

Wickenburg continues to experience significant growth. How do you plan to balance growth while maintaining Wickenburg's small town western heritage identity?

Wickenburg has been experiencing overwhelming growth. Keeping Wickenburg small, western and rural, while managing growth can be a very reasonable objective. Determining to do that is the first step, but balance requires more than words. Balance requires effort. I propose that we do 4 things:

- 1 Balance Economic Development by giving equal weight to Preservation & Management.
- 2 Encourage both preservation and limited density by writing that into our Master and Strategic Plans in much stronger language, with clear objectives and measurable outcomes.
- 3 Develop clear and specific zoning to protect our rural and residential R 1-6 and R 1-35 properties.
- 4 Require and fund – Effective Codes & Fair Enforcement.

In each of those steps – we encourage preservation of open spaces, limit density and begin to harness, manage and balance growth. That will maintain Wickenburg's rural, small town Western Heritage.

I also propose that we begin to use our Commissions differently. We free them from over-control by Town Staff, and empower them to be active, investigative, & evaluative. We invite the Commission Chairmen to present and discuss findings and recommendations to the Council. When there have been strong pro and con arguments on an issue, we invite Commission members to present those findings and recommendations. The rubber stamp needs to be cast into the garbage can of history – to paraphrase a former president.

As evidenced by your willingness to serve on the council, you must have some personal experience on workforce issues such as affordable housing, transportation, and retaining employees. What is your plan to address these challenges?

The businesses and organizations employing the workforce bear these responsibilities and should hold the bulk of knowledge in these three areas. While each of us may have seen options in our personal lives, defining the problem and discovering what has worked and has failed are the first steps and they should be taken with those agencies and individuals.

Unfortunately, we must now do this in light of the Town's new financial obligations for our water and waste-water facilities resulting in massive debt and higher fees. And our extensive increases found in the proposed budget.

What has been my experience? I've seen schools provide rental and purchase assistance, and I've seen them both lease and build housing for their staff. Some have created van pools and/or provided transportation allowances. I've seen hospitals, other health care and government organizations and businesses do the same. Churches have and do provide parsonages or manses, or housing allowances. In each of those examples, and in my own military and government employment, I have seen a combination of education, training, specialized insurance plans, medical coverage, and other employee benefit and/or retention bonuses used to accomplish each of these 3 challenges. Almost all of those are configured with some type of contractual obligations that ensure sufficient retention to obtain a return on the employer's investment.

All of these are allowed to various degrees by the tax code to offset both the employee and their employers' costs to a significant extent.

While the Town could negotiate with a developer and/or builders for a conditional number of units which would be of lower costs, that is both a temporary and a fairly unsustainable solution because over time those rents would increase and likely become unaffordable.

The federal grant to the Gorman Corporation is an example of what not to do and how not to do this. It is Arbitrary & Misleading, Entirely Too Dense, placed in the Wrong Location, and obligated to the Federal government who **will** determine who lives there. This will not end up housing your children or your workers.

If elected – I am open to examining and studying the issue, to clearly define and delineate the problems before jumping toward any solution that involves obligating the local government and its taxpayers.

What are your plans for the future of the Community Center and the development of the parks and recreation facilities?

Over **850** voters signed a petition that would have placed this decision in the hands of the voters with a view toward budgeting funds for keeping the Community Center in its current location, where it would be restored or rebuilt and operated by the Town. I have been and continue to be a strong supporter of this action. Why funding was not placed in this year's proposed budget is a question for those who wish to do business as usual in the Town Hall.

So far, I have not been impressed with the work of most outside consultants and hope to reduce our use and reliance on them – because of their over-reliance on concepts and facilities found elsewhere. Any consultant who did not start with a personal walk through-out our town, and who does not listen intently to local residents, will just not be able to overcome their bias. What is that bias? That we the locals just need to adjust, adapt, and go along -- with their superior insights and knowledge.

Too many consultants think that ideas from the Valley or some other region can be dropped into their designs and plans with little regard for our wish to remain small, rural and western. And too many completely ignore our unique bi-seasonal populations, and the impacts of our desert geography, our clean air and (at least for now) our clean water. We are not in the Valley of the Sun, and much of what sells to that population – should not be passed off or trotted-out here.

So, what do I propose? I believe **we** need to carefully evaluate each of our existing parks and recreation facilities.

We have 7 town parks, with facilities for basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, pickleball, tennis & skateboarding -- playgrounds, picnic areas, a swimming pool and a splash pad. We have rodeo grounds, two town operated RV campgrounds, and a 2.8 mile multiuse path, and trail head access to the Hassayampa River Bed.

We need to consider their historical & recent usage, demands & limitations and determine what changes, if any, need to be made.

Now this might be frustrating to some who just want to add, increase, and spend more. The Legislative Budget Analysts have projected a \$1.7 Billion dollar revenue shortfall for Arizona. While there is no need to panic, we need to take a cautious, thoughtful, and much better reasoned approach to every area of town government. Passing something - then learning the Council was ill informed or misled **needs to end** and it **can end** with this election. I have the knowledge, skills, and ability – but I also have the passion and determination to do this job fully and effectively. A vote for me is a **choice** to have better and much more effective government. Not just a me-too **echo**.