

1.

Michael Ford

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Community Activities:

- Member of the City of Oshkosh Plan Commission
- Member of the City of Oshkosh Long-Range Finance Committee
- President of the Millers Bay Neighborhood Association
- Board member of Clarity Care Inc.
- Member of the Oshkosh Food Co-Op Site Selection Team
- Member of Oshkosh Area United Way's Fiscal Health Evaluation Committee
- Fall Prevention for an Aging Community Project

2.

There are several critical issues, when addressed, that will set Oshkosh up for a prosperous future.

1) Our recovery from the human and economic impact of the current pandemic will likely be our top priority for some time. The economic hit, the need for social services, and the impact on city revenue sources will all be massive.

2) Getting development of Oshkosh Ave, Jackson Street, and the Sawdust district right. I have been honored to be on the front lines of these projects through my work on the Plan Commission, and we must continue to make smart decisions that balance the need to attract development with the long-term needs of our community.

3) Our racial and socioeconomic achievement gaps. Some will say this is a school district issue, I say no, this is an issue impacting us all and a signal that some are being left behind in Oshkosh.

4) Weaving diversity and inclusion into the fabric of our government. Oshkosh is getting more diverse, and we must embrace that diversity as the asset that it is.

5) Collective impact. There are so many great organizations doing great things to make Oshkosh a better place. The city can play a strong role in measuring, and facilitating, the collective impact of our public, nonprofit, and private sectors. We will need our priorities aligned as we deal with the current crisis and its aftermath.

3.

The top three are Oshkosh Ave, Main Street, and the Sawdust district. Oshkosh Ave. is both a gateway and a future economic driver for Oshkosh. It is essential to get high quality development that improves our tax base. That means using incentives responsibly, and creating a business friendly tax and regulatory environment.

Main street is the heart of Oshkosh. Small businesses will be struggling from this pandemic. We need to do all we can to keep our downtown businesses afloat. How? I don't know. But I suspect we will have federal and state aid/programming that we will be able to use to support the effort. What I can guarantee is my commitment to efficiency and effectiveness so that we can implement whatever aid we get well.

The Sawdust District will extend downtown, increase our tax base, and provide an exciting mixed-use area. It will increase the tax base, but also our quality of life. I am supportive of the plan and, think Pioneer Island and the extended Riverwalk can jumpstart this development.

4.

As a member of the City's Long-Range Finance Committee I am supportive of the body's work on replacing special assessments with a more equitable alternative. I support the concept of a split fee for residents and business, but would also be supportive of more categories depending on factors such as road impact and parcel usage. We must also ensure what we do does not lead to a court challenge. Equitable means equitable, and that must be the goal of this policy.

5.

As I stated in my previous answer, I support the current plan (I voted for it on Plan Commission). I think the Sawdust District will extend downtown, increase our tax base, and provide an exciting mixed-use area. It will increase the tax base, but also our quality of life. I am supportive of the plan and, think Pioneer Island and the extended Riverwalk can jumpstart this development.

6.

No. This increase is not reasonable. Fee structures can be the difference between a business staying or leaving Oshkosh. I support establishing a base rate today, and providing certainty by indexing annual increases to the rate of inflation.