



2011 LaPorte Municipal Elections Questionnaire & Candidate Answers

Candidate	Position	Party
Kathleen Chrobak	Mayor	Democrat
Blair Milo	Mayor	Republican
Renee D. Scherer	Clerk-Treasurer	Democrat
Teresa L. Ludlow	Clerk-Treasurer	Republican
Joe Mrozinske	City Council At- Large	Democrat
A.C. Pressler	City Council At- Large	Democrat
Cary Kirkham	City Council At- Large	Republican
Timothy J. Stabosz	City Council At- Large	Republican
Sherrie Hammons	Council Ward 2	Democrat
Gloria Thode	Council Ward 2	Republican
Mike Conner	Council Ward 3	Democrat
Ronald McAtee	Council Ward 3	Republican
Andrea L. Renner	Council Ward 4	Democrat
Roger A. Galloway	Council Ward 4	Republican
Steve Luscomb	Council Ward 5	Democrat
Geoffrey L. Sellers	Council Ward 5	Republican

**The information gathered in this publication has not been altered in any way.
Answers are reproduced exactly as they were received from the candidates.**

#1 – Why are you running for this office and what specific qualifications do you bring to the office you are seeking...

KATHY CHROBACK

I care about this community and want to continue to improve the quality of life in La Porte. I bring a great deal of experience to La Porte City government. I have served as Mayor of La Porte for 8 years and I have the experience necessary to manage the day to day operations of the City, which includes overseeing a Police and a Fire Department, a Water and Sewer Department, a Street and Park Department, a Transportation Department, an Engineering Office and a Planning Department.

In my 8 years as Mayor, I have developed valuable contacts within the region and at the State level which are critical in seeking out and obtaining outside funding.

Having operated with 8 balanced budgets I have developed a hands-on understanding of the City's finances. This skill has been absolutely critical during the period of county ineptitude in billing and collecting property taxes.

BLAIR MILO

For too long our city has gone without leadership and teamwork turning it into, if you will excuse the pun, a sinking ship. While attending school and serving in the Navy, I watched with dismay as my hometown declined and continued to lose its identity on so many levels. In April 2010, I was shocked to discover that the city's leadership had no plans for how to keep city government and services operating past August and the lack of a strategy was leading to decisions that were costly to the city and its employees. While La Porte did not invite some of its problems, the true measure of character and leadership is how we rise to meet a challenge when it comes to our doorstep. Our city government leadership has not met that challenge. La Porte's government leaders must create an environment where businesses can develop and grow, with new kinds of jobs established. That environment must help workers achieve the skills and qualifications they need to succeed and leaders must set the example for the importance of hard work. We must address a crippling drug problem that is strangling our workforce and making some neighborhoods too dangerous to even walk in after dark. And while we continue to address financial challenges of the future, as all government entities are, we must lead the way in innovation and creativity to determine how to provide comparable services with less. As an Officer in the Navy for almost seven years, I understand the joys and burdens of leadership. I've had the privilege of leading Sailors and Marines where I was responsible not only for their safety in combat zones, but for their career development, ensuring their families were provided for and inspiring them to constantly perform at the height of their abilities in difficult circumstances. I have managed the budget of a \$10 billion dollar Navy shipbuilding program; arguing difficult recommendations on what capabilities to decrease in order to meet financial constraints. I have stood the watch responsible for bringing a ship of 330 Sailors into harm's way and communicated with hostile forces while doing so. I understand how to capitalize on the variety of assets each member of a team provides and build consensus for a stronger, unified approach.

RENEE SCHERER

I am dissatisfied by the poor performance in the office. I am new to the office just like my opponent was over 12 years ago. I have learned to live on 1 police officer's salary and raise 4 children. I have been in charge of our budget for most of our marriage and the last 4 years we have been planning on retirement. We put away money for the children for college and worked toward a nearly debt free retirement. Unfortunately, the financial crisis in the city which caused a decrease in salary and a shock for insurance was a prelude to a medical crisis. We may not be able to retire like we planned, but we still can make the transition. I understand budgets, planning, and paper trails. During my lifetime, I have always seen the consequence of cost. For instance in my job with Shell Oil, we worked side by side with contractors during the shoots (the raw seismic data), which involved the planning and the processing that led to the tracks Shell would bid on. My job at Shell has taught me to be considerate of time, money and resources. I've learned a lot through the experience of running a home budget and several scout troops. I had to turn in budget reports for each scout troop. I have learned patience and to work long hours like I have during my Shell years. I understand budget crunching, deadlines and keeping cool under pressure. I was a police dispatcher. Also, I have learned from my husband how to care and treat people dignity and respect. I believe in the old saying if it is worth doing; do it right and with all your heart. With this motto is how I plan to serve LaPorte City.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

I am running for re-election because I feel my years of experience as Clerk-Treasurer would serve the citizens of the City of LaPorte during these challenging fiscal times. My background is in government accounting. I worked for LaPorte County EMS for five years as the Administrative Assistant to the EMS Director which included budgetary responsibilities. I have been the Clerk-Treasurer for the City of LaPorte since 1998 and have worked in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office since 1988

where I began my career with the City as the Payroll Administrator and shortly thereafter became the Chief Deputy. My experience is built on hundreds of hours of training in municipal finance and budgetary software.

JOE MROZINSKE

I am running for City Council because I want to make a difference. I was born in an era where it was an honor to serve on the Council. Members such as Tom Nelson, Clay Turner, Ken Moryl, Pete Ford, and Jim Cloutier proudly served on the Council and demonstrated true civic virtue in their commitment to the city. In fact, it was Ken Moryl, my high school government teacher, who ultimately inspired my run for office by helping me generate an early interest in politics and government. From the interest generated in his classroom, I went on to Purdue University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. Upon graduation, I spent years in a family operated business and in the manufactured housing industry before settling down for ten years as an insurance claim investigator. I was not until the encouragement of my wife and family did I return to school to obtain my teaching certification where I was able to follow in the steps of my mentor, Ken Moryl, as his replacement at La Porte High School.

Like Ken, I take pride in my job. I arrive at school at 5:30 every morning to prepare for the new day and lesson with hope that it will be even better than the previous day. If I had one wish in this regard, it would be that one day a similar student will follow in my steps and do the same. I currently teach government and economics at La Porte High School. If elected to the Council, I feel that my skills and education will not only benefit our community but my experiences on the council will also enhance the learning environment in my classroom which will ultimately impact the community as well.

In regard to the top issues affecting the community, I feel that employment, infrastructure, and rising drug trafficking. In regard to employment, we need to come together and approach things from a position of strength. La Porte has many un- and underutilized resources. If elected to the council, I plan to bring a fresh perspective and some outside-the-box thinking to help tackle some of the difficult problems that continue to linger. In regard to infrastructure, we must find ways to address our deteriorating infrastructure while remaining fiscally responsible. Although it is nice to tackle a lot of tasks and spread the wealth when possible, we must be careful not to spread too thin and in effect try to put Band-Aids on gaping wounds. Finally, we must address the rising trafficking of drugs in the area. Yes, drugs are not a new issue, but how many jobs go unfilled because employers cannot find people to pass drug screens. From some perspectives that I have heard the actual number would be astonishing. We need to clamp down on the spread of drugs and I am certain our community would see improvements economically. Drugs are hurting our schools, our children, our neighborhoods, and our overall town pride.

A.C. PRESSLER

I am running for Council because I believe I can continue to make a difference. As a councilman I have drawn upon my ability to research all sides of an issue and reach effective compromises. Equally important, I am humble enough to admit when I am wrong and learn from my mistakes. Finally, my pride and commitment to La Porte is evidenced by my perfect Council meeting attendance record.

CARY KIRKHAM

I am a lifelong La Porte resident.

- Jobs. Making this town have a better business atmosphere. Not make it so hard for a company who wants to locate here.
- Leadership. Other than the previous administration I have never seen a city hall be very aggressive in their approach to solving the city's problems. It has been a "status Quo" mindset. Let's try to make things happen. If people are in a position of leadership in this community, let's make them accountable to the city and residents for the jobs they are supposed to be doing.
- Drugs. Not only the arrest and sentencing of drug problem we have in this community. There is too much of "ignore the problem and it will go away" mindset in this city.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

I am running because I care about this place called LaPorte, and believe it is not living up to its potential, and continues to fail to leverage all of its strengths that could make it a significantly better place for its citizens and businesses, and bring in well-heeled new residents and investors and jobs. I have a background in business, finance, and accounting. I have a B.S. in Accounting from DePaul University. I have a background in multiple entrepreneurial endeavors. I am a former federal credit union auditor/examiner. I have run a small business. I spend my waking hours reading corporate financial statements, and regularly speak with CFOs of micro and nano-cap small publicly traded companies. In recent years, I have been a professional activist investor. I am exceptionally well skilled with numbers, and intuitively knowledgeable in

valuing business entities. It is important, if we want business to grow and flourish in LaPorte, that at least some people in our government have business backgrounds. I do.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

I am running for re-election because I want to be active in the progress of the city. I now have four years of experience and have been very dedicated in my duties as a council person. I have served on the Finance Committee. The city is having a cash flow problem not a budget problem. I also attend the BID, redevelopment, park, and serve on the New Porte Landing Development Corp.

GLORIA THODE

I have lived all my life in LaPorte and would like to give back.

MIKE CONNER

Did not respond to the questionnaire.

RONALD MC ATEE

Why you are running for this office and what specific qualifications do you bring to the office you are seeking...

- I am running for this office because I feel like I need better representation and a voice in how things are going in La Porte. I recently retired after 40 years of teaching; therefore I now have the time, energy, and desire to help bring La Porte to a new/better place. I have a Master's Degree in Business Education which should prove to be of value as well.
- In your opinion, what are the top issues currently facing La Porte and how would you specifically address those issues? Jobs, brain drain, drugs, worsening infrastructure. In order to have the type of jobs for our citizens, we need to have a well-trained and drug free workforce. As I understand it, there ARE jobs in the city of La Porte, but not the right type of people to fill the positions. We need to attack the drug problem and provide the training necessary to get our existing work force to a better place. Drug treatment programs a LOCAL community college branch in town should help with that. As to worsening infrastructure, we need to prioritize from worst to best then go to fixing them in order.

ANDREA L. RENNER

I am running for this office because this community is important to me, this is where I choose to live & where I want to spend my life. I feel I can continue to make a positive contribution to the future of this wonderful city. I have been on the council for three terms. I have been on almost all city committees and gained much experience on exactly how all areas of a city function and how each department uses funds. I have been a member of the city's finance committee for over a decade. I have seen the city go through very difficult to understand and navigate budget processes. This is important as LaPorte continues to deal with hard budget issues.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

I am running to help the people of the 4th ward and the city. I have walked the whole 4th ward and people tell me La Porte is an unfriendly town with a bad attitude and things never get done or changed. A lot of people do not vote anymore because of this, they say why vote it is a waste of time. I am retired and I have the time it takes to be a good councilman. I worked at La Porte Sporting Goods for the last two years so I am familiar with business right up town. I have issues with the way this town spends its money. They would rather take out a 1.2 million dollar loan (the city's share), for construction of McClung road, (which only goes from 39-pole town), when it should take this money and help reconstruct-revitalize up town. I believe a lot more city business should be done by the city and should be encouraged for the people also. Local Business do more business locally. I believe too many restrictions are placed on existing businesses and on new business trying to get into this area. Downtown does not have to be dying like people say. I see the city council and Mayor needing a change in attitude, (all talk is not getting it done). It takes money and the city has to come up with its share even if the county tax money lags behind. If they are willing to float a loan for McClung road then why not for utilizing down town? I have no special ties in the political or business or backing areas. I just want to do the best job I can for the city. We need to keep the best people we can in the areas of Grants and on the GLEDC. I may not have answered all your questions and some of the technical stuff, I may not be up on. I will work with the council, the Mayor, Business people or anyone else to move La Porte (which means business), forward. I will not lie or make any false promises just to get elected. I hope you can read this and I haven't confused anyone. If you want me to come and explain myself I will. I am for the 4th ward and the city of La Porte. Republican, Democrat, or independent makes no difference to me. I can cooperate with anyone when it

comes to running the city, just so the city comes first. Thank you for being concerned enough to send me this questionnaire.

