

Candidate Questions – Ivy Campbell

Why do you wish to serve in the government of Poetry?

Response: I moved to Poetry 5 years ago to start a modest little farm on 30 acres. It's a slow, back-breaking work in progress, but I'm loving every minute of it. I wish to serve on the town council because I want to preserve this small slice of paradise I was so fortunate to stumble across. I want to keep this town rural, a great place to raise not just a family, but generations – a legacy. I have the experience in community service necessary to be an effective town council member. I will work hard to make sure your voice is heard.

There will be much to do in the second term for the Mayor and Town Council. What three things do you most hope to accomplish, if elected? (If elected, you will serve a two-year term. What changes to Poetry do you envision over the next two years? AND What changes to Poetry do you envision?)

Response: I'm combining the above questions for brevity's sake.

- I want to preserve Poetry as the small, rural country town I know and love.
- Just as the federal government was created to protect our borders and regulate interstate commerce; I want to protect our borders from encroaching jurisdictions, maintain good relations with same, and repair and rebuild our infrastructure – namely these alignment-killing country roads.
- I would also like to finalize town hall so that we have an official foundation or cornerstone from which the town can provide consistency in communication with all the people of Poetry, i.e. meetings and announcements, including an electronic notification system for things that impact our community – flooding on 1565, weather warnings, loose livestock, etc.

When you were first considering the possibility of Poetry incorporating, what did you see as the biggest positive from incorporation, and what was your biggest concern?

Response: The biggest positive from incorporation was the protection it provided from surrounding, encroaching cities. My biggest concern was that the council elected could choose to take our small town in a direction similar to the cities around us, one of increased population and industrial growth.

What makes you stand out from other candidates?

Response: I'm a people person at heart. I make friends just standing in line at the grocery store. I love to help people and I'm a great communicator, whether in the midst of a crisis or at the crux of negotiations. I enjoy bringing two sides together and finding that common ground – something our community sorely needs as we seem to be divided not by goals, but by the manner in which we reach them. I want to unify our town and bring community to the Town of Poetry.

If you are NOT elected, what would you do to try to help work on ideas or issues that are important to you?

Response: I plan to be proactive, working with the elected council and mayor, and with my neighbors and friends. I plan to use my skills in grant writing and fund raising to finance Poetry goals and projects. I truly believe this community can come together and accomplish all goals without forcing the liability of a tax burden on its people.

How would you plan to involve residents in the decision-making process in the Town?

Response: This is my greatest gift and one that landed me in trouble the most as a child – I love to talk to people, to listen and to understand. I pledge to listen to my neighbors' thoughts and opinions; and, as your representative, voice them through my position as councilmember. I would like to establish a town communication system (bulletin boards, both physical and virtual) to notify residents of upcoming events and meetings.

What would you describe as your primary leadership quality?

Response: I believe being a good leader requires a good balance of several skills and traits. I truly enjoy building relationships, helping resolve conflicts through negotiation, using creativity and innovation. *Adapt and overcome*, a mantra that has resounded through my life since my service in the Marines, describes my ability to apply critical thinking to a difficult decision and develop a solution that satisfies all parties involved.

Poetry is currently a very rural area with a “country” lifestyle. How much do you think that lifestyle should be allowed to change, and how would you ensure the town stay within the bounds you would set?

Response: I live in Poetry because I love and live the “country” lifestyle. It's Spring and I have chicks in my living room, eggs in the incubator, seedlings in my dining room, and a never-ending list of projects that need doing. I would like Poetry to stay the way it is forever, but I know there is no stopping the inexorable march of time and progress. I think this lifestyle is the choice of the people of Poetry – and the only way to maintain such is as a collective community. No one person or council can set limits on change – that is for the people to decide. Unite Poetry!

