

## Stop the Outer Loop Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name

Barry Smith

**The Outer Loop has been tabled for now. What is your stance on the Outer Loop proposal and any future bypass that may be proposed?**

The outer loop proposal was a disappointment as they failed to educate our community and didn't take into considerations from community members, prior to developing a very unsettling plan to acquire personal property and farmland along the proposed routes. Future bypass proposals should be scrutinized and heavily evaluated. Planning traffic patterns and other roadways that will help assist with traffic flow, without the use of an outer loop or bypass is certainly achievable as we move forward in our county. Urban sprawl is a concern for rural communities across our nation, just as it is in Daviess County. The United States lost 1.3 million acres of farmland in 2021, we should work toward preserving this farmland and utilizing areas of redevelopment.

**What is your stance on Highway 56 improvements and what do you propose?**

N/A

**As county lands continue to be developed, what is your stand on future annexations of county lands into the city of Owensboro?**

As mentioned above, we as a community should utilize options to protect our farmland and rural development. While it is necessary to grow with housing and other types of development, we can also be mindful of redevelopment of other properties within the city. Future annexations will occur; however, careful consideration should be placed prior to any annexations.

**Do you think that Daviess County government should provide or pay for ditch cleaning of major waterways on private property?**

N/A

**What are some areas of the current county budget that could be cut to lower taxes?**

As your current Sheriff I'm not versed entirely on the county budget. Expenses increase as it relates to all operations, whether it be public safety (Fire Department, Detention Center, Law Enforcement), recreation, road department, landfill and so forth. To make a decision without studying the full budget would only be an assumption on my part. However, I do encompass a full understanding of the Sheriff's Office budget. Nearly half of our budget is dependent on Fiscal Court appropriations, which enables our office to perform the required constitutional duties and law enforcement. In my 27 years of service with the Sheriff's Office, I can say that the office has always and will continue to be judicious stewards of your money. I promise to provide the services that reinforces worthy usage of all funds in our budget. I understand the value of keeping taxes low.

**Do you see our Planning and Zoning process as an impediment to business growth? How could it work better?**

N/A

**Serious crime seems to be way up in Daviess County. How will you work toward protecting residents and their properties?**

The Daviess County Sheriff's Office, from 2020 to 2021 had a decrease of 2.58% in all Part I crimes, which entails Violent crimes and certain property crimes (such as Burglary, Arson etc). The Owensboro Police Department also reported an overall crime rate decrease, with a substantial increase in aggravated assaults. In similar fashion your Sheriff's Office did investigate two additional aggravated assaults in 2021. As your Sheriff I'm cognizant of our issues within the entirety of Daviess County. Both the city and county aggravated assaults incidents are directly attributed to gun violence at the hands of juvenile offenders. We are working diligently with Judges, Department of Juvenile Justice and Commonwealth Attorney's Office to prosecute these offenders as adults. Many of these juvenile offenders have been arrested numerous times by law enforcement.

The Daviess County Sheriff's Office continues to be proactive in our community. Community Oriented Policing works as a partnership between law enforcement and the citizens we serve. The last two years has been challenging to maintain this level of participation, due to COVID restrictions and less events for our deputies to attend. The Sheriff's Office will continue this proactive approach, as we most recently had our first community outreach event. We plan to hold additional outreach events and participate in planned community events as society returns to normal.

Many "serious crimes" are associated with drug use or activity. The trafficking of drugs in our community has always and continues under my leadership as an area of concentration. In July of 2021 we were fortunate to have been designated as part of the HIDTA Task Force. This task force went operational in September of 2021. This team has a multitude of intelligence and resources to investigate large drug trafficking investigations. The main objective is to seek and arrest those high-volume drug dealers that are flooding our streets with this poison. In the first few months we have observed how much our community has and will continue to benefit from this initiative. I'm in full support of this Drug Task Force and will continue providing Sheriff's Office personnel and operational support to the HIDTA team.

**Do you agree with the current occupational tax structure? Do you think current tax rates are fair? If not, how would you work to change it?**