STEVE LUSCOMB

I am running because I enjoy serving my community and get satisfaction from helping the people of my ward. I have four years experience serving on the city council and take the job seriously and will continue to serve with common sense and learn all I can about the issues that come before me.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

I am the former councilman for the fifth ward. I enjoy being involved with solving people's issues, helping the city to move forward, and to improve the city.

#1a – In your opinion, what are the top issues currently facing La Porte and how would you specifically address those issues?

KATHY CHROBACK

Safe Neighborhoods. Using an aggressive approach to address our drug and gang problems, I would continue to implement the 5-Point Plan addressing illegal drug trafficking; gangs; higher than necessary traffic complaints; timely processing of warrants; and increasing code enforcement efforts.

The goal is to maintain a safe and desirable living and working environment for our citizens and improving the quality of life for our citizens and those who will invest in our City's future. Safe neighborhoods also include the repair of handicap ramps and sidewalk repairs all across our City.

Job Creation. I will continue to work closely with The Greater La Porte Economic Development Corp. (GLEDC) in new job creation; and most importantly, addressing the retention and expansion of business and industry in our City. I am committed to working in partnership with "The Alliance", the new county-wide economic development program focusing on retention and expansion of businesses across La Porte, Michigan City and La Porte County.

The development of NewPorte Landing will play a major role in new commercial and business development in the center of our downtown. Incorporating our City parks and the recreational areas around Clear Lake will be key to the success of NewPorte Landing.

BLAIR MILO

See above.

RENEE SCHERER

The top issue for the Clerk-Treasurer is the budget. The lack of tax money coming in did not happen overnight. I want to review the last six years of the city expenditures to give me an idea of the flow of money. On this, I will be basing a four year plan to help clean up the debts and to store money in accounts. I want to help advisor the Mayor and the council or should I say guide them out of financial straits so their dreams of a stronger LaPorte is our future.

I believe working with numbers is an art. I am also interested in looking at the cost of the cities fixed assets and see what can be done to use them to their fullest or look at other options. I would like to work with the departments on helping them with looking. Also, I would like to apply for grants to better their service and lessen the burden on tax payers.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

As the Clerk-Treasurer, I see many issues that the City of LaPorte is facing; however, this position by State law does not establish policy or have voting powers. Issues specifically relating to the Clerk-Treasurer's Office are the implementation of the State issued tax caps and the fact that tax bills are not current. It is essential that the Clerk-Treasurer track financial information in order to forecast the City's financial future.

JOE MROZINSKE

See above.

A.C. PRESSLER

I believe there are 2 key issues facing La Porte, 1. The delayed tax assessment and corresponding delinquent tax draws. 2. Neighborhood blight.

1. I have worked with the State Legislature to hold County Government accountable for the inactions which have caused the delinquent tax draws. Currently the County is on a schedule to get tax bills back on track and we thank them for their recognition and cooperation.
2. Neighborhood blight has caused reductions in property values, increased neighborhood crime and increased drug usage. To fight the blight we need to give our police officers the tools to combat crime. While throwing money at the problem won't fix it, wisely investing those dollars in quality personnel and policies will fix the problem. Equally important is an aggressive, yet fair Code Enforcement department. The blight hasn't occurred over night so the cure won't be over night either. Perseverance, patience and hard work will overcome the dilemma. Our Police officers are up to the challenges and as a Council member, I am too.

CARY KIRKHAM

See above.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

We all want high paying jobs. That's a huge issue. But we will get them by understanding La Porte's strengths, and how to take advantage of them. La Porte's strengths are its: 1) built legacy of historic houses and historic downtown core 2) park system and lakes, 3) location near major highways and off major railroads. We are not leveraging those strengths, because of deteriorated infrastructure (sidewalks, curbs, etc.), and because of poor upkeep of buildings in our downtown, and (particularly) on East Lincolnway, giving our city a poor image to outsiders, compromising confidence, and limiting potential investment. (If they wouldn't want to LIVE here, would they want to INVEST here?) The city must take an interest by using both carrot and stick (downtown facade grants and code enforcement) to go after the worst buildings in the downtown, and "create momentum," thereby encouraging additional investment in the downtown, and "priming the pump." The condition of the benches and garbage cans is atrocious, and they should be immediately refurbished or replaced. East Lincolnway should be "cleaned up," and "greened up," through public private partnerships, code enforcement, and/or Enterprise Zone grants, and just plain "jawboning" of owners by city officials to encourage pride of upkeep. The city's strength is its (withered) charm. That needs to be brought back to as strong a position as possible, so that LaPorte is seen as a "special place" again, attracting newcomers, new investors, and well heeled bedroom community types. The jobs will follow...if we make LaPorte the "shining city on a hill" it can be. It is the mayor's job, but the Council's also, to ROOT OUT these kind of items that compromise our potential. Simply put, the city will not become what it needs to be, if it continues to underinvest in itself. That, fundamentally, limits our growth potential.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

I think the top issues facing this city are employment, drug use, and infrastructure. As a council person I work with constituents to help keep compliance with city codes. I keep direct contact with department heads to forward any issues that arise. I want to keep the city safe and eye pleasing for everyone. I am serving on the New Porte Landing

GLORIA THODE

I have a Business minor and Sociology/Social Work BA from Purdue. I also attended Indiana University and earned a Masters in Social Work with concentration in Leadership. In 2003 I was chosen from 60 women in the State of Indiana, who had applied for a program called Excellence in Public Service. Only 14 women were chosen for the year long program that was established under Senator Richard Lugar. I studied politics once a month in Indianapolis, Indiana for one year. At the end of the year we all traveled to Washington D.C. We met many people and attended meetings on the Hill discussing the future of the United States of America.

RONALD MC ATEE

See above.

ANDREA L. RENNER

The top issue facing us right now is finances. The problems facing us all come down to the current financial situation. I feel that as a collective we are doing the best we can to work through a situation that is not of our doing. We need people who are familiar a government budget, as it is vastly different that any other kind of budget.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

See above.

STEVE LUSCOMB

Job creation is very important along with getting our full tax draws from La Porte county so we can address quality of life issues for the citizens of La Porte from public safety issues to code enforcement. Working with the rest of the council and the mayor to bring positive changes to the city as a whole will be a high priority.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Bringing in jobs, crime, financial issues are the top issues currently facing La Porte.

#2 – How do you improve the financial situation of the City of La Porte?

KATHY CHROBACK

Having operated with 8 balanced budgets I have developed a hands-on understanding of the City's finances. This skill is absolutely critical during this period of county ineptitude in billing and collecting our property taxes. Our challenge has been managing the city with limited cash flow to support our balanced budget. I will continue to work closely with the Clerk Treasurers Office as we prioritize the operating needs of the city departments to provide the necessary services to its' residents.

BLAIR MILO

Improving La Porte's financial situation requires a multi-faceted approach as our financial situation is directly impacted by many aspects of the community. First and foremost, by creating opportunities for taxpayers to earn more money, the City's share of tax dollars is directly correlated and thus increases without raising taxes. In the interim, as we work toward building an environment that creates more jobs that pay higher wages, the City must look to innovative sources of funding. Opportunities exist for funding specific projects through public and private grants, partnering with other public and private entities as well as decreasing costs through innovative, low-costs processes.

RENEE SCHERER

I believe if we show fiscal responsibility we may be able to work with the county not against them in finding a solution till all the money is released. Cooperation is a key goal.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

I have and will continue to recommend to the Mayor and the Council budget reductions. County government is not providing the tax money as required by law. The City is living on borrowed money. How long could an individual survive on not receiving a timely paycheck for three years?

JOE MROZINSKE

I look upon the financial situation as a challenge rather than an obstacle. The property tax situation in the county, the struggling national economy, high utility rates, and other factors combined have forced the city to make serious cuts in budgets as well as borrow money to meet its needs. In spite of these challenges, La Porte has done well to stay afloat. As a member of the council, I will work hard with our mayor, fellow council members, department heads, and most importantly our community to improve the ways we arusing our resources to the best potential. La Porte has many resources.

A.C. PRESSLER

First and foremost, the City needs to return to a proper tax collection schedule. Secondly, the budgets are stretched too thin to effectively provide services. Monies which must be spent to replace worn out equipment has been used to repair obsolete equipment and sometimes those monies have been eliminated from respective budgets. This practice should be reversed. New and quality equipment often improves productivity and leaves for a better overall product for the taxpayer. Through a proper and funded replacement and maintenance schedule a responsible budget can be maintained.

CARY KIRKHAM

Growth! Entice companies to come. See what they need and if it does not put a financial burden on the city, let's do it. Also continue to streamline our city departments without lowering the quality of life.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

We need to use lease financings (outside regular General Obligation Bonding limits), and consider even Barrett Bonding for critical infrastructure needs. Passing additional costs through the city water and/or sewer department is a possibility (also outside the regular bonding limits, since it is rate-payer based). The city needs to push for the return of tax sale of properties that are delinquent on taxes, so that monies that are owed can be collected, and the borrowing from the Indiana Bond bank can be paid off. Audits of city departments, to determine if work methods are as efficient as they can

be, expenditures are reasonable, and to compare La Porte's city departments to its peer cities, are also needed, and really not done at all. This would serve to further reduce costs, and increase efficiencies.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

The financial situation is a cash flow problem not a budget problem. When the city is not getting the appropriations it is supposed to get then the budget has to be cut.

GLORIA THODE

You bring in new ideas and new businesses and nurture the businesses that exist

RONALD MC ATEE

How do you improve the financial situation of the City of La Porte? The first step would be to make sure that the county tax situations DOES NOT happen again. In the meantime and until the city taxes are flowing correctly, we need to try and bolster the tax basis that we correctly have by being a business friendly city.

ANDREA L. RENNER

We have options. We have tried in the past to get a local option. The County did not agree to give us this option to help our citizens in a situation mainly created at the county level. A local option would help alleviate some of the problem. I also feel that the city, at the end of this long road, should seek reimbursement for the interest we have had to pay on the borrowed funds. It is not fair that the money of the citizens of LaPorte should be used to cover the interest that is necessary because of a situation created outside of the city, but that the city has to suffer through.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

The role is a very big role. For tax breaks and showing the willingness of city backing.

STEVE LUSCOMB

Creating a business freindly atmosphere for the long term for new and existing businesses.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

You need to lower expenditures, improve you tax base by adding business's to the tax roll. Also develop property, and Newport landing so we don't have empty land that could be developed.

#3 – What role do you feel your elected office plays in economic development?

KATHY CHROBACK

During my first administration I was successful in working with the Chamber of Commerce in a joint effort to fill the Thomas Rose Industrial Park. The Greater La Porte Economic Development Corp. was founded under my administration and it, in cooperation with the Chamber, has been the leader in the City's economic development efforts. GLEDC has also worked in a cooperative effort with Michigan City and La Porte County to provide economic development throughout the County.

The unprecedented county tax problem has reduced resources and distracted from economic development. However, as the County works its way through its problems, the City needs to re-concentrate efforts on economic development. Additional lands must be sought in order to provide locations for small to medium size industry.

BLAIR MILO

As the leader of the City, the Mayor must play a very active role in economic development. Each part of the community impacted by City government decisions influences economic development by contributing to the overall attractiveness of the city for current and future employers. As the head of the community, as well as the CEO of the City as a business, the Mayor sets the tone for economic development amongst city employees or representatives. By ensuring each department is operating at peak efficiency and effectiveness for the betterment of the city, ensuring customer satisfaction amongst the citizenry, economic development is impacted by increasing La Porte's marketability. Additionally, the mayor should build relationships with local employers, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, state and local government officials, as well as potential future employers to ensure the attributes of continuing, starting, relocating or growing a business in La Porte are realized. Specific details and negotiations for future development, however, should be coordinated primarily through economic development professionals or a business ombudsman with mayoral awareness and input.

RENEE SCHERER

I feel the job plays an important role. What company would want to come to La Porte during this time of trouble? I would like to look at other sources of revenue from federal funds. For example, the community development block grant programs. I would like to obtain these grants. I would like to look over the debts, revenues, bonds, and fixed assets. This could help relieve some stress of the mayor and council, so they can concentrate on the business of managing the city's affairs without the worrying of running out of money. Our city employees would feel better about their jobs, and their future, if the city's financial future is secured. Our residents won't have to read about the city's woes. If we can accomplish these objectives the word would spread and the city would more for business.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

A City government that is fiscally responsible and on solid ground is an attraction for new businesses.

