

Stop the Outer Loop Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name

Brad Youngman

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?

While I think that future growth is important to our community, I also believe that it can never be forced on the people. Yes there are areas where roads need improvement, but to propose a big highway that cuts through areas where A) families live and farm so that we can have food on our table, and B) We don't need a highway, it seems unnecessary and harmful to our families that work hard for what they have. As such there needs to be a lot more discussion as to the actual needs from a local point of view before Frankfort gets involved. And when Frankfort does come calling we need to be able to present our side accurately because it is our community and we know best what our needs are.

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

N/A to this race

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

N/A to this race

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

N/A to this race

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

As Sheriff my concern will be with finding efficiencies in the Sheriffs Department budget where we can eliminate waste and put our money to more important items such as combatting our out of control drug epidemic and having a more optimal response to people's needs. I would love to be able to give you concrete examples of where and how I can save the taxpayers money, but the Sheriff's department is the only county agency that does not make it budget available to the public. I have requested to view the budget and thus far my requests have gone unanswered. I am positive that as a lifelong conservative republican who has worked in the DCSO for several years and seen first hand the amount of waste and inefficiency that occurs, I can find ways to give the taxpayers an office that provides outstanding public safety without spending more money. In addition we will do this in a transparent manner. I don't think it is right for a completely tax payer funded public service organization to hide their budget from the people. We will change this on day one by posting the DCSO budge online where the people can see where their money is going.

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

N/A to this race

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

Crime is up in Daviess County. And this is concerning. It bothers me that we continue to hear otherwise from our current appointed sheriff. As with most things there is more to the issue than merely looking at numbers. During the past few years of COVID, response protocols were majorly adjusted and thus less calls for service were completed, less public interaction occurred, and less investigations took place. To interpret this as "crime being down" is to completely misunderstand the situation or to be intentionally dishonest. Either one is unacceptable. My plan is for Safe Homes, Safe Schools and Safe Streets. I will do that by using my vast police and military experience and proven leadership to bring the DCSO into the 21st century and to provide them with quality leadership so that deputies will stop quitting. Personnel costs are the biggest chunk of the DCSO budget. For the past few years under my opponent's tenure almost 15 deputies have quit leaving the agency chronically short with no plan to improve conditions or ask why deputies are quitting. This greatly increases overtime costs, training cost, and perhaps most importantly robs the department of experience which is key to proactive law enforcement and reducing crime. Those that remain are to be commended for their service. But we must give them a reason to stay. For anyone not to acknowledge that this is a major issue is a travesty and showcases either their lack of understanding or their lack of integrity and either way they don't need to be in charge. The DCSO has never had a fully staffed narcotics unit with multiple detectives that focus solely on Daviess County drug investigations. This has to be changed. The City of Owensboro fought to get our county designated as a HIDTA and that is a wonderful thing to have. But it is federally funded and focuses on strategic drug investigations. We have a big local drug problem and we need a local focus on it in addition to the great work that HIDTA is doing. We need better technology so that people can pay their taxes online the way other counties do. We need more modern equipment such as MDTs for our detectives to use in the field. We need better cameras to document crime scenes instead of 20 year old cameras that take sub quality blurry pictures, lacking of detail and not suitable for court. We desperately need a crime scene unit to collect evidence the right way instead of relying on the basic level training that deputies get as part of their initial onboarding at the police academy. As an experienced detective I can tell you that properly collected and stored evidence is how you put bad guys in jail for a long time. How we have allowed a department of this size to not have a specialized evidence unit is unfathomable. The training for this is available and it's free of cost. Why has our past leadership not chosen to prioritize this and make it happen? We must set aside egos and increase the level of partnership and cooperation with our neighboring counties, OPD, and state/federal law enforcement partners. Having served on a federal task force I can speak first hand to the results you get when you invest in these kind of programs. To keep our community safe we need a sheriff that has the plans, experience, and ability to make important changes. I am the only candidate in this race that has

those qualities.

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?

I won't be able to affect the tax structure as Sheriff. However as a lifelong conservative republican I take it seriously anytime that taxpayers are asked to foot more of the bill or when they are paying too much. This is why in my quest to provide Safe Homes, Safe Schools, and Safe Streets, I will rely on grants and seized money to pay for things as much as possible. Without a drug unit, the drug fund at the DCSSO is virtually non existent when compared to the magnitude of the drug problem that we have. These are sources that have been rarely utilized in the past and under my leadership we will do better. As an experienced narcotics detective I can assure you that we will seize money from drug dealers and spend it first because our hard working Daviess County families are paying enough already. In addition, I have already identified grants that will assist in my plans, and I will begin working on them this summer after winning the primary so that when I take office we can begin implementing needed improvements on day one.