

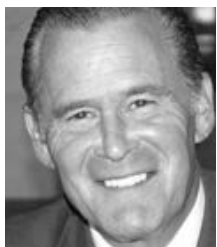
Election Watch 2016

CANDIDATE Q&A

This is the **fourth and final installment** of a four part series in which your Milwaukee Community Journal asked eight questions to candidates running for city and county wide offices in predominately Black city and county districts for Common Council and County Board of Supervisors. The questions pertain to jobs and business creation, education, tax reform, public safety, transportation, affirmative action and inclusion programs, housing and foreclosure, and if government should be involved in the daily lives of its citizens. As you may have seen during the last several weeks of our series, several more prominent political figures declined to respond to our questions. As we've indicated during the course of this project, our questions were sent to the candidates in November after

Thanksgiving--by the deadline of December 28th. That deadline was extended twice to give all the candidates we contacted an opportunity to respond. Last week, we neglected to change the numbers under which the series questions were under The questions should have been numbered "six" and "Seven." We apologize for any confusion this might have caused you, our readers. With the exception of one previous primary election, the Community Journal does not make endorsement during the primary stage. We reserve that duty for the general election. We ask you--if you are not a felon currently on probation or parole--to **VOTE Feburary 16!** It is a responsibility and a RIGHT many Black Americans have sacrificed...and even died...for us to have in this nation! Remember, if you don't vote, you can't complain!--**The Editor.**

QUESTION SEVEN: What is your position on Affirmative Action and inclusion programs? CITY ELECTIONS/MAYOR



Bob Donovan: No Answer given.



James Methu: We will place more punitive measures on organizations/ entities that receive money intended for hiring/contracting/training requirements for the work challenged and fail to meet the objective. We will implement higher city hiring requirements on every construction project within city lines. More guaranteed jobs for the work challenged when receiving city support. A robust training and hiring program for felons, women, and working age youth that combines public and private support. We will also increase support for struggling minority owned businesses.

City workers need a more reasonable wage increase. I'll propose in my first budget, a cost of living increase for all city workers and more investment in critical city services. Better management of city workers is imperative. No more micro managing and punitive measures in our sanitation department and no more wasting resources. Salt trucks filled and staffed when no snow is expected is a waste. We pay for our mistakes when those dollars could go to neighborhoods. City workers need to be rewarded for productivity and efficiency. We will take an incentivized approach to managing, and remove the bad apples right away.

COMMON COUNCIL



David Crowley (Dist. 7): Affirmative action is vital in ensuring that communities of color have the opportunity to achieve the American Dream, without being held back due to lingering racial prejudices. While great strides have made, these programs are necessary to ensure that people of color have the opportunity to succeed and thrive in our community.



Frank Emanuele (Dist. 9): We need people to actually step up and apply to jobs instead of making excuses why they can't get one. Educations again is key to a job get educated get a better job. Felons is a big one and I believe a felony should not stop you from working now I understand certain jobs you can't have felonies, and I agree. That person made a choice in their life to break the law even though they knew right from wrong now a few years later when you grow up and realize you made a bad decision you can't expect people to open there arms

up and give you whatever you want. I believe a work to earn program would be a great start. You can work construction and be a felon and they pay good money with benefits and there are other jobs out there the same way. You can also go to school being a felon. I believe the city should work with our state and depending on the felony and crime committed if an individual works to earn and proves they are a decent hard working citizen and that trouble life has left them then the state should pardon that felony. Now keep in mind this will NOT apply to all criminals and all felonies.



Chevy Johnson (Dist. 2): I touched on these in a recent op-ed. I listed several categories in which Milwaukee ranks highly for the wrong reasons -- segregation, unemployment, poverty, education. There is credence to the need to address the plight of minorities here. Segregation stifles access to family supporting careers and economic vitality. City government should strive to include minority firms in contracts because it creates jobs where they're needed most and it builds capacity for city-based businesses.



Chantia Lewis (Dist. 9): Affirmative action and inclusion programs have been instrumental in helping to ensure our communities can function with a certain level of equality. There is, however, a need look at expanding those current programs while continuing to maintain a high standard of monitoring.



Sherman Morton (Dist. 2): This is a broad topic. But in short... Any company, agency, business, contractor, developer, group... whatever or whoever... If you want to receive city money, you need to be in the city, you need to hire people to reflect the city. If the city has 40% minorities, you need to have 40% minorities. I am tired of seeing our city dollars going out the city to people that don't live in the city. No offense to other municipalities, but if you want city dollars... move to the city.



Sean Muhammad (Dist.15): Affirmative action is a tool that has been beneficial in creating opportunities where they were once nonexistent. It serves a great purpose. It is the counter-measure to historical injustices.

