



WINONA AREA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOTER

2024

GUIDE

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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Full List of 2024 Races and Candidates

Winona County Races

County Commissioner District 3

- Josh Elsing

County Commissioner District 4

- Jerald Hettenbach

- Greg "Skip" Olson

Soil & Water District 2

- Thomas M Lindsey

Soil & Water District 3

- Lynn Carlson

- Dale Hadler

- Bill Rowekamp

Soil & Water District 5

- Andy Kronebusch

City of Winona Races

City Council Ward 1

- Steven Young

City Council Ward 3

- John Krofchalk

- Samantha "Sam" Zierden Shortridge

City Council at Large

- Jason David Dicus

- Al Light

Mayor of Winona

- Scott Sherman

State Races

State House of Representatives 20B

- Michael Hutchinson - Democratic-Farmer-Labor

- Steven Jacob (Incumbent) - Republican

State House of Representatives 26A

- Sarah Kruger - Democratic-Farmer-Labor

- Aaron Repinski - Republican

US Representative - District 1

- Rachel Bohman - Democratic-Farmer-Labor

- Brad Finstad (Incumbent) - Republican

City of Goodview Races

City Council (elect 2)

- Charlie Andring

- Cassie Gilliam

Mayor of Goodview

- Ben Klinger

US Congress - Minnesota's 1st District

Name: Rachel Bohman

Public Office: US Congress - Minnesota's 1st District

Political Party: DFL

Age: 47

Family: Husband - Kyle; Daughters Eleanor (16) and Bea (9)

Occupation: Most recently Assistant Olmsted County Attorney

Contact: info@bohmanforcongress.com; maggy@bohmanforcongress.com



Why are you running for public office?

I grew up right here in the district as the child of a single mom. Our family struggled to make ends meet. This community helped my family and now I am standing up for my community. I put myself through college and law school. I served as Assistant County Attorney and on a local Township board. I believe our district deserves a representative in Washington that will work hard and bring results home for the good people of Southern Minnesota.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have successfully negotiated bipartisan bills that had measurable, clear results for people. I have a history of working across party lines to achieve workable solutions. My opponent voted against Speaker Johnson on Ukraine; he voted no on providing road and clean water projects to Southern Minnesota; he voted no on moderate immigration reform. Our district deserves better.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Small businesses, including farms, are the backbone of our economy in Southern Minnesota. I support increased workforce development training; economic development grant programs and small business loans; and immigration reform to help employers and employees support our economy locally.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

The hyper-partisanship in Congress simply isn't serving anyone other than those at the extreme ends of the political spectrum. I would work to change the way Congress operates by working across the aisle on issues that matter to everyone—reducing the cost of everyday goods, access to healthcare, supports for local businesses, and more.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I am committed to working closely with the Chamber and local businesses in Winona and across the district. I am committed to holding roundtable discussions and listening to the business owners of the community. I believe that, as bills are considered in Washington, it is important to also consult with those that are affected by the changes and will fight hard to create an open-door policy.

US Congress - Minnesota's 1st District

Name: Brad Finstad

Public Office: US Congress - Minnesota's 1st District

Political Party: Republican

Age: 48

Family: Married with seven children

Occupation: Farmer and small business owner

Contact: repbrad@finstadforcongress.com



Why are you running for public office?

I am running for reelection to Congress because I believe we are called to leave this world better than we found it. I refuse to be part of the generation that doesn't work day in and day out to leave a better America for my children than what we were given. We are facing many issues as a country, and I am driven to work for our southern Minnesota community.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

My goal is Heaven, not Congress. I am honored to sit in YOUR seat in Congress. This seat doesn't belong to a politician or a party; it belongs to you. My voting record and continued advocacy for this region's views on a national stage are what I offer as a candidate. I tell people, I am a workhorse, not a show horse. If you are looking for a candidate who is trying to get on Cable TV to verbally punch the opposition, I am not your guy. I promise, though, that I will continue to work for our views and values. I humbly ask for your vote.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Listening to you all is my top priority. Hearing how government can intervene, or in many cases, not intervene is important to me. As a small business owner myself, I know firsthand that we are the ones who come together to make our community what it is. We don't always need different levels of government to come in and muddy the waters.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

There is plenty of work for us to do and a lot that needs to be updated to best serve our ever-growing nation. Fixing our workforce issues, getting a new Farm Bill passed, and protecting our nation from threats around the world are on my list of priorities.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I will continue to engage with businesses as we have done during this past Congress and my campaign. We have met with Christie, who has done a great job leading the Chamber and countless Chamber members over these past few years, to see how we can best be of assistance depending on the issues of the day. Many times, that just means getting government out of your way.

