

Liz Black

## Candidate Night

**Topic 1: Please tell the voters a little about yourself and what makes you a good candidate to help perform the crucial work of establishing Spring Lake**

I was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, the youngest of 7 children. We moved to Orem, Utah in 1970 when I was 5 years old. I loved the mountains and the open spaces and acclimated well to my new surroundings.

In 1977 my parents told me we would be moving to Spring Lake and I was horrified as only a girl about to turn 12 could be. Regardless of the tears and drama, with my parents and youngest brother we became residents of Spring Lake and moved into “The Round House” on the mountain. Many of you would have known me as Liz Chai.

It didn’t take long for me to find friends, (there were 18 girls just my age!). I discovered what 4H was (bless Jeri Carter for taking on that many girls in their tweens) and jumped right into spending my summers at Hillman Fields playing and umpiring fast pitch softball.

Living here was filled with adventures. Walking to and from friends’ homes at all hours of the day and night, laying out on the trampoline cover in baby oil and riding horses, biking and hiking in my own backyard are things that I would not have been able to experience living in Orem.

Practically every day in summer was spent at the lake, swimming and laying in the middle of Spring Lake Road which was concrete then. When cars came, which weren’t many, we got up to let them pass and then right back in the middle of the road. There were even a few years the lake froze over and the nights with bon fires and ice skating were a perfect way to spend a cold, winter night. I consider myself extremely lucky to have lived in Spring Lake during this time.

After graduating from Payson in 1984 (go LIONS!) my mom passed away later that year. Shortly after my dad remarried, sold our home and moved. I was devastated to lose my place in Spring Lake. In 1988 I met and married my wonderful hubby Mike and together we have 3 children. I spent a good part of the past 35 years trying to find property here in Spring Lake. Houses go fast, if they even make it to the market, and we never were able to afford a home here until August of 2023. Mike wasn’t sure but we moved forward and purchased a house down the street from the church. It has been wonderful reconnecting with so many I grew up knowing, taking me back to a time in my life that was truly remarkable. He is now a converted Springlaker and I am happy to know this is where I will die.

Why share these memories? I may have not been born here, or lived here for decades like some, but my time here was an important part of my formative years and has made me who

I am today. I feel truly blessed to finally be back and enjoy this little piece of heaven I love some much.

This is an exciting time as we move forward and navigate this journey of becoming our own city and maintaining what we love about Spring Lake. I know I have the qualifications and knowledge to be a part of the town council with positions I have held in my professional and personal life which includes service in my church and to the communities I have lived in. These experiences have given me opportunities to grow, learn, work with and lead people from all different backgrounds.

I may have been born in Hawaii, but after being here over 55 years, I always have considered myself a Utahn and Springlaker. You have my promise that I will do whatever I can to ensure that we keep this amazing part of Utah the place we have grown to love. Thank you.

**Topic 2: Please share with the voters an overview of your vision for the future of Spring Lake.**

As I thought about running for town council it became important for me to be able to represent you and participate in how we move forward. There will be compromise. We will need to work together even if there is disagreement. (We even start this journey disagreeing...1/3 of us did not want to separate from the county for a number of different reasons. It was very personal for each of us. I will admit, because I will always be open and honest, that I was one of the 34% against incorporation. I hope you won't hold that against me, for I will bring that perspective to the table. Now is the time to put these differences aside and work together to make this venture a success.)

Keeping Spring Lake's charm while moving forward and establishing us as an independent town will take time and hard work. We will need to choose what is important and the things that we may have to put off for later or to let go altogether. I will do all I can, knowing that we will not be able to make everyone happy. But the goal is to listen to concerns and suggestions, explain and be transparent in our decisions and then implementing these in the best way possible.

My main focus with moving forward is keeping local taxes down, which will mean still running our little community the same way we are now..using out greatest resource...the people. Each of us will need to continue to step up and donate our time and talents. This is one of the things that makes Spring Lake so special. Many of us, including myself, are not in the position that we can have or even want our overall tax burden to increase. This motivates me. How will that look and what will that entail? I don't have all the answers right now because I don't have all the information but I do look forward to finding that out. What I do know is that our small community of just over 500 people, has a limited tax base and resources. I feel it is important to keep the budget small and attainable while earmarking

funds to build a surplus and to remain debt-free. This will strengthen the future of Spring Lake. If we try to achieve all our hopes and dreams all at once by spending too much too soon, we will be setting ourselves up for failure.

There will be hard decisions on what we will be able to do so we can be fiscally responsible but doing this will give us stability when times become hard. Our main purpose should be to focus on regulating new development. To decide how we use our second greatest resource...the land

I really am excited for this new era and am so happy I have the time to dedicate to it. I thrive on research and learning new things. Always gaining knowledge is something my parents instilled in me at a young age.

I hope I will have the honor to represent and serve all of you. I look forward to getting to know those I have yet to meet and to have the opportunity to find out and implement the ideas and desires of everyone who is lucky enough to call Spring Lake home