

Thursday, July 31, 2008

ChangeDecatur
P.O. Box 776
Decatur, IL 62525

Dear Potential Mayorial or Councilmember Candidate,

ChangeDecatur congratulates you on your interest in running for public office. As concerned citizens, we seek the best leadership for our city, and are committed to effective representation for all citizens, transparency in local government, and accountability of elected officials.

The upcoming municipal election on April 7, 2009 is a very important election in the city of Decatur because of the number of seats that are to be filled. ChangeDecatur requests that you answer the questions thoroughly in the attached packet in order for us, as an organization, to make a more informed decision on which candidates to support and endorse. Questions that are not answered will be viewed negatively. Additionally, please submit a resume as an addendum.

Please ensure that we have received your resume and responses by midnight on August 31, 2008. You can mail your packet to ChangeDecatur, P.O. Box 776, Decatur, IL 62525. A member of the ChangeDecatur Steering Committee will be in contact with you to arrange any further contact. If you have any questions please contact Brian Burcham at (217) 519-3018, Steve Daniels at (217) 233-3415, or e-mail us at changedecatur@gmail.com.

With greatest regards,

ChangeDecatur Steering Committee

Candidate Information

Date: _____

Print Candidate's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Office Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Position Sought (circle one): Mayor Councilmember

Candidate's Signature: _____

2009 Municipal Election – Mayor & City Council Candidate Questionnaire

- 1. The current form of government in Decatur is a council-manager format. Are you in favor of a strong mayor form of government? Explain your reasoning.**
- 2. Over the past two decades, the city of Decatur's population has decreased by nearly 20,000 people. Why do you think the population has decreased? What would you do to reverse these trends?**
- 3. If elected, how would you work to stay connected with the communities in Decatur that elected you? Will you commit to meeting with ChangeDecatur members monthly to discuss the progress being made on issues?**
- 4. In effort to create a more effective city government, a mayor and council must work together in order to creatively solve issues. Are you familiar with the legal role of the mayor and city council under the current form of government? If so, how would you describe it?**
- 5. Are you familiar with the current city policies and state laws about the city supporting organized labor in its bidding practices? How would you describe an appropriate policy of the city to labor?**
- 6. The council undertakes decisions that have major financial impacts on the city. Examples include: decision to buy the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel, development of the 300 North Water Street project, the West Main Streetscape project, and the increase in water rates. Do you believe that these decisions should be thoroughly discussed and presented in public and that citizen**

concerns should be heard well in advance of making these major decisions?
Discuss your philosophy.

7. What are your priorities to address social challenges including, but not limited to, homelessness, adequate and affordable housing, public safety, and family planning?
8. In order of importance, explain your top five goals to accomplish if elected as a public official.
9. Utilizing a recent example, the 600 block of W. Decatur St. has received numerous complaints about the problems occurring there. What actions would you have taken to be more responsive to needs of the citizens in order to ensure they felt representation in the city chambers?
10. What are the three greatest challenges currently for the city of Decatur?
11. Discuss your knowledge of racial issues in our community.
12. Would you support an ordinance that allows a municipality or county government to take a "local bidder" who is within a 3% range of a bid from a company outside the city or county? If you would support or oppose this, explain your position.
13. Discuss in detail what plan of action you have for developing attractive and feasible employment opportunities for recent high-school and college graduates.

14. Do you support or oppose the financial support of three entities (PARAGON, EDC of Decatur & Macon County, Illinois Strategies) that all are directed to be lobbying on behalf of the city? Explain your decision.

15. Labor Unions represent thousands of employees in Decatur. What is your plan for improving relations with them?

16. What is your vision of fair and honest representation for the citizens of Decatur?

Respond accordingly to each question on how you feel about the particular issue. Check only one response for each question. Begin each question with, "Do you feel that..."

| | Disagree | Slightly Disagree | Neutral | Slightly Agree | Agree |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 17. transparency in government is a necessity? | | | | | |
| 18. there needs to be more inter-governmental cooperation between all taxing bodies within Macon County? | | | | | |
| 19. strengthening our public school system is vital to the community? | | | | | |
| 20. the relationship between Millikin University and the city is healthy and vibrant? | | | | | |
| 21. an employment tax needs to be implemented on those people that work in Decatur, yet reside elsewhere, for utilization of city infrastructure? | | | | | |