

Council

Continued from A1

above). I have been a small business owner, a professor, and an administrator frequently asked to mediate conflict resolution. I have founded community groups and served on state boards.

What is the city of Redmond doing well and what does it need to improve?

Redmond has done much well, but needs to do better planning and utilize the existing 20-year plan. We need solutions for the homelessness and mental health problems, involving transitional housing. We need more affordable housing, utilizing auxiliary dwelling units. The city council should hear citizen input and questions at the start of meetings and allow any city councilor to add agenda items to the council agenda.

How will you measure the success of the council during your term?

Success may be measured by financial data, transparency, and citizen satisfaction with business opportunities, growth in development, traffic, safety, housing, and critical services. The true test of city leadership will be managing the city to remain a great place to live in the future.

John Nielsen

Age: 45
Neighborhood: Canyon Point
Time in Redmond: 20 years
Work experience: 15 years community banking in credit unions
Family: Married in 2007, five children between us: four boys and a girl

Why did you choose to run for a council seat?

I am seeking a seat on the Redmond city council because I support transparent, open, responsible government that is willing to deal with the issues we face. As Redmond continues to grow, we face challenges in affordable housing, a growing homelessness crisis, and ensuring proper planning in transportation and infrastructure that will meet our needs without forcing an undue burden on taxpayers.

We must also ensure that Redmond continues to be a welcoming community for families, individuals, and retirees. Council leadership has a responsibility to take these issues head on and look beyond partisan divides to find real solutions by working as a team to ensure Redmond remains exceptional. I believe strongly, that local government must represent all those that live within its borders and work to build community bonds.

What in your background gives you the skills to succeed in this position?

I have lived in Redmond for 20 years, I am Army veteran, a businessman and a father. I have worked in community banking for 15 years and am the branch manager for Mid Oregon Credit. I have seen up close the issues that Redmond families have to contend with and I have worked to help them solve problems.

I have worked to support local businesses in Redmond as a member of the REDI board and up close as a small business loan officer. As a Rotarian I have worked to support local causes including

schools, the homeless and veterans. I have been active in the Chamber of Commerce for years and am a graduate of the chamber's Leadership Redmond program.

In my role as dad, I have 5 children — 4 of whom live in Redmond. Two of my sons are in their 20s and are trying to make lives for themselves here. My pride and joy are my 7-year-old twins, both attend public school in Redmond. I have spent most of my life in the service of others and political party rarely came up. I wish to continue that service while ensuring my children can make a good life in the community I love.

What is the city of Redmond doing well and what does it need to improve?

In Central Oregon, Redmond has set itself apart in quality of life and as the best place to raise a family. Our parks and downtown area are second to none and getting better every day. We have provided the needed support to our police. I am proud to have been on record in the last election as a supporter of the public safety bond. We are a business-friendly city that actively promotes growth and innovation through economic development and a highly skilled population.

Redmond has all the skills and resources to own the future. Where I do see room to improve is in leadership, we need forward thinking cooperative leaders that takes responsibility and seek community input. If the city council does not take steps to deal with growth and our changing city, we will fall into the same traps that Bend and so many other cities have done. We have already started to see how ignoring issues like housing and homelessness have negatively impacted our community. We have seen how passing responsibility for the homeless crisis to county and state officials have led to reduced business opportunity, blighted neighborhoods, and a human caused fire that threatened the city.

We have a highly skilled and dedicated city staff that are ready and able to deal with the issues we face. Have only require a council willing to face these issues head-on and work as a team to empower the people of Redmond to work together to get real results.

How will you measure the success of the council during your term?

My view is that effective government means that most folks don't need to think about it. Clean water, safe streets, good parks and no traffic jams. All of these things require a solid team of city staff working in the background. To achieve this, you need cooperative leaders and good oversight to direct policy and remove any waste or abuse. If elected I work to improved communication and cooperation between city councilors and city staff. Seek more transparent and effective community engagement. In terms of policy, my focus will be on a reduced homeless population, a sustainable plan including safe locations and services for those that remain, and a fully supported police force to ensure public safety. I would also work toward an infrastructure plan base on future needs that is flexible and scalable to meet the needs of our future.

Cat Zwicker

Age: 57
Neighborhood of residence: SW Redmond
Time in Redmond: 22 years
Political experience: Vice chair of the Redmond Urban Area Planning Commission (2018–2021), city councilor (2021-present)
Work experience: Real estate broker, small business owner, retail buyer
Education: Bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Georgia, 1987

Family: One daughter who lives in Eugene and attends the University of Oregon and my mother, who lives with me.

Why did you choose to run for a council seat?

As a real estate broker, I work with the community day to day and see the impacts of growth, both positive and negative. I love this community and I want to continue to create a place where we love to live, work and play. Redmond deserves safe, connected communities, above minimum wage jobs, affordable workforce housing and abundant options for childcare and senior services. Being on city council allows me to support my community and keep the spirit of Redmond strong, even as we grow.

What in your background gives you the skills to succeed in this position?

My work in the real estate industry and previous leadership experiences have provided me with an understanding of the necessity to create solutions that engage and involve all sides. Listening to the needs of everyone and working to solutions takes the ability to not only negotiate but to find compromise. I have the willingness to do the work it takes to understand and communicate the policies being developed and the ability to look at both the short-term and long-term implications of a policy, as well as its fiscal impacts.

What is the city of Redmond doing well and what does it need to improve?

Redmond has been doing well with growth so far. However, the rapid growth of the past two years has exceeded the metrics of the 2040 comprehensive plan and the housing needs analysis. Infrastructure and transportation will need our focus in the coming years to catch up with this rapid growth and have an eye on development that sets the stage for continued, sustainable growth. In that growth, we need to better plan for middle workforce housing as well as affordable housing for those making less than the median area income and look to the infrastructure necessary to support it.

How will you measure the success of the council during your term?

As one person my success will not be as easily measurable as the participation and accomplishments of the whole. The council sets goals at the beginning of each session. Identifying these goals and setting metrics on which we can measure their achievement will be one of the most important processes to identifying the future success of our endeavors. Working together to accomplish these goals through better community outreach, communication and cooperation will be where I start.

Continued on A5

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Codify Roe v Wade?
 Jamie: Yes.
 Lori: No.

*"I will take on extremists who would ban access to abortion and keep government out of personal medical decisions."
 — Jamie McLeod-Skinner*

*"I would be in favor of passing legislation like the heartbeat bill."
 — Lori Chavez-DeRemer*

Common Sense Gun Safety?
 Jamie: Yes.
 Lori: No.

Fire mitigation?
 Jamie: Follow the science.
 Lori: Cut the trees.

Fund Police?
 Jamie: Yes, she increased funds.
 Lori: Advertises lies about Jamie's record.

Did Joe Biden win the 2020 election?
 Jamie: Yes, he did.
 Lori: 🐔🐔

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for Deschutes County Treasurer

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Wayne Lowry, former Deschutes County Treasurer

Greg Munn, former Deschutes County Treasurer

Tammy Baney, former Deschutes County Commissioner

★ ★ ★

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Deschutes County Treasurer

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