

Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce City Council and Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Hello, thank you, and congratulations on running for the office of mayor or city council in our great town!

The Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce* is a non-profit 501(c)6 membership organization whose purpose is to serve as a catalyst for economic vitality by providing advocacy, information and services to our members AND to promote the City of Lanesboro and the Lanesboro area as a desirable place to visit, live, work and play.

One of the ways we strive to accomplish our mission is by engaging with candidates for local office and connecting you with local issues our members care about. As such, over the past couple of weeks we have been soliciting thoughts and questions from our members so we could put together this questionnaire. Our goal is to produce an informational document, containing your answers to these questions in full, to be published for the benefit of our membership and community. A character limit has been placed on each response in order to make the resulting voter guide as digestible as possible for those reading it.

Please answer any or all of the following questions and hit "Submit" when you're finished. The questions will be published along with your answers. If you opt to not answer any of the below questions, the phrase "Answer not provided" will be shown underneath those questions in the published voter guide.

Thanks in advance for taking the time to answer these questions on behalf of our members and the Lanesboro community!

**LACC does not endorse or represent any candidate for political office.*

Your name *

Ken Soiney

What office are you running for? *

(Choose one)

- Mayor
- City council

Please introduce yourself to chamber members and the Lanesboro community. Some potential prompts to help you think about this:

- What's your Lanesboro Story?
- How long have you lived in Lanesboro?
- Why do you want to serve the city of Lanesboro?
- What do you see as your main goal to accomplish as mayor or a city council member?
- Where do you see the biggest needs in our community?

(5,000 character response limit)

I have said this before, Lanesboro is a city that works. We have a wonderful town that is considered a jewel by many. I returned to Lanesboro 25 years ago after a career in Law Enforcement. I have been an Outfitter renting canoes and kayaks for 25 yrs. Best job

I have ever had, introducing people to the incredible area and the Root River. My business is rated as Number 1 of fun things to do in Lanesboro. I work hard at it and enjoy being a friendly, helpful ambassador to newcomers to the area. This my passion and my mission.

I am running for mayor as I see numerous challenges that Lanesboro is facing in the near future and beyond. I am not afraid to meet these issues head on and will work diligently to insure that Lanesboro remains a safe, clean place for our citizens and our visitors. I look forward to being a strong leader who puts people first.

How would you describe the role of the office you're running for [city council/mayor]? If elected, how do you see yourself taking on these responsibilities?

(2,500 character response limit)

The simple answer is leadership, intelligence and conservative values. I intend to see that the taxpayers are no longer burdened with higher taxes and increasingly high utility bills.

In your opinion, what are the top three issues facing the City of Lanesboro over the next 2-4 years?

(2,500 character response limit)

We have a very dedicated city work staff that is often unappreciated. Construction plans that are going to be very disruptive to downtown business. We need to work to minimize the impact of the 250 project on our local businesses. I feel that our Police and Fire services need more support and funding. My observations are that priority 1 is to see that our citizens are better served to insure that this city spends tax dollars wisely. Grants are not free money, the poor taxpayers bear the brunt of the burden for the remaining costs which grants don't cover.

How do you describe Lanesboro when defining the town's character and purpose? e.g. The roles of tourism and agriculture as economic drivers, etc.

(2,500 character response limit)

Lanesboro has always been a special place. We are a destination for people from all over the country and the world. We see folks from all walks of life. We need to maintain that welcoming attitude.

What do you see the city's role is in supporting Lanesboro businesses during the proposed Highway 250 construction project?

(2,500 character response limit)

I need to get more information on this project.

If elected, how do you plan to work with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Bolton & Menk, and our state elected officials in regards to the proposed Highway 250 construction project?

(2,500 character response limit)

See above

Do you have an opinion on the structure of the Lanesboro Public Library board? i.e. Should it be a governing or advisory entity? And why?

(2,500 character response limit)

Leave the Library as is, a governing body..

If elected, how would you handle an issue that came before the council that you don't know intimately? Describe the steps you would take in fact-finding and your decision-making process.

(2,500 character response limit)

I am retired Law Enforcement, I always fact check EVERYTHING. I also do private investigation work.

How important is Lanesboro's history and historic preservation for you? Why?

(2,500 character response limit)

Very important, Lanesboro has a unique past.

What are your thoughts on how the City of Lanesboro can encourage more people (particularly families and younger folks) to move to Lanesboro as full-time residents?

(2,500 character response limit)

Lanesboro has some of the highest property taxes in Fillmore County. Our utility rates are high also. We need to make sure that our tax dollars are spent wisely!

In your opinion, is Lanesboro currently an affordable place to live and/or operate a business? If so, what are steps the city can take to keep it that way. If not, what are things the city can do to make Lanesboro a more affordable place to live and do business?

(2,500 character response limit)

See above

What is your overarching vision for Lanesboro? Where would you like our town to be in 5, 10+ years from now?

(2,500 character response limit)

We need to focus on what is vital now.

How can the city ensure it is prioritizing our business community and enacting business-friendly ordinances and policies?

(2,500 character response limit)

Stop encouraging constant complainers and rumor mongering.

What do you think is the best way the city council can engage with residents and business owners so that their voices can be heard?

(2,500 character response limit)

Get out and engage people!

What else should people know about you and your candidacy? If you have them, include websites or other sources of information where people could find out more information about you.

(5,000 character response limit)

Google and Tripadvisor reviews

This form was created inside of Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce.

Google Forms