Minnesota House - District 20B

Name: Michael "Hutch" Hutchinson

Public Office: Minnesota House - District 20B

Political Party: DFL

Age: 40

Family: Wife Allyse, 3 dogs, 2 birds, and what seems like hundreds of rabbits eating my garden

Occupation: Marketing

Contact: mike@vote4hutch.com



Why are you running for public office?

I love our country and want to help lead my community to make it even better and stronger. As a veteran, I have seen how efficient and effective we can be when everyone shares a mission and works toward a common goal, regardless of their diverse origins. I believe that our State can and should be doing more for its rural residents and the issues unique to living away from large cities, while still addressing statewide issues like inflation from corporate greed, affordable housing, and critical educational funding.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

As a civil servant I am here to serve the people who live in our community, not corporations, special interest groups, or political parties. I do not accept funding from any group, organization, PACs including political parties. When it is time to vote on legislation, only the people's needs matter. Unlike many career politicians, I will also be transparent. Any meeting I take with a lobbyist or group will be recorded and made available online for the residents of my district to access via audio or transcript. I believe people have the right to know what groups and companies are saying when dealing with our government, and should be able to trust their elected representatives to prioritize the interests of our communities over corporations.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I want our community to feel fully vested in its own economic success. We cannot expect entrepreneurs to start small businesses in our communities if they cannot afford to, or expect them to feel supported and connected if they can't own a home near their business. District 20b is a very rural district, so for local businesses to form or grow we need access to more quality workers, and to attract them our communities need affordable housing and realistic pathways to home ownership. Not only do we need to tamp down on large scale corporate or foreign ownership of residential properties, we also need to help subsidize construction of smaller starter homes. As our communities grow, we should create and/or invest in local grants for small family businesses to expand and for new businesses to form.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I want Right to Repair laws to include farm equipment so our local small businesses can fully service farmers' equipment more quickly, with those dollars staying local instead of paying for contractors or to ship equipment out. I think operational funding should be allocated to local municipalities and townships with fewer restrictions, to allow them to use it most efficiently for their issues instead of being confined to parameters that aren't based on their needs. In district 20b alone, we have 3 different areas with unique farming challenges. If a single district isn't even covered by a one-size-fits-all solution, shouldn't we also push for state-level mandates that can effectively meet the diverse needs of different populations

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I believe a civil servant should be available to listen. My contact information is on all my flyers, cards, and my website, so any person in the district, including business owners or employees, are always able and encouraged to reach out. Legislation should be read and considered by the people it will affect, and I will make sure there is enough time and accessibility for all interested parties to review and discuss it. For broad-reaching issues I will host town halls to hear what people think. As legislation around specific businesses or industries comes up, I plan to contact and speak directly with our district's leaders in the industry at hand, who would be most affected by such legislation, and who best know their own needs.

Minnesota House - District 20B

Name: Steve Jacob

Public Office: Minnesota House - District 20B

Political Party: Republican

Age: 58

Family: Married to wife Mary Jacob for 38 years with 4 children and 5 grandchildren

Occupation: Farmer and small business owner

Contact: steve@JacobforthePeople.com



Why are you running for public office?

The reason that I became involved in government stems from an incident where government overreach landed me in a court case where I learned first hand about government dysfunctions. Fortunately, the judge saw things in my favor, but it was still an expensive lesson for my family. I didn't want anyone else to go through what I went through, so in 2012 I ran for, and won a seat on the Winona County Board of Commissioners. Since that time I have strengthened my resolve to defend our citizens from government overreach and overtaxation. Given my background, it was a natural next step for me to run for the Minnesota House of Representatives.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

District 20B is a very rural and agricultural district. As a fourth generation family farmer, and a ten year County Commissioner, who has sat on just as many Water Resource Boards as I could over the last dozen years makes me an excellent fit to represent this district. In 2024 I worked across party lines to bring forward legislation to solve the high nitrate issue in the groundwater in Southeast Minnesota. My background of having served on this list of committees over the years brings depth to my ability to serve the people.

