

Mayoral Candidate Questions

Jacque Cranson

As an individual seeking an elected seat to represent our community, how will you help to shape a positive, growth-oriented narrative for Hastings?

Hastings is a great place to live and do business. We need to showcase all the good here. Right now, there is so much opportunity for anyone wanting to start a small business. We need to promote that and provide support and encouragement to those interested in Hastings. I will be a cheerleader and promoter of opportunities available.

As an elected leader, how do you feel you can impact the talent availability in our community?

I will encourage continuous personal growth for talent in our city. We have great programs like Leadership Hastings that can help develop talent. I would also like to be a part of an entertainment board that would create opportunities for things to do as more young people are likely to stay if they feel it's a vibrant exciting city with lots of possibilities for entertainment.

With regard to a balance between lower taxes and investment in our community, how do you prioritize making realistic choices?

Inevitably we need taxes to provide services like fire and police. Keeping a balanced budget is very important, however making investments in our community will help keep taxes in check on down the line. It is important that we are continually making wise investments that will help the future of Hastings.

In comparing Hastings to peer communities, how do you feel we can have a more "business friendly" climate?

Hastings has so many good things going. As someone who has had a business in both Grand Island and Hastings, I choose Hastings for many reasons.



That being said it would be great to compare codes and processes with peer cities and make sure we are as good or better for incoming businesses.

We also need to get businesses to open their doors on Sundays. Hastings seems to close down, whereas other local peer communities are lively on Sundays.

Describe your thoughts about the relationship between the position of the Mayor and the City Council. Also, between the City Council and the position of City Administrator and Assistant City Administrator?

The Mayor is the tie breaker to the city council. They are in the middle for a reason. The mayor role is to mediate, and to provide common sense leadership to the council. Although not typically a vote, the Mayor as a leader should be a sounding board for council as they figure things out.

The city council is technically the boss of the city admins. They should provide guidance to city council. However, the city administrators are basically running our city. They are the two that make the big bucks. How the city administrators do their jobs is important and affects the reputation of both the mayor and council.

It's a line that needs to be treaded lightly and treated like we are all on the same team. A city administrator shouldn't be fearful in telling a council that they believe they are making the wrong decision on something.

It's very comparable to the Trev Albert situation at Nebraska. Without a common vision and goal between the board of regents, university president, and athletic director... it really doesn't matter who the boss is because if we can't all get along it's not going to work. Same goes with our city. It's not so much as important who the boss is as it is that the job gets done for the citizens of Hastings.

