

Candidate Questionnaire - Phillip Lemley - Richland City Council – Position number 5

Question number 1. I am running for office to continue my relationship with the citizens of Richland and advocacy for the goals and expectations that are a result of the collaboration between our City Manager, her staff and our City Council. For the last six years I have done everything I could to support and bring to fruition those goals of making Richland a better place to live, work, play, do business and retire.

Question number 2. In the last six years I have never missed a council meeting and only one work shop. I serve as liaison to numerous boards and commissions and make every meeting in all of these, missing only when they overlap. You do not have to be a lawyer, doctor or Indian chief to serve as a council member. I believe that you need to have an open mind, study up on all of the issues facing our city, seek out and listen to the experts in their fields and in the end do what best drives the economic engine, which is the City of Richland and what is best for the majority of our citizens.

Question number 3. Each of our cities is a viable entity within themselves, all with unique properties, goals and needs. We need to continue to work together for the greater good of the entire Tri-Cities and Mid-Columbia Region. For, we are four cities, three rivers, two counties, but we are one Community. One Community that makes for an economic force to be reckoned with and recognized for it's contributions and importance in Eastern Washington as well as the entire state.

Question number 4. The biggest opportunity for Richland in my view is the economic impact, footprint and contribution that North Richland, Horn Rapids Industrial Park, WSU Tri-Cities, the Port of Benton, the Tri-City Research District and Innovation Center that includes PNNL, Battelle and Energy Northwest, have on the city itself as well as our entire region and the state. As we continue to expand this area and add new business and industry, job growth, housing and more service industries to support all of this growth, will benefit every city and area of this region, especially Richland.

Question number 5. Our biggest economic challenge as we continue to grow is all of the risk that comes with growth and city business in general. Keeping cost of services low, providing all necessary infrastructure, amenities and services to build and enhance our quality of life, bricks and mortar as well as public safety, costs money. As our costs go up we have to pass much of that on to our citizens and businesses. Balancing those costs and needs, paying our bills and controlling our growth is a huge task. Council, City Manager, her staff and 500 employees of the City of Richland must work in partnership for that greater good.

Question number 6. It is imperative that we all work together every day to promote our individual cities in partnership with the members of the Chamber. For these Chamber members are the nuts and bolts of the economic engine that we call the Tri-Cities. Small business, all business and industry create the jobs, provide the services that support our community. The Chamber creates the vehicle to celebrate, promote and identify trends that keep our community in the conscience eye of not only this community but the state and the country. Promoting all we have to offer here will only help us grow and prosper.

