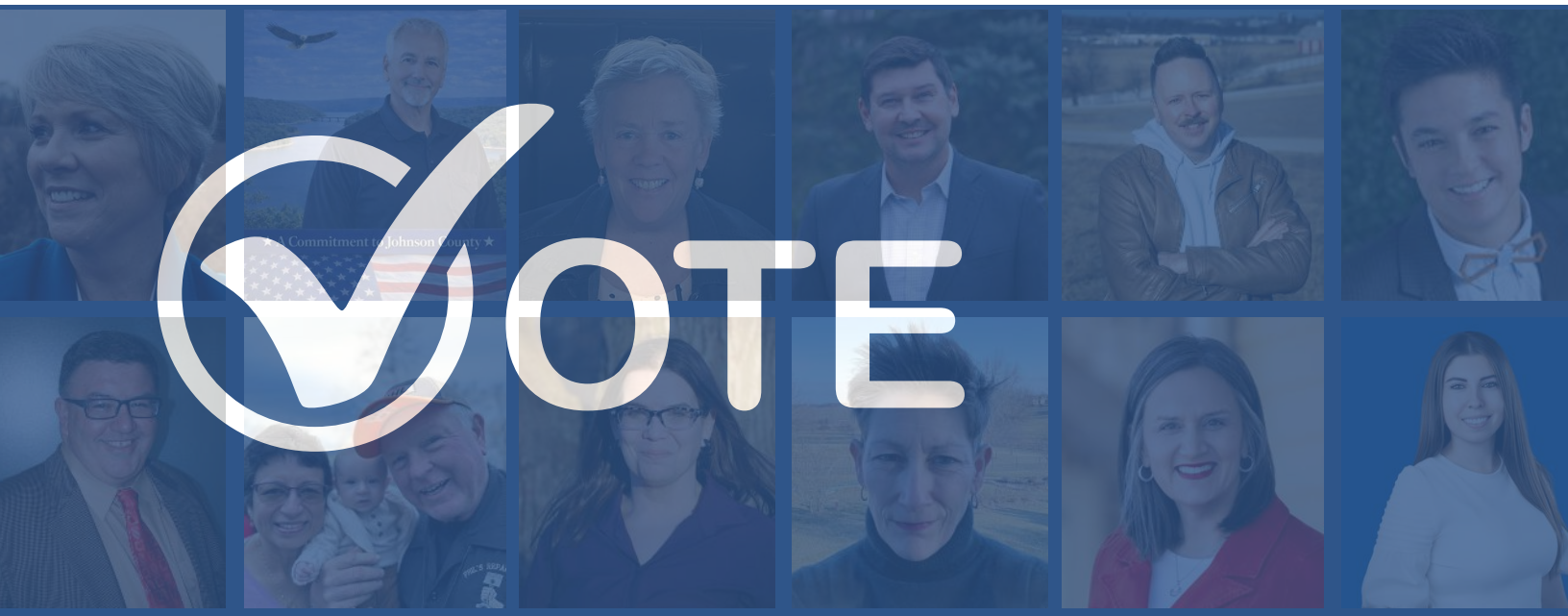
2026 Johnson County Board of Supervisors

Primary Election Voter Guide



GREATER
IOWA CITY, INC.

WHY IS THIS PRIMARY DIFFERENT?

A new law passed last spring, Senate File 75, requires Iowa counties that are home to one of Iowa's three regent universities, which includes Johnson County, to elect their county supervisors by districts, a change from the traditional at-large election process.

The newly created district map was prepared by the Legislative Services Agency and released in December 2025. This map was approved by the Board of Supervisors later that month and then again by the Secretary of State in January 2026.

As a result of redistricting, **ALL FIVE Johnson County Board of Supervisor seats are up for election this year.**

To ensure staggered terms, some supervisor districts were assigned two-year terms and others four-year terms through a random selection process by the county auditor. Districts, 2, 3, and 4 will begin as two-year terms and Districts 1 and 5 will be four-year terms. **Candidates must live in their districts, and voters will only vote for a candidate from their district**. The current supervisors will continue serving their terms until the end of 2026.

Looking ahead, supervisor elections will return to four year staggered terms in 2028. Districts 2, 3, and 4 will be on the ballot in 2028 and Districts 1 and 5 will be on the 2030 ballot. Districts will be redrawn again in 2031 to coincide with the 2030 census.

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Click each name to view candidate responses.

DISTRICT MAP

ELECTION DAY TOOLKIT

Register and know where to vote.

DISTRICT 1

- Lisa Green-Douglass (D)**
- Greg Erceg (R)
- David Woodruff (D)

DISTRICT 2

- Jon Green** (D)
- Jessica Andino (D)
- Janet Godwin (D)
- Phil Hemingway (R)

DISTRICT 3

- Sue Dvorsky (D)
- Jennie Wunderlich (R)

DISTRICT 4

- V. Fixmer-Oraiz** (D)
- Rod Sullivan** (D)

