

Restore the Balance (RTB)
Delegate Questionnaire

I, Richard “Dick” Kirkpatrick, am running for the Mayor of the Town of Orchard City (TOC) and the following are my responses to the Questionnaire for Candidates for Municipal Office provided by the non-profit organization “Restore the Balance” (RTB).

RTB questions will be in bold, answers regular print.

1. What qualifications do you have that can give voters confidence that you should be a member of the “The Town of Orchard City” (TOC) municipal government?

- I was raised in Delta County, attended grade school in Eckert until mid-third grade, then completed my schooling in Delta graduating in 1964.
- Attended the Methodist Church in Delta until moving to Montana in 1964.
- Attended college at Mesa Junior College and Eastern Montana State in Billings, Montana.
- Three and a half (3½) years in the United States Air Force January 1966 through May 1969.
- Ten (10) years working with Holly Sugar – Hardin, Montana, Torrington, Wyoming, and Hereford, Texas.
- Twenty-Five (25) years working with a water and wastewater construction company in various states throughout the USA. Western Summit Constructors (WSC).
- During the 10 years with Holly Sugar and the 25 years with WSC, I held most construction craft positions as well as all senior management positions.
- The last twenty (20) years I was a consultant on water and wastewater construction projects in various states on the USA mainland as well as Hawaii.
- I have constructed or consulted on water and wastewater projects over the years ranging in value from \$500 thousand to \$900 million.
- I have been a Trustee for the Town of Orchard City for 8 years starting 2016. I am term limited as a Trustee this year.
- I serve on several boards including The Delta County Ambulance District (DCAD), Grand Mesa Water Conservancy District (GMWCD), Butte Ditch Water Company (BD). I was also on the Boards of the Grand Mesa Resort Company (GMRC) and the Orchard City Irrigation District (OCID).
- I was the President of WSC from 1997 through 2004 growing Western Summit from an annual income of an \$85M company in 1997 to a \$275M company in 2004.

- In 2016, most of Orchard City's town infrastructure was very dated. Most pipelines had been installed in the 1960s and 1970s and the Water Treatment Plant was at a stage that if something happened to one of the existing filters, then the plant would not be able to supply the town's water needs during the high usage months of June, July, August and September.
- TOC projects over the past 8 years have been installation of several new pipelines as well as installing a third filter in the Water Treatment Plant. We are in the process of determining at what point our system will be limited on growth without increasing the pipelines' size to handle more water.

2. By now, upon reading and considering the seven political principles we feel should guide political conduct in Western Colorado.

- **a. Do you endorse each of the seven principles RTB feel should guide political conduct in Western Colorado?**
 - i. These principals are well thought-out and would be good for any politician to follow not just here in Western Colorado and yes, I endorse them as written.
- **b. If you endorse them all, please explain how you will work to execute these principals.**
 - i. To always be aware of what is best for the OC town and the people of the town. Coming to the table with an open mind but also come prepared to present your own thoughts on any given agenda item.
- **c. If there are any principals you do not endorse, please identify them and explain why.**
 - i. I endorse them all.

3. It is important to let people know that you put the public interest first, in looking back over the past year or two, are there any decisions TOC municipal government has made that you do not agree with?

- If this is a question just concerning TOC then I am good with what the Board of Trustees has done over the past couple of years.

4. In the aftermath of resent political events, some security experts cite increased risks to local governments from extremist groups which pose a threat to the right to peacefully assemble and to the proper functioning of government.

a. How do you define "extremist" activity and do you view it as a threat to the proper function of municipal government?

- To define an extremist is difficult and covers a wide range of examples. The first that comes to mind are the perpetrators of the 9/11 disaster, that one is easy. The next is not so easy. There are members of our federal congress who only represent their personal thinking not what is best for America or the

American people in general. An extremist can also be someone who believes their way is the only way.

- I believe any extremist activity is a problem in any form and will impact the function of any government.

b. What, if anything, should be done to protect elected officials and the public from those using harassment to stop civil engagement in the exercise of democratic processes?

- For one thing, defunding the police makes no sense! Law enforcement has the responsibility to deal with these types of situations but we as individuals have the responsibility to support their efforts. I also believe we as individuals have the responsibility to be prepared to defend ourselves, the law cannot be everywhere.

5. Our county allows the use of mail-in ballots. Do you feel this method serves the public interest?

- I personally enjoy the ease it allows me to vote. The down side is it seems to have opened a way for not-so-honest elections to be held. If handled properly I believe it is a good tool to get more people voting. I am a very studied voter and with the mail-in ballot I can stop and study the ballot items better as I am filling out the form.

6. Do you feel municipal government in your Delta County community in the recent past has been moving in the correct direction?

- Yes, I am proud of the Board of Trustees and the concerted efforts to move the TOC into a position to be ready for the future.
 - a. What additional steps would you promote to maximize serving the interests of your community in an efficient and cost-effective manner?**
 - The TOC is a very well ran municipal government agency. TOC is solid in its financial standing and has an excellent staff who perform extremely well in their various positions. With this said, I believe the job is not to mess it up and to keep it on the positive course that it has traveled over the past 110+ years.

7. What do you feel are three important issues and/or concerns facing the municipality in which you are seeking elected office and what solutions do you have in mind?

See the following: I have four (4)

- 1) For the past several years the TOC has been investigating leaks in our system and replacing the old pipelines. Eight years ago, the staff developed a list of all the pipelines with estimated costs to replace. This list has been the guide to replace the worst offenders first and TOC has been systematically replacing these lines. Keep this going.
- 2) TOC is in the process of repairing and/or replacing our current water meters with the knowledge that these meters are not reporting the actual water going through them. TOC has repaired several meters to test how much water is going through them compared to previous years usage, and have found in all the test cases the actual water usage is higher than what was billed in the 20/30 percent range. Keep this going.
 - a. Both 1 and 2 are efforts to find and correct the problems to overcome the loss of unbilled water. When successful TOC will be able to maintain a lower price for the water our residences use.
 - b. For example, if we are producing 100 gallons and only being paid for 70 to 80 gallons; we still have the cost of producing 100 gallons to cover in the billing schedule. Closing that gap will maintain and/or potentially lower the billing rates.
- 3) TOC also developed a similar list of all the roads the town is responsible for and have systematically been repairing the roads. Keep this going.
- 4) Continue to develop our Town Park and make positive improvements.