- Served on the State Agriculture Committee
- Served on the State Environment and Natural Resources Committee
- Served on the State Legislative Audit Committee
- Served on the State Subcommittee on Water Policy
- Served 10 years as the chair of the Winona County Road and Bridge Committee
- Served 10 years on the Winona County Planning Commission
- Served 10 years on the Whitewater Joint Powers Board
- Served 10 years as the Liaison from the Winona County Board to the Winona County Soil and Water District
- Served on the Southeast Minnesota Water Resource board
- Served as the Chair of the Winona County Board of Commissioners
- Served as an Elder at my local Church

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I have a vision where there is a sign as you enter our state that reads "Welcome to Minnesota, Open for Business". We are a long way from being user friendly or welcoming to business and economic development, and consequently, we are sending business and citizens to other states. My ongoing mission is to help get the government out of the way of economic development.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Much of what either can, or cannot be done to our laws governing business is dependent on the make of the legislature. In 2023 and 2024, with democrats in full control of the House, the Senate, and the Governor's office, there was very little we as Republicans had power to influence. If the power balance shifts, I will work to reign in government control. We absolutely can protect our environment without hobbling our business sector.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I pride myself on being accessible and attending as many local events as my schedule allows in order to engage with the community and business sector. My door is always open to listen to the needs of our community. I believe in supporting grassroots government and taking those needs up the chain to hold higher levels of government accountable to those needs.

Minnesota House - District 26A

Name: Sarah Kruger
Public Office: Minnesota House - District 26A
Political Party: DFL
Age: 38
Occupation: Chief of Staff, FairVote MN
Contact: info@krugermnhouse.com



Why are you running for public office?

I am running for the Minnesota House because we are at a critical moment in our state's history when we need strong and principled leaders to face challenges and find workable solutions for the Winona area. I am deeply committed to working with local chambers of commerce to advance the economic vitality of our communities.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I am the only candidate running for the HD26A seat with extensive experience in state-level policy work and advocacy for statewide initiatives that benefit our local communities. I have collaborated with both GOP and DFL leaders, including working closely on clean water initiatives with former Republican Governor Arne Carlson, who remains one of my strongest allies and has endorsed my candidacy. My education and experience are in public policy, and I was born and raised in Winona. It is my home, and I care deeply about its economic stability and future prosperity. As a millennial, I believe I am best prepared to represent and fight for the future of Southeast Minnesota.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

The vitality of our businesses and economic development depends on the availability of work-ready employees, strong government infrastructure (provided by both state and local agencies), and a fair tax structure that encourages independent business investment and helps grow the middle class. In office, I will prioritize tax fairness and common-sense approaches to state mandates, particularly those that impact small businesses, as one-size-fits-all approaches often have negative effects on Main Street businesses.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I will push for legislative reform for greater efficiency. The Legislature is tying itself in knots and accomplishing less than it could, partly because there are so many bills being introduced, impeding legislators' abilities to focus on what needs to be done. Enforcing the existing body of laws is already a challenge. Legislative reform could address this issue with greater bipartisan cooperation. I will collaborate with both Republican and DFL lawmakers to get things done based on our district's needs, regardless of partisanship.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Everything lawmakers do at the Capitol affects the vitality of our economy, either directly or indirectly. Good decisions come from solid information derived from those most impacted. While some may claim to have an open door policy, I will take it a step further by going directly to the business community to receive input on how current and potential legislation impacts their businesses. I am committed to formulating meaningful and manageable solutions based on this feedback.

Minnesota House - District 26A

Name: Aaron Repinski

Public Office: Minnesota House - District 26A

Political Party: Republican

Age: 50

Family: Wife Michelle; Son River; Step-son Dom

Occupation: Small Business Owner, Boat Captain, Bailiff, Winona City Council

Contact: aaronrepinski@yahoo.com; 507-458-7485



Why are you running for public office?