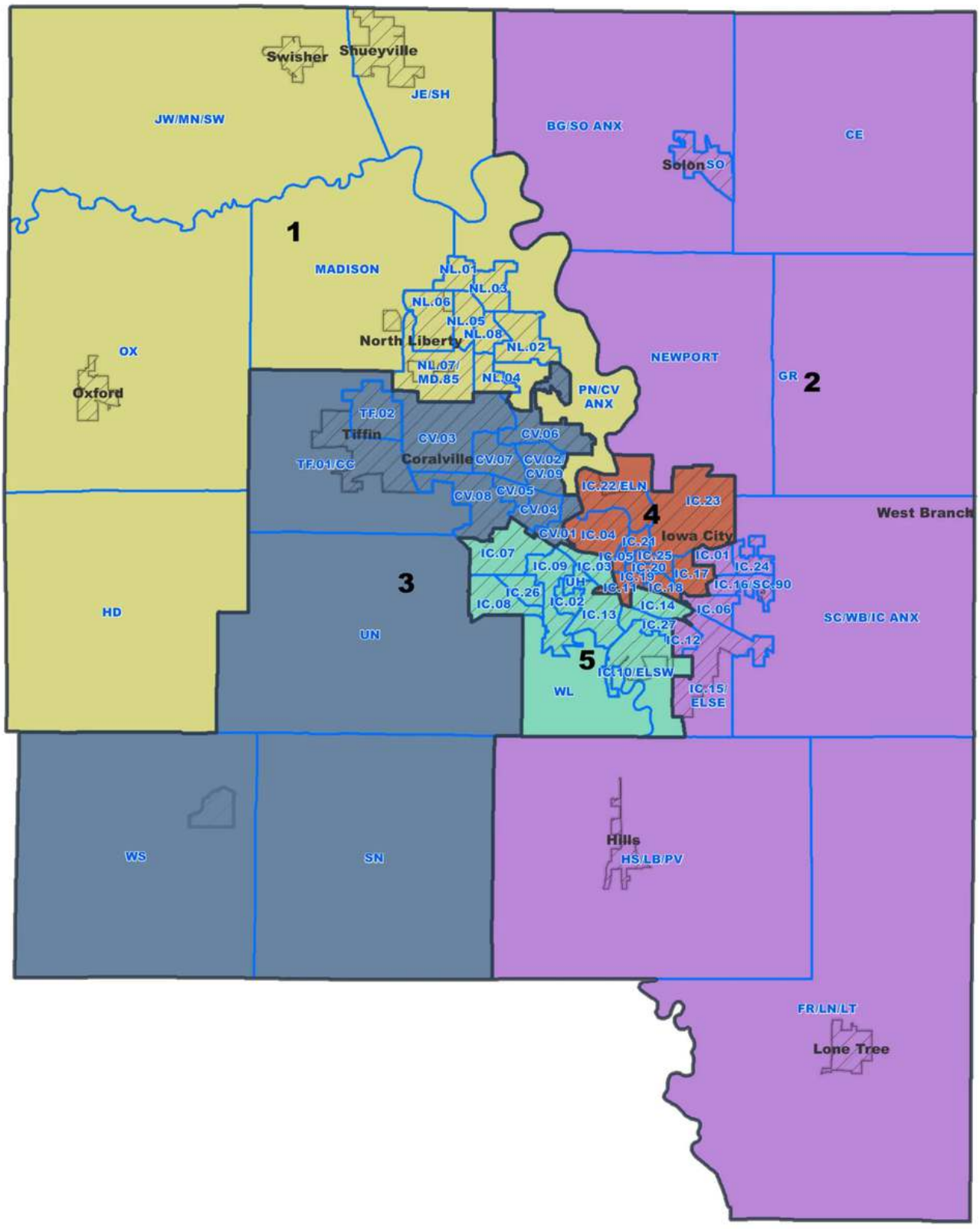
DISTRICT 5

- Mandi Remington** (D)
- Joe Reilly (D)

** = incumbent

The purpose of this Voter Guide is to inform your decision-making in the upcoming primary, share candidate information, and provide instructions for where and when to vote. While Greater Iowa City, Inc. is a non-partisan entity and does not formally endorse or donate to political candidates, we do encourage our members to be informed about issues and vote for business and community-friendly candidates and initiatives when they go to the polls.

DISTRICT MAP



ELECTION DAY **TOOLKIT**

This election has the potential to shape the future of Johnson County's governance and leadership for years to come. It's your opportunity to be heard and have a say in the policies that affect the future of your business and our community.



Confirm you are registered to vote **here**.

Register to vote **here**.

Vote early by mail **here.**

Vote early in person **here**.

Find your polling place and view your sample ballot **here**.

View the full list of candidates on the ballot **here.**

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

The purpose of a primary is for voters affiliated with political parties to select their party's candidates for the November general election. Only those registered for either of the two full-status parties (Democrat and Republican) are able to vote in the primary. Any voter can declare a party at the time they vote. Bring your state issued ID or driver's license.

May 13 – June 1: Early in-person voting takes place.

May 18:

- Deadline to request an absentee ballot and vote by mail.
- Deadline to pre-register to vote. Otherwise, you can register to vote on Election Day. Click here to learn about the requirements.

June 2: Election Day polling place hours are from 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM.

District 1 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Lisa Green-Douglass

Candidate Party: Democrat

Candidate Occupation: County Supervisor

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1. What do you hope to accomplish on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, and how will it benefit the business community? What do you see as the Board's role in supporting economic development throughout the county?

The Board has a large role in supporting economic development throughout the county. In part, this can be seen when we work to ensure that there are places that people can afford to live, that our rural roads remain in good repair, and that our social services partnerships continue providing food, diversion programs, youth support, and financial assistance when it is needed. Among the things I'd like to accomplish on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors are: 1) Along with staff from Planning, Development, and Sustainability, create support pathways for the small cities in the county to address needs within their communities for increasing their affordable housing stock. This would help the business community in a peripheral way. People in the business community need places to live and they need to be affordable. 2) Increase the number of roads and bridges projects that are scheduled per construction year by our Secondary Roads Departments. We already follow a fairly aggressive rural road maintenance schedule, but by adding just one more road or bridge project per year, the affected farming community will have one less year of questionable access to their fields. Those farming families do business in Johnson County, so when they are doing well, they have more impact on the local economy. 3) Help the passage of the Sheriff's Office/Jail Facility bond, then continuing working on a design committee. I realize that a safe and functional place for our Sheriff's Office staff to work and for incarcerated people to stay is only one thread in the fabric of public safety, but it is an important one. I don't know what the direct impact to business would be, but if Johnson County feels safe to people, we'll maintain a vibrant community where people work and spend their dollars. 4) Provide support by way of staffing, training, and equipment to our Conservation Department so that they can continue making conservation acquisitions that positively impact soil and water quality in Johnson County. Businesses benefit by being in a place where the water is plentiful and potable. Places to recreate are one of two things (strong schools is the other) that bring people here to live. In an era when so much work can be done remotely, we need to emphasize and support the quality of life aspects that make people choose Johnson County as their home.

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District 1 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Lisa Green-Douglass

Candidate Party: Democrat

Candidate Occupation: County Supervisor

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2. Johnson County is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan, and initial recommendations include exploring other organizational structures to increase efficiency. Would you be supportive of transitioning to a county manager form of government for the county? Why or why not?

No, not at this time. We are already reducing the amount of representation our residents have to county supervisors as we transition to Supervisor districts. Creating a position that is unelected and has no accountability to the residents removes one more level of contact the people have with their elected official. We've seen nationwide resistance to a unilateral decision-maker at the helm, so I imagine that would not be supported at a local level. I am open to hearing from a variety of people about the pros and cons to a County Administrator organizational structure.

3. Promoting civility and encouraging our elected officials to work towards solutions is important to Greater Iowa City, Inc. What is your approach to working with people or groups that may disagree with your positions? How do you reach consensus? Please provide examples.

I like to hear them out, but I also like to have them provide data about their issue. Sometimes people or groups bring forth ideas that are not within our purview, so as an educator I like to approach it as a teaching moment. While I know there will always be areas of disagreement, I also am able to recognize when my opinions about a topic are purely emotional, indicating to me that I need more information on the matter. Sometimes after getting facts, I end up changing my opinion, which is now fact-based instead of emotion-based. I will admit, however, that when we are approached by people who use words like "demand", I have to work harder at seeking data and facts to find the path to compromise. Finding out what all the decision makers want as their end goal helps me to identify common ground. How we reach the goal involves give and take from all parties involved, so the reminder that we all want the same end is helpful.

