



Edwardsville I Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce

POLICY COUNCIL & BUSINESS BUILDS PAC

VILLAGE OF GLEN CARBON: MAYOR & TRUSTEE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Bob Marcus

Position Sought: Mayor for the Village of Glen Carbon

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

a. Your family: My wife Karen Marcus is a Realtor with Butler Marcus Group of ReMax Alliance. My daughter Caroline is a sophomore at Edwardsville High School and my son is an 8th grader at Liberty Middle School.

b. How long you've lived in Glen Carbon: Since 2014

c. Your education: Bachelor of Science, 1999, James Madison University; Juris Doctor, 2002, Southern Illinois University Carbondale School of Law

d. Your employment: Attorney at the Gori Law Firm, P.C. in Edwardsville IL

2. Why are you seeking this office?

I'm running because Glen Carbon is a great place to live, work and raise a family and I want to help keep it that way. Glen Carbon needs strong leadership as the village, our residents and our businesses come out of the Covid-19 pandemic. I have enjoyed my time serving as Trustee since 2017 and look forward to continuing my service as Mayor.

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

I lean on my experience as an attorney to make the right decisions for the residents of Glen Carbon. As trustee since 2017, I served as a member of the Finance Committee, the Building and Development Committee, and as Chair of the Public Services Committee. I have worked with the Village on the issuance of a multimillion-dollar bond for Old Troy Road, considered and made

recommendations regarding the negotiation of labor agreements, and voted and approved dozens of commercial and residential developments.

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

The Village needs to continue to support smart, responsible residential and commercial growth and development. People want to live in Glen Carbon because it is a welcoming community and a great place to raise a family. This goes hand-in-hand with my priority of ensuring Glen Carbon continues to be a safe community by providing resources to our police department. By continuing to responsibly manage development in our safe community, we will continue to attract "head of household" jobs.

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

1. In the several years, Glen Carbon will have to decide on a permanent water source for the Village. We may partner with a neighboring community, utility company or build our own water plant. This is a multi-million-dollar project and we need to do what's best for the Village, looking 20 to 30 years down the road. These projections will be paid out of the Village's water fund. Each option has its own benefits and drawbacks and the Board will have to review these carefully. For example, building our own plant provides the most control, however, comes at the steepest cost.

2. Development along State Route 157. IDOT will be reviewing plans for the intersection at 157 and 162 and traffic along 157 to I 270. This area is a great opportunity for development and I believe the Village needs to ensure the 157 intersections at 162, Main Street and Glenwood Estates are adequate for residents, future development and the traveling public. This would be paid for in part by grant money.

3. With the Village emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic in the near future, we need to continue the development of Schon Park. This is a wonderful facility in the heart of Glen Carbon. Continued development would be supported by private grant/sponsorship opportunities. The Village is also exploring the installation of a sidewalk along Glen Carbon Road (from Dairy Queen to Schon Park) which would be funded, in part by a grant as well.

6. What are your thoughts on village finances?

a. Are there opportunities to cut expenses?

Specifically, where are those opportunities?

We have a fantastic Finance Director and Finance Committee that continually work to cut expenses wherever possible, without sacrificing

service to the residents. We will continue to explore technology-based options that, over time, save on costs. For instance, the Village enacted an automated water meter reading system, which will save the Village time and expense of reading water meters and processing those readings (without a cut in personnel). We are also cutting expenses by automating the collection of utilities.

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

Specifically, where would it come from?

Our sales taxes have been strong and the continued commercial and retail development (Fouchek property on the west side of 159 for example) will strengthen those taxes in the future.

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

Specifically, where does spending need to increase?

Specifically, where would the money come from?

Yes, with the recent amendment of Illinois law regarding policing, we need to ensure that our Police Department has the resources needed to continue to function at an exceptional level.

7. What do you believe is the role of a village board trustee in the village administrator form of government?

I have served as a Trustee since 2017, and I view that my primary responsibilities are Oversight and Support. A trustee needs to ensure that the proper decisions are being made by Village staff and decisions that are in the best interests of the residents. A trustee also needs to support Department Heads so they can do their job effectively and as efficiently as possible.

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

We will be reviewing the law with our attorney and Police Chief to develop an action plan on the various issues that HB3653 affects. Our plan would then be considered by our Financial Director and Finance Committee to budget for the necessary expenses. Body cameras are a significant expense and we need to be ready to meet the deadline.

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?

