

General Election - City Council Candidate Questions

Michael Anderson

How do you plan to promote a positive, growth-oriented narrative for the Hastings area that engages the community and attracts new investment?

By encouraging existing businesses to expand, reducing government spending, encouraging tax relief, and working with existing entities in Hastings to find businesses that will increase electrical usage from our electrical power plant, which will benefit all ratepayers' electric bills. I would encourage those responsible for bringing business to Hastings to bring businesses that could compliment some of the already existing businesses. Encourage private investment, not taxpayer funding, in new business development. Reduce regulation and make it more streamlined. Also by bringing in businesses the citizens are asking for so they don't go to different towns to shop.

How will you familiarize yourself with the functions of the entity you are aiming to represent or govern?

By doing what I've been doing; i.e. go to city council meetings and do my own research, as well as discuss projects with informed people, city staff and people experienced in the specific area. Also by sharing information with other council members as well as them sharing with me. The whole of the council needs to have the same information. Transparency and listening to the citizens, that is a key function the City Council has been missing.

How do you work with and collaborate with others, specifically those who have different views than you do?

I will listen to the citizens, as that is who I will be working for, as will the mayor, other council members and city staff. The citizens will be the priority not the other council members, mayor, or myself. I think everyone's goal should be to make decisions that truly benefit the citizens as a whole. There will naturally be differences in views that's the balance that achieves great ideas and success.



Budget cuts in government generally mean cuts in services. What services do you propose cutting in order to decrease spending?

Common sense spending doesn't mean a reduction in services, it can mean more robust services. We don't have to cut services unless they are deemed unneeded; In that case they need to be eliminated. The expenses have to be known as well as the benefits at that point it can be determined what gets cut. I think a full audit of the city budget will reveal a lot. Budget cuts in government don't necessarily mean a loss in services. Some government spending just doesn't make sense, for instance City Hall. That is a great example of not spending a little for years so you can spend a lot later.