District 1 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Greg Erceg

Candidate Party: Republican
Candidate Occupation: Retired Special Agent

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1. What do you hope to accomplish on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, and how will it benefit the business community? What do you see as the Board's role in supporting economic development throughout the county?

I want to see more thought given to spending by county government. I believe the current Board of Supervisors have spent foolishly on projects that don't really fall under the purview of the Board. Most glaringly, are art projects. I don't see how they benefit all citizens of Johnson County. I want to have the supervisors stay in their lane.

2. Johnson County is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan, and initial recommendations include exploring other organizational structures to increase efficiency. Would you be supportive of transitioning to a county manager form of government for the county? Why or why not?

I'm not in favor of transitioning to a county manager form of government. I'm originally from Cedar Rapids. Years ago, Cedar Rapids had a Commission form of government. There were times when calls to City Departments didn't gain a timely response. The streets are a prime example. Under the Commission streets were in prime condition. Since going away from the Commission form of government the streets are in the worst shape I can recall.

3. Promoting civility and encouraging our elected officials to work towards solutions is important to Greater Iowa City, Inc. What is your approach to working with people or groups that may disagree with your positions? How do you reach consensus? Please provide examples.

Listening would be a one-word answer. Too many times, when people disagree there is commonality in the solution. The trick is to emphasize that commonality and work on compromising on the differences. I'll use the art projects as an example. I don't agree with spending government funds on them. However, if an art project is wanted by a group, I wouldn't object. But I don't like the idea of the taxpayers footing the bill. I don't see that as something that benefits the whole of the county. Instead, use donations to fund the project. Don't use the force of government to foist that cost on the taxpayer.

District 1 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



David Woodruff

Candidate Party: Democrat

Candidate Occupation: Small Business Owner

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1. What do you hope to accomplish on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, and how will it benefit the business community? What do you see as the Board's role in supporting economic development throughout the county?

My platform directly supports the business community by strengthening the local workforce. Addressing childcare and affordable housing removes employment barriers, allowing businesses to recruit and retain talent more effectively. Additionally, prioritizing mental health and clean water ensures a healthier, more productive staff, reducing absenteeism and operational risks. When families live in safe, stable neighborhoods, they have more disposable income to spend at local establishments. Ultimately, these "family priorities" create a resilient economic ecosystem where employees can afford to live where they work, ensuring that Johnson County businesses can thrive. The Board of Supervisors should serve as a strategic partner in economic development by building an environment where innovation and agriculture thrive– driving progress, managing the Comprehensive Plan, and striving for "Smart Growth" that protects farms and land while designating areas for business expansion. The Board must invest in "people infrastructure"—addressing childcare gaps, mental health access, and attainable housing—to stabilize the local workforce. By expanding rural broadband and maintaining secondary roads, we support our entrepreneurs, farmers, and folks who live a rural way of life. Through targeted grants and regional collaboration, the Board can help ensure Johnson County remains a resilient, competitive, and sustainable place to build a business.

2. Johnson County is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan, and initial recommendations include exploring other organizational structures to increase efficiency. Would you be supportive of transitioning to a county manager form of government for the county? Why or why not?

We mustn't take away the People's control over their own government. Under a manager form of government, the person with the most power over daily operations—the County Manager—is not elected by the people. If citizens are unhappy with how the county is being run, they cannot vote the manager out. I support Democracy over bureaucracy. A County Executive, elected at-large, would give the people direct control.

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District 1 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



David Woodruff

Candidate Party: Democrat

Candidate Occupation: Small Business Owner

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3. Promoting civility and encouraging our elected officials to work towards solutions is important to Greater Iowa City, Inc. What is your approach to working with people or groups that may disagree with your positions? How do you reach consensus? Please provide examples.

Effective governance is rooted in the understanding that "consensus" isn't about everyone thinking the same way—it's about finding a shared path forward that serves the public good, typically through compromise. Currently, I serve as President of Friends of Historic Preservation, where we I frequently work with developers, neighbors, owners, non-profits, and city staff who have differing, if not competing, interests. During the coordination of major projects like the Close Mansion restoration (on which we are not embarking), we're in a position of balancing strict requirements of historical integrity with the practical needs of modern contractors and, of course, budget constraints. We reach consensus not by demanding one side win, but by facilitating a working environment where each stakeholder's technical constraints are considered, until a compromise—like specific material substitutions—are found that satisfy both the preservationists and the builders. As a member of the Johnson County Agricultural Association and Fair Board, I work with a diverse board to manage the County Fair and grounds. We often face disagreements regarding land use, event scheduling, or capital improvements. My approach has been to act as an ombudsman as we work to ensure the needs of our traditional agricultural community are considered as well as the expectations of our growing urban population and modern era.

District 2 - Board of Supervisors Candidate

No photo provided

Jon Green

Candidate Party: Democrat

Candidate Occupation: County Supervisor

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1. What do you hope to accomplish on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, and how will it benefit the business community? What do you see as the Board's role in supporting economic development throughout the county?

Everything the County does contributes to economic development, mainly by providing the amenities and quality of life that make living here so desirable. But here are two particularly impactful themes we've advanced during my tenure: Housing. If you're at the top of the market, you're in great shape. If you're almost anywhere else, it's tough. The folks who play at Gabe's, who run shows at Public Space One, who sustain our vibrant restaurant scene – they've got to be able to afford to live here. We need more housing for that. Johnson County is pushing the boundaries for County-investment into housing, something traditionally left to Cities. But we can leverage our greater debt capacity, technical staff and scale to help our municipal partners. We're leading the way, because we understand the need – and the system. Rural economic development investments. The urban area has both scale and momentum on its side, so I feel most County efforts should be focused on the smaller communities. The County funded a rural economic development position at Greater IC, and it has been such a success Johnson County created a dedicated position in our Planning shop to continue that work. Living on a hobby farm where we'll never sell commodity crops, I also know how important our investments in local foods and food infrastructure have been. When I buy alfalfa, I hear from the Amish about their vibrant economic scene. We should be mindful of their needs, too – they're generally hesitant to reach out, so sometimes we need to actively engage them.

2. Johnson County is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan, and initial recommendations include exploring other organizational structures to increase efficiency. Would you be supportive of transitioning to a county manager form of government for the county? Why or why not?

The core purpose of government is to express the will of its people. Sometimes this is inefficient. There are ways the County can achieve efficiency gains, and I've been the biggest champion of them. Modernizing our back of office systems, digitalizing documents, online permitting.

