

NORTH CLACKAMAS COUNTY CHAMBER QUESTIONNAIRE - COMMISSIONERS

The North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce is made up of more than 600 businesses, representing more than 26,500 employees, located in the Clackamas County and Metro area. We may be considering endorsing in your current race, and need to know more about your beliefs to assist us in making our recommendations. Please complete the following questionnaire and return promptly.

Responses to these questions will be the basis of the topics at the Candidates' Issues Events at which you have been invited to speak. Questions at the issues event may include any of the following.

Responses to this questionnaire will also be posted on the Chamber's website, www.yourchamber.com.

Please return this by email to ceo@yourchamber.com before Friday, March 14, 2008. **Please limit your response to each question to no more than 100 words.**

Name Charlotte Lehan

Office Sought Clackamas County Commission Position #4 Party Affiliation Non-partisan

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- 1.) Tell us briefly about yourself, who are you and what are the major issues facing the office you are seeking and how will you respond to those issues if elected?

Having served for nearly 12 years as mayor of one of Clackamas County's fastest growing cities where employment continues to out-pace residential growth, I believe I have the experience and background to lead the county through a period of intense growth and economic development while maintaining the features and assets that attract people and businesses to Clackamas County. Major issues facing the county include transportation and infrastructure funding, determination of urban and rural reserves, and the transition out of direct library service provision.

- 2.) What is your solution to the county's wastewater capacity problem?

The City of Wilsonville has its own wastewater treatment plant and we are finalizing plans to move forward with a major expansion and rate increase. I am now learning more about the capacity issues at Kellogg Creek and at CCSD#1. I am looking forward to a recommendation for the most cost-effective solution currently being developed by the Regional Wastewater Committee. Their conclusion is expected by the end of April. When we do have a clear recommendation we should move ahead expeditiously with a solution since wastewater capacity is essential to support responsible growth and costs will continue to climb with further delay.

- 3.) How would you recommend funding transportation in the county – both maintenance and capital?

Road maintenance needs to move from being fuel based to being utility based because roads are the community's most valuable asset and maintaining them in good condition is much cheaper than maintaining them in poor condition. Even though a road utility fee was unsuccessful a few years ago, we need to approach the topic again with a broad-based task force. Capital funding needs to come from a variety of sources including federal and regional funds, system development charges, local improvement districts, and urban renewal districts. The more important issue will be making investments that make transportation sense in the long run to effectively move freight and commuters rather than just chasing congestion from one place to another.

4.) Will you encourage unincorporated areas to incorporate or join cities?

I am presuming you mean urbanized or urbanizing unincorporated areas as opposed to all unincorporated areas, but yes, they should be strongly encouraged to incorporate or join an existing city. Clackamas County cannot be expected to act as the de facto City Council for urban areas in need of urban services.

5.) Business is seeking an environment that is supportive of growth and expansion. What obstacles does it face and what will you do to assist in overcoming these obstacles?

Growth needs to be targeted to get the kind of growth that is desirable. Traded sector industries with family wage jobs are essential to the vitality of other retail and service sector industries. Undisciplined growth that does not pay its way is likely to exacerbate infrastructure deficits and add to the tax burdens of existing businesses. The first priority for economic development should be to encourage expansion of existing businesses and building on existing industrial clusters.

6.) What will you do to promote and encourage economic growth in the county?

Clackamas County is extremely diverse and what is appropriate in one part of the county may not work in other areas. Development of the recreation industry of the Mt. Hood territory will depend on better transportation access for visitors without overwhelming the mountain with automobiles. Maintaining a strong agricultural economy means offering stability for farm land, water, and transportation to market. Expanding the knowledge-based economy of high tech industries means investing in schools, libraries, and protecting the quality of life that attracts the best employees. Clackamas County's distribution industries need access to good multi-modal freight routes. Partnering with these major business sectors to determine their most important priorities will be important.

6.) List briefly your biographical information limited to age, former/current elected positions, years in State/region/County/district, community involvement.

Age: 57

**Elected Positions: Wilsonville City Council 1991 - 1996
 Wilsonville Mayor 1997 - Present**

Years in State/region/County/district:

Grew up in Wilsonville, attended West Linn High School; have lived outside Oregon less than 5 years total; have lived most of my life in Clackamas County.

Community Involvement:

**Member Regional Water Consortium
Clackamas County Small Cities Rep to Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC)
Clackamas County Small Cities Rep to Urban/Rural Reserves Steering Committee
Member Clackamas County Coordinating Committee
Member Clackamas Cities Association
French Prairie Working Group
Member Policy Steering Committee (PSC) for I-5/99W Connector
Wilsonville Adjunct Transportation Committee
Wilsonville Budget Committee
Metro Green Ribbon Committee
Member Oregon Heritage Tree Board**