



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce

POLICY COUNCIL & BUSINESS BUILDS PAC

CITY OF EDWARDSVILLE: ALDERMAN CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Jennifer K. Warren

Position Sought: Edwardsville City Council representing Ward 6

1. Please provide us with some basic information. Tell us briefly about:

- a. Your family:** I live in Montclair with my husband of 15 years
- b. How long you've lived in Edwardsville:** Since 1997
- c. Your education:** Graduate of SIUE Business School
- d. Your employment:** Chief Operations Officer for a Community Bank

2. Why are you seeking this office?

Our parks, schools, and real estate developments are a direct result of the good decisions and effective management of our current and former city staff and officials.

The upcoming April election promises to result in significant changes to our local government. Three of the seven Wards--and the Mayor--are on the ballot. In fact, the current Alderman for Ward 6 is retiring his seat. Given my passion for the well-being of our community and its future, I have decided to run for City Council to represent Ward 6.

3. What education, skills and experiences have prepared you to deal with the complex financial, technical and legal issues that regularly come before city council?

With 20+ years of experience working and managing the operations side of banking I have extensive experience working in a complex financial, technical and regulated environment.

I am also co-owner of a company and I manage the logistics of processing Payroll, Employment Tax, Income Tax, Sales Tax for Illinois and Missouri.

4. What, if anything, should the city of Edwardsville do to retain, expand and attract 'head of household' jobs?

In light of remote work opportunities I feel it is incumbent for the city, more than ever, to continue to make Edwardsville a livable, walkable and family/business-friendly community.

5. Identify and prioritize the three most important 'large capital' projects in the city of Edwardsville. Please justify your prioritization. How do you propose to pay for these projects?

After speaking with the City Engineer these are the most important 'large capital' projects in the City of Edwardsville -

Parking Garage	TIFF 2 extended to help fund (primary source)
Water Meters	Currently funded through user rate increase to help fund capital improvements
The Center (Ice Rink)	Grants/Donations/Glen Carbon participation

As a prospective new Council member I will not presume to be able to speak on all 'large capital' projects that are presently under consideration. As for the order of priority I have assigned - as a citizen/consumer that has lost precious time trying to find a parking place that is accessible to the public - a downtown parking garage already has my preliminary support.

6. What are your thoughts on city finances?

a. Are there opportunities to cut expenses?

Specifically, where are those opportunities?

b. Is there a need for new or additional revenue?

Specifically, where would it come from?

c. Are there areas where spending needs to be increased?

**Specifically, where does spending need to increase?
Specifically, where would the money come from?**

These matters are important to me and I think that it is important for a freshman Council person to be seated on the finance committee. If assigned to that committee and after working with city managers and staff in an official capacity, I will be better able to understand the nuances of the city finances and then will be better able to answer this question.

7. What do you believe is the role of a city council member in the city administrator form of government?

The role of a City Council member is to be an active participant in meeting objectives such as; approving policies, formalizing budgets, and establishing a vision and direction for the City.

8. Governor J.B. Pritzker recently signed into law HB 3653. How do you recommend the city prepare for the unfunded financial burden when this law goes into effect?

To the extent that there is no funding for local compliance with the law I will work with the City Council and the Police to best address funding issues. Specifically, I will look to Chief Keeven for recommendations about how, if necessary, to prioritize and possibly reallocate resources.

9. If you're the incumbent, what have been your significant accomplishments during your term? If you're the challenger, what do you believe have been the significant disappointments of the incumbents, and how would your term in office be different?

N/A

10. Will you commit to not raising the city's property tax levy?

I have no intention to raise any taxes but I believe it is irresponsible for any candidate to make a pre-election commitment that given future circumstances may make it impossible to keep.

11. Glen Carbon has placed a moratorium on collection of school district impact fees. Are you willing to again consider an impact fee moratorium?

I would be interested in reading a position paper from the Chamber and others, as well as market analysis, in order to evaluate this question and give a more meaningful answer.

12. If elected, what would be your top three priorities?

Establishing a shared vision on Council that gives guidance for future investment and policy decisions that respects and improves upon the aesthetic and quality of residential and business life that is uniquely 'Edwardsville'.

More infrastructure investment and upkeep throughout the City.

Making Ward 6 more walkable and park/trail accessible.

13. At the end of your term in office, how will you know if you've been successful?

I would consider my term to be successful if Edwardsville continues to expand and develop in a way that respects our history while at the same time making us a Metro-East destination for commerce and recreation.

My vision is that there would have been a high level of cooperation and communication between government, business, developers and residents that improves the aesthetic and quality of life in our City.

14. Are there any changes you would like to see regarding:

a. how city council functions?

b. how committees function?

c. how departments function?

Not at this time - I look forward to being an elected official with the seat at the table to evaluate and determine what changes, if any, would be needed.