

SIMON HARE

1. Please describe why you are seeking the position of County Commissioner.
 - This election is a pivotal moment in the future of our county and we need a leader that shares the values of our community and has experience working with others (local, state and federal leaders) diplomatically to find commonsense solutions to the monumental challenges we face.
2. If elected, do you have any specific things you would like to accomplish during your term as commissioner?
 - Yes. Goal number one is to work toward ensuring that our county government does everything possible to spend the taxpayers' money wisely, while doing as much to promote economic development or as little as possible to impede it! I will work toward improving the reputation of our county as being a 'pro' resident and 'pro' business area. I also want to investigate opportunities for economic development that could ensure long-term funding solutions and provide solid, family-wage jobs.
3. Please provide us with a listing of your prior community and civic involvement in Grants Pass or the County (or other communities).
 - I represented 47 million rural consumers served by electric cooperatives in 44 states working with state and federally elected officials to find solutions to keep electricity affordable. I served on the following national boards of directors: Consumer Federation of America (CFA); National Consumers League (NCL); Organizations Concerned for Rural Education (OCRE). I served the people of Oregon in Senator Gordon H. Smith's office as a legislative intern.
 - Member of 4-H & FFA,
 - Tutor, For Love of Children
 - National Cathedral Choral Society (Concert Choir for the National Cathedral)
4. Please tell us your understanding of the role of Economic Development and what you believe should occur with Economic Development during your term.
 - Economic Development is fundamental to a sound county. I believe it to be the role and responsibility of a county commissioner to be an advocate for the sustainable development of fruitful private enterprises here in Josephine County. I see our county developing a reputation as being less than friendly toward economic development and I would like to change that.
5. What role do you believe Tourism promotion and the Tourism program should play in Josephine County over the next four years?
 - I see tourism playing a significant role in the future of our county, but as an addition to what we have done economically in the past, not a substitute. I would like to see our county dovetail our natural resources and their development into the tourism industry. We could use the model of Sonoma and Napa Valley to integrate our expanding wine industry and

SIMON HARE

niche agriculture with tourism. I could also see recreational mining develop alongside the expansion of our current mining practices.

6. How do you perceive growth and the impacts of growth on the county? Please describe for us your position on county growth.
 - I am in favor of economic development and growth where it makes sense. Over the years we have had several proposals for developments/expansion of business enterprises in the Illinois Valley only to have the idea squashed by the Board of Commissioners.
7. Please let us know your position on the funding of the Sheriff's office.
 - Public Safety is issue one for me. Without a secure community all other issues be it tourism, economic development, or education take a back seat. Our current mechanism of funding from property taxes does not meet the needs of the Sheriff's office. Although there is no silver bullet I believe in the short-term we need to pursue renewed appropriation of federal O&C funds, but also look into more long-term solutions like increased harvest of timber from our federal forests. I believe that we also need to increase the county tax base through economic development and look at decreasing the waste and looking for means of efficiency. I am not in favor of increasing taxes.
8. Do you believe taxes and fees in the county are too high, too low, or about right, and to what extent do you believe these should be changed?
 - Talking specifically about county taxes and fees; often the fees are high and property taxes are relatively low. Some fees are prohibitive and restricting growth to the detriment of county property tax revenue. I do not believe that fees should generate revenue, but cover the cost of the process. Voters have voted down tax measures in the past and I don't see that changing in the future.
9. What is your position on the formation of a county fire district for those uncovered areas of the county?
 - I am open to looking at what works in other areas of the country in similar counties, but fundamentally, smaller more localized districts with local standards seems to be the consensus. These districts would participate in specific funding mechanisms voted on by the residents they serve.
10. What county funding mechanism do you propose for county government when O&C money ends in 2012?
 - We need a balanced approach where the resources available better reflect the services needed by our community. As a county commissioner I can have ideas, but my main function is to be a facilitator for our community, bringing residents, business leaders, financial institutions and the community at large together to find commonsense solutions. I

SIMON HARE

will leave no stone unturned looking into every viable option to keep present services while not increasing taxes.

11. Please provide us with any other information you believe makes you the best candidate for the County Commissioner.

- The people of Josephine County deserve a representative who shares their values and will make sound decisions that benefit our community today, tomorrow and for generations. I was born and raised here so I share those conservative values, but I also have extensive experience, while working for electric cooperatives, in bringing people together to find commonsense solutions to complex challenges. I will put my experience working with leaders at the state and national level to use serving our community as a leader with an attitude of cooperation. "Not that bad," should never be good enough.