



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

(PLEASE PRINT)

Candidate Name: _Wayne Kenniker_____

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Position Seeking _Dubuque County Supervisor_____

Candidate signature: _____ Date: _____

Please limit your response to 50 words per question

1. Do you have any previous legislative experience? If so, please explain.

Yes No

Explain:

I was elected as the Mayor of Sageville in 2019 and re-elected in 2021 with 85% of the vote.

2. Do you/have you ever owned a business? If yes, please explain.

Yes No

Explain:

I have run a small family farm with both livestock and crop land.

3. If elected, what would be your top three legislative priorities & why?

1. The collection and allocation of tax dollars.
2. The use of non-tillable agricultural property to address housing and retaining people.
3. Looking at the results of projects funded.

4. What is your position on the use of Tax Increment Financing?

Support Oppose

Explain:

When used in the right situation it can benefit the County as a whole.

For the following questions, please keep your answers to 200 words or less.

5. Workforce is the number one issue facing the business community. Whether that's retaining current talent, attracting new talent to the area, or developing the pipeline businesses are struggling in Iowa. What role can the County play in addressing the workforce shortage?

Workforce is really an issue that is better handled by other organizations. If the right effort was developed, the County could be supportive, and perhaps from a financial standpoint if it makes sense for the County.

6. What role do you see the county playing in support for our education institutions from K-12 to 4-year universities? These entities fill the pipeline for talent in Dubuque and are integral to our future success.

When it comes to education, I believe in general, that groups need to stay in their own lane. There are Boards that are elected to oversee the operations of educational institutions. Maybe supportive, but not leading.

7. Transportation, Childcare, and Housing are significant barriers to employment. How in your role would you seek to address issues in access to childcare, attainable housing, and effective/efficient transportation?

To start with I would narrow the focus to housing. As we have seen in the past, when you get too many irons in the fire, nothing actually gets done. The 'low hanging fruit' for the County is to allow homes to be built on agricultural property that is non tillable or difficult to till.

8. Government plays a key role in investing in infrastructure that facilitates the establishment and growth of business in a community. How do you want to see the county involved in actively promoting infrastructure investment in Dubuque County?

Again, this is where we need to focus on first things first. In an earlier question you mentioned the shortage in workforce. Focusing on more infrastructure to create more jobs seems to be misaligned. When you try to juggle too many things, things get dropped.

9. Placemaking or investment in creating cool, interesting places that people want to live, work, and play is integral to attracting new talent but requires public private partnership. How do you see the county playing a role in making all of Dubuque County an interesting, vibrant community?

Retaining and attracting work force begins with desirable places to live. Again, the County has the ability to change how non-tillable or difficult agricultural property is used.

10. Air service is crucial to maintaining Dubuque's access to the global marketplace. Do you support the county investing in the restoration of air service to Dubuque?

I see the benefits of having air service to Dubuque. But I do not see Dubuque County property tax being used as an open checkbook to make it happen. It needs to be cost justified.

11. What is your approach to regulation? The Chamber advocates for the government to approach business with a light-touch, focused on regulating bad actors while holding others harmless.

In a general sense, regulations should be geared to benefit the group you hold harmless and correct the actions of the bad actors.

12. What would you like to see the Chamber working on over the coming years?

This in no way is meant to be pointed towards the Chamber, but is something I have learned over the years of being an Operations manager, Project manager, and coordinating large storm events. There are times when brainstorming to add new efforts is a good direction, and times when quality and completeness generates better results. My intent is to focus and look closely at the results to determine the level of success, and the next steps.