

ANNOUNCEMENT: TODAY, I AM ANNOUNCING MY CANDIDACY FOR THE COEUR D'ALENE CITY COUNCIL SEAT #3. AFTER TALKING WITH MY FAMILY AND EXAMINING MY CONSCIENCE, I FEEL CALLED TO OFFER MY EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF COEUR' DALENE. I AM GUIDED BY MY DESIRE TO SERVE THIS WONDERFUL CITY AND ITS PEOPLE, AND NOT TO PURSUE MY OWN AGENDA, NOR THAT OF ANY OTHER PERSON OR GROUP. COEUR D'ALENE HAS BEEN GOOD FOR MY FAMILY AND I WANT TO WORK TO MAKE IT A GOOD PLACE FOR OTHERS, A PLACE WHERE ALL SHARE IN THE BENEFITS OF LIVING HERE.

WHY I AM RUNNING:

I LOVE COEUR D'ALENE AND FELT PRIVILEGED TO SERVE ITS PEOPLE WHILE IN THE LEGISLATURE. I WANT TO PUT THAT EXPERIENCE TO GOOD USE AND HELP BUILD A HEALTHY COMMUNITY WITH A STRONG FUTURE. PUBLIC SERVICE IS IMPORTANT TO ME AND SERVING ON THE COUNCIL IS A WAY I CAN WORK FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE OF COEUR D'ALENE. I BELIEVE I CAN MAKE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION BY WORKING FOR A RESPONSIBLE CITY GOVERNMENT THAT PROVIDES THE NEEDED SERVICES IN A COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER.

COEUR D'ALENE HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY AS AN OUTSTANDING SMALL CITY ON MANY OCCASIONS. THAT SPEAKS WELL OF WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, YET CHALLENGES REMAIN. BUDGETING WISELY AND PRUDENTLY TO MEET CITY NEEDS AND PROVIDE NECESSARY SERVICES IN A DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CLIMATE IS ONE. DEALING WITH CHANGE AND GROWTH IS ANOTHER. PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR CITIZENS TO MAKE A DECENT LIVING IS STILL ANOTHER. UNFORTUNATELY OUR RECENT POLITICAL DEBATE HAS OFTEN BEEN NEGATIVE AND DIVISIVE. I WANT TO CONFRONT THAT BY SEEKING TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH OTHERS, INCLUDING THOSE WITH DIFFERING VIEWS, IN A POSITIVE, CIVIL MANNER. I BELIEVE SUCH AN APPROACH WILL PRODUCE BETTER RESULTS FOR OUR CITIZENS AND CONTINUE TO ENHANCE OUR QUALITY OF LIFE.

ISSUES:

MCEUEN FIELD – CHANGE IS DIFFICULT, ESPECIALLY CONTROVERSIAL CHANGES SUCH AS THE PROPOSED RE-DESIGN OF MCEUEN FIELD. IN GENERAL I SUPPORT THE PROPOSALS PUT FORTH BY TEAM MCEUEN, BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS I DO NOT FAVOR, NOR DID I SUPPORT THE INCLUSION OF TUBBS HILL AS A PART OF THE PLAN, AND I WORKED, AS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE TUBBS HILL FOUNDATION, TO HAVE IT REMOVED, WHICH IT WAS. NOW I SERVE ON THE AD HOC COMMITTEE CREATED BY THE CITY COUNCIL TO EXAMINE WAYS TO MAKE IT MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR THOSE WITH DISABILITIES WITHOUT DISRUPTING THE NATURAL STATE OF THE HILL. I WOULD ADD THAT IF A MOTION WERE MADE AT A COUNCIL MEETING TO PUT THE ISSUE OF THE MCEUEN RE-DESIGN TO A PUBLIC VOTE, I WOULD SECOND THE MOTION AND LET THE ENSUING DISCUSSION AND CITIZEN INPUT GUIDE MY VOTE.

LCDC – THE ORGANIZATION HAS ADDED GREAT VALUE TO COEUR D'ALENE OVER THE YEARS, BUT AGAIN, THERE IS CONTROVERSY. WHILE IN THE LEGISLATURE I RESISTED EFFORTS TO GUT THE STATE'S URBAN RENEWAL LAW, WHILE SUPPORTING CHANGES THAT MADE IT MORE EQUITABLE. URBAN RENEWAL, AS AUTHORIZED IN STATE STATUTES, IS THE ONLY WAY CITIES HAVE TO CREATE A STRONG ECONOMIC BASE. LCDC HAS CERTAINLY ADDED JOBS TO COEUR D'ALENE. I BELIEVE IT HAS RESPONDED TO ITS CRITICS AND HAS BECOME MORE TRANSPARENT. WITH GOOD COUNCIL OVERSIGHT IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE A VALUABLE MEANS FOR THE CITY TO RENEW ITSELF AND PROVIDE ECONOMIC