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District 2 - Board of Supervisors Candidate

No photo provided

Jon Green

Candidate Party: Democrat

Candidate Occupation: County Supervisor

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But in some bedrock ways, inefficiency is designed into our system of government, and for good reason. The Board of Supervisors must give public notice of every meeting we hold, and what we're going to discuss. A County Manager need not, and experience teaches us, will not. A County Manager removes this tumultuous work from the public eye, and concentrates its authority from five supervisors into one unelected position. The State has already cut the responsiveness of County government to our voters. In previous elections, you could support a slate if you thought things at the County were going wrong. Going forward, you'll only be able to vote for one supervisor. Now isn't the time to put even more barriers between voters and our government. County government can be frustrating, and sometimes slow. Frustration and time – and transparency and accountability – make for a better work product.

3. Promoting civility and encouraging our elected officials to work towards solutions is important to Greater Iowa City, Inc. What is your approach to working with people or groups that may disagree with your positions? How do you reach consensus? Please provide examples.

Watching meetings of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors can be a boring affair – because I run a damned good meeting. We have dealt with some difficult decisions, where consensus has been difficult to find. I've found it. We've also navigated situations where there is no consensus, just a bare majority. I've landed those discussions, too, even when I've been on the losing side. As a supervisor I represent my constituency. As the chair, I also represent my colleagues. I'm the first supervisor to be elected chair consequently in living memory. That didn't happen because my fellow supervisors necessarily agree with my politics. It happened because they recognize my ability to get our work done. I don't care much for civility, it's the first defense of the scoundrel. I've heard plenty of rough language and have uttered some myself. After the Charlie Kirk imbroglio, I slept on the road for four days, Eleanore for two weeks. And that is a price we are willing to pay for our first amendment. I would much rather we heal our civics than restrict our rights. Democratic self-government is a messy, horrible thing. Except for all known alternatives. But this big, messy enterprise is where I excel.

District 2 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Jessica Andino

Candidate Party: Democrat

Candidate Occupation: Executive Director, Johnson County Affordable Housing Coalition

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1. What do you hope to accomplish on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, and how will it benefit the business community? What do you see as the Board's role in supporting economic development throughout the county?

On the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, I hope to advance practical, forward-looking policies that strengthen both our communities and our local economy. My priorities include expanding housing availability across income levels, investing in infrastructure, and supporting public health systems that keep our workforce stable and productive. Housing is one of the most immediate challenges for the business community. When workers cannot afford to live near their jobs, employers face recruitment and retention issues. I bring direct experience in housing development, property management, and nonprofit leadership, and I will work to ensure the county is a strong partner in increasing housing supply, including in rural areas. For example, in my current role I work alongside manufactured home residents in Johnson County to address issues like rising housing costs, infrastructure challenges, and stability in their communities. This work involves coordinating with local agencies, engaging property owners, and elevating resident voices at the local and state level to ensure solutions are both practical and responsive. These efforts help stabilize existing housing which is an often overlooked but critical component of maintaining a strong local workforce and economy. The Board plays a vital role in economic development by aligning land use, infrastructure, and public services to support sustainable growth. This includes maintaining safe and efficient secondary roads, supporting workforce development partnerships, and ensuring that county policies are predictable and transparent for businesses. Economic development should be balanced by supporting urban growth while also investing in rural communities and small towns. My goal is to help create an environment where businesses can succeed because the community around them is strong, stable, and well-served.

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District 2 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Jessica Andino

Candidate Party: Democrat

Candidate Occupation: Executive Director, Johnson County Affordable Housing Coalition

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2. Johnson County is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan, and initial recommendations include exploring other organizational structures to increase efficiency. Would you be supportive of transitioning to a county manager form of government for the county? Why or why not?

I am open to exploring a county manager model as part of a broader conversation about improving efficiency and service delivery. Any change in structure should be driven by clear goals: increasing operational effectiveness, improving coordination across departments, and ensuring accountability to residents. That said, I believe it is essential to carefully evaluate how such a transition would impact transparency, responsiveness, and the connection between elected officials and the public. The current Board structure allows for direct accountability, and that should not be weakened. I also think it is important to consider whether some of the intended benefits of a county manager model could be achieved by strengthening and better resourcing the existing Executive Director role. Expanding administrative capacity, clarifying responsibilities, and improving internal coordination may provide a more incremental and cost-effective path to increased efficiency without a full structural change. Before making a decision, I would want to see a thorough analysis, including input from county staff, peer counties that have adopted this model, and residents. It's important to understand both the potential benefits (such as streamlined administration) and the risks, including adding another layer between decision-makers and the community. Ultimately, I would support changes that demonstrably improve service delivery and fiscal responsibility while maintaining strong public accountability.

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District 2 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Jessica Andino

Candidate Party: Democrat

Candidate Occupation: Executive Director, Johnson County Affordable Housing Coalition

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3. Promoting civility and encouraging our elected officials to work towards solutions is important to Greater Iowa City, Inc. What is your approach to working with people or groups that may disagree with your positions? How do you reach consensus? Please provide examples.

My approach to working with people who disagree with me is grounded in listening first, assuming positive intent, and focusing on solutions. I believe most people (whether residents, business owners, or advocates) are showing up because they care deeply about their community. Starting from that place allows for more productive and respectful conversations. Civility is not just about tone, but about intention. It means engaging respectfully, being open to new information, and being willing to adjust when presented with better ideas. Consensus does not always mean full agreement, but it does mean finding a path forward that is informed, balanced, and grounded in community needs. My goal is to create space for constructive dialogue and to build trust through consistency, transparency, and follow-through. In my professional work, I regularly bring together stakeholders with differing perspectives including nonprofits, government agencies, developers, and residents and help facilitate collaboration. I also believe strongly in leaning into the expertise in the room. People bring lived experience, technical knowledge, and professional insight that should inform better decision-making. A specific example is related to the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) initiatives in Iowa City, Coralville, and North Liberty, I engaged with community members, business leaders, and residents who had differing perspectives on how funds should be used and what the impacts might be. In that process, I helped elevate the importance of dedicating resources to housing, ensuring that affordability and long-term stability were part of the conversation. By focusing on shared goals and taking the time to listen to concerns across sectors, we were able to foster more constructive, solution-oriented dialogue. That collaborative approach helped build broad community understanding and ultimately led to strong voter support for the LOST in all three cities, while ensuring the funding approach reflected the unique priorities of each community.

District 2 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Janet Godwin

Candidate Party: Democrat

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1. What do you hope to accomplish on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, and how will it benefit the business community? What do you see as the Board's role in supporting economic development throughout the county?

