

The top three challenges facing the City of Peoria include job/business growth, education, and crime.

As for job/business growth, I will focus on encouraging formerly-excluded developers to build in Peoria. I would insist that developers use union labor as appropriate, e.g., commercial buildings and improvements. I would push for green jobs and other infrastructure jobs, that pay a livable wage, and I would focus on providing those jobs to Peoria residents. Further, I would oppose any initiatives or attempts to make Peoria a right-to-work zone because I believe that it would negatively impact jobs generally and unions specifically.

Crime and education are somewhat tangled. I would open the lines of communication with the School Board and the Peoria Public Schools Foundation. The schools must be air-conditioned; this should be a community goal. Additionally, I would make expansive use of summertime youth outreach and education opportunities for at-risk youth by bringing together many members of the community already providing said services. By forming a coalition of outreach providers, as opposed to having everybody working independent of one another, resources can be pooled to maximize their use and benefit. Additionally, it would encourage others to join the cause. If you provide structure in the summer, children will have something to do other than commit crimes and engage in other activities that do not improve their lives. Research shows that structured summers improve school performance. Thus, you would be decreasing crime and improving school performance.

Those are my proposed solutions for the top challenges facing Peoria.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you may have. Thank you very much for your time and this opportunity to spread my platform.

Sincerely,

ROBERT J. HANAUER, ESQ.