

The Beacon News

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 have already met with the Administrator and all the Department Heads. Several of them had made significant budget cuts early in the process. Between the Staff and the board we must carefully monitor expenditures, watching that essential services do not suffer. I do not believe we will need to do any job cuts and would only consider them as an absolute last resort.

Would you consider raising taxes in order to plug a budget hole?

This should not be necessary given our good fiscal planning and the reserves we have carefully accumulated if it becomes absolutely necessary to use them. However, the new Board will need to work to repair the Village's reputation in the commercial development world and then we can bring new sales tax revenues to the village, then this would be a moot point.

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

I am the only candidate who has consistently supported economic growth in the Village. The first part of your question leads to the success of the second, getting jobs. I believe in working with current businesses to help them grow and stay stable. I have worked on a plan already and discussed it with some local businesses and it received a good review. I also believe in working aggressively to encourage new businesses to consider North Aurora for their future ventures and will work hard to show them that we have a lot to offer in the business climate. I will not just talk about this for years; I will make sure it happens.

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?

Work with our Community Development Director and Administrator to market the Village at trade shows, with agencies that work with land location companies and the like. You cannot be too rigid in your thinking and state that you will never consider a particular course of action. To successfully lead you must be willing to explore all the options and think outside the box. (I hate that over-used phrase but it is appropriate here.)

Incentives should always be kept in the background as a possibility but should not be put on the table at the start of talks with developers. Like it or not, this has become a commonplace tactic in the business world.

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?

Very simply I am the most qualified candidate. My opponents talk about leadership, experience, committees they have served on but none of them have ever been involved at the level that I have in the running of the Village. They cannot point to any significant accomplishments in the four years I have served with them as Trustees.

I am the only candidate who has worked my way up through the ranks, so to speak. My service to the Village began with the Plan Commission. After that I was Village Clerk for 12 years, followed by 3 years as Assistant to the Village's first Administrator. I was at Village Hall every day and saw from the inside how things work. I prepared the budget and the tax levy. I paid the bills. I worked hand in hand with all department heads as well as with outside agencies to network and provide information to the Board members so they would be well informed when making policy decisions.

When I ran for Trustee four years ago I went to the other side of the table where I now help make the policies I used to help carry out in my previous positions. When I left the Village in 2000 and came back in 2005 some of the same projects were still undone. Too many things were taking forever to see any noticeable accomplishments. If my opponents are such great leaders, why didn't they get these things done?

A good leader can motivate the people she works with if she knows what it takes to get the job done. No one else running for this post has the level and depth of experiences I have had with the Village of North Aurora. I have excellent organizational capabilities, can bring people together to achieve success for a common goal and am highly motivated to give North Aurora a respected name in the Fox Valley.

Communitywide, what are your top three specific priorities?

Continue the level of services provided to residents they have become accustomed to
Repair the Village's image in the commercial marketplace
Be fiscally responsible in these tough economic times

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

Police protection, village services related to infrastructure i.e. water, sewer, roads and staffing levels are handling the current climate relatively well. As previously stated, it will be extremely important to closely monitor spending and prioritize projects to keep this on track until the economy recovers.

What is not working is commercial growth. While part of this is due to the current economic climate as well, we shot ourselves in the foot by the way we handled the development on Orchard Road in 2007. Regardless of the entities involved, we should have made sure that all Board members completely understood all the parameters of the situation and that everyone understood the consequences of their actions because they would be held accountable for whatever decisions they made. Making tough decisions is not always popular but an elected official must weigh the wishes of all the people, see through the haze and look at the big picture to see what will benefit the entire community.