

# CANDIDATES

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Boone considers his main strength to be his ability to put his own feelings aside and use logic to weigh competing options.

"A lot of these issues have no perfect solution, and that can be frustrating," he said. "But I have to put the frustration aside and make the best — or perhaps the 'least worst' — decision possible based on reality as it is, not as I would like it to be."

"It's vitally important that municipal government be directed by rational thinking based on reliable data and solid evidence", he said. "When emotions run high, it's easy to make mistakes based on our gut feelings and knee-jerk reactions. And everybody makes mistakes sometimes. But when government makes mistakes, citizens suffer. So it's a big part of my job to make sure that we're making as few mistakes as possible."

Boone believes that transparency is important as well.

"Platitudes and sound bites are useless. If I've cast a vote on the Council for or against some agenda item, I owe it to the citizens to provide an explanation of my reasoning to anyone who asks, and I'm happy to do that. I even run a website at jakeboone.net so that I can try and better communicate with the public. That way, they can put me on the spot where everyone else can see it, and can decide if what I say comports with reality as they know it."

**Mike Fleck**  
Interview response

Fleck serves on one of the Council's at-large seats; he is in his third term on the Council and has served on the South Lane Fire Board and City Budget Committee. He said the "big push" of his candidacy is that he has been the only person on the City Council to advocate for lowering the cost of construction permits and the City's Systems Development Charges, or SDCs, which are levied against developers to offset the added costs their construction brings to the City.



"I would love to reduce our SDCs by 10 to 25 percent," Fleck said. "I hear from builders how expensive it is to build here, and I think we should be cheaper than our neighbors."

Fleck said he supports a bond for local street projects so that the pipes and other infrastructure under the streets can be fixed as the street is being rebuilt.

"We could make real improvements to the City's infrastructure that way," he said.

Fleck said that as mayor he would also push for improvements to the City's fiber optics and wireless systems. He said he's excited about the upcoming election, as it offers "an opportunity to have a fresh look at the issues facing Cottage Grove."

## At-large council candidates

**Kenneth Michael Roberts**

Written response

Hello Cottage Grove. I'm Kenneth Michael Roberts, one of your City Councilors-At-Large.

I was appointed to that seat when Heather Murphy stepped down. As a radio host on K N N D, I reported on council meetings with Cameron Reiten for over a year and was then given a seat on the Budget Committee, which led to my council appointment. The last five years since my battle with bladder cancer have been spent in service to my community, including Bohemia Mining Days, the Concerts in the Park, downtown clean-up and the W.O.E. Fair. I also sit on the South Lane Television board and the Board of



Eugene Area Radio Stations.

I love helping people to build a better community as past president of St. Vincent de Paul. I made 126 home visits helping families in need. So please vote Roberts for City Council. Let's fix our roads and make our infrastructure stronger for the generations to come. Thank you.

**Ivan DelSol**  
Written response

Ivan DelSol has been part of the revitalization of historic downtown Cottage Grove for 12 years. Born in Los Angeles and a computer programmer by trade, he fell in love with Cottage Grove while working with a computer game company in Eugene. He's at home in a small town, with an ever-growing appreciation for the community, beauty and authenticity found in the Grove.



Ivan's proudest contribution to downtown is the community impact of the Lawson Building at 513 East Main Street. Starting as a restoration volunteer, he purchased the building in 2006 for a community arts and education space. In 2011, he founded the nonprofit Opal Center for Arts & Education to meet that goal and the need for a cultural center in downtown Cottage Grove, promoting community participation and creativity. He also helped facilitate the Storybook Theatre youth theatre program, KSOW radio, the All Species Parade, the Cottage Grove Film Festival and countless theatre productions and community events. Throughout, Ivan worked with local businesses to sponsor, support and embrace these events and to reach as many Grovers as possible.


Ivan also feels passionate about fairness and constructive communication in Cottage Grove city policies. In 2006, he

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## Siuslaw News 4th Annual Wiener Dog Races




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jpetersen@thesiuslawnews.com  
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