



## Jefferson County Candidate Questionnaire

### Candidate Information

Full Name: Jim Snodgrass

Office Sought: County Commissioner, District 3, White Pine, and Baneberry

Website / Campaign Page:

### 1. Why are you running for this office?

Please describe your motivation and what qualifies you for this position.

#### Motivation

As a servant leader, I am seeking my third full term for District 3 in efforts to continue serving as a voice of the citizens for White Pine, Baneberry, and Jefferson County. My motivation centers around the opportunity to guide our county government toward the optimal conditions for promoting community health, family life, work life, and education conditions for county citizens as a whole.

#### Qualifications

I have thirty-five years' experience in various leadership roles in global and locally owned large and small manufacturing operations in the automotive, food, and plastics sectors. While serving in top leadership roles within the organizations for the last twenty years, my primary responsibilities included development and execution of near-term and long-term strategic plans encompassing financial and operational success.

#### Summary

- Experienced Financial Planning and Execution
- Experienced Communicator in large and small group settings
- In-depth Critical Thinking Skills
- Skilled in Effective Listening
- Experienced Leadership

### 2. Military Service

Are you a Veteran?  Yes  No

If yes, please provide:

- Branch of Service:

- Dates of Service:

- Areas Served:
- Highest Rank / Position Held:
- Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) or Equivalent:
- Awards or Decorations (optional):

### **3. Previous Support of Veterans**

If you have served in an elected position in this Jefferson County or any other political offices in the past, what have you done to support Veterans?

To be honest, my efforts to specifically support Veterans or the Veterans office have been minimal up until the hiring of the current VSO. I was in support to add the Assistant to the VSO position when initially brought forward to the Commission although the proposal was not approved for the agenda by a suspension of the rules motion. I did vote "Yes" to suspend the rules and add the topic to the agenda. Once the proposal reached the agenda, I voted "Yes" to add the position.

### **4. Priorities to Support Veterans**

Jefferson County has a growing veteran population of more than 4,000 veterans. Please outline your top 3 priorities to support veterans and their families.

- 1) Continue support of the requested budget for the Veterans Service Office
- 2) Directly engage the VSO by means of a set, periodic schedule to confirm needs, roadblocks, and positive working environment.
- 3) Volunteer time in the Veterans Service Office to assist daily operations as directed by the officer

### **5. Veteran Services and Resources**

What specific actions would you take to improve access to veteran services at the county level?

Primarily, I would prefer to hear the VSO leader's ideas and serve to present these to County Commission for implementation and execution. The VSO is the expert, and we should rely on her expertise.

As an outsider to the operations, I would like to inquire with the VSO to understand if a shuttle service may be one means for increasing access to the veterans to office. If this idea is viable and beneficial, the next step would be to define a process, process ownership, and secure appropriations through County Commission.

### **6. Veterans Service Officer (VSO)**

What do you know about the Veterans Service Officer (VSO) program in Jefferson County and do you have a stance on reporting structure or if this should be a Director position?

I will not claim to understand in depth details about the VSO program. I only beginning to understand (and have much more to learn) based on the thorough communications from the VSO in the Commission meetings. For reporting, my stance is this role should report to the County Mayor. The County Mayor is directly engaged in daily operations of the county and more accessible than the County Commission Chairman.

What would you do to strengthen and support the VSO to ensure Veterans receive timely and effective assistance?

As mentioned previously, I will establish a set, periodic schedule for proactive engagement with the VSO to hear new needs, potential road blocks to services, or lacking support from the Commission.

## 7. Additional Veteran-Related Issues

Please identify any other veteran-related issues you believe need attention in Jefferson County and how you would address them.

Based on my direct conversations, it seems many county members may not be aware of the support the VSO services provide. With the amazing energy and commitment Mrs. King has brought to the office, a county wide communication campaign promoting the services may provide some additional awareness. I believe all County Commissioners should be a part of an event such as this.

## 8. Closing Statement or short biography

- Grew up on a small tobacco, beef, and dairy farm in the Leadvale Community, White Pine
- Jefferson County High School graduate
- University of Tennessee, Knoxville graduate (BS in Agriculture, Food Science and Technology)
- Served on Jefferson County Industrial Development Board
- Currently serve on the Jefferson County Farm Bureau Board of Directors
- Currently serve as a Deacon for Leadvale Missionary Baptist Church

Signature: Jim Snodgrass Date: 03.16.26