



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon  
Chamber of Commerce

## **POLICY COUNCIL & BUSINESS BUILDS PAC**

### **VILLAGE OF GLEN CARBON:** **MAYOR & TRUSTEE CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Candidate:** Mike Sonderegger

**Position Sought:** Village Trustee – Glen Carbon

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

**a. Your family:**

- I have been married to my wife Lacey for almost 17 years now. We have two beautiful, wonderful, and talented daughters, Noelle and Maezy who attend District 7 schools. Lacey is a full-time instructor at SIUE and I couldn't be more proud of how amazing she is with her students and the impact that she has on their lives. We also have a handsome golden doodle puppy named Fozzie!

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

- 16 years.

**c. Your education:**

- I double-majored and graduated from Lindenwood University with degrees in Arts Management and Performing Arts.

**d. Your employment:**

- Recently I joined the team at Enterprise Fleet Management accepting the position of Vehicle Acquisition Coordinator. I am thrilled to have this new career opportunity! I do still perform locally as a musician/entertainer, bringing people together to support local businesses and non-profits.

Previously I was the Worship Director for Metro Community Church in Edwardsville for 8 years and before that, I was the Entertainment Director for The Big Bang St. Louis from 2001-2012.

**2. Why are you seeking this office?**

- I love people, I love our community, and I am always looking for ways to serve our wonderful community. Glen Carbon is a precious gem that I love and am proud to call home. I will always look out for the best interests of everyone in our community. I will listen to their concerns and their dreams. I also believe that with my professional experience and leadership that I will bring a new perspective to the Board and will keep us moving forward. That is why I am running to be Glen Carbon Village Trustee.

**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?**

Over the past 20 years, I have been a part of many teams in both vocational ministry and the hospitality industry, including the Laclede's Landing Association, responsible for making critical and complex financial, technical, and legal decisions that would affect thousands of people.

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

Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and keep an open mind when it comes to new ideas and proposals. I think having a reputation that Glen Carbon is welcoming to a new business in the community will 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?**

At this time, I cannot name 3 of the most important "large capital" projects in the village of Glen Carbon. I am still learning from the current board, mayor, and administrator on how to identify and understand what those are. I will say that coming up with long term plan to create and manage our water supply is of great importance for the Village.

**6. What are your thoughts on village finances?**

**a. Are there opportunities to cut expenses?**

**Specifically, where are those opportunities?**

I honestly cannot speak into that. I am asking questions, trying to learn if there are indeed any.

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

**Specifically, where would it come from?**

Quite possibly. We must figure out what our long-term water plan is and how to pay for it. We have many bright, talented individuals on our committees, commissions, and in the Village administration, who will no doubt play a large part in this major decision that will affect our 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?**

Our police department needs to be staffed properly to serve and protect our residents and businesses in the Village. Our police department also needs funding to have the most up to date technology along with funding to meet the new state law enforcement mandates from HB3653.

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

To serve in the best interest of the residents of the village by assisting in the short-term and long-term decisions that affect our village residents and businesses.

**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?**

Understanding this bill mandate is of great importance to me. That is why I am having conversations with those in law enforcement, local and state elected officials, and legal professionals to fully understand how this affects our police department, the safety of our officers, and the community. I hope that we can be as proactive as we can be and less reactive. We will need the help and expertise of our committees and commissions, Village administration, and police department to figure this out and be in compliance with the law.

**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?**

- Overall, I believe that Glen Carbon Trustees do a great job serving the Village. But we can do better. We need to listen, learn and not be so quick to say no to some things such as new business and development. Glen Carbon is a wonderful place to live and provides many new opportunities for individuals, families, and businesses that create new jobs. I want us to Keep Moving Forward.

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

- Commit is an absolute. I will always ask questions, listen, and learn before making decisions that affect so many. We are still going through a pandemic that is having a negative financial impact on individuals, families, and so many businesses. At the same time, we have some major decisions to make such as where our water supply is going to come from? Will we continue paying other townships or will we create our own? I do not want to raise the Village property tax levy. With that being said, I honestly cannot give a yes or no answer to this question. I am committed to serving the residents of Glen Carbon and making sure that they have a safe, terrific quality of life, that business is growing and thriving, and that we keep moving forward.

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

- Absolutely. 100%.

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

1. Doing everything we can to help our small businesses in the village survive the Covid-19 pandemic and prosper.
2. Sustaining success with a "keep moving forward" approach to attracting new business and development that would boost employment and tax revenue to improve our quality of living.
3. Maintaining a needs assessment process to make sure that the residents of Glen Carbon are receiving the services that the Village provides with a standard of excellence and with a servant's heart.

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

It will be a successful term if our restaurants/bars are still open and thriving following the Covid 19 pandemic and we have both new business and residential development. It will be successful if our residents believe communication with village officials and departments has improved. If we have a long-term water supply plan in place to help us keep moving forward, that would be a

win. I would love to see our village departments, committees, commissions, and community be more inclusive. If we don't regress in our ways and our thinking, and we move forward, we had success.

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

**a. how the village board functions?**

Not at this time.

**b. how committees function?**

Not at this time.

**c. how departments function?**

I would love the Village to improve communication with the residents, businesses, and developers.