JOE MROZINSKE

As a member of the council, I feel that my role in economic development is to create an environment for business and industry to succeed. This includes but is not limited to maintaining and improving municipal services, working with business leaders and developers on infrastructure improvements and modifications, and fostering education programs and initiatives that will improve the employment base now and in the future. With that said, I do not believe it is the role of the council or the mayor to create jobs, rather our job is to provide support within the scope or our elected representative power.

A.C. PRESSLER

As a Council member we must be willing to use the tools we have to entice businesses. La Porte has a history of being willing to grant tax abatements to new and improving businesses. Having this reputation is an asset to GLEDC when courting new industry to the area. I feel this practice must be continued.

Equally important is a proper and well maintained quality of life. Companies want to locate to places which have nice parks, nice roads and well funded public safety departments. If these things are in place, employers know that a quality work force is nearby. As Council members, we must properly fund those departments as to maintain and improve the quality of life for all.

CARY KIRKHAM

We must help the major and our city's departments do their jobs. Listen to the residents and be discerning as to their needs. If it is a proud and efficient city it will attract businesses.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

See #1 above. But also, the job of city officials is to control what the city truly can control. Appearance of the downtown city core (make it as attractive as possible), and the major byways leading into the city are important. Keeping the city as crime free as possible. Providing a positive "welcome," and a sense of "can do" to prospective businesses (especially with regard to TIF financing options), and those "kicking the tires." We must show them that this is a place of "values," and community...a great place to live. And that LaPorte is forward-looking and dynamic.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

My role as council person is to work with the mayor and clerk to try to get the tax flow on schedule. I have to consider tax abatements which is an important tool for economic development. Also to consider funding for extending water and sewer. We have to hopefully support new businesses that want to come in.

GLORIA THODE

My role as an elected official will not only be representing the 2nd Ward of the City of LaPorte but the interest of the future of LaPorte. Economic development is not just the responsibility of the LaPorte City Council but of LaPorte Chamber of Commerce, LaPorte County Council, the State of Indiana, Business people and anyone who has an investment of the future of this town.

RONALD MC ATEE

What role do you feel your elected office plays in economic development? As an elected official, I feel that I should be a good listener to who are "in the trenches" and offer what assistance an elected official can turn around the current situation.

ANDREA L. RENNER

The city council plays a strong roll in economic development. While the council may not be involved in the day to day planning and recruitment, we are the body that can grant abatement's. This is key in attracting and keeping business.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

The steps the Mayor takes is all need to listen and cooperate no matter the party.

STEVE LUSCOMB

One of the roles a councilperson has is that it is essential to consider how city policies support or discourage economical development goals.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

The council's role is to do tax abatements, make sure the city is financial viable companies when they want to come to town. Make sure that taxes are low as possible, insure the city is business friendly, and expand the cities tax base.

#4 – What do you see as the role for:

#4a –City Council?

KATHY CHROBACK

Once elected, members of the City Council need to work together for the betterment of the City. Also, working with the Mayor's Office, the Clerk Treasurer's Office and the City Department Heads is key to providing the best services we can under the constraints of the City's budget.

BLAIR MILO

The primary roles of the City Council are, but are not limited, to:

- Pass resolutions and ordinances
- Appropriate funds
- Provide legislative oversight
- Represent issues for discussion concerning their district and the city overall
- Help chart an annual city plan and strategy

RENEE SCHERER

The City Council makes the ordinances and laws to help with the city operation, maintenance and the care of the town to bring in business and to have a safe place to live.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

The City Council is both the legislative and fiscal bodies. I assist the City Council in developing the annual budget and advise them as to the need to reduce budgets when tax and miscellaneous revenues do not meet projections.

JOE MROZINSKE

I see the City Council as the true voice for the community. Teamwork is the key to success for La Porte and the Council is the means for the community to come together and have their voices heard. Furthermore, Council members should practice the model of servant leadership rather I intend to lead by example

A.C. PRESSLER

The Council must provide the necessary tools for government to run effectively and challenge the status quo to force government to run efficiently. Furthermore the Council must be wise to resist the urge to over legislate and pass only the laws necessary to improve the quality of life for all.

CARY KIRKHAM

No answer provided.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

As a legislative body, Council's role is to "vet" mayoral initiatives, but also to provide leadership independently. A council person is a budget person, a legislator, and a representative of his constituency and the needs and concerns of the people. He is the citizen's connection to his government.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

The role of the city council is to work together as a team for the betterment of the city.

GLORIA THODE

I would hope that anyone that runs for public office would be in it for the best interest of La Porte. Too many times and too many people hold positions just to collect a check. To give you a job description of each position would be cumbersome. If the people of La Porte do not believe a person is doing their job that they were elected to, they should vote them out.

RONALD MC ATEE

To facilitate the Mayor in making La Porte the best business and citizen friendly environment that it can be.

ANDREA L. RENNER

Is the Financial body of the city. We also pass local laws.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

It is hard to teach people pride and responsibility, have periodic meeting with home owners and landlords.

STEVE LUSCOMB

Budgetary concerns, working on ordinances and one on one help with citizen concerns.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Needs to pass legislation that benefits everyone in the city. Be the voice of the constituents in the city. Make sound financial decisions.

#4b – Mayor?

KATHY CHROBACK

Managing the day to day operation of the City, currently strained by the City's cash flow, is vital. As stated in answer No. 1, the Mayor oversees the operation of the Police and Fire departments, Water and Sewer departments, Street and Park departments, a Transportation department, and an Engineering and Planning department. Communicating and coordinating all city activities while keeping a close eye on expenditures and making smart fiscal decisions on a day to day basis makes for a very efficient and effective government.

BLAIR MILO

The primary roles of the Mayor are, but are not limited, to:

- Provide leadership to the community
- Lead the efforts to develop an annual strategic plan for the city with coordination from City Council members, Clerk-Treasurer, Department Heads, Board of Public Works and other key individuals
- Provide leadership to the city as a business entity
- Enforce the ordinances and laws of the city, state and federal government
- Provide any information requested from City officials, employees, and citizens
- Appoint respective officials

RENEE SCHERER

The Mayor is responsible for the overall operation of the city government. The mayor sets the tone for the council and Clerk which will trickle down to the employees.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

The Mayor is responsible for the overall operation of City government. Ensuring efficient government.

JOE MROZINSKE

The Mayor is the executive of the city. It is the duty of our Mayor to represent our city with the highest degree of professionalism, demonstrate strong leadership skills, and be accessible to the community.

A.C. PRESSLER

The Mayor must live within the budget set by the Council. The Mayor must be a leader and a planner with the fortitude to be effective. The Mayor must appoint department heads who share the vision and embrace the cause as spelled out in the City's Master Plan. Finally, the Mayor must act with the best interest of the community at hand and be willing to listen to all persons on each issue.

CARY KIRKHAM

Be a leader. Step up and take responsibility, make those hard decisions. Don't try to be a friend to everyone.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Leader in chief. Provide tone and direction for the city. Vision, and the will to carry it out, are critically needed by LaPorte, at this time, but unfortunately, lacking.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

The mayor's role is to keep everyone informed of all issues and keep them working together.

GLORIA THODE

See Question 4 a.

RONALD MC ATEE

To be the active and dynamic face to the city with a vision of where La Porte should be going.

ANDREA L. RENNER

Runs the city on day to day business.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

See Question 4 a.

STEVE LUSCOMB

Provide leadership. Creating and maintaining positive relationships with local businesses. Promotion of the city and addressing citizen concerns as a whole.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Enforce law's that the council pass's. Be the cities voice for economic development. Make sure the city runs smoothly and it runs cost efficiently.

#4c – Clerk Treasurer?

KATHY CHROBACK

The Clerk-Treasurer is the hands-on budgetary official, responsible for overseeing the daily cash flow activities of the City, in addition to keeping the City's financial statements legal and in good standing with the State Board of Accounts.

BLAIR MILO

The primary roles of the Clerk-Treasurer are, but are not limited, to:

- Maintain records of all City Council, Board of Public Works, Standing Committee and other required meetings
- Maintain all financial records and dealings of the City
- Serve as the fiscal officer of the City

RENEE SCHERER

The Clerk-Treasurer is the keeper of the records, ordinances and the financial departments. This person should keep the city financially sound. This frees up the council and Mayor to concern themselves with the public and presenting the city to prospective business. There is more and specific rules and duties listed in the Indiana Elected Municipal Officials Handbook. I have read the duties of these offices.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

The Clerk-Treasurer acts as the Chief Financial Officer for the City of LaPorte. No other elected municipal duties are as specifically defined by law as the duties of the Clerk-Treasurer. This person is responsible for the overall collection and disbursement of funds, the administration of the accounting system, the signing of checks or warrants, the preparation of periodic reports to Council, and will serve as the investment coordinator for your municipal treasury. The Clerk-Treasurer is the secretary to the Council and Board of Public Works and Safety, custodian of municipal records, issuer of licenses. The Clerk-Treasurer needs to know State statues pertaining to City government.

JOE MROZINSKE

The Clerk Treasurer is a very valuable position as it is responsible for maintaining the finances of the city. This position must be able to work collaboratively with the Mayor, the Board of Public Works, and the City Council. Knowledge and experience is vital in performing these duties.

A.C. PRESSLER

The Clerk should keep accurate and prompt records of all meetings. The Clerk should also maintain accurate records and balances of all funds. Additionally, the Clerk should provide the Council and Mayor with an accurate financial picture of the City's finances. Finally, the Clerk must be receptive to the request of the public and serve at the pleasure of the people.

CARY KIRKHAM

Be accountable to the city for investments and expenditures. Be truthful to the B.O.W. and to the council if the money is not there or never will be. Say yes we can or no we can't.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Self-evident. The city's financial "integrity." Much confidence is vested in this office. Has an underappreciated role for helping city determine funding sources. Not typically an office that plays a role in determining specific priorities.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

Clerk-Treasurer needs to keep everyone informed of the financial status of the city.

GLORIA THODE

See Question 4 a.

RONALD MC ATEE

To keep an accurate and up-to-date set of records, that leave no question about what and where the finances are.

ANDREA L. RENNER

Is the Financial leader/record keeper of the city.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

See Question 4 a.

STEVE LUSCOMB

Financial affairs of the city , annual budgets and following through on the clerks duties.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Takes and maintains meeting minutes, properly document how money is spent and where. Take in all cash city lakes.

#4d – Board of Public Works and Safety?

KATHY CHROBACK

The Board of Public Works and Safety is responsible for making all City executive decisions, authorizing and approving all daily expenditures and overseeing and approving all capital projects in the City.

BLAIR MILO

The primary roles of the Board of Public Works and Safety are, but are not limited, to:

- Review significant expenditures to ensure they are necessary and appropriate
- Approve capital projects
- Approve the acquisition and transfer of funds and/or assets
- Approve the expenditure of general obligation bond funds
- Control procurement policy, adopt procurement regulations, and reviews most procurement contracts
- Issue appropriate licenses, permits or general required permissions

RENEE SCHERER

The Board of Public Works and Safety is the extension of the Mayor.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

The Board of Works oversees all the major departments of the City including its Utility Department, Street Department, Transportation Department, Police and Fire Departments. The Board of Works also is the primary contracting agency for the City of LaPorte, and I advise the Board of Works as to whether there are sufficient funds available to meet contract needs.

JOE MROZINSKE

The Board of Public Works and Safety is responsible for running the day to day operations of the city. Knowledge and experience essential attributes for members of this executive body.

A.C. PRESSLER

The BPW&S must work to operate within the budget adopted by the Council. Additionally, the Board must maintain a high regard for making decisions which positively affect the quality of life. Finally, they must seek and embrace all opportunities to attain grants and matching fund opportunities for the City. This action will make each dollar budgeted stretch a little farther.

CARY KIRKHAM

Make it a board that is not just “yes” people. Make those hard decisions. Does it make a difference for this city? Does it improve the city or is it just a makeover hiding the bigger problems.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Overseas day to day operations of the city. Directs planning for major projects, capital purchases, etc.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

Board of Works addresses day to day operations of the city. All major projects come before it.

