

The BeaconNews

Candidate Questionnaire

If the economy continues on its current path, what is the first step you would take to reduce spending? Would you recommend jobs cuts in that effort?

I would work with the Village staff to identify and implement cost-cutting initiatives to reduce expenses while seeking out new businesses to enhance our revenue. There are expenses in our current budget that could be either delayed or eliminated to cut costs. I would work with the staff to identify these expenses and bring them to the Board for their recommendations whether or not to take action. In order to increase revenue, the Village needs to attain more commercial development. Due to the down turn of the economy, in order to attract new development I believe the Village President along with the Community Development Director, need to be proactive in promoting the Village at the various Commercial Trade Shows. The Planning Commission and Village Board need to work closely together to help streamline the approval process for new development while assuring the residents that the developments are in harmony with the area.

I would not recommend any job cuts. Our current financial status is very good. We are not in a position where jobs would have to be cut in the foreseeable future.

Would you consider raising taxes in order to plug a budget hole? No

How, specifically, can voters distinguish your approach from your opponents' on economic development? On job growth?

I believe in taking a very aggressive approach to economic development, working very closely with our Community Development Director, commercial developers and current business owners to assure North Aurora has the best opportunity for sustained economic growth and current business retention. As our commercial development grows we need to be sure that the growth brings needed jobs with it to our community.

Please list a few ways you would encourage new businesses to locate to North Aurora. Do you believe financial incentives, such as tax rebates, are a good tool for commercial development, or should they be used sparingly?

I would attend the various trade shows for commercial development with the Community Development Director to help promote North Aurora. I would meet with the current developers in North Aurora to see if there are ways we could work together to bring more needed commercial developments to the Village. We have used sales tax rebates, in the past as incentives when we brought in the North Aurora Auto Mall, Woodman's Market and the North Aurora Towne Centre shopping center, all of which are very successful

commercial developments. I believe in using financial incentives sparingly but where necessary in order to increase our sales tax revenues.

Without an incumbent running, the village will have new leadership no matter who wins. What previous experience qualifies you more than your opponents to lead on day 1?

My experience at Lucent Technologies as a Technical Manager, where I managed a group of 38 employees and a department budget of 17 Million dollars, required me to develop excellent financial responsibilities and people, communication and leadership skills. I have served as a Village Trustee for the past 14 years, through 3 Village Presidents and numerous Village Board members. I was interim Village President from December of 2004 to April 2005 where I closed the deal on the North Aurora Towne Centre shopping center. I have the experience working with large and small developers and I understand the current day-to-day operations of the Village and have the experience to be a leader. I have seen what works and what doesn't work when it comes to dealing with the residents, business owners, developers, Village Board and staff. I have excellent people, communication and leadership skills. I can come in running on the very first day as I did in December of 2004 as interim President. I believe in using the modern day technologies to our advantage to better serve the residents of the Village as in my proposal to have an Opt-In email for the residents so the Village can send out weekly/Biweekly news letters to keep the residents more informed in a timely manor. I have been, and when elected will continue to be, an elected official who puts the thoughts of the residents first when making decisions that may impact them.

Communitywide, what are your top three specific priorities?

1. Identify and implement cost-cutting initiatives to reduce expenses while seeking out new businesses to enhance our revenue. There are expenses in our current budget that could be either delayed or eliminated to cut costs. I would work with the staff to identify these expenses and bring them to the Board for their recommendations whether or not to take action. In order to increase revenue, the Village needs to attain more commercial development. Due to the down turn of the economy, in order to attract new development I believe the Village President along with the Community Development Director, need to be proactive in promoting the Village at the various Commercial Trade Shows. The Planning Commission and Village Board need to work closely together to help streamline the approval process for new development while assuring the residents that the developments are in harmony with the area.

2. Improve the communications within the village government and between the village government and residents. There is a lack of communication within our village government/administration and between the village government and residents. When elected I will appoint a Resident Advisory Committee that will work with the Village Board on resident concerns and needs. I will work with the Board to implement an Opt-In Village-wide email system for residents and businesses and send out weekly/Bi-weekly emails with Village news, and continue to encourage residents to sign-up for the reverse 911 call.

3. Ensure our Roads, Sidewalks, Water, and Police services are adequately funded. Years ago the Village's road, sidewalk, water and sewer programs and police facilities was under funded and as a result, the infrastructure was in need of improvement.

When I was elected in 1995 for my first term as trustee, the Board reported that we needed a new police station due to the over crowding. Fourteen years later we are finally getting a new police station thanks to the current Board for their foresight that it was way over due. The Board needs to continue to fund the police services to ensure adequate services to the community. Over the past five or six years, the Village has taken a more aggressive approach to improving the infrastructure as demonstrated with the road, sidewalk, and storm sewer improvement projects that have been completed the past several years as well as two new water treatment plants to remove the radon from our water. The aggressive sanitary sewer relining program has also been successful. The Utility tax, the 1/2% Non-Home Rule sales tax, and some Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) go to fund the road and sidewalk programs. The sewer maintenance fee pays for the improvements to our sewers and the water rates pay for the water services. It is extremely important that the Board does not cut any of the funds or fees used to maintain these programs. If they do, then we will be taking a step back and could end up where we were years ago with bad roads, cracked and raised sidewalks, and sewer problems.

What's working well in North Aurora these days? What's not?

I believe the Village of North Aurora has one of the best staffs in the County. Our employee to resident ratio is this one of the lowest in the area. Our streets and sidewalks are well maintained and we have an aggressive road program considering the economic downturn. The water department has stayed ahead of the EPA on Radon medication and water demand by drilling new wells and building radon medication facilities. We have a great police department and shortly a new police station. Our financial department has done a great job and our financial status is in better shape than the majority of communities in the state considering the economic downturn and lost of revenues. Our support from the North Aurora Fire District has been excellent.

What's not?

As stated in number two of my top three priorities, there is a lack of communication within our village government/administration and between the village government and residents. When elected I will appoint a Resident Advisory Committee that will work with the Village Board on resident concerns and needs. I will work with the Board to implement an Opt-In Village-wide email system for residents and businesses and send out weekly/Bi-weekly emails with Village news, and continue to encourage residents to sign-up for the reverse 911 call.

The route 31 road and streetscape through town needs improving and to do this we need better cooperation from State of Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). When elected I will work with our Village staff to try and better the cooperation with IDOT and get moneys appropriated to improve 31 and the streetscape.

