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

**Q1 Name: First and Last**

Kenneth "Mike" Steffen

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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 school teacher and financial consultant

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

We need better paying jobs and lower taxes. We are driving our good young people away.

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

Reduce the size of the board to 15 or fewer; learn to live within a budget; and make a decision whether the county should be in the nursing home business.

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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, that would be a wise investment.

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

I love to see government bodies work together. For example, when RICO and Mercer and Henry went together to purchase a paint machine for highways, I thought that made a lot of sense. I'd like to see more of it.

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

We should strongly consider combining all 911 services at one location on the Illinois side of the river. Eventually we might include Iowa side, but for now let's consolidate on the Illinois side.

**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.

RICO should not be in the nursing home business. Hope Creek is an excellent asset for our community, but it should be owned and operated by professionals in that industry.

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

I see no other option than to raze the old courthouse. Many individuals and organizations have proposed grandiose ideas for the old structure, but no one has brought forward the dollars to accomplish the proposal. I will not vote to raise taxes for RICO citizens.

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

I like the public-private partnership model. RICO has a real jewel in the Niabi Zoo with great administration, good staff, and public participation at the zoo.

**Q11** Where would you like the County Board to concentrate its regional efforts? Check all that apply.

**Regional Economic Development** ,

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):

All are important. Since you did not ask me to prioritize, I'll leave that for another survey.