

City Council Candidate Questions

Raquel Maar

It's easy to campaign on "lower taxes," but, as costs increase, how would you accomplish a lower property tax rate? How do you prioritize realistic budget choices within each department to meet a goal of "lower taxes"?

That is hard to plan right now, I am still determining what is implemented. If elected I would have to see what I have to work with and where the money is going. I will study what I can change and what has worked in the past. It is all about what we have to work with. I am willing to do my best to understand what I have to work with.

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

I will be able to open doors to individuals who may not have much of a voice in the community. Being bilingual, I can bring the Hispanic community to work with the rest of the community. We can all work together and make Hastings a place where we all have a voice.

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?

Teamwork is important, everyone needs to be on the same page and maintain strong communication. It is important your differences aside.

What is your vision for the growth and development of Hasting's business and industry? What specific strategies do you have in mind to attain them?

We need things to keep our youth here. We need more entertainment. Stop budget-cutting on things like the downtown lights. These events bring business to town and shed light on locally owned shops. Help these local shops by offering first-time owner programs and incentives. or offer resources for new business owners.



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

I will put myself where I am needed and voice for those who need to be heard. listen to our community members and hear what they want and need. Gain an understanding of what the community needs and take suggestions from our community members for change. Engage with their ideas. Not blindly leads without listening to them.