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

Q1 Name: First and Last

James Greenwood

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

For over 15 years James Greenwood has acted consistently in service to the public. In the U.S. Navy he earned two letters of commendation from the Commander, Pacific Fleet, while at University of Massachusetts he was recognized for his service by Alpha Phi Omega, at Drake University he earned the Law School's Public Service Certificate, and in the Quad Cities he has coached entrepreneurship teams and participated in STEM education initiatives.

Beyond his public service experience, James became familiar with industrial and commercial business while working to develop business for a Fortune 500 company in the Quad Cities. Additionally, James has assisted many local businesses and non-profits in his role as an Attorney.

James brings a wealth of knowledge that is directly applicable to operating county government including accounting best practices, legal knowledge, and a deep understanding of commercial interests. He intends to utilize these skill sets to help grow the region and see that his constituents best interests are met.

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

The County voted in 2012 to shrink the RI Co. Board from 25 to a maximum of 15 members. This change in governance represents the largest single opportunity and threat to the County in the next several years. A failure to shrink the board would represent an unacceptable failure in the governance process. A smaller more nimble county board would be better able to conduct decision making without the hangups we recently observed with the County Courthouse decision.

In addition, the County has the opportunity to capitalize on the rapidly growing economy. The County should look for opportunities to incentivize long-term growth through tax or other incentives.

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

I'd like to shrink the board to a maximum of 15 members, smaller if possible. Decision-making dynamics in large groups is ineffective, at best.

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?

Provided that such initiatives align with the best interests of the people of Rock Island County, yes.

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

Where, and to the extent that, partnerships are possible, the county should take advantage of every possible sustainable opportunity for growth while the economy is expanding.

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

Road districts should be merged into a central county function.

In addition, public transit and library systems should be fully regionalized in some form resembling the Port Authority in New York/New Jersey.

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.

Hope Creek needs to be owned and operated by the County. Private operation would be unsustainable for the residents of Hope Creek and would likely result in a substantial reduction of Medicaid beds in the region.

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

Demolition.

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

The Zoo is ultimately a long-term investment to draw people from the surrounding areas and should be used to that end. The core of the Zoo needs to remain County owned. Certain auxiliary services may be performed under a PPP if such opportunity arose and the people of Rock Island County were unwilling to take advantage of said opportunity.

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,

Other (please describe):

The County should take an "all of the above" approach to encouraging sustainable long-term growth while the economy is robust.
