

Stephen Tamang – A Pro-Business, Citizen-Centered Vision for Rapid City

I've had the privilege to speak with hundreds of constituents, and I'm confident that if I asked them, "*Are you pro-growth?*" almost all would say yes. But if I asked, "*Do you want Rapid City to become like Chicago or Denver?*" they would overwhelmingly say no.

This tells us that growth is important — but only if it's done intelligently, with a strong emphasis on what is good for the largest number of citizens, not special interests or who is the most influential among us.

Let me share my approach to being pro-business for Rapid City:

A thriving economy depends on a city that knows its role — and respects its limits. Government should focus on what only it can do, and do it well. That means strong public safety, reliable infrastructure, efficient utilities, and fast, fair permitting. These core services are the foundation of a healthy business climate.

At the same time, every dollar spent should pass a simple test: *Does this investment make our city safer, stronger, or more serviceable for the people and businesses that call Rapid City home?*

We need zoning and land use policies that are flexible, clear, and citizen-focused — encouraging retail, mixed-use, and light industrial development while protecting the community's character. Smart annexation policies should make it easy and attractive for businesses to expand into Rapid City's jurisdiction. And our regulatory process must be predictable and transparent, so businesses can plan, invest, and grow with confidence.

Whether it's a startup or a family-run shop, small businesses are the backbone of our economy. I'll work to ensure they aren't overlooked in favor of out-of-town interests. We also need to support workforce development — helping connect our local talent to the good-paying jobs our economy is capable of producing.

Finally, I believe in strong public-private partnerships. Elevate Rapid City plays a critical role in recruiting and retaining businesses, and the City must work alongside them to align our policies with our priorities — from TIFs and infrastructure investment to targeted business recruitment. Even ceremonial involvement sends a message: **Rapid City is open for business.**

I'm Stephen Tamang — pro-business, pro-growth, fiscally responsible, and always citizen-first.