

**Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
Candidate Questionnaire**

2018 Primary Election – Oshkosh City Council

1. Please provide some personal background information.
 - a. Name: *Steven L. Herman*
 - b. Occupation: *Retired Sheriff's Deputy*
 - c. List any community activities you are involved with: *I have served on the City Council for 4 two year terms. During this time I have been appointed Deputy Mayor three times from within the Council. I have served on the Traffic Review Board, Parking Utility Board, Bike Pedestrian Board, Parks Board, Convention and Visitors Board. I serve on the ReThink Active Communities Board. Member of the Snitz Club, Sons of the American Legion.*

2. Why do you want to be on the city council? *I feel that I bring experience to the Council. Having been involved in Public Service my whole professional career I feel I understand the needs and demands that Oshkosh and the surrounding area. I feel that I listen to the facts on issues that come in front of Council and I make a decision that I believe is in the best interest of the citizens and the city. I make myself available by attending many public functions, when I am contacted by phone or Email, I respond with the appropriate response as soon I can. I think that I have represented the City and its citizens with respect and dignity and have helped move Oshkosh forward.*

3. What specific issues will be your area of primary focus? *Making sure that our last two TIF District are developed well. Oshkosh Corps TIF and Oshkosh Ave TIF. I think this is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I want to see both of them move forward. More development in the Sawdust District. Build on the development of the Arena and see what we can do to build on it. Aviation Industrial Park, once the County gets the taxi way in I think development will follow. TRANS Load facility. Work to develop the growth in that part of the industrial park. The city owns to much land, we need not only to focus on business and job retention; we need to focus on business expansion and bring in new businesses to the area that will provide sustainable living wages and benefits.*

4. Please outline what you consider to be the City of Oshkosh 3 – 5 most critical issues.
 - *Debt: we continue to play catch up with our deteriorating infrastructure from years of neglect. We need to figure out better how we can replace the infrastructure and let not always put it on the back of the taxpayers and businesses in Oshkosh. We have done a good job reducing our debt the last few years, but we need to take a deeper look at the overall process.*

- *Housing: we need to continue to look at single family housing issues. We have plenty of blighted areas in our neighborhoods. What is the strategy to develop them? Is it to tear some of it down, or help to refurbish them, we need to figure out the best option to make housing affordable in the city for those who want to rent and to those who want to own.*
 - *Develop a growth plan: We have agreements with our bordering townships, but we need to develop a plan on how we grow the city. We cannot just annex land unless a plan is in place on how to handle that expansion. Will we need more police and fire personal? Do we have the infra structure to handle it. Can the schools handle the influx of potential new growth? Transportation issues, not only streets but public transportation, will that handle expected demands. Whenever a community expands it may put a strain on the services that need to be provided in those areas.*
5. *Is there something that the City of Oshkosh is not presently doing that you believe will significantly improve the quality of life and strengthens the local economy? What is that and why do you believe it to be desirable? If you look at the goals that the Council has put forward for the City Manager and Staff to work on I think will significantly have an impact on quality of life and the economy. A) A comprehensive look at City owned facilities, will they meet our needs 5-10-15 years from now. If not what is the process to plan for the future. B) Personal, where are we weak and where are we to top heavy. As I mentioned earlier, if the City Continues to grow what are the service needs in police, fire, public works, transit etc. C) Work with staff to do a current inventory of the city owned Industrial land. What is the status of the land is it shovels ready? How many sites do we have? Work with staff, GO EDC, Realtors, and the Chamber to develop an aggressive marketing plan to bring in more companies and to work on business expansion. D) Work to update our current housing stock and the assessment of that stock. Identify areas of the city for neighborhood revitalization. Meaning are there blocks we should be buying, rehabbing the block or if need be completely tear down what needs to be done to develop the area. Then work with staff to put a RFP together to complete this project.*
6. *How will city government improve or be strengthened as a result of the leadership, drive, energy and vision that you bring to the city council? As previously stated I have been on Council and finishing my 4th term. I feel I bring leadership and dedication to the Council and its citizens. I have been a Council member that the business community and citizens can talk to. I feel I am open-minded and have the city's best interests at heart. I feel that the cities strategic plan gives good vision for the council and staff to continue to put Oshkosh on the map as a competitive community to live, work and play.*