

UCRC QUESTIONNAIRE

Billy Allred

1) Why are you a Republican?

As a Christian, I strongly believe the following principles: Human life is created in God's image and must be cherished and protected from the womb to the grave. There is good and evil, right and wrong, truth and falsehood. God instituted government to protect life, and to pursue truth and justice by force when necessary. Society functions best when everyone exercises virtuous self-government from strong character, strong families, and strong churches rather than strong government. Men are fallible, lusting for power and wealth, therefore government is also fallible. To mitigate this corruption of men, our founders limited and distributed their power broadly while also decentralizing power. They kept most government decision-making in the hands of local 'governors' who are more accessible and accountable to the citizens they represent. Men and women with character will govern their own conduct and seek to serve their neighbors by preserving life, liberty and property and by electing accountable representatives in government who are committed to these same principles.

The Republican Party is the ONLY major political party in our nation which subscribes to these truths. For that reason, I have been a lifelong Republican, a Republican who has recruited and supported other Republicans for office, and I have served in local government as a Republican. Not every Republican strongly holds these principles - some only speak of them during campaign season. My record is one of living Republican values, instilling them in my family and vocally standing for them in this community.

2) What are the pressing needs and priorities for the office you're seeking?

A commissioner's job is one of governance, collaboration and oversight. They must work well with other elected officials and employees within each level of government. I believe we need significant improvement in accountability, accessibility and communication within the county. Too often our commissioners are not aware of decisions, needs and changes occurring in the courthouse, the government center and the municipalities. This must be improved by fostering relationships with others where information and trust is exchanged regularly, rather than by depending on county employees to communicate. The county website should be up to date with relevant information about events and meetings with agendas and minutes online. Citizens shouldn't need a right-to-know request to view a prior year's budget. Important meetings should be held in the evening when more of the public can attend. Our most pressing need is active commissioners who are in the building and in our municipalities every day, overseeing county operations, communicating with stakeholders, and holding employees accountable for their interaction and service to the public.

We also need commissioners who are committed to responsibility with OUR money. I will continue my record of never voting to raise taxes or fees. Citizens are taxed too much already, and by delegating so much oversight, the commissioners are not strictly watching how dollars are being spent. We shouldn't be choosing winners and losers through economic development. We need a free and open climate of competition and modern well-kept infrastructure to encourage free-market growth in our valley.

3) **What do you bring to the position?**

The most important responsibility of an elected official is to humbly yet effectively communicate and serve others while maintaining their values and principles. I believe I have been effective in that servant-leadership throughout my 10+ years in public office. Despite the fact that I'm often one of the most conservative people in a discussion, I've demonstrated honesty, compassion and friendliness in seeking to persuade others of my positions. On a three-member, partisan board, decisions are often swayed by just one vote. An ability to reasonably explain and persuade others is vital to effective, principled governance.

Leadership is about leading, but if no one is following, then it isn't leadership. When help is needed, rather than asking, 'why can't someone else step up', I typically ask, 'Why not me?' Residents know that if they need information, assistance, help or advice, they can count on me. Because of that conscientious, principled and good-natured approach, I've won the respect of many and been honored with positions of leadership in both my private and public life.

My Background Qualifications include:

- Two-Term Township Supervisor, Union Township
- Former Township Auditor, Union Township
- Vice-Chair and former Secretary, Union County Republican Committee
- President, Union County Association of Township Officials
- Treasurer, Central Keystone COG Board of Directors
- President, Opti-Script, Small Business With Over Twenty-Five Employees
- Twenty-Five Years of Business Experience in Multiple Industries
- Committed Husband to Priscilla for Twenty-Two Years
- Loving Father of Four with Two Currently in College and Two in High School
- Deacon, Teacher & Former Financial Secretary, Calvary Baptist Church