

QUESTIONNAIRE ANSWERS FOR DEAN GRAFOS

INTRODUCTION and QUALIFICATIONS:

My name is Dean Grafos and I am currently running for City of Spokane Valley Pos. 2 City Council. I have lived in the Spokane Valley for almost 50 years, married into a long-time business-owning family and raised two children in this special place. I am a graduate of Lewis & Clark High School and Eastern Washington University. I am also a licensed Washington State Real Estate Broker with continuing education. I have over 45 years as a self-employed business person and am a current owner/employer of several successful businesses in storage, real estate management, development and construction. Thus, I have years of proven experience in management and sustainable business models to serve my community. I believe government must look to business models and possibilities to meet future challenges within the realities of limited future resources.

Other qualifications include over six years of service on the City of Spokane Valley City Council and my last two years as the current Mayor. I have also served as a church, community and parent volunteer and continue to serve organizations in my capacity as a council person besides my full time business obligations.

WHY I CHOSE TO LIVE AND WORK IN THE SPOKANE VALLEY:

As a member of our current City Council, we have coined the slogan "Spokane Valley, City of Opportunity," but I actually did move after we married to Opportunity for business opportunities! Though my wife was a Central Valley graduate, she convinced me that this was the ONLY place to live. And, she was right for we have never once regretted that decision and I am eternally grateful for the fine living we were able to make and the wonderful community, i.e. "village" it became to raise and enable our children to reach their highest potential.

WHAT DOES PUBLIC SERVICE MEAN TO ME:

Public service, in my opinion is a responsibility for each of us to fulfill. It can be done in many ways and should be a part of each person's life, beginning early on. We are truly blessed and privileged to live in this country and community. Though we have much, there is so much that we all must do together to continue and improve on what we have. And we cannot just look to others and to government to do it for us. By working to improve our communities, we empower others and help lift all for our betterment.

THE ONE THING TO SUPPORT BUSINESS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY OF SPOKANE VALLEY:

I believe and have championed from my first day in office is the development of INFRASTRUCTURE, BOTH PHYSICAL AND REGULATORY! Though public safety trumps all, next come roads, bridges, and all the physical supports to provide safety and promote commerce and communication. But equally important is the REGULATORY infrastructure, especially permitting and a business-minded short and long-term planning department. As a business person, I feel I know what creates jobs and good

commerce to pay the bills and truly blend the advantages of the free enterprise system and government responsibilities.

THOUGHTS ON THE BIG FIVE IDEAS:

I am very excited on the entire concept of the Big Five. To me, it demonstrates forward-looking thinking, exactly the thinking I outlined in my State-of-the City (see below) to move communities forward. Creative and positive ideas are essential to help communities grow and when they represent the thoughts of the community, then it is up to elected officials to consider them and how to partner to make our community better.

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FACING THE CITY OF SPOKANE VALLEY:

As Mayor, I spoke in my State of the City to the challenges facing the City of Spokane Valley. As a business person deeply rooted in this community, I believe that we must be ever vigilant on spending, but at the same time, we must not be AFRAID to tackle the big issues, especially those involving physical infrastructure, a most notable example the need to address the bridging of the Valley. Waiting for some other government entity to supply resources in an era of scarcity is not an option. We must begin somewhere, and looking at no growth or movement in this competitive age is actually a step backward for new population only happens with economic growth. In business, I have always looked for targeted, responsible and well-considered spending to move forward for business is doomed without change and growth.

PRIORITIES FOR CITY GOVERNMENT:

My priorities for city government have ALWAYS been: public safety, infrastructure, parks and neighborhoods for quality of life.

PERCEPTIONS VS REALITIES ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS:

The reality, not the perception, is that the City of Spokane Valley is a good partner with other government entities. This is first of necessity for our city is a contract city and looks to whomever can supply the most economical and well-delivered services to our citizens. Our City contracts with over 14 contracts with Spokane County, most notable for our public safety. We also contract with private entities for other needs. We work to find the most efficient and beneficial contracts and grants with the well-being of our constituents as our top priority. A good relationship does not always require using a "regional" approach however, because often times, the City could lose its voice within another layer of government. Therefore, any relationships must serve all parties fairly.

One notable example of City-County cooperation is in the development of the Appleway Trail. Commissioner Mark Richard and I met over coffee to see how we could turn an eyesore (Old Milwaukee Right-of-Way) into a community asset. We felt a good start was to develop a walking trail in some form and the rest, as they say, is history. It took our Council and County officials to come together to help make this wonderful trail a reality. And as most of this money comes from outside sources, we can thank our 4th District legislators and other parts of government for helping to make this possible.

