

## **ROB BEHNKE**

### **CANDIDATE FOR PRESCOTT CITY COUNCIL**

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.

- **Why: I, Rob Behnke, believe that everyone has a duty to serve his country, county, state or other government agencies. My philosophy is you will be judged by the footprints you leave. There must be better City Council Management. Each current City Council member and one candidate has knowingly allowed building of substandard streets. We cannot continue to tolerate wasting tax dollars on bad city contracts. The most recent example is the roundabout intersection on highway 89A. \$75,000.00 to date has been spent on legal fees because the council approved a poorly written contract. The council has issued consulting agreements to cover issues that members of staff or a trained business member of the council should be able to resolve.**
- **Experience: C.F. Braun/Santa Fe international Corporation: Thirty years of experience in the Management of subcontract and procurement services for petrochemical, refinery, and nuclear construction projects ranging in size from several million dollars to several billion dollar. Projects were located throughout the world including Kuwait, Canada, England, France, Belgium, United States, Japan and Brazil. Teaching international/domestic contracts and management for domestic and international projects at University of California (UCLA). Aerojet General Corporation, Manager of top-secret ordnance projects.**
- **Education/Special Training: Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Associated Arts Degree in Economics from Los Angeles State College and other graduate degrees from Claremont University and University of California at Los Angeles. Special classes from Harvard University and Cal-tech.**
- **Elected Experience: Prescott City Council 1999 to 2003.**
- **Reliability: The above qualifications make me capable of rendering the complex decisions required for City Council service. In addition, active in local organizations and St. Luke's Episcopal Church.**

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

- **Repair of substandard streets and replacement of defective water and sewer lines. Identify prioritize and proceed with the work.**

3. What is your position on the September 1<sup>st</sup>, "Vote YES for Streets" ballot proposition and why?

- **replacement costs. Estimated costs for repairing the street, sewer and water line range from 400 million to over 800 million.**
- **No. City money must not be given directly to business. I would like to see a Prescott Economic Development Corporation established that could pay for infrastructure for industrial parks or like projects.**

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?

- **Yes. They have the right. I will vote “no” because the only reason it was successful is voter mistrust in the City Council. The new City Council must regain that trust.**

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?

- **Before anyone can make this discussion, the scope and cost to replace the 100-year-old water and sewer lines must be established. You cannot use the money set aside for streets for other projects like those listed below. Water and sewer lines in this case may end up as part of street repair. All three go together in most cases.**

- A. Downtown Fire Station-do not defer
- B. Upgrade Police Practice Range-defer
- C. Willow/Watson Fire Station-defer
- D. Police & Fire Storage-defer
- E. Airport Runway Land Purchase-do not defer
- F. Park Upgrades- defer
- G. Police Headquarters?- defer
- H. Rodeo Grounds- defer
- I. Fire Training Center-defer
- J. Other-defer

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

- **I want to stop all executive sessions except for personnel problems. I always kept close contact with the general public and other groups to hear their concerns.**

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

- **Establish a Prescott Economic Development Corporation. Federal funds are available and state funds could become available. The purpose is to better promote high-paying companies, tourism and downtown improvement.**

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?

- **Make sure that the downtown area is maintained and upgraded in a consistent manner. Maintenance of the square is vital to attracting new business and competing with other towns. New projects should follow existing codes. Encourage developers to built projects that exceed codes. Higher quality brings higher local income and more transfer of wealth occurs. High-density lower-quality homes lead to high crime and problem areas.**

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?

- **Cut services: First you make every effort not to cut basic services. Police, fire, water, trash are good examples. The remaining departments should be cut to handle the existing level of work based on current economic conditions.**
- **Taxes: No tax increase at this time.**