GLORIA THODE

See Question 4 a.

RONALD MC ATEE

Board of Public Works and Safety? To facilitate the Mayor and City Council in running the city.

ANDREA L. RENNER

Is the day to day business side of the city.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

See Question 4 a.

STEVE LUSCOMB

Provide public service and improve the quality of life for the citizens which include the week to week management of the city.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Investigate and accept/reject contracts. Help Major run the city.

#5 – Explain your vision for revitalization of Downtown area and strengthening the downtown businesses?

KATHY CHROBACK

There are many programs available to downtown business owners to help improve and enhance the buildings and businesses in the downtown area. Working closely with the downtown business district and educating them on the programs available to them is key to the success of our downtown area. Many new stores have opened up shop in recent months. The City and the Enterprise Zone must continue to work closely with the downtown BID district in an effort to improve, beautify and grow our downtown business district. The recent successes, such as Second Saturday, have helped promote our downtown businesses outside our community. We are working with the La Porte County Convention and Visitors Bureau in an effort to help market our downtown and what it has to offer.

BLAIR MILO

Revitalizing La Porte’s downtown and strengthening it as a business district is commensurate with my plan for attracting

different types of businesses and jobs to the entire city. I recently published an article on my website titled “Why Washington Can’t Fix Jobs, but Cities Can,” where I detailed how local governments must begin to restore citizens’ faith in a functional government that adequately provides for its residents. The key fundamentals a local government must do to increasing a variety of job are as follows:

- **Get the blocking and tackling right first.** Residents and businesses need a solid base to build and live from. That means providing streets safe from criminals, protection from fires and other emergencies, roads that won’t tear up your vehicle because they’re riddled with potholes, uninterrupted water and sewer services, and routine trash, leaves or snow removal. It requires enforcing codes which eliminate blighted neighborhoods that foster illegal activity. And it takes the proper planning to make sure all of these services can continue to occur despite external funding challenges.
- **It’s already difficult to open a business – don’t make it harder.** Building start-up capital, researching corporate or business tax requirements and determining the most advantageous company location are just a drop in the bucket of all the actions a new business owner has to accomplish. Consolidating government requirements into one location and offering assistance through the start-up process makes the idea of turning a dream into reality much more palatable and possible for a new entrepreneur. Leverage the use of technology to make resources and requirements available in one easy-to-find location and assign an individual to make the process simpler. Thousands of cities across the country are integrating a city business ombudsman into their ranks to escort businesses through the network of local, regional, state and federal agencies and regulations. The business ombudsman serves as the liaison between the city and its business community, and addresses the questions and concerns of local businesses, guaranteeing that the city’s merchants receive prompt and complete responses.
- **Don’t reinvent the wheel - utilize your network of resources.** Innovation is crucial for the advancement of society, but oftentimes just applying the lessons learned from others is equally effective. Since we live in such an interconnected, globalized society, chances are other entities have implemented ideas and found them successful, terrible or somewhere in between. Individuals from other government offices (local, state and federal), trade associations, economic development organizations, etc. are often willing to share ideas and lessons learned.
- By tapping into those resources it expands our horizons for possibility and opportunity. By reaching out to those other entities, we can learn from their successes and failures, avoid pitfalls and innovate locally.
- **Capitalize on your strengths and strengthen your weaknesses.** Cities that have outstanding geographic and community assets are already ahead in the game. In La Porte, we are blessed with innumerable assets, like our beautiful lakes and parks and our robust community outreach improve our citizens’ quality of life. Utilize those assets to build up the weaknesses. Example: when the city questioned its ability to fund some of its summer education programs, the YMCA offered to partner with the city to ensure youth programs were available. Unfortunately the city turned them down. A community that is attractive to raise a family in is attractive to open a business in. Cultivate those assets and market them aggressively to attract a variety of new businesses and employers.
- **Set a standard and stick to it (including the city).** Cities cannot expect their citizens to adhere to codes, ordinances and regulations if they themselves do not. It violates the basic leadership principle that says a “Do as I say, not as I do” mentality will always fail. Additionally, if some individuals or entities are allowed liberties or leniency that others are not – enforcement becomes toothless. Additionally, by holding everyone to the same applicable standards, much less effort is required in keeping track of who’s been permitted to do what.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

Even though this does not pertain to the Clerk-Treasurer’s position, I believe by working with the Mayor, Council and GLEDC and other entities to promote the financial stability of our community we will be able to not only bring in new businesses but we will be able to help our current businesses thrive. Currently, I partner with the Redevelopment Commission in managing and investing the TIF’s funds.

JOE MROZINSKE

The heart of La Porte has always rested with the Downtown area. While economic trends have created some obstacles, La Porte still has some outstanding assets. With the rise in popularity of such programs as the Antique Roadshow, Pawn Stars, and American Pickers, there has been a greater demand for nostalgia-based merchandise. Our collection of antique dealers, family-style cafes, and art galleries can provide an excellent marketing tool and foundation for future development. In

addition, I believe the hospital now under Indiana University can be an important tool in the area of economic development especially that the demand for healthcare services increases due to the demands of the aging baby-boomer population.

A.C. PRESSLER

The integrity of our downtown atmosphere must be maintained. A standardization in architecture and improvements will provide for an aesthetically pleasing downtown atmosphere. Enhancing the current cache of shops and restaurants will help maintain the uniqueness of the downtown and further attract shoppers.

CARY KIRKHAM

We need an "attraction" for downtown. Something, to bring people downtown. It may be a franchise restaurant "Chili's, Applebee's, Friday's or a similar type of restaurant. It may be some kind of a small concert hall, with maybe a dinner and show package. Maybe, some kind of friendly storefront Christmas decoration competition. Letting churches and social clubs decorate the empty storefronts.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

See #1 above. Keeping the downtown improvements cleaner. Replacing/fixing benches/garbage cans, targeting Enterprise Zone money to worst buildings. Enhanced code enforcement on worst violators. Partnering with People Engaged in Preservation, E-Zone, and other private entities, to encourage "high profile" restoration and/or painting work. "Priming the pump," and giving potential investors a sense that LaPorte is SYSTEMATICALLY working to "upscale" the downtown, as a "boutique" district. Maintaining requirements for historic color palette, and design review, for downtown facades. Updating sign ordinance to allow for more "old style" signage. Replacing downtown street light bulb with bulb with more ambiance, to encourage more "upscale" residential living (and nightlife) downtown. Systematically LEVERAGE the investments that have been made to date. Go after the eyesores, and anything that undermines the district as a whole. Continue to support Second Saturdays, and other special events that associate downtown, in peoples' minds, as a "special place"....and the soul of our community. Banning train whistles, to get that noise pollution out of downtown, and facilitate a more pleasant shopping/eating/entertainment experience. Systematically wooing specific kinds of businesses that will allow the downtown to attain a certain "critical mass," that encourages people to come back more often.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

My vision for revitalization of the downtown area is to have small and unique businesses to come in. There also needs to be collaboration of all the businesses to make the downtown stronger.

GLORIA THODE

I know Fran Milo along with other people have had a great positive impact for downtown LaPorte. I am going to seek their opinions and support that committee.

RONALD MC ATEE

My vision would be to get truck traffic OUT of the downtown area. With the impending intermodal, traffic in the downtown area will continue to get much worse. Studies have already shown that downtown traffic was receiving a failing grade by INDOT standards, and the intermodal will not help that grade. With truck traffic gone, then we won't have to worry about the doors of our cars being taken off and foot traffic should come back. Other problems are the worsening condition of waste receptacles and benches, empty store fronts, and boarded up windows. Potential business owners looking at plywood covered windows and run down infrastructure will not feel that La Porte is a vibrant place to come. Let's do something like other cities are requiring by decorating the windows with scenes that remind people what used to be there. Get the artists in town to decorate and even involve the schools in this project.

ANDREA L. RENNER

I feel that our downtown is growing. We are on the path. The bid district has helped restore some luster to the downtown area.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

A bigger role if the down town is revitalized.

STEVE LUSCOMB

Support the unique businesses we have established and listen to the needs of those businesses. Working together with the whole of city government to bring forth and positive changes we can.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Speak to business owners to find out what they need. What would encourage them to rehabilitate their business. Then try implementing them if physically possible.

#6 – What steps can a Mayor take to assure cooperation between the executive and the City Council and City Clerk regardless of the political make-up of the City Council?

KATHY CHROBACK

During the time I have served on the City Council and during the time as Mayor I have always cooperated with and encouraged cooperation amongst all elected officials. I have had a particularly good working relationship with the Clerk-Treasurer of the City of La Porte, who is a republican. That cooperative effort between elected officials of different parties has been critical to the City. Most issues that come before local government are issues that are neither democrat nor republican. When the phone rings we don't ask why. It's simply about getting the business of government done.

BLAIR MILO

No political party has a monopoly on good ideas. The future success of La Porte hinges on our ability to work together as a team to address the challenges we face. While we won't always agree, a teamwork that encourages different types of ideas while respecting alternative views is much more apt to succeed in generating creative solutions. Focusing on the positives of an idea before working through concerns, will help alleviate many conflicts and keep the emphasis on the merit of ideas rather than any personality conflicts.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

I believe open communication and transparency are imperative. As Clerk-Treasurer I will continue to show respect to other elected officials. I believe we need to work together as a team for the betterment of our community and I will ensure each team member is recognized for their contributions.

JOE MROZINSKE

The Mayor must simply lead by example. If elected to the Council, I pledge to work with all members regardless of party affiliation. I plan to follow the service model rather than the power model of leadership and will encourage all members to do the same.

A.C. PRESSLER

Open and effective communication is a must. The mayor must be willing to listen to council members and the Council as a whole. Without listening, trust cannot be born, without trust, cooperation cannot exist. Without listening, trust and cooperation, government cannot be effective.

CARY KIRKHAM

Be a leader. Make decisions that are right for the entire city and not just a select few. People will follow a strong leader.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Constant communication. Open door policy. Show through example that it is about the CITY, and not who wields the power. Lead through example.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

The ideal situation would be total communication on all issues with all members.

GLORIA THODE

There is not a guarantee a Mayor will get along with anyone.

RONALD MC ATEE

Open and honest discussions and a vision of what is good for La Porte would go a long way.

ANDREA L. RENNER

Our current mayor had done a good job of this. A mayor should always keep the entire elected body of the city "in the loop". E-mails, phone calls, and meetings to discuss issues before the city are key.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

Go right to local Businesses and ask them what specific training is needed.

STEVE LUSCOMB

Serving with openness and keeping ideas and information flowing through all channels. Embracing the best ideas regardless of where they originated from as long as it benefits the city as a whole.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Communication- Speak to the council and be honest about why things need to be done.

#7 – Many of our neighborhoods are starting to deteriorate. What steps would you take to improve the conditions of our neighborhoods?

KATHY CHROBACK

The downturn in the economy has created many challenges for home owners. I will continue to work in partnership with our citizens to adopt and practice “The Good Neighbor Policy”. Maintaining the City’s Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) is vital for neighborhood improvements. In addition, our Code Enforcement Office works on educating the citizens, landlords and property owners on our City’s codes and the reasons for their adoption. Our goal is to maintain a safe and desirable living and working environment. Working with residents, although challenging at times, is the most productive avenue to improve our neighborhoods. When all else fails, however, enforcing the city codes by imposing fines becomes a necessity.

BLAIR MILO

Improved code enforcement is critical for addressing deteriorating, blighted neighborhoods. Allowing neighborhoods where rules are not enforced fosters an environment that not only has an unattractive appearance, but welcomes illicit activity and crime. We have codes and ordinances on record that must be enforced in order to decrease the presence of illegal drugs and crime.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

The City must continue obtaining Community Development Block Grant Funding in order to help our residents improve their neighborhoods. I will assist in seeking new funding to further this effort.

JOE MROZINSKE

Deteriorated homes not only hurt the homeowner, but the community as well and it lowers property values and can lead to increases in insurance rates. While I understand that financial hardships often are to blame for much of the lack of maintenance on the part of some homeowners, I would like to explore programs and grants that could provide assistance, especially for those on a fixed income. In the case of those just neglecting their property, I would push for greater compliance of municipal ordinances. Furthermore, I would be a strong advocate for stricter penalties and the reduction or elimination of extensions for property violations.

