



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
2015 GENERAL ELECTION – CITY COUNCIL POSITIONS

City: Pasco Position: Pasco City Council District 5

Candidate: Rebecca Francik

Why are you running for office?

I have always been interested in long term planning and infrastructure, making cities work for the benefit of every citizen. As a city council member I have been allowed to use my long range planning skills to make smart infrastructure decisions that have financially benefited our entire city, such as investment in the Food Processing Center which brought over 1100 jobs and \$130 Million tax dollars to Pasco.

During the economic downturn our council planned significant projects such as the Lewis Street underpass replacement, development of the DNR property by Chapel Hill and the future development of 500 acres at Road 100. I am ready to build these projects. Pasco has and is growing rapidly. I want to ensure we continue managing that growth efficiently ensuring our city is a better place for our residents to live, work and play.

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

I have 18 years of experience and a track record I am proud of. Since first taking office in 1996 our population has tripled. As a result of policies I supported, our crime rate has dropped 83%, and our city property tax and our bonded debt have been reduced every year since 2004. (See rebeccafrancik.com for more detail)

By temperament and training I am an information specialist. I look at ideas and problems from many different angles before making a decision. I believe all citizens must benefit from the collection of tax dollars. My track record clearly demonstrates I am able to make rational decisions improving Pasco's overall long term health.

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

While I reside in Pasco I consider myself a Tri-City resident. As a region we all benefit from efficiencies and increase our purchasing dollars when our cities work collaboratively as we currently do. To name just a few of our joint agencies:

- ✓ Tri-Dec who brings industrial recruitment to the Tri-City region
- ✓ The Benton Franklin Council of Governments who work on regional transportation planning
- ✓ The Tri-Cities Rivershore enhancement council who plan improvements to our River shores
- ✓ The Tri-Cities Visitor and Convention Center
- ✓ Reciprocal agreements between our fire and police departments
- ✓ The regional public facilities district who brought a regional project before Tri-City voters
- ✓ And the Tri-City Chamber

Lastly the Tri-cities people speak more strongly in Olympia with a unified voice. We saw the benefit of our collaboration this year with the transportation dollars that were allocated to our area.

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

Pasco has 500 acres at Road 100 owned by a single individual who is partnering with the city to develop his property. This property is at the exact geographic center of the Tri-Cities and we have a unique ability to plan its development in a way that will set the tone for our entire region for years to come.

What is your city's greatest economic challenge?

Currently Pasco's greatest economic challenges involve Transportation, Water sufficiency, and the attraction of higher wage jobs.

Transportation – Pasco has a great deal of new infrastructure all built within the same time frame. This means it will all need to be replaced at the same time. We do not have a mechanism (such as those we use for water and sewer) to plan for replacement costs of our roads. We also lack the ability to put in roads where we want traffic to be because our funding always follows tax dollars. We cannot plan road systems prior to development. The congestion on the Road 68 corridor is a perfect example of this. We absolutely must complete the linkages in the Road 68 corridor to relieve congestion but are completely dependent on the state or new development along currently under developed corridors for funding to do so.

Water – We all know Kennewick has been rationing water this summer. While those of us pulling from the Columbia River have not been restricted we know our water rights are precious. Our entire agricultural economy is dependent on water so its management and conservation is extremely important.

Job opportunities - Pasco has either professional jobs or farm jobs. We lack the middle tier job market which our population could use as stepping stones from lower agricultural wages into higher salaried positions.

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

Given that my job prevents me from attending most of the Regional Chamber functions I intend to continue supporting the Regional Chamber through our council's support of and participation with Tri-Dec, and the Tri-City Visitor and Convention Bureau.

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- 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 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 to arrange a date/time.