



## City of Joliet Questionnaire for 2023 District Candidates

### 1. Please list your top three priorities / initiatives of action once elected.

- a. **Regional Water Project:** It is absolutely imperative to keep to the construction schedule and keep on budget for our regional water project. We must continue to bring more partners into the Grand Prairie Water Commission to reduce costs for all of our partners.
- b. **Cullinan/Rock Run Crossing:** An extremely exciting project at the crossroads of America (I-55 and I-80). This project will have a mixture of residential, retail, hotels, restaurants and entertainment venues such as the Hollywood Casino. I look forward to future announcements of tenants for the development.
- c. **Joliet City Square Project:** I have been involved in planning meetings for the master plan of Joliet City Square project and adjacent Chicago Street that include engineers, designers, architects and other professionals. We have been presented with many exciting possibilities of what this space can be and how it will be enjoyed by one and all.

2. **What type of working relationship do you plan to have with neighborhood groups?**

As an existing city councilwoman, I have a very “open door” relationship with neighborhood groups. I have encouraged residents, no matter if they reside in District 3 or not, to call me anytime they need help in navigating city government. I often say the best part of being a councilperson is the one on one relationships that I’ve been able to build with our residents.

3. **Please share your thoughts on possible economic development opportunities within your district?**

A large part of my District is located west of Rt. 59 and although the growth in housing is tremendous we lack the amenities. We surely have the “rooftops” to attract many new businesses to this area. I believe we have a lot of underutilized real estate that would be ripe for commercial development such as restaurants, grocery stores and retail businesses other than gas stations.

4. **What would you do to improve the overall safety of citizens in your district and in the City of Joliet?**

I have worked through our budget process toward increasing funding for our police, fire and public works departments. We must continue to invest in training, equip our police, fire and public works departments with the newest technology for safety and efficiency and provide safe dependable vehicles. We must continue to invest in good roads, sidewalks, sewer and water lines for our citizens.

5. **Do you feel there is adequate affordable housing options in your district and the city?**

I feel we are deficient in several specific types of housing in Joliet. One area where we are deficient is affordable housing for first time home buyers who have just graduated from school or who have recently left their parents’ home. The second area

where we are deficient is 55 and older housing for existing homeowners don't want to maintain a large home and yard but would like to stay close to friends and family. I believe the possibility to redevelop the Joliet Country Club into mixed use housing would be an important addition to Joliet.

6. **Share with us your background and what unique qualities you believe you possess that stand out from the other candidates.** I am completing my first 4 year term as Councilwoman for Joliet City Council – District 3. I am a *tremendous researcher* of issues that I face. I *listen* to what my constituents have to say on issues affecting not only District 3 but all of Joliet. I truly enjoy helping our residents navigate city government. The only personal agenda I have is to do my very best for the citizens I serve. It has been my honor and privilege to serve the citizens of District 3 and I hope I can continue to serve District 3 and all citizens of Joliet for another 4 years.

7. **Have you previously or are you currently serving on a governing board such as a business, nonprofit, other government, or a religious or education organization?**

With respect to my current position on the Joliet City Council, I serve on the Finance Committee, Communications, Technology & Information Systems Committee, Joliet Historical Museum and the Joliet Prison Committee.

Outside of the City Council, I have been the owner of Illinois Securities Company in Joliet for the past 17 years and I serve on the Board of Directors for the Will County Habitat for Humanity.

My community involvement during previous years consists of: member of Council for Working Women, member of Joliet Rotary Club, member of Joliet Region of Chamber

of Commerce, past Chairperson of Joliet Area Historical Museum Gala, founding member of Will Buy Local; board member of Lewis University Cultural Advisory Board and past member of University of St. Francis Caritas Committee.

