

Questionnaire for Candidates

Briefly introduce yourself and list your qualifications for elected office.

Steve Peterson

Retired Pharmaceutical and Consumer sales -35 years.

Mayor City of Liberty Lake - 11 years.

Arizona State University BS 1973

Advanced Municipal Leadership Certificate - Association of Washington Cities

Why do you choose to live and work in the City of Liberty Lake?

Liberty Lake has great amenities and green space for those who enjoy an active lifestyle. Liberty Lake also has a highly -educated work force with entrepreneurial spirit. Together they make Liberty Lake is a great place to live, work and play!

What does public service mean to you?

Giving back to my community and hopefully making this a better place to live.

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

Constantly look ways to reform rules and regulations that negatively impact our business community. (Either state or local.) Locally, I have worked on a number of issues for business but one most recently was changing our sign code that provides merchant and local organization to begin using electronic movable messages. Statewide I worked on the transportation plan that brings Liberty Lake a new interchange at Henry road. Not staying ahead of our transportation issues hurts economic development and business growth. In 2016, the Eastern Washington Association of Mayors, which I am a member, will tackle L&I and Prevailing Wage issues to make us more consistent with our Idaho neighbors and reinforce opportunities for our local businesses to compete.

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?

Five good visions of a successful community. Now how will we implement the actions needed to achieve those goals. Government is a facilitator so as representatives we need to insure a good

breeding environment for changes to take place. Like I said in earlier responses, look to reforms that make us competitive with other states and areas.

Cures are close to my wheelhouse. Connect our people and talents to create the pharma cluster. I remind you that Jubilee on the northside of Spokane is a leading drug maker whose Spokane operation was started by a group of local allergists. Expand on that model and now tie in our hospital- medical school connections.

Outdoors and tourism go together. We need to leverage our success in Hoopfest, Bloomsday and Skating to expand into other sport and outdoor activities. All of those were created by someone who said “Why Not!”

Manufacturing is a reach-out to the aerospace industry to build on the Air Spokane footprint.

Finally, I would “HACK “the Big 5. Bring together our college and millennial's to ask what are your ideas and what are the new tools we can use, create or adopt to make that happen. Maybe thinking niches not the big grandiose ideas.

What is the biggest challenge facing the City of Liberty Lake?

We will double in size over the next 10 years and we must be sustainable and proactive in developing and maintaining city services that our citizens have come to expect. Property tax today just takes care of Police and Courts. Sales and Utility taxes maintain everything else. Our Utility tax is dedicated to transportation infrastructure that is top on most citizens’ list.

What should the priorities of city government be?

1. Safe, Clean and Green community
2. Economic development with a good wage base.
3. Adopt LEAN Principals for government to live by.

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 were true, how would you change it?

I believe we do get along. I believe we are all working for the same objective, which is making our community the best. To do so, we must be willing to give up parochial wins to move the needle forward on our community objectives. The parts are not greater than the whole so the only way to expand the whole is by working together!