What I hope to accomplish on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors is to help build a county government that is strategic, coordinated, and accountable for results—one that delivers real value for residents and the business community. Johnson County already has a solid economic development foundation through the *Better Together 2030* plan coupled with prioritized legislative priorities. I see my role as building on that momentum and helping to ensure that county departments coordinate around shared priorities of workforce development, fair and appropriate tax policies, and the services businesses depend on for the well-being of their employees. Businesses need a county government that is consistent, responsive in its services, and thoughtful in how it uses taxpayer dollars. I want to help ensure that our processes—from zoning and land use to permitting and interdepartmental coordination—are clear, reliable, and support economic activity rather than slow it down. I have long believed in grassroots economic development to strengthen and grow Johnson County. We need to meet our businesses and entrepreneurs where they are in growing and innovating for a vibrant local economy. County government plays a critical role creating the right conditions for growth, not directing it. That includes investing in core infrastructure, supporting workforce development, addressing housing availability, and maintaining a regulatory environment that is fair and predictable. It also means being actively engaged with the business community —listening to concerns, understanding barriers, and working collaboratively to solve problems. For too long the County has provided funding but not enough strategic engagement in growing our economy. I intend to be a leader on this front. I am committed to making Johnson County a place where businesses can invest with confidence, grow sustainably, and contribute to a strong and vibrant local economy for everyone.

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District 2 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Janet Godwin

Candidate Party: Democrat

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2. Johnson County is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan, and initial recommendations include exploring other organizational structures to increase efficiency. Would you be supportive of transitioning to a county manager form of government for the county? Why or why not?

The Board of Supervisors should be focused on governance—setting strategic direction, overseeing taxpayer dollars, engaging with residents, and holding the organization accountable for results. The board rotates oversight of county departments, which can lead to inconsistency, silos, and concerns about micromanagement—particularly when supervisors are not subject-matter experts in those areas.
A professional county manager could provide consistent, coordinated leadership across departments. That structure would improve alignment, strengthen execution, and ensure that proposals coming before the board are comprehensive and well-integrated. At the same time, this model only works if the board remains strong and engaged. It should not become a rubber stamp. The board's role would be to set clear priorities, establish performance expectations, and actively manage the county manager's performance—similar to how a city council oversees a city manager or a board oversees a CEO. I also understand the concern that adding a county manager could create another layer of bureaucracy or distance accountability from voters. My view is that, if done well, it does the opposite. It creates clearer lines of responsibility—the manager is accountable for operations, and the board is accountable to the public for results. Ultimately, I see this as an opportunity to improve both efficiency and accountability, while delivering more consistent and effective services to residents and businesses across Johnson County.

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District 2 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Janet Godwin

Candidate Party: Democrat

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3. Promoting civility and encouraging our elected officials to work towards solutions is important to Greater Iowa City, Inc. What is your approach to working with people or groups that may disagree with your positions? How do you reach consensus? Please provide examples.

My approach to working with people who disagree with me starts with a simple principle: seek to understand before seeking agreement. I make a point to listen carefully, ask thoughtful questions, and fully understand the perspectives—especially those I may not initially share. In many cases, I've found that disagreement is less about the problem we're trying to solve and more about how we solve it. By taking the time to align on the problem and the underlying values—why it matters to each of us—we can build a foundation of trust and mutual respect. That foundation makes it much easier to work collaboratively toward solutions, even when we don't fully agree on every detail. For example, during my time on the Iowa City Community School District Board, we faced complex decisions where stakeholders had strong and differing views—such as school safety and resource allocation. In those situations, we focused first on shared goals: student safety, effective learning environments, and responsible use of public funds. That alignment helped us have more productive conversations about the trade-offs involved and ultimately reach decisions that reflected broad input, even if not unanimous agreement. I also believe it's important to be clear that consensus is the goal, but not always the outcome. In public service, there are times when, after thoughtful engagement and good-faith effort, a decision must move forward with majority support. When that happens, it's critical to communicate transparently and explain how input was considered and why a decision was made. Civility is not just about tone—it's about process. If people feel heard, respected, and included, even difficult decisions can strengthen relationships rather than divide them. That's the approach I bring to public service.

District 2 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Phil Hemingway

Candidate Party: Republican

Candidate Occupation: Mechanic

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Phone: 319-430-9373

1. What do you hope to accomplish on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, and how will it benefit the business community? What do you see as the Board's role in supporting economic development throughout the county?

I hope to bring fiscal oversight and a blue-collar work ethic to the board. As a lifelong resident and small business owner, I know the challenges facing our community. Johnson County is one of the most expensive places in the State of Iowa to live in. It is important to do everything in our power to make it affordable for ALL of our residents. As previously stated, making it affordable for everyone would be a huge step forward. Roads, bridges, and essential services are the main charge of the Supervisors. As someone who has farmed in Johnson County, I will bring rural perspective to the board. The board's role is not to pick winners or losers, but to create an even playing field for all entities to prosper. As the Gazette editorial board stated in November of 2018, referring to my school board service: "There is simply no other member of the school board with his tenacity or attention to detail, especially on fiscal matters."

2. Johnson County is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan, and initial recommendations include exploring other organizational structures to increase efficiency. Would you be supportive of transitioning to a county manager form of government for the county? Why or why not?

I think it is important to review the organizational structure to find any efficiencies or cost saving measures that would benefit all residents of Johnson County. In reference to transitioning to a county manager, I would have real concerns with five (5) supervisors, making collectively a half a million dollars annually, to then relinquish their responsibilities and decision making to an unelected six-figure individual. What have our supervisors been doing for the last 60 years? It's not a Democrat-Republican thing, it is a YOUR money thing.

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District 2 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Phil Hemingway

Candidate Party: Republican
Candidate Occupation: Mechanic

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3. Promoting civility and encouraging our elected officials to work towards solutions is important to Greater Iowa City, Inc. What is your approach to working with people or groups that may disagree with your positions? How do you reach consensus? Please provide examples.

I believe I am uniquely qualified having been elected to the ICCSD Board of Education as a registered Republican. Although these positions are considered non-partisan, we all know better that in Johnson County they are not. I provided fiscal oversight during the school district's largest bond issue at the time. Our budgets were balanced and we did not have millions of dollars missing. I worked with other board members to get FFA and Ag Education to get approved as a course of study. I was an advocate for career and tech education decades before it was vogue. I hosted, at my business, weekly discussion groups with anyone interested in discussing public education. I was approached by students, staff, and community members and was always open to hearing other views and opinions. On the school board, I was a strong advocate for Special Ed students and parents and did not always agree with my fellow board members, but we were able to disagree agreeably and cast our votes and go on. I think any close examination of my school board service would show how I was able to work with others for the betterment of the community. It is okay to disagree as long as it is done with respect and an open ear to listen to other views and opinions. Regardless of how the vote turns out, once a decision has been made, every board member should work towards that goal.

