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Page 1: Rock Island County Board of Supervisors Candidate Survey 2018

**Q1 Name: First and Last**

Edna Sowards

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**Q2 BIOGRAPHY:** Please provide a brief bio that describes your background and the particular skills you would bring to the County Board of Supervisors.

Retired operating room nurse with 42 years in nursing.

Born & raised in Rock Island, and raised our family in Rock Island.

My family operated neighborhood grocery store.

Have volunteered many hours over the years in our community, along with many fundraising activities with the Rock Island Police Benevolent Association's Christmas Food Basket Program.

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**Q3** What are the most pressing issues or opportunities for Rock Island County in the next several years and why?

Generate more retail tax to keep property taxes down in Rock Island County.

Reduce Hope Creek's debt, saving tax payer dollars, and still give excellent care at the facility

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**Q4** What changes or reforms to Rock Island County government would you like to implement in the next several years?

Decrease size of the County board

Fair and equitable contracts with county employees

Work closely with new administrator to make our county government more efficient

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**Q5** Would you support Rock Island County investing in regional marketing/economic development with other local governments and the business community through Quad Cities First, which is the economic development division of the Quad Cities Chamber?

Yes

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**Q6** Describe your general philosophy on annexation and partnering with other local governments to develop industrial sites.

To develop current sites and bring in more industries, thus reducing property taxes, increasing our population, and preventing people from moving away from our area.

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**Q7** Name two areas of government consolidation/shared services you would support, and how these would be beneficial to taxpayers.

State bids on equipment and supplies  
Combining purchasing powers with other counties to save taxpayer money

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**Q8** What do you see as the best long-term plan for Hope Creek - to sell; to contract with a private provider to operate; to continue owning/operating? Please elaborate.

Continue to own/operate. We need a care facility for our seniors in Rock Island County, who cannot afford private long term healthcare.

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**Q9** Do you support sale, renovation, demolition or some other definitive plan for the Courthouse?

Renovation, however the courthouse can be saved, ie through federal/state government grants and/or programs, private sector donations, historical and preservation societies.

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**Q10** What is the best model for the long-term success of Niabi Zoo - public; public-private partnership; other? Please explain.

Public.....to bring in monies to our County, to keep taxes down, and increase tourism thus again bringing more monies into our area.

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**Q11** 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**
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