



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce

POLICY COUNCIL & BUSINESS BUILDS PAC

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

Candidate: Walter Brian Harris

Position Sought: Village Trustee

- 1. Please provide us with some basic information. Tell us briefly about:**
 - a. Your family: I am Widower with three children & daughter in law (Christopher & Jody), Zackary and Alexis, and two Grandchildren (Jake and Luke).**
 - b. How long you've lived in Glen Carbon: My family and I have lived in Glen Carbon for 25 years.**
 - c. Your education: M.A. in Governmental Leadership Development – George Washington University (2011)**
 - d. Your employment: Federal Government Contract Officer Representative**
- 2. Why are you seeking this office? First and foremost, I want to keep Glen Carbon a family friendly place to live with smart growth. Plus, I have a proven history in helping individuals within the veteran community and any other individual who needs my assistance. I will work with residents, the board and village staff to ensure that we balance short & long term needs of our village community.**
- 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? Served as a Village Trustee for the past four years, and 27 years of (Active & Reserves) Army, & 20 years of Federal government service.**
- 4. What, if anything, should the Village of Glen Carbon do to retain, expand and attract 'head of household' jobs? I am in favor of hiring a business development consultant to see what the best move forward for our Village.**

- 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) The Village water source; water is needed for everyday life so I would like to be part of a permit solution for the Village citizens. 2) Parks & Recreation improvements; In keeping Glen Carbon a family friendly community we need better access & amenities for everyone to enjoy the outdoors. 3) Roads & Streets; When someone see well-maintained roads & streets it shows that we are proactive in keeping our citizens safe, which also helps with less wear and tear on their vehicles.**
- 6. What are your thoughts on village finances?**

 - a. Are there opportunities to cut expenses? Yes**
Specifically, where are those opportunities? The Village has a full time Finance Director & Finance Committee, which continually reviews to see any expenses can or cannot be implemented without sacrificing service to the citizens.
 - b. Is there a need for new or additional revenue? Yes**
Specifically, where would it come from? The sales taxes generated 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? Yes**
Specifically, where does spending need to increase? Our police department due to the new bill that was past.
Specifically, where would the money come from? Possible grants from the Department of Justice, but if this is not available I would depend our Finance Director & Finance Committee for a potential solution.
- 7. What do you believe is the role of a village board trustee in the village administrator form of government? As a Trustee my first job is oversight of the Village departments, and be the conduit between the citizens and the Village inner operations.**
- 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? I would recommend to contact the Department of Justice to levy the use of grants that they currently have in place to offset any future burden on the Village.**

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? Attending major events within the Village showing support for new opening businesses. Attend events supporting Veterans within our Village. When I receive email or phone call on issues that impacts a Village resident, I would personally contact them or meet with them to discuss their issues. Just being available for those how might need assistance with our Village government.
10. Will you commit to not raising the village's property tax levy? At this time, I would say "Yes", but with a prolong COVID-19 impact on the local business it could change to a "No". We our in uncharted times during this pandemic which means we would have to be observant of our discission that could impact our Village.
11. Glen Carbon has placed a moratorium on collection of school district impact fees. Are you willing to continue extending this? I would have the same reply on question number 10.
12. If elected, what would be your top three priorities? The answer would be the same as question number 5.
13. At the end of your term in office, how will you know if you've been successful? The citizens of Village would have confidence in re-electing me to represent them once again.
14. Are there any changes you would like to see regarding:
 - a. how the village board functions? No, not at this time
 - b. how committees function? No, not at this time
 - c. how departments function? Yes, by working with the Mayor and fellow Trustees to review the policies, procedures, and functions of the Village and each department to improve efficiencies. The important aspects are communication, organization and effective implementation of duties within the Village government.