



Virtual Candidate Forum

for the April 7, 2009
Consolidated Election



To ask a candidate included in this virtual forum a question, please E-mail the question along with the candidate's name to the Chamber at chamber@essex1.com. Once a response is received from the candidate it will be posted on the website.

It is important to note that each candidate was also given the opportunity to respond to our questionnaire on taxes. Some chose to also submit that. If they did, that information is included after their initial candidate response.

NOTE: The information contained in this document is not endorsed by the Chamber, but is a direct response from those candidates choosing to participate in the Virtual Candidate Forum.



**LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
CANDIDATES**

Village of Albany

No candidates submitted information.

Village of Coleta

No candidates submitted information.

Village of Deer Grove

No candidates submitted information.

Village of Erie

No candidates submitted information.

City of Fulton

No candidates submitted information.

Village of Lyndon

No candidates submitted information.

City of Morrison

No candidates submitted information.

City of Prophetstown

Candidate Name: Jeanette Soleta-DeFrieze

Name as it appears on ballot: Jeanette Soleta-DeFrieze

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Occupation & Employer: Good Samaritan Prophets Riverview Administrator; owner and operator of the Prophetstown Mini Mall

Office being Sought: Mayor

Why are you seeking this office? To seek changes and enhance revenue to retain our viability as a community; doing this with input from the citizens of this town

Qualifications for Office: As the administrator of the Good Samaritan center I have led this home through many changes over the last 14 years. We struggled financially in the beginning,

but with hard work from all, today we are strong and have created new apartments and services for this community and the surrounding communities. Also as a business owner I have an investment in the future survival of our town.

I am a visionary leader with a keen sense for business along with a sincere compassion to care for our elderly. Our town and its success is very important to me. I want to see buildings occupied on Mainstreet. I want to see all businesses financially successful. We need to keep what we have. If we need to help businesses survive or create new business we need to find a way to help. These things require open minds, a willingness to change and a lot of teamwork from the community. I am always looking toward and forward to the future; a future which includes the young people of our community. This is what I love about my stores. They are a place where the young people can come and shop and feel welcome.

We have a historic population to protect and the youth to nurture and lead into the future. I feel the qualifications to be Mayor of Prophetstown should be the ability to lead.

Candidate Name: Darrell Millsap

Name as it appears on ballot: Darrell Millsap

Party Affiliation: Independent

Campaign Website: Facebook page – Millsap for Mayor

Occupation & Employer: Manager, Prophetstown Frary Lumber, owned by Rock River Lumber and Grain

Office being Sought: Mayor - Prophetstown

Why are you seeking this office? To make a difference toward economic development – to unite all organizations for betterment of Prophetstown.

Qualifications for Office: Willingness to serve, informed, no bias, strong civic responsibility, educated

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? Because of my qualifications and sense of duty.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? Not applicable

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? Economics of small towns – losing stores, losing population – education issues.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Promote the services and advantages of small town – we have a TIF district, 6 manufacturing facilities – solid school district – great state park- easy access to Interstate. These are all good things that should be promoted to attract industry and retail and home sales. My #1 goal is to make Prophetstown GROW.

Candidate’s Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state’s income tax?

YES NO Only as last resort

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO For infrastructure purposes at local level.

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO To help fund education.

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO Not at this time.

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO

Candidate Name: Steven L. Swanson

Name as it appears on ballot: Steven L. Swanson

Party Affiliation:

Occupation & Employer: Union operator – Civil Construction

Office being Sought: Mayor – Prophetstown, IL

Why are you seeking this office? I believe I can be a help to the city as I have supervised many infrastructure projects throughout NW Illinois; would like to make sure taxpayers are getting the “bang” for their buck.

Qualifications for Office: 8 years as Mayor of Tampico, IL 1990-1998; was a construction supervisor for many years and have a lot of experience with public relations

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? I believe in government being very transparent and would make myself very accessible to the voters. I also can bring 8 years of Mayoral experience to the table.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? As Mayor of Tampico, I kept a well balanced budget, solved major sanitary & storm sewer problems

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? Being able to make the city accountable for spending in these tough times; I am very concerned about the city’s aging infrastructure.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? To monitor closely spending; to set up a plan for maintenance, a plan for the city’s infrastructure

Candidate’s Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state’s income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO I would like to see IL pass a Capitol Bill; we are losing matching Federal funds because of this.

City of Rock Falls

Candidate Name: William B. Wescott

Name as it appears on ballot: William “Bill” Wescott

Party Affiliation: Independent

Occupation & Employer: CGH Medical Center Pre-Hospital Paramedic 30 years

Office being Sought: Office of City Clerk – Rock Falls

Why are you seeking this office? I have an acute awareness of the responsibilities, legal requirements and dedication this office represents having served as City Clerk for the past (6) six years. The office of City Clerk is the resource center for the Mayor, Council, Administrator and most importantly, serving as a communication link between the Council and other Municipal Departments and the general public providing assistance and advice to the citizens of Rock Falls.

Qualifications for Office: Previous 4th Ward Alderman City of Rock Falls, Finance Chairman; 6 years experience in office; earned respect and trust of the citizens of Rock Falls; business practices as past owner and operator of Twin City Ambulance; completion of a 3-year educational program conducted through the University of IL and the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and IL Municipal Clerks. Currently awaiting certification as a CMC – Certified Municipal Clerk

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? Proven Leadership – Honesty – Integrity – Dedication - Trust

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? Served 12 years on the East Coloma School Board – 10 years as President of the Board; policy development, fiscal responsibility, sound management practices

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? In this era of “information explosion” the duties and responsibilities have grown considerably, which will drive us to continue to explore new methods of access to Government for and by the citizens of our community.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Develop a program of records management which will enhance the storage of records and historical documents and at the same time make them more accessible to the general public via the city website.

Candidate Name: Robert J. Machnicki

Name as it appears on ballot: Robert J. Machnicki

Party Affiliation: Independent

Occupation & Employer: Retired

Office being Sought: Treasurer – Rock Falls

Why are you seeking this office? Giving back to my city.

