

WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT VIEW OF THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT IN THE GIBSONS AREA?

Completely frustrating - has to be the understatement of the century. When a simple dollar store can not survive in Gibson's, something is very wrong. When the "NO" faction can kill big box stores coming to the coast, which means people will continue to shop in Vancouver at the expense of our local economy simply because they can't afford to shop here, something is very wrong.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE KEY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN THE GIBSONS AREA AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO MAXIMIZE THESE OPPORTUNITIES?

The opportunities are virtually unlimited, with Retail Opportunities, Manufacturing, and education being the priorities.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE KEY ECONOMIC CHALLENGES IN THE GIBSONS AREA AND WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO OVERCOME THESE CHALLENGES?

The challenges are really simple basics: lack of a young work force, lack of job training, lack of a business friendly OCP, lack of affordable housing, lack of affordable business spaces.

HOW SHOULD GOVERNMENT SUPPORT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNCTION?

Local government needs to adopt a business friendly attitude and provide a realistic framework that fosters business growth.

HOW WOULD YOU SUPPORT THE GCIA FINANCIALLY AND PHILOSOPHICALLY?

The town funds are limited, but business development is critical to building the town's tax base. If for every dollar of taxable business buildings you create, you have to build approximately Four Dollars of residential development to generate the same tax dollars.

-. WHAT ROLE DO YOU BELIEVE BUSINESS SHOULD PLAY IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE GIBSONS AREA?

The Business Community needs to develop a business growth attitude, rather than the antigrowth monopolistic stance of the present.

-. IT APPEARS TAXPAYERS ARE NOT AGREED ON HOW TO DEVELOP THE GIBSONS AREA. HOW WOULD YOU MANAGE THIS ISSUE?

We need to have some plain simple tax reality conversations at the local level. People need to understand that we have some very expensive infrastructure repair / replacement bills coming up within the town. Do we pay for them the easy way with business tax dollars or the painful way with residential tax dollars.

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