

2019 Candidates Questionnaire - Lakehaven

Response for: Anonymous

Completed: 9/3/2019 6:00 PM PDT

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Thank you for your interest in serving our community as an elected official. The Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce extends the invitation to all candidates to complete its Candidate Questionnaire. The questionnaire and your answers will be shared with the community via our website, fedwaychamber.com. In addition, completed questionnaires will be compiled and distributed to our Membership in a special publication. To meet production, deadline is 4 p.m. on September 6, 2019. About the Questionnaire. There are four sections to the Questionnaire. Please limit your answers to no more than 200 words max for each question.

1 Full Name:**2 Position you are seeking:****3 Education:****4 Current Mailing Address:****5 Telephone:****6 Email:****7 Website:****Text Block :**

8 **What are your priorities for Capital Improvements in the Lakehaven Water & Sewer District budget?**

My capital project priorities are health and safety (water quality), environmental stewardship and improving system resiliency. Projects should emphasize technology to improve efficiencies and evaluate life cycle costs to reduce long-term expense. Lakehaven recently stated they require \$250 million in capital improvements in the next decade. Their rate structure funds about \$17 million annually. Unfortunately, prior Boards failed to collect enough revenues to build reserves to cover projects and buffer the need for sharp rate increases. Now, they will propose drastic rate hikes to makeup the \$8 million annual deficit. I will evaluate capital budgets through a lens of need versus want. As Engineering Manager at a water utility who oversees capital projects, I have a comprehensive understanding of public works to ask the difficult questions to truly identify need. I have designed and managed infrastructure for over 25 years and will bring valuable insight to the Board.

9 **What is your fiscal management strategy for long-range planning of our water and sewer resources?**

Lakehaven is proud of their extremely low rates. They are the lowest of 22 regional purveyors and 40% below the median charge. These rates are not typical, sustainable and considered by many in the industry to be an outlier. The District sacrificed long-term financial stability for short-term political gains. They deferred timely improvements and the building of financial reserves. Now, ratepayers must absorb rate increases and pay more for overdue capital projects. Lakehaven needs an asset plan analyzing two or three times the length of the asset life cycle. The plan must identify replacement schedules, risk profiles and future capital expenditures. The District can then develop a financial plan to support the need. The ongoing effort will identify demands before they are due, build reserves to mitigate rate increases and avoid delay for capital projects. Financial management should provide for long-term stability, timely upgrades and minimizing sudden rate increases.

10 **Lakehaven is invested in long-term community growth through a Pivotal Partnership with the Chamber. How do you plan to work with the Chamber on business outreach and economic development initiatives?**

The ability to provide affordable and reliable water and sewer service is essential to create a vibrant economic community. Excess fees and charges for utility service directly impacts future development and the ability to sustain a business in the region. In addition, maintaining a robust infrastructure minimizes the burden on future businesses and encourages growth opportunities. The Greater Federal Way Chamber of Commerce is a key stakeholder in Lakehaven policy decisions. Open and candid discussions is important to receive valuable feedback on proposed policy and how it will impact the business community. Lakehaven must not implement policy in a vacuum. As Commissioner, I look forward to working with the Chamber and fostering a close partnership. I plan to be active and a voice on the Lakehaven Board looking after the needs of business and the District ratepayer. My goal is to ensure Lakehaven supports business and growth in Federal Way and the surrounding communities.

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Political Engagement

11 **Have you sought elective office before? If so, please describe the office, the level and outcome.**

The Lakehaven Water and Sewer District Commissioner position is my first endeavor running for public office.

12 **Do you have any previous experience with the local government office you seek? If yes, please describe.**

In my professional capacity at an adjacent water utility, I interact with Lakehaven management through our industry partnerships. I also participate in several industry trade groups like the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts (WASWD) and the American Water Works Association (AWWA) along with Lakehaven Commissioners and staff. I have worked in public service with elected officials either as a consultant or agency employee for over 20 years.

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Campaign Activity and Finance

13 **What is your campaign budget, how much have you raised, and what are your primary sources of funding?**

I have elected mini reporting for my campaign and will not be spending more than \$5,000. I am not seeking donations as I am self funding my campaign.

14 Please share your major endorsements from the South Sound region (This scope should include the surrounding South King area in addition to Federal Way itself).

I have not sought endorsements for this non-partisan position.

15 Have you contracted with a firm or individual to manage your campaign? If so, please provide the name and address of the firm/individual. If not, what are your plans regarding management of the campaign?

I am personally managing my campaign.