

Adams County Commissioners Candidate Questions

Tom M. Musgrave

Campaign statements often include "lower taxes," but, as costs increase, how do you prioritize realistic choices?

Our tax dollars provide services and infrastructure to the people in the villages, towns, and the county itself. Cutting taxes is an easy campaign slogan that appeals to the voters, the outcomes of such cuts often anger them with the loss of something they desire.

Prioritizing expenditures is the most important duty of elected officials. Ranking in need, impact, and numbers affected is the easiest way to deal with such decisions. Realizing that these decisions will affect some negatively, and being able to explain the reasoning helps foster understanding and acceptance.

What is your vision for the growth and development of Hastings/Adams County businesses and industries?

Adams County along with all the towns and villages have the opportunity to work together to foster growth and expansion of businesses and industries. The diversity of rural and municipal areas within Adams County has tremendous appeal to many people. The County needs to promote the positives and opportunities the area has to offer, from higher education, rural settings, city life, healthcare services, and opportunities for youth.

Are there any additional areas of potential cooperation between county government and other local government entities that you would support?

I would like to see better cooperation between Adams County and all the cities, villages, and towns within the county. Interlocal agreements already exist and should always be reevaluated. The entities should communicate with one another to create and expand opportunities to improve all residents' lives.



As an elected leader, how will you help to shape a positive, growth-oriented narrative for the Hastings community?

Hastings and Adams County need to support one another in formulating a positive path to growth and expansion. City and County goals should be made with input collectively. The planning and zoning boards of all entities need to be aware of each other's rules and regs and develop them in conjunction with the ideas of positive growth.

What experience(s) or education do you have that would better prepare you for this position?

My education and work experience have provided me with the ability to bridge the gap between municipal and rural citizens. Working in manufacturing, retail, and agriculture I have experience dealing with many people from all over the county.