

**League of Women Voters of Elmhurst
Candidate Forum Questions – County Board District 2**

Liz Chaplin (D)

1. The following resolution will be included on the November 6th York Township ballot: "Shall our Representatives and Senators in the U.S. Congress sponsor and/or support measures that will address the serious threat posed by climate change?" Do you support or oppose the resolution, and why?

I support the resolution. I believe the science is in on climate change. With the warming of the planet, the oceans, the ice caps melting and the extreme weather there is no other good explanation. I believe that climate change is one of the most serious threats facing our society.

2. League of Women Voters has taken a stand to eliminate township government. Do you have a plan to increase county government efficiency while maintaining quality services and infrastructure through consolidation and shared services? Please explain your plan.

I believe that government consolidation is more about public relations, political marketing and publicity than actually saving tax dollars, despite the hype and hoopla that surrounds such efforts. In the last several years, there have not been any government consolidations that actually saved a meaningful amount of money for the taxpayers.

There was a rush to consolidate the Naperville and Lisle Highway Districts and little, if any thought was put into details surrounding the merger. Questions have been raised about the projected savings and some believe that the consolidation will cost taxpayers more money to merge the two districts.

I believe that residents have much better access to local representatives and that local government is the most responsive. My philosophy is that government needs to be frugal and fiscally responsible.

3. According to Forbes Magazine (7/25/17 issue) DuPage County had over 200 employees earning over \$100,000. Annually. The report states a top staffer with an annual salary of \$201,750. Do you have a plan to reduce personnel costs?

DuPage County's headcount of 2,178 is down from 2,270 in 2010. I believe that any further reduction in staff would hurt services to the public and employee morale.

DuPage County is home to some of the highest paid elected officials in the state. Place a 10 year salary freeze on all county elected officials. Eliminate pension benefits, health insurance and eliminate stipends for all county elected officials.

Currently DuPage County spends over half a million dollars on individuals who are appointed to serve on part time boards and committees. Eliminate or reduce the compensation to no more than \$50 per meeting.

4. County activities are often opaque to the average citizen and most do not even know what district they are in. What is your vision for better communication to show more accountability and transparency to your constituents?

I am very accessible to my constituents. My phone number and email are published on the DuPage County website as well as other public forums.

I make myself available to anyone that has a question or concern. I attend meetings of different organizations throughout my district.

I am the only member of the board that has a blog. Blogging allows me to share important information with the public. My blog also allows the public to leave a comment or share a concern.

5. As part of the strategic plan the county must foster the continued growth of its economy. Ensure DuPage County residents have competitive job skills. Foster economic growth and development. Champion DuPage County as a desirable place in which to live and work. What are your suggestions for fulfilling this plan?

DuPage County is a great place to live and work and is home to some of the best colleges, universities and apprentice programs. Innovation DuPage is a collaboration between local universities and businesses that support young and upcoming entrepreneurs with a focus on small businesses. This is a good first step.

Currently 56.8 percent of the DuPage County's revenue source is sales tax, which includes the

RTA sales tax that can only be utilized for transportation and/or public safety.

All of the collar counties Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will use the RTA tax for transportation, which according to the legislation is an appropriate use of the funds. None of the RTA sales tax is used for transportation in DuPage County. The RTA tax is integral to the funding of our roads and public transit.

The county needs to start using the RTA tax to fund our roads and public transit.
Without investing in our infrastructure DuPage will continue to lose businesses.