Qualifications for Office: 8 years experience

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO

Candidate Name: Jim Schuneman

Name as it appears on ballot: Jim Schuneman

Party Affiliation: Independent

Occupation & Employer: Self employed

Office being Sought: Alderman 3rd Ward – Rock Falls

Why are you seeking this office? To serve the 3rd Ward and represent the city of Rock Falls.

Qualifications for Office: 30 years in business, 9 years East Coloma School Board: 2 years as President, 5 years Rock Falls Little League President.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? Because I will support the voters.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? My experience in working with people.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? Streets and sewer plant.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? I would like to see a Homeowner's Association established to help the city come up with ideas to repair our streets in the short term and maintain them in the long run.

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO

Candidate Name: Harvey Temple

Name as it appears on ballot: Harvey Temple

Party Affiliation: Republican

Occupation & Employer: Retired

Office being Sought: Alderman 4th Ward – Rock Falls

Why are you seeking this office? Change

Qualifications for Office: 1st time

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? New ideas and change.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? Not applicable

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? None

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Don't know

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO

City of Sterling

Candidate Name: Skip Lee

Name as it appears on ballot: Charles L. "Skip" Lee

Party Affiliation: City elections are non-partisan

Occupation & Employer: Rock Falls High School Science Teacher (36 years)

Office being Sought: Alderman at Large - Sterling

Why are you seeking this office? I have been a member of the City Council for 5 years. The City of Sterling faces many challenges in the next four years – economic development & maintenance; the destruction of Plant 1; downtown redevelopment; budget constraints and many other issues. I have enjoyed being part of a mission oriented Council team which is working hard to make Sterling a better place. I want to continue to serve the people of Sterling and help overcome these challenges.

Qualifications for Office: I have been a public servant for 36 years. During this time I have served as a teacher and student mentor; Library Board member and President; Grace Episcopal Church Vestry member and Senior Warden; member of Lane Evans' and Phil Hare's Service Academy Selection Committee, and City Council member. My whole professional life has been geared to serving the public and improving the communities in which I have served. I have developed my listening skills, problem solving abilities and sense of service during this time. Compared to my worthy opponents, I have the most experience in public service.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? My qualifications and record of service deserve the support of the voters of the City of Sterling.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? I have learned to work as an effective team member of the City Council. I am familiar with the city, state and federal resources available to help the City. I have learned the importance of not only listening but also responding to the concerns of my constituents. I have effectively worked with all segments of our community to further the goals of a better Sterling, Illinois.

**What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking?
How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific?**

1. Maintaining city services during these harsh economic times – on the Council, we have been intensely involved with studying and prioritizing every line item of our budget. We are reducing our expenditures in every department with a philosophy of doing the most cutting with the least “harm” to the community.
2. Regional and Local Economic Development – the City Council has been working very closely with various organizations like the Chamber of Commerce, Sterling Downtown, Sterling Today and Greater Sterling Development Corporation to implement policies and strategies to both attract new businesses and to retain the businesses currently in Sterling. The Council has worked to be fiscally responsible and to keep taxes reasonable. The Council has also been willing to “think outside of the box” with respect to new ideas. I will continue these trends as an Alderman.
3. Downtown Redevelopment – We have too many vacant storefronts in our downtown. Cities who have successfully redeveloped their downtown districts have done so by being focused on a theme, by developing affordable downtown housing, by systematically recruiting niche businesses to make the downtown more attractive, and by finding economic resources to help development possible as well as working with the community groups interested in this development. I will continue to work to do these things.
4. The Destruction and Redevelopment of the Plant 1 property – The current condition of the Plant 1 property is an unacceptable eyesore. The City needs to continue keeping pressure on the Young family to live up to their responsibilities in rehabilitating that property. While the City needs to proceed carefully in order to avoid saddling the people of Sterling with a multimillion dollar bill for rehabilitating that property, we need to

avail ourselves of all legal avenues to pressure the Youngs. We also need to explore with state and federal authorities a plan which will develop a riverfront corridor on both sides of the river so the property will be attractive to developers.

5. Property Maintenance - Poorly maintained properties are not only unsafe eyesores but they also give a very negative image of Sterling to visitors who want to locate their homes and businesses here. The City is in the final stages of development of the Rental Unit Licensing Program to make sure all rental properties are maintained and safe for renters. We also need to be aggressive with our Code Enforcement resources to make sure property owners maintain their homes. Along with the “stick”, we also need to find financial resources to act as the “carrot” for those who need help in maintaining their properties. I will continue to work on this issue.

Other Candidate Comments: I have been honored to be part of the solution seeking process to make Sterling a better place to work and live. I have been open minded and responsive to my constituents. I have been willing to listen to people’s suggestions. There is much work left to be done. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue serving the people of Sterling. Thank you.

Candidate’s Position on Taxes

Most of the questions posed deal with issues at the state level on which I am unqualified to comment and unable to control. I will say, however, I have been and will continue to be a strong proponent of the current climate in Sterling where over 85% of our budget comes from user fees, grants and state resources as opposed to raising and relying on property taxes as a primary revenue source.

Candidate Name: Linda Marley

Name as it appears on ballot: Linda Marley

Party Affiliation:

Occupation & Employer: Seattle Sutton Healthy Eating, Manager – 10 years

Office being Sought: Alderman at Large - Sterling

Why are you seeking this office? I would like to be able to make a difference in our community. I also would like to be able to be a voice for our community.

Qualifications for Office: I am a member of the Rock Falls Chamber and the Sterling Chamber. I have received a certificate in business management from the Moline Institute of Commerce and nearing completion of my Human Services Degree. I have taken many leadership classes! I have also attended many business seminars. Community Involvement: Ambassador of the year-twice, still on as Board of Directors; formally volunteer – Red Cross, React Program; active member of Amazing Grace, head of public relations/media representative; Angel Food Ministry – hostess for community.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? I have had a lot of experience with different situations in my life. All of them I have overcome and it always turned out positive. I can do the same for our community.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? From all the information I have gleaned from different people, organizations and listening to what people say.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? I would say our budget, our town's economy and the gang issues.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Not knowing a lot about our budget, that would be hard to address right now. Economy – how to develop more jobs and what we need to do? Gang issues – What are gangs? Why do they do what they do? How to think like a gang and figure out ways to discourage them.

