

I'm Don Christensen and I'd like to take a minute to tell you about myself, my family, and my career.

I am an alumnus of Granger High School (class of 1963). After high school, I served an ecclesiastical mission in Northern Mexico where I fell in love with the people and the language. This inspired me to continue my education at BYU majoring in Spanish. A career opportunity moved me and my family to California, but it never felt like home. Forty-two years ago, we returned to the place that felt like home, West Valley City.

Once we returned, I taught middle school, then became an elementary school administrator in fifteen different west side schools. I served as an elected member of the State Board of Education for three terms, representing West Valley City and a large portion of western Salt Lake County. I took the opportunity to continue my education and received a Master of Education with emphasis in Building Administration from the University of Utah and a Doctor of Education with emphasis in Curriculum and Instruction from BYU.

I am the father of seven terrific children who have blessed me with twenty-nine grandchildren and eight great grandchildren (with three more on the way).

I love West Valley City and am proud to call it my home. I have served twelve years as a member of the West Valley City Council and have worked diligently to make it become one of the strongest cities in the State, not just because of its size, but through effective governance, strong businesses and amenities that make us all proud to call West Valley City our home.

I do everything I can to listen to the voice of the residents and our professional city staff. As an example, when I learned our police officers and many administrators were being hired by neighboring cities because our city was not providing reasonable pay and benefits, I lobbied my fellow council members and administrative staff to immediately offer incentives to maintain the highly respected and qualified police force and administration in our city.

I have worked hard with the City Council to keep the city budget under control and not make expenditures that are frivolous or unnecessary. I have also worked closely with our Community and Economic Development Department to make sure quality business projects and housing are part of our city growth. I have supported the "My Hometown" initiative from the moment it was presented to me and have made sure it has received council support for timely, careful growth throughout the city.

West Valley City is not the small agricultural community of the 1950's, but is a strong, thriving, and viable force in our state. I intend to keep serving the residents, which includes my family, so you all will be proud to say you live here.

Please vote for Don Christensen, Councilmember at Large.