

## FAQs about Jeff Bonano

Q: What got me into wanting to run?

A: I grew up in a single parent working household and have experienced my own fair share of ups and downs in life. I've seen the City of Sparks grow and have always felt like Sparks is my home. Now with the way our political world have been becoming so controversial, It worries me when I see so many people scared when we have individuals elected into office. No matter who you voted for, people shouldn't be scared when a leader takes office. At the local level, we need someone who will listen to and stand up for their community.

Q: What are some of the challenges I've already had to face while running for office?

A: The first biggest hurdle I had to face aside from deciding to actually run for office was that when I first decided to run, my family and I realized we were not actually within the city limits of Sparks. In fact our house was only about 20 feet outside of the city limits. I could walk out past my backyard and I was then inside Sparks. Because it's a requirement that I actually had to reside within the city limits, My wife and I decided to sell our house and move within the city limits so that i could continue to run my campaign.

The second biggest hurdle has been that this is a grassroots campaign. I'm getting involved because I feel I can do more, and part of that is reaching out to as many residents in Sparks. With over 30,000 registered voters in Sparks who voted in the last couple elections and a total of almost 100,000 residents, I have a lot of voices to listen to in a short amount of time.

Q: How much history do you have in Sparks?

A: While my family did move a lot as a kid, I spent most of my time living in Sparks. As an alumni graduate of 1999 to Reed High School, I started being involved with the community through JROTC and still to this day am actively involved within the community of the Reno/Sparks area. Not only that but my wife were 5th grade sweethearts at Robert Mitchell Elementary School and that happens to be where we got married too. With 2 daughters growing up her as well, we are deeply invested in this community.

Q: What are a few things I feel set me apart from other candidates?

A: Electing Me as Mayor would mean we would have someone with a fresh new point of view on our local government. And while other candidates may have more experience on city council, I do have some political experience that will help me become a valuable asset to the



community. I previously worked at the Washoe County School District for almost 7 years and was elected to serve on the Washoe Educational Support Professionals Executive Board as their Chief of Communications. I served on the board until I left to work for Custom Ink as a Digital Artist. I also give back by volunteering to the community by serving on one of RTC's advisory committees and am a Lead on the team that organizes Community Volunteer Outreach and serves as their Volunteer and Project Coordinator at CustomInk. I has been in leadership rolls since my High School years in JROTC and assumed management roles starting at age 19.

## Facts about Jeff

- Currently a Digital Artist with Custom Ink and has been with the company for almost 4 years.
- Previously was a Site Facilities Coordinator for both Vaughn and Dilworth Middle Schools and was with the Washoe County School District for almost 7 years.
- Was a previous small business owner for 8 years working in digital media and print.
- Husband to Angelena Bonano and Father to his two beautiful daughters Alyssa and Vivian.
- Has lived in the Sparks Community for almost 30 years and within the Reno/Sparks Community for over 37 years.
- Attended Truckee Meadows Community College.

## Community Involvement and Volunteering

- Currently serving on RTC's Citizen's MultiModal Advisory Committee, making recommendations to the RTC board while giving input and proposals related to multi-modal transportation issues.
- While with the WCSD, held an elected position on the Executive Board for Washoe Education Support Professionals (WESP) until he pursued a position with Custom Ink.
- Is an active community volunteer through Custom Ink's Three Hearts Volunteer Initiative (3HVT), volunteering for organizations such as KTMB, the Domestic Violence Resource Center, The Children's Cabinet, the Humane Society, and more.
- Serves on the 3HVT Lead team, organizing future volunteer events within our local communities.

## Awards and Recognitions

- Received the President's Volunteer Service Award issued by the White House in 2016 and 2017 for his commitment to volunteering within the community.
- He was also part of the team which accepted the 2016 Nevada Governor's Volunteer Points of Light Award.
- Was a Judge for the 2017 Nevada Governor's Volunteer Points of Light Award.
- Recently Nominated for the prestigious Golden Rule award with Custom Ink for making a difference in someone else's life.

## Questions and Issues

- Jeff is registered as a Democrat, He identifies himself as Socially Liberal, but Fiscally Conservative. The decisions being made need to make sense!
- Jeff is a supporter of Unions that actively support the wellbeing of our hard working residents.
- Jeff is a supporter of Planned Parenthood and other free or low cost clinics that help provide essential health services to our community.
  
- **Education System:**Jeff believes in supporting our education system through our teachers, parents, and most importantly our children. He believes in providing an influence to the WCSD and has a responsibility to provide an open communication to the public who vote them in.
- **Growth and Infrastructure:**Jeff believes he will need to ensure that decisions made will help keep the community feel while keeping things looking beautiful and safe. Finding ways to keep a balance so that we can stay loyal to those small business and current residents as we grow.
- **Housing Market:**Jeff believes it shouldn't be impossible to live here in Sparks and he will need to take your concerns to the state and fight for a more level playing field in the house market.
- **Police and Fire:**Jeff will work with local and state leaders to increase our Police and Fire coverage as our city grows. This also includes ensure they have proper training, support, and tools to do their job effectively
- **Equality for All:**Jeff believes it doesn't matter what your gender, race, sexual preference, religion, or even what your education is. He wants you to feel safe to be who you are so long as it doesn't impede on the safety or right of life to others. This applies to the workforce as well as anywhere else in the community.
- **Environmental Protection:**Jeff supports taking care of our community and our planet. We should continue to develop best practices to protect our environment by educating and promoting ways to get more involved.
- **Drugs:**Jeff wants to ensure we continue to educate and train doctors, patients and families about drug addiction and ensure affordable, easy to access treatment programs. He also believes we should sustain these programs longer with individuals not end them the minute they hit their goals in recovery.
- **Homeless:**The city has already invested ourselves in this situation, but we need to continue to find ways to solve this problem including preventing homelessness which part of it stems from solving our issues with cost of living, and supporting those struggling with drugs and mental health issues.
- **Guns:**Jeff isn't here to take your guns away and feels the issue is bigger than just refining laws on how one can acquire guns. He does feel it's necessary but we need a better system in place that will identify if someone is going to cause harm to others and

evaluate/identify mental stability of those who could potentially harm others. But this applies to any weapon or explosive device and shouldn't be tailored to just gun use.

- **Marijuana:** Jeff voted on the sale of medicinal and recreational marijuana but not until after he did his research on studies done on the drug. Because there are limited resources, he felt it was best compared to alcohol because there were no solid studies that supported it being a gateway drug any more than a bottle of alcohol is. Furthermore, with it being legalized and taxed, it helps regulate the safety of the drug, takes it off of the black market, and adds revenue needed to help our city grow.