I believe in leading by example! I have always been the type of person to listen and be a voice for others! This is what I will do for our District 26A. I want to make Minnesota a better place to live, work, raise a family, and retire.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I was born, raised, and have worked in the Winona area my entire life. I own and operate two small businesses in our community. Business ownership has taught me fiscal responsibility and conservative spending. I'm an actual community member, having lived in our area my entire life, and I have a history of volunteering for many organizations. I am a retired Winona County Dive Rescue member and currently serve on the Winona Steamboat Days Committee. I am also a member of the Elk's Club, Winona Civic Association, and Winona Athletic Club, and have been a volunteer firefighter/EMT. Currently, I serve on the Winona City Council, representing the entire city of Winona. I have been a voice for our community and have demonstrated my ability to listen to the majority.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

We need to protect working Minnesotans and lower taxes. I will work on reversing the 38% increase in the Minnesota budget over the next two years. We also need to improve the quality of education, enhance public safety, and strengthen our economy. As a representative of this community, I will work closely with our local business organizations to ensure they are represented at our state capitol.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

We need to streamline government procedures for all Minnesotans. We need to take better care of our veterans and our most vulnerable citizens. We need to focus on affordable housing, and I will work to end the social security tax here in Minnesota. I will be a champion for middle-class families, small businesses, veterans, and farmers.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I always encourage people to contact me with questions and concerns. My community involvement allows me to connect with people face-to-face and hear their ideas. I will continue to attend local meetings and engage with groups like the Winona Area Chamber of Commerce as often as possible.

Mayor of Winona, MN

Name: Scott Sherman

Public Office: Mayor of Winona, MN

Political Party: Non-Partisan

Age: 50

Family: Wife Lindsay, sons Luke (22) & Harison (6), daughter Everleigh (4)

Occupation: Engineering Contractor for Kurt Manufacturing

Contact: ssherman@ci.winona.mn.us



Why are you running for public office?

As my wife likes to say, "I have found a good groove." I've been engaged, worked hard, and done my best to keep the "ship upright" during my current term. Winona is in a growth phase that presents multiple challenges. I envision a Winona with affordable housing for everyone, a thriving economy, abundant healthy lifestyle options, vibrant arts and culture, and robust mental health resources. I aim to continue guiding our city in that direction for another four years.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have been Mayor for 3 1/2 years. During this time, I have guided our community through the pandemic, maintained balance and civility through multiple iterations of the City Council, and worked to improve the livelihood of all Winona residents. Through listening, engagement, and my voting record, I have earned the trust of our community's constituents, businesses, and elected officials. Running unopposed demonstrates that Winona agrees I am the best choice for continuing in this role.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

We need to increase opportunities for businesses to attract and retain talent through a multi-faceted approach. While the city has tools through the Port Authority and Community Development Department, what will allow us to stand out from other cities is our robust culture and arts scene, outdoor recreation opportunities, and diverse economy. Supporting these three pillars will enable our businesses to thrive.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

In municipal government, constituents should be represented through a fair and open democratic process, with ample opportunities to engage with elected officials and staff. Over time, this engagement will refine laws, plans, and operations, benefiting Winona as a whole. This approach will foster organic growth and ensure resilience for the city.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I have proven my engagement with local businesses through events, conversations, actions, and voting record. I intend to continue the same process moving into a second mayoral term.

Winona City Council - At Large

Name: Jason Dicus

Public Office: Winona City Council - At Large

Political Party: N/A

Age: 49

Family: My amazing partner Trisha Karr, and our 3 dogs (Dude, Hawkeye, and Ronin)

Occupation: Small business owner at COMPUTER DOCK located downtown Winona.

Contact: jasondicus@gmail.com; 507-313-0567



Why are you running for public office?

I pay attention and have a great blend of professional and personal connections that inform me on how to best represent all people in Winona. I listen and am curious about people's opinions, their lives, and city issues. I can provide measured and thoughtful leadership at City Council.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I am fortunate to work in an environment that allows me to have thousands of face-to-face conversations each year with clients or those seeking a bit of advice. I understand modern problems and can act on modern solutions.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

We live in a city that is really beginning to hit its stride, and I would push for actions that continue that trajectory. My focus would be on economic incentives and opportunities, as well as improving quality of life, public parks, and the arts to encourage people to continue living and working here.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

At this point, I cannot identify any significant changes. However, I am out and about and welcome people contacting me.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I work downtown, I'm here, please stop in.

Winona City Council - At Large

Name: Al Light
Public Office: Winona City Council - At Large
Political Party: Non-Partisan
Age: 65
Family: Two Sons
Occupation: Retired
Contact: alandlight@yahoo.com; 507-474-7093



Why are you running for public office?

