

Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
Candidate Questionnaire

2018 Spring Election – Oshkosh City Council

1. Please provide some personal background information.

My name is Caroline Panske. I am currently (and have been since November 2004) employed at Oaks Candy, Inc. I serve as the Chairwoman of the Oshkosh Transit Advisory Board, I also serve on the Bike and Pedestrian Committee and the Art and Beautification Committee.

2. Why do you want to be on the city council?

I am seeking re-election to the Common Council. If elected, this would be 3rd term. My motivation for running at this time is simple. I am enjoying what I am doing, and I'm doing a great job! The momentum this city has gained in the past few years is undeniable and I am not ready to walk away from the dias at this time.

3. What specific issues will be your area of primary focus?

An area of prime concern for me will continue to be OshCorp and the Lakeshore area. As I have stated, I truly believe that we need to put initial focus on getting this global headquarters tucked into bed and comfortable. Then we should proceed with the remainder. I am a proponent of listening to citizens and still believe that there is more input they can provide and really solidify this area of Oshkosh as a true gem.

4. Please outline what you consider to be the City of Oshkosh's 3 – 5 most critical issues.

Critical issues

- 1) lack of clear and available information. As council we are still asking for more information, as a citizen I still find it difficult to find pertinent information on the city website. This needs to be changed and as a current council member, we are.*
- 2) communication still proves to be a challenge. We just haven't found an end all be all way of getting correct information out to the masses*
- 3) Pioneer Inn (still sits, another 4 years since I have been elected) I need to see something happen!*
- 4) Council should be members of the Chamber. Period.*

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?

I hinted at the lack of information and communication above. These are issues that have an enormous impact on quality of life here in Oshkosh. Take a platform like Facebook for example. You see all these

rumors and you can sense the mistrust...and that's what people use as a primary source of reliable information and it's difficult to battle that. I believe we can be more active in social media and start to lead these conversations instead of correcting them at a later time.

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?

I honestly believe the council has improved since I took my seat up there in city hall. I'm pretty common sense, I ask straightforward questions, of staff and community stakeholders, I'm accountable and available. I attend! In my 4 years, I have missed 3 meeting, total. (I was out of the country in fact, but available via phone and email) Most importantly, I listen. I encourage and support any voice that has the courage to speak up...and will proudly continue to support more and more public input. After all, this is OUR town!

Please vote April 3rd. For more information on you polling location, hours and what you need to bring with you, please visit

http://www.ci.oshkosh.wi.us/city_clerk/elections.asp