

Valley Home Builders Association
“Builders’ Ballot” – Responses to Candidate Questionnaires
Pre-Primary, September 2010

Office: Jon Soyring
Candidate: 1st Senate
Website: www.soyringforsenate.com

In order of importance, please list three factors that motivate you to run for this office:

1. Jobs - We need incentives for small businesses to expand their businesses and thereby create jobs.
2. Spending - The state's budget woes are caused by spending. It's NOT a revenue problem it's a spending problem.
3. Taxes - Increased taxes on businesses and "fees" on private citizens are harming Wisconsin's economy.

What leadership qualities and experience do you bring to the office you're seeking?

I own my own business and have served in the United States Navy. The many problems the state is facing are common sense problems. You cannot spend what you don't have. You cannot mandate, stipulate, regulate or dictate your way to prosperity. Government needs to get out of the way and let the free markets work their magic. The best quality or experience in my candidacy however, is the fact that I am not a career politician. It was politicians that got us into this mess. I don't see how re-electing career minded politicians to office will somehow fix the problems. It's time for a fresh start, with citizen senator that has been in the trenches and knows the struggles of a small business operating under government mandates, and regulations.

Please list the three most important things you would like to accomplish during your term of office:

1. TAXES - Create an environment conducive to job creation, and one that will encourage businesses to expand and grow. While at the same time bring new businesses to Wisconsin.
2. SPENDING - Cut the spending. We need zero based budgeting practices.
3. Education - The cost of higher education needs to be addressed. We need to make trade schools more affordable by offering more online programs and apprenticeship programs.

Please list your understandings of three challenges currently facing the housing industry and small business:

1. Lack of Financial backing for small business. Banks are too tight with the money. Open up the lines of credit.
2. Lack of skilled LEGAL labor - businesses that hire cheap illegal labor to undercut the bidding process hurts the industry by forcing quality down. "Do you want it done cheap or do you want it done right?"
3. The housing market crash. Unemployment is forcing more families into foreclosure, driving the housing markets down. There is an abundance of vacant homes (foreclosures) on the market. So the demand for new construction is down.

What can the state legislature do to affect meaningful, positive change for the housing industry?

I am always interested in discussing solutions to the problems that the housing industry is facing. It seems to me that politicians don't know much about building homes. The best solutions will come from those working in the industry. They face the problems everyday. My job as a legislator is to listen and help implement the changes the industry feels necessary. I have very little experience in building homes or selling real estate. Therefore I am looking to find solutions from people in the housing industry. They know best how to keep their industry moving forward. So other than what I've already said above...dealing with taxes, Lines of Credit and acknowledging the many other tight financial aspects of businesses in the industry, the burdens of illegal labor etc. I'm looking to you for suggestions on how I can help you succeed in these troubled times. You know better than anyone what needs to be done. It's time the politicians listen to the people. I'm here to listen and work for you. Let us formulate a plan together and put it into action as soon as possible. Let us work together not only to build quality homes, but a prosperous future for the entire State.

What is your position on a moratorium on new regulations on housing until the industry recovers? Strongly support

What is your position on statewide legislation requiring fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes?
Oppose

What is your position on separating the Department of Natural Resources into two agencies, one pertaining to outdoorsmen issues and one pertaining to environmental/development issues? Support

What is your position on the potential roll-back of changes to prevailing wage laws that were passed in the last state budget? Support

What is your position on a potential roll-back of the conversion fee on agricultural land that was passed into the last state budget? Support

What is your position on the potential of changing the appointment of the DNR Secretary from an appointment by the Governor to an appointment by the Natural Resources Board? Oppose

In order of importance, please list three areas you would pursue to lead to a balanced state budget:

1. Cut spending on welfare and other state funded programs by no less than 15%. I'd like a 25% cut, but we need to have jobs in order to remove these folks from the welfare rolls. We need to re-evaluate the eligibility standards for welfare enrollment.
2. Cut spending on pork barrel projects and other "boondoggle" projects that I consider to be wasteful. IE: Roundabouts. They cost approximately 1 Million dollars each.
3. Cut the size and scope of government in all areas. I'm certain that there are "hidden projects" within the budget that we can cut. Simply put...we don't have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem. We need to make serious cuts everywhere we can. The party is over and the spending spree must stop.

What do you know about Valley Home Builders Association, and what are your impressions of the organization and its members? I have not had any direct contact with the Valley Home Builders other than this email survey. That being said, I am a member of an association that represents the interests of my driving school. My impression is that organizations that come together to speak with one voice is the best way to get things done at the state level. There is strength in numbers, and the message is clear if you have one person speaking for the entire group. Organizations such as yours and mine seek to improve the industry they represent by working collaboratively with it's members and state officials, in a professional capacity to make changes necessary for businesses to succeed. The purpose of such organizations is to change regulations that are not "business friendly", while at the same time allows the members of these organizations to have a major roll in protecting the integrity of the industry they represent. Not having the pleasure of meeting you personally, I'd say that I support and commend you on your efforts to improve the industry.

What can VHBA do to assist you, if elected, in your role as a policy maker? The VHBA can assist me by educating me on what is important to you and your industry. Please help me to learn and understand the needs of the industry you represent. You are the experts. I will be the first to admit, I am not all knowing on all things. I would like to have the opportunity to see and experience first hand the problems you are facing. I'd like to visit one or more of your construction projects. I'd like to meet with you and begin a working relationship as soon as possible. People are losing their jobs. they are losing their homes, their businesses, their life savings, their faith in government. I don't care if you are a Republican, Democrat or an Independent, we can work together. We MUST work together. The time to act is now. Lets build our relationship on a firm foundation, and not one on shifting sand. Construction begins today!

If elected, will you meet with association leaders to discuss issues of importance to homeowners and the housing industry?

Yes