

## City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Alan Koebrick                      Position Sought: City Council    Ward: 2

1. Please describe why you are seeking the position of City Councilor.

During the recall and the manager incident, I listened to the comments of local citizens. It seems that people here want a little more serious business leadership. I feel my past 30+ years in small business and small town politics will bring a bit of hope for them.

2. If elected do you have any specific things you would like to accomplish during your term on the City Council?

First of all, I am interested in expanding some form of neighborhood watch, using volunteers and neighbors. Property crime has gone up a great deal. We need to work alongside the Public Safety Department to protect ourselves. Let this be a real “All American City”

3. Please provide us with a listing of your prior community and civic involvement in Grants Pass (or other communities).

I first entered local politics serving as city councilman in Lakeside, OR. On moving to Coos Bay and North Bend area, I ran for county commissioner, was an aide to State Senator Ripper, was on the school budget committee several years, was on the ODFW Board, , and belonged to several community service clubs (such as the Lions and Jay-C's).

4. Please tell us your understanding of the role of Economic Development and what you believe should occur with Economic Development during your term.

I'm not sure which model the city and country follow, but it is my understanding the ED's role is to maintain a balance of growth between population and industry and business. I think it is time to shift business to an exogenous growth model, using our brains, not all our natural resources.

5. What role do you believe Tourism promotion and the Tourism program should play in Grants Pass over the next four years ?

It seems that every little town in the Northwest thinks they can pull in travelers from California to spend all their money right there. I think that we should look at it more like A time –share and get them to come regularly to see relatives or what we have to offer.

6. The decisions on the Urban Growth Boundary will be made in the next couple of years. Please tell us your understanding of the purpose, and your views on the extent (if any) that the Urban Growth Boundary should be expanded.

At this time I'm not aware of the present Urban Growth Boundary or the comprehensive plan for growth. Growth is always needed in moderation.

7. What is your position on signage for local businesses (i.e. it should be expanded, reduced regulated, unregulated, etc.), and why?

As a past business owner I realize that signage is an important part of making one's business profit. Uniformity in signage is also important to the citizens. We must find a happy medium with placement of signs on sidewalks, in parking lots and elsewhere.

8. The community survey annually asks about how citizens perceive growth and the impacts of growth on the community. Please describe for us your position on community growth.

I am pro-growth as long as the growth of residential and business are proportionate. This growth should need minimal regulation. Both the river and the freeway draw people and industry to Josephine County. Therefore, we should be able to enjoy ample growth.

9. This City is actively evaluating parks and recreation plans. What is your position on the proposed part plan, and to what extent do you believe that parks should be directly funded by local taxing efforts?

I don't have the facts and information at this time. I attended the Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> City Council Meeting in which the park plan was discussed. The citizens and the council seemed to be at odds. I see that some of the parks are quite vacant at times. We need to review the needs and the costs. In this economy, I would not suggest increasing taxes to provide additional parks.

10. Please let us know your position on the funding of Public Safety (fire, police, building enforcement).

I am a very conservative, budget minded person. The city should be run like a business, not a social club. In these hard times we ALL need to tighten our belts, and manage our dollars carefully. We need to look at how we are delivering our public safety services to maximize efficiency with our tax dollars. We need to look at what we can realistically do, rather than what we WANT to do.

11. Do you believe taxes and fees in Grants Pass are too high, too low, or about right, and to what extent do you believe these should be changed?

I believe that the taxes in Grants Pass are similar to those in surrounding cities. However, due to the decline in property values, a reassessment may need to be done. Also, the tax base structure should be reviewed to see if the city budget can sustain any reduction.

12. In your opinion, what role does the downtown play in the future of Grants Pass?

The downtown plays a major role in sustaining our city as a draw for tourists and an option for local shoppers. The city should encourage downtown businesses by creating incentives for them. Parking should be more available, and covered parking would nice if grant money is available.

13. Please provide us with any other information you believe makes you the best candidate for the City Council.

I am a fiscal conservative, and my vote can't be bought. My social life is not intertwined with politics. Not having roots here, I have an unbiased opinion, am here by my own desire, and intend to retire in Grants Pass. I have been a small business owner for 35 years at various locations. I have participated in many service clubs and civic committees, and I feel I have attained a credible knowledge of the working process of city government.