Other Candidate Comments: As a candidate, I feel I am totally qualified to run in the race. I am a people person and I love people. The best way to reach people is through integrity, never say you can do something if you have a doubt, positiveness, leadership qualities and never look back-look forward.

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO Not sure

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO Not sure

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO Not sure

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO More factories

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO

Candidate Name: Ed Cox

Name as it appears on ballot: Write-in candidate

Party Affiliation: Independent

Occupation & Employer: Century 21 Results

Office being Sought: Alderman at Large - Sterling

Why are you seeking this office? To offer my skills to our city government during the challenging times ahead.

Qualifications for Office: Education and experience

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? My broad based qualifications and extensive community service.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? My six year term as a Sauk Valley Community College trustee has given me insight into managing a large organization in our changing economic climate.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? Budgeting and organizational development in the face of our nation's economic crisis.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Being rational and realistic about changes that will have to occur as funding issues become more severe.

Other Candidate Comments: I love this community and want to be a part of continuing our city's tradition of excellence. Our leadership has been innovative and progressive and we must maintain that stamina during the challenging times ahead.

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO



TOWNSHIP CANDIDATES

Albany / Garden Plain Township

Candidate Name: Steve Whitmore

Name as it appears on ballot: Stephen K. Whitmore

Party Affiliation: Independent

Occupation & Employer: Chain assembler – Drive, LLC

Office being Sought: Albany / Garden Plain Multi-Township Assessor

Why are you seeking this office? Re-election

Qualifications for Office: Background and previous experience as a real estate broker and insurance representative.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? I am trying to “equalize” all assessments within my jurisdiction so that every taxpayer (for real estate taxes) is being taxed fairly.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? This is a re-election to the office I have been serving through appointment for past 2 ½ years. my record demonstrates that improvements have been made.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? To ensure that properties and buildings are assessed properly; i.e. same value of property to receive same assessment. At this time, there are disparities in the assessments of properties with equal values.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? I am currently in the process of verifying the assessed values of all properties within my district.

Other Candidate Comments: I am willing to listen to and I even encourage people to communicate concerns and thoughts regarding assessed values. I am diplomatic and will answer questions candidly utilizing facts and figures to justify assessment values!

Candidate’s Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state’s income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO A more conservative approach to spending – especially by federal and state government; not allowing funding for “frivolous” or “pet” projects would lessen the deficit dramatically.

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO

Clyde Township

No candidates submitted information.

Coloma Township

Candidate Name: Mary Crebo

Name as it appears on ballot: Mary Crebo

Party Affiliation:

Occupation & Employer: Coloma Township Assessor

Office being Sought: Coloma Township Assessor

Why are you seeking this office? Currently – this is my third term as assessor. I believe I bring not only knowledge, expertise, but also an amount caring that makes me an excellent candidate for the office.

Qualifications for Office: I am qualified through the Illinois Department of Revenue.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? The economy.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? By analyzing market trends, doing sales ratio studies within Coloma Township

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO Within certain limitations, it may be an option.

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO Too general of a statement.

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO I could support a daily fee and/or a yearly fee for in-state users for access to all state parks & facilities. Again it would depend on the amount charged, whether senior citizens would receive a free pass, whether someone would have to be employed to collect the fee.

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO Too general a statement.

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO Not knowing the amount of money needed – I do wonder if a flat fee on the income tax – say for 2 years – would help. I could see a flat fee being charged, for example, on the income tax for all taxpayers with a net income of say (ie) \$30,000 plus, not to exceed \$20 and not longer than 2 years.

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO Not at this time

Candidate Name: Keven Dean

Name as it appears on ballot: Keven G. Dean

Party Affiliation: Independent

Occupation & Employer: Welder/machinist, currently unemployed

Office being Sought: Coloma Township Highway Commissioner

Why are you seeking this office? I was asked to run for this job.

Qualifications for Office: I figure there isn't very much that I couldn't do that is required while I am in this position. I have a lot of support or help from individuals that have a lot of influence and knowledge about all the aspects of this – if I need any help. I have experience mowing, plowing snow, patching holes, tree trimming as well as mechanical ability. I am looking forward to this.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? I am dependable, I reside in the areas where Coloma Township services, I know most of the people who live in the area.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? Not applicable

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? Equipment & equipment maintenance and continue to maintain the roads in the condition that they are kept in now.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Stay on top of any deterioration of the road and road bed condition; keeping trash and ditches mowed, trees trimmed and by keeping in touch with residents and address them in a timely manner.

Other Candidate Comments: I am really looking forward to taking on all of these challenges. I know Mr. Bristle has done an awesome job and I look to keep it the same. I realize the shoes will not be easy to fill but I am confident that I can do the job – with the help of the voters in our township and all the rest. I am hoping all of our townships and city workers can work together to make all this happen.

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO

Candidate Name: Frederick G. Turk

Name as it appears on ballot: Frederick G. Turk

Party Affiliation: Democratic and Green Parties

Occupation & Employer: Retired educator – YWCA of the Sauk Valley and Sauk Valley Community College

Office being Sought: Coloma Township Board of Trustees

Why are you seeking this office? I would like to be more involved in helping our township resolve our pressing issues during these difficult times.

Qualifications for Office: Creative, honest, work well with others, knowledgeable

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? I hope to be able to listen and understand the concerns of our citizens and help seek solutions that are acceptable by all.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? Rock Falls High School Board of Education – understanding of local educational situation

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? We need to involve the entire community in meeting our challenges.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Understand the ways our township functions

Other Candidate Comments: Thanks for the opportunity to respond to the questionnaire.

