

JOHN MAXWELL

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Q1 BIOGRAPHY: Please provide a brief bio that describes your background and the particular skills you would bring to the County Board of Supervisors.

a. In addition to my living in Scott County my whole life, my family, the Maxwells have called Scott County home for more than 150 years. My great grandfather delivered more than 3000 babies in Scott County and my grandfather was a county supervisor in the 1950s and 1960s. My state-of-the-art robotic dairy (Cinnamon Ridge Farm) shows my commitment to Scott County for the long-term. I enjoy welcoming many adults and school children to Scott County through tours on my farm and serve the community as president of the North Scott School Board. Having a small business has taught me how to maintain budgets, build a productive work force, and make tough decisions. My wife, Joan, and I have 5 daughters and 3 grandchildren between us.

Q2 Are there areas of the County budget today – or on the horizon - that cause you particular concern? Yes/No. Please elaborate.

I'm proud to be part of a county that has one of the lowest levy rates in the state while also being one of the biggest Iowa counties. Through the years, Scott County has held the line on taxes and controlled spending. I am concerned that, as costs go up, we must find ways to continue our great levy rates. I would like to investigate how the county could be more efficient.

Q3 Are there policies or practices you'd like to see the Board adopt, expand or eliminate to promote a stronger business climate in Scott County and the Quad Cities region?

I support the continued development of Scott County in planned area for the betterment of business and creation of jobs. The Greater Davenport Redevelopment Corporation has done a great job. Yet the current site is nearing completion and, at some point, will need to be addressed. Some areas (like the old Kraft plant) should be emphasized for redevelopment. The current structure of a private corporation doing the initial negotiations in the development is helpful rather than a city because so many details can be worked out more efficiently.

Q4 In what circumstances do you support the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and other economic development incentives?

Questions we should use to evaluate TIF are:

- i. Does it create long term, good paying jobs?
- ii. Does it rehab an economic blighted area?
- iii. Does it benefit the county both in the short and long-term?

I'm in favor of TIF if these answers to these questions all are clearly yes.

Q5 Do you support Scott County's investment in regional marketing, business attraction and economic development services through the Quad Cities Chamber / Quad Cities First? Yes/No. Please elaborate.

I think an investment in regional marketing to attract business and economic development is a wise idea if the return on investment is met. The goals of success must be met by all parties.

Q6 Should Scott County play a greater role in regional economic development and, if so, in what ways?

For Scott County to continue its low levy rate and hold the line on taxes, we must continue our economic development and look for opportunities for planned expansions.

Q7 What more could Scott County do to support mental health services for needy residents?

Since the passing of the Legislation of Mental Health Redesign in 2012, mental health services have improved but still have room for growth. Some of the biggest issues I would like to see addressed are:

- i. Lack of funding – As with most government entities, the funding is not enough to go around.
 - ii. Source of funding – The current source of mental health service funding is from property taxes, which puts an undue burden on property owners. An additional source of revenue needs to be instated.
 - iii. National shortage of psychiatrists – Currently scheduling an appointment with a psychiatrist can have a year wait time. Nurse practitioners have been hired to help with the shortage but more staff are needed.
 - iv. Support staff personnel shortage – In 2017 more than 1300 suicide risk calls were placed to emergency services in Davenport. This astounding number places great burden on police force and county mobile crisis teams.
 - v. Inequities in region and county funding – Scott County is part of a 5 county region in which not every county has the same cost or support services, which is problematic. Discrepancies in funding formulas are causing large inequities throughout the state.
- If elected I will work to ensure more funding for mental health services, communicate with state and federal legislators about solutions, locate additional funding sources, and hire more staff to provide the mental health services that Scott County citizens need and deserve. Part of my job as supervisor will be to create dialogue and relationships for the betterment of the county and its people.
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Q8 Name two areas of governmental consolidation you would support and why these would be beneficial.

When I was first elected to the North Scott School Board, I was faced with a similar dilemma. Over the past seven years, I've looked for opportunities to not only get cross collaboration among departments, but also do more with less. As a result, through retirement and more staff efficiency there are fewer people working in the administration, but more teachers educating our students. I would take the same approach in county government: cross collaboration and do more with less.

Q9 If the taxing authority for the Quad Cities International Airport were to expand to include other local governing jurisdictions, would you be in favor of Scott County's inclusion to strengthen air service in our community? Why or why not?

Having the Quad Cities International Airport is a blessing to this area. I'm concerned that the ridership continues to go down year after year. I'm also concerned if the Quad Cities gets passenger rail to Chicago what that will do to air ridership. I don't think it is fair to the Illinois people that not all of the region (parts of Rock Island county) don't get taxed and others do. We must address these concerns before we can move forward with the expansions of the governing jurisdictions.

Q10 Where would you like the County Board to concentrate its regional efforts? Check all that apply.

Rock Island Arsenal/Strategic Defense Alliance ,

Implementation of Q2030 Regional Action Plan ,

Air Service/Quad Cities International Airport ,

Regional Economic Development ,

Tourism ,

Other (please describe):

a. The County Board has already made significant steps in aligning itself correctly with the Rock Island Arsenal/Strategic Defense Alliance. Passing state legislation to improve our Base Realignment Closure (BRAC) score keeps the Arsenal in our region. As a board member, I want to support that continued relationship. b. The 2030 plan is a great way for all areas of the Quad Cities to unite and have community vision for the future. Having the BIG TABLE talks was one of the great ways for the many groups and parties to get together and share that vision. c. I would have to see the questions in #9 answered before I would want to concentrate on the airport. d. Planned Regional Economic Growth is essential to low taxes, low levy rates, a growing and thriving community. e. We must also support tourism in the Quad Cities. Tourism is an excellent way for people to see and experience our community and i. Spend money here ii. Possibly move here iii. Create a business here Effective tourism significantly contributes to the growth and sustainability of our county.