

Adams County Commissioners Candidate Questions

John Rostvet

Campaign statements often include "lower taxes," but, as costs increase, how do you prioritize realistic choices?

Priority must first be given to protecting and maintaining all that we are blessed to currently have. Emergency Services may not seem important, until you desperately need them. If Emergency Services are not prioritized, response times and the abilities of those responding will quickly suffer. As costs continue to rise, if elected, I would also prioritize proper maintenance of County resources and investments including equipment, buildings and wide range of infrastructure in order to maximize usage and life. With regard to investing toward the future of Adams County, if elected, I would first seek to be well informed, to listen and to then carefully consider the various needs and issues of those within District 2 in order to make informed decisions and prioritize that which best represents first, the needs and then the desire of residents throughout Adams County.

With 5 of the county's 7 districts being within or closely adjacent to Hastings, strong understanding and representation of the rural areas and communities of Adams County is essential if the Board of Commissioners is to effectively represent all of Adams County when prioritizing realistic choices that are fair and in the best interest of all residents and communities within Adams County. Therefore, if elected to represent District 2, I would prioritize the need for the Board to listen closely and equally consider our county's rural residents, businesses, industry and communities when prioritizing such choices.

What is your vision for the growth and development of Hastings/Adams County businesses and industries?

Agriculture has and will continue to be the heartbeat and strength of Adams County. Businesses and industries which support agriculture thru production and sale of ag products along with industries which produce value added agricultural products are and will continue to be vital to Hastings/Adams County. As agriculture, ag products and the value of agricultural products continue to evolve, existing businesses and industries must be included in any vision for growth and development as such business and industry will likely need to diversify and/or expand to remain relevant and competitive in ever changing agricultural markets. As agriculture and the usage of ag products continues to evolve,



vision for additional growth and development must also include an active presentation of Hastings/Adams County as a viable option for businesses and industries looking to develop or expand into new markets or locations. That said, agriculture markets are and will likely continue to be volatile so my vision for healthy, sustainable growth and development of Hastings/Adams County must also include and encourage diversity, specifically a vision to seek out, encourage and support businesses and industries which are strong and economically stable in order to assure quality jobs and continued growth which is not predominantly or entirely dependent upon agriculture markets.

Are there any additional areas of potential cooperation between county government and other local government entities that you would support?

I am clearly not a supporter of big government. However, with that said, "yes" I would be quick to support any such cooperation if the primary goals and expected benefits of such cooperation were both realistic and clearly to better serve the residents, businesses, industry, and communities of Adams County. If elected as a County Commissioner of District 2, I would also look closely, question and voice opposition if necessary to any such cooperation which would clearly benefit only a select group or portion of Adams County residents, businesses industry or individual community in a manner that likely would not or could not realistically be supported elsewhere.

As an elected leader, how will you help to shape a positive, growth-oriented narrative for the Hastings community?

As the owner of Rostvet Homes and developer of Freeland Creek Subdivision, forward thinking is critical and has thus become a natural part of my approach to everyday business, looking and thinking ahead allows me to clearly see the big picture, to be better prepared for each day's obstacles, to effectively problem solve and continue moving forward.

If elected I would attempt to challenge and encourage such mindset within board and committees.

If elected, I would choose to be optimistic, to see opportunities rather than roadblocks.

Focus leads to results, therefore I would encourage development of growth-oriented goals and plans. I would advocate that focus should be on the goal and acknowledge that



"plans" need to be "living, breathing documents" because plans sometimes need to adjust or shift but in order to experience sustainable growth, focus must remain on the goal.

What experience(s) or education do you have that would better prepare you for this position?

I have limited formal education, I graduated from Adams Central High School with the mentality, ability and intent to become an engineer, however having grown up on a small Adams County farm, I loved the outdoors, small community and valued the sense of satisfaction that I found in a hard day's work. Not finding Lincoln to be a good fit, I returned to Hastings and began a career in construction.

If elected, I would bring a passion, understanding and vision for building, development, problem solving and forward thinking to the Board of Commissioners. I truly enjoy getting to know people, listening, considering and envisioning possibilities as clients share dreams and needs which are unique to each project, I believe such interests and abilities would serve me well in reaching out to individuals as well as effectively representing Adams County's very diverse District 2.

My ability to clearly visualize, design, problem solve and build projects which balance dreams, needs and the reality of budget would obviously be a strong asset as costs continue to rise. I also continue to have a very hands-on approach to all projects, working alongside while also managing employees and various subcontractors. My daily business management includes bidding, purchasing, scheduling and completion of projects within budget and in a timely manner. I trust my ability to read and understand prints, specs, proposals, bids, work and change orders etc. would be a valuable asset.