BENEFITS TO OUR CITY. WHILE ON THAT SUBJECT, I SEE NOTHING WRONG WITH BEING A WATCHDOG OVER THE CITY, INCLUDING LCDC, WHEN DONE IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER, BUT AT SOME POINT, A PERSON MUST BE MORE PROACTIVE RATHER THAN REACTIVE. TAKING ON THESE CHALLENGES AND MAKING GOOD POLICY DECISIONS IS WHAT I HOPE TO DO.

EDUCATION CORRIDOR – I HAVE BEEN A SUPPORTER OF THE EDUCATION CORRIDOR FROM THE BEGINNING. EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE KEYS TO A HEALTHY COMMUNITY LIFE AND TO INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS, INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO FIND A GOOD JOB. THE IMPROVEMENTS TO EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE EDUCATIONAL CORRIDOR AND THE PARTNERSHIPS IT REPRESENTS WILL IMPROVE THOSE CHANCES IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND WILL HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON OUR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING IN THE YEARS TO COME. TWENTY TO THIRTY YEARS FROM NOW PEOPLE WILL BE PRAISING THE DECISION TO MOVE AHEAD WITH IT.

SALARY INCREASES – RAISING SALARIES IN THIS ECONOMIC CLIMATE REFLECTS A TOUGH DECISION MADE BY THE CITY. THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO DO IT WITHOUT RAISING TAXES IS COMMENDABLE, AND, AT THIS TIME, NECESSARY. ALTHOUGH CONTROVERSIAL, I WOULD LIKELY HAVE SUPPORTED THE INCREASE FOR SEVERAL REASONS. FIRST, THEY WERE NOT ACROSS THE BOARD INCREASES BUT WERE CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS FOR MERIT AND STEP INCREASES THAT NEEDED TO BE HONORED. SECOND, WE HAVE AN ECONOMIC INVESTMENT IN OUR CITY EMPLOYEES AND WHEN THEIR WORK AND WORTH IS NOT RECOGNIZED WE WILL LOSE SOME OF THEM AND WITH THEM OUR INVESTMENT. THIRD, IN THE CASE OF OUR POLICE AND FIREMEN, THEY PUT THEIR LIVES AT RISK TO KEEP US SAFE AND TO PROTECT OUR PROPERTY. I WOULD NOT DENY THEM AN INCREASE WHEN THEY HAD VOLUNTARILY GIVEN UP AN EARLIER CONTRACTED RAISE. THEY DESERVE OUR SUPPORT. FINALLY, THE ADDITIONAL INCOME FROM SALARIES WILL LARGELY BE RECYCLED BACK INTO OUR COMMUNITY, THEREBY HELPING LOCAL BUSINESSES.

TAXES – I AM WELL AWARE OF THE NEED TO HOLD THE LINE ON TAXES AND AM COMMITTED TO DOING SO. I SERVED ON THE HOUSE REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE DURING THE DIFFICULT TIME WHEN PROPERTY TAXES WERE ESCALATING IN THIS STATE AND WAS ON THE JOINT HOUSE-SENATE COMMITTEE TO FIND A WAY TO CREATE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. AS A RESULT OF THE WORK OF THAT COMMITTEE THE HOMEOWNER'S EXEMPTION WAS INCREASED FROM \$50,000 TO \$100,000 AND INDEXED TO HOUSING PRICES. THE RESULT WAS A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN PROPERTY TAXES. I ALSO SUPPORTED AN INCREASE IN THE GROCERY TAX CREDIT TO PROVIDE MORE RELIEF FROM THE BURDEN OF SALES TAX ON FOOD. WITH GOOD OVERSIGHT AND EFFICIENT USE OF OUR RESOURCES WE CAN PROVIDE THE SERVICES OUR RESIDENTS WANT WHILE KEEPING TAXES LOW.

OTHER ISSUES, ALL IMPORTANT TO SOMEONE, WILL SURELY COME BEFORE THE COUNCIL IN THE FUTURE. MY APPROACH WILL BE TO LISTEN CAREFULLY, SEEK ALL AVAILABLE DATA AND INPUT, WEIGH THE INFORMATION CAREFULLY, AND WORK WITH OTHERS TO MAKE DECISIONS THAT ARE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF COEUR D'ALENE.