

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?

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

Some have suggested Rush-Copley's expansion plans into Kendall County pose a threat to Valley West Hospital in Sandwich. How do you think a free-standing emergency room in Yorkville will affect Sandwich?

For the challenger: Why, specifically, should voters choose you over the incumbent?
For the incumbent: Why, specifically, should voters keep you over the challenger?

What other issues do you believe will shape the city over the next four years?

Candidate Questionnaire- The Beacon News

1a. As mayor, I believe the first step to reduce spending would be to streamline the way things are done in the city of sandwich. I believe the city needs to strongly consider a City Administrator. A City Administrator would be an investment in the community. You remember the old adage "you have to spend money to make money"? This would be an example of that. Some people feel the city administrator will substantially increase the cost of doing business. While an initial outlay of salary and benefit is, of course,

necessary, in the long run the cost of doing business should be contained and the budget and finance experience, which such an individual brings, should allow the city to operate in a more efficient financial manner. In addition, the administrator's knowledge of alternative funding sources (grants) and an understanding of the many options available should provide the community with a range of options for financing specific projects and services which might otherwise be overlooked. The city administrator could pay for itself in the long run by way of economic development, bringing new ideas to bring industry and businesses to Sandwich.

1b. There is not a need in Sandwich to look at layoffs or job cuts in the city. We are probably fortunate that we did not hire employees in anticipation of growth that our neighbors to the East on the Rt. 34 corridor had.

2. Mayor Thomas was thrust into massive growth. Planning was a vital aspect of that growth. I would have liked to see more input to the council from all entities affected by this growth- school district, fire district, park district, library district, business district, etc...Economic development is important, however growth affects us all. The city council has not always been "in the loop" about business and industry that have been interested in locating in Sandwich. I believe there have been missed opportunities that we could have capitalized on. There are vacant manufacturing and business offices in Sandwich like many communities right now. Supporting local business and manufacturing companies should be a priority to the council and all citizens of the community. I was vocal early on about having Economic Development being removed from the city's umbrella and having it be a partnership with the private sector of business and industry and the City of Sandwich. The Sandwich Economic Development Corporation was developed approximately 2 years ago.

3. I believe a free-standing emergency room in Yorkville would negatively affect the economy in Sandwich. If approved, it could affect the services that are currently offered at Valley West Community Hospital. Which would in turn affect the economy, because if services are cut or reduced by less demand, less revenue would be generated at local businesses that patients and visitors would use. The decision is not up to the city, but we could have probably been more vocal in our support of Kishwaukee Health Systems opposition to Rush Copley's proposal. I have friends that work at both hospitals and a son that works in the ER at Rush-Copley. The issue isn't whether or not someone will get excellent care; it's an issue of time and distance to the care available.

WHY SHOULD VOTERS CHOOSE ME OVER THE INCUMBENT?

4. I am currently 1st ward Alderman having been elected in 2003 and re-elected in 2007. I enjoy being on the city council and I am trying to give back to a community that has been very good to my family and me since we came to town in 1990. I have lived in this community longer than any other my whole life, growing up in Princeton, Illinois.

My vision for the community is the same as when I was first elected to the council. Making sure that growth is controlled and that new developments are paid for by the developers and not a burden on the existing tax payers. To build good working relationships with the other taxing bodies in our community- the school, park, library and fire districts. There is a need to work together and put differences aside for the benefit of our community. We need to re-examine the idea of having a City Administrator. We as a city can only have a city administrator if the city council approves the measure by passing an ordinance authorizing it. The mayor – council form of government would remain the same, with the city administrator overseeing the day-to-day operations of the city of Sandwich. Professional administrators have the skills to take a problem or opportunity facing a community, research the options available for dealing with the situation, present the pros and cons of those options to the city council, and then implement the final decision reached by the council. They are able to engage in long range planning which is necessary to the smooth functioning of today's community. The elected officials, mayor and council, however retain the responsibility for choosing the options and plans which best fit our community.

Our council to be split over the concept of a city administrator; some favoring the idea previously while others oppose it. As stated, the city's need for a city administrator does not reflect poorly on any member of the current staff or administration. It is just a matter of being better prepared to handle the challenges that the city faces. We are at a crossroads with the new growth, development and more demanding regulations from the government that we must follow. The fact that there are some things that "fall through the cracks" or are not "followed through" only makes the argument stronger for having a City Administrator.

The city needs to be run professionally and businesslike by the council with the assistance of a city administrator. We need to use technology that has been available to us to access and review information that we are considering. This information can then be shared and more readily accessed by the residents that have placed their trust in all of our elected positions. I believe I have the needed leadership skills to guide us through this transition period and ask that you please support me in this election.

WHAT OTHER ISSUES WILL SHAPE THE CITY OVER THE NEXT 4 YEARS?

5. Strong leadership to promote cooperation.
The economy and its affects on business and residential issues.
Widening of RT. 34, Transportation alternatives and traffic patterns.
And finally hiring a City Administrator.