

# Election

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city council to give my time and energy to help direct the city's vision. I want this community to be the place that I raise a family in and want to be involved in the process of making it that place.

3. I moved to this valley to begin work at BMHD as a physical therapist in 2017. I moved here with my wife and we had our first child in March of this year. In the first months that we arrived I started attending the John Day city council to learn more about the city's projects and soon started lending my expertise to community committees. I was appointed to the city council last year when the current councilors saw my dedication and interest in city government.

As a physical therapist, communication with my patients and collaboration with their health care providers is essential in my patient's care. These skills will translate well into local government both as a consensus builder and a representative of the people in the community. As your city councilor, I would be a thoughtful and open-minded representative who will listen to your ideas and concerns with the intention of understanding your perspective and being your voice with the city.

4. My vision is for John Day to be a great place to raise a family. As a city councilor, I will support projects that create or maintain family wage jobs and create healthy activities and opportunities for kids in order to keep existing families here and attract new families.

Broadband is essential for the sustainability and growth of our community, in part because it is vital to K-12 and post-secondary education. As more jobs are going remote we have the opportunity to attract new people and employment options.

As a small community it is important that we support each other and look for opportunities to work together. Resources are spread thin and development and growth

## THE QUESTIONS

1. Please describe the position for which you are running and its importance. (50 words or less)
2. Why are you running for this position? (50 words or less)
3. What is your background, and what qualifications and experience would you bring to this position? (200 words or less)
4. What issues would you like to address, and how would you do so? (200 words or less)

in one community in Grant County benefits the whole. John Day has initiated some great projects but hasn't always been able to effectively collaborate with community partners. I will help facilitate the collaboration that John Day needs to garner public engagement, unify efforts, and gain efficiencies.

### CANYON CITY CITY COUNCIL

#### Two vacancies

**Russ Comer, Canyon City**

1. I am applying for the position of City Councilor for the town of Canyon City. This position provides a conduit between the city government and the community members. As a representative for my community, I feel it is important to have diverse backgrounds and viewpoints.

2. I am running for this position to continue to serve the community and bring a progressive perspective to the council. If elected this will be my second term served with The Town of Canyon City.

3. I have a background in public health with an emphasis on community partnership and policy development. For 7 years I was the director of the Grant County Safe Communities Coalition. Currently, I am employed part-time with public health. I am also a local business owner. In addition, I serve as a member of the board for Families First Parent Resource Center, an appointed member of the Local Community Advisory Council to the Coordinated Care Organizations, and a board member for Eastern Oregon Trails Alliance. My goal for this position is to increase what Canyon City has to offer its citizens



Russ Comer

as well as create an attractive environment for people to want to stay and raise families.

4. In this position I would like to foster an environment where the public feels comfortable having a voice on topics related to the city agenda. I would also like to continue to be available to community members as a voice for them at the table when they cannot be present to represent themselves. I appreciate the opportunity to represent the Town of Canyon City.

**Rachelle Simmons, Canyon City**

I am seeking reelection to the position of city councilor representing the Town of Canon City. I believe that serving the people of Canyon City as a council member is important as it allows me the insight to inter-workings of our community and resolving concerns of our citizens.

I am running for this position to continue helping with current issues in our city. My background and qualifications are in making decisions in budget planning, economic developments and ongoing infrastructure projects. I have worked under three different mayors while serving the residents of Canyon City as well as various council members over multiple terms. During that time, we have continued to work on improving our cities water systems, bridges, and city streets. In addition to upgrading several pieces of equipment for the city's workforce.

If given the opportunity, I look forward to continue working with our mayor, council members and representing the residents of the community as well as partner-



Rachelle Simmons

ing local city governments.

**Lisa Weigum, Canyon City**

1. I am running for City Council in Canyon City. Local government is important for many reasons but I feel one of the biggest reasons is because people need to have access and opportunity to talk directly to their elected officials who have the most impact on their everyday lives.

2. I am running for this position because I want to be involved in and support my community. I was born and raised in Grant County; I can understand and appreciate the local perspective as well the perspective of those who have decided to make Canyon City their home.

