

Dear Friend,

For over 100 years, your Columbia Chamber of Commerce has worked hard to support local business owners and create economic opportunity for everyone in our community. The members of this organization have a history of thoughtful actions on behalf of this community.

We believe Columbia has been a great place to live, work and raise a family because of our historically low unemployment, stable tax revenues and relatively low crime. Today, many of the attributes our city has enjoyed are at risk as a direct result of rising unemployment and challenging economic times.

That's why this year, for the first time in our history, the Columbia Chamber of Commerce has chosen to endorse candidates for mayor and the city council. It was not an action the Chamber Board of Directors took without considerable thought and preparation.

Candidates were carefully evaluated for their views on job creation and retention, their position concerning community safety, and their willingness to work with the chamber to further vibrant economic growth in Columbia. In addition, the chamber hosted a candidates' forum to provide all candidates an opportunity to present themselves and their positions to our membership.

After considerable analysis, the chamber board has chosen to support the following candidates:

Bob McDavid for mayor, city of Columbia  
Gary Kespohl for 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Councilperson  
Daryl Dudley for 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Councilperson

The chamber has also endorsed Keep Columbia Safe's Proposition 1, the Safety Camera initiative. As most of you know, past Chamber Chair Karen Taylor is leading the Keep Columbia Safe efforts on behalf of Proposition 1.

As former Chairs of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce, we are pleased that these endorsements have come at such a crucial time for our community. As we emerge from the current economic downturn, we believe our community must elect candidates who will effectively position Columbia for strong economic growth and job creation, while always remembering the important connection between community safety and economic well-being.

Now it's time to ask for your help. Each of these campaigns need your financial support and personal involvement. All three candidates and the Keep Columbia Safe initiative will be successful if we work together. Please encourage your business associates, family and friends to participate and vote in this important election. And, please consider contributing to each campaign \$500, \$250, \$100, or whatever you can afford. Please use the enclosed envelope to donate to any and all of the campaigns above.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Elinor Arendt

Tom Atkins

Lynda Baumgartner

K. Blake Danuser

Charles Digges, Jr.

David Duffy

Ernie Gaeth

Kee Groshong

Larry Moore

Greg Steinhoff

Karen Taylor