8. **If so, how would this experience prepare you for this role and if not, do you believe this lack of experience would be a concern for voters?** As the current Councilwoman for Joliet City Council – District 3, I sit in a unique position to understand those issues facing the City of Joliet. As a councilperson you must always keep your eye trained on the long term. Each short term decision combines to achieve a long term goal. We must continue to provide responsible growth throughout Joliet. We must continue to invest in Joliet’s infrastructure for the safety and wellbeing of our citizens. I will remain a steadfast voice not only for District 3 but all citizens of Joliet.
9. **What level of interaction do you plan to hold with constituents and do you feel that you have the ability to be continually accessible?** I try to attend all homeowner association meetings that I am aware of. If invited, I have also attended homeowner association meetings that are not in District 3. As a member of the City Council, you are also invited to various meetings and activities which I always try to attend. I take great pride in being responsive to all our citizens regardless of being a resident of District 3 or not. When I receive a text message, email or voicemail I respond within 24 hrs or sooner.
10. **Do you believe that the city is providing quality services such as water, garbage removal, sewer, snow removal, and infrastructure?** Yes absolutely, but the true

measure of providing quality services such as water, garbage removal, sewer, snow removal and infrastructure is how our citizens respond when asked about these items. The City of Joliet works hard at balancing the needs of our citizens and expectations that our citizens have. For anyone experiencing any problems with these services our information desk (815-724-4000) is available to help during city business hours, after hours we have our online CitizenVue which is an app that provides an online opportunity to report non-emergency residential issues, the Customer water portal where you track your personal water usage and once again I am always available, call me anytime.

(815-405-7345)

**11. How would you work to improve communication with the citizens of Joliet?**

Currently, the City of Joliet provides our citizens with a robust collection of ways to stay connected and communicate with our City such as: CitizenVUE which is an app that provides our residents with a convenient way to report non-emergency residential issues to the City, social media links for the City, Joliet Fire Department and Joliet Police Department, quarterly newsletters, smart message community alerts network, email the City, calling the City Hall mainline, and Channel 6 JCTV. I believe that the challenge we face is keeping residents informed of all the ways they can communicate with City Hall. We are always working to keep all means of communication up to date and relevant.

**12. What strategic alliances can be explored and/or better utilized? Do you feel the city**

**has a solid relationship with county, state, and federal elected officials? Please explain why or why not and how that can be improved.** I believe the City of Joliet has solid relationships with county, state, and federal elected officials. You need only to look at how Rep. Lauren Underwood (IL-14) secured \$20,090,613 in Community Project

Funding for Illinois' 14th district. Part of the final 2023 government funding package will fund **\$500,000** for **VNA Health Care** to build a new health center in Joliet that will provide access to critical health care services for a growing population, including primary care, obstetrics, pediatric services, and mental and behavioral health care. U.S. Rep. Bill Foster brought in millions in local funding, including \$6 million for renovations at the Old Joliet Prison and a prospective housing development at the former Joliet Country Club. The City of Joliet has also developed critically important strategic alliances with State Senator Meg Loughran Cappel, State Representative Natalie Manley, State Representative Larry Walsh, Jr, and Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino Tarrant among others.

Relationships need to be cultivated and Joliet, as the third largest city in Illinois, must be a leader in innovation and be nimble enough to change course if need be. Joliet continuously needs to demonstrate to its governmental partners that it can be a team player and not an island unto itself.

**13. Do you have any conflicts of interest that would prevent you from participating in council business?** No. In the event of any conflict I have no problems recusing myself from a vote.

**14. How do we maintain and enhance Joliet's position as a complete community with a thriving commercial and retail sector, highly ranked schools, diverse workforce, affordable housing, vibrant and walkable neighborhoods, and plenty of opportunities for recreation?** In order to have any type of meaningful development in an area you need a vision on what the area can look like and a pathway on how to achieve that vision. Joliet needs to commit to a long term comprehensive plan. Joliet has had enough of patchwork development – a little here, a little there and nothing fits

together. Let's develop our real estate to its highest and best use. We must encourage development in our Tax Incremental Financing ("TIF") districts.

I have been involved in planning meetings for the master plan of Joliet City Square project and adjacent Chicago Street that include engineers, designers, architects and other professionals. We have been presented with many exciting possibilities of what the Joliet City Square can be and how it may be enjoyed by one and all. Construction of a Bo Dome would be a wonderful enhancement to the east side and downtown areas of Joliet. I wholeheartedly support development of the south side of Joliet with appropriate businesses. I have been opposed to any additional "one off" warehouses being developed anywhere along the Rt. 53 corridor. I would like any remaining real estate parcels to be put to good use for more desirable businesses to enhance the Rt. 53 corridor. There is also a lot of discussion about the Louis Joliet Mall possibilities including Auto dealership, residential housing and many other ideas. Again this is where our long term comprehensive plan is essential to create complementary development.