

Sara Presler-Hoefle

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1. What would be your top two priorities as Mayor/City Councilor? Why do you see these two issues as the most important?
 - a. Investing in Children and Youth. Affordable activities for families and children are essential. Second, foster care is an important issue in our local community that is flying under the radar. Kids are in need of homes in our community. We are working on foster care right now in northern Arizona and I know, as a City, we can do better. Third, I propose a stronger truancy program for children in our community. There is a direct connection between education and the economy. Let's invest in our kids more as we choose to invest in our business.
 - b. Economic Development. This is important because it goes right alongside my first priority. Investing in children means investing in families. Local families need economic support and strength—especially in a time of federal and state economic recession. We cannot operate independently; we are impacted by and impact the State, Federal, and International economy. That being said, we can create change in our local community. Here is how: Pay prevailing wages, focus on local expertise and skills toward problem solving rather than outsourcing our studies and solutions, and recruit sustainable companies that offer better paying jobs to our trained workforce citizenry.
2. What solutions do you see regarding either the development and/or protection of State Trust Lands surrounding Flagstaff?

Such a small percentage of land in Arizona, as whole, is private land. I would like to see *some* State Trust Lands dedicated to affordable housing, provided there is an adequate water supply available and arranged in advance. Aside from that, I believe it is our responsibility to protect and preserve our public lands.
3. Most would agree that availability of workforce housing is a critical issue in Flagstaff. Do you support the direction that the City has taken regarding this? Please explain.

I think the City is off to a good start with the Land Trust and some of the opportunities that are on the drawing board. I think the City can improve in two ways: 1. Reducing red-tape so that the process doesn't have to take 2 years—fast tracking affordable housing and cost-benefiting projects in these terms should be a priority, and 2. Partnering with our local community—affordable rental unit incentives for landlords and collaborating with local partners like Habitat for Humanity and BothHands.
4. Do you have additional ideas about how to best provide workforce housing? Please explain.

Yes. The employer has to be at the table from a policy perspective. A teacher must be alongside the school district, the Chief of Police alongside his dispatcher, the Mayor alongside her fellow citizens. If we want people to provide the lifestyle that many have come to love and enjoy in Flagstaff, then we must provide for the very people that support it.

Supporting local contracts, offering contracts that provide prevailing wages, helping families is of great importance to me.

5. Words such as “sustainability” have made their way into everyday language. What does the word “sustainability” mean to you?

Sustainability is about the human impact upon the earth and toward each other. It involves social equity, environmental protection, and economic viability. It includes the need to set community-priorities and the ability to measure outcomes.

6. Is sustainability a concept that you support? If so, what would you do as a member of the Flagstaff City Council to promote sustainability? If not, please explain.

Yes it is a concept I support. As a member of the City Council, and as the Mayor, I would lead by example—voting and priority budgeting for measure that move us toward sustainability. As the only registered Democrat in this race,

7. Do you support impact fees? Why?

Yes, I do. Impact fees pay for future infrastructure and the impact of the development the direct result of that growth. Some say that impact fees impede affordable housing. To that end, I understand that some concessions would need to exist regarding the differentiation of exactions from impact fee costs and requirements. However, I do support impact fees and believe our community will benefit and needs their police, firefighters, and public transportation. We must plan for growth, or it will plan for us.

8. If you do not support impact fees, how would you propose paying for infrastructure necessitated by new development? (Examples: roads, traffic lights, new firefighters and police officers.) N/A.

9. Can we balance the creation of jobs with Flagstaff’s unique qualities and environment? If you believe we can, how would you propose to do so?

There is a tremendous opportunity for the City to *really* work together with SEDI. In addition, with the business incubator, we can work toward recruiting sustainable companies that benefit our environment while offering a return in culture, community, and opportunity. Investment in workforce preparation is needed in our community on a greater level and the City should better partner to make this a reality. Diversity of business types is important. Finally, and probably most importantly, respect for natural resources is essential.

10. What do you feel are the unique characteristics of Flagstaff as a community? What will you promise to do to retain those characteristics?

Diverse and Respectful: Promote equality in city employment and contracting.

Passionate and Intelligent: Utilize local expertise and skills to better our community

Family-oriented: Support an environment that is healthy and sustainable for children, families, animals, and the community as a whole.

Thank you.