Redmond Mayor joins race for County Commissioner

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Redmond Mayor Alan Unger on Thursday announced his candidacy for Deschutes County Commissioner. The Democratic candidate will seek to serve in the position currently held by Republican Mike Daly.

The campaign kicked off Thursday with a concept he believes is unique in politics: listening. The â€œListening Tourâ€• will see Mayor Unger traveling to many locations throughout the county to listen to citizens about what can be done better.

Stops this week include a meeting with business leaders in Redmond on Friday at 8:30 a.m., a meeting with Sisters Mayor Boyd and local leaders at 11 a.m., and a meeting at 2 p.m. with Bend City Councilors and community members. Saturday he will visit L Pine.

Mayor Unger plants to continue the â€œListening Tourâ€• throughout the next several months, and hopes to meet with neighborhoods, churches, clubs and other groups.

Asked why he wants to be a County Commissioner, the native Oregonian said, â€œI feel a strong need to serve our community. I have enjoyed serving Redmond over the years and want to do more.â€•

â€œMayor Unger brings a great deal of experience and consensus building from his years of service on the Redmond City Council-as a Councilor and Mayor, the Redmond Planning Commission, Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation, League of Oregon Cities and the Governorâ€™s Fiscal Reform Taskforce,â€• said Ungerâ€™s campaign manager, Chuck Arnold.

According to the City of Redmondâ€™s web site, Unger received a Bachelor of Science Degree in General Science from the University of Portland. Following graduation, he worked for the Multnomah County Sheriff's Department as a Corrections Officer for two years, then returned to Redmond and became a self-employed General Contractor. In 2001, he accepted a position with the Central Oregon Partnership as Advocate for the Redmond Area Community Action Team, a position he held until 2004.

Unger was appointed to the Redmond Area Planning Commission in 1993 and continued until 2000 when he was elected to the Redmond City Council. A year later he became Mayor of Redmond to complete the previous Mayor's term and then was re-elected for three additional terms, the last of which expires in 2008.

He currently serves as Chair of the Central Oregon Cities Organization, is a member of the Central Oregon

Area Commission on Transportation and the Oregon Freight Advisory Committee.

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