

Questionnaire for Candidates

Briefly introduce yourself and list your qualifications for elected office.

My name is Sam P Wood and I am running for the Spokane Valley city council. I have lived in the Spokane area for 68 years and I have a wonderful wife, 2 grown children and 2 grandchildren. My grandfather moved to the Spokane Area in 1913 and started a restaurant called the Rivera. In 1972 I opened a restaurant called the Woodshed Pizza (at the same location) and operated the restaurant until 1998. At that time I started a Real estate company called Wood and Wood Realty which is still operating today. In 1996 I became a Certified Real Estate appraiser and in 2006 I opened my own Appraisal Company called Sound Appraisal Management. My hobbies include golfing, fly fishing and ATV riding. Mixed into all of this I attended EWU and received a degree in Journalism and business marketing in 1996. Besides all my business activities I have been very involved in my community. Currently I am chairman of Carnhope Water district and have been on the board for over 20 years. I am also on the board of Directors for SCOPE and I am serving on the Spokane Valley Planning Commission. Besides these political committees and boards I have also been a scout leader, golf coach for the First Tee Northwest and am serving on the mission's board for the Bethel Nazarene Church. All of these life experiences have prepared me to serve effectively on the Spokane Valley City council. With your help we can make the Spokane Valley a great place to come home to!

Why do you choose to live and work in the City of Spokane Valley?

I live in the Spokane Valley because I enjoy the environment and the county feel of most of the older neighborhoods. It offers a rural flavor but it has good access to most of the necessary urban conveniences. We have good roads and beautiful parks and the access to the Spokane River provides an added appeal. It is a great place to call home.

What does public service mean to you?

It provides me an opportunity to give back to society which is a responsibility I take serious. Volunteerism is essential for a community and it connects us to each other and gives us a sense of pride and identity. Abraham Lincoln said: "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that this place will be proud of him."

What is the most important ONE thing you could do to support business growth and development in the City of Spokane Valley?

Keep taxes and government regulations at a minimum. Be proactive about our relationship with small businesses. This community makes up over 80% of **businesses** in the valley. They do most of the hiring and we on the city council need to be sure that we are not creating regulations that hinder their success. Their success will also make the Spokane Valley successful. We need to do line by line evaluation of the regulations and ordinances that have been imposed and mandated by prior city councils and staff and simplify or eliminate those that are not necessary to maintain public health and safety. Being a small business owner for over 40 years in the Spokane Area I understand small business

and how difficult it is to make a profit. I have had employees and signed the front of checks. The Spokane Valley city council needs to understand their struggles if they are going to be effective in providing leadership that will help them succeed.

The Greater Spokane Valley Chamber recently announced the Big FIVE for a Greater Spokane Valley (attached). What are your thoughts on the Big FIVE? What can you do as an elected official to support the implementation of these five initiatives?

The collaboration of city leaders, city government and citizens from all levels with extensive thought and foresight came up with the big five and they did an excellent job. The city council will be of the most assistance by continuing to participate in the process of facilitating the goals that have been set forth and to assist in maintaining a pro-business environment.

What is the biggest challenge facing the City of Spokane Valley?

The City is in the middle of the comprehensive plan update. The impact of this update will affect our property rights and property values for years to come. It is important that we get this right. I have been a real estate appraiser for the last 19 years and I own and operate Sound Appraisal Management and Wood and Wood Realty. Every day I see the impact that zoning and land use regulations have on property values, rights and uses. These are real life experiences and not just book knowledge and I will bring this experience to the city council. One of the difficulties we face in updating the comprehensive plan is the balance between growth and maintaining the Valley environment that most of the citizens list as one of their top priorities. We can achieve this balance but it will take thoughtful consideration and common sense.

What should the priorities of city government be?

- 1) Keep city government efficient and accountable to the people. I have a motto: "take care the nickels and dimes and the dollars will take care of themselves". I learned this in the 27 years I spend in the restaurant business and I will bring that same mentality to city government.
- 2) Keep our roads and parks well maintained and safe. The people want the Spokane Valley to be a great place to work, live and play and a great place to come home to.
- 3) Public safety needs to be the best it can be for the money we spend. Look at our contracts with Spokane County and be sure the Citizens of the Spokane Valley are getting the best service they deserve for the hard earned money they are spending. That goes for all contracts that the city has. Be tough negotiators.
- 4) Be proactive about our relationship with small businesses. This community makes up over 80% of businesses in the valley. They do most of the hiring and we on the city council need to be sure that we are not creating regulations that hinder their success. Their success will also make the Spokane Valley successful. Do line by line evaluation of the regulations and ordinances that have been imposed and mandated by prior city councils and staff and simplify or eliminate those that are not necessary to maintain public health and safety.

It is often perceived that our local governmental agencies do not get along with one another. What are your thoughts on this perception? If the perception is true, how would you change it?

Since the formation of the City of the Spokane Valley there does appear to be some animosity between the different levels of government. Often times that can happen if we let our own personal agenda interfere with the people's business. A simple solution would be to initiate open and casual conversations (over a cup of coffee) which can lead to some great ideas and certainly a better working relationship; a relationship of cooperation, respect and understanding. I truly believe that if rational people, even if they may disagree on issues, can come together and reason together and find common ground to agree on, then progress can be made and in turn better governance. We will never agree on how to do everything but we certainly can agree to have respectful conversation and an open mind. Contempt before investigation is the sign of ignorance. I will bring common sense and a friendly open approach to all relationships. We all work for the people.