Erie Township

No candidates submitted information.

Fenton Township

Candidate Name: Shirley Blasdell

Name as it appears on ballot: Shirley Blasdell

Party Affiliation: Republican

Occupation & Employer: Retired farmer; retired teacher's aide

Office being Sought: Clerk of Fenton Township

Why are you seeking this office? I have the time and talent for this opportunity to be helpful and involved with my local township, trustee decisions and community.

Qualifications for Office: Township resident 52 years, property owner, farmer for 45 years and still managing the family farm, taxpayer, teaching 20 years, election judge 25 years, involved community and church person

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? For the Fenton Township clerical responsibilities, I do intend to be punctual with these duties. I will take care of correspondence, reports and forms for my township, our Whiteside county and State of Illinois.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? Being an election judge has given me some knowledge of government.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? To be conservative and maintain what we have.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Attend meetings of township and other offered opportunities.

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

X YES NO 2%; 1% schools and 1% for Medicaid of hospitals and nursing homes

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES X NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO A 1% increase in sales tax for schools and education

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO more honesty in our state government

Fulton Township

No candidates submitted information.

Garden Plain Township

No candidates submitted information.

Genesee Township

No candidates submitted information.

Hahnaman Township

No candidates submitted information.

Hopkins Township

No candidates submitted information.

Hume Township

No candidates submitted information.

Jordan Township

No candidates submitted information.

Lyndon Township

No candidates submitted information.

Montmorency Township

No candidates submitted information.

Mt. Pleasant Township

No candidates submitted information.

Newton Township

No candidates submitted information.

Portland Township

No candidates submitted information.

Prophetstown Township

No candidates submitted information.

Sterling Township

Candidate Name: John Stauter

Name as it appears on ballot: John Stauter

Party Affiliation: Republican (moderate); however, this is a non-partisan election

Occupation & Employer: Accountant; Winebaugh & Associates, PC

Office being Sought: Sterling Township Supervisor

Why are you seeking this office? The need for accounting, budgeting and cost control experience in the Township during the current economic period. We need to maximize the tax dollars to the fullest for the community without increases to the citizens while working on grants and funding to support our area.

Qualifications for Office: Nine (9) years of auditing townships and working with township supervisors gives me the needed experience. BS degree from Rockford College with major in accounting, 34 years of experience in management at Northwestern Steel & Wire working with budgets, costs and people.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? I am genuinely interested in giving back to the community I have lived and worked in for 45 years. I have the experience and education to get the job done in the community that I now consider my hometown.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? Not applicable

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? Maintaining the services the residents expect and taking care of local programs and the infrastructure without raising taxes or fees during the current economic times

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? I will be working with all of the community leaders and holding the line on taxes. We will look at all areas from the top down for improvements and costs. I will be searching for grants and monies from all sources and keeping an active and vocal presence in the State and Federal arenas to get our fair share of funding, for example Federal Stimulus.

Other Candidate Comments: This area has been a good place to raise our family and be involved in the community. I will work to ensure others will continue to enjoy the same opportunities that I have enjoyed.

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO If the fees fund or stay with the facilities charging the fees.

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO Only if the fees fund the state parks and facilities.

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO School Funding and Capital Plan for infrastructure & roads; we need to look at passenger rail service in our area.

Candidate Name: James L. Lopez, Sr.

Name as it appears on ballot: James L. Lopez, Sr.

Party Affiliation: Not applicable

Occupation & Employer: Sterling Township Highway Commissioner

Office being Sought: Sterling Township Highway Commissioner

Why are you seeking this office? I enjoy the work.

Qualifications for Office: I had 2 years with the State of Illinois; 38 years with the Township.

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO Bike path

Candidate Name: Terry McGinn

Name as it appears on ballot: Terrence McGinn

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Occupation & Employer: Highway worker, Sterling Township Highway Department

Office being Sought: Sterling Township Highway Commissioner

Why are you seeking this office? To work for and along with the residents of the township, working together with employees and Board trustees to provide good and safe travel.

Qualifications for Office: Worked 22 years for local water company that provides water for Sterling; have worked over 5 years at Township Highway Department; experience to carry on day to day operations of Highway Dept.; have good people skills to work with general public.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? I will be a full time employee working for full time pay not a part time employee working for full time pay; will work daily for taxpayers.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? Not applicable

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? To provide and maintain quality roadways in the township for safe driving for the residents and general public.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Addressing any problems that may arise; working to carry out day to day operations with my daily presence and working for the taxpayers.

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO

Candidate Name: Richard Schuneman

Name as it appears on ballot: Richard Schuneman

Party Affiliation: Independent

Campaign Website: richardschuneman.blogspot.com

Occupation & Employer: Road maintenance and sign technician at the Whiteside County Highway Department, Morrison, IL

Office being Sought: Sterling Township Highway Commissioner

Why are you seeking this office? I have had my eye on the Highway Commissioner post for the past four years and by attending meetings of the Township trustees and annual town meetings, and in getting to know the township's trustees and employees, it's apparent that I am an excellent fit for the job. I plan to retire from my county job and commit myself full-time to Sterling Township. I'm seeking this office to offer voters a qualified candidate, who will bring a positive change to Sterling Township while being more a hands-on working commissioner.

Qualifications for Office: Having worked for the Whiteside County Highway Department for over 35 years and being a member of the Teamsters Local 722 for 26 years, I have experience in all facets of road maintenance and traffic safety. These include, but are not limited to: snow plowing, truck driving, operating machinery, seal and asphalt coating, traffic safety and sign maintenance.

Candidate Name: Kurt Glazier

Name as it appears on ballot: Kurt E. Glazier

Party Affiliation: Republican, but since this is an Independent Party Election, no party affiliation is claimed

Campaign Website: www.kurtglazier.com

Occupation & Employer: Traffic Operations Technician for the Illinois Department of Transportation – District 2 – Dixon, IL July 1989 to present.

