

### **1. Park fees:**

Clark County used to charge parking fees at our regional parks and boat launches. We removed those fees and redefined the role of our parks staff from fee collectors confined to booths, to park ambassadors mixing with and helping our guests. Park staff is now giving service to those coming to the parks instead of taking money from them.

**Do you support those changes or should they be repealed?**

***Answer:***

*As a new Commissioner, I would need to review park fees etc. to determine if changes should be permanent or repealed. The county employees have never been just fee collectors but serve many other purposes throughout the park systems.*

### **2. Job Creator Fee Waivers:**

Since June 2013 the Board policy has been to waive all nonresidential fees in order to stimulate job growth by creating an environment that attracts new businesses to Clark County. To further ensure that these new businesses are successful, we streamlined the permitting process and rebuilt our permit center. Quarterly reports show that the revenue generated by the new businesses more than compensate for the waived fees. New construction is up and Clark County job growth is twice that of the rest of the state. To date, the financial impacts have been contained within the normal subsidy provided to the Building Fund.

**Do you support the Board's policy of waving fees for new businesses, or should the policy be repealed?**

***Answer:***

*I would need to review figures before June 2013 and look at figures since that time to determine whether the fee waivers are working or whether the waivers should be repealed.*

### **3. Toll-free East County Bridge:**

In our November 2013 General Election, voters instructed Clark County Commissioners to explore the option of an East County Bridge. In response to that vote, the Board unanimously agreed to champion the project by welcoming unsolicited proposals of a fully designed, ready to build bridge at no cost to the taxpayers and bring it back to the voters

for a final county-wide advisory vote in November. The complete turnkey package guaranteed price will be in hand by August.

**Do you support the exploration of this project and the leadership role of the Board?**

***Answer:***

*No, I do not support the toll-free East County Bridge because; if there is no cost to the taxpayers why would voters need to worry about a guaranteed price. Who would end up paying the guaranteed price?*

**4. TriMet contract:**

The C-Tran Board voted to sign the TriMet contract that makes TriMet the sole authority over light rail in Clark County. It requires C-Tran to use eminent domain authority to meet TriMet's property demands and triggers a \$5 million liquidated damages claim if C-Tran does not fully submit to TriMet's requirements.

**As a county commissioner C-Tran Board member, do you support that dormant contract or would you vote to cancel it?**

***Answer:***

*I would support the Tri-Met contract for eminent domain authority.*

**5. CRC Light Rail Tolling Project:**

After spending \$200 million on the failed CRC project, and after the majority of citizens in a county-wide advisory vote opposes all light rail projects unless they first voted to approve it, would you still support bringing Portland light rail to Clark County unless the voters Clark County first approved it?

***Answer:***

*According to the Cowlitz County Court and State of Washington Attorney General, the county vote is meaningless on a Federal Highway project-CRC. Senator Rivers, Senator Pike, Senator Benton and Senate coalition killed the CRC project.*

**6. Bus Rapid Transit:**

Voters in a county-wide advisory vote opposed any Bus Rapid Transit project unless they first voted to approve it. Voters also opposed sales tax hike to fund Bus Rapid Transit in the November 2012 Proposition One General Election after

C-Tran made a commitment not to spend voter approved taxes on BRT against the will of the voters.

**As a county commissioner C-Tran Board member, would you vote to build Bus Rapid Transit anyway or would you require voter approval as a condition of approval?**

***Answer:***

*No because County Commissioners were elected to do their job which would not require them to have public vote.*

**7. Property Tax increases:**

Clark County Commissioners have voiced their commitment to not raise property taxes and have voted not to raise them. The most current supplemental budget provided funding for 8 new sheriff deputies while adding \$1.2 million to our General Fund cash reserves. Staff has successfully realized cost savings while our local economy slowly but steadily increases revenues without raising tax rates.

**Do you also oppose raising property taxes or will we need to raise property taxes to make ends meet?**

***Answer:***

*I would support property tax increases to meet the County financial obligations.*

**8. What is your position on the Coal Train?**

***Answer:***

*The County has no control or authority over the Burlington Northern, Santa Fe and Union Pacific railroads by Federal Law. The Governor will make the final decision on coal trains.*

**9. What is your position on the oil terminal?**

***Answer:***

*This will be determined by the US Federal Courts and the Washington State Governor.*

**10. Do you have any specific recommendations concerning spending or revenue for the County?**

***Answer:***

*Proposals should have legal opinions to avoid additional costs on projects and carefully study what revenue will be forthcoming on the new project.*

**11. From your perspective, what qualifications do you think are required to be a County Commissioner?**

***Answer:***

*Use common sense while working together for the common cause, avoiding conflict at all times, when possible when working with other government, private industry and organized labor.*

**12. Do you have any related government experience in policy or budgeting?**

***Answer:***

*I served as Transportation Commissioner for State of Washington from 1995-2007 and set policies and budgeting for transportation projects and tolling in the State of Washington.*

*\*Resume attached*

**13. Since you will be elected County wide, how will you balance the interests of the entire County with the interests of your district?**

***Answer:***

*There would be no discrimination between the County interests or the districts interest, if the Commissioners in all districts agree to work together.*

#### **14. Specific changes to move us forward:**

Please share the three most significant specific changes that Clark County Commissioners should make to change course for a brighter future. How would those changes affect our local cost of living?

***Answer:***

*A.) Support Home Rule Charter*

*B.) Support start of CRC in its entirety. No progress on a new I-5 bridge has a stranglehold on Commerce and Transportation.*

*C.) 100% cooperation in four county area of Bi State region*

*D.) Create more job opportunities, better pay, benefits and more opportunities for small businesses in this area*