



City of Peoria District 5
City Council Candidate Surveys
Spring 2021 Election

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER PEORIA

City of Peoria District Council Candidate Survey

Denis Cyr 5th District

1. What do you see as the top three issues in District 5? How will you work with the other members of the Council to address these issues?

There are many issues that are important to all 5th district residents. However, there are a few that my constituents have been adamant about and that I have been extra committed to. First is fiscal responsibility. We have to ensure that our city is using its money the best way it can without overburdening our residents and our businesses. We accomplish this through a balanced budget and an understanding of where we can spend and where we need to cut. Second, my constituents know I have always been big on roads, roads, roads. I make it a priority to ensure 5th district residents are getting their fair share of funding for infrastructure. Some of our most successful infrastructure projects over the past four years include our work on Allen Road, the intersection at Willow Knolls, Northmoor, and Alta. Finally, and most importantly, I am always concerned with the safety of the 5th district. The 5th district has low crime rates, and I am committed to keeping it that way.

The greatest way that all of these issues are addressed is by cooperation throughout our city. Over the past four years, I have formed excellent relationships with members of our City Council, our City Manager, the Mayor, Township Officials, and members of the County Board. It is up to us together to craft solutions, and I plan to broaden these friendships if elected to another term.

2. What are your recommendations for spending priorities, revenue opportunities and/or spending cuts? For instance, in addition to addressing the revenue shortfalls caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, how would you deal with the pressing issue of spending on police and fire pensions?

Our spending has to be consistent and prioritize the most pressing issues in the city. Our focus must be on deciding what is affordable and realistic and working with what we have to best serve the city. My greatest concern is of course ensuring that the 5th district gets its fair share of that funding. Some issues, like police pensions, we rely heavily on the State of Illinois for, so it is imperative that we continue putting pressure on Springfield to come through on their promises.

3. Please describe what you believe are the most important qualifications to serve as a District Councilperson and how your previous paid or volunteer experience has prepared you to serve.

I think few things can prepare you better for the job of 5th District Councilman more than being in it for the right reasons. I entered politics four years ago as a businessman, and the reason I did it was because I really feel a willingness and love of service. In this job, it is greatly important that partisan politics does not come before serving the needs of your district constituents. I love and really enjoy helping people, and I strongly believe that in any elected office you are a public servant first and everything else is secondary.

4. Please explain how you will provide information to the public regarding City operations and Council decisions? How will you reach out to your constituents for input? For instance, how will you provide for transparency in the upcoming redistricting process?

One of the most important mottoes that has driven my work as 5th district City Councilman and in my campaign is the following: Government must reflect the will of the people, not the other way around. The only way to accomplish this mandate is through strong, broad communication with as many different groups in the 5th district as possible. I have and will continue this goal through several programs. First, I created the Coffee with Your Councilman project, a monthly meeting where 5th district residents of all backgrounds meet with me over a cup of coffee and discuss the issues most important to them in our community. While I do give updates and have local speakers at these meetings, they serve primarily as a way for me to get input from my constituents and ensure I am best serving their interests.

Second, a goal of mine has been staying active on social media. Not everyone is able to make it to Coffee with Your Councilman, so social media serves as a way for me to distribute information about upcoming events and important city news.

Finally, I am proud to have a 100% response rate with my constituents. When 5th district residents have a concern or recommendation and they shoot me a call, text, or email, they get a response. That is a promise. If elected for another term, I will continue this communication so my constituents can be certain that they will always have a voice on the City Council.

Ryan Hite, candidate for the 5th District Council position, did not submit survey responses by the deadline.