

Name: Deborah Barnes

Office Sought: Milwaukie Mayor

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1. Discuss your position on the expansion and upgrading of the Harmony Community Campus.

I am proud to see the continued commitment by partners in our region to come together on projects that will protect the environment, enhance our economy through education, and provide additional opportunities for those in Milwaukie and Clackamas County. The choice to use green development practices and focus on alternative energy sources makes good sense for the environment and in our commitment to protect our resources.

However, I continue to be concerned about any plan that would impact the 3-Creeks area with the addition of concrete and any impact on the City of Milwaukie with additional traffic through our neighborhoods. We defeat the purpose of enjoying nature and our green space if we choose to impact that space with the inclusion of the possible extension of Sunnybrook through those resources while adding more traffic through the City of Milwaukie. The campus proposal itself is to be applauded. However, impacting our environment with additional traffic through the property behind the campus is disconcerting.

2. Discuss your position regarding Milwaukie Light Rail:

This issue has been one of the most difficult for Milwaukie. On one hand, we have concerns over the impact on our neighborhoods, our downtown, and our schools. I have heard those concerns and will continue to work with the Council and Tri-Met to make sure the mitigation factors established by Milwaukie are followed and those concerns are addressed.

I am in favor of having the light-rail system in Milwaukie as an additional form of transportation. Yes, I do hope we can find ways to continue to communicate the importance of public safety security measures being fully integrated into the line passing through Milwaukie. And, it may mean an advantage of finally coming up with a way to help us deal with the challenge of securing quiet zones for our community railroad crossings. Our responsibility is to continue to enable our regional partner to understand the importance of expectations with this project.

3. What do you believe are the most significant problems facing business and communities in general today?

As we all know, basic infrastructure plays a key component in the needs of both businesses and households in our region. Our transportation system is facing a continued shortfall in revenue sources to improve our roads. When transportation costs increase it impacts the decisions of businesses locating into our region. Meanwhile, we continue to prepare for added congestion in Clackamas County and a lack of funding to improve freight mobility. In Milwaukie, it came to a point where we had to make the reasonable decision to find our own funding sources to maintain our own infrastructure.

As one would expect, the current worldwide economic situation is playing havoc with business and industry as well as local government. The situation is obviously complicated and continues to be volatile. It will continue to be difficult for the local economy to find stabilization as long as the world market continues to fluctuate. Local small businesses need the ability to obtain credit in order to keep employees and produce supplies to keep them stable and that has an impact on the community.

4. What are the solutions to the above problems and how would electing you help achieve the solutions?

Part of the solution is based on having connections with those who can assist in securing funding. My six years of being on Council that followed 14 years of being a broadcast news reporter in Oregon have allowed me to meet and work with lawmakers both at the state and national level. But that must be tied to being able to bring business and local leaders together to pursue funding through the Chamber and other economic development organizations. We also must urge efforts to review any and all funding mechanisms that are the most efficient in order to move forward.

5. Can you give an example of a way in which you have supported a business/community position in the past?

I have worked closely with residents in Milwaukie over our concerns regarding two major issues; the expansion of Harmony Road and the Community Partnership Committee regarding regional wastewater solutions. In both situations, it has been my responsibility to make sure the concerns of Milwaukie ratepayers and residents have been understood. These complicated issues have meant being able to clearly communicate the concerns of our residents with partners who may have different expectations. I believe I have consistently represented Milwaukie's interests on both issues.

6. List briefly the three top reasons voters should elect you to this position.

A. Six years experience as a member of the Milwaukie City Council with proven results:

Co-Founder New Century Players, Initiated Milwaukie Economic Development Committee, Representative to Regional Wastewater Solution Group, Harmony Road – Milwaukie Representative, supported the financial health of the Ledding Library, worked with residents in the Ardenwald Community concerned over the development of the Balfour House, among other major issues.

B. This is the City where I grew up and raised my family:

We have four-generations of my family living in Milwaukie. This City and its future remain important to me because of the residents – residents that include my children and grandchildren and other family members.

C. I have proven that I am willing to work hard:

Democracy is more than a spectator sport. That is probably why the majority of the NDA leaders in Milwaukie have chosen to support my candidacy and why the City employees, the County firefighters, and the North Clackamas Teacher's Association have all chosen to endorse my campaign for Mayor of Milwaukie.

Age: 51 years old

Elected Positions: Two-terms Milwaukie City Council

Years in State/Region: I grew up in Milwaukie and attended Lot Whitcomb, Dale Ickes Junior High, and Clackamas High School. I bought my first home 20 years ago.

Community Involvement: Stand For Children, Friends of the Ledding Library, Riverfront Festival volunteer, City booth- Sunday Farmers Market, Community Wastewater Solutions group, Harmony Road group, economic development visits.