Office being Sought: Sterling Township Trustee

Why are you seeking this office? I am seeking this office for different reasons. I have always had an interest in government - small and large - and I feel the time is right in my life to get involved and give back to the community what it has provided me and my family. I personally feel that the past and current Sterling Township Boards have served the citizens well, but I feel that it is time to have younger individuals involved with fresher and newer ideas and voices; such as website for the township. A website is an invaluable form of communication. It would inform residents of meetings, who is representing them, programs offered to residents - just to name a few things. The Township needs to work hand in hand with the City of Sterling, the Whiteside County Board, the Greater Sterling Development Corporation and the Whiteside Economic Development in order to bring more jobs to the area. It seems our area is becoming a distribution oriented area. We have infrastructure in place such as railway and interstate, Illinois and U.S. highways, and barge traffic on the Mississippi River, but we need to promote all of that to potential companies looking for a place to locate or relocate. If elected, I would be representing everyone within the township - no matter what political party people prefer. When I am committed to a cause, I put forth 100% effort, and I would do the same for the Township. Running for local office, as our new President said, should be one of those "duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly."

Qualifications for Office: My experiences/qualifications for this office are as follows:

* As a technical employee of the Illinois Department of Transportation in Dixon for almost 20 years, I have the experience and knowledge of how government works. I have dealt with all forms of government, contractors and other engineering firms.

* Mayor Amy Viering appointed me to the City of Sterling Property Maintenance Code of Appeals Commission in April 2008.

* I have personally aided in the number of new registered young voters in the community by helping them register to vote. Several 18 year old high school seniors and even some other young adults were not registered to vote, so I helped them register. They are excited about the opportunity to get to vote in their first election in April.

* I am a former member of the St. Peters Lutheran Church Board. I served as a Trustee and was involved with and established the church budget for 8 of the 9 years served. As a Trustee, I was one of four responsible for all contracts executed in the name of the church and oversaw the physical care of the church property.

* I am the former Secretary of the Sterling Youth Baseball Board and currently the Vice President.

* I am serving my fourth year on the Sterling Girls Little League Board, and I am currently serving as the Umpire in Chief and responsible for securing and scheduling umpires for our girls softball games. I had served as the Player Agent for two years and was responsible for organizing the league's team drafts and rosters.

* I have been a volunteer manager/coach in the girl's softball league since 2002, coaching both of my daughters throughout the years.

* Two time President of the Sterling-Rock Falls Jaycees - 2001 and 2006. I served on the board 10 of the 11 years that I was member.

* I personally chaired and organized the Jaycees fireworks 2001 through 2007, and I chaired several other projects while I was a member of the Jaycees.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? I believe my experiences and qualifications speak for themselves. I have great organizational skills and abilities as well. I also achieved the necessary number of signatures required to get my name on the ballot in a very short amount of time, and each and every person that signed my petitions told me that they were glad to see a younger person, such as myself, get involved with a local public office. They, like myself, feel new and younger faces, ideas and voices need to be involved within our community to make it grow and succeed. I am a very approachable person, and I am willing to take the time to listen to what every individual has to express.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? I have not served as a public official other than the appointment to the City of Sterling Property Code Maintenance Appeals Board, which I was appointed to by

Mayor Amy Viering in April 2008.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? I am not aware of any "pressing issues" within the township, but I do see where changes need to be made. Public awareness of the township meetings is a key. Accessibility to the meetings is another issue. The meetings should be held at times when most of the general public desiring to attend do not have to take time off from work in the middle of the morning. Sterling Township residents outside of the city limits should be offered curb-side recycling program rather than seeing recyclable items end up in the county landfill. Also, the township should have a website to communicate information to the public such as meeting notices, upcoming events and previous meeting minutes.

The biggest concern within the community is the economy. More businesses need to be brought into the area, and along with that – more jobs need to be created. My comments in the "Why are you seeking this office" section address how I believe and feel this matter should be addressed.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? The Township needs to work hand in hand with the City of Sterling, the Whiteside County Board, the Greater Sterling Development Corporation and the Whiteside Economic Development and the State of Illinois, and perhaps with the federal government, in order to bring more jobs to the area. The other concerns can and would be addressed internally and with the township officials.

Other Candidate Comments: Although I have not served in public office in the past, I, and so do those supporting me, believe and feel that I can perform the duties of a Sterling Township Trustee. My past and current experiences have provided me the guidance to be a leader in more ways than one. If given the chance to serve, I will give 100% towards the position and to the constituents.

Candidate Name: Tom Ausman

Name as it appears on ballot: Thomas L. Ausman

Party Affiliation:

Occupation & Employer: Retired

Office being Sought: Sterling Township Trustee

Why are you seeking this office? To help continue the excellent programs already in place.

Qualifications for Office: 4 years experience as a Sterling Township Trustee – have attended several conferences and training sessions for Township government.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? My experience in the position – am knowledgeable and caring.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? I always serve the needs of the taxpayers.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? The need for more assistance to the needy because of the economy

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Follow state statutes, but using compassion at the same time.

Other Candidate Comments: Other experience: 21 years Sterling School Board and presently a member of the Whiteside County Board

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO

Candidate Name: Ruth Stanley

Name as it appears on ballot: Ruth Stanley

Party Affiliation: Not applicable in this election – Township government is non-partisan.

Occupation & Employer: Retired teacher from (35 years) Unit 5 Schools as a special education teacher.

Office being Sought: Trustee on Sterling Township Board

Why are you seeking this office? I truly enjoy what I am doing. Have been involved in all aspects of the Township business

Qualifications for Office: 8 years experience as a Township trustee; involved in community, church, county board member for 6 years; teacher (retired) therefore have been involved in past Township programs – “tutoring” (Achievement Partners), “peer mediation” – Future Force

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? I have been watchful of their tax dollars for the past 8 years and I believe in what township government does for the people on a “local” one on one level.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? I believe my record as a Township official for the past 8 years stands for and explains itself. Also as a County Board member my record shows my belief in doing what is right for those I represent.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? Maintaining a balanced budget and still having services available for the local population.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Keeping a watchful eye on expenses and line items and pre-planning which comes with experience and knowledge of previous expenditures.