3. Being born and raised in Grant County gives me a natural understanding and appreciation of our lifestyle and culture. I have experienced the hardship that comes with living in this community and I've felt the utter kindness and outpouring of love and support that you can only know if you lived here. After graduating Grant Union in 2003 (go Pros!), I received an undergrad degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economic with a concentration in Public Administration from Eastern Oregon University. I have extensive experience as a board member for several local non-profit boards including CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), JD/CC Parks and Recreation, the Grant County Community Health Improvement Coalition, the Grant County Safe Communities Coalition and was a founding



Lisa Weigum

member of Hope4Paws: Grant County. My board experience has allowed me to build strong and meaningful relationships not only with my community but also with our local elected officials.

4. An effective city government means an engaged and approachable council with diverse and relevant experience, and most importantly, a willingness to listen to their constituents. Part of that effectiveness means new people on the council. As it is now, nearly every single City Councilor for the City of Canyon City has been in their seat for multiple 4-year terms. With change comes new ideas, thoughts, and perspective all of which are essential for the vitality of local governance and fair representation for the residents of Canyon City.

I would also like to address public access of city council meetings for residents of Canyon City. Unfortunately, COVID has changed business as we know it. City council meetings should be held in-person with a virtual option. This would not only allow constituents to have the opportunity to be informed and involved but would also ensure transparency of the Council and accountability of their decision-making process. This could be accomplished by working in partnership with other local agencies and organizations, such as our Economic Development office. Collaboration and partnership are valuable strategies that should be often utilized in local government.

### MT. VERNON CITY COUNCIL

#### Two vacancies

**Judi Bennett, Mt. Vernon**, did not respond.

**Mike Cearns, Mt. Vernon**

The importance of city council is to see that the residence of Mt. Vernon benefit from the decision made by the mayor and the city officials. The



Mike Cearns

importance is to also hold everyone accountable for the decisions being made.

I have lived in Mt. Vernon almost 30 years and want to see this town as a good place and safe place to raise your family. I also want to continue to see good decisions being made for the good of the community and Grant County as a whole.

I have been on city council for the last 6 years. In my time on city council we have seen the city park be developed and improved. We also are in the process of many improvements on the sewer system. I serve on the Mt. Vernon Fire Department and have served for almost 30 years. I have knowledge on the sewer/water system as well as all the current policies and procedures.

Serving the residence of Mt. Vernon is a pleasure and I will continue to make sound and right decisions for the community.

**Kelly Flanagan, Mt. Vernon**, did not respond.

The questionnaire sent to the address listed by **Lori Kerr, Mt. Vernon**, was returned to sender.

**Jan Lowry, Mt. Vernon**

1. I am running for a position on the Mt. Vernon City Council.

2. I was on the city council once before and feel that I can do a good job again.

3. As for my background I worked for the City of Mt. Vernon for 17 1/2 years until I retired. So I pretty well know what goes on in daily city business. What is needed or what isn't. And as stated before I had a seat on the city council and feel I did right by the city and would like to do so again.

4. I don't have any certain issues that need to be addressed at this time. Just would like to do my civic duty and help where ever I can.

Lowry did not provide a photograph.

*Candidates for Prairie City City Council and Long Creek City Council did not respond.*

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# Thank You

from the BLUE MOUNTAIN EAGLE to the THINK PINK SPONSORS

We at the Blue Mountain Eagle would like to thank all of the businesses who participated in our October 7, 2020 Think Pink publication. Without supportive businesses like you, we wouldn't be able to raise money for our October cause.

**This year we managed to raise \$1,395.00!**

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Virginia McMillan D.D.S.

# CANYON CREEK Clinic

*Tentative opening date:*  
**December 7th, 2020**

Will begin scheduling patients within the month....Recommend obtaining copies of medical records for those desiring to reestablish care.

I appreciate my patients and their patience!

Shawna Clark, DNP, FNP

## 541-575-1263

235 S Canyon Blvd. John Day, Oregon 97845

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