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McCartin: Outsourcing, jail and civility

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consultants and outsourcing rather than doing work in-house.

2. Using the county jail to confine the homeless, substance abusers, and the mentally ill who need inpatient care.

3. The Clatsop County Commission often acts in a disruptive and acrimonious manner. The government entities in the county are too competitive for the good of the whole.

How would you approach those three issues?

1. Outsourcing: Severely lessen the amount spent for outside consultants and outsourcing contracts. Make sure that the competitive bidding laws are

followed. Ensure there is full disclosure and transparency with respect to financial transactions.

2. Jail: Form a committee to raise funds from the community so that -- coupled with some tax dollars -- a treatment center could be erected to positively help these people.

3. Civility: For 53 years, in various capacities, I have brought individuals and groups with divergent views together for a positive outcome by means of solidarity and dialogue.

As a commissioner, I will do this with respect to the Commission and the County, solutions to common problems may be attained.

Davis: Housing, budgets, technology

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and technological changes.

How would you approach those three issues?

1. Housing: I'll work from the foundation created by the current housing study and create a network of cooperation with the incorporated areas of the county to address workforce housing needs.

I see this as the most crucial short-term issue for the county and it will require the cooperation and hard work of all the government, business and nonprofit groups to effectively solve this issue for the long term.

I believe my skills for synthesizing and effectively presenting data to different audiences will help to get all stakeholders on the same page and move the county forward.

2. Tight budgets: This is a larger issue that has roots in increased costs from PERS, but also in restrictive

property tax laws at the state level.

There are limits to what we can do as a county, but I have experience writing and seeking grant funding, and would try to leverage that to enable the county to undertake capital improvement projects without having to depend so heavily on bond issues from the public.

I would also explore what options we, as a county, have for raising additional revenue from vacant and vacation homes to incentivize remote owners to return dwellings that are infrequently used back to the pool of available housing in the county.

3. Demographics: Our county is older than the national and state average, and we face a demographic bubble like much of the U.S.: when the baby boomer generation retires, we will need to provide more health services and later-life care than we are currently prepared for.

In addition, I believe technological shifts will automate many current jobs and leave many residents looking for new careers.

We can approach these two issues together by working with county agencies and groups to provide education and support for those wishing to work in the caring industry. Support for existing nursing and CNA programs, as well as programs to train behavioral health workers and end-of-life caregivers, will ease both of those transitions in our county.

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