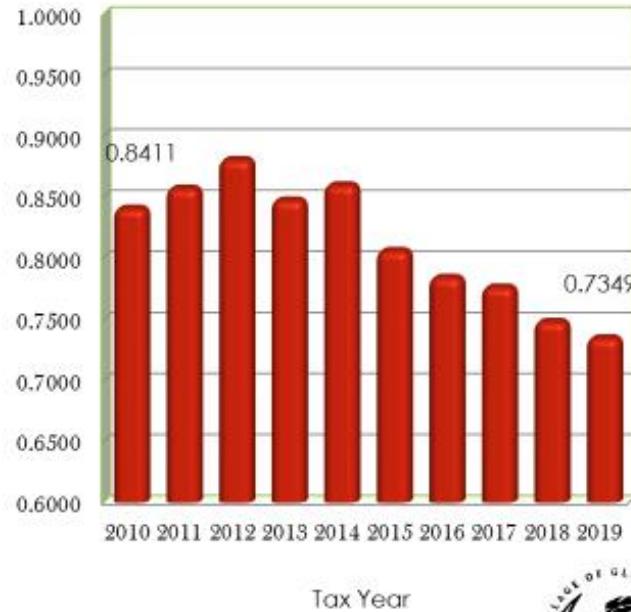
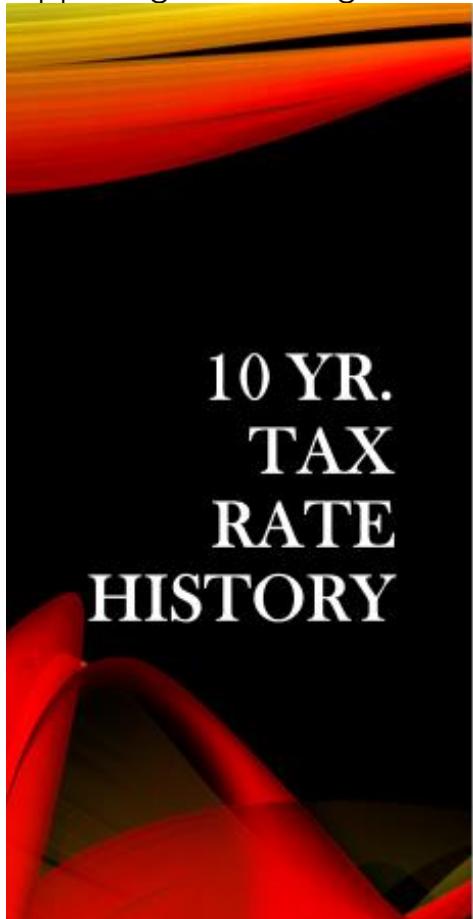
Glen Carbon has been very successful in recent years. Sales taxes are strong, the tax rate is low, and development is outpacing neighboring communities. There are always areas for improvement.

As a new Mayor, I will have the opportunity to work closely with the Village Administrator and Department Heads to improve Village processes and procedures. It is a good time to review all Village functions and work to make changes and improve them. I would like to take a more hands-on approach with the Administrator and department Heads.

I would also like to improve communication between the Village staff and residents and local companies. If a resident has an issue, it is important to respond to the resident in a timely manner and work together to address the problem.

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

I have been a Trustee since 2017 and supported a low tax levy each year and will continue to do so. Below is the Tax Rate History, which has declined each and every year I have been trustee, and I plan to maintain my position of supporting a low Village tax rate.



11. Glen Carbon has placed a moratorium on collection of school district impact fees. Are you willing to continue extending this?

I am a member of the Building and Development Committee and took the lead on the moratorium. I support vacating the impact fee ordinance in its entirety, not merely extending the moratorium. One taxing body should not be collecting and distributing “impact fees” to another taxing body. The statistics used in the enactment of the original ordinance, do not hold true today. If the School District needs additional funding, they have means and ability to ask the public for additional funding.

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

Fully supporting our police department to ensure they have the resources they need for safety initiatives and training to ensure Glen Carbon continues to be a safe community. As explained above, this will be very important in light of the recent changes in Illinois law.

Supporting continued residential and commercial development through the Village. The Commercial development of the Fouchek property on the west side of State Route 159 is an extremely important development for Glen Carbon. Currently this property is a tree farm, and a developer is working with the property owner on a potential retail development. I always thought that this land could be the “center” of Glen Carbon, and I want to work with the developer to ensure they respect the Village’s request for adequate green space, a pedestrian and biking friendly development, and traffic controls and lanes above minimum standards to ease congestion around the property.

Also, in the several years, Glen Carbon will have to decide on a permanent water source for the Village. We may partner with a neighboring community, utility company or build our own water plant. This is a multi-million-dollar project and we need to do what’s best for the Village, looking 20 to 39 years down the road.

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

I will know if I’ve been successful if the Village has a strong, positive relationship with its residents, community, and has a balanced budget. We will strive to

make tough decisions with the best interests of the residents and community in mind.

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

a. how the village board functions? - No

b. how committees function? - No

c. how departments function? Yes. If elected, I plan to review the policies, procedures, and functions of the Village and each department to improve efficiencies. I want to work with the Department Heads to see how we can improve each department. Communication, organization and effective implementation of duties will be my priorities.