

# Emmett Reistroffer for Sioux Falls

## At-Large City Council



**I'm passionate and enthusiastic about my hometown and ready to be your next At Large City Councilor. I want to be a voice for ALL of Sioux Falls. I'm committed to being a voice for segments of our population that have been under-represented in past years. I believe young people, especially the young parents who are ready to raise a family are anxious to be part of the decision-making process. My generation wants to guide our community towards a prosperous future. I will be the dynamic voice on Council that represents the best interests of all generations, all backgrounds and beliefs, small business owners, creative minds that make our town more vibrant, and most importantly, the working families who are a vital part of our foundation.**

**Help me bring a Bold Vision to City Hall on  
Tuesday April 8!**

**My Bold Vision includes the following TEN commitments:**

- 1. Adopt a fiscally conservative budget that doesn't increase the debt without cutting spending or reducing taxes:** In the last 4 years, our city debt has skyrocketed and must be addressed by the next Mayor and Council by next year.
- 2. Improve competitive bidding and assessments and evaluations for contractors:** I will not approve pay checks to contractors without a clear plan presented to the public about how taxpayer dollars will be used, and I will make sure the city uses its leverage as a business partner to hold contractors accountable for "milking the cow" for more than what they deserve.
- 3. Stop the "Boom Town" mentality from sacrificing smart development:** Planning and zoning decisions should maintain a genuine balance between the interests of residential and commercial areas. We should make our neighborhoods as safe as possible, with a high quality of life supported by an abundance of public parks, green space, strong infrastructure, and sensible planning of traffic flow.
- 4. Bring high-income jobs to Sioux Falls:** I will stand with the business community and oppose local codes or policies that limit job creation, and I will be a pro-active ambassador to bring bigger and better opportunities to our workers.
- 5. Provide tax relief to working families:** I will be an aggressive advocate for the middle class, and will make repealing the grocery tax my number 1 priority. I also support using windfall funds to give homeowners a property tax rebate.

6. **Use our strong economy to the advantage of City Government:** I will seek to create new public-private partnerships that provide more effective use of taxpayer dollars, and reduce the role of government in our community. I believe the free market is best suited to handle certain components of public services such as the landfill and related sanitary systems and the public transit system.
7. **Address the rising crime rate with evidence-based practices for public safety:** I lobbied the legislature in 2013 to support Governor Daugaard's criminal justice reform initiative, and proposed my own amendments and legislation to further enhance the reform effort. I'm passionate about changing drug and alcohol laws to promote personal responsibility, harm-reduction related to drug use, and treating addiction as a disease rather than a crime. I believe we should tighten up the liquor license requirements and tax alcohol to pay for the rising expenses related to DUI enforcement. I will also push to decriminalize low-level marijuana offenses to empower police to spend more time and resources on property and violent crimes. The more time police go after pot smokers, the less time they go after armed robbers at gas stations and casinos! We also need the city to work with the county and state corrections departments to prevent at-risk youth from becoming criminals for life.

8. **Promote fairness and transparency in government:** I will not tolerate efforts by government officials to censor or side-step public input. I will make citizen dialogue the top priority for making policy decisions. If an issue affects you, it matters to me. I will closely watch the Tax Incremental Financing program that gives tax breaks to property developers. I will make sure every use of the TIF program is for its intended purpose, which is to lift property values in blighted areas. I think the program has remarkable success in our community, but has come under scrutiny for justified reasons. TIF should not be used to pay political favors or subsidize big business! There are many other ways where government transparency has come into question, and I will make sure I do everything I possibly can as a public servant to make the government open and accessible to every member of our community.

9. **Put our brains together to enhance our city with amenities and attractions that sustain an active population:** I support a public-private partnership for a new indoor swim center with a compatible location and prudent financing plan. I think the ideas are limitless about what we could bring to Sioux Falls: an indoor dog park, a top-notch RV park for visitors, public art work, nature preserves, neighborhood beautifications, community gardens, a “Main Street Square” style ice-skating rink/event stage downtown like Rapid City, more outdoor events and festivals, and so much more!

**10. Work with the County and State to ensure a productive relationship**

**between all sectors of the government:** I will be diligent and active with working with the County Commissioners, public employees, and other government officials to make sure every decision I make on the Council doesn't subject the County or State to undue burdens, or create tension or "turf" wars in any way.

**Conclusion:**

I have been a community organizer, fundraiser for various causes, and activist for criminal justice reform. I have been involved in neighborhood community service efforts, a public art mosaic, and have built a small business from the ground up. Since I founded my company in 2011, I have helped non-profit groups and organizations handle more than a million dollars effectively to manage operations and achieve their goals. I know what it's like to fight for the underdog, or pound the pavement for a cause I believe in. I have gathered and submitted thousands of petition signatures as part of the democratic process, led political campaigns to create real change, and do everything I can to get my generation engaged in the decision making process. I am passionate about serving Sioux Falls, and being your bold vision at City Hall.

**Please vote for me on Tuesday April 8, 2014. Visit [www.BoldVisionSiouxFalls.org](http://www.BoldVisionSiouxFalls.org) to learn more about my ideas.**

**Best,**

**Emmett Reistroffer**