To be a voice for the people of Winona, addressing their city concerns and issues. I would utilize my major in Mass Communications and minor in Political Science from Winona State to serve to the best of my ability.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

Being retired, I can devote a maximum amount of time to serve. I have been a Winona resident for almost 50 years and have been involved in numerous clubs, organizations, and charities. I worked for 14 years in local television, collaborating with most city organizations at one time or another.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I am a strong proponent of business, especially small businesses. I will work hard to sustain and maximize state and federal aid and grants.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I support police and emergency services and would work hard to strengthen them. I would also work to provide more affordable housing for the working class in Winona.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I am very willing to work with any business on their concerns within the constraints of local ordinances. Any needed changes to these ordinances would go through the various avenues already in place.

Winona City Council - Ward 1

Name: Steve Young

Public Office: Winona City Council - Ward 1

Political Party: Nonpartisan

Age: 55

Family: Wife Kathy of 31 years and 3 wonderful adult children

Occupation: American Family Insurance Agent

Contact: syoung@ci.winona.mn.us; 507-312-4491



Why are you running for public office?

I love Winona and I want to give back. Through serving thousands of customers in our business, providing dozens of college students with safe affordable housing, and coaching scores of kids to learn to ski, I'm excited to continue to put those experiences to work in serving our community on city council.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

Probably my awesome hair style!

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

One of the main goals of the City Council is to promote business growth and development. With little land currently available for growth, someday Winona will need to expand beyond its current borders. Where will the next manufacturing centers be built? How will we accommodate further job and business growth? Are we willing to see long-time businesses relocate out of the area due to space limitations? We need to plan now so that Winona can grow.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Many of the most important changes need to be made at the state or federal level. One of Winona's greatest challenges is housing availability. The 'one size fits all' state building codes add tremendous costs to housing with no flexibility for local needs or conditions. On a positive note, Winona's recently updated Comprehensive Plan calls for greater flexibility in encouraging a broader mix of housing and development options.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Running a small business for over 30 years, I serve individuals and small business owners every day. I hear from local business owners, celebrate their successes, and understand their day-to-day challenges. I frequently interact with local businesses and receive their input related to Port Authority and City Council decisions.

Winona City Council - Ward 3

Name: Jon W Krofchalk

Public Office: Winona City Council - Ward 3

Political Party: Nonpartisan

Age: 75

Family: Wife Paula, two children

Occupation: Semi-retired

Contact: premium@hbc.com



Why are you running for public office?

Three prominent citizens approached me to run for the upcoming open seat on the City Council. They felt I would be a good representative for those in my district, and my wife agreed.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have been a member of the Chamber for 25 years, serving as Ambassador Supreme and Ambassador for over 25 years. I am a long-time YMCA member, having served twice as a Board member and as Past President. I have been with the Winona City Dive Rescue for over 20 years and was part of the Citizens Environmental Quality Committee from 2004 to 2010. I have served on the Board of Adjustments since 2010 and am a member of the New Comprehensive Plan housing committee. Additionally, I have started four businesses and four housing developments, including student apartments, workforce apartments, and townhomes. All of these experiences make me more than qualified to serve as a City Council person.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Housing is #1 priority - It's imperative for all persons to have affordable and quality housing.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

To make governments follow through on promises and commitments.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I would contact any and all businesses that might be impacted by City Council decisions. I would work with the Chamber of Commerce to keep businesses informed and updated.

Winona City Council - Ward 3

Name: Samantha “Sam” Zierden Shortridge

Public Office: Winona City Council - Ward 3

Political Party: Nonpartisan

Age: 32

Family: My husband, Matt Shortridge, and I along with our dog and cat, have built a small loving family

Occupation: WSU Undergraduate Nursing Office Administrator

Contact: 507-205-2056; samforthecity@gmail.com



Why are you running for public office?

I am running for City Council because I believe that public service is both a responsibility and a privilege. I am honored to have the opportunity to represent my community in this way. I bring a fresh perspective to City Council and want to continue building a strong, resilient community where everyone can envision a future for themselves.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have a unique perspective that balances a strong reputation for community building with a solid analytical background. I have engaged deeply with nonprofit work in the outdoor recreation, arts, and culture sectors to create inclusive spaces and improve our community. My formal education includes a degree in mathematics, and I am currently pursuing a Master's in Business Administration.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

As the wife of Matt Shortridge, owner of Driftless Services, and as a friend and avid supporter of Winona's local businesses, I understand that each business faces unique challenges. I respect that businesses know their challenges and needs best, and I am committed to listening to the business community to learn how to best support their needs and growth.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Balancing community needs can be challenging. I make a habit of listening before I lead. To maintain a well-rounded perspective, I would rely on community engagement strategies—both focused on the business community and broader engagement—to understand how legislation impacts businesses while also considering its advocates and the law's overall community impact. Once I am confident that I thoroughly understand the issue from multiple perspectives, only then would I make any changes.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

First, I would connect with respected leaders in the space and listen to their advice. We are fortunate to have organizations like the Chamber of Commerce that have cultivated relationships within our business community and understand its needs. I would seek out these organizations' networking events to hear a broad perspective of the business community, in addition to continuing my support and conversations with local business owners.

