

- **The poverty level is high in Okanogan County.**

As County Commissioner, I will aggressively promote programs that are already in place but are not well known: Job training and wage sharing programs; small business revolving loans and business mentorship programs. I will actively promote our county's economic opportunities to new businesses so they will consider relocating here: our empty warehouses with short-line railroad; rapid access to the cross-state Hwy. 97 corridor; available workforce with community college; inexpensive electricity; productive land – and the bonus of nearby attractive recreational opportunities.

***Improve our county's economy.***

- **We have limited water in this arid county.**

Careful water resource planning is imperative for sustaining our agriculture, future developments and environmental protection. I will promote protecting existing water rights, keeping water here in Okanogan County to be used wisely for our future. Our future is dependent upon the quantity and quality of our water.

***Improve county water resource planning.***

- **Access to local health care is necessary for our rural economics.**

In towns with hospitals, they are a huge employer, supporting several hundred families, each. But rural health care is plagued with the financial difficulties of serving a sparse population. Close by facilities ensure the best outcomes in emergencies, creates close ties with their communities. As a commissioner, I will actively push for better reimbursements from state and federal funding to reflect the greater expense of providing services in rural areas.

***Improve county health care.***

- **Balance county government's budget without more taxation.**

The county has lost a valuable tax income with the closing of the Battle Mountain gold company. At the same time, Okanogan County has a new industry expanding – the Cannabis grow operations. State-wide more than \$700 million has been paid in state excise taxes alone; prompting the state to consider giving \$1 million to each of the 39 counties. Okanogan County ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> for amount of grow operations and deserves a greater piece of the pie.

***Improve Okanogan County's share of excise tax.***