

UCRC Questionnaire
Jeff Reber

Why am I a Republican

The United States is a country that was founded on the ideals of personal freedom and liberty. As such, I have the ability to control our own destiny, to worship as I please and to speak in support of as well as against actions and ideas, including those of our own government, without the fear of retribution. I support smaller elected government that provides basic services for the citizens, but does not infringe upon my individual rights. As a business owner, I strongly support the free market principals that are the foundation of our economic might, which has made us the lone super power in the world. The free market allows the strongest companies to survive while teaching lessons to those who fail. Capitalism is truly the only economic system whose benefits can be felt throughout all of society.

Republicans have a natural inclination to see our nation as the beacon of hope for the rest of the world and I know that I hit the citizenship lottery when I was born an American. I also understand the need for a strong military and the allure for immigrants to be a part of the American dream. Being a Christian and a republican means that I understand the opportunities our nation affords us, but also having an obligation to conduct ourselves according to biblical principles and protect the rights of those who are unable to fight for themselves, such as the unborn. As a republican, the ideals that I support are framed and set forth in the constitution.

What are the pressing needs and priorities for the Commissioners?

We are fortunate to live in Union County, where the board of commissioners has consistently sought to make decisions that benefit the entire county and to do so in a professional manner. What I see as opportunity for our county is that we should continue to make decisions in the most fiscally conservative manner possible. As someone who doesn't dwell in the past, I believe Union County's future will best be served by aggressively promoting our economic and natural resources to retain and attract businesses that will provide family-sustaining wages while increasing our tax base. In addition, proper evaluation of all aspects of our existing operational structure will allow us to make informed decisions in county government, thus attempting to negate the need for increasing taxes. Planning has been completed before and Union County adopted a comprehensive plan in 2009. It was an exercise that involved a broad array of citizens and it is representative of the type of communication and interaction that I feel is important to continue.

Regional partnerships should continue to be reviewed so that we can most effectively grow our county while sharing resources with neighboring counties. Additionally, investing into the judicial, corrections as well as health and safety arenas will ensure that Union County has strong communities and safe schools in which we can all thrive. I am running for commissioner because I want to help lead the County towards a prosperous future, one in which every citizen can feel safe and have the ability to achieve their dreams.

What Do I Bring to The Position

As a life-long resident of Union County, I have chosen to raise my family and build my career here. It's a beautiful region with strong communities and good schools, and it is a place that I am fortunate to call home. Being ingrained in the full fabric of Union County has enabled me to connect with people who live in our municipalities as well as townships from Gregg to Hartley to Union, and everywhere in between. The personal, professional, and community service connections I have built will allow me to work effectively with people and communities of varying needs, storied histories, and sometimes different ideas on how to achieve the end result. Importantly, my empathetic and deliberative leadership style allows me to constructively work in all of these environments.

Since economic development is an area about which I feel strongly, my business ownership and banking experience along with my conservative fiscal beliefs will enable me to look at each option through the lens of return on investment. For instance, will each dollar spent (or invested) be able to return more than one dollar back to Union County? I support investing in the communities to expand the tax base and efficiently operating government so that we can avoid raising taxes, while still providing the services a county must offer, such as public health and safety, judicial administration, human services and others. My current relationships with township and municipal leaders as well as with businesses and citizens throughout the county will help all of us towards this goal.