

League of Women Voters of Elmhurst

Candidate Forum Questions – County Board District 2

Steve Nero (R)

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?

Climate change is real. I think its time our leaders start making the environment a priority. As Westmont Trustee, I led the charge on sustainable infrastructure improvements, stream water cleanup projects, recycling events and more. Taking good care of our environment needs to happen everywhere, not just with our legislators.

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.

Yes! This is the foundation of my municipal and professional experience. In Westmont we have consistently found ways to do more with less. Through consolidation, partnerships or technology, I consistently pushed the Village to be an innovator in its operations. Here's a few of my plan's priorities: a. Analyze the budget and find areas where we can partner or share resources with others. b. Initiate consolidation opportunities with local jurisdictions ensuring DuPage County remains a true leader c. Hold the line on property taxes, while examining ways to reduce them d. Investigate new technologies resulting in increased efficiencies

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?

Yes. The biggest way to reduce personnel costs is by following the plan described in number two. DuPage County needs have a board member who understands the day to day operations of local government. Someone who can help minimize workflow and reduce needed staff. I do it in my professional life, for Westmont and am ready to dive in and improve the county.

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?

The same way I have done so as a Westmont Village Trustee: a. Televisе & stream meetings (live & recorded) b. Improve social media usage & effectiveness c. Partner with communities by sharing content and increasing collaboration d. Create a mobile friendly website

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?

These items are all extremely important to DuPage County. Economic growth and development all start with making sure the county is easy to do business with. In my professional life, I help communities do just this. I streamline processes & improve work quality all in the name of saving time for the developer. Improving their experience is essential to consistently attract investments. Aside from that, we must make sure our fees are competitive and that the county economic development department has the tools in place to foster growth (incentives, out reach/marketing programs, job training etc.).