A.C. PRESSLER

Three equally important standards must be embraced for the reversal to be successful. 1) Properly funding and supporting our police officers. 2) An effective code enforcement department. 3) The ability to properly maintain the area sidewalks, streets and trees. Pride is something to be embraced by the citizens and its government. Without pride, planning, commitment and adequate funding nothing will change.

CARY KIRKHAM

Have the code enforcement officer do his job aggressively. Many of the situations just take a little physical labor to clean up.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Code Enforcement needs to be beefed up. More fines, for violators, and actually COLLECTING those fines. In this way, the department can afford any additional personnel needed. (It can be self-funding.) Target E-Zone grants, and CDBG grants to the worst situations, to make the biggest difference possible, and show that the city wants to be helpful, and not

just "the heavy." With interest rates at multi-generational lows, consider major public works programs (sidewalks, improved signaling at train crossings, curbs, etc.), through sale of long term bonds.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

I feel code enforcement is very important. We need to make an effort to enforce them.

GLORIA THODE

This is a complex question with no easy or simple solution. If LPAC is concerned for the welfare of the deterioration of LaPorte I would encourage them to attend the Forums concerning Drugs that have been publicly announced. That's one solution. Second if it is the deterioration of buildings, isn't there building codes that should be followed? I am not sure exactly what your question is targeting? Buildings, drugs, families, homes that have been turned into apartments, I really don't know what this question means.

RONALD MC ATEE

Prioritize the problems and let everyone have a say, then set about fixing them in order, enforce the city codes that already exist, and try to instill pride in the citizens.

ANDREA L. RENNER

Many years ago we had community action days, where citizens came out and cleaned up an area of the city or cleaned up around the neighborhoods. I would like to see us start that up again. I would also like to see more education about how to care for our infrastructure available. Also, I would like see the Code Enforcement Department get more help in looking out for the things happening around our city that damage our infrastructure.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

They benefit the whole city and be long term.

STEVE LUSCOMB

I choose not to condemn entire neighborhoods because of problem areas. Many homeowners are trying their best to keep up with their properties in these hard economic times. With continued help from CDBG grants and other programs and perhaps a retooling of code enforcement to meet the troubled spots with tougher enforcement we can make a bigger difference.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Communicate with residences about grant programs the city has to help improve their houses. Work with landlords on renter issues and them maintain their houses.

#8 – What are your plans on developing a 5 year annexation plan for the City?

KATHY CHROBACK

Developing a plan for annexation is the key to the City's growth. Much discussion has gone into annexation and plans are on the books for such. However, expanding the City's boundaries creates many challenges. When the City annexes an area it must be able to provide the necessary services to that area. Police and Fire protection, as well as street maintenance, and water and sewer services are a must. Those additional services will require hiring additional police officers and firefighters. It will also require hiring more staff to cover additional maintenance from other city departments that growth and development brings. Before annexation is considered the City must show that the necessary services will be provided. The most effective way to increase growth in the greater LaPorte area is to expand our utilities beyond the City boundaries. The City is in the process of doing just that. We are extending water along Johnson Road to the Prison Farm, and the City is working in cooperation with the County to expand sewer lines eastward to Rolling Prairie.

BLAIR MILO

I will work with the members of the City Council to determine if a plan for annexation is required and what areas should be affected. In the interim, we will focus on growing our tax base by attracting more jobs and/or higher wage employment opportunities for our citizens. When taxpayers have more dollars in their pockets, the city and tax base in turn improves.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

A five year annexation plan must take into account cash flow and whether the City can continue to provide services to the existing areas as well as new areas. I support annexation as long as the annexation does not adversely affect the City.

JOE MROZINSKE

Annexation is an inherent right of any governing body. In order to develop a five year plan, I would want to consult with affected residents as well as municipal department heads to determine the feasibility of said annexation. Without this information, I do not feel in position to comment on this matter.

A.C. PRESSLER

Annexation must be considered in areas which the City can afford to absorb. Our Police, Fire and Street Departments are already stretched thin for protecting and maintaining the 22,000 residents and 114 miles of roads we currently embrace. New growth must consider the added cost of serving the new area and the potential for increased assessed valuation. Furthermore, the City lacks area for new industrial growth. Large, open areas for industry will improve the economy, add to the assessed valuation and be fairly inexpensive to serve. Areas which fit this description should be given priority consideration.

CARY KIRKHAM

The previous administration had an annexation plan presented to them and the council voted it down. Let's revisit that plan and see what is truly doable. It would allow this city to grow. Again it means making those hard decisions.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Critically important. Need to have enough industrial developable land, controlled by city, so that we don't end up losing potential development over planning "hurdles" that create delays that make them go elsewhere.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

I feel we need to correct our cash flow problem first. We can't jeopardize the series to the city. We can make all the plans in the world, but we have to be able to fund an annexation. It would be more area for our police and fire departments to cover, and also more roads to maintain.

GLORIA THODE

I am not sure about annexation at this time.

RONALD MC ATEE

The city needs to grow if it can afford to. We need to take a serious look at where we can economically expand for the betterment of the whole city.

ANDREA L. RENNER

I am opposed to any annexation in this city until we can provide services to all areas of the city that have previously been annexed, but yet still do not have full city services. An area of my ward was annexed several decades ago. I worked with those citizens and several city departments to finally get them the services they should have gotten when annexed. There are still areas of the city that have already been annexed yet do not have all city services. It is not fair to these citizens to add more area to LaPorte before we take care of them. After the city has caught services up to annexation I would consider additional annexation. I would be willing to support a general annexation plan as annexation can be vital to growth. However, my support of annexation will depend on the area of proposed annexation.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

Yes, I do support the continuation of GLEDC.

STEVE LUSCOMB

It is very important to have a plan for annexation and there are some out there at this time. We have to balance that with the needs of those citizens we already provide services to and when a question of annexation does arise we as a city have to have the capability to provide services to the new areas considered.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Without a plan of annexation the city can't grow it needs to be looked at and planned for in the future.

#9 – How do you see the roll of the tourism/hospitality industry as it relates to economic development for the City of La Porte?

KATHY CHROBACK

Tourism and hospitality play a huge roll in economic development. Our City Park system is a tourism magnet for our City. La Porte has nearly 750 acres of parkland and 7 lakes, 5 within City limits. The City's parkland is a tremendous asset to our community and a necessary tool to improving our quality of life. When a company or a business prospect visits La Porte one of the most important considerations is the quality and the availability of park and recreation activities in the City. When businesses re-locate they do so to be successful. The decision to do business also includes living and playing in our community. Live, work and play is generally the rule business prospects go by.

BLAIR MILO

Tourism and hospitality can benefit La Porte's economic development as well as provide opportunities, locations and events the citizens would enjoy as well. Increasing tourism and hospitality increases La Porte's visibility to potential future employers and/or investors through efforts the community will also benefit from.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

LaPorte should be marketed through the Convention and Visitors Bureau to ensure a greater number of people recognize the recreational assets of our community to attract tourism dollars in the City of LaPorte.

JOE MROZINSKE

Tourism is vital to economic development in this area. We have an outstanding park system and great lakes for leisure and activities. We have some excellent hotels and inns as well as restaurants and shops. By partnering with Michigan City and the La Porte County Convention and Visitors Bureau, we can utilize the other resources in the area, namely the Outlet Mall, Blue Chip casino, and Lake Michigan to help guide tourists to the area. Incidentally, I had the opportunity to meet a couple from Illinois who came into La Porte just to get away. They indicated that it was just far away from to home yet close enough for ease of travel. They had no knowledge of what the community had to offer as they made reservations, yet were pleasantly pleased with the hospitality of the community. They spent two nights in town (Best Western), dined at two restaurants in La Porte, and spent time at the Blue Chip too. In my conversation with them on their stay, they indicated that they plan to come back in the future due to the friendliness of the community. This is just one example as to how and why people come to our fine community.

A.C. PRESSLER

Michigan City and New Buffalo have a plethora of hotels and a casino each. We must work to attract persons from those venues to our downtown for shopping and eating. Our hotels are second to none and we must work to provide them with the tools to market themselves to entice persons to our area. We must also work to market our lakes and parks. Finally, we must think regionally when we consider tourism and economic development. We must draw upon the assets of other areas and draw a connection between the no-local attraction and La Porte.

CARY KIRKHAM

We are in a perfect area with our proximity to Chicago, South Bend and the Great Lakes. We have our own beautiful parks. Let's make better use of them. Let's promote this city as a destination. Bringing people in to enjoy our city helps promote growth also. An aggressive WEB site could help, also promotional material that is centered on La Porte with motels, bed & breakfasts, our own city parks, restaurants and attractions. We need to take full advantage of Notre Dame home football games. Many of those people stay in our motels, let's have some kind of city reception for them. We did not take advantage of the time the IH tractor show that was at the fairgrounds or many events that are out there. We should have had an information booth out there promoting our city, again with promotional material. While they are an excellent resource, we cannot just rely on the County Tourism Board.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Obviously important. My initiatives on improving the "look and feel" of the city dovetail exactly with getting more people to come back regularly to LaPorte, versus seeing it, as is currently the case, as "quaint" but "troubled."

SHERRIE HAMMONS

Tourism generates revenue. It exposes more people to our area. Some of these people may choose to come here and start businesses.

GLORIA THODE

I think tourism / hospitality is a great idea. I have always been concerned for our parks and especially the Lakes. We need to educate and keep our parks and keeping the lakes clean. I have witnessed locals and especially people from out of town come and throw their trash down in the lakes and parks. Before we start trying to bring more people here to pollute our town we need to think about how to keep our green space clean. Educate and put up more trash barrels and signs concerning keeping LaPorte clean and beautiful.

RONALD MC ATEE

La Porte has a beautiful set of parks, lakes, a top rated museum, both a symphony and a concert series, and a great venue in the Civic Center. I feel that more needs to be done to promote them and not just casino up North. As a whole the city of La Porte is posed to be a great tourist spot if promoted and that should help bring in dollars that we need.

ANDREA L. RENNER

Tourism and hospitality is a key element to economic development. We cannot attract people to visit or stay in La Porte if we have nothing to attract them here. Tourism/hospitality bring in dollars to our city and interest.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

Yes, Tax Abatement for real estate and manufacturing equipment.

STEVE LUSCOMB

It is highly important to promote our cities strong points in the tourism/hospitality industry. We have to look at the big picture and work with the county as a whole and draw people in from the whole area and showcase the things that make our city unique to visitors and businesses.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Tourism could be a bigger part if the cities economy that it is. We don't market the city the right way, or at all. We need a person that works on new festivals and events and improve current ones.

#10 – What programs or steps that you believe the City of La Porte should take to help the development and enhancement of our local workforce?

KATHY CHROBACK

I recognize that the quality of our workforce needs to be stronger. Work ethic is developed in the home, however, there is a community need to educate our workforce to the level where they can be productive workers. Through our retention and expansion program we are able to provide local companies assistance in contacting organizations such as Ivy Tech, the A.K. Smith Center and Work One.

BLAIR MILO

The common theme from employers in La Porte is that they have jobs available, but they can't find applicants who are qualified, can pass a drug test or can be held responsible to show up regularly for work. While the City can only set an example on how to adhere to a positive work ethic, we must address the first two challenges to ensure our workforce is meeting the demands of our employers. La Porte High School currently has over 900 students enrolled in vocational programs that provide specialized training in over 15 specialized career areas. While these programs are beneficial, more involvement from our community in preparing our students for entering the workforce is required. Junior Achievement also provides an excellent opportunity for members of the community with professional backgrounds to get involved with the training of our future workforce and I'm looking forward to working with the organization not only as a volunteer but also as they're tailoring more of their training toward skills high school students need prior to receiving post-secondary education or entering the labor force. Other programs that have shown successes for qualifying individuals are Indiana's Work One program as well the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) courses, and I am excited to see what options we may have for growing those curricula in our community.

