

**Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
Candidate Questionnaire**

2023 Spring Election – Oshkosh City Council

1. Please provide some personal background information.

My name is Devon Hudak and I am running for City Council on April 4th. I was born and raised in Wisconsin Rapids and came to Oshkosh in 2010 to attend school at UW Oshkosh. I graduated in 2014 with a degree in Human Services and a minor in business. I started working at ARC Contracting as their Director of Communications after graduation and have been there ever since! I also started at Discover Oshkosh in 2021 as their Community Advocate Associate. In my free time I sit on various boards throughout the community including the Oshkosh Kids Foundation, Propel Young Professionals and the Winnegamie Home Builders Association. Oshkosh is the place that I call home and am dedicated to to help make it a place people want to live, visit and continue to rave about. We have made some great progress in the community and I would love the opportunity to continue the progress and improve the city even more.

2. What are your background and qualifications for this City council position and what value will you bring to the City Council personally?

I currently sit on the Oshkosh Kids Foundation board, the Oshkosh City Parks board as well as numerous other groups. I attended school at UW-Oshkosh and resided in the area due to the potential of how great the city is to live, work and play. These are the missions that I will continue throughout my tenure if I am voted on the Council.

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

1.Continuing of progressing Oshkosh forward. Become a city that isn't always following other cities and late to the game on some things.

2.Better and more engagement from City Hall with the community, including working to get more folks involved in the governing process from small steps like encouraging voting, to larger steps of increasing inclusiveness on Council, boards and commissions and through greater transparency and discourse in general.

3.Finding a balance between taxation and services. We are nearing a tipping

point where these two items relate less and less to one another. The above 2 items will be helpful in the long run to solving this third.

4. What are the biggest challenges the city faces currently and in the next 5 years? What should the city do to respond and overcome these challenges?

We need to find a balance between continuing to grow (it is expensive to have nice amenities) and being able to attract folks to live here. We need to identify and implement ways to lower some costs for folks who already are here that will also attract folks to move here and play here!

5. Previous City Councils have considered proposals to change the policy on how to fund the current street improvement and sidewalk replacement program. Past proposals included establishing a Transportation Utility Fee Program or a Transportation Assessment Replacement Fee as a means to eliminate special assessments for street reconstruction/improvement projects and the sidewalk replacement program. Do you support this type of a program? If so, what should be the basis to establish a transportation fee? Please discuss your position.

As mentioned above, that is one of the expensive services in comparison to our neighbors. While I don't have all the answers on what type of program it should be, I am open and willing to learn about all that are brought to the table.

6. Municipalities across the State are moving to Fee for Service approaches to pay for the delivery of municipal services that were otherwise funded by the annual property tax levy. Do you support a funding approach like this? If so, what current city services would be appropriately funded as a Fee for Service? If a new Fee for Service is imposed, should property tax payers receive an equal, proportionate tax levy credit?

Yes! At some point without further support from the state, we'll have to consider other options. Noone will want to move or stay here if it keeps getting more expensive to do so. I am excited to hear about all of the creative solutions that might be on the table!

7. The City established a Storm Water Utility in 2003 for the purposes of managing storm water run-off issues in the community. Residential property owners are assessed for one equivalent runoff unit (ERU). Non-residential property owners are assessed annual fees based on the amount of impervious space (parking lots and roof tops) to determine the amount of ERUs that exists on a parcel. The initial (annual) storm water utility fee in 2003 was \$19.10 per ERU and has grown to \$237.72 per

ERU in 2023. Do you find this rate of increase acceptable? Do you believe that continued rates of increases at that level over the next 20 years is acceptable? Please outline any ideas you might have to curtail the growth in storm water utility fees.

No, the increase in fees in this case is not reasonable.

I am happy to explore further options and have continued conversations on how we can get creative to try and keep the fees down for people living in Oshkosh.

8. With a low unemployment rate and strong local economy, many employers are reporting difficulty in attracting and retaining talent. What is the role of the city in attracting people to Oshkosh and ensuring that Oshkosh is an attractive place to live and work.

Some of that answered above with controlling costs for our residents. The more that we can do to keep Oshkosh progressing and providing fun, exciting, attractable reasons for people to work, live and play here, the better success rate we will have with retaining talent.

9. The State of Wisconsin currently imposes levy limits on local municipalities, but allows for levy increases based on new development. Do you support the continuation of this? Should there be modifications? Should this be repealed? Please discuss.

I definitely support levy increases based on net new construction. I have a background in construction and see benefits for everyone. This is a topic of conversation that I greatly look forward to discussing and digging in more to share the benefits that Oshkosh can gain from this.