

**League of Women Voters of Elmhurst
Candidate Forum Questions – County Board District 1**

Sam Tornatore (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?

I do support measures that will address the issue of climate change. As a County Board Member and member of the Environmental Committee, I have taken steps and supported Resolutions to protect our air, water and reduce green house gasses. We have also instituted recycling programs for paint, oil, pumpkins, electronic devises and the shredding of documents . Out LEAD certified buildings have resulted in a \$750,000.00 energy savings over the last 5 years. All of this has been accomplished with a reduced headcount and a balanced budget.

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 do not agree with the LWV position to eliminate Township government. Local government continues to be the purest form of government. The Townships statutory duty to assess property, maintain roads and general assistance, continue to be an efficient form of governing for about 1% of a taxpayer's real estate tax bill. The Townships also continue to share services with each other and the County in a variety of ways, including joint purchasing agreements, mosquito abatement and other services. I will continue theses shared services and work to improve them through Intergovernmental agreements, etc.

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?

County personnel costs are market driven. A substantial number of the jobs indicated are public safety jobs and professionals, such as engineers, IT specialists, etc.

I have always subscribed to the belief that we should hire the best and brightest to protect and serve the County taxpayer. Additionally, many of the employees earning these salaries are union employees wherein the County is bound by collective bargaining agreements.

The highest paid salary is our County Administrator, whose salary is less than similar posts in adjacent counties and certainly less than some Village Administrators and school district administrators.

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 fact that members of the general public do not know their CB District may be an indication that we are doing our job. People in general only come out when they have a complaint or to speak on a sensitive issue. The County Board meetings are open to the public, steamed live and always provide for public comment. I also spend many evenings and hours with seniors, rotary clubs, chambers of commerce and attend Board meetings of the seven Villages and Cities in my district. I have yet to return a constituent call or email and will continue to be available to the residents in my District...

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?

The County has developed work net DuPage and the DuPage initiative, whereby start-up companies and new entrepreneurs can learn business skills from seasoned professionals, through business incubators and with an agreement with College of DuPage,,

Our cooperation with the business community and Choose DuPage has resulted in more new growth, the lowest unemployment rate in the state and a AAA Bond rating, causing lower interest rates on bonds.

All of this, with a balanced budget and flat tax levy for the past ten years, continues to make DuPage County a great place for business.