

## Wickenburg Ranch Presentation

I appreciate this opportunity to be here with you today, and to present some of my ideas. I have some handouts available on the table – and I would be happy to meet with any of you after the presentations are finished.

I was reared on a small family farm in Southeast Texas. I served on active duty in the Navy for 22 years – first in the Hospital Corps and then as a healthcare administrator in the Medical Service Corps. After retiring, I obtained my doctorate, and then worked as a civilian psychologist for over 10 years.

I belong to veteran, professional, and local organizations, am a member of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Foundation, AzCDL, and a Patriot Life Benefactor of the NRA.

I first began visiting Wickenburg in 1991, when it was still a small town. It had a western look and feel that was historic and unique. The town did not visibly change much over the years between then and when I moved here in 2012. But the changes since 2012 have been monumental.

It has been said that change and growth are inevitable, but as we know, nothing is inevitable except death and taxes. I think we can and should balance future change and growth with carefully moderated and thoughtfully balanced decisions – decisions that ensure our desert landscape, open land, and limited density is maintained. If we do not do that – Wickenburg will be lost. It will not be small, rural, or western.

If elected to the Council, I pledge this balanced growth will be one of my goals. And, I have a 4-step plan to preserve our rural & western heritage:

- #1 **Balance** economic development by giving equal weight to preservation and management. That would also shift our focus toward our existing businesses.
- #2 **Encourage** 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. The property rights of both individuals and neighbors must be considered.
- #4 **Require** and **fund** effective codes and fair, full-time enforcement.

In each of these steps – we encourage preservation of open spaces, limit density and begin to harness and manage growth.

I have regularly attended Town Council meetings, and I listen to many of our citizens who wish desperately that we had a much more responsive Council – one that examines issues more thoroughly – and deliberates in public – before voting.

I have supported initiatives that opposed a land swap scheme for an unnecessary downtown hotel – that most of our citizens do not want; the removal of the Bank building from the property tax rolls, and I am committed to the efforts to restore the existing Community Center designed by Arizona's own Bennie Gonzales – at its current location – brought up to Code & operated by the Town.

I have also spoken to the Council and my fellow citizens about several issues including ways we can have a better-informed Council, and steps to greatly increase transparency. I have written opinions about many current Town issues, and I invite you to pick up a copy of my position papers on the table. One of those is titled Six Steps to Increase Transparency.

If elected I intend to seek out opinions from all citizens who live within the Town limits and I will be open to hearing from our neighbors living in both counties so that I can best represent all of the people who find Wickenburg to be a great place to live or who depend upon it for their goods and services. My primary goal is to help develop a more deliberative Town Council that makes clear policy and sets direction for the Town staff to follow.

I propose that we begin to use our Commissions, Boards, and Committees much differently. That we free them from over-control by the Town staff, and empower them to be Active, Investigative, and Evaluative.

Wickenburg is a fine small rural town that is a real refuge in a world that can at times seem a little overwhelming. I would really like an opportunity to serve on the Council to ensure that this Outpost of Tranquility stays that way for those of us who are fortunate enough to live here.

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 town government. A **Choice** -- Not just a me-too **Echo**.

I want to thank Bill Cole for arranging this event today and thank you all for coming.

June 20,2024