

GROUNDSWELL

Page seven

## Don Pinson will try it again

Las Vegas, Nevada, real estate broker Don W. Pinson is a candidate again for the post of Assessor in Clark County.

A Republican and a resident of Las Vegas for the past 22 years, he has made an intensive study of property assessment in the county which includes the city.

Pinson is convinced the great majority of Las Vegas home owners would benefit from more accurate assessment of real property, and intends to show them with the hard facts and figures how much they have to gain.

He filed his candidacy in May, only one day before the filing period closed.

Pinson will once again be challenging County Assessor Jean Dutton who has held the post since 1974.

He failed to unseat Dutton in his first try in 1986, in a campaign based upon the shocking underassessments of vacant land by which Las Vegas speculators have profited over the years, at the expense of the average homeowner

requires.

"I look forward to the opportunity of working with you individually and collectively," he says in an announcement letter to community leaders, "to bring Nevada and particularly Clark County into the last decade of this glorious century with real property tax reform that is truly fair and innovative, that will serve us well now and into the 21st century."

A member of the Las Vegas Association of Realtors since 1969, and a past president of the Nevada chapter of Certified Residential Specialists, he is 64 years old, married, and the father of a 16-year-old son.

While Pinson's campaign this time will be both constructive and positive, his late decision to try again came just as land deal disclosures were rocking the political boat in Las Vegas.

The dominant *Review-Journal* reports that "Las Vegas City Manager Ashley Hall, who has been under fire for a land deal involving the mayor and a former city councilman, announced today he will resign effective July 15."

Mayor Ron Lurie, whose resignation others had sought, refused to step down, blaming the City Manager.

"I mentioned it a second time," said Mayor Lurie, "that it might not be a bad idea for him to be looking for another job."

"I don't think things are going to get better until there are some changes around here."

While Las Vegas newspapers have a way of dancing around the facts, one put it this way on Sunday, May 13: "It's all because of a fired city clerk, a piece of property and (former City Councilman Al) Levy's self-proclaimed talents for putting together profitable land deals for his friends."

"In 1985 when they were both city commissioners, Levy formed a partnership with Lurie to invest \$556,000 for the purchase of 55 acres of Bureau of Land Management land, most of it on the northeast corner of what will one day be Durango Drive and Washington Avenue in northwest Las Vegas."

"Five years later," the *Review-Journal* reports in another story that day, "the land is still undeveloped, but rezoned for high and medium density development and surrounded by a golf course, condominiums and a new freeway."

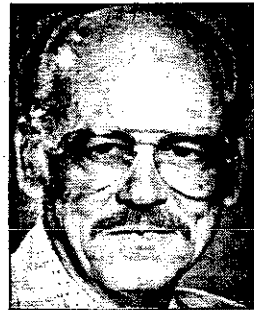
"According to the Clark County assessor's office, the 1988 rezoning alone tripled the land's value."

No Las Vegas resident who took Don Pinson's disclosures seriously back during the 1986 election campaign would have been surprised by the current turn of events.

Nevertheless, Pinson does not see voter indignation as a basis for political support, nor does he expect the disclosures to win him newspaper backing.

The scandals have "gotten me nowhere," he said in a letter to *Groundswell* in June. "I can't get the papers to print — even to print — the most modest of accusations. I was first with the accurate documentation and they used some of that, but not mentioning me. They stole it and kept promising to look into my charges," he explained in a letter to the editor of *Groundswell* in June.

So Pinson is determined to concentrate this time, not on the abuse of public office, but on how much money local property owners can save for themselves simply by electing an assessor who will do his job according to the law.



DON PINSON  
...runs for assessor

While some newspapers took an early interest in the assessment abuse, Dutton supporters coughed up enough money to give the long-term assessor an insurmountable advantage.

He not only lost the election in 1986, but was later subjected to political shenanigans which were the subject of an article in the July/Aug, 1988, issue of *Groundswell*.

Pinson says he has learned a lesson from that setback, and will base his campaign this time around primarily on the property tax relief available to Las Vegas homeowners through sound assessment practice.

"I vow to shun special interest groups and individuals," he promises in an initial campaign announcement, "and to appraise and assess all real property equally as the law (NRS 361.227) prescribes."

He will welcome campaign support from Georgists around the country, and is making the long-term advantages of a "Pro Enterprise Act," as advocated by the American Legislative Exchange Council, an element in his campaign.

Pinson acknowledges that "a constitutional amendment would be necessary" in Nevada to pave the way for a two-tier system, and so he is not offering that as an immediate answer to the typical fiscal bind in which the Las Vegas school system finds itself.

He argues, though, that a giant step in the right direction can be taken at once, simply by assessing property as the law

Thank you--Dick Noyes

If I could write like this--I would  
by-pass the assessors office and run  
for the senate!!

TAXFULLY;

Don

Please—Make check payable to:

**DON PINSON**, ASSESSOR FOR THE '90's

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