

Providence Election Forum

Questions

	<p>1. What previous experiences have prepared or qualify you for City Council service?</p>	<p>2. Why are you running for City Council and what do you see as the city's most pressing issues?</p>	<p>3. In regard to planning and zoning matters, how do you want to see Providence grow and develop?</p>
 <p>Don Calderwood 435-753-6098 dwalderwood@comcast.net</p>	<p>I have had eight years' experience in Providence as Councilman and Mayor to prepare me for this Council position. My professional background and experience is in education, Productivity Engineering and Human Engineering with successful companies in Iowa, Utah and Minnesota. Hired as General Manager of a large, near-bankrupt engineering company, I restored this company to a very profitable enterprise. The company turned \$1,000,000 in profits my first year. I thoroughly understand how the City Council works. I do my own research. I am dedicated to preserving the single-family neighborhoods in Providence.</p>	<p>I am running for City Council to bring Providence City back to its people. Having ignored passionate protests from many Providence citizens, the current Providence Administration has used data-spin to promote adding high-density housing to established single-family neighborhoods, denying that residential property values are reduced by the mixing of zones. We informed citizens know otherwise. Our city is the most fiscally sound city in Cache County, yet our present city government ignores citizen objections to the largest municipal tax increase in the county. A citizen-oriented Council can reverse and control this direction.</p>	<p>The City Council controls all legislative decisions--not the Mayor, City Administrator, or City Manager. We need to slow development until the citizens' concerns are heard and fulfilled. The high-density Life Cycle Residential Zone should be revised, or even abolished, and not inserted into single-family neighborhoods. The current Providence General Plan is not the voice of the people without Council/Citizen agreement. Water, our most precious natural resource, has been completely mismanaged by the current city government. A citizen-oriented Council can bring Providence back to its people.</p>
 <p>Ralph Davis 435-213-5866 goodmorningd@hotmail.com</p>	<p>What qualifies a person to run for the city council? Is it my college degree? Is it my business experience? Is it my leadership experience? I think all of these are valuable. I know people who have none of those three experiences but have the characteristics I think are needed to be an effective city council member. They have common sense, the ability to listen, to see another person's point of view, can make decisions and know what is best for the city and the citizens. Only time will tell you if I have any of these qualities.</p>	<p>Why I am running? I am unhappy with the current city council and Mayor and what they are doing. Concerns: Budget: Taxes are necessary and tax increases are necessary. But I and every other citizen who live on a fixed income has to cut something out of our budget each time there is a tax increase. And there is only so much you can cut out before you are homeless. Development: The master plan needs to show what we want the city to look like. Growth is going to happen City government: needs to represent the city and the citizens.</p>	<p>Planning and zoning can and should accomplish the following: Providence City must continue to be a livable, sustainable community. Growth is going to happen. "The foundation of community livability is design that deliberately reflects the community's aspirations for life, work, learning, play, and growth." Michael J. Stanton, FAIA No property values should adversely be affected because of zoning. There should be buffer zones when there is a change in zoning. Things that need to be considered are impact on surrounding property, road transportation, open space, and quality of life. Visit my blog site, "ralphprovidence.home.blog."</p>
 <p>Carrie Kirk 435-757-1444 carrie@joshkirk.com</p>	<p>I LOVE PROVIDENCE. I've always been actively engaged in lending my skill set and talent when I see a need. I am the mother of five children and wife to Josh Kirk. I have served for 8 years on the Providence Elementary School Community Council, two years on the Providence Planning and Zoning Commission, as well as numerous other community and church positions. I have a Bachelors and a Masters degree from USU, both in Education. I am a meticulous planner. I live every day with intention. I come to the Council with no pet project or conflict of interest.</p>	<p>I have lived in Providence for the past 14 years and want to make a positive difference in a community I love. The citizens of Providence deserve to have city council members who listen to them, who will treat them with kindness and respect, and who will always have the long-term best interest of all citizens in mind. I promise to study out the issues and make decisions that I believe are best for the general public of Providence. I believe that mothers need a voice on the city council and represent an important demographic of Providence.</p>	<p>I believe in following a master plan and being consistent in neighborhood zoning. I believe that it is bad policy to change a neighborhood zone once it has begun being developed. I believe in landowner rights, and in always obeying the law as it pertains to those rights. When there is an outcry of concern, as there is with the Life Cycle Residential (LCR) land use zone, it is the duty of the City Council to listen and reevaluate. Learn more about me and where I stand on the issues at carriekirk.com.</p>
 <p>Jon Mock 435-755-2147 jonmock53@gmail.com</p>	<p>Having lived in Providence for the past 16 years and raised two boys with my wife Karen, I feel vested in this community. I have served a term as chairman on the planning and zoning commission. During my tenure I tried to adhere to the goals and spirit set forth in the city's General Plan regarding current and proposed changes to city zoning codes and ordinances. I have attended many city council and planning commission meetings over the years, and have observed the various responsibilities expected of its members. I am confident that I can fulfill those requirements.</p>	<p>If elected, I would like to foster an atmosphere of openness and transparency. I would welcome citizen input to help us find solutions for the problems we face as our city grows. Exploring new avenues for expanding our tax base and maintaining fiscally responsible budgets are some of my priorities. We should focus on doing a good job of providing the basic necessities: prompt fire and emergency service, water and sanitation services, and adequate maintenance of our roads and sidewalks to encourage bike-and-walk-ability. The recreational needs of our community are important, but should be secondary to making sure our basic services and infrastructure are properly maintained.</p>	<p>Planning and zoning for Providence should be guided by the vision set forth in our current General Plan, which is derived from citizen input. A "one size fits all" approach for the city at large, may not be realistic. Neighborhoods may have certain considerations that should be taken into account as growth in our city continues, (i.e. preserving the "historic character" of some neighborhoods, or infrastructure limitations due to geographical constraints). The formation of neighborhood councils could be beneficial in helping to identify those things that characterize that particular neighborhood.</p>
