

Elkhart as a Business!

An Exploratory Committee of Pettit for Mayor was formed and registered with the Elkhart County Election Board on Feb 17th 2006 and amended to a regular Pettit for Mayor Committee, Glenn Duncan, Chairman, and Don Ross, Treasurer, on May 4th 2006.

I request your consideration of my announcement today to run for the Mayor of the City of Elkhart. I want to lead, listen and take us to the next level throughout our entire city, not just certain areas. Again, let's all work together to make Elkhart a FIRST CLASS city to live, be proud to call home and a destination where people will want to come to live, contribute and prosper.

We need to review Elkhart's current way of doing business through the existing management organization. Like the fact or not, the City of Elkhart is a BUSINESS. You the voters are the stockholders. With your VOTE, you determine who will be the Chairman of the Board and CEO (Chief Executive Officer)-The Mayor.

As your next Mayor, each Division/Department Head will be appointed and will be considered without concern for political party affiliation, religion or race. I look forward to working with individuals who are qualified, have proven experience and have shown an interest in our city, preferably as a resident and a participant in one or more of our excellent local organization(s). We need people who give to their job and community willingly.

Just look behind me as we stand on the 9th floor of the former Hotel Elkhart, we see a most beautiful overview of OUR CITY; you see not just the Downtown, but a large part of our City; Elkhart General Hospital, the airport, industrial areas and the

various neighborhoods and parks that make up our beautiful city. We need to develop an attitude and goal to make Elkhart a point of destination for new business, residents and most of all, the return of our youth of today after their advanced education for leadership in our great city in the future.

History as you know is what we have already done, can't do or haven't tried. With our great and diverse population in Elkhart, we need to learn from our past to make and secure our future. We should say with pride, "Elkhart, Indiana is my hometown".

Remember, as you have no doubt heard, there is no "I" in team.

1. We need to INSURE ALL city services to our CUSTOMERS-YOU, the taxpayers, are provided in a timely, cost effective, efficient, friendly and reliable manner.
2. INVITE new people and potential business to come here and make Elkhart their home. We need to expand our marketing efforts and take our city to potential opportunities and developments, not wait in hopes they will knock on our door.
3. We need to do a better job of setting and justifying goals so we INVEST our tax dollars wisely. I will expect department heads, employees and members of the City Council to work together. We too need to encourage and listen to ideas from our community.

The result of this listening will help us to develop a budget that has purpose and direction that meets the needs of our diverse population-not determined by people that lack touch with our community. At the same time, we need to continue to be responsible for maintaining of our aging infrastructure.

4. We need a vision with goals and objectives for our city that is developed and shared by ALL. Just as a captain uses the rudder to steer his ship; our vision will be our rudder that steers our city's future development.

We need to further develop our positives (assets) and reduce or eliminate our negatives (liabilities). Let us all stand with pride and work together, without prejudice and hostility. I sincerely look forward to working with ALL of you in making Elkhart, Indiana a place to be proud to call "my hometown".

I respectfully request your support in my efforts to be your next mayor that will make "Elkhart" a word that is synonymous with a great future filled with opportunities and caring.

On behalf of my family and the Pettit for Mayor Committee I want to say thank all of you for being in attendance today.

Enjoy today and let's all work harder for a better tomorrow.

Read at a press conference on Thursday, September 14, 2006 on the 9th Floor of the Cornerstone (formerly Hotel Elkhart).