

Stop the Outer Loop Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name

Janie Marksberry

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 verbiage “for now” in the survey question is exactly right, because I do not believe this is over. I believe they will reintroduce the Outer Loop in segments, beginning with Newbolt Road and Millers Mill Road.

As the president of the Stop the Outer Loop Facebook group, I worked diligently to investigate, verify and question all involved in this disastrous road project. I will always fight for the property rights of the people of Daviess County, because I believe these rights are sacred. We do not need an Outer Loop or another bypass. We need to work on our current roads, widening shoulders and repairing poor pavement.

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

Highway 56 should be a high priority when considering road improvements. It may be more difficult with the location of some of the utilities, but I will advocate with state highway officials along with the county to get this accomplished. I will always be accessible to evaluate any areas of Daviess County that are of concern to our citizens.

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

I am adamantly opposed to any annexation of county land into the city. Because once they begin to do this with one site, then any adjacent property could also become a target. Where will it stop? These actions resemble the past attempts at city-county merger, another unpopular proposal. I am definitely against annexation.

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

I do believe that the county government should keep roadside ditches cleaned out to improve drainage, as it will help overall road flooding incidents. I do not believe the county currently has authority to clean ditches that are not along roadways. The county government should do anything and everything it can to improve drainage in our community.

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

I have not been involved with the composition of the current county budget. However, here are the principles that will guide me when evaluating the next county budget:

1. I am committed to providing full support to law enforcement, fire and emergency services.
2. I will work diligently to help resolve the current ambulance service problems.
3. I understand that many county budget expenses are essentially fixed, i.e.: retirement, insurance, etc.
4. I support animal welfare expenditures.
5. The county spends considerable sums on Economic Development and the Tourist Commission. I would like to evaluate how those funds are spent.

My goal is to be fair, diligent and discerning when evaluating the county budget.

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

As a real estate broker and retired appraiser, I have observed for decades that this is a problem for business owners. I have seen firsthand how our planning and zoning process makes locating a business here difficult and cost prohibitive. Planning and zoning takes their recommendations from the state level, however I believe their interpretation should be based on common sense and what is best for economic growth. We spend millions trying to attract business, and then saddle those businesses with unnecessary restrictions.

I believe that our planning and zoning board should be more encouraging to anyone wishing to do business here. And our government should not give big tax breaks only to what they consider larger or more valuable businesses, or offer them “surplus” property.

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

I believe our police and sheriffs’ departments are likely understaffed and definitely overworked, and we need to support them 100%.

I do NOT believe in taking away people’s rights to possess a firearm and I am a strong Second Amendment supporter. Those who wish to cause harm to others will always find a way no matter what, and private citizens must be allowed to defend themselves and their property. Crime is a symptom of family breakdown. The cure must start in the home, and in people’s hearts. Many of the issues we are seeing are the result of folks who have lost hope. I believe that we need to offer more programs to our youth that encourage outdoor activities which would be skill and self esteem building for them.

I also believe we have a great need for providing good basic nutrition to under served areas. Part of my platform is to work with entities

like members of the farmer's market and other producers to bring a fresh produce truck to under served areas of Owensboro. These are areas experts call a 'food desert' and have limited access to fresh food. I believe by providing essential nutrition and meaningful activities for youth, we can reverse some the root causes of crime in our community.

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?

We lowered the insurance tax, and then we raised the occupational tax. For most taxpayers, what the government does with taxes often does not make sense. I understand that these issues can be complicated, but we need to start by being as honest and transparent as we can with our citizens.

When the county needs to upgrade systems or equipment, the answer is not always a new tax.

These will be my priorities on spending and taxes: low taxes, efficient spending, with a critical eye on programs we can reduce or even eliminate to make government more efficient.