

Stop the Outer Loop Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name

Will Mounts

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?

I think the people have spoken and are clearly opposed to the outer loop. We should concentrate our efforts on improving major thoroughfares that are already in place.

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

Every two years, the Chamber of Commerce sends a survey throughout the community based off concerns voiced by the residents, businesses, elected officials, etc. The City of Owensboro, DCFC, Chamber of Commerce, and the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corp creates a list of priorities based off the results of the survey. This list is then brought before Frankfort to show unification within our community and entities.

This technique has produced:

OCTC Advance Manufacturing Centers Phase 1 and 2

The Interstate Shields for I65

Construction of the Natcher Bridge

Creation of Family Court

HWY 54 Widening

Highway 331 at the Riverport

Lighting of the Blue Bridge

In order to address the concerns of Highway 56, we must work with all four entities mentioned above to have it put within the survey, as well as create a conversation piece to put it before the State Legislature. Showing one voice over the issues will create better results for all, as it has in the past.

The following are the joint Community Priorities for the 2022-23 General Assembly Sessions:

Legislative

Home Rule for Local Government Taxing Options

Permanent Funding for All-Day Kindergarten

Second Family Court Judge

Fund Youth Employment Programs

New Judicial Center

Infrastructure

County-Wide Broadband

Start Construction on 54 to Jack Hinton Road

Extend Interstate Spur 165 to the US 60 at the Natcher Bridge

Daviess County Interchange on I165

I69 Bridge

Complete I69 and Upgrade Audubon Parkway to I69 Interstate Spur (I369)

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

I live in the county and therefore opposed to more annexation of county lands into the city of Owensboro.

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

The Landowners should be allowed to clean their ditches without interference from the County.

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

In the private sector, we are always looking for ways to improve our operations. With my 20+ years of business and manufacturing experience, we have saved over \$15 million with kaizen/continuous improvement activities in order to reduce or eliminate certain expenses/waste.

The county budget is an expansive document of 23 pages with over 600-line items. I have spent countless hours reviewing this data comparing 2018 to the present-day budget. I have highlighted over 80 items that I would like to see further clarification for the reasoning behind these expenses.

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

If we have learned anything from Bowling Green's rapid growth, it is that their planning and zoning department is always asking, "How can we help you?" Based off of feedback from homeowners, homebuilders, developers, etc. in Daviess County, we seem to have a

reputation of rolling out the red tape with "gotcha moments." Daviess County has to create a business-friendly culture in order to improve our local economy and that change must start from the top down.

We must rebrand ourselves as ready, able, and excited to do business with you. We do not need a repeat of the Green River Distillery Rickhouses moving to Ohio County.

Both of my opponents have noted it as an issue within their 12 year terms, but have not taken any action to address the problem.

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

Throughout our visioning and planning we will ensure that public safety and quality are prioritized by making sure that our first responders have the funds for the tools and resources needed in order to protect and serve. We must work diligently to fill the 8+ vacancies within our Sheriff's Department. We must develop programs to develop our youth into productive members of society, and we will make sure that our teachers, the staff, and the students are safe within our public school system.

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?

In the past, as revenue has been needed to cover rising expenses, the answer has always been to increase taxes. We have experienced this through the increase in our insurance tax premiums from 4.9% to 8.9% and recently with the tripling of the occupational tax. Why don't we try a new approach by increasing our tax base by increasing the number of new citizens/entities within our community?

My vision is a jobs-first entrepreneurial approach for Daviess County using our existing assets of the river, the rail, the airport, and the highway infrastructure to make an advanced and modern manufacturing hub focused on the skilled trades through programs like GO FAME and GO FEMALES. Bowling Green has focused on manufacturing and is not only leading with 3 times the growth rate, but with also 50% more or \$500 million in GDP than Daviess County.

To make this occur, we must develop site ready land as noted by our state economic development cabinet in order to attract businesses into Daviess County. We have seen the effectiveness of site ready land in the creation of 300+ jobs with a \$400 million investment in Henderson and 5,000+ jobs with \$5.8 billion investment in Elizabethtown. Daviess County has less than 100 acres under its control. Bringing more people and businesses into our community allows more revenue that will reduce or eliminate the need for certain taxes.