



2023 LOCAL
PRIMARY
CANDIDATE
INTERVIEW

GREENWOOD
CITY COUNCIL
DIST. 1



**LINDA S.
GIBSON**
Republican

*Committee to Re-Elect
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QUESTION 1:

Do you think your main street / downtown is healthy and successful? What would you do to support continued success or help create the change you want to see?

A few years ago, we received a grant to update the facades of many of the businesses along Madison Avenue and Main Street in our downtown area. Soon after the renovations, our city created a G.R.O.W. program to help other businesses along Main Street and Madison have an opportunity to update the exterior of their properties. Our existing Main Street looks fresh, vibrant and the properties once sitting empty are now filled with a nice variety of businesses. In the fall of 2021, a private developer started construction on a project at the site of the former Middle School. The project will have a variety of town homes, condos, apartments and retail space. A parking garage has been completed by the City to assist with parking, not only for the new site, but for major community events as well.

QUESTION 2:

What are the community's housing needs and how do we address them?

I believe there is a need for entry level homes in our community. I am concerned about our younger generation being able to establish a down payment and buy a home. Otherwise, they will continue renting, which continues to rise in cost. Our community presently has a large variety of homes, condos, retirement communities and apartments available to career professionals, recent college graduates, empty nesters and individuals that have recently lost a spouse/partner. It is imperative to have quality assisted living and nursing facilities in our community. Adult children facing the challenge of relocating their parents want options nearby that are modern, clean, meet their care needs, satisfy safety and medical needs and most of all provide a friendly environment.

QUESTION 3:

If you received a proposal to build a new piece of public infrastructure in your community (road, bridge, trail, etc.), how would you evaluate whether that project was worth implementing?

I would evaluate the need, location, and appearance of the proposal. Does it help to alleviate the situation? Does it look attractive? What percentage of our population does it impact? If it's a trail, is it able to connect existing trails? Will it be long-term assistance? How will it be maintained and by whom? Will our community embrace and welcome it? Is this land that is being donated to our Parks Department? Is it in the middle of a development that would serve a smaller group of individuals but not be very accessible to the community? Would it require our Parks department to maintain it? I would talk to residents and businesses to see what concerns they have. Our council has turned down some opportunities because we didn't think it is needed where it was proposed.

QUESTION 4:

As you evaluate future development projects, what do you think are the most important considerations in granting economic development incentives, and what types of incentives are you most supportive of?

Economic development incentives are very important to our city. However, it MUST be a business that does not bring environmental issues and provides decent salaries & benefits. The reality of TIF incentives is that if the property for the proposed project is vacant, then the new project has the potential to bring in several hundred thousand dollars per year. Depending on the term of the incentives, typically 10 years, then the first year they pay nothing but next year they pay a percentage based on the term years plus the percent increase each year till they are paying 100% of the taxes. This increased assessed valuation brings in additional taxes that help residents and businesses. TIF incentives are why we have been able to keep our tax rate one of the lowest in the State while attracting great companies to our city.