Mayor of Goodview, MN

Name: Ben Klinger

Public Office: Mayor of Goodview, MN

Political Party: Nonpartisan

Age: 42

Family: Wife; Bridget - Sons; William (8), Peter (5)

Occupation: Emergency Management Director

Contact: bklinger530@gmail.com; 507-450-6850



Why are you running for public office?

To give back to my community. To keep Goodview a great place to raise a family.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

I have a background in public service. I am well connected to the community and am involved.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Continue to support current businesses and grow Goodview. Support our EDA. Work with the Chamber.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

Fight red tape.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

Lean on the Chamber and EDA. Continue to be approachable and available for input.

County Commissioner - District 4

Name: Jerald Hettenbach

Public Office: County Commissioner - District 4

Political Party: Nonpartisan

Age: 37

Family: Valarie(Wife) Bretten(Son 8) Hattie(Daughter 4) Baby boy(September)

Occupation: Realtor, Small Business Owner (Rental Property and Laundromats)

Contact: 507-313-1824; Jerald.Hettenbach@hotmail.com



Why are you running for public office?

I am running for public office to help foster meaningful change in our county by addressing key issues related to fiscal responsibility, economic growth, and environmental sustainability.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

What sets me apart as the best candidate is my unique combination of entrepreneurial experience, a fresh perspective, and understanding what it's like to be raising a young family today. My academic background as a Winona State University grad further supports my candidacy. Being new to politics, I offer a fresh and unhindered view on the issues our county is currently facing and will continue to face going forward.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

Encouraging and supporting entrepreneurship, creating a business-friendly regulatory environment, and supporting workforce development to match the skills and needs of our community.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

I am a strong proponent of fiscal responsibility and would require more accountability regarding where tax dollars are going. I would like to see more resources allocated towards economic growth and addressing urgent needs in our community, such as housing and mental health.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I would actively engage with local business owners by attending and contributing to business forums hosted by the Chamber and other business organizations here in Winona. I would also be available to any business owner in Winona County who wants to discuss their business needs.

County Commissioner - District 4



Name: Greg "Skip" Olson

Public Office: County Commissioner - District 4

Political Party: Nonpartisan

Age: 60

Family: My fiancé Tracey, son Taylor, daughter Bailey, stepson Jacob and our dog, Koda. Native of District 4 and the youngest of eight children.

Occupation: Facility Foreman & Certified Building Official

Contact: facebook.com/GregOlsonForCountyCommissioner; 507-450-9819

Why are you running for public office?

I am seeking re-election to continue my service to the residents of Winona County, with a special focus on District 4.

What sets you apart as the best candidate?

What distinguishes me as the top candidate is my educational background and extensive professional experience in construction, water and waste management, local government budgeting and operations, all of which collectively position me as the strongest candidate.

What are your priorities to support business and economic development?

I am eager to extend my tenure as a Board Member of the County Economic Development Authority. I understand that one of Winona County's foremost challenges is its aging workforce and the imperative to attract a sustainable labor force.

What changes, if any, would you make to existing laws or government operations?

If I were to propose changes to existing laws or government operations, I would prioritize enhancing transparency in decision-making processes, streamlining bureaucratic procedures to improve efficiency, and ensuring that laws reflect current societal needs and challenges. Additionally, I would advocate for measures that promote inclusivity, sustainability, and equitable access to opportunities for all citizens. These changes are crucial for fostering a more responsive and effective government that serves the best interests of the community.

How would you engage local businesses as you weigh your decisions?

I plan to continue to involve local businesses by seeking their input and perspectives through meetings, forums, and consultations. It is crucial to understand their challenges, needs, and priorities to make informed decisions that enhance their growth and sustainability. My goal is to ensure that policies and decisions effectively address their issues while fostering economic development and prosperity in our county.



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Voter Guide 2024

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