

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

Office: Craig Fletcher
Candidate: 5th Assembly
Website: www.fletcherforwisconsin.org

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

1. Spending
2. Jobs
3. Accountability

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

I was a leader in the US Navy ending my service as a Shift Supervisor in the Aviation Electrician Shop and as a 3rd Class Petty Officer. Since I left the Navy, I have been self-employed in the housing industry. I have my Real Estate Broker's and Contracting Licenses in Wisconsin. I am also a past director of the Realtors Association of Northeastern Wisconsin.

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

1. Lower spending by having the state use GAP accounting practices. This will keep us on a single budget as opposed to the two we presently have.
2. Promote job growth through lower tax rates, less fees, and fewer regulations.
3. Bring back transparency and accountability. We can do this by not adding non-budget bills to the budget and not having them debated on the Assembly floor.

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

1. Oversupply of homes due to the economy and lack of growth in the GNP.
2. Over taxation and excessive fees that hinder business expansion and hiring.
3. Over-reaching rules, regulations and the effect of multiple regulations for the same project that contradict each other.

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

We need to lower tax rates on business and industry. Work to remove archaic rules and regulations so that businesses can save time and money when working to expand and grow their operations. Have common sense at the DNR and encourage them to be an asset to business and not a roadblock. Work for statewide and accepted building codes to remove misunderstanding, inspectors over reach, and help contractors lower costs when building.

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?
Strongly 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? Don't know

What is your position on the potential roll-back of changes to prevailing wage laws that were passed in the last state budget? Strongly 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? Strongly 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? Don't know

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

1. Use GAP accounting practices.
2. Repeal the tax and fee increases in the last budget. Remove the spending increases in the budget, also.

3. Reduce the number of state employees, re-evaluate all welfare spending, audit the state retirement fund that presently has 87 billion dollars in it and is the 9th largest in the country and 24th largest in the world.

What do you know about Valley Home Builders Association, and what are your impressions of the organization and its members? First, I'd like to clarify questions #9 and #12 above. The DNR is too large and powerful and adding another agency when we have a bloated state government is a concern. I would like to discuss this issue further so I can understand what the anticipated pro's and con's are. The governor's present appointment of the DNR Secretary can be a plus or minus depending on the governor. The present makeup of that board would concern me until we get DNR board members who are not Madison bureaucrats and come from all the related industries. That board should include hunters, farmers, manufacturers, and builders. I have been a real estate broker for the last 22 years in the Green Bay area. I also have my contractor's license for the past ten years and am a past member of the Brown County Home Builder's Association. I believe organizations such as yours are very important in maintaining a vibrant home building and re-modeling environment.

What can VHBA do to assist you, if elected, in your role as a policy maker? Stay engaged and be at our side when we have to make the needed tough decisions. The press will be telling the general public we are mean spirited and don't care about schools, police, firefighters, and children.

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

Yes