



City of Joliet Questionnaire for 2023 District Candidates

1. Please list your top three priorities / initiatives of action once elected.
 1. Reinstating neighborhood associations where needed, and establishing consistent community town hall type forums, thereby bridging the gap between the people and city government.
 2. Safety & Security for the residents
 3. Advocate for peace and oneness within the council. The citizens have a right to have a council that represents them in honesty and transparency.
2. What type of working relationship do you plan to have with neighborhood groups?
 - It appears as though the whole of District 2 is not represented in the way of a neighborhood group. I plan to ascertain which neighborhoods do not have established or non-functioning associations, and seek to execute viable means of communication.
3. Please share your thoughts on possible economic development opportunities within your district.
 - Real estate and homeownership has been and remains the foundation of wealth building, economic growth and economic growth. The growth and development in District 2 is predominately supported through residential real estate and encircled with thriving businesses. The opportunity for economic growth and development within District 2 as well as the city as a whole is centered upon business development and expansion. People attract business and housing attracts people, which in turn elevates the standard of living and quality of life.
 - Workforce Development is another approach for District 2 to augment economic stability and prosperity, directing the focus to people as the district becomes more culturally diverse and inclusive.
4. What would you do to improve the overall safety of citizens in your district and in the City of Joliet?
 - A return and intensification of Neighborhood Watch components can be key is the instrumentation of safety within a community. District 2 has a major Neighborhood association, CAPA. But CAPA does not cover many of the neighborhoods within district 2. I will look to establish a community association in more sectors of District 2, and hold more community forums as one of the first steps of safety through the eyes of community watch.
 - Advocate to bring back more N.O.P.T. officers to man those communities.

5. Do you feel there is adequate affordable housing options in your district and the city?
 - No, there is not enough quality affordable housing in my district or the city. As the chairwoman for the Housing Authority of Joliet, we see firsthand the lack of affordable housing. Consequently, we are on a quest to acquire land to provide more affordable housing throughout the city.
 - Through the Housing Authority's redevelopment of Liberty Meadow, Phase 3 of 42 senior development units, 650 applications were submitted within the first two weeks of the application period. This statistic is only one of many that demonstrate the critical need for more affordable housing.
6. Share with us your background and what unique qualities you believe you possess that stand out from the other candidates.
 - I have dedicated my life to public service ministry for 30+ years, serving people from all walks of life in the Joliet and surrounding region.
 - I have established 2- 501c3 organizations that are designed for the purpose of meeting community needs.
 - Serving people is not just what I do, it is who I am; that requires a laying down of my life for the benefit of others
 - I understand that my life and what I am called to do is not about me, but for the primacy of the people that I am called to serve. In my opinion, any mindset aside from that is selfish and ineffective.
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?
 - Currently, I serve as chairwoman of the Housing Authority of Joliet's Board of Commissioners.
 - I am also currently the Associate Pastor at Antioch Christian Assembly Church in Joliet and was co-pastor of New Life Christian Fellowship Church for 14 years and Senior Pastor of Gateway Worship Assembly for 16 years.
 - In 2020, I established Gatekeepers Investment, LLC
 - Director of Excel Homeschool Academy, Joliet
 - President of Arise Community Development Corporation, a non-profit organization formulated to serve disadvantaged youth
 - A Director of The Hope Center of Joliet
 - President of Glenda McCullum Ministries, a non-profit religious organization
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?
 - The education and experience I have achieved as a result of my endeavors of planning, implementing and executing through the previously named organizations have provided years of applicable knowledge and learning in various fields of success to bring to the Joliet City Council.
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?
 - Any successful endeavor requires a collaborative team effort on the part of everyone involved. I believe that in order to move the city forward in continued progress, accessibility, accountability, honesty and integrity is of utmost importance.

10. Do you believe that the city is providing quality services such as water, garbage removal, sewer, snow removal, and infrastructure?
- Commendations are in order for the city's pro-active approach in seeking solutions, in advance, regarding the city's impending water depletion situation. As a growing city, the 3rd largest in Illinois, infrastructure improvements should always be at the forefront if we are to remain competitive for migration into the city. Much attention should be given to outdated systems to eliminate costly ineffective repairs in which dollars could be spent on upgrades.
11. How would you work to improve communication with the citizens of Joliet?
- I believe the establishment of a quarterly district 2 newsletter would be a great way to keep the residents informed.
 - I will advocate to host periodic community forums as a means to remain in communication through community outreach, while keeping the community apprised of City endeavors.
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.
- In that the boundaries overlap between county and city jurisdiction, it is imperative that the two entities engage in a strong collaboration, which in turn, will promote city and county growth on a grander scale.
 - The legalization of marijuana, and the escalation of mental health disorders is a prime example of the need for local, county, state and federal governments to collaborate. A coordinated effort would ensure timely accommodations to citizens with the most essential need.
13. Do you have any conflicts of interest that would prevent you from participating in council business?
- No, I have no conflicts of interest that would prevent me from participating in council business.
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?
- Developing urban work and living spaces for young professionals would provide opportunities for them to want to stay, live, and work in Joliet. If we are to become a unified city, every sector of the city must thrive. Infrastructure, economic opportunities as well as social progression must become an amalgamated effort. A city is made strong or weak by the people who lead and live in it. As a result, the core of every city is its inhabitants, thereby, providing a framework for growth and expansion, cultural diversity, educational prowess, and city migration.
 - Cities grow and thrive when the leaders of the city understand the needs of its communities, use wisdom to address those needs and exercise proper judgement to produce favorable outcomes.