent areas. We must do this in order to ensure the success of our current and future projects.

- In your view, what is the biggest economic opportunity for your city?

There are three big economic opportunities within the city of Kennewick: the Vista Field redevelopment, the Bridge-To-Bridge plan, and continued expansion of Southridge. All three are vital for the future of our great city. Each require a leader who is willing to work with the Port Commissioners, County Commissioners, and local agencies to ensure success. We need a leader who has the experience in working with joint agencies, has the integrity and uses open and honest communication that is accountable to the citizens to ensure the projects are on track and under budget.

- What is your city's greatest economic challenge?

The greatest economic challenge is working within our budget to manage these projects and working to build in contingency plans for future sustainability when these plans are completed. It's one thing to plan a project, quite another to be present and engaged to manage it, keep it on track, on or under budget and then complete it within the time frame originally stated. A big piece most people forget is to build in the sustainment plans to support these projects once they are completed. If we don't have these discussions now, all projects will fail.

- If elected, how do you see yourself and city council working with the Regional Chamber to promote economic growth?

I see the city council continuing to build off the current foundation of success that they Chamber has with the council. I would champion an "Open door" policy that would allow the Regional Chamber to bring ideas to the council and work with the council in getting it done. I would increase the council's presence and support at the various Regional Chamber planning meeting, local, state, and national events, to demonstrate a show of unity. Again, to support our theme of a team working together as one. Partnering in branding our city and this region to be the best it can be for now and in the future.

- Please return all completed questionnaires to Austin Neilson, Government & Economic Affairs Director, at the Tri-City Regional Chamber via email at [austin.neilson@tricityregionalchamber.com](mailto:austin.neilson@tricityregionalchamber.com) no later than Friday, September 25, 2015.
- All questionnaire responses will be shared with Regional Chamber members via email, chamber website and chamber social media. All candidates are offered an opportunity to record a three-minute video about their candidacy/campaign at the Regional Chamber office on Wednesday, October 7; Thursday, October 8 or Friday, October 9. Please contact Austin Neilson at (509) 491-3233 or [austin.neilson@tricityregionalchamber.com](mailto:austin.neilson@tricityregionalchamber.com)