

## County Questions

- 1) It's easy to campaign on "lower taxes," but, as costs increase, how do you prioritize realistic choices?

**Lee Hogan:** Do the best we can for all Adams County with the resources we have.

**Joe Patterson:** Most of the services that counties perform are mandated by State Statue. Adams County has a mixture of appointed and elected officials that administers these services through a system of committees that meet to prioritize recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. I prioritize my vote on issues based on committee recommendations a well as how that decision will benefit the citizens of Adams County.

**Michael Stromer:** In a service oriented operation, it is imperative to start with your most critical factor of success. The people employed to provide those services. It is essential to prioritize at that most basic level. Good employees are often the basis to providing the most efficient and cost effective service. Without them, it would be extremely difficult to hold down costs and by extension tax asking.

**Tim Reams:** No response

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

**Lee Hogan:** Find a way to encourage business to come. Look at what we can do to help. Promote the positive aspects of our community. Be positive.

**Joe Patterson:** Through support for the Hastings Economic Development Corp. Adams County and the City of Hastings fund, in part, their efforts to recruit and retain businesses and industry that are a good fit for the Adams County and Hastings community. I believe it is important that we look at businesses and industry that are a good fit for the Hastings Community and will not negatively impact the quality of life we currently enjoy. The United States is currently seeing industry that was lost to foreign countries returning to the U.S. This has been caused, in part, by the supply chain issues currently affecting or Country. There could be opportunities to attract some of that returning industry to the Hastings/ Adams County area.

**Michael Stromer:** Most sustainable development is built upon adequate cost efficient infrastructure. Infrastructure development is being constrained in large part due to rapidly increasing cost structures. It is incumbent upon us to seek out new and innovative methods of providing this basic building block so commercial and residential development is affordable.

**Tim Reams:** No response

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

**Lee Hogan:** Expand our city and county.

**Joe Patterson:** We currently enjoy a number of interlocal agreements between Adams County and the City of Hastings. Our Library, our Emergency Management, Fire and EMS ambulance, some road issues such as the East truck route, 42nd Street improvements as well as the Showboat Road project, even stray animal control services are jointly funded between the City and County. There are significant cost and service savings to be realized by inter-governmental cooperation. We also work closely with the State of Nebraska on various issues. The County and the City hold joint meetings every other month to be updated on the progress being made by these joint agreements. I'm sure there could be more in the future that governmental entities can find commonality and form more interlocal agreements.

**Michael Stromer:** Already we cooperate in many areas such as library services which enables cost sharing between both the city and county. Additionally, both entities have cooperated on road development projects surrounding the city. I can foresee other opportunities to leverage funding for other growth oriented infrastructure development which otherwise might be outside the ability of either to perform on their own.

**Tim Reams:** No response

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

**Lee Hogan:** Encourage not discourage.

**Joe Patterson:** As I have done over the past forty years of my public service to this community I will continue to look for opportunities that will bring a positive result for Hastings and Adams County. I have served this community since 1980 and have been a part of some significant improvements to the quality of life for our citizens and our businesses. I am concerned about the negative energy we are currently experiencing in the wake of the Viaduct and Racino issues. We need to get past those issues and look to the future and pursue new opportunities that will continue to make a positive impact on our County and City.

**Michael Stromer:** The best thing we as elected leaders can do to foster a positive narrative for the community is to engage everyone in a respectful manner. You have to be open to ideas from all aspects of society as no single person or entity has all the answers. This can also help people to feel engaged and more connected to the community.

**Tim Reams:** No response

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

**Lee Hogan:** 30 years working with the public.

**Joe Patterson:** I began working in public service while I was in college and have continued consistently until now. During that time I have learned a great deal about how government can work to improve people's lives and enhance the offering to a community. I have spent most of my career working with elected officials all of which I believe in their own way wanted to do what was best for the people and the community they served. As I have gotten older I have become a better listener to public concerns. I have learned over the past year that City and County government are similar and also different in many ways. I have enjoyed my affiliation with Adams County and working with the dedicated elected and appointed officials and in serving the citizens of Adams County and District 7. I hope to continue that service moving forward.

**Michael Stromer:** I bring many years of investment analysis and management experience with me. These skills have been extremely critical as the county has launched many ambitious building and infrastructure projects in the last couple of years. Also, as budgeting becomes more challenging, the ability to look critically at cost structures becomes an ever increasing asset to the position.

**Tim Reams:** No response