District 3 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Sue Dvorsky

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Candidate Occupation: Retired

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1. What do you hope to accomplish on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, and how will it benefit the business community? What do you see as the Board's role in supporting economic development throughout the county?

The system of voting in districts will fundamentally change the nature of the Board of Supervisors in Johnson County. I choose to look at this as an opening to expand input from citizens in the diverse and thriving municipalities, edge communities and unincorporated areas across the County. I have lived my entire adult life in Coralville, and my professional career was spent in the public education sector, both in the Iowa City Community School District, and at the University of Iowa. But my father and grandfather were small businessmen in the ag sector, so I have a deep and abiding respect for the risk and reward of managing a small business. I believe that the business community is one of the legs of the three-legged stool that supports healthy communities, the other two being good public policy from elected leaders, and strong non-profit partners. A foundational role of the Supervisors in supporting county-wide economic development is to foster strong relationships in all areas of the county. I believe that a system of districts will actually enhance the ability of each Supervisor to become more deeply embedded in the communities, and with the residents, of their district. A one-size-fits-all approach stifles creativity, invention, and entrepreneurship. Diverse opinions will challenge and broaden our thinking, and that will be healthy for all sectors.

2. Johnson County is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan, and initial recommendations include exploring other organizational structures to increase efficiency. Would you be supportive of transitioning to a county manager form of government for the county? Why or why not?

Since I began this campaign, I have been promoting citizen engagement in the Strategic Planning process. I was not surprised to see that, across all respondent groups and methods of collecting input, the exploration of a county manager form of government was ranked as a first or second priority. I believe that this is exactly the time to reimagine and revamp the governance structure at the Supervisor level.

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District 3 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Sue Dvorsky

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The county manager position could be had with minimal budgetary impact by restructuring the Supervisor salaries, which are currently the highest per citizen in the 10 largest counties in Iowa. The roles and responsibilities of the Supervisors should be examined and revised in light of the new governance model. A well-qualified county administrator will be invaluable in navigating the challenging fiscal and political landscape that we anticipate in the next several years.

3. Promoting civility and encouraging our elected officials to work towards solutions is important to Greater Iowa City, Inc. What is your approach to working with people or groups that may disagree with your positions? How do you reach consensus? Please provide examples.

Civility and working collaboratively toward consensus solutions must be an internal culture before it can be focused forward on any other stakeholders. Much of the work of any elected body is the management and approval of issues that are non-controversial in nature. The term of art in the political space is "non-con." Generally, those are not the areas that stress relationships or systems. The new system of representation of districts will necessitate conversation, discussion, and compromise to reach even the bare majority of three votes. Whoever sits on the Board in January of 2027 will be navigating uncharted territory. Between themselves, other electeds, department heads and staff, and most importantly, the residents of the County, there must be a commitment to respectful listening, thoughtful discussion, and transparent decision-making. A touch of humility wouldn't go amiss either. Issues that come before any elected body, by definition, do not have simple, or obviously correct, answers. If they did, they would have been solved already. It is difficult to make data-driven decisions if one's vote is pre-determined. In my 36-year teaching career, I was a leader in advocating for students with severe disabilities, and their families. I used many of those same skills to advocate for my peers through various roles in the Iowa City Education Association. In 2010, I became the Chair of the Iowa Democratic Party and held that role through the Presidential election in 2012. Fostering strong connections with individuals helped me strengthen my relationships within our organization, across the state of Iowa, and on behalf of Iowa at the national level. I'm determined to do what I can to foster that culture and climate, for the residents of Johnson County.

District 3 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Jennie Wunderlich

Candidate Party: Republican

Candidate Occupation: Small Business Owner

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1. What do you hope to accomplish on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, and how will it benefit the business community? What do you see as the Board's role in supporting economic development throughout the county?

I want to bring positive leadership that serves with action to the Johnson County Board of Supervisors. As a small business owner, I'd love to be a voice for businesses, bringing personal experience and understanding to the table, while also working to understand even more what fellow business leaders need to be successful. I want to be a supervisor that listens well to our community members at large as well as our professional staff, working collaboratively to help our business community and local economy. I want to help our county assess areas where our tax dollars are going and focus on our core services of government, streamlining processes and increasing efficiencies wherever possible to make our county a more affordable and attractive place to live and have a business. Having an efficient local government that spends tax dollars wisely increases economic stability, which helps businesses gain certainty, invest more in their people and infrastructure and grow our local economy. I believe the board should be looking at tangible ways to help businesses be successful. This means streamlining permitting and looking for ways to say "yes" to decrease costs for business owners seeking to scale and improve when they bring proposals and requests to the board. Increasing costs are creating significant challenges for local community members trying to make ends meet. Johnson County has incredible potential for growth – I want to make sure local government is an asset to that growth, not an obstacle to it.

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District 3 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



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2. Johnson County is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan, and initial recommendations include exploring other organizational structures to increase efficiency. Would you be supportive of transitioning to a county manager form of government for the county? Why or why not?

A county manager form of government is a concept worth exploring seriously as part of Johnson County's strategic planning process. Before taking a firm position, I would want to visit with counties that have made this transition — hearing firsthand about the benefits, challenges, and lessons learned — as well as engage our current staff, community members, and fellow supervisors. There are meaningful differences between the two models. Our current board-led structure gives supervisors direct accountability for daily administrative oversight alongside legislative responsibilities, with department heads reporting directly to the board. A manager-led model places operational and executive authority with one individual who brings specialized public administration expertise, handling day-to-day staffing, department management, and implementation — keeping politics further from daily operations and providing greater continuity for staff. Both models have merit. A manager-led structure can increase efficiency and provide clearer lines of accountability within county operations. However, any structural change must make fiscal sense — particularly given the county's recent budget challenges. I would not support adding executive-level compensation to the county's cost structure without corresponding reductions elsewhere. Any transition should be cost-neutral or better. Ultimately, I believe this decision deserves a thorough, collaborative process — not a rushed conclusion. I'd want to ensure we're choosing the structure that best serves Johnson County residents for the long term. I look forward to being part of that conversation and working with fellow supervisors, staff, and community members to find the best path forward for Johnson County.

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District 3 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Jennie Wunderlich

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3. Promoting civility and encouraging our elected officials to work towards solutions is important to Greater Iowa City, Inc. What is your approach to working with people or groups that may disagree with your positions? How do you reach consensus? Please provide examples.

