



2023 LOCAL
PRIMARY
CANDIDATE
INTERVIEW

**GREENWOOD
CITY COUNCIL
AT-LARGE**



**ERIN
MAURINE
BETRON**
Republican

Committee to Elect Erin Betron
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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?

I appreciate the work that has gone into restoring downtown Greenwood, but there is still work to be done. Downtown Main Street had been neglected and was allowed to be in disrepair for far too long. I have concerns about the safety of the mall, and I'd like to see it and the surrounding area revitalized to bring in more commerce. Additionally, we need to find a balance of restoring the spots that made Greenwood so special and knowing when it is appropriate to build something new.

QUESTION 2:

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

I am concerned with balancing the growth of public safety to match the current and future growth of the population in Greenwood. There has been a dramatic influx of apartment housing recently that also require more of our Police, Fire, and EMS assets. We are short on police officers when you compare the numbers to the FBI recommendations. We are barely at minimum staffing for fire departments, per the NFPA regulation, and that's only if no one calls in sick, takes leave, retires, or resigns. Before we commit to any additional housing developments, public safety must be brought up to par.

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?

My mind goes to what is the return on investment. Is it necessary? Repairing a road or a bridge...100% necessary. Before we pave another trail, we need to repair our roads that we drive our families on every day. As a runner, I love trails. We are, however, as a nation, struggling to find affordable materials. In that light, we need to focus our finances on what is absolutely necessary for safety, rather than what would be nice to have for recreation until prices settle.

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?

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for large scale developers was designed to incentivize growth in areas no one wanted to build in. Circumstances that this may make sense are when the business creates a multitude of well-paying jobs and is beneficial to the economic growth of the city. We need to evaluate that the business we choose to grant an economic development incentive to benefits the people of Greenwood, as that business is benefiting greatly from not paying full taxes. This also needs to be balanced with public safety - do we have the assets to support this growth? It's not a simple decision, rather it is something that needs to be weighed on a case-by-case basis.



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**MIKE
CAMPBELL**
Republican

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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?

Yes, I believe our downtown area is healthy and vibrant. The recent streetscape changes are not only beautiful, but also have made our downtown more walkable and friendly to pedestrian and bike traffic while still moving vehicular traffic safely and efficiently. I would support the continuation of this type of infrastructure improvements.

QUESTION 2:

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

Greenwood has seen a growth in all types of housing in the last few years. Several multi-family developments are currently being built in all areas of our city. A large 55+ community is in the early development stages on the northeast side of the city and a large single family residential area is being developed on the southwest side of the city.

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?

Public infrastructure is one of the main responsibilities of local government. Infrastructure fuels both commercial and residential development. Therefore, how the proposed infrastructure project affected the current and future commercial and residential development would be used to determine the need for the project. Would the proposed project serve our community well?

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?

Development projects benefit our city in two ways. One, it increases our Net Assessed Value for property tax purposes. This brings in more tax revenue for the City, schools, libraries, and other entities who receive property tax dollars. Secondly, it brings jobs to the city which benefits our citizens. So, depending on the amount of new investment, the number of new jobs and the level of wages, I would support the use of economic development incentives to attract these kinds of projects. Tax abatements and infrastructure improvements are two types of incentives I could support.



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**RONALD
PALMER**
Republican

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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?

I think it is going in the right direction. Evaluate each proposed change or upgrade to ensure that it conforms to local codes and standards.

QUESTION 2:

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

Continue to ensure that adequate housing is available to all social, cultural, and economic needs.

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?

Evaluate ecological, social, and financial impacts to communities.

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?

I am not opposed to tax incentives as long as they have positive future financial impact on the city.