

25th Legislative District Democrats

Candidate Endorsement Request *(City)*

Office Sought: ___Puyallup City Council, District 1-Seat 2_____ Today's Date: ___6/26/2009_____

Campaign Information

Name of Campaign: Friends for Tony Aho Campaign Manager: n/a

Campaign Address: 1318 23rd St Pl NW Puyallup, WA 98371

Campaign Phone: 253-970-2824 Email: tonyaho@comcast.net Fax: n/a

Website: www.tonyaho.com

Party Affiliation: n/a

Are you using union printers and/or sign shops to do your campaign printing? Not at this point

Personal Information:

Full Name (as shown on ballot): Tony Aho_

Address: _1318 23rd St Pl NW Puyallup, WA 98371

Years at this address: 5 Legislative District: 25th Precinct: _____

Years in the city that you want to represent: 15

Education (Please indicate highest level attained)

Degree (specify): Master of Arts in Education-Educational Leadership

School: Pacific Lutheran University

Previous Public Service

Office/Position Held: _____ Dates: _____

Nature of Organization: _____

Duties: _____

Office/Position Held: _____ Dates: _____

Nature of Organization: _____

Duties: _____

Office/Position Held: _____ Dates: _____

Nature of Organization: _____

Duties: _____

Office/Position Held: _____ Dates: _____

Nature of Organization: _____

Duties: _____

I have held no previous elected offices/positions, but please see the civic interest section for a list of my volunteer efforts.

Current Job Information

Employer: Pacific Lutheran University Title: Assistant Director of Admission and Advising

Supervisor: Stephen Woolworth

E-mail Address: woolworth@plu.edu

Work Phone: 253-535-7285

Major Civic Interests

This is a list of my current volunteer efforts and positions held.

- Communities in Schools-Puyallup (Board Member)
- Puyallup Parks and Recreation (Chair)
- Guest Columnist for the Herald (2009)
- Puyallup Main Street Association (Board Member)
- Puyallup Rotary
- Puyallup/Sumner Chamber of Commerce
- Valley Arts United (Treasurer)
- Puyallup Eagles
- Our Savior Lutheran Church

Questionnaire

Please keep your answers brief.

If you need more room, attach a separate page at the end and mark "see attached" on the questionnaire.

Please list your qualifications for seeking office:

My experience in the private sector in addition to my volunteer leadership roles brings a strong sense of service, while building and maintaining sustainable organizations. In order to be an effective leader, one has to be approachable, rational, reasonable, of strong integrity and moral character. I possess all of these qualities and intend to use them in guiding my actions and decisions.

Please list your reasons for seeking office:

I am running for the Puyallup City Council, District 1 position 2 for the following reasons: Over the past several years there has been an increase in the divide among council members. This has resulted in its inability to accomplish the city's business. To enable the city to move forward, we need strong leaders independent of personal agendas and conflict of interest. Second, there is a lack of representation for those in the workforce and raising families on the council. None of the current 7 council members have children who attend the public school system or work full time. I have a vested interest in what Puyallup will be in 20 and I intend to both promote team work and consensus building, as well as provide a diverse and needed perspective for families of all ages.

Have you been involved in partisan politics in Washington State before? Please give details: No

Have you run for an office before? Please give details: No

Have you held office, either elected or appointed? Please give details:

I have been appointed as Chair of the Puyallup Parks and Recreation Board.

What do you believe will be the three most important issues in your campaign?

The three most important issues in my campaign are a) public safety b) economic development c) equal representation.

When elected, how would you make sure that you and your fellow elected continue to be accessible to constituents and their concerns and open to public input?

Throughout this campaign I have continually stressed my accessibility and willingness to be inclusive. Unlike my opponents, residents have access to my cell phone number, home number, email, and home address. I will typically respond to any questions and inquiries within 24 hours. If elected, this will still be the case. In addition, I plan to hold quarterly community meetings to gather input on issues and concerns. On the other hand, I will hold other councilmen accountable for lack of communication and representation of their constituents.

Why should the 25th Legislative District Democrats support you over any other candidates running for this position?

I should be considered for support for several reasons. First, I aim to represent my entire district and not just a few select neighborhoods. Second, I will act as an independent voice to make tough decisions for what is best for the city and its residents. Lastly, I support and will work tirelessly to promote economic development. However, to do so, I will need to draw from my experience and education in leadership, business, and consensus building.

What would you do to encourage economic development in your city?

I would continue to support the current direction of the city manager. Mr. McLean has been able to bring millions of dollars to Puyallup to fund economic development despite opposition and criticism of some council members. Such companies as Saint Gobain Performance Plastics and O'Reilly Auto Parts intend to move their operations to Puyallup and bring hundreds of new jobs to the area. This is not only good for the local economy, but also to get families back on their feet. I plan to collaborate in this effort and work to involve not only other councilman, but the public as well.

What would you do to address the transportation/transit challenges facing your city?

1. Explore options regarding parking garages to accommodate both commuters and shoppers downtown.
2. Support projects and initiatives that focus on walkable communities
3. Collaborate with Sound/Pierce Transit and residents to find workable solutions addressing community needs and concerns.

Do you support the right of referendum for the citizens of your city? What are the pros and cons of this right?

There has been some discussion about citizen recourse to referendum and initiative, but I have not personally come across any constituents that are in support of the issue. That said, if it became abundantly clear that a majority of citizens were in support, I would seriously consider the issue.

Although the pros would enable citizens to bring forward referendums and initiatives, I believe the process would further delay the council, in its current state, to accomplish the city's business and in the end cause citizens concern over time wasted and tax money spent.

Are there any additional comments you would like to share with the 25th Legislative District Democrats?

As someone whose family has a strong history in the Democratic Party and union support, I believe I have the ability to represent a diverse population in looking toward what Puyallup will be in the next 20 years.

It is the intent of the 25th District Democrats to support qualified Democrats seeking political office for both partisan and nonpartisan races. To that end we are looking for individuals who adhere to Democratic principles as demonstrated by Democratic Party activity, community activities, their reputation among Democrats, and statements they make supporting the Democratic Party and fellow Democrats. Endorsed candidates are discouraged from giving support in any partisan race to non-Democratic candidates. If an individual is running against another Democratic candidate(s), such endorsed candidate is encouraged to draw clear distinctions and differences with his/her opponent in a friendly, informational, and non-confrontational fashion. My signature below signifies my agreement with these principles and that I understand that the 25th District Democrats may withdraw its endorsement if I do not adhere to them.

Candidate Signature: _____ Today's Date: _____

Please return your completed questionnaire to Louis Tibbs at 25dems@gmail.com or PO Box 73594 Puyallup, WA 98374.