My approach when working with others – including when we disagree – is grounded in respect, listening, and a focus on shared goals. I've found it's best to assume good intentions, actively listen to others' opinions, ask meaningful questions, and then consider their position. Being kind and respectful helps build coalitions and stronger teams and communities. In situations where I've worked with someone who disagrees with me, I've found that gaining a deeper understanding of the other person significantly helps when we work together. When both parties understand each other's natural strengths and frustrations and commit to using that knowledge to work better together, so much more can be accomplished. In one situation, I advocated for a partnership I thought would be beneficial to our organization, although it would mean the moving of a headquarters and collaborating on a significant infrastructure project. After sharing my perspective, I realized the support wasn't there to move forward at this time. Rather than pushing the issue, I acknowledged their viewpoints and shifted focus to other priorities. Because of that approach, our board continued cohesively and worked effectively together. Reaching consensus doesn't mean everyone fully agrees — it requires trust, a willingness to collaborate, and leaders who keep conversations productive and focused on the core mission. I strive to bring that kind of positive, solutions-oriented leadership to every situation, especially when we disagree.

District 4 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



V. Fixmer-Oraiz

Candidate Party: Democrat

Candidate Occupation: County Supervisor

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1. What do you hope to accomplish on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, and how will it benefit the business community? What do you see as the Board's role in supporting economic development throughout the county?

One of my main goals is to understand and help steward the county's stance on data centers. I believe data centers and artificial intelligence (AI) are one of the biggest issues facing our generation. Much like the internet changed how we live our lives, AI will similarly change humanity. We need to carefully weigh the impacts and benefits of data centers as they are the physical manifestation of this societal transition. I have toured two data centers in Iowa, the Meta data center in Altoona, which is their largest data center in the world and the construction site of the QTS data center in Cedar Rapids. Both are stunning examples of how impactful data centers can be on our natural resources, such as water and energy, as well as economic development. For example, the QTS data center is set to recirculate 12 million gallons of water, has its own electrical substation, and currently employs 7,000 workers, from electricians to plumbers, security to traffic control. That's more workers than the combined population of the three surrounding smaller cities: Fairfax ~3,000, Palo~1,400, and Ely ~2,300 = 6,700! And all of the labor union workers in Iowa and the surrounding Midwest states have been emptied of their tradespeople. It is the reason why our hotels in Coralville are at such high capacity. The economic development implications of a data center in an adjacent county are already having economic impacts here in Johnson County, and we need to look at the long-term benefits and challenges. How many workers will stay and create new businesses or start families whose kids will attend our schools? These are just a few of the questions I hope to have answered in order to help our county make the best decision for our residents.

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District 4 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



V. Fixmer-Oraiz

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2. Johnson County is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan, and initial recommendations include exploring other organizational structures to increase efficiency. Would you be supportive of transitioning to a county manager form of government for the county? Why or why not?

I am in support of transitioning to a county manager system. Currently, we are a five-member board that oversees 16 departments with five of those departments run by other elected officials (Sheriff, Auditor, Treasurer, Recorder, and County Attorney). When a department director wants to ask for something or address an issue, it has to be brought before the full Board of Supervisors, discussed publicly, and then you need three of the five to say yes. It's not a quick and easy or simple process. And I would like to provide an example, but these things get political so quickly that I hesitate to even hypothetically make up a scenario for a specific department! A county manager would centralize administrative functions, which would streamline departmental functions and provide our outside contractors with a clear chain of operations. This would also allow our Board to focus more on legislative issues. I would like to have more of a relationship with our legislature in Des Moines, to have a better sense of where we can represent the concerns of our Johnson County residents when it comes to zoning for our sensitive areas or ways in which we can promote what we do for mental health in our region, such as the Guidelink Center. This would be a huge transformation for the Board of Supervisors and would take a considerable amount of time and resources to fully flush out. I am willing to start that conversation to see what a county manager form of government would look like for Johnson County.

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District 4 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



V. Fixmer-Oraiz

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3. Promoting civility and encouraging our elected officials to work towards solutions is important to Greater Iowa City, Inc. What is your approach to working with people or groups that may disagree with your positions? How do you reach consensus? Please provide examples.

In this day and age, we must be willing to listen to one another. My goal for understanding others is to have genuine curiosity and compassion. When someone brings up an idea that I disagree with or has a worldview that is incompatible with mine, I listen and seek common ground about the issue. We may disagree in the end, but as elected officials, that is how we find better solutions for our community. And if I cause unintentional harm, I offer apologies and repair when others hold me accountable. This strategy only works if others are open to working together, and that is sadly, too often not the case. An example is the vote on the School Resource Officer for the Clear Creek Amana School District. I was not in support of using county resources for this position, but I listened to the presenters and asked direct questions about other solutions they considered, such as a threat assessment team that includes crisis counselors, teachers, and mental health/social service providers to wrap around students that are deemed at risk for violence. I was told that the School board and Superintendent were offended by not only my vote, but that I was rude. I followed up with the School board and the Superintendent via email and apologized. I also offered to meet and offer repair in-person. I was unequivocally told that they did not want to meet and rejected my apologies. I had hoped that local governance would be willing to be more accountable to one another. To be clear, I am still here and would be willing to work together towards finding other collaborative solutions.

District 4 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Rod Sullivan

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Candidate Occupation: County Supervisor

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1. What do you hope to accomplish on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, and how will it benefit the business community? What do you see as the Board's role in supporting economic development throughout the county?

My primary goals include creating additional affordable housing, addressing the mental health and substance abuse crisis, and getting a new jail built. I think the business community benefits when government is efficient and effective; I have worked hard to achieve that. I am also accessible – I speak with Greater IC staff weekly if not more. I go out of my way to speak to members of the business community, who unfortunately often feel unwelcome at County meetings. I believe the Board's role in economic development is multi-dimensional. First, we need to be sure our own house is in order. We need to do the things we are charged with doing and do them well. This means good infrastructure, etc. Second, we need to work with other entities on a unified economic development strategy. Third, once that strategy is developed and agreed upon, we need to help fund it. Fourth, the Board needs to understand that economic growth in Iowa City, Coralville, and other urban areas is valuable to the county. The focus is too often exclusively on rural areas. While they deserve attention, they are not our top economic drivers. Fifth, the Board needs to quit pretending they have expertise in this area when they do not. Humility is called for. We need to listen to experts.

2. Johnson County is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan, and initial recommendations include exploring other organizational structures to increase efficiency. Would you be supportive of transitioning to a county manager form of government for the county? Why or why not?

I am open to considering it. I will say this – Johnson County Supervisors are remarkably unaccountable. How many hours do they work? What do they do during that time? Do they attend the meetings they are supposed to attend? Accountability is completely lacking, especially for a job that pays $90,000 plus excellent benefits. I have been arguing for greater accountability for years.