In addition to matching the training of our employees to the requirements of our employers, we must address our crippling drug problem. I will be holding my second round table discussion on this issue on Wednesday, October 5 where we will take the ideas for solutions brainstormed at the first discussion and start prioritizing and identifying options for funding if need be.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

It is necessary that the City continue to seek Community Development Block Grant funds which assist with workforce development issues and child care expenditures for low to moderate income families. It is also imperative for the City to work with the LaPorte Community School Corporation to ensure that our local businesses have a workforce that is educated to meet the needs of our local businesses.

JOE MROZINSKE

Education is important in maintaining a workforce pool. La Porte needs to partner with La Porte Community Schools, Purdue North Central, Ivy Tech, and Indiana University (via the Hospital) in the development of curriculum to help high school student transition into the workforce. Furthermore, it needs to develop programs that could enhance the skills of those already in the workforce to ensure that our businesses can maintain qualified workers now and in the future. Along these same lines, drug use is on the rise in our community and such wreaks havoc on businesses. I have been told that jobs are available, but finding workers who can pass a drug screen is difficult. As a city, we must crack down on illegal drug use in order to promote economic development and to reduce crime. The public forum held recently on this issue was a step in the right direction.

A.C. PRESSLER

If a program exists, I am not familiar with it. Nonetheless, I am open to conversation on the issue.

CARY KIRKHAM

Working with PNC, Ivy Tech., our local schools and any other means to develop a qualified work force for any new and existing companies. Right now we do not have a base of workers, mainly because of the drug problems

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Pursue increased education and training opportunities.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

I believe the city should work in conjunction with employment companies, and also with educators. We need to inform them of what skills are needed for the jobs available, that way future employees can be prepared for the work force that is available.

GLORIA THODE

See answer #2.

RONALD MC ATEE

As stated before, drugs and education are a problem. We need a comprehensive drug program including treatment and rehab after release from sentencing. We also need to try to keep the bright and educated here in town with incentives to stay.

ANDREA L. RENNER

The city works with local agencies on workforce development. However, I believe that the city can be overshadowed by surrounding areas. As a city we need to promote our resources more effective.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

Yes, Infrastructure dollars such as roads, sewer and/or water lines to a new industrial property.

STEVE LUSCOMB

No answer provided.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

I don't know any things the city can do for sure. But, we could do talk with the workforce development to see what we can do.

#11 – How do you go about setting priorities for capital expenditures?

KATHY CHROBACK

City departments meet on a bi-monthly basis to review capital projects and the City's needs. All departments work together, setting goals and working towards achieving those goals. Department budgets must be taken into consideration.

Many capital expenditures take years of planning and financing. Again, without some creative financing, the City has not had the luxury of beginning capital projects or completing them in a timely manner. The inability of the City to receive its tax revenue on schedule has created a cash flow problem and delayed much needed projects. In addition, the tax caps, put in place by the Indiana State Legislature in 2009, has drastically and permanently reduced tax revenue.

BLAIR MILO

My vision for the city is to make La Porte a competitive community to live, work and do business; where its citizens are safe, work force is qualified and people are inspired. In my first few months in office, I will work with the City Council, Department Heads, Union representatives, the Board of Public Works and key commission and committee members to document the best strategy to affect that vision. We will continue to address this strategy annually in preparation for the draft of the following year budget plan. Documenting a unified strategy will have numerous benefits. We will be better equipped to navigate our way through difficult decisions, having agreed to pre-determined priorities. We will be able to spotlight priorities and projects in such a way that we can develop and implement innovative new funding methods.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

As Clerk-Treasurer it is my responsibility to work with the Mayor and City Council in the development of our annual budget which includes our capital expenditure allocations. The Clerk-Treasurer's role is limited to advising those individuals regarding the funds available for capital expenditures.

JOE MROZINSKE

I would take several factors into consideration in regard to capital expenditures. Some factors would include necessity of the expenditure, costs in delaying said expenditure, and the effect of the expenditure upon public safety.

A.C. PRESSLER

The City has been receiving less than 80% of its due tax draws. Replacement schedules have been ignored due to lack of available funds. When replacing equipment, priority consideration must be given to public safety equipment, OSHA and legal mandates and overall benefit to the community. Repaving roads is a prime example of something that has been reduced due to the incomplete tax draws. This too must be weighed in to the equation.

CARY KIRKHAM

Do they enhance the city as a whole or are they directed to one area. I believe the last 2 major projects by the city that made a difference in La Porte were the Thomas Rose Industrial Park and Boyd Blvd. which was built in the early 60's. Nothing in between and since.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Use "matrix" similar to what former mayor Leigh Morris used to properly prioritize. "Drop" things in, and move them accordingly, as needed, based upon changed circumstances. Use overall cost/benefit analysis, to determine what comes when. Compare across different departments, since funding sources are commonly shared (except in water/sewer, which can be more self-funding through rate payers).

SHERRIE HAMMONS

As a council person I would be working with department heads to find what is needed.

GLORIA THODE

That should be discussed with the citizens of LaPorte and other City Council members.

RONALD MC ATEE

Set up a group task force of business, industry, education, and political leaders need to sit down and draw up a priority list which can then become a game plan for any expenditures.

ANDREA L. RENNER

No answer provided.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

It would be great, but where is the money coming from regarding a truck by-pass or economic development.

STEVE LUSCOMB

Having a priority list is very important and I feel it needs to be flexible to match the unknowns that arise from month to month and year to year. Getting our tax situation stabilized with LaPorte county will help by leaps and bounds. With input from department heads and the Clerk Treasurer this can be prioritized.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Set up a plan that establishes a time table and priorities it from what is wanted and what is severely needed. Also make sure that we are getting the most out of the money is spent.

#12 – Do you support the continuation of the Greater La Porte Economic Development Corporation(GLEDC)?

KATHY CHROBACK

Yes.

BLAIR MILO

I support the mission of the Greater La Porte Economic Development Corporation, but believe we need to evaluate if maintaining GLEDC in its current form is the best manner for achieving that mission. That is a discussion that needs to be held with input from City Council members, the Clerk Treasurer, the Chamber of Commerce, the La Porte Urban Enterprise Association and any other key organizations or individuals recommended for inclusion. In that discussion, funding options would play an integral role in determining the most effective and efficient choice for improving economic development in La Porte.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

Yes. The Greater LaPorte Economic Development Corporation provides an enormous benefit that far outweighs the cost.

JOE MROZINSKE

I favor the continued support of the Greater La Porte Economic Development Corporation as long as it continues to operate responsibly and in cooperation with the city. Furthermore, I support the creation of the economic development alliance with Michigan City that increased concentration of the retention of area businesses.

A.C. PRESSLER

Yes.

CARY KIRKHAM

Yes, I do support GLEDC.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Depending on sourcing of funding for future, and keeping in mind possible combining with other entities, yes.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

Yes, I support GLEDC.

GLORIA THODE

I will not answer that question at this time.

RONALD MC ATEE

Yes.

ANDREA L. RENNER

Yes.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

One this that I would like to accomplish as a member of City Council is I have more than one, but revitalization of downtown is No. 1.

STEVE LUSCOMB

Yes.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Yes.

#13- If yes, how would you finance it over the next 4 years?

KATHY CHROBACK

I founded the Greater La Porte Economic Development Corp.(GLEDC). GLEDC is a public/private partnership created to promote economic development in the Greater La Porte Area in a one-stop-shop effort. The City has financed the public share through the County Economic Development Income Tax (CEDIT). The members of the private sector also fund the organization through private funds from our preferred vendors.

BLAIR MILO

See answer to question No. 12.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

The Greater LaPorte Economic Development Corporation should be financed through both public and private dollars. I would encourage diversifying funding streams and seeking new investors for private dollars.

JOE MROZINSKE

Due to the importance of economic development and retention, I will explore all options and pursue all means of financing to remain competitive in this area.

A.C. PRESSLER

CEDIT dollars were originally intended to be used for economic development. I would continue to dedicate CEDIT funds to GLEDC. Additionally, I would seek funding from the County to supplement the effort. Any action by GLEDC would benefit the County by adding assessed valuation and available jobs, therefore it is only logical that the County remain a player in the endeavor.

CARY KIRKHAM

With funding that is in place now.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

No solid answer. Primarily from the current sources that are funding it, if those sources remain available.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

The city funds it with the CEDIT plan. It is now a partnership with private funding also. I would continue as it is.

GLORIA THODE

No answer provided.

RONALD MC ATEE

Continue to finance it in the same way it is currently financed.

ANDREA L. RENNER

No answer provided.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

Bring back confidence in the way city business is done .

STEVE LUSCOMB

Financed partly through CEDIT funds and private corporation donations GLEDC can continue to show it's results and it's importance to keep it funded into the future.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Same as we have in the past. But, I would look for other ways to finance it current way limits the funding and the more funding we can get the better opportunity of bring in new companies.

#14 – If no, how do you propose to conduct Economic Development?

KATHY CHROBACK

Not applicable.

BLAIR MILO

See answer to question No. 10.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

Not applicable.

JOE MROZINSKE

Not applicable.

A.C. PRESSLER

Not applicable.

CARY KIRKHAM

No answer provided.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Not applicable.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

No answer provided.

GLORIA THODE

No answer provided.

RONALD MC ATEE

No answer provided.

ANDREA L. RENNER

No answer provided.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

No answer provided.

STEVE LUSCOMB

No answer provided.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

No answer provided.

#15 – Do you support the following, if not please explain.

#15a – Tax Abatement for real estate and manufacturing equipment?

KATHY CHROBACK

Yes.

BLAIR MILO

I support creative methods for incentivizing improved jobs and infrastructure, including tax abatements, TIF districts and making future industrial or commercial property shovel ready to entice investors.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

Yes. Government's direct involvement in granting tax abatements assist our local businesses to expand and generate new jobs which is vital to the growth and well-being of our community. Before a tax abatement is granted the company must prove to the City the number of dollars that will be invested in our community and the number of new jobs created.

JOE MROZINSKE

I support tax abatements for real estate and manufacturing equipment as long as requirements for said abatements are met in regards to job creation and/or retention.

A.C. PRESSLER

Yes.

CARY KIRKHAM

Tax abatement: Yes

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Yes, but only for decent paying jobs, and/or addition of high assessed value real/personal property.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

I support tax abatement.

GLORIA THODE

Yes.

RONALD MC ATEE

Yes.

ANDREA L. RENNER

Yes.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

No answer provided.

STEVE LUSCOMB

Yes.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Yes.

#15b – Infrastructure dollars such as roads, sewer and/or water lines to a new industrial property?

KATHY CHROBACK

Yes.

BLAIR MILO

See above.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

Yes. Infrastructure is vital in enticing businesses to invest in LaPorte.

JOE MROZINSKE

Due to current economic conditions, I would proceed cautiously in this area in order to remain fiscally responsible. I am not saying that I would be supportive or unsupportive of developing a new industrial park, rather I would want greater details on the nature of the industrial property before making a decision.

A.C. PRESSLER

Yes.

CARY KIRKHAM

Infrastructure: Yes

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Yes, but this a straight cost/benefit analysis....using discounted future cash flow model. City can't "overgive" to new industrial, if the benefits do not exceed the costs.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

I support infrastructure dollars to a new industrial property.

GLORIA THODE

Yes.

RONALD MC ATEE

Yes.

ANDREA L. RENNER

Yes.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

No answer provided.

STEVE LUSCOMB

Yes.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Yes.

#15c - TIF (tax increment financing) as a means of paying for infrastructure?

KATHY CHROBACK

Yes.

BLAIR MILO

See above.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

Yes. TIF dollars is a misunderstood concept by most citizens. The City still receives the tax dollars for the TIF area, the added tax dollars resulting from improvements goes to the TIF which then in turn is invested back into the TIF area.

JOE MROZINSKE

I would entertain all means of financing infrastructure including tax increment financing.

A.C. PRESSLER

Yes.

CARY KIRKHAM

TIF: Yes

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Yes, absolutely. I think TIF is an elegant funding mechanism. But again, situation dependent.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

I support TIF.

GLORIA THODE

Yes.

RONALD MC ATEE

Yes.

ANDREA L. RENNER

Yes.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

No answer provided.

STEVE LUSCOMB

Yes.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Yes.

#16 – Please state your thoughts on whether a truck by-pass or economic development corridor should be constructed around the City of La Porte?

