

## 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 may be the basis of the topics at the Candidates' Issues Events at which you may be 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](http://www.yourchamber.com).

Please return this by email to [ceo@yourchamber.com](mailto:ceo@yourchamber.com) before Monday, March 1, 2010.

**Please limit your response to each question to no more than 100 words.**

Name Jim Bernard

Office Sought Clackamas County Commissioner Position 5 Party Affiliation (if applicable) N/A

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- 1.) What are the major issues facing the office you are seeking and how will you respond to those issues if elected?
  - Budget shortfalls-Make sure that we spend our limited revenues in areas where we can do the most good and where we have the greatest control. We are seeking state and federal support where possible to leverage our investments.
  - Lack of infrastructure funding-We are focusing what little we have on investing in projects that protect and enhance our current infrastructure. We are studying our pavement and spending our money in areas that our pavement management study suggests we get the best bang for the buck.
  - Providing for the needs of our most vulnerable-We are reorganizing our organization to enhance our ability to reach out to those in the greatest need and we are spending our dollars on sustainable solutions
  - Jobs, Jobs, and Jobs-Where possible we are trying to get projects going and use local contractors. We are checking in with our development community to make sure they are getting the service they need and our citizens to move projects forward. We are working hard to study urban and rural reserves, preserving farmland, and provide for industrial job development.
  
- 2.) What is your solution to funding the county adequately to develop and maintain needed infrastructure?

In this economy I have no solutions. We will be looking at first spending what we have strategically and thanks to the 2009 legislature we have been given some funding opportunities that will take effect in the near future. Gas Tax, vehicle registration, and we are looking at utility fees for roads our problem is a billing mechanism.

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

First I believe this issue should be addressed at the state and federal level; but, there does not appear to be the political will to make this critical decision. We either invest to maintain and enhance our infrastructure or we pay the cost of reconstruction, increase greenhouse gasses, and pay the cost of congestion. In Milwaukie I provided the leadership to move this issue forward including the adaption of a gas tax, utility fee, and privilege tax. With our partners in the business community and citizens we worked out an acceptable level of support. I have worked with the Oregon Legislature to find funding for alternative transportation and with Metro's Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation to study alternative funding tools such as increasing vehicle registration, VMT, tolling, and utility fees. At the County we will be looking at a vehicle registration fee increase in 2010-2011.

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

Yes!

- 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?

It can take years to move a project through the planning stage so I would advocate for an enhanced process. Every business has specific obstacles to expand and the only way you can find out those issues is to sit down and talk. In our North Industrial Area we had a 25% job growth. Bob's Red Mill has tripled in size and many other businesses have grown throughout the City and County thanks to my efforts.

As Mayor and County Commissioner I have also found that uncertainty has been a deterrent to growth. It is important that the uncertainty is eliminated.

It is also important to have developable land available and the infrastructure to provide the services needed to expand and when possible tax incentives that will help facilitate investment in equipment and job growth. Pre-application meetings that provide a sound foundation up-front and be assured that they have an understanding of all necessary requirements and opportunities available.

- 6.) What will you do to promote and encourage job development in the county?

First we need to make sure we have adequate industrial sites to accommodate future industrial development. We need to partner where possible to support improved transportation access to industrial sites and improve where possible the movement of traffic. The Sunrise project is an example of all the above with \$130 million of \$1.6 billion dollar project and little money on the horizon it will be important to focus our investments strategically. OIW will be able to expand on site a test track, Safeway, and Fred Meyers will continue to grow in our North Clackamas Industrial area. This is just one example of how we are

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

Age: 55

Elected Positions: Clackamas County Commissioner 2009-Present Mayor City of Milwaukie 2001-2009 years)

Years in State/region/County/district: Born and Raised Milwaukie Oregon

Community Involvement:

(President) Bernard's Garage Inc., Metro's, (Member) Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation, (Alternate) MPAC, (Executive Committee) Clackamas County Coordination Committee, (Member) Sellwood Bridge Policy Group, (Board) North Clackamas Parks and Recreation, (Business Manager and Co-founder) Milwaukie Sunday Farmers Market, (President) Milwaukie Downtown Development Association, (Chair) North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce, (Board) North Clackamas Education Foundation, (President) Celebrate Milwaukie Inc., (Participant) Mayors on Wheels, (Organizer) Milwaukie Festival Daze, Milwaukie Riverfest, Bing Cherry Festival, (Board) Oregon Mayor's Association, 2006 Oregon Mayor of the Year (Large City). (Board) Clackamas County Business Alliance, (President-Vice President-Treasurer Automotive Service Association of Portland