

## Stop the Outer Loop Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name

Michael King

### **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 Owensboro Outer Loop Feasibility Study determined an outer loop as not feasible at this time, and I agree with those findings. As for any future bypass, my job as a County Commissioner will be to base decisions on information provided at that time and consider its effect on families, farms, and properties it would be constructed on and around. However, I do support adding an interchange on I-165 between Owensboro and Hartford to improve traffic flow on US-231 and allow better response time to emergencies on I-165.

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

Improvements to Highway 56 should be made as traffic usage requires. I recommend reviewing the need for wider shoulders on KY-56 to accommodate truck and agriculture traffic better.

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

I do not support forced annexation of any property, and Annexations should take place only with the property owner's agreement.

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

Regular maintenance of drainage ditches can assist in eliminating the effects of flooding by removing trees, brush, and other vegetation that impede the flow of water. As County Commissioner, I will recommend that the Daviess Co. Drainage Commission be provided with funding to assist with maintenance either by working with the property owners or directly contracting services.

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

Several items need to be considered to reduce costs:

1. The county needs to do a better job of reviewing project costs.
2. With redistricting, Daviess Co. has three dedicated representatives and one senator in state government. I do not believe a lobbyist in Frankfort is necessary, and as County Commissioner, I will eliminate that position.
3. I recommend working with the City of Owensboro to see which services are duplicated and work with the city to streamline these services to benefit all county residents.

However, at this time, I would recommend any savings be redirected to the Daviess Co. Sheriffs Department instead of cutting taxes.

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

Yes, planning and zoning (OMPC) impedes business growth. As the developer of the Green River storage warehouses (formerly OZ Tyler), I have witnessed this firsthand. We must have common sense in planning and zoning and a customer-focused "How can we help you?" attitude. The current adversarial approach, poor communications, and a priority of fees and fines must end. If this cannot be corrected, I recommend the county withdraw from OMPC and form a new entity for planning/zoning/building in the county.

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

Unfortunately, serious crime has risen recently. I recommend additional funding to the Daviess Co. Sheriffs Depart to increase the number of deputies as strength programs to combat drug trafficking and violent crimes.

### **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?**

No one likes taxes, but I believe the current occupational tax system is fair and, when compared to surrounding counties, is one of the lowest.