 <p>Frank Montoya 435-265-2896 frankmontoyajr@gmail.com</p>	<p>I served for thirty years in the US Army and FBI in a variety of supervisory, management and executive positions. That included service as an infantry platoon leader and staff officer, an FBI Special Agent, supervisor, Special Agent in Charge of two field offices, and as the National Counterintelligence Executive (NCIX), in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. In those jobs I led people, managed multi-million dollar programs, and developed and implemented national-level policies.</p>	<p>It was my privilege to defend American democracy for thirty years and now it is my privilege to participate in it in a way that allows me to continue to serve. Without question, the city's most pressing issues are a smarter approach to development, rising taxes, and ensuring current residents of Providence are better served through more effective communications.</p>	<p>People come to Cache Valley for the majestic beauty, the peaceful community, the family-friendly neighborhoods. The key is to grow and still maintain what's best about our community. High density housing that profits developers is not the answer to our housing issues. We need to invest in infrastructure (roads) to accommodate future growth, but dictating solutions because of poor planning is unacceptable. And while it's easy to pawn off the responsibility on the county, the city needs to be an active</p>
 <p>Joshua Paulsen 435-535-6596 josh@jbpaulsen.com</p>	<p>I received strong financial training while earning an MBA from Washington State University. I have run several businesses and consulted other business owners. Having worked in higher education, I am acquainted with government operations. I am a professional communicator. I know a large number of residents throughout the city, which has familiarized me with the unique challenges in their neighborhoods. As the Chair of Envision Providence, I organized the effort to resist and repeal several LCR rezonings. I have served on Providence City Planning and Zoning. I am apt to listen to residents and make sensible decisions.</p>	<p>I feel I owe it to my neighbors and friends to run for office. This past year, I have been a vocal critic about the violations of trust between elected officials and their constituents. I would like to replace criticisms with real solutions that benefit residents. I want to restore the trust and accountability that should exist between elected officials and the citizenry. Some of the big issues I would like to address relate to land-use and greenspace, rising taxes, and of course, deteriorating roads. We need to be more focused and fiscally disciplined to positively impact our biggest issues.</p>	<p>Foremost, I believe in protecting all property owners' vested rights. Considering this, I think there is sufficient latitude for the city to grow while maintaining its established character. I would like to see our existing commercial and densified areas fully developed before entrenching into traditional neighborhoods. I don't believe that every city in Cache Valley should pursue the same growth strategies, disregarding each city's maturity and socioeconomic composition. I don't mind Providence being a more open and expensive place to live. I would like our city to be more walking and biking friendly and have a thriving historic district.</p>
 <p>Jeanelle Sealy 435-227-5891 jssealy@gmail.com</p>	<p>My educational background in engineering has prepared me to face the challenges of city planning with creative solutions. I have spent a lot of time volunteering in the school system on financial, policy, and organizational boards. I am a mother with the future of my six young children forefront in my mind. This perspective motivates me to make decisions with foresight and purpose to build a long lasting, vibrant community for their benefit and for my neighbors.</p>	<p>I want to participate in shaping the future of our community. I have a deep love of our country and my neighborhood. Public service is how we protect and honor our freedoms and heritage. Providence is at a crossroads in terms of growth. We must mindfully set the direction we take. We must carefully consider and craft the future character and culture of our community while preserving the past. Today, the most pressing issue in this process is to enhance communication between citizens and city leaders. It is vital that we all understand and are educated about municipal requirements while striving to achieve citizens' goals and vision.</p>	<p>As growth continues, Providence needs a clear community vision and long term plan. This requires vision from leadership with appropriate input from our residents. Of course, legislative requirements, financial constraints, and good common sense are also needed to effectively meet future infrastructure demands. It is important that planning and zoning decisions are both, based on city codes and ordinances and preserve the culture of the collective community. Together we can make the right decisions to keep Providence a wonderful place to live.</p>
 <p>Brent Speth 435-757-3875 brent.speth@comcast.com</p>	<p>I sincerely care about the Citizens and Community of Providence. I have served on the City Council in the past. I was an employee of the City and worked in public works and a short time as the administrator for Mayor Milburn. I obtained my certifications and served as Building Inspector, Building Plan Reviewer, Public Works Inspector and Zoning Code Enforcer for approximately 13 years. After leaving Providence City, I served for approximately 13 years as Fire Inspector for Logan City. This included enforcing the fire code for Providence City and serving on the ESR Committee.</p>	<p>I want to thank those men and women currently serving Providence both in its government and as employees. We have a City to be proud of. I also want to serve the City and the Citizens. I want to hear the Citizens opinions and give them a voice in government. I will gain from their insights and knowledge and represent them on the Council as much as possible. Our government is a Council. I will be a Councilman that will speak up and Counsel with my constituents. I will have sound reasoning behind my vote.</p>	<p>Providence is a desirable community to live in. My sweetheart, Coreen is a lifelong resident of Providence and she and I built a home here almost 50 years ago. We love Providence. The community is for all to come and enjoy. Some are less permanent, and some make a major investment to be more permanent. Zoning laws establish and govern the use of land. The laws should establish areas and protect those areas. The laws should strive to accommodate, as much as possible, all who want to be in the Community, while maintaining the integrity and character of established zones.</p>