KATHY CHROBACK

I have always believed that a truck by-pass would be beneficial to economic development. I caution that careful planning must take place, however. The ultimate goal of a truck by-pass is to reroute truck traffic out of the downtown area and relieve congestion. In doing so you must be careful not to by-pass all traffic, including potential visitors and tourists, out of the downtown, ultimately killing downtown retail and business.

BLAIR MILO

Multiple options for a truck bypass should be evaluated and studied to determine the return on investment and impact on downtown businesses. Results of that evaluation or study should drive the determination of if a bypass is necessary, and if so how it should be routed.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

A truck bypass or economic development corridor could not be built with only local funding. This is a major project that would require additional state and/or federal funding. I believe we should concentrate our local dollars improving the climate for local businesses.

JOE MROZINSKE

In consideration of Downtown La Porte and the potential and/or possibilities for the NewPorte Landing, a designated truck route should be explored.

A.C. PRESSLER

Growth coming to the Kingsbury area will undoubtedly increase truck and rail traffic to the area. Without a truck route around the City, traffic in the downtown will creep to a halt. Furthermore the increased traffic will expedite the deterioration of our roads. Yes, I do support concept of a truck by-pass. A by-pass will also aid in marketing the region and place our area at the forefront of regional development.

CARY KIRKHAM

I would support a truck by-pass but not the rerouting of the highways. We still need the car traffic to travel thru town, in hopes that they would stop and patronize the downtown.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

In favor. Gains for downtown ambiance, and neighborhoods on south side will dramatically offset loss of traffic through downtown that some fear. Combine bypass with train whistle ban, and quality of life (and appeal of LP as bedroom community) goes up dramatically, drawing the newcomers (and investment) we are looking for.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

It would have to be very carefully planned out. We would not want to bypass most traffic around our city’s businesses.

GLORIA THODE

Yes, over by Wal-Mart.

RONALD MC ATEE

One part of my platform is the building of a by-pass so yes I feel it is necessary.

ANDREA L. RENNER

This is a long standing question in LaPorte. Do we win or lose with a truck by-pass/corridor? One one hand we would alleviate much of the congestion in downtown LaPorte, which would aide in returning our downtown to a quaint quiet shopping area. But, on the other hand, it may take focus away from LaPorte and by-pass everyone around our city. Much talk and studies have been looked at regarding this issue. I believe this all to be outdated however. If we are to continue discussion as a city as to whether this is something the city needs to do we need to really look at all of the information with fresh perspective. I am not saying I am for this, but I am also not saying I am against it either. This is a grand scale issue for LaPorte and deserves the fullest amount of caution and information gathering before a decision is made.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

No answer provided.

STEVE LUSCOMB

Having a truck by pass around LaPorte has been a goal of many throughout the years and one I support. The improvements in the downtown traffic while creating a more business freindly Laporte would be wonderful. A project of this size would only come to pass with state and possibly federal help and when a workable plan comes before the city I would be more than happy to embrace it.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

I support the idea but, the costs to do the project is very high and I don’t know where we can get the capital to do such a project.

#17 – What programs do you support to develop the local workforce for current and future jobs?

KATHY CHROBACK

See answer to question No. 10.

BLAIR MILO

See answer to question No. 10.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

It is necessary that the City continue to seek Community Development Block Grant funds which assist with workforce development issues and child care expenditures for low to moderate income families. It is also imperative for the City to work with the LaPorte Community School Corporation to ensure that our local businesses have a workforce that is educated to meet the needs of our local businesses.

JOE MROZINSKE

As a teacher, I believe that more emphasis should be placed upon education for it is the key factor in a sustainable workforce. I would support the formation of a committee to brainstorm ideas and programs to improve current and future workforce programs. This committee should include representatives from La Porte Community Schools, Purdue North Central, and Indiana University (Hospital), Ivy Tech, and area business leaders. Ideas such as needs and demands of area

businesses, curriculum additions, internships, job shadowing, and the like should be up for discussion. In addition, drug use and/or abuse is also becoming a real problem in our community. I attended the recent forum to discuss the issue and I commend the community for coming out to address such concerns. Just over 50 citizens and community leaders attended the event to express their concerns and to brainstorm ideas to tackle the matter. As a citizen of La Porte, a parent, an educator, and a hopefully a future councilman, I do not want to sit back and watch our fine community become a playground for drug trafficking and vow to work to help secure the funding necessary and to support law enforcement agencies in this regard.

A.C. PRESSLER

The La Porte School Corporation has done a remarkable job at preparing our children for college. Unfortunately a well fund trade program was abandoned years ago due to budget restraints. I would like to see a trade program return to our schools. While a single school corporation cannot finance the load, perhaps a collaborative effort should be pursued, maybe a Trade School Co-op, similar to our Special Ed Co-op. This would provide the non-college bound students with an additional avenue to pursue.

CARY KIRKHAM

See answer to question No. 10.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Public and private efforts. Work closely with Purdue University, and other institutions in the area.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

Again-we need to work with schools and employment agencies so they are knowledgeable of the skills that are needed.

GLORIA THODE

We have programs at Workforce one. We have colleges and trade schools close by.

RONALD MC ATEE

As stated before training and retraining are necessary if we want to build a better workforce. Getting Ivy Tech or some other college in here would be a step. Many employers also have complaints about drugs. Enforcement and treatment are badly needed here in La Porte.

ANDREA L. RENNER

No answer provided.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

No answer provided.

STEVE LUSCOMB

No answer provided.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

I'm not familiar with problems but, I'm willing to learn about them.

#18 – As a Mayor or Council Member, what will you do to help La Porte grow in assessed valuation?

KATHY CHROBACK

Growing the assessed value of La Porte involves new business development and increasing property values. Working closely with The Greater La Porte Economic Development Corp. in new business attraction and development is key. More importantly, expanding current businesses and increasing property values through growth increase the assessed valuation. As mentioned, I will work closely with area businesses to grow and improve property, ultimately increasing property values.

BLAIR MILO

La Porte's assessed valuation will increase with the enhancement of the community as a whole. To do so, citizens must have more opportunities to build a career and earn higher wages, we must decrease the presence of blighted areas that foster

criminals and illegal drug sellers by enforcing codes and we must encourage a community that people want to stay in or return to in order to raise their families.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

Citizens need to realize a growth in assessed valuation will result in reducing their tax rates.

JOE MROZINSKE

The best way is to reduce the negativity of the town and restore the pride of the community. Assessed valuation is based upon market value. The greater demand for property in La Porte; the greater the market value of the property. As I indicated in the response for question 7 on deteriorating properties, we cannot sit idly back and watch homes and neighborhoods decline. To help in this area, I will bring a fresh, strengths-oriented approach to the council and collaborate with fellow council members in promoting a positive approach to situations. If we can work together, restore pride, and make La Porte the place to live, work, and raise a family, then assessed valuation will increase due to demand.

A.C. PRESSLER

As a Council member I would be supportive of the annexation of parcels of land which are prime for development (residential and industrial). I would be willing to offer incentives to contractors who would develop the new areas. Equally important, I would be supportive of programs which would encourage neighborhood improvements and neighborhood blight reversal.

CARY KIRKHAM

Being retired I have the time to work with the Mayor and other council members to promote and move this city forward. We have been at a standstill too long. I also have the means to travel to other cities and states to see what works. We have a plan in place for New Porte Landing. Where is it today? Let's get it moving forward again.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

By increasing the quality of our infrastructure, and our downtown core's appeal, and addressing "blight" situations, the value of our properties will increase through the increase in desirability of our community as a bedroom community. The city can also grow assessed value through annexation, and attracting of new business and industry that would follow from making LaPorte as attractive a community as possible to outsiders. I'm one who feels the thing the city can control are the "appearance issues" of the community. Any community can offer tax abatements. LaPorte's differentiator is its potential to be a very special place....a place where business people would WANT to locate...if we only work, at the city level, to put our best foot forward. Broken up garbage cans, and peeling and worn benches in our downtown sends a horrible message of a city that doesn't care. As do dangerously lifted sidewalks in our neighborhoods. And an improving, but still horrible looking, East Lincolnway.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

As a council member, I would work closely with code enforcers to keep our community desirable for economic development.

GLORIA THODE

I would like to see some changes. Change in the people that call themselves the appointed representatives of LaPorte's best interest. I want to speak to the working class people and not just those that have appointed themselves the "who's who of LaPorte". I am respecting this Pac by answering the questions. But my concerns have been speaking with all the people of LaPorte and those I will be representing if elected.

RONALD MC ATEE

We should try to bring assessed valuation up by bringing in business and industry that will compliment and expand what we already have.

ANDREA L. RENNER

No answer provided.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

Continue to make well informed decisions on all issues that come before me and work to be progressive with an eye to the future of La Porte.

STEVE LUSCOMB

Continue to make well informed decisions on all issues that come before me and work to be progressive with an eye to the future of La Porte.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Work with all economic development entities to bring in new development. Work with the entities to develop current empty and look to future growth areas.

#19 - What should be done about locating new industry now that the Thomas Rose Park is now full? Please be specific.

KATHY CHROBACK

The City of La Porte is already managed very well. We all recognize that we must work together to achieve our goals, no matter what our political affiliation. I and the Clerk Treasurer’s Office have kept a tight rein on the City’s finances. We are currently operating on a bare bones budget.

BLAIR MILO

We need to evaluate our options for expanding the Thomas Rose Industrial Park now that it is full.

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

The City is still pursuing New Porte Landing and continues to support the redevelopment of this area. While Thomas Rose Industrial park is filled there are still some vacant buildings and the City will continue to work with GLEDC to locate businesses to occupy these buildings.

JOE MROZINSKE

Although there are possibilities for economic development in all directions around our city, I feel our first priority is determining what industry we are trying to attract. With a state-of-the-art heart center in a hospital under the guidance of a nationally-known university, La Porte has the potential to grow in the healthcare industry. Due to the proximity of NewPorte Landing to the hospital, there is the possibility of pursuing development that might expand on such services, such as rehabilitation services, short term housing and entertainment. Development in such regard would bring more highly-skilled technology-based jobs to the area which are general yield great earning potential. Without a dedicated truck route in the city, we must take better steps in planning for the future should the city invest in undertaking the development of another industrial park. At this juncture,I believe that to be competitive under the current economic conditions that we should maximize our resources through a joint effort with the La Porte County Economic Development Alliance.

A.C. PRESSLER

An annexation plan which would increase the available land in current industrial areas in close proximity to railways and highways.

CARY KIRKHAM

There are existing building and land that can be developed until an annexation happens. Let’s rehab some of these empty building and make them available. Market them.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Assuming the numbers work, and the private investors are there, consideration should be given to expanding the park. At the very least, the city needs to make sure it has large parcels of land in its domain (i.e. annexation), so that we could move quickly to do a deal with a potentially interested business to come here, and not lose out.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

I feel New Porte Landing will be suitable for eight industry. We also can work with GLEDC to at least bring industry to the area.

GLORIA THODE

KOP for one place and south of La Porte.

RONALD MC ATEE

Elect officials who care and get business and industry more involved.

ANDREA L. RENNER

No answer provided.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

No answer provided.

STEVE LUSCOMB

Vacant land and existing structures within city limits should be marketed aggressively with incentive to draw in new businesses. Also if an annexation plan were to come before city leaders with positive benefits for the city as a whole it should be seriously considered.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

Either expand the industrial park or work with a developer for a new park.

#20 - What do you think should be done to make the City of La Porte one of the best managed cities in the State of Indiana?

KATHY CHROBACK

Expanding Thomas Rose Industrial Park has been considered and discussed. The City must, however, be in the position to finance the purchase of additional land to expand our industrial park. Again, because of the inability to collect our property taxes we are not in a position to do so. Highway 39 north is an area prime for future industrial development. Although not in City limits, 39 North has been marketed for industrial development. NewPorte Landing is also an area planned for future development, although designed more for commercial development.

BLAIR MILO

Management is a business concept that discounts the people factor. The heart of a city is its citizens so we should strive to make La Porte the best led city in the State of Indiana. The cornerstones of my leadership style are:

- Lead by example
- Earn and give respect
- Communicate routinely
 - Big picture/overall strategy and everyone's role in accomplishing that mission
 - Near and long-term goals
 - Progress reports
- Encourage participation, innovation and improvement
- Evaluate all ideas by identifying its positive attributes before addressing concerns

RENEE SCHERER

Questions 5 thru 20 are not applicable.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

The City of LaPorte is a complex business entity and requires experienced, competent qualified individuals in positions of authority.