Candidate’s Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state’s income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO

Candidate Name: Robert J. Van De Velde

Name as it appears on ballot: Robert Van De Velde

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Occupation & Employer: Retired business man – managed and owned major businesses for a period in excess of fifty years in Sterling, IL and Des Moines, Iowa

Office being Sought: Sterling Township Trustee

Why are you seeking this office? I have managed, owned and co-founded multi-million dollar businesses and I believe that with that experience I can make a contribution toward the management of township business.

Qualifications for Office: See previous question

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? I have managed budgets of major corporations for many years and I seek consensus not conflict. I will work to develop solutions that come from consensus and not conflict. I have a record that embodies that trait. Elected to County Board in 2008

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? I do not see any conflict in the management of either position they both call for knowledge of managing budgets and expenditures and I have the background of experience to administer either.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? It would not be proper for me to make any statement without knowledge of the issue at hand.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? I can not be specific without formal knowledge of the problem or problems existing in the office I am seeking.

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO Could be considered under certain circumstances.

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO Need to know more information on its application.

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO Eliminate government waste.

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO Many states have adopted local use tax to assist with maintaining the school districts, brings in more revenue than taxing local property owners.

Candidate Name: William C. McGinn

Name as it appears on ballot: William C. McGinn

Party Affiliation: Democratic

Occupation & Employer: Work part-time for State of IL Highway Dept. – IDOT.

Office being Sought: Sterling Township Trustee

Why are you seeking this office? For re-election; to serve the people in Sterling Township.

Qualifications for Office: I have 27 years experience in county government and 4 years with Sterling Township.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? From my experience and knowledge in township and county government.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? Again – my experience and knowledge.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? Auditing township bills; annual budgeting and levy responsibilities spending township funds.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? By working with the full Board on these issues.

Other Candidate Comments: I think a trustee should set policy and procedure for the Township Supervisor to administer.

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO

Candidate Name: Elizabeth M. Hall

Name as it appears on ballot: Elizabeth M. Hall

Party Affiliation: Everyone runs as Independent in this election.

Occupation & Employer: Sterling Township Clerk

Office being Sought: Sterling Township Clerk

Why are you seeking this office? I believe in Township government and believe myself qualified.

Qualifications for Office: I have had 25 years experience.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? My past experience should earn their support.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? Not applicable

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? A trustee watches to make sure that monies aren't spent that are not budgeted for.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Issues are openly discussed at meetings and budgets too, are discussed at that time.

Other Candidate Comments: Townships are run on taxpayer's money. They must be careful.

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO Do not give legislators raises.

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO

Tampico Township

No candidates submitted information.

Union Grove Township

Candidate Name: Arnold Vegter

Name as it appears on ballot: Arnold D. Vegter

Party Affiliation: Independent

Occupation & Employer: Union Grove Township - laborer

Office being Sought: Highway Commissioner – Union Grove Township

Why are you seeking this office? The present Highway Commissioner is retiring.

Qualifications for Office: I have worked for the Township for just over 25 years.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? I am the most experienced and qualified candidate.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? Rising material costs such as hot mix, cold patch, gravel, oil & chips, salt

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Work with county engineer and IDOT officials and state representatives to correct problem

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO



**SCHOOL
BOARD
CANDIDATES**

Erie Community Unit School
District No. 1

Candidate Name: Gary M. Farral

Name as it appears on ballot: Gary M. Farral

Party Affiliation: Independent

Occupation & Employer: Retired

Office being Sought: Erie School Board Member

Why are you seeking this office? Family tradition of public service

Qualifications for Office: Experience in multiple fields in the military and civilian pursuits

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? Better oversight of district projects than have been demonstrated recently; experience with technology; experience as a teacher

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? I was a student Senator in college. Not 1 request to the Board of Regents was ever rejected in my 3 years in the Senate because we did our homework. We researched, studied and compiled appropriate data.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? Maintaining enrollment, reducing cost, maintaining quality education.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Our enrollment is a huge variable. It is dependent upon birth rate and stability of area population. This means working with the village to attract new businesses & residents. Costs may be reduced by reviewing expenses and doing cost comparisons. Select quality items and services at reduced cost. Quality education comes from cooperation between administration, faculty, parents & students. All sides need to be heard!

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO My position is we need to leave the tax structure alone. We the people must pay for the services we desire whether it is via government or private provider.

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO If we plan to keep various venues open, users need to support that venue with affordable fees.

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO Not sure on this one.

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO Not at the moment.

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO We already have too much legislation

River Bend Community Unit
School District No. 2

No candidates submitted information.

Prophetstown-Lyndon-Tampico
Community Unit School District

Candidate Name: Jill M. Ringenberg

Name as it appears on ballot: Jill M. Ringenberg

Party Affiliation: Non-Partisan

Occupation & Employer: Application Specialist II, Tyco Valves & Controls, Prophetstown

Office being Sought: PLT Unit #3 School Board Member

Why are you seeking this office? Providing a sound education for our youth is the primary goal of the board, administrators, teachers and staff. I am seeking a 5th term on the school board because I still have a strong interest in the district and its future and bring 14 years of experience to the board.

Qualifications for Office: I have gained many valuable experiences regarding the function of the board, school policies, finance and state mandates while remaining open minded and willing to listen to suggestions and concerns brought before the board and administration over the past 14 years. Working to keep the district fiscally sound, striving for the best and widest curriculum possible and providing a safe school environment have always been and will continue to be my objectives if re-elected.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? Having been born and raised in Prophetstown, I still have a vested interest in the district and am willing to continue to volunteer my time for another four years as the district faces many challenges ahead. My husband and I are homeowners in Prophetstown, have two grown children who are also alumni of the district and currently have a grandson attending school in the district.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? Not applicable

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? The biggest issue we have facing us right now is state funding.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? The board and administration must remain vigilant in assuring our district is fiscally sound. The current board and superintendent work very hard to maintain a balanced budget. Expenditures for providing a solid education for the students in the district are viewed as a top priority, while remaining prudent to the taxpayers and citizens of the community. We must continue to search and maintain state and federal grant monies. It is my philosophy to continue this course of action if re-elected.

