



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce

CITY OF EDWARDSVILLE: ALDERPERSON CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Andrea Miracle

Position Sought: Alderman, Edwardsville's 3rd Ward

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

a. Your family: My husband Trent and I have three children, all of whom have graduated from Edwardsville High School and now attend college or graduate school. Trent and I are kept company by our two dogs, Striker and Phoebe. When we have the opportunity to all be together, you can usually find us with take-out from Peel playing soccer-tennis on our driveway.

b. How long you've lived in Edwardsville:

My family and I moved to Edwardsville in 2003, with this coming August marking 20 years of calling Edwardsville our home. This year will also mark a decade of living in Ward 3.

c. Your education:

I started my college education in Rock Island, Illinois at Augustana University. To be closer to family, I later transferred to Texas State University where I completed my B.A. in Marketing.

d. Your employment:

I've been described as a stay-at-home mom who doesn't stay at home. In a volunteer capacity, I serve as an appointed member of the Edwardsville Plan Commission and as the Co-Chair of Education for Edwardsville Community Foundation.

2. Why are you seeking this office?

For 20 years I have worked and volunteered in Edwardsville and had the opportunity to collaborate with some incredible organizations and volunteers to address an array of issues. I am running for Alderman to use this knowledge, experience, and passion to help guide Edwardsville's future while preserving the small-town experience that draws students, families, and businesses to our area.

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?

Through my work as a member of the City of Edwardsville Plan Commission, I've gained valuable insight into how the city operates, how projects develop and the best channels through which problems can be fixed. As a candidate for an office that represents thousands of residents, it would be irresponsible to mislead the people whose votes I'm asking to be entrusted with that I will always have right answer to every complex question. But, I am not afraid to ask questions, or seek the advice of experts. I trust that Jeff Berkbigler, our city attorney, will advise the city council on complex legal issues and that the same high standard of information will be relayed for financial and technological issues. Our ward deserves the best solutions we can offer, and I look forward to using both my own experience and partnerships with our city experts to deliver them.

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

Economic and community growth is essential for the continued successes of our city and its economy, and attracting and retaining desirable jobs is the foundation of that growth. A combination of small and locally-owned businesses that employ at various levels, and our 'head of household' jobs will create economic diversity essential for long term prosperity. James Arnold, our Director of Economic and Community Growth, manages and maintains that balance. As a member of City Council and with an understanding of how to keep our upward trajectory moving forward, I will work to make sure our current progress not only maintained but continues to grow.

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. I-55 Corridor Development is a wonderful example of thoughtful, planned development that will increase revenue for our city. The innovations in parking both for vehicles and bicycles, pedestrian connections, and design standards make it a priority. It is my understanding that the developer and builder will subsidize some of the cost of infrastructure to make this project more appealing to the city.
2. Parking on North Main Street has been a problem and an area of concern for many years. To fully support our small businesses in that area we have to make it easy for customers to access those businesses. As Alderman, I will explore alternatives to the issue like shared parking for uses with opposite time needs, reallocating spaces for companies that have remained mostly remote and a parking garage that does not exceed the height of buildings on Main.
3. Residents of Ward 3 have voiced justified concerns about our aging and deteriorating roads. The City of Edwardsville recently approved a Professional Service Agreement with TWM, Inc. for the development of a Pavement Management System. This is a positive step towards identifying and improving the condition of roads both in Ward 3 and throughout the entire

city. There are state and federal programs that support and fund this type of infrastructure improvement.

6. What are your thoughts on city finances?

City of Edwardsville maintains a consistently balanced budget. As alderman, I'll advocate for continued decisions about our economy and finances that are responsible and prioritized, without deficit spending. Though some decisions may be tough, they are necessary in maintaining our community's commendable level of fiscal responsibility.

- 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?**

City council is entrusted with making budget recommendations that facilitate our short and long-term goals. Each year with each budget cycle, changes and reallocations of city funding are made in accordance with our community's everchanging needs. The City of Edwardsville consistently approves a well-researched and well-balanced budget. When addressing the specifics of expenses, revenues and spending, an area that should remain prioritized is funding for safety equipment and training for our police and fire departments. Edwardsville's reputation as a safe community is founded on the dedication and commitment of our first responders.

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

A City Council is responsible for devolving an overall vision for the city, establishing policies that promote and enhance that vision, and approving a balanced budget. Aldermen represent the unique voices and concerns of the people in their ward and prioritize those needs when appropriate in accordance with the needs of the community.

8. 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?

After several years of public service, Alderman Stack leaves big shoes to fill as she steps down at the completion of her term. Transparency and open communication between residents and their representatives is an essential

element of a well-functioning government. In my term, I hope to expand opportunities for residents to voice their concerns and opinions, creating clear channels through which I can be as accessible to Ward 3 as possible.

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

For two years, the City of Edwardsville has not increased property taxes and I am committed to upholding that standard.

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

1. Promotion of thoughtful city-wide development
2. Sustainable public safety initiatives in Ward 3
3. Expansion of resources and support for small businesses and working families

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

If at the end of my term, I can honestly say that I voted with consistency, integrity and with the best interest of our city I will feel personal success. But the job of Alderman demands and requires more than personal affirmation. Success will be defined by improvements in quality of life, increased opportunities for all citizens of Edwardsville, the continued trust of the residents who elected me, and a thriving community that provides fiscal stability now and in the future.

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

- a. how city council functions?**
- b. how committees function?**
- c. how departments function?**

I have been attending City Council and sub-committee meetings throughout my campaign. I have been pleased to see the high level of civil discourse and respect present during discussions and votes. I applaud the city's ongoing efforts in promoting governmental transparency and its adherence to the Open Meetings Act. As a member of city council, I will advocate for the continued commitment to transparency, and look to expand access and awareness of current resources in all areas of our municipal government. Our city leaders, officials, and workers can't help the people who need it if residents don't know who to contact or what resources are available to them. I will look to expand the distribution of information with our community to facilitate more open channels of communication.