

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUMS

Questions collected by C.A.R.D. Citizen Association for Rights and Dignity

1. What responsibility and authority do you feel the Citizen Board of Appeals has?
Which out of the following three would you recommend?
 - A. Dropping the \$200 fee
 - B. Correcting their name per state statute, currently called the "Zoning Variance Board"
 - C. Providing a pamphlet to each citizen with every city employee contact to inform them of their appeal option, as recommended by the Citizen Code Review Committee.
2. How and when would you implement our 27 ward supervisors required by Janesville Local Ordinance 2.08.080, so that each ward has representation at each city council meeting?
3. Concerning our 17 citizen boards that oversee our city employees;
 - A. Would you implement a Citizen Nomination Committee so that our 17 citizen board members were no longer selected by a city employee?
 - B. What would be the process of advertising, application, interview, and formal announcement and introduction to the public?
 - C. Would you also require the 17 chairpersons of those boards to report to and participate in the city council meetings? Why?
4. If the number of city council members was increased from 7 to 9, with 2 representatives per each of the four neighborhoods (Southside, Westside, Eastside, and Historic Hub), plus one at-large, what do you see as the advantages and disadvantages?
5. What procedures would you implement to gather citizen input toward creating long term goals, vision, preservation, and growth for our city?
6. How important is it to change back the name of the Municipal Building to that of "City Hall of Janesville"?
7. What procedure would you implement to do a regular spring cleaning of the local ordinances to correctly organize and label them and to bring them into current WI Statute compliance?
8. Does city council member allegiance lie first with city administration or lie first with the citizens of our city? How and why?

City Council Candidate Questions

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9. Is it appropriate that city administration employees are currently seated at the corporate board table among the city council members rather than off to the side? Why?

10. Since the City Attorney Office represents city employee actions, what are your views on a Citizen Advocate Attorney to represent citizen rights?

11. In order to avoid conflict of interest, what would be the best way to provide private legal council, at city council meetings to the city council members, that would be independent of city administration employees?

12. Would you be in support of abolishing the recent practice of the self-appointment of city council members to the 17 citizen oversight boards? Why?

13. How important is it to retain affordable housing in Janesville? Why?

14. \$750,000 of annual federal money called the Community Development Block Grant is earmarked for the maintenance of the two affordable housing neighborhoods, Look West Tallman House Historic District and the Old Fourth Ward Historic District. Should the citizen board that spends that money be made up of citizens from these two neighborhoods? Why?

15. The purpose of TIF, Tax Increment Finance Districts, is to make redevelopment efforts blighted downtown areas financially feasible in a way that would also increase the number of jobs, and bring new businesses into the downtown. Would you dissolve current city TIF districts that did not fit those criteria?

16. What is the most effective use of our taxpayer money to stimulate economic growth and create new jobs?

17. What do you estimate would be the cost to pay restitution to the 20 to 25 citizens per the last 20 years who lost their buildings to code department demolition without being allowed to repair?

18. Which of the following decisions should be made by referendum vote given to the citizens of the city and the effected townships?

- A. The decision to annex more land into the city
- B. The decision to create new bond debt that exceeds 2 million dollars
- C. The decision to give the city manager a new contract or pay raise