

2024 PRIMARY CANDIDATE INTERVIEW

COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3



STEVE POWELL Republican

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#### **QUESTION 1:**

What are the community's housing needs and how will you help address them?

Quality of housing is my first concern. We should not sacrifice our county's quality of housing as the county grows, which it will continue to do. Partnerships need to be strengthened between the private and public sector. Housing needs should be addressed on a countywide basis and through intergovernmental cooperation. Development in one corner of the county affects the other. We should regularly review and update the comprehensive plan and then make updates in zoning law to reflect changes in the plan. All this needs to be done giving first consideration to those residents and businesses who own property in Johnson County. Quality, thoughtful, smart housing development is my first concern and government can help manage the process.

# **QUESTION 2:**

What one or two opportunities do you see for improvement in any county program, funding, or policy that could help grow and shape a quality workforce (e.g., quality of place, health, education, credentialling)?

Improved intergovernmental cooperation is an overlooked opportunity. We need to do a better job of having the county partner with our two cities, towns, townships, school districts, neighboring counties, and other governmental entities. Another area for improvement is partnering with our nonprofit sector. There are many nonprofits serving our county in the areas of workforce development, health, mental health, education, addiction, homelessness and more. They often times do a better job of delivering those services than the government and at no cost to the taxpayer. We are all in this together. Cooperation, partnership, and mutual planning is essential if we are to have smart growth and best address citizen needs.

### **QUESTION 3:**

Describe your evaluation process when considering new public infrastructure for the community (e.g., roads, bridges, trails, etc.). What criteria goes into your vetting the project for funding and implementation?

We need comprehensive planning for infrastructure that involves bringing together all entities: state, cities, towns, and other governmental units. Infrastructure in every corner of the county is lagging behind growth and it is getting worse. That includes streets, roads, sanitary sewers, trails, and parks. The philosophy that we should permit unchecked development without providing for necessary infrastructure needs to stop.



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COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3



RONALD (RON) WEST Republican

Elect Ron West 2917 S. Emerson Avenue rhwest2001@aol.com 317.557.8376

#### **QUESTION 1:**

What are the community's housing needs and how will you help address them?

As a member of the Planning and Zoning Committee we have been careful in our consideration for new development, giving consideration to adjacent property owners while protecting the rights of those seeking to sell their property. Johnson County continues to grow in both custom home construction, tract housing, and multi-family facilities giving home buyers and renters choices.

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Attention to mental health problems will help in several ways. Providing needed services to those with mental health problems, getting them into helpful services, avoiding the criminal justice system, and establishing a productive lifestyle. Significant road improvements in conjunction with the 169 construction, such as widening Smith Valley Road, assisting Indianapolis in the widening of County Line Road, continuing Worthsville Road east and north of Clark Elementary School, and widening Morgantown Road and frontage roads along 169.

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Describe your evaluation process when considering new public infrastructure for the community (e.g., roads, bridges, trails, etc.). What criteria goes into your vetting the project for funding and implementation?

Current and future traffic demands establish needs and priorities. Next is the funding through application for Federal funds, State grants, and local funds. Timing as to construction schedules and careful consideration of land acquisition.