JOE MROZINSKE

In order to make the City of La Porte one of the best managed cities in the state of Indiana, we must put away party alliances and work together. Whether we are Democrat, Republican, or Libertarian, we are all citizens of La Porte and our sole purpose on the Council is to serve our constituents and do so to the best of our ability.

A.C. PRESSLER

Intergovernmental cooperation and a proactive regional approach to economic development with an emphasis on pleasing the citizenry.

CARY KIRKHAM

Elect a major and council that will make a stand. Make sure the Major leads and Council members do their jobs they were elected to, instead of just picking up a pay check. The whole administration needs to be involved in the community. Attending events and being accessible to the public. Having town hall meetings. Everyone needs to volunteer and lead by example.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Having the best people in place in the political, and operational, positions. Bringing back the merit pay regime that we instituted in the Morris Administration, and the Chroback administration, from my understanding, eliminated

SHERRIE HAMMONS

We are managed very efficiently. All the people are doing the best they can considering the economic struggles for the last few years.

GLORIA THODE

If it has not been the best managed city then we should make changes to the people that have said they have been working on economic development these past eight years. The people that have been working in non elected positions should lose their jobs and be replaced. Bring in new ideas and new people.

RONALD MC ATEE

Let's see if we can't fill some of the vacant buildings we already have first and then maybe another industrial park area should be considered.

ANDREA L. RENNER

I think more control needs to be given to the local level. If you look at LaPorte current unique situation over the past several year you will find two things. One, we are in this situation through no fault of our own as a city and two we have managed very well under those circumstances. I think LaPorte has risen above in this time. We still have our struggles but we work together to manage this city with no template or status quo example to look to or rely on. We are creating a new path and that requires management and working together of a high degree.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

No answer provided.

STEVE LUSCOMB

The city of La Porte is a well managed city and has been for years. The budgets for La Porte have always been lean and departments now are doing more and more with less funding. With tax collection problems beyond our control it has taken great measures to maintain the services we currently provide to the community.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

It needs to be managed like a business. Look at ways to get rid of waste. Work with the country to see what we can do to make duplications and purchasing in larger quantities a possibility.

Questions for Mayoral Candidates Only

1. How would you go about planning and setting priorities for capital expenditures?

KATHY CHROBACK

See answer to question No. 11.

BLAIR MILO

Addressed in questions 10 and 17.

2. The City's financial condition has been challenging for many years. How do you plan on improving it?

KATHY CHROBACK

The State imposed property tax caps have permanently reduced tax revenue to the City. Since the City has not received reconciled tax revenue to date the effects of the reduction in tax revenue has not been realized at this time. The City’s financial condition should improve some once property tax reconciliation is complete. The estimated date for completion of tax reconciliation is 2014 or 2015.

BLAIR MILO

Addressed in question 2.

3. What has your experience been with strategic planning?

KATHY CHROBACK

Having a strategic plan is beneficial for planned growth and future development in the City. There have been a number of City Strategic Plans over the years. Coordinating future development across all city departments is a necessity as budgets continue to become leaner. City departments do a good job coordinating capital projects. Strategic Plans are living documents and changes are made as needs change and they are a tool for good planning.

BLAIR MILO

My experience with strategic planning has grown with every leadership position I’ve held. As the Battalion Commander of the Purdue ROTC Midshipmen Battalion, my Department Heads and I created a strategic plan for the battalion detailing goals of academic performance, physical fitness, community service and leadership preparedness for the semester and plans for accomplishing them. As a Division Officer in the Navy, I tailored my goals for my respective divisions, but always delineated what the mission of the division was, how it contributed to the overall mission of our command and national interests and how we were going to achieve success for our part. As the Special Assistant to the Director of Surface Warfare, I wrote the Director’s Strategic Vision for the Surface Warfare

3a. How would you use strategic planning as Mayor?

KATHY CHROBACK

See above.

BLAIR MILO

See above.

Question for City Clerk Candidates Only

1. What are the City’s biggest financial problems and what would you do in the next four years to reduce or eliminate them?

RENEE SCHERER

The top issue for the Clerk-Treasurer is the budget. The lack of tax money coming in did not happen overnight. I want to review the last six years of the city expenditures to give me an idea of the flow of money. On this, I will be basing a four year plan to help clean up the debts and to store money in accounts. I want to help advisor the Mayor and the council or should I say guide them out of financial straits so their dreams of a stronger LaPorte is our future. I believe working with numbers is an art. I am also interested in looking at the cost of the cities fixed assets and see what can be done to use them to their fullest or look at other options. I would like to work with the departments on helping them with looking. Also, I would like to apply for grants to better their service and lessen the burden on tax payers.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

Cash flow is the City’s number one issue due to the property tax reassessment issues facing LaPorte County. Unfortunately, as the Clerk-Treasurer for the City of LaPorte I have no control over the billing and collection of property taxes. I will continue to work with State and County officials to ensure that City of LaPorte’s tax funds are received and utilized in the most efficient manner possible.

2. Some have suggested that La Porte’s failure to address annexation have resulted in a loss of assessed valuation as more development has occurred outside the city limits. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

RENEE SCHERER

At this point, I would not annex because of startup cost. The State Board of Accounts said it is not financially stable to annex residential. You stated in question number seven neighborhoods are deteriorating. I believe this is a good example of why we cannot annex. The money that is spent for this annex should go for other more needful programs, such as infrastructure and a technology upgrade. The City must come first before we annex any more residential.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

Annexation is important to economic development in the City of LaPorte, however, while the City’s assessed valuation may increase from annexation, the ramifications of enlarging the City’s responsibilities must be carefully considered. In order to realize any additional revenues from an annexation the City would have to appeal to the Department of Local Government Finance.

3. What qualifications do you bring to the position?

RENEE SCHERER

I am dissatisfied by the poor performance in the office. I am new to the office just like my opponent was over 12 years ago. I have learned to live on 1 police officer's salary and raise 4 children. I have been in charge of our budget for most of our marriage and the last 4 years we have been planning on retirement. We put away money for the children for college and worked toward a nearly debt free retirement. Unfortunately, the financial crisis in the city which caused a decrease in salary and a shock for insurance was a prelude to a medical crisis. We may not be able to retire like we planned, but we still can make the transition. I understand budgets, planning, and paper trails. During my lifetime, I have always seen the consequence of cost. For instance in my job with Shell Oil, we worked side by side with contractors during the shoots (the raw seismic data), which involved the planning and the processing that led to the tracks Shell would bid on. My job at Shell has taught me to be considerate of time, money and resources. I’ve learned a lot through the experience of running a home budget and several scout troops. I had to turn in budget reports for each scout troop. I have learned patience and to work long hours like I have during my Shell years. I understand budget crunching, deadlines and keeping cool under pressure. I was a police dispatcher. Also, I have learned from my husband how to care and treat people dignity and respect. I believe in the old saying if it is worth doing; do it right and with all your heart. With this motto is how I plan to serve LaPorte City.

TERESA L. LUDLOW

I have been the Clerk-Treasurer for 13 years and have worked in the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office since 1988. I have a thorough understanding of the responsibilities and state mandates necessary to fulfill this position. I have been the chief financial officer of a \$39 million budget for 13 years. The Clerk-Treasurer’s office is an office that requires technical skills. I have established a good working relationship with other government entities. As evidence by the 13 exemplary State Board of Accounts audit reviews.

Question for City Council Candidates Only

1. If there’s one thing you would like to accomplish as a member of the City Council, what would that be?

JOE MROZINSKE

If I could accomplish one thing as a member of the city council, I feel that it would be getting more people involved in our community. There is an old adage that says “it takes a village to raise a child.” With that said, in order to increase employment, improve the infrastructure, decrease drug trafficking and crime, maintain public safety, and improve the overall well-being; we need people to get involved. If elected, I plan to reach out to the citizens and community leaders of La Porte and encourage them that the best way to rid ourselves of the problems is to be part of the solution.

A.C. PRESSLER

I would like to restore credibility, service and respect to the office of City Council.

CARY KIRKHAM

I would like to fill the empty buildings and store fronts in La Porte. Make our downtown look like a downtown instead of a ghost town. Develop a work force. And have a city that is aggressive in development and well organized. Turn this city back to a place where people will be proud to call home, and where our young people would want to return to.

TIMOTHY J. STABOSZ

Material improvement in the appearance and ambiance of downtown, a material increase in the occupancy rate, and an increase in the number of truly dynamic/specialty/boutique businesses downtown.

SHERRIE HAMMONS

I would like to be the best spokesperson I can for my constituents. I want to find the best solution that is possible for any issue that arises, wards 1-5.

GLORIA THODE

Cleaning up the side streets concerning drugs. Another would be the abuse of power concerning the LaPorte Police. They should follow policy.

RONALD MC ATEE

If there's one thing you would like to accomplish as a member of City Council, what would that be? The by-pass around La Porte.

ANDREA L. RENNER

I would like to see La Porte through this tough financial situation....it has been many long years with many hard decisions. The elected and appointed officers of this city as well as our amazing employees have sacrificed a lot to keep this city going. I would like to see this through to the end. I want to work on our city budget and see us into the future where La Porte is out of this mess dumped on us by other government entities. I want to be there when LaPorte comes out from under this financial umbrella held over us and I think with my long experience and knowledge of our unique city budget I can positively contribute to the city. We need people who will work with and learn from others. We do not need people who attend a few meetings and show up in others offices to tell them how to do their job, a "bull in a china shop" approach only causes damage. I want to continue to wisely and calmly see LP into a prosperous future.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

No answer provided.

STEVE LUSCOMB

To continue to serve my community to the best of my ability and to continue to make informed decisions while using common sense that will have positive results for the citizens as a whole.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

There are numerous things I want to but, I want the city to be on sound finically footing and improving economically.

Question for City Council Candidates Wards 1-5 Only

1. How do you balance the interests and needs of your constituents with the interests and needs of the overall city?

SHERRIE HAMMONS

I represent the 2nd ward but I work with all the council. Most of the citizens are facing the same issues. The best solution is for the majority involved.

GLORIA THODE

Communication with all parties concerned.

RONALD MC ATEE

I believe the needs of my constituents for the most part are the same as for the whole city. Better infrastructure, more/better jobs, and no drugs help everyone.

ANDREA L. RENNER

I have always viewed this as I am elected by a ward to represent their interests in the city as a whole. representing the 4th ward has given me plenty of opportunities to test this philosophy. On the east side of the city we have had growth both in and bordering the ward. This has often put me in a position to ask if this is what is best for my constiunets even though I knew it was good for the city. In the end my concers for those in my ward has always been answered/solved before action was taken. I am elected to do what is best for both my ward and the city, in any case I would have to look at the consequences of any action for my ward and the city and find the best balance to make an informed decision. That said, I

am elected to be an advocate for my ward and would err on the side of what is best for those who directly elected me to look out for their best interests.

ROGER A. GALLOWAY

No answer provided.

STEVE LUSCOMB

There is much that can be done for the ward constituents on a one on one basis. While making the best decisions for the city as a whole. The key word is "balance" and I will continue to use common sense serving those who put their trust in me.

GEOFFREY L. SELLERS

The people of the ward elect you to represent them. You're their voice on the city. But, they also know your vote affects the entire city. You try to do what needs to be done for the ward but, it needs to balance with what will benefit the city. It's tough to balance but, I can't expect everyone to come to the 5th ward. I want to go to my ward but, the other councilman may not like it. I look at what will give us the biggest bang for limited funds that we have.



The LaPorte Political Action Committee (LPAC), is a non-profit, non-partisan group of concerned business leaders, that are advocates for the free enterprise, pro business and promotes economic growth for our community.



LaPorte Political Action Committee

P.O. Box 852

LaPorte, Indiana 46352

www.laportepac.com info@laportepac.com

The information gathered in this publication has not been altered in any way. Answers are reproduced exactly as they were received from the candidates.

Questions contained in this publication were compiled by the LaPorte Political Action Committee.