

**The Columbian**  
**Clark County Council chair questionnaire**

**Age:** 39 😊.

**Occupation:** Working full time for the people of Clark County in the capacity of Councilor; Licensed Real Estate Broker (semi-retired).

**Notable endorsements:** More than 200 (extra)ordinary citizens listed on my website ElectEileenQ.org, some of whom are in elected and/or appointed positions.

**Education:** B.A. from George Fox University (Distinguished Alumnus 1998)

**Previous Political Experience:** Current Clark County Councilor, Clark County Planning Commission; Board of Equalization; State House of Representatives '95- '97 (OR), State Senate, Majority Whip (OR)'97- '01.

**Last book read:** Still the Best Hope, by Dennis Prager, 11 other books sitting on my nightstand on culture, current events, and history; the Bible.

1) The Clark County Council chair has the same voting power as the four other members of the council. What power does the Clark County Council chair position really have and how do you intend to use it?

As the spokesperson for the County it is important that we have a Chair that can articulate our priorities and encourage an agenda that places citizens at the front of the line. The Chair can be a catalyst for policies that encourage job creators and that meet the needs of our community without adding unwarranted burdens onto the citizens. I have a kind of "first do no harm" leadership style.

2) What is the single biggest challenge facing the county?

The rapid rate of growth in the County is certainly a challenge. We must have land use policies that do not contribute to the high cost of housing. And we have to plan for adequate infrastructure to accommodate that growth.

3) Clark County is experiencing a structural deficit where revenues outpace expenditures. This is happening at a time when the county is experiencing rapid growth and an increased demand for services. What are your specific plans to address the situation?

A structural deficit during times of rapid growth is often paid for by development/building fees. The "structural deficit" is said to be the sales tax leakage when Washington residents shop in Oregon. *This is certainly not something new.* We must take a long-term approach by carefully prioritizing spending. Additionally, we should genuinely listen to the priorities of our citizens. What level of services do they want and are willing to pay for?

4) Please explain your party affiliation (or lack of affiliation) and what your political philosophy means for how you would approach local government.

I am a Republican because my values most closely align with the Republican platform of lean and efficient government which adheres to the statutory requirements of State law, lower taxes, property rights and respect for individual freedom and liberty. I believe in Government closest to the people.

5) When is it appropriate for the county government to increase taxes or fees on citizens?

In the case of a genuine emergency it could be appropriate to raise taxes or fees, however that should be a last resort, never a first resort. When the situation rights itself again, we should always be open to returning them to a lower level. Over spending or poor planning is not a good reason. Fees are often paid by the "users" such as development fees and permit fees. It is not unusual for industry to be willing to pay higher fees in order to have adequate service from various County departments.

6) If you could make one change to the state's Growth Management Act, which requires Clark County to plan for future growth, what would it be?

I would allow for a more realistic division of lands both by expanding the UGB and in the rural areas as well. GMA in Washington State and other similar laws throughout the nation have caused a "false scarcity of land" thereby causing housing prices to skyrocket. The GMA had a rare amendment in 2017 with SB 5517 allowing for industrial development (and good paying jobs) along our County-owned (Chelatchie) short rail line.

7) What changes would you make to the Clark County home rule charter, if any?

I did not initially favor the Charter form of Government. I was concerned it would be too bureaucratic in nature and that the citizens might not have the representative form of Government which I think is very important. However, the voters did put it in place and so it is up to the Council to be certain it is implemented properly. The Charter did put in place a mechanism for citizens to make changes, so we will see what comes of that over time.

8) The Clark County Jail has become overcrowded and outmoded for modern correctional practices. How should the county address the problem?

Currently there is a commission looking into the various options. Something should be done and after this commission gives their recommendation to the Council, the Council will likely bring a recommendation to the voters. The overcrowding problem in our jail and the eventual solution to either increase space or build a new facility will ultimately be decided by the citizens if/when they are given an opportunity to vote whether they want a bond issue for this or not.

9) Clark County is experiencing a housing shortage and an increase with homelessness. What can the county do to address the situation?

County government through Community Services and many non-profits are in a partnership to work on this problem. This collaboration is very important to find long term solutions.

10) Should the county lift its ban on recreational marijuana? If so, what should be done with the tax revenue?

I am not in favor of lifting the ban in the unincorporated area of Clark County. Any extra revenue generated would have to be funneled back into law enforcement and social services. Overall, I believe it's a long term losing proposition and not good for our community.