

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 *

Kathryn Wade

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 grew up in Lanesboro with great support from the community, went to WSU and graduated with a teaching degree. I taught high school math in Winona, MN for 34 years. My husband and I raised our family of 2 wonderful children in Rushford where I also tutored, subbed in the classroom, was on the school board and also worked at Engelson's CPA office doing bookwork and tax preparation (I still work part time during tax season). Following my retirement from Winona Senior High School, we moved to Lanesboro to be close to family and we have been here for 4 years.

Serving the community is a rewarding job, especially when I care about the community and how we progress into the future.

My main goal is to grow our community economically, using our rich resources in the arts, agriculture, tourism, and trail system. I would also include affordable housing developments and a grocery store as a priority. All of this with a desire to maintain our unique, quaint, beautiful city that we love.

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 job of the city council, in my eyes, would be to listen, research and vote with all facts presented. I would do my best to listen to the people in the community and make educated decisions with all residents in mind. I also feel it is important to try new, innovative ideas for growth. I see myself as caring and willing to learn.

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)

- 1). Preparing for the Hwy 250/Parkway Ave reconstruction and infrastructure upgrade for downtown businesses and residents
- 2). Reduce our debt
- 3). Growth in economics and affordable housing

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)

Our city is the most beautiful, quaint and vibrant community in Southeastern Minnesota. We have businesses that are thriving and need community support to continue to grow. Arts, Agriculture, Tourism are all vital to our character. Just being in our community through this past weekend made me even more aware of what we have to offer!!!

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 would like us as a community to do work at obtaining grants/subsidies etc to financially support our businesses during the time of construction. Offer incentives to community residents to shop at home.

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)

My hope is to minimize the effects of the construction and utilize all the aforementioned departments to ensure we are prepared for construction and can assist our businesses and residents before construction begins.

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)

I feel the board should continue to operate as it has according to the bylaws they established. In my opinion, the bylaws resemble the term advisory.

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)

We have many resources at our disposal. Many past records, policies, city ordinances etc have been retained and are easily accessed. I would use whichever ones were necessary to try and get the facts. Our City Administrator is an excellent resource for that knowledge. We must always keep in mind, not every decision can be made easily and has multiple factors that need to be considered.

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

(2,500 character response limit)

Historic preservation is very important but expensive when it comes to the downtown business district. We need to work at keeping the buildings as preserved as possible and assist, when possible to ensure all is done to preserve our structures in their historic origin.

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)

We need to grow our community both in families and businesses. It will reduce our taxes and grow our community in doing so. For many young families, our school, affordable housing and other resources (grocery store) are critical. We need to advertise but the affordable piece needs help at this time.

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)

I feel Lanesboro is somewhat expensive but not out of reach. I would need to do more research for possible ideas for our city to consider.

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)

My vision for Lanesboro is to expand in housing and business by utilizing the resources that are available. Land that can be developed at an affordable price for new construction and include elderly living. Work with city engineer to make this effort accessible.

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

(2,500 character response limit)

Again, it is important to have all the information concerning a topic before any decisions are made. I am always open to change and the possibility of improvement. Businesses and community working together to make a great city even better!

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)

Talk to them! I welcome conversation with anyone. An email is always appreciated as well and I will respond and open the door to further conversation.

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)

I am running for City Council to be an asset to our community!!! I don't have an agenda, other than trying to do what is best for all of us.
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This form was created inside of Lanesboro Area Chamber of Commerce.

Google Forms