

1. Lynnsey Erickson
  - a. Community Health Strategist at the Winnebago County Health Department
  - b. I currently serve on the Oshkosh Plan Commission and Oshkosh Transit Advisory Board. I am a member of the League of Women Voters of Winnebago County and the Wisconsin Public Health Association. I have also volunteered with the Oshkosh Food Co-op and mentored at the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh.
2. Please outline what you consider to be the City of Oshkosh's 3-5 most critical issues.
  - a. We need to address the lack of supply of affordable housing in Oshkosh. According to a 2019 report by East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, 44% of renters and 20% of homeowners in Oshkosh are paying more than a third of their income on housing costs. Talking to rental property owners, it's an issue of lack of supply of affordable housing and rising costs to maintain their properties. Once elected, I would look at how our current zoning policies may restrict affordable housing to be built and how we can work with both renters and property owners to prevent evictions from happening. The city can help support potential solutions in legal assistance and mediation and establish a tenant/landlord resource center. We also have a lack of supply of affordable housing. We can find ways to support rental property owners in being able to maintain their properties and use tax increment financing to fund additional affordable housing development where it's really needed.
  - b. Oshkosh demographics are changing and we have to be building Oshkosh for the future. I want to live in a city that is welcoming and celebrates the diversity we have. There are people in our city who do not feel welcome even though they call Oshkosh home. We need to incorporate equity throughout our practices and policies as a city, including having equitable hiring practices and being a role model for others. We also need to support economic development that utilizes the talent and skills of people who live here, including minority and women-owned businesses. These businesses offer services and jobs for people in Oshkosh, and once elected, I would work with the business community to ensure that all entrepreneurs are supported and welcomed to Oshkosh. Our diversity makes us stronger.
  - c. There are major transportation needs in Oshkosh. We need to make sure that our residents are able to get to where they need to go. We have a great public service through GO Transit, but funding limitations have not allowed them to run past 6pm or on Sundays. Some folks rely on transit to get to where they need to go, from jobs, medical appointments, school, or errands, we need to value transit as a necessary public good. Once elected, I would work to continue creating partnerships between the city and school district, business community, and residents to ensure that everyone is able to get to where they need to go. We also need to continue to look at public-private partnerships, like Winnebago Catch-A-Ride, to make sure we have adequate transportation to help people access good jobs.
3. There are a number of geographic locations within the city that can benefit from attention to facilitate economic growth and development. Please identify and discuss what you consider to be the top two or three economic development priorities that you will champion as a member of the city council?

- a. If elected to city council, there will need to be a major focus on supporting businesses and residents during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. This will have to be a priority for the community as we work to recover our economy. I think we need to work creatively and quickly alongside businesses in order to help them get through this expected rough patch. We can look at extending repayment on loans and expanding our support for local businesses.
  - b. I will also prioritize supporting effective economic development incentives that the city can offer to support small businesses. I would particularly like to see the city make more progress in identifying needs and supporting loans and grants for entrepreneurs and business owners of color.
4. Special Assessments
  - a. People need to be able to get to where they need to go, whether it's biking, walking, taking GO Transit, or driving. I also support a program that is similar to the one proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Special Assessments that more evenly distributes the burden of road and sidewalk repairs. For one person I talked to while knocking doors a couple of weeks ago, they were hit twice with thousands of dollars in special assessments for both their home and business, and I know this is an all too common experience in Oshkosh. Keeping up with our sidewalks and roads should not be a burden for our residents or business owners. I agree that something needs to be done to find a more equitable solution to have a well-maintained transportation system for everyone. I appreciate the work the ad hoc special assessments committee, including Council Members Mugerauer and Miller, has taken on the issue. I look forward to discussing these solutions more in-depth in June when city council reviews the research Janesville is doing on the issue. We need a strong built infrastructure if we want to have an Oshkosh that people want to live in.
5. The City of Oshkosh recently rolled-out the Sawdust District Master Plan. Please provide your thoughts about this Plan. Discuss your priorities relative to implementation and development opportunities.
  - a. After attending the public open house and workshops for Plan Commission, I am excited by the possibilities this plan has to offer. I appreciate the flexibility and forward-thinking nature of the plan that will allow that area of the city to cater to a variety of businesses and residents. I also appreciate the prioritization of different types of housing, bike, pedestrian, and transit-friendly streets, and community gathering spaces. Moving forward, I plan to continue listening to business owners and residents in the Sawdust District to ensure that we stay accountable to them and keep them involved and part of the process. I look forward to putting in the work to see this area of the city receive the reinvestment and development it deserves.
6. Storm Water Utility
  - a. We all know that Oshkosh has had historical issues with flooding and overburdened storm water systems. As I would with any other issue in the city, I would like to hear from both non-residential and residential property owners to hear their concerns and how they have been impacted by city decisions. If the

fees have caused an undue burden on property owners, then we should reconsider our options. I am open to re-examining how we pay for our stormwater management program to ensure that fees are fair and equitable while also ensuring a reduction in storm water pollution and flooding.