Other Candidate Comments: I also serve as Vice Chairman of the Illinois Association of School Board's Northwest Division and have been the delegate representing Unit District #3 for the past 13 years at the annual IASB School Board Convention.

Candidate Name: Tya Boucher

Name as it appears on ballot: Tya Boucher

Occupation & Employer: Agency Office Assistant, Richard Maronde

Office being Sought: PLT Unit #3 School Board

Why are you seeking this office? To improve the school any and every way possible; I enjoy the involvement and I get satisfaction when projects are completed and goals are met.

Qualifications for Office: I have children in this school district. I also went to school and lived in Tampico. I know many of the people in all 3 towns. I am a good listener and I try to help any way I can.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? I focus on the big picture while trying to get things accomplished . . . the children

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? I already know some of the projects started by the board and I am familiar with how the community feels about some of the goals we are trying to meet.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? What are we going to do to improve our buildings in both communities? Also how will we structure the curriculum to benefit students?

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? The building dilemma will be addressed this spring; we already have 2 plans in mind. We have hired a curriculum director and have had meetings to get things in place for the coming school year.

**Sterling Community Unit
School District No. 5**

Candidate Name: Gonzalo Steven Reyes

Name as it appears on ballot: Gonzalo Steven Reyes

Party Affiliation: Not-applicable

Campaign Website: <http://web.me.com/gonzo13>

Occupation & Employer: Teacher / Rockford Public Schools

Office being Sought: Board of Education, Sterling Public Schools

Why are you seeking this office? I believe this is the best use of my talent, time and treasure. I want to bring CUSD #5 back to the educational respect and prominence that it once enjoyed.

Qualifications for Office: I believe I am qualified for the following reasons: Educational Background (I have an A.A., B.S., M.F.A. and have started a Ed.S.); Teaching Experience (20 years in the classroom); IL Education Association Training & Leadership Experience; Community Involvement and Leadership Experience (Fiesta Committee, LASC, TCES, Inc., Lions Club, Sterling Hispanic Mural Society); Administrative Training & experience (NIU and Director of Religious Education, St. Mary's Church 13 years); Diversity of Thought and Culture; Watch5 Website (Watchdog on Unit 5 during the McMahan Administration).

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? I am an effective board member. I listen to anyone including teachers, students, and the public having concerns about Unit 5 and have advocated on their behalf. I have helped to bring about change in leadership at Unit 5, while becoming more fiscally responsible. Meanwhile we have continued to raise the test scores of all our students, including making AYP for both the elementary schools and middle school. I have challenged past administrations to address the educational leadership of the high school where we have not done as well.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? I have been elected only to the Board of Education. My record is telling as to how well I have acted on behalf of the taxpayer. I have been an agent of change for the good of the school district and the taxpayer. I have brought new ideas and perspectives to the board. I have chaired of all the committees but one. I have been Vice-President of the Board of Education for the past 4 years. I hold a leadership position in the Northwestern Division of the Illinois Association of School Boards. In almost eight years of being on the Board I have missed only one monthly Board meeting.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? Providing the Sterling High School with a more effective instructional leadership; Increase diversity in the teaching staff and administrative ranks and especially in the hard to fill/hire seven areas of teaching; and Another area of concern is the financial and facilities situation of the school district.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Implement a Grow Your Own Program to fill the seven hard to fill/hire teaching positions (according to the ISBE). Continue to increase alternative funding as a revenue source. Continue implementing geothermal projects as a long term cost cutting measure. Bring about changes in the high school in the areas of curriculum, climate and attitude at the administrative level to increase AYP.

Candidate Name: Marc Geil

Name as it appears on ballot: Marc Geil

Party Affiliation: Not-applicable

Campaign Website: www.geilforschoolboard.blogspot.com

Occupation & Employer: International Marketing at Wahl Clipper Corporation

Office being Sought: Board Member – CUSD #5

Why are you seeking this office? To be an active participant in the education of my children and to lend my experiences to the recognition of the schools activities to the local community and beyond.

Qualifications for Office: I have a background in Marketing and International Business and will strive to bring global perspective to our educational programming and a strategic look at how we market our strengths.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? As a parent of children in the Sterling Schools system and as an alum myself, I have a deep commitment to the community and our children. My business background will bring a fresh perspective on areas of curriculum to ready our children for future business expectations. My marketing background, together with a connection to area business, will help to form a partnership in recruiting professionals to our area as the public school is often a selling point during this process.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? N/A

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? I believe our educational programming is the greatest issue. I feel we should ready our children for continued education or direct entry into a workforce with an increasingly global business mindset. Additionally, I wish to enhance activities related to marketing the wonderful strengths of our school district not only to our local community, but beyond.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? In looking to the educational systems of countries around the world you see foreign language education starting at a much earlier age; often times as early as Kindergarten and 1st Grade. I would like to see what grants may exist to bring such education to our schools at this age level. I further feel that there are opportunities to show the community here and beyond the awesome strengths and qualities of the school system, from academics, to arts education, to athletics, to facilities. These strengths must be better marketed to assist local businesses attract and retain new professionals to our community.

Other Candidate Comments: I am an alum of Sterling Schools. I am married to Kristie Geil (CGH Medical Center). We have resided and worked in Sterling for the past 13 years, returning to the area after university. We have 1 daughter currently in second grade at Franklin Elementary. Our second daughter will enter Kindergarten at Franklin Elementary this fall. I hold an Undergraduate Degree in International Business from Marycrest International and an MBA from Regis University.

