

Jim Millbauer: Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce Questionnaire Responses

Education

I am a 1977 graduate of Col-Hi high school (Richland) and went on to complete my pipefitter apprenticeship through United Association Local Union 598, as well as my HVAC certification through Columbia Basin College. My professional career has afforded me countless opportunities to participate in leadership and management trainings which will assist me in serving my fellow citizens of Kennewick.

Past & Present Employment/Business Experience

I have been employed at the Hanford site for 34 years and have served as a project steward for the last 20 years as well as a UA Local Union 598 business agent. Additionally, I have had the pleasure of serving as a Hanford Employee Welfare Trust (HEWT) Pension and Savings Trustee, Hanford Atomic Metal Trades Council Trustee (HAMTC), Local 598 Health & Welfare Trustee, and as a Joint Apprenticeship Training Council Trustee.

Past & Present Community Involvement

Giving back to one's community is a sign of being passionately committed and invested in the quality of life we all share in. I have volunteered my time and labor to United Way as both a loan executive and board member and helping to coordinate Unions for United Way and the Union Stewards breakfast. I am a champion for Local 598's Bikes for Tikes providing 1500 bikes for our community's children at Christmas, and my wife and I adopt children each year through HAMTC's Christmas Children's Fund to assist foster families providing Christmas for foster kids.

Why are you running for office?

I have the heart and passion to serve others and the stamina of a tireless advocate to fight for the right thing and the voices that should be represented when decisions are being made that impact the lives of all of us. I am a Kennewick resident with a desire to make a difference. The only way change happens is when we choose to become significantly more involved in the political process - and that is what I am doing by running for office. I love this community - it's been my home for over 30 years and I believe in giving back. I believe that my life experiences and ability to bring diverse groups of people together to solve problems for the common good will serve me well as a councilman. This campaign is about Your Voice, Your Community.

I want to focus on continued economic development of current and new small business, developing projects that use local labor and provide family wage jobs, and partnering with opportunities and organizations to expand cultural offerings, adding a powerful dimension to our quality of life in Kennewick. By focusing on these topics, we continue to develop Kennewick as a tourist destination offering a multitude of amenities that entice others to relocate to our wonderful community. I want to see Kennewick as a vibrant city supported by business and industry that support our families and their needs with living wage jobs and a quality of life unparalleled in comparison.

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

I am energized by the opportunity to serve Kennewick and will greet this challenge like I have every other in my life - with honesty and integrity, with confidence and communication, and an unwavering commitment to do the right thing. My career as a project steward and business agent has afforded me decades of experience in wrestling with ethical, legal, and contractual issues. I have honed the skill of listening with an open mind rather than with predetermined notions and conclusions. Years of negotiation and arbitration leadership management has taught me that focusing on collaborative solutions is the only way to sustain lasting and long-term improvements and change for the betterment of all. I will conduct myself in a respectful and professional manner that would honor the morals and values my parents have instilled in me and live by to this day.

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

Small business is the backbone of any economically healthy community and an important partner and provider of family wage jobs. I believe that as a city we can support and strengthen our small businesses by ensuring we invest in projects that draw tourists and visitors to our area. Strengthening the brand of the Tri-Cities to attract destination seekers will help local businesses to flourish. I believe that we have an obligation to our city to make doing business as easy as possible. Whether it is city infrastructure, the permitting timeframe, or business fees, we can achieve a balanced approach that works for both residents and business. Allowing art and culture to flourish within a city, in my view, can become a driving force for progress. We must embrace the arts, give our resident and visitors a city structure and venue that highlights those assets. We must ensure that our public works projects utilize our local workforce. Whether it is those who are already a part of our working economy or our youth that are trying to enter it. Strong emphasis on investments in the future workforce of our community will ensure that those Tri-Citians who have the dream of becoming business owners and entrepreneurs have the ability to work hard and earn a living that will propel them towards those future endeavors.

What do you believe is the greatest economic challenge facing your city and what would be your approach to address it?

The greatest economic challenge for Kennewick is no different than the economic challenge facing each of us on a personal level - the management of resources. We must balance the need for basic services with the vision of the future Kennewick we wish to create for our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. However, providing the basic services that all residents deserve should not prevent us from investing in projects that will build a diverse and vibrant Kennewick. The currently proposed developments and projects for Kennewick will only help poise our community to expand and attract new businesses that will create jobs. The Bob Olson Parkway, Columbia Gardens Urban Wine and Artisan Village, Columbia Basin College Culinary Arts, revitalization of Downtown Kennewick, the revisiting of the LINK project, the Apprentice Utilization program, and the creation of a master plan to develop Vista Field will encourage business, industry, and families to make Kennewick their home. Additionally, I applaud the efforts of the Arts

Center Task Force to develop the Vista Arts Center for the performing and visual arts. These projects and others work in supporting an outstanding quality of life in Kennewick, but they do come at a price - price that has to be budgeted and managed in order to build for capacity.

Do you believe city government should weigh in on labor and industry issues (e.g. minimum wage, etc.)?

The role of city government is to effectively manage the city's resources, infrastructure, services, and personnel to assist in creating a safe, family-friendly quality of life, while also being forward thinking enough to develop plans for future strategic growth. I'm not certain it is the role of local city governments to actively participate in creating labor and industry policy. However, city governments would be foolish not be cognizant of the impact of such national and state policies affecting businesses operating in the city and subsequently, the quality of life of its residents.

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?

Absolutely, our success is reliant upon the success of the region not an individual city. By collaborating with other regional economic development groups, we exponentially harness the resources and power to drive economic change and development. I feel an obligation to get all stakeholders at the table and create a future that is achievable, realistic, and works for everyone.

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?

Steve Jobs once said, "Great things in business are never done by one person; they're done by a team of people." I have always been a team player committed to giving 100% to meet the goals and expectations of every project I have ever been involved with. Building partnerships and creating collaborative opportunities for teams representing the public and private sectors to work together is imperative to advancing community and business development in our region.