

JACK WILSON
CANDIDATE FOR PRESCOTT MAYOR

1. Why are you running for Mayor / City Council? Please describe your economic and financial training and experience, and explain why the people of Prescott should be willing to rely on you to make complex decisions on what activities the City should undertake, and how they should be paid for.

I am running for re-election as Mayor of Prescott on my record of accomplishment. I originally planned to be a Certified Public Accountant and I have an AA degree with honors from Wright Jr. College. That included accounting classes through cost accounting and I am familiar and comfortable with all types of account statements. I ended up working for 37 years in the Information Technology field, primary in supervisory and management jobs. I have extensive management training and experience with very complex issues, such as strategic and tactical planning, and Best Practices Studies (I conducted several). I have planned and managed multi-million dollar budgets effectively.

2. What is the biggest tax-related issue facing the City of Prescott today? What recommendations do you have for dealing with it?

Continuing attempts by the Arizona State Legislature to try to balance their budget deficit on the backs of cities and towns by “sweeping” funds that should legally come to us.

Prescott has maintained both the lowest overall tax rate of the tri-cities as well as the lowest bond debt load.

3. What is your position on the September 1st, “Vote YES for Streets” ballot proposition and why?

I am strongly in favor of this. I wrote a Talk of the Town in the Courier in favor. I paid to have my opinion in favor of this published in the voting information booklet. We need the ability to bond as “pay as you go” no longer works. I look at this as both a public safety and a quality of life issue.

4. Are you in favor of subsidizing private enterprises to locate in Prescott – under what conditions?

I am in favor of providing public (but not private) infrastructure needed to support the business. That would include sewer and water infrastructure.

I would also support incentives under *limited and controlled circumstances* for businesses bringing highly paid jobs. We have a severe shortage of higher paying job opportunities and the youth of Prescott are moving elsewhere because of that. Solving that problem requires a coordinated approach to remove existing roadblocks for attracting those jobs and an open mind to incentives when they are justified.

5. Do you support the right of Prescott citizens to vote on spending projects of \$40 million or more, adjusted for inflation, as provided in the proposed Taxpayer Protection Initiative?

I support their right to vote on it. However, I *strongly oppose* this initiative. The framers of this initiative have been dishonest with the public with their real intentions. Their aim is to stop the Big Chino Water Ranch Pipeline. It is an anti-growth measure.

6. Prescott's 100 year-old underground water delivery and waste systems are deteriorating, wasting water and leaking sewage into the ground. An independent consultant's report highly recommended replacing them for health and conservation reasons. Please list which capital improvement projects you would defer, in order to update our underground water and sewage systems?

The good news is that the council has already addressed this issue. Funding for water and sewer infrastructure replacements comes from water and sewer bills we pay (it is separate from the General Fund). The Prescott City Council has already increased rates for both water and sewer to address the funding needed for replacement of water and wastewater infrastructure as identified by Carollo Engineers.

We have a five-year Capital Improvement Plan in place that identifies water and sewer replacements and we have several projects underway. This is a very good example of the Prescott City Council looking at years of deferred maintenance and making a tough but correct decision to address the problems.

Given the above, we do not need to defer your list of projects, so no to all that you have listed.

- A. Downtown Fire Station Y___ N___
- B. Upgrade Police Practice RangeY___ N___
- C. Willow/Watson Fire Station Y___ N___
- D. Police & Fire StorageY___ N___
- E. Airport Runway Land Purchase .. Y___ N___
- F. Park UpgradesY___ N___
- G. Police Headquarters'Y___ N___
- H. Rodeo GroundsY___ N___
- I. Fire Training CenterY___ N___
- J. Other

7. How would you improve the lack of trust that exists between the Council and the populace?

We have already:

- **Started posting full council packets on the city web site so that citizens can review the same information council members get.**
- **Conducted Town Hall meetings at the Arizona Pioneers Home, Samaritan Village and Las Fuentes.**

I am willing to do more if good ideas surface, such as holding a monthly Mayor's or Council's Night In when citizens can come in and talk to us. However, it is a political unpleasant fact that every decision you make will make someone unhappy.

8. How would you support and promote regional economic development in Prescott?

We have had some success on this already, for example:

- **Regional support for Horizon Airlines.**
- **Regional Workforce Housing approach – workforce housing is a key criteria evaluated by companies considering locating their businesses her.**
- **Prescott Area Coalition for Tourism**
- **New Prescott Area Tourism Committee**
- **Partnership between Prescott and Prescott Valley on the Big Chino Water Ranch**

There is more work to do, but we already have a base to build on.

9. How can we maintain the present flavor of Prescott and manage the quality of the new growth that is needed to sustain our sales tax revenue?

The Prescott 2050 Vision Ambiance group addressed how to maintain the present flavor of Prescott. We need to adopt standards that other cities such as Sedona have to ensure our unique “look and feel” or “ambiance” is not wiped out by new cookie-cutter franchise store development.

The quality of new growth should be managed using a “Smart Growth” approach that ensure new growth benefits the city and that it pays for the required new infrastructure. See the City of Prescott’s Smart Growth web page:

<http://www.cityofprescott.net/leadership/growth/>

10. If you needed to balance the City's budget, would you vote to increase taxes or would you vote to make the required cuts in the City's budget? Would you single out specific departments or would you make an equal cut across the board for everyone?

I would require cuts in the City’s budget. I would neither single out specific departments nor impose a specific percentage reduction. My approach would be as follows:

First, I would look at structural changes to improve efficiency and effectiveness by evaluating elimination, consolidation and streamlining of departments (including management layers).

After that, I would look at the amount we needed to reduce spending by and ask all the department heads to provide their reductions at an overall targeted amount. That means that one department might cut more than another, but the overall reduction would meet our goal. However, if department heads could not or would not provide the needed reductions, I would then impose those reductions on them.

Additional information at: www.ElectJack.com

Follow me at www.twitter.com/MayorWilson

Friend me at Facebook: www.Facebook.com Name: Jack D. Wilson

Mayor

Jack brought "Bill" the Elk back to Prescott!

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