

Election Forum

County Judge



Donald C. McElligott

Incumbent Donald C. McElligott is running unopposed on the Democratic ticket for the six-year term of Morrow County Judge.

He and his wife, Eunice Hiatt McElligott, have eleven grown children.

He attended Morrow Co. Davis School, Ione High School, Beaverton High School, St. Mary's High School, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration with a major in accounting from the University of Portland.

He is a life member of the Wheat League, a member of the Cattlemen's Assoc., of Willows Grange, the National Farmers Organization, American Legion, V.F.W., B.P.O.E. No. 358, St. Patrick's Church, has been a school board or advisory committee member for 20 years, a member of the Morgrass Grazing Assoc., and president of the Long Creek Cattlemen's Association.

He is a director of the East Central Oregon Association of Counties, a director of the Oregon Consortium, a director of the Association of Oregon Counties, a member of the executive committee of the Oregon Computer Consortium, and a member of the standing committee for Agriculture of the National Association of Counties.

He has submitted the following statement regarding his candidacy:

"I believe that I am the most qualified candidate for the position of County Judge. I've spent seven years learning the job and endeavored to do everything necessary to do a good job for you. A small county such as ours must have the cooperation of all our neighbor counties and agencies to get highway or other benefits. An example of this is the Computer Consortium. We were one of the three original members. We developed and now jointly own software programs which we are selling to other counties to recoup our costs."

Questions and Answers

1. How would you suggest balancing the county budget since federal revenue sharing may no longer be available?

The only way of balancing the county budget is with sales, grants, or taxes. The first is limited by the fact that we may not compete with private enterprises. For the second, we aggressively seek all sources of state, federal, and private funds but the amounts available are decreasing. However, the loss of Revenue Sharing for Morrow County will not be that serious as we have used it as Capital Improvement money and a small amount for social services and not for operating expense. Any major capital improvements from now on will probably have to be financed by bond sales. We expend about \$20,000 for social services. If the taxpayers wish to retain the services, the tax rate will be about 2 1/2¢ per thousand. With the completion of the Courthouse work, we should be able to postpone any further building until the economy improves.

2. Is the current arrangement for housing prisoners satisfactory? If so, why? If not, how would you try to improve the situation?

The current prisoner situation is not perfect, but is workable. We have post-conviction prisoners at Kennewick in the Benton County Jail. We house prisoners awaiting trial wherever in Oregon space is available, which is sometimes very inconvenient. The alternative is to build our own jail. A pre-fab cell block alone with 16 cells will cost about a quarter of a million dollars and must be attached to a support service building which will nearly double the cost. A certified staff to operate the jail will cost us more than we pay in rent. The Judge of Jefferson County told me last week that his jail budget is \$200,000.

3. What steps would you take to upgrade the county road system?

We are in a long-term road program now and our objective is to make it more efficient. This fall, we completed our capital equipment purchases so we will only be budgeting for replacements from now on. This should give us more funds for road materials. Our other objective is to contract the things that we can't do well or economically and do better on the things that we can do at a lower cost.

4. What would be your first goal or objective, if elected?

My first goal in 1987, as in every year, is to get an operating budget and the levies to support it. Other goals are to keep all our outside projects rolling, i.e., Forest Highways, Highway Bridge replacement projects, and state six-year projects from the consideration phase to completion.

5. How should the disagreement about the site of the senior citizen center be resolved?

I believe that if the present disagreement continues, it will endanger the whole senior building program. Each organization must

consider its own best interests and not rush into a decision that it will regret later. Perhaps the best solution is to start at the beginning and create a balance sheet of pros and cons for all locations.

6. As judge for Juvenile Court, how would you deal with kids who are in trouble with the law? How will the benefit by your actions?

I always try to deal with juveniles with understanding and fairness. For misdemeanors and first-time Class C felonies, I generally favor restitution, community service and probation. Repeaters get stricter sentences. Repeater felonies particularly of an increasingly serious nature will probably earn a sentence to an institution. I try to be very consistent so that every juvenile knows that there is a level of conduct that the community finds unacceptable and will not tolerate.

In child abuse cases, our first priority is always to protect the child. The next priority is to preserve the family using all the agency help available.

I always have the hope that whatever action I take will help these juveniles eventually to become responsible, law-abiding citizens.

Railroad

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quickly as even a year ago because they are learning that once a line is pulled, there is no guarantee that a shipper will truck his product 20-60 miles and put it on the lines.

It takes a tremendous commitment from the community, and may take a long time because the railroads sometimes feel as abandoned as the shippers. Howells continued. It is difficult to save a line after the railroad has filed for abandonment, but now is a good time for shippers on the Heppner line to get information together in support of retaining the line.



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Election Forum

Democratic Ballot

County Commissioner

Two candidates have filed on the Democratic ticket for the four-year position of Morrow County Commissioner: Incumbent Irvin Rauch and challenger, Donald E. Jorgensen



Irvin Rauch

Rauch, 63, Lexington, is a farmer in addition to serving on the county commission. He and his wife, Mildred, have three grown children.

He is a high school graduate, and attended Oregon State University for one year, Gonzaga University for one term, and Eastern Oregon College for one term.

He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Wheat League.

He has served as associate director of Morrow County Grain Growers, and as a director of the Morrow County School District through six building programs.

He has submitted the following statement regarding his candidacy: "I have served as County Court's representative to Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Planning Commission, Blue Mt. Economical Development Council, East Central Oregon

Development Council, and Oregon Coalition of Land Use Counties.

"I campaigned the first time on the issue of the need for extra parking at the courthouse. This is being accomplished."

photo not available.

Donald Jorgensen

Jorgensen, 38, Ir-rigon, is self-employed. He and his wife Dolores have three children ages 16, 10, and 7.

He is a graduate of Riverside High School in Boardman, attended Blue Mountain Community College for two years and served four years in the U.S. Air Force, two of them in Vietnam.

He is a past member of the Irrigon City Council, a current member of the Irrigon Crime Watch, and a board member for Columbia View Community Church.

He says that he is a long-time Morrow County self-employed businessman able to manage money and make prudent decisions concerning the county.

Questions and Answers

1. How would you suggest balancing the county budget since federal revenue sharing may no longer be available?

Rauch: Belt tightening and postponing capital purchases.

Jorgensen: Consolidate as many jobs as possible. Cut the work force at the Heppner County Court Building. Open a smaller court building in Boardman to conduct county business. By use of a computer to tie the two courthouses

together and save money on travel expense for county employees and travel being paid currently for court business.

2. Is the current arrangement for housing prisoners satisfactory? If so, why? If not, how would you try to improve the situation?

Rauch: No, it is not satisfactory, but it is the only solution available to us.

Jorgensen: Yes, it is satisfactory, because the county cannot afford its own jail system. There is no other alternative.

2. What steps would you take to upgrade the county road system?

Rauch: Strive for a 10% improvement each year.

Jorgensen: The south end of the county is in fairly good shape. I would concentrate on the north end of the county in years to come.

4. What would be your first goal or objective if elected?

Rauch: First, I would get all the computerized systems at the Courthouse working smoothly. Second, I would get the Public Works Dept. and the Planning Dept. computerized.

Jorgensen: Consolidate jobs, cut the work force at the Courthouse, open a smaller court building at Boardman.

5. How should the disagreement about the site of the senior citizen center be resolved?

Rauch: Any disagreement the senior citizens have should be resolved by them without interference from the Court.

Jorgensen: I am not familiar with the problem.

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