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District 4 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Rod Sullivan

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This is in part because we all deserve it as taxpayers, but also because I put in the work. That is why I know the most about county services, the county budget, county employees, county history, etc. than any other Supervisor. I put in the time. So we need accountability, regardless of the structure.
I know my opponent feels a County Manager is warranted – but they expect to hire a manager and get roughly their same pay. That is absurd. If we hire a County Manager, we should follow in the footsteps of Scott County, where Supervisors are paid $46,000 annually. That is plenty for what would be a very part time job.

3. Promoting civility and encouraging our elected officials to work towards solutions is important to Greater Iowa City, Inc. What is your approach to working with people or groups that may disagree with your positions? How do you reach consensus? Please provide examples.

No member of the Board can come close to approaching my record of accomplishments. The reason I have been able to get these things done is because of my willingness to bring people together and find common ground. I have very specifically worked with Greater IC (and its predecessors) on two huge ICCSD school bonds, both where I was part of the Executive Committee. I worked directly with Nancy Quellhorst to implement a Buy Local program, which I saw in a different community. I came up with the idea for and led two Conservation Bonds, which have provided much needed outdoor recreation in Johnson County. Some other accomplishments include the Joint Emergency Communications 911 Center, the GuideLink Center, adding rural warning sirens, and big investments in solar energy. How does one do this? Hard work. I spend a lot of time listening, and figuring out where common ground exists. I speak with subject matter experts. Then you have to bring people to the table and decide what ideas are moving forward. Then you keep the coalition together, and sell the public on the vision. You have to do what you said you were going to do. Finally, you apply a CQI process – asking how and where we can improve.

District 5 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Mandi Remington

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Candidate Occupation: County Supervisor

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1. What do you hope to accomplish on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, and how will it benefit the business community? What do you see as the Board's role in supporting economic development throughout the county?

Through my role on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, I hope to help build astable economy that is accessible and sustainable for the people who live and work here.That starts with the fundamentals, and housing is a key part of it. If people can't afford to live here, businesses struggle to hire and retain employees. Making real progress on housing availability and affordability is essential to supporting a strong workforce. I see the Board's role in supporting economic development as setting the conditions for sustainable growth through thoughtful land use decisions, strategic infrastructure investments, and strong coordination with municipal partners. Consistency and planning help create an environment where communities—and the businesses within them—can grow in a stable and predictable way.

2. Johnson County is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan, and initial recommendations include exploring other organizational structures to increase efficiency. Would you be supportive of transitioning to a county manager form of government for the county? Why or why not?

While I see potential benefits to a county manager when it comes to organizational stability and operational efficiency, I have concerns about how it could affect accessibility and accountability. One of my priorities is ensuring residents can easily connect with and be heard by their elected officials, and I would want to be confident that any change would not create unnecessary distance between the public and decision-makers. Ultimately, the concept should be evaluated carefully, with input from staff, stakeholders, and the public.

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District 5 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Mandi Remington

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Candidate Occupation: County Supervisor

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3. Promoting civility and encouraging our elected officials to work towards solutions is important to Greater Iowa City, Inc. What is your approach to working with people or groups that may disagree with your positions? How do you reach consensus? Please provide examples.

My approach to working with people who disagree with me is to stay focused on shared goals and practical outcomes. I start by listening to understand what's driving different perspectives, and then look for areas of alignment to build from. Even when there's disagreement, there's often common ground around things like community stability, safety, or effective use of resources. I've used that approach as a County Supervisor to bring together local law enforcement, government, and nonprofit partners to launch a field mediation pilot program. The groups come to the table with different perspectives, but by focusing on shared goals and workable solutions, we've been able to move the work forward.

District 5 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Joe Reilly

Candidate Party: Democrat
Candidate Occupation: Director of Operations & Nighttime Initiatives

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1. What do you hope to accomplish on the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, and how will it benefit the business community? What do you see as the Board's role in supporting economic development throughout the county?

While there is much change around us as a community, as a state, and as a country--it is also an opportunity to rethink approaches and make more sustainable systems. The board's role should be to research every opportunity as it presents itself while looking to protect our quality life assets and incentivizing investment if needed: While the County has a data center moratorium, we should take this time to get all of our communities on the same page about standards we would all agree to require if approached individually. We need continued support in the housing sector, not only in types of housing stock but in affordable housing programs. As our big three communities begin to implement a local option sales tax July 1 that identifies funding for affordable housing, I see an opportunity to combine efforts with the county and existing non profit resources. We still have a need for public transportation across existing networks and expansion into North Liberty. It would be advantageous to start discussions with the Metropolitan Planning Organization of Johnson County, Coralville, North Liberty and Iowa City about what a regional transit bus authority would look like for Johnson County. I've seen successful economic investment incentives first hand in Downtown, I would like to take these to our main streets in rural Johnson County in the form of tax abatements for storefront enhancements and façade restorations. We also have many non profit organizations supporting our resident workforce that receive county funding; these programs can be vital in targeting gaps at a micro level, but I believe these granting processes need to continue to be competitive with equal opportunity for all applicants and transparency for both our tax payers and participating organizations.

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District 5 - Board of Supervisors Candidate



Joe Reilly

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2. Johnson County is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan, and initial recommendations include exploring other organizational structures to increase efficiency. Would you be supportive of transitioning to a county manager form of government for the county? Why or why not?

This is worth exploring. I would want this employee to become a member of the International City/County Management Association and abide by their code of ethics which includes personal/professional conduct and a dedication to the cause of good government. I think a manager model provides a strong continuity of governance that instills confidence in employees and department heads to carry out core services on a longer term level of planning. While the board would still have oversight of such an employee, the manager model provides stronger insight and expertise that can support supervisor decision making and knowledge gaps, while still remaining impartial and leading with the communities best interest.

3. Promoting civility and encouraging our elected officials to work towards solutions is important to Greater Iowa City, Inc. What is your approach to working with people or groups that may disagree with your positions? How do you reach consensus? Please provide examples.

For the board of supervisors, the public for the most part sees you as one, you share your successes and failures together. That's why I think the more you can stick to strategic drivers and a process, the less room there is for personality and position conflict. A good question to refocus when discussion gets heated is 'What is the work or task presently and how does it align with our broader mission?'.Externally, meeting with the public and hearing them out completely, even if a resolution can't be met, is a good way to build trust over time. I borrow from my experience at the Iowa City Downtown District as an advocate for cultural and nightlife venues. Perhaps the timing might be off for a request or there are code compliance issues that need to be navigated. I take a look at the requested end result and see if there is an alternate path that is not presented. It is also important to identify the constraints that limit alignment in situations. Conditions may change over time and conversations can always be revisited when that happens. Don't commit to 'never', come at it as 'when/if conditions change.' Lastly, there are times where collaboration with other governing bodies or representatives is necessary, such as federal funding. Again I return to 'What is the work or task presently and how does it align with our broader mission?'

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Greater Iowa City, Inc.

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