

District 1 Alderman Candidate Questions: Robert Strzelczyk

1. Why did you decide to pursue the District 1 position, first through the Common Council process and now through the special election?

I am running in back to back elections with the same goal, serving the community I have enjoyed being a part of since childhood. I earned 47% of the popular vote during the April Aldermanic election and would like the opportunity to provide positive, unbiased and honest representation for the residents in District 1.

2. What specific skills/experience would you bring to this position that would make you the best candidate to represent your district?

During the past 8 months I have met with over 500 residents, providing me with a current, first hand, understanding of District 1's goals and objectives. I believe both sides of an issue deserve equal consideration and would listen objectively, lead without bias, supporting our diverse group of resident's concerns.

I attended K-12 in Mequon-Thiensville schools, served multiple terms as a MTEF board member, am the 3rd generation Strzelczyk to raise family in Mequon and offer 20 years of experience as a small business leader collaborating with Mequon's businesses and non-profit organizations.

I received a BA in Business Management, emphasis in Marketing providing me with the skill set necessary to address city finances, plan for economic stability and develop the desired "Brand" for Mequon. Based on my qualifications, I was appointed to Mequon's Branding Committee by my former opponent, Mayor Abendroth.

3. What are the key issues facing the city at this time and why?

Mequon-Thiensville schools have seen declining enrollment since the 1990's where neighboring communities such as Germantown, Cedarburg and Grafton have increased or maintained their student population. This places critical funding at risk and makes it difficult to continue providing the standard in education our population requires.

Our current business tax base does not support the rising costs of maintaining Mequon's roads and city services. This will negatively impact our cherished low tax rates and resident's quality of life if we don't work to reverse Mequon's increasing pattern of borrowing funds. District 1 has the largest footprint in the City of Mequon with miles of rural roads requiring maintenance, plowing, police and fire coverage. Budget shortages will affect our residents. I would work towards establishing a balanced and sustainable budget, securing Mequon resident's quality of life for current and future generations

4. What do you consider to be the greatest assets of the community: the things that make Mequon a desirable place to live?

The joy of Mequon starts with our residents. Quality neighbors who are educated, maintain beautiful properties, encourage their children to thrive and stay involved. Our beautiful landscape offers diverse opportunities to enjoy nature in a variety of forms including Lake Michigan, Milwaukee River, pristine woodlands, parks and extensive open areas. Our schools

are excellent, with teachers who care about the success of our children. Mequon offers several conveniences including retail shopping, restaurants, upscale grocery stores and golf courses. Our cherished low taxes and quality construction continue to support strong home values.

5. The recent City of Mequon survey data shows that nearly 60% of residents are in favor of residential development in areas that have been identified for potential growth. What is your reaction to this statistic? How do you feel the City should proceed to maintain the right level of growth for the community?

The results of the City Survey match the feedback I have been receiving from residents and my platform during the April election. I continue to be supportive of moderated, quality growth in established areas, near city utilities and services. I believe the common council needs to continue partnering with the M-T School Board and administration to establish the parameters for desirable, high quality housing that encourages young professionals and families with young children to choose Mequon first.

My concern is that Mequon's current growth model is forcing the majority of new construction out into rural, agricultural and scenic areas where land is most available, working against many residents' desire to keep this area rural. Re-directing focus towards new housing opportunities within areas supported on the survey would preserve the desired rural character of District 1's outlying areas and support the city's need to address declining enrollment in Mequon-Thiensville Schools.