Candidate Name: Frank Rausa

Name as it appears on ballot: Frank Rausa

Party Affiliation: Not-applicable

Occupation & Employer: Retired

Office being Sought: School Board CUSD #5

Why are you seeking this office? The opportunity to impact the educational system that prepared my children and grandchildren for the academic and professional careers

Qualifications for Office: 12 yrs previous experience on CUSD #5 Board of Education; understand educational issues; taught at Sauk Valley College for 7 yrs; served as member of Board of Directors of the IL Association of School Boards; I am committed to improving educational programs at CUSD #5.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? Qualified as an educator from the perspective of a teacher and a Board member; Community resident of Sterling for 40 years and understand wants and needs of our community.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? Previously elected to 3 terms on CUSD's Board of Education

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? No child left behind requirements being met; CUSD #5 met its 5 year goal to have 80% students meet or exceed IL learning standards for math and reading – next 3 year goal or 90% set by federal government is unrealistic

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Possibility of all year attendance at school if air-conditioned (isothermal schools) to avoid ½ to 1 year loss in educational levels due to summer vacation; more rigorous reading programs at K-8 grades.

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO

Candidate Name: James Brotheridge

Name as it appears on ballot: James Brotheridge

Party Affiliation: Independent

Occupation & Employer: Principal, Sterling Christian School

Office being Sought: School Board Member CUSD #5

Why are you seeking this office? To continue providing the best education possible with what we have and have to deal with.

Qualifications for Office: School Board member 10 years; parent; teacher; administrator; I have a chance to look at issues from many perspectives

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? I have experience and I am not finished yet attaining the goals we have set.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? I have been a school board member for 10 years – the last 4 of which we have had a balanced budget; sadly we have had to make cuts to do this.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? Educating all children

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? RTI – I believe this will be the best way for now to reach all students; the problem is it will cost more to implement.

Other Candidate Comments: When we reach the point where students want to come to school instead of controlling their behavior then we will have reached our goal; there needs to be a desire to learn as well as a desire to teach. It is not just a job.

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO Support the sales tax increase

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO Sales tax increase – get rid of property tax

Morrison Community Unit
School District No. 6

No candidates submitted information.

East Coloma School District No. 12

Candidate Name: Jerry Stanley

Name as it appears on ballot: Jerry Stanley

Party Affiliation: Not-applicable

Occupation & Employer: Retired

Office being Sought: East Coloma School Board

Why are you seeking this office? I am retired from both education and business; have time to invest in education of children.

Qualifications for Office: B.S. in Education, 37 years as teacher and administrator and 4 years as school board member at Rock Falls High School; 40 years as homeowner in East Coloma District; realtor for many years in Sterling – Rock Falls area.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? Experience, honesty, time to spend, resident in district – 40 years.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? Board member Rock Falls Township High School; experience in board business.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? Financing education; tax rates; school policy; anything that impacts a child’s education.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Continue to lobby Springfield for equalizing aid to education; review policy regarding spending; prioritize and possibly eliminate some spending while increasing in other areas.

Other Candidate Comments: I apologize for some of my answers or lack thereof, but before we take a position on a particular issue, we have to know what the intended purpose and result is projected.

Candidate’s Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state’s income tax?

YES NO Purpose?

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO Purpose?

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO Purpose?

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO In all areas? In certain areas?

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO Possibly?

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO Which ones? Questions are too general

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO Other than what?

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

X YES NO Continue to push for equalizing the state aid program to finance schools; infrastructure spending is a must!

Rock Falls Elementary School
District No. 13

Candidate Name: Jay M. Clark

Name as it appears on ballot: Jay M. Clark

Occupation & Employer: Security Officer, Byron Nuclear Generating Power Station, Byron, IL – Exelon

Office being Sought: School Board Member, Rock Falls IL District #13

Why are you seeking this office? To continue to guide the school board with right decisions that impact our tax payers and most importantly our children.

Qualifications for Office: Second term candidate seeking third term re-election; Rock Falls resident for 17 years; proud father of three daughters who have completed their education at Rock Falls.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? Positive; genuine, conscientious.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? Not-applicable

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? The lack of state funding for our schools.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Encourage voters to vote “yes” on the 1% tax referendum to help facilitate our repair expenses. “The Rock Falls School District” 13 Board of Education is committed to using at least 75% of the revenue from the 1% sales tax to reduce property tax. The remaining 25% would be used to repair the district building. In brief:

this will reduce property taxes and stimulate job growth throughout the county. We need growth in the employment sector.

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO

Riverdale Elementary School
District No. 14

No candidates submitted information.

Montmorency Community
Consolidated School District #145

No candidates submitted information.

Rock Falls Township High School
District No. 301

No candidates submitted information.

Sauk Valley Community College
District No. 506

Candidate Name: Edward Andersen

Name as it appears on ballot: Edward Andersen

Party Affiliation: Independent

Occupation & Employer: President and CEO, CGH Medical Center

Office being Sought: Board of Trustees, Sauk Valley Community College

Why are you seeking this office? I have a strong belief in the value of education.

Qualifications for Office: I have served on the Sauk Valley Community College Board since 1984.

Why Should Voters Support you for the position you are seeking? My strong commitment to quality education.

If you have been elected to another office previously, how will your record as an elected official help you be effective? I have served on the Sauk Valley Community College Board since 1984.

What are the most pressing issues impacting the office you are seeking? Reductions in state support for community colleges.

How do you plan to address these issues? Be specific? Lobby state elected officials for funding.

Candidate's Position on Taxes

Would you support an increase in the state's income tax?

X YES NO

Would you support an increase in the state motor fuel tax?

X YES NO

Would you support an increase in the federal motor fuel tax?

YES NO

Would you support an increase in existing user fees or the addition of user fees?

YES NO

Would you support a user fee to use state parks and/or other state facilities?

YES NO

Would you support a tax on services?

YES NO

Would you support changing or eliminating existing tax deductions as a means to generate additional taxable income?

YES NO

Are there other ideas you have on ways to bridge the budget gap?

YES NO

Do you have specific legislative concerns you would like the Chamber to address?

YES NO