



Complete

Referrer

Date Taken 2017-12-31 00:26

Location US

1 **Name**

Cliff Langley

2 **Which of the five Council districts do you live in?**

District 3

3 **If you are selected to fill this one year At-Large position do you plan to run for election for this position in 2018?**

I probably will but am not 100%

4 **Lake Whatcom is the drinking water source for about half of the County, and the County has entered into an plan to cleanup the lake to ensure it remains a good source of water far into the future. That plan is slated to take about 50 years to complete. Which statement best represents your thoughts on this effort?**

I do not support the current plan and think there are cheaper alternatives that will protect the lake just as well

5

There are many human needs in our community. Please check below all the areas that you believe need greater effort.

The county food banks
Long-term affordable housing
Programs to address domestic violence and sexual assault
Emergency shelter for the homeless
Mental health programs
Substance abuse programs
Incarceration prevention programs
Low income medical and dental programs

6 **If on question #5 you said any efforts need to increase, which of these statements best represents your belief in the County's role in funding such efforts.**

While these efforts are important and need to increase, the County has no role in funding such efforts

Voters recently rejected a ballot measure to fund a new County jail. What do you think the County should do now to address this situation?

The current jail is unsafe, inhumane and expensive to maintain. It was poorly designed and inadequate for the current needs. In the last election, I do not believe that the citizens said no to a replacement jail, they just did not want to be taxed more when they had already agreed to a tax in 2004, which it appears was miss handled and no jail was built.

I would suggest looking at properties (assets) that the county owns and consider selling them to bring in money to construct the replacement jail as proposed and additional property tax. The county owns several prime undeveloped properties amounting to well over 150 acres of land, as well as the current irongate site which was built with the plan of selling it.

Plantation Range maybe another asset that could be sold. It is so expensive that our law enforcement cannot afford to use it but uses the Custer Range.

There are also funds in various county accounts that could also be tapped for a Capital Project. According to Finance "any County fund could be used for capital expenses or projects."

8 Individual's property rights are an important issue in Whatcom County. What are your thoughts on how current governmental rules regarding land use and environmental protection impact a person's property rights

The impact on individual property rights is enormous. The most important reason and the purpose of government is the securing and protection of the property rights of the individual. Every time a law or ordinance is passed that affects property, the individual's rights to property are diminished.

We are rapidly approaching a time when we will be owners of property in name only with no real rights that should be inherit with ownership.

We are human and we will make mistakes as we create and innovate to make our lives more comfortable, in that process we have created some environment problems (this does not give government the right to control what we do with our property). History has shown because we are free to create and innovate, we have found solutions to those problems.

Our Creator, as identified in our Declaration of Independence, endowed us with certain inalienable rights, He also gave us the ability to create and make a better life, but that did not include the right to abuse any of His creation. We should be free to enjoy our private property rights and be good stewards of the creation without government saying you can only do what is permitted (there is no freedom in that).

Also
see #11

- 9 **The recent "Hirst" decision from the Supreme Court has affected many people's ability to drill wells to develop their property, and has caused the County to take a broader look at water rights and in-stream flow protections. Do you have any thoughts on how the Council should proceed on this issue?**

Since Hirst put water regulation under the local control, the correct view and fair of water rights would be that the senior right holder must show that he is being affected by the junior holder. In simple terms you are innocent until proven guilty. After all it is impossible to prove the negative, so no one in the Nooksack basin would ever be able prove their well will not affect the Nooksack some how, so they could never use water from a new well.

Looking honestly at stream in-flow would also go along ways to fix the problem. The low range of in- flow cannot be determined by the yearly median but by what is historically actually the low range. The way that is is currently set means that there will always be seasons "drought" which is simply not true. There is no actual water shortage in Whatcom County! Find out and operate from the what is honest and true.

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- 10 **Whatcom County sits in a unique geographical position and has one of the last undeveloped deep water ports on the west coast. In 2017 the County Council entered into a contract with an outside legal firm to gain information about what authority the County does, and does not have, regarding dealing with the various potential impacts from an increase in exports of fossil fuels from Cherry Point. Do you believe spending County money on such a legal analysis was a good idea?**

No

There is always an argument about what role the County plays in job creation and economic development, and how much County funding should be devoted to those things. What is your opinion on the County's role in this area?

As stated in the Declaration of Independence the purpose of government is to protect and secure the inalienable rights of the individual.

As an individual I may have ideas of what businesses I would like to see prosper and succeed, but the government does not have that luxury. Government should strive to make a level playing field, adopt reasonable standards and define the penalties for intentional, reckless and negligent violation of those standards, and then let the creativity and innovation of the business determine its own success or failure.

Government should occupy itself with creating good infrastructure and a positive community attitude that is attractive to starting, growing and maintaining successful, healthy businesses. In keeping with the spirit of our founders it should be minimally intrusive, strive to protect and secure the rights of the individual and legislate from the presumption of innocence.

Leaders with diverse perspectives should be able to find a reasonable consensus as to with in what parameters businesses should operate.
