

**From:** [Karen Buck](#)  
**To:** [Shae Janner](#)  
**Subject:** Chamber Questionnaire  
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Dear Shae -

Thank you for including the Burton Mayoral election in the Washington County Chamber's election publication. Below are the answers to your questions...

**1 - Why have you decided to run for election at this time? Briefly outline the top 2-3 issues you feel will be of significant importance in the next four years.**

I have almost 28 years of experience of working with faith communities in crisis and transition. I suppose that timing is everything. In February, I was nearing the end of my time with a congregation in Bellaire during the filing period for mayor here in Burton. I thought that it would be a great time to put my skill set to use in my hometown.

The issues that are of great importance here in Burton both for the right now and for the years to come are our water supply/well and the need for a backup well; communication from the city/council regarding news/changes/etc.; the desire to know that their concerns have been heard when they present them to the council; "all the change" going on here in town in terms of construction projects, large truck traffic, and the need for a vision/plan for the future.

**2 - What key competencies do you feel you possess to be an elected official? Briefly describe your background in areas such as financial management, ability to be an effective leader and communicator, understanding of labor and human resource issues, understanding of local economic issues, ability to contribute to strategic planning and initiatives.**

My work experience has been to lead faith communities through crisis, transition, change...and even visioning forward into their futures. In all of those experiences, I have gained experience with budget oversight; staff management and team building; working with volunteers; problem solving; forward thinking/re-imagining possibilities; public speaking; and active listening. Mostly, I am known as a person who is not afraid of the "hard stuff" and as one who "gets stuff done".

In the last several weeks, I have spoken with a good number of the citizens of Burton and listened to their concerns and issues that are particular to the area of town in which they live. I have already shared some of those concerns with those who can currently affect change. As mayor, I would be willing to continue to follow up with those citizens and their concerns, listen more closely, and seek answers or resolutions with them.

**3. What do you consider to be the top issue affecting local economic growth?**

In all honesty, we have infrastructure issues to address - securing funding for and

drilling a secondary water well, taking care of postponed maintenance on our current water well (because there is no secondary water supply for us to draw from when the main well is "offline"), ensuring the aging sewage treatment plant remains viable for use and growth, and the maintenance of city streets in all parts of town. We have to address those issues for the "now" while also planning for any growth in our future.

**4. What could you do as an elected official to help small businesses in the community?**

Small businesses, the school district, and residents alike all need to know that the city is working on infrastructure issues. Maintaining communication about the progress on these issues is key.

**5. How important do you feel the relationship is between the City of Burton and Washington County government? How could it be improved?**

As a community, we rely heavily on the county government for emergency services, law enforcement, and road repair. On behalf of those who live both in and around the city of Burton, I will offer a huge "Thank You" to the County for those services.

As for improvement in the relationship that the city and county have with each other, I would like to learn more about the present relationship so that we identify areas of concern and/or growing edges and get to work on those.

**6. What project or issue would be of primary importance to you to work on if you are elected?**

First and foremost is to continue to follow up on what the current mayor pro-tem, city council, and city staff have started - securing a grant for a back up water well and following through on the start and completion of that much needed project.

**7. What would you do to help ensure that the local economy continues to grow and evolve?**

I have not been involved with the Chamber of Commerce here in Burton, but I would like to meet with them and hear what they are working on and visioning for the area and support them in their efforts.

**Are there any other comments you would like to make?**

Again, thank you, Shae.

Karen Buck