



# WINONA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2022 CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

## County Board

Jerry Obieglo - District 2 Candidate

- 1. What should the Winona County EDA (Economic Development Authority) be doing to support and increase private sector business development/job creation?**

Education is just as important if not more than a loan from the State Grant.  
Also, not many citizens even know that EDA exists.

- 2. How do you define the role of the County Board of Commissioners verses the role of paid County staff?**

The role of the County Board is to support the paid staff so they can accomplish their mission.

- 3. What should the County Board be doing to support and promote agribusiness in Winona County?**

Agriculture is the lifeline to our existence. Those Farms that are in a place to safely expand without risk to the environment should be allowed to.

- 4. How should the County Board of Commissioners balance the rights of private property owners and current/future county regulations?**

Regulations are an evolving process. As we learn from prior good and bad decisions, the balance can be accomplished by listening to both parties and work out a solution.

- 5. What should be the role of Winona County Government in working with townships and municipalities for growing private sector jobs?**

Private sector job growth in any part of the County should be welcomed with very limited regulations as long as the environment is safe.

**6. What do you see as the County's role in job creation and economic development?**

At this moment in time we have more jobs than people who want to work. Revenue is the source that pays for services provided by a government body. Being open to investors and providing tax incentives.

**7. Where do you stand on possible future pandemic mitigations? How would you balance having a vibrant local economy while maintaining a safe community?**

Understanding the risks and which population is most vulnerable.

Government has the responsibility to inform the citizens of the risks and precautions that may provide safety from the virus. Churches, schools and businesses have their own governing bodies to address protocols.

**8. The recent jail project is a significant expenditure for the County, what steps do you believe need to be done to ensure this ongoing debt will not be a detriment for business and economic development in Winona County?**

The County Detention Center should have been built 15 years ago. If completed, then our surrounding smaller Counties would not have built, and would be renting space from us. I see a bigger problem. With the demonizing of our law enforcement in our country and how our own detention staff were treated when the Detention Center was downgraded to a 72 hour facility. There will be a very difficult task finding good, qualified staff to want to work in that profession. As far as paying for the detention center, state and federal grants are a possibility to lessen the load.

**9. Many communities across the state have seen many public safety officers leave or retire early from their positions. These same communities are having difficulty re-filling these positions due to negative public perceptions and lack of funding. What steps do you believe need to be taken to ensure that our community's law enforcement is adequately funded and supported so that our community remains safe and healthy?**

Law enforcement needs our support with respect and understanding. A community that neither supports nor respects for their frontline defenders will always be short on staff or have Officers not willing to get involved for fear of being sued and fired. Legislatures, Prosecutors, and Judges have to do their jobs hold those accountable. Too often the mob is allowed to seek justice before all the facts are out. Justice can only be served by the process that has been put in place.