

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

(PLEASE PRINT)

Candidate Name: _____ Jay Wickham _____

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Position Seeking _____ Dubuque County Supervisor _____

Candidate signature: _____  _____ Date: _____ 9/22/2022 _____

Please limit your response to 50 words per question

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

Yes X No

Explain:

Appointed to Board of Supervisors in February 2016

Elected to Board of Supervisors in November 2016

Re-elected to the Board of Supervisors in November 2018

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

Yes X No

Explain:

Co-founder of CarteGraph in 1994. Served as an owner and leadership roles (VP Sales and Marketing) for 16 years before my successful exit from the company.

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

- 1) Maintain or lower the current county property tax levy
- 2) Continue to manage and supervise the county's core functions of government at a high level. Roads/Bridges, Courthouse Functions, Sunnycrest, Conservation, to name a few.
- 3) Lead and propose financially viable County budgets.

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

Support X Oppose

Explain:

I support. This is a good tool to attract and maintain business in the community. I have witnessed many TIF projects that have contributed to the regions prosperity.

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?

The lead role is for the county to execute core county government functions at a high level. Secondary is for the county to maintain or lower the property tax level. Additionally, to support housing (zoning) and business initiatives (zoning and incentives) to retain and attract workforce.

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.

Once again, the main role is to provide good basic county services. The school district have their own taxing authority, so funding should come from that. Unique, value add projects should be considered by the county in partnership with K-12 and High Ed in the County.

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?

Transportation: During my term (6 years) we have improved 200 miles of roadway and 83 Bridge Structures. This is a record amount of investment. I will continue to push for improvement in our infrastructure. We have also partnered with the City of Dubuque and IDOT to complete the SW Arterial

Childcare: I have voted in favor of supporting Child Care projects during my term. Including, GDDC program, Dubuque County Early Childhood home program, Steeple Square and Holy Ghost care centers. I plan to continue this support with available funding.

Housing: The Board of Supervisor has not played a significant role in Housing. That said, I did support the Liberty Recovery Center Housing project and the Main Street Commercial/Residential program over the last two years. If involved with public/private partners (city, state ,developers) I would strongly consider support.

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?

Continued funding of the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) for Dubuque county is key to maintaining our road network. The State of IA is considering changing this funding. Another concept that I plan to initiate with the Board of Supervisors is the additional funding from our general basic to the rural roads fund. We are allowed to transfer an estimate \$800,000 annually from this fund. I plan to motion the Board for this change in the upcoming budget.

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?

This year the Board of Supervisors approved numerous projects in nearly all the 21 Cities in the county with American Rescue Funds. These included projects of various sizes such as: Field Of Dreams Stadium , Four Mounds Building, Farley Library, Cascade Library, Epworth Ballpark Improvements,.

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?

Yes. I believe this is a priority for funding.

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.

I am in general pro-business and anti-regulation at the local level. My position and voting record on numerous zoning cases favor business and land owner preference of use. I also introduced a small business allowance for home use in the county. During my 6 year term I have not voted for, or introduced any additional regulations.

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

Continue advocacy of air travel.

Support for Black based business and others groups that are emerging in Dubuque.

An intuitive for a buy local network.

Additional cooperation with other city areas of commerce within Dubuque County

(Asbury-Peosta-Epworth-Farley...)