

North Clackamas County Chamber Questionnaire 7/21/08

Ron Adams

Office – Clackamas County Commission, Position 5 (NON-PARTISAN)

Party affiliation – Registered non-affiliated Independent

Phone 503-636-8444

e-mail – [rwadams34@gmail.com](mailto:rwadams34@gmail.com)

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?

1. I am a registered, fiscally responsible, Independent (changed from moderate Republican 20 months ago). I was a State Representative for six years (term limited), served as Chair of the Business degree program at Marylhurst for 11 years, was Director of the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps for 8 years, and had a career in management with AT&T and Pacific NW Bell. I have also been on the Board of Clackamas Community College for 6 years. The biggest problems facing the County are growth and the infrastructure to support the growth in tight budget times – basically a choice between money and restraint. I will be a centrist voice of reason regarding fiscal responsibility. Listening to constituents will be a strength, especially representing the unincorporated parts of the County and smaller cities.

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

2. WASTEWATER CAPACITY: The County Commissioners have already approved Phase 1 of a master plan to improve CCSD#1 and expand the Tri-Cities wastewater plant to accommodate growth. The first bonds will be issued prior to the new Board taking office. Water quality is not mentioned, but must also be a priority since seven County cities get their water from the Clackamas River.

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

3. TRANSPORTATION FUNDING: Federal transportation funding has basically dried up and the 'Payments to Counties' funding has expired. Plus, I think the tax-payers will be reluctant to approve any increases. Those are the negatives. Two things must happen – all Oregon County Commissioners must join with the Association of Oregon Counties and the Oregon Congressional delegation to redesign and re-institute some form of federal payments to replace lost timber revenues. Those payments will probably be less than the \$12 million lost for Clackamas County, but after a regime change in Washington DC, I believe some level of funding will be forthcoming, providing we help make it happen. I have lobbied for this at the federal level and know the players. The second need is for the federal government to recognize the need for capital infrastructure upgrades nationwide. Clackamas County will not solve this alone, but must participate.

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

4. UNINCORPORATED AREAS: I will encourage incorporation where the citizens want it. I would not mandate incorporation or force joining cities. While unincorporated areas 'might' receive fewer urban services than provided in cities, I know they understand and accept that reality.

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?

5. BUSINESS OBSTACLES: Infrastructure is key to allowing business to prosper as are education, training and jobs. I will champion infrastructure expansion and economic development in the smaller cities and education, training and job development County-wide. There may also be statewide legislation that could support growth and expansion in Clackamas County. I have worked closely with the Legislature for years on both policy and funding for the Youth Conservation Corps and Community Colleges. I know the system having served on both Revenue and Ways & Means and could play an important role.

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

6. PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH: I think I've answered this question in 4 and 5, but would add that the Legislature can do many things to enhance business. The key for Clackamas County Commissioners is to have a plan and work hard at implementing it with state elected officials from the Governor on down. This must be a unified Board voice so it would be a mistake for me to outline a plan in advance that all of the Board might not agree with. I think my Legislative background could help measurably in this regard. Economic growth also depends on perceived livability of the County. We must protect those elements of the environment that enhance the desire to live here.

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

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Age: 74.

\* Elected to Oregon Legislature three times – 6 years (term limited).

\* Elected twice to Clackamas Community College Board (now six years). Past Chair.

\* Over 60 years in state – Gladstone Grade, West Linn High, Portland State, Marylhurst. (Same home last 21 years.)

\* U. S. Army – Honorable Discharge.

\* Community – West Linn Lions Service Club (Past President), School District Committee on character building, West Linn Chamber of Commerce (Past Board).