



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce

POLICY COUNCIL & BUSINESS BUILDS PAC

CITY OF EDWARDSVILLE: MAYOR CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Stephanie Malench

Position Sought: Mayor

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

- a. Your family:** Single cat mom, youngest daughter of the late Robert L. Malench, MD.
- b. How long you've lived in Edwardsville:** The first 23 years of my life and the past 15 months.
- c. Your education:** Master's in Social Work
- d. Your employment:** Editor and Reporter at the Times-Tribune Newspaper in Troy.

2. Why are you seeking this office? I am running for Mayor of Edwardsville because I care about the community I grew up in- its people, its history, its buildings.

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? My Masters in Social Work has prepared me to see individuals as the core of the community. Without understanding the concerns and needs of the residents, government cannot be effective. As a reporter and editor, I have seen what excellent, good, and bad government looks like. Most importantly, I have heard from voters and community members what their vision is of Edwardsville, and it is not the path the city comprehensive plan details.

4. What, if anything, should the city of Edwardsville do to retain, expand and attract 'head of household' jobs? I refuse to answer this question because it is racist and sexist. My platform is an inclusive platform.

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? 1) Improved infrastructure in the older parts of the city, including sidewalk, curb, and gutter repairs, sewer and water upgrades. (Paid for through MFT funds and grants from the state such as Rebuild Illinois). 2) Modernized water treatment plant (grants and tap on fee allocation). 3) Rehabilitation to existing public parks. (Metro East Park and Recreation grants and Madison County PEP grants).

6. What are your thoughts on city finances?

a. Are there opportunities to cut expenses?

Specifically, where are those opportunities? Reduce the number of department heads while creating new departments that meet the needs of the post-COVID Edwardsville.

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

Specifically, where would it come from? New revenue can be collected by making it easier for property owners in historic neighborhoods to make needed repairs to their properties, thereby increasing the amount of money brought in on existing parcels.

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

Specifically, where does spending need to increase? Spending needs to be increased on infrastructure maintenance and rehabilitation.

Specifically, where would the money come from? Rebuild Illinois grants and other state grants.

7. What do you believe is the role of a city council member in the city

administrator form of government? The role of any elected representative whether the city be run by a city administrator or the mayor is to serve his or her constituents.

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? The City needs to budget the fees and fines collected from traffic tickets and DEA Asset Forfeiture monies, as well as CARES grant funding for public safety reimbursements.

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? NA

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

11. Glen Carbon has placed a moratorium on collection of school district impact

fees. Are you willing to again consider an impact fee moratorium? No. While I have not delved very deep into this subject (this is the first I have heard about it), I would think that not collecting the fee from developers would ultimately end in needed property tax increases to build the additional schools needed to educate a growing population. Many older residents without children would like to be able to live their retirement years in Edwardsville, but cannot afford the property taxes that go with the rising prices for housing in District 7.

12. If elected, what would be your top three priorities? 1) Revitalizing Main St; 2) Encouraging development of moderate-income single-family homes and apartments; 3) Giving residents in each neighborhood a chance to say what services/improvements/ businesses they want in their neighborhoods.

13. At the end of your term in office, how will you know if you've been successful? I will know I was successful if the voters re-elect me to a second term in office.

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

a. how city council functions? Not at this time.

b. how committees function? Not at this time.

c. how departments function? Departments need to be streamlined and redesigned to meet the changing needs of our city.