

## City Council Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Jack Greenberg

Position Sought: City Council

Ward: 2

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

**The single biggest motivation to run for City Council was my two young sons. As this being our home for a very long time, I think it is my duty to ensure that the City of Grants Pass is a great place to live for my children, and the children of others. I want the city to be a place that families and individuals want to make their home and also bring a new and exciting feel for the people who are proud to already call Grants Pass home.**

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

**I think one of the major things I would like to accomplish is bringing the community back into a solid partnership with the city government and make the community feel as if they are part of solution again. The transgressions of the past year have created a fissure between members of the community and city government and I would like to take steps to heal that fissure with a “one brick” at a time approach, allowing the community to bring their “brick” to foundation of our City’s future.**

**The other major thing I would like to accomplish is advancement in economic development (job creation) for our city’s future growth. Unemployment is at an all time high throughout the nation and as such it has hit the Southern Oregon area. I think we need to focus on creating economic development and look for new opportunities for business and job creation. I believe that the City and County Governments can look to work together in this effort and find new and exciting ways to promote Grants Pass to companies/entrepreneurs looking for new opportunities/locations to bring jobs within the town.**

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

**Honestly, this would be my first opportunity towards community service in Grants Pass. I am currently co-treasurer of my son’s pre-school (Tinkerbelle Preschool).**

**I also have served in the United States Armed Forces (Air Force) for 8 years.**

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

**I believe that role of Economic Development for any city is one of the most crucial functions. If the economic development is not sought after or managed effectively, a city can not grow or will outgrow itself. I believe we need to look at different avenues for economic growth via small businesses or entrepreneur ventures. I also believe that we need to get a feel from the citizens on what services or business they would like to see and find ways to pursue those if possible. I think we need to see how we can create jobs within the city, I believe that we can also work with the County in this effort and find new and exciting ways to promote Grants Pass to companies/entrepreneurs looking for new opportunities/locations to bring jobs within the town.**

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

**I believe that Tourism Promotion will play a large role in the next four years. During this economic downturn families are unable to afford the high dollar vacations of the past and are looking for less expensive ways to enjoy time with their families. Southern Oregon provides a plentiful amount of opportunities (parks, trails, outdoor venues) for families to spend quality time without deeply affecting their budgets and the promotion of these venues is a must. I believe that getting this information out nationwide could provide an avenue for people to get to know our town and area, and allow for their next vacation or adventure to be in the City of Grants Pass.**

**I travel for my work and I will tell you that SkyWest Airline has a great magazine that focuses on the areas that they fly. (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Colorado, Utah). This may a great outlet to promote the city and allow people to find out what we already know; that this is a great place to live and visit.**

6. The decision 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.

**The Urban Growth Boundary is vital to understanding the allotted land space available to the city and community growth within those spaces, as well as possible inclusion of individuals already within County proxy. I think that the city needs to evaluate in detail the expected growth and possible need for expansion, as it pertains to increasing their funding base or service base. I personally am not against expanding the Urban Growth Boundary as I believe there are individuals that would welcome inclusion into the city limits; we as a city would just need to do our research and find the areas that best meet that wish and ensure that the areas identified increase and provide a benefit to both the city and the citizens.**

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

**I believe that signage for local businesses should have some form of regulation and that believe that the current processes/laws in place are sufficient. I believe that the current sign maximums laid out for business owners more than meet the need any business owner, and if this is changed then the city will run into issues with land usage/space/beautification issues. I can tell you from personal experience (small town in Maryland I grew up in) that if regulations are not upheld and managed that a nightmare of issues can occur (city government allowed for all types of waivers/unregulated signage and land usage/conformity issues became lawsuits from various entities with regards to this decision).**

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 think that community growth is a must for any city, but growth must also be done smartly and planned accordingly so that the increase doesn't exceed the allotted space. I believe that for the future of the town we must look at ways to bring new people/families into our community, but we also must look at the development space that is available. I think we need to look realistically at the percentage of people we believe that will be relocating to this area or leaving this area to determine if we currently have enough allotted space/developed land to accommodate the growth.**

**One major issue I see currently is that the city has many housing developments under construction that are currently not being finished (due to economic reasons) or empty lots (construction approved) not being developed at all. I think the city needs to re-evaluate their projected community growth numbers to see if that if these developments under construction or already approved for development will meet the projected needs for the next 2-4 years. We as a city can then determine future land usage by developers and see if there really is a requirement for near term housing developments or if the land could be used for other avenues, such as other forms of economic development.**

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

**I have personally read the Master Parks Plan and believe that it is a great vision for the City. I believe that recreation and parks are a vital part of a community's well being and growth. I understand that the projected usage at River Reserve Road has been an issue, but I think the first step in correcting the public's perception is identifying a "Life Cycle" roadmap via a "Local Master Park Plan" for that location. I think this would allow us to take the next step of the project from vision to execution and show the citizens that the city has a solid plan for execution and allow them to see all the wonderful benefits that can come from this property.**

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

**I believe that Public Safety is a main staple of any city and as such should be part of the yearly operating budget, not funded via a levy. I think we need to look at different avenues that we can do to accomplish this, as I do not expect that this can be done overnight. I think that we can look 2 years down the road to find a way to include this into yearly operating budget and not via a levy. I understand that the mentality can be that the citizens here will always vote “yes” for the levy, but my fear is that if the answer is “no” then we will have to sacrifice services that are required. I think the city government and council can work together to investigate the best way to change the Public Safety funding mentality (via a levy) and come up with a great solution to benefit Grants Pass.**

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

**I believe that taxes are requirement of any city to ensure that certain services allotted to the citizens are funded properly. I do believe though that the city government needs to evaluate the economic climate to ensure that raises in taxes/fees are not in conflict with the financial situation of their citizens.**

**I believe that most of the taxes/fees in Grants Pass are right, the only one I see that I think is a bit askew is System Development Charge’s (SDC). As I saw in the paper today this is going to be potentially one of the issues that the incoming councilors will be facing and I would welcome to be part of the solution. I was very shocked to see that the average cost of building permit fees rose almost 72% from 2000, we are only talking 10 years and that to me seems to be to steep of a jump. I think the SDC issue can be a deterrent, not to large businesses looking to build here but to the small business owner who is possible looking to making Grants Pass their home.**

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

**I think the Grants Pass downtown area is vital to the future growth of the city; the downtown is the main staple for the hometown feel of our city. I think that we need to look at ways to better promote our downtown area in the tourism side and also help our downtown business owners with promoting themselves.**

**I can tell you that my family visits the downtown area constantly for all types of services (i.e. Ice cream (Blind Georges), Fountain drinks (Grants Pass Pharmacy) and for family walks. I personally believe that it is very important that we grow our downtown area and find way to bring new and exciting small businesses into our already great downtown fold.**

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

**I have 15 years of management experience in working large dollar projects for the Department of Defense. I have managed large budgets (over 10M), supervised numerous personnel (20-50 people), and understand how to manage in a fast paced/changing environment.**

**I have a Bachelors of Science Degree in Business Management from Marian University (Indianapolis, IN) and have the highest level of Certification (Level III) from the Department of Defense in area of Program Management.**