



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
2017 PRIMARY ELECTION – CITY COUNCIL POSITIONS

City: ___Kennewick_____ Position: City Council Position 1

Candidate: ___Lindy Verhei

Biographical Information

- Education

Graduated from Southridge High School

Graduated from WSU TC with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology

- Past & Present Employment/Business Experience

Currently a substitute teacher. I've worked as a paraeducator, chemical dependency counselor, mental health counselor, case manager for adults with disabilities, and skills coach for teens aging out of foster care.

- Past & Present Community Involvement

I've volunteered as a mentor to students with developmental disabilities, at a summer camp as a cabin leader/ arts and crafts leader for 6 summers, and as a youth group sponsor for several years.

- Why are you running for office?

A lot of people have strong opinions on how things should be, but then do nothing to enact that change. I'm running because change starts with me. If I want something, I have to work for it. I want to see a community that is united. National politics can be divisive, but at a community level most of us want the same things. I want to make our quality of life even better.

- What have you done to prepare for election to city council and how will you conduct yourself if elected?

I have been attending city council meetings and workshops whenever I am able to- seeing the issues first hand is helping give me a real idea of how I can start to implement the goals of my campaign. Elected officials should conduct themselves with respect and dignity for all, not just during city council meetings, but every day, especially to media outlets and social media.

- As a council member, what are three actions you would support to strengthen small business and entrepreneurship in your city?

1. Add utilities in underdeveloped areas so that businesses have incentive to build.
2. Support the implementation of 5G internet.
3. Review and revise municipal code that hinders business growth, or prohibits certain kinds of businesses (Food trucks being one example).

- What do you believe is the greatest economic challenge facing your city and what would be your approach to address it?
Right now it's our public hospital district. Hopefully with bankruptcy protection in place, they can restructure the debt and make wise choices for the long term financial health of Trios. Although the hospital district is a different board, as a city council member I would do all in my power to keep the hospital afloat and thriving in the future.
- Do you believe city government should weigh in on labor and industry issues (e.g. minimum wage, etc.)?

As far as standards of training, education, and licensing for trades, yes. As far as minimum wage, yes and no. Companies who want to retain quality employees already pay a living wage and offer competitive benefits, because in the long run, they know a valued employee will add value to the company. A living wage is important for workers and their families, but so are small business owners who put so much into our economy. I want to find a balance that helps workers but won't put anyone out of business.

- Would you support an effort to create a "regional strategic plan" that would bring government, business and the general public together to create a shared vision and collectively develop a roadmap to pursue and capture growth as a community? Why or why not.

Yes- in fact this is the goal of city planning. Multiple cities already work together for many things, including higher education, transportation, and utilities to name a few. Working together with our neighbors is vital- perhaps we'll need another bridge or convention center in the future.

- If elected, how do you see yourself, city council and city staff working with the Regional Chamber and its member businesses to advance community and business development in the Tri-Cities?

If the city wants to develop land in order to attract business, I would notify (legally) the TCRCC so they can get the word out. I would be open to hearing new ideas for community or business both personally and at city council meetings.

****Please attach a headshot photo with your submission****

Please return all responses by Wednesday, July 12, 2017

Via e-mail to: austin.neilson@tricityregionalchamber.com

Via fax: (509) 783-1733

Via mail: 7130 W. Grandridge Blvd., Suite C | Kennewick, WA 99336

Thank you for completing the questionnaire!