



PROTECT OUR WATER

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CWAG 2026 Candidate Forum Questions

Prescott Valley Council & Mayor Primary Election

The purpose of the Candidate Forum is to insert water issues into the political and electoral dialogue, to educate voters and candidates about water issues, and to inform the public about the candidates' knowledge and positions on water issues. In general, we pose open-ended questions, avoid yes/no answers, and encourage debate and discussion among the candidates. The questions address important local water issues and attempt to create awareness, in both the candidates and audience, of the potential solutions. We pose questions that generate explanations and discussion about policy – this isn't a technical quiz. The candidates are given the questions and a "Basic Facts" document in advance. CWAG offers to discuss these documents with candidates (please send a request to info@cwagaz.org) in advance of the Forum. CWAG strongly recommends that candidates review: "Basic Facts...", the Prescott Valley General Plan, "Eleven Reasons...", and the CWAG position statements on the Big Chino Water Ranch and Regional Cooperation.

I. Candidate Introductory Statements: Prescott Valley Water Issues and Priorities

A. Question:

1. Please include a response to this question in your introductory statement: "What do you see as the major water management issues facing Prescott Valley?"

II. Growth and Water Policy

A. Introduction: The November election ballot includes Proposition 492 which asks voters to approve or disapprove the annexation of 652 acres for the proposed Lakeshore 650 development planning to build 3500 new homes. The water supply for Lakeshore 650 will be groundwater supplied by the Town of Prescott Valley. One Political Action Committee (PAC) supporting annexation asserts that Lakeshore 650 is designed to ensure responsible water use and protect current residents. Another PAC opposing the annexation believes that this will significantly strain our groundwater supply.

B. Questions:

1. What are your views on these arguments? Please explain your reasoning.
2. What concerns do you have about the availability of water for 3500 new homes and for the impact of the water supply on existing residents and well owners?

III. Big Chino Pipeline

A. **Introduction:** In April, 2024 the City of Prescott updated the cost of the Big Chino project to an estimated \$360 million to complete the project, which did not include the cost to mitigate degradation of the Verde River base flow. Mitigation costs are unknown but likely significant. Prescott Valley's share will be 46%, plus additional unknown additional costs to transport the water from Chino Valley to PV. CWAG calculates that the cities' cost-to-date is over \$37 million.

B. Questions:

1. Should Town policy require citizens to vote to approve the financing before the pipeline can be built?
2. How would PV use this water: growth or safe yield? How should Prescott Valley allocate the expense between new construction and current users?
3. The PrAMA cannot achieve safe yield with water imported from the Big Chino. Before committing additional resources to the Big Chino pipeline, should PV and Prescott carefully evaluate and compare all of the potential alternative solutions and report to the public? What alternative options would you propose or support?
4. Please share any other opinions of the BC pipeline.

IV. Regional Water Management

A. **Introduction:** Although the cities in the AMA share a common water resource, they continue to compete for additional water to facilitate growth. CWAG believes that regional planning and management of water resources is the best strategy to preserve a shared water resource and assure long-term quality of life for all current and future citizens. A regional water management plan, based on a scientific evaluation and comparison of all current and future water uses and solutions, should assure an economically and environmentally sustainable water supply.

B. Questions:

1. Describe the pros and cons of working with other cities in the AMA to design a regional water augmentation and conservation authority.
2. What role should PV play?

V. Conservation

A. **Introduction:** Prescott Valley's current water conservation program is weak, but the Town is now working to improve it. Water conservation alone will not solve the overdraft, but it is easy to implement and the least expensive strategy - a foundation for all other measures.

B. Questions:

1. What ideas do you have to improve water conservation (e.g. tiered water rates, etc.) in Prescott Valley?
2. How would you explain to a citizen why they should conserve water? What policies would you propose to reduce landscape water use - 34% of PV total water pumping?
3. If conservation on a voluntary basis does not yield significant or desired results, would you support incentives for existing users and requirements for new development?

VI. Water Quality:

A. **Introduction:** The water quality in the PV municipal system meets ADEQ standards. Test reveal that the highest levels are for Arsenic and Chromium, but both are well below the Maximum Contaminant Level. Some of Prescott Valley's municipal wells in Quailwood have tested high in PFAS but these wells have been removed from production while solutions are in process. One source of the PFAS is treated wastewater recharged into the Agua Fria riverbed. Wastewater is reportedly now contaminating our aquifer.

B. Question:

1. What is your understanding of the PFAS issues that the PV community is facing?
2. Should the town invest in treating wastewater to remove PFAS prior to recharge or treat the water at the well head?

VII. Long-term water management planning

A. **Introduction:** A long-term water management plan can guide future decisions in growth, infrastructure development, and town water policy.

B. Questions:

1. Should Prescott Valley develop a long-term water management plan and include public participation? Should a technical advisory committee with stakeholder representation develop the plan? What will you do to support this planning?

VIII. Closing statement

A. In your closing statement, please summarize the key points where your views differ and/or agree from the other candidates on water policy.