



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE 2017 PRIMARY ELECTION – CITY COUNCIL POSITIONS

City: Kennewick Position: Position 4 – At Large

Candidate: Bill McKay

Biographical Information

- **Education:** Graduate of Meridian High School, Meridian, ID; Farm Crops Management - BYU-I, 1980; Accounting degree - Boise State University, 1994.
- **Past & Present Employment/Business Experience:** Builder and owner of 27th Ave. Self-Storage; Past Commercial Loan Officer; Raised on dairy farm, operated family farm for 12 years; Appointed by Idaho Governor to Idaho Dairy Products Commission and Idaho Beef Council (while on the Dairy Commission I, with others, worked with the California Commission to start the “Got Milk” Campaign); I with my wife Cindy were national chair couple of National Milk Producers Federation Young Cooperators.
- **Past & Present Community Involvement:** Currently sit on the Washington Self-Storage Association Board; Past Tri-City Prep High School Board member; Scout Master; YMCA board member; various positions in my church; AAU Basketball coach; many other youth coaching positions for boys & girls.
- **Why are you running for office?** Government contract businesses are very well represented on the Council, but private businesses are not. If elected I would be the only Council Member that has been through the Commercial Permitting process multiple times and only one of two private business owners. I believe planning, public works and other business regulations need to be evaluated and streamlined so that small business can grow. The budget process needs to reflect priority to essential government services like infrastructure and safety.
- **What have you done to prepare for election to city council and how will you conduct yourself if elected?** With my successful business experience, Commercial Lending experience and Accounting degree I believe I would bring a much needed perspective to the Council. If elected I would work with other Council Members to improve government regulations and controls on businesses. I would conduct myself in a polite and respectful way. I will listen to the public and make myself available for citizen’s concerns.
- **As a council member, what are three actions you would support to strengthen small business and entrepreneurship in your city?** 1) Work to cut some existing taxes on businesses, like the TIF fee (Traffic Impact Fee), and other existing taxes that impede growth and jobs. 2) Initiate a review of all costly business and construction regulations and code, with the intent of eliminating as much as possible. Having been through the commercial construction permitting process several times, I believe there is much to improve. 3) Work hard to insure that no new taxes and fees are introduced that hinders commercial growth and development.

- **What do you believe is the greatest economic challenge facing your city and what would be your approach to address it?** Due to the continual growth of Kennewick, funding the needed infrastructure for the growth will be the largest economic challenge. In order to accomplish this without increasing existing taxes and adding new ones, the budget will need to be prioritized and cuts or changes made to existing ways of doing business. For example, I think the City should look at the feasibility of putting some maintenance of buildings and parks out for private bid rather than adding more staff with benefits.
- **Do you believe city government should weigh in on labor and industry issues (e.g. minimum wage, etc.)?** I believe a free market is much better than a government regulated market. The free market is what has made America what it is. The laws of economics have the ability to balance wages, inventory and all other aspects of business for the good of the consumer and business. When government puts regulations in place it usually will increase costs to the business which has to be passed on to the consumers. This most often adversely affects the least fortunate among us.
- **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.** I would agree that there needs to be cooperation and communication between the Cities, and based on what I have seen it appears that there is considerable communication already between the Cities. At a recent Kennewick Workshop, representatives from Richland and The Port of Kennewick were at the meeting to give the Council members an update on the proposed inland port being considered by Richland in the Port of Benton Industrial Park. As far as putting together a regional strategic plan, I would support a plan that facilitates growth and development, but remains flexible to accommodate the ever changing business environment.
- **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?** I don't see this being an issue at all. I will always be available to work with existing and new businesses, as well as the Regional Chamber staff and businesses. I see this job that I am running for as, “I am working for you.” The City staff and Council need to be serving the community they represent in a very professional manner. Having been in the position of needing the City's services when I was building my business I realize that sometimes it may seem the opposite. I would work to change that.

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

Please return all responses by Wednesday, July 12, 2017

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Thank you for completing the questionnaire!