COUNTY ELECTIONS/COUNTY EXECUTIVE



Chris Larson: I am a supporter of affirmative action and inclusion programs. Given the inherent inequalities in our country, there has been a history of systematic marginalization of African-Americans and other minority groups. We have to provide the necessary support to right these

wrongs. College scholarships provided to African-Americans and other minority groups through affirmative action opens up opportunities for our neighbors to better themselves through education.



Joseph Thomas Klein: I believe that it is clearly evidenced by the lack of jobs in the poor living conditions of Milwaukee's central city that racism and discrimination have had a detrimental effect on the families in Milwaukee County. The more that government institutions reflect the makeup of those governed, the less likely to view either the government or the peo-

ple as enemies to each other. We have plenty of talented people in Milwaukee County and I will go out of my way to ensure that my staff my appointments and my department heads reflect the diversity of this county by both ethnicity and gender.

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Martha R. Collins-De La Rosa (Dist. 18): The ideal of equal access is fundamental to the American democracy. Milwaukee County has the highest black population in the state and has been noted as one of the worst places to live for black people. When some are excluded or lack the knowledge, income or training necessary to participate fully in public discourse, they must overcome obstacles to access in order to ensure fairness.

Candidate Q&A Continued on Page Five!

Legacy Christian Church to Host Night to Shine Prom for People with Special Needs

*Sponsored by Tim
Tebow Foundation*

MENOMONEE FALLS – Legacy Christian Church in Menomonee Falls will serve as one of the more than 100 churches around the world that will host Night to Shine on Friday, February 12, 2016.

Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience for people with special needs, ages 16 and older. This worldwide movement is set to take place in 41 states across the nation and 7 countries around the world.

Every guest of Night to Shine will enter their prom on a red carpet complete with welcoming friendly pa-

parazzi.

As part of the evening, guests will receive VIP treatment including hair and makeup stations, shoe shining stations, corsages and boutonnières, a karaoke room and of course, dancing!

The highlight of the night will come when every one of the Night to Shine guests is crowned as a king or

queen of the prom.

“We are honored to be able to work with so many churches across the county and around the world to impact the lives of people with special needs,” said Erik Dellenback, executive director of the Tim Tebow Foundation.

During Night to Shine 2015, 44 hosts churches and 15,000 volunteers

worked together to honor the more than 7,000 kings and queens of the prom.

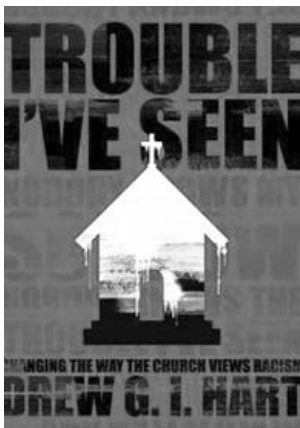
This year, the host churches are expected to see more than 20,000 people with special needs at prom all at one time around the world.

The event at Legacy Christian Church will be attended by approximately 400 people including over

100 individuals with special needs.

Through the generosity of the Tim Tebow Foundation, local community sponsors and hundreds of volunteers, this event aims to make a lasting impact on attendees with special needs.

For additional information on the Night to Shine hosted by Legacy Christian Church, visit www.legacy-wired.com/events/night-to-shine



RELIGIOUS BOOKSHELF

“Trouble I’ve Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism”

What if racial reconciliation doesn’t look like what you expected?

What if all Christians listened

to the stories of those on the racialized margins? How might the church be changed by the trouble we’ve seen?

The high-profile killings of young black men and women by white police officers, and the protests and violence that ensued, have convinced many white Christians to reexamine their intuitions when it comes to race and justice.

In this provocative book, the-

ologian and blogger Drew G. I. Hart places police brutality, mass incarceration, anti-black stereotypes, poverty, and everyday acts of racism within the larger framework of white supremacy. Leading readers toward Jesus, Hart offers concrete practices for churches that seek solidarity with the oppressed and are committed to racial justice.

“Drew Hart makes a coura-

geous and compelling call to the church to get on the road to racial reconciliation and righteousness. He provides practical insights and deep theological reflections in this challenging and necessary resource. You won’t be comfortable with this read, but you will be lead into the deep waters of the social dilemma and reality of the race matrix.

In the end, there is an oppor-

tunity for the church to be bridge over these troubled waters.”

—Efrem Smith, President and CEO of World Impact and author of The Post-Black and Post-White Church

“In this raw, honest, truth-telling book, Drew Hart offers himself—his life, his story, his tears, his fire—in the most vulnerable way in the hopes of interrupting the vulgar

disposability of black lives in our society. This book is a gift from the heart of one of the sharpest young theologians in this country.

Hold it carefully, and allow it to transform you—and our blood-stained streets.

Drew Hart's Trouble I've Seen is a memoir in the tradition of the blues . . . it is theological blues . . . and it will move you

(continued on page 9)

Election Watch 2016/CANDIDATE Q&A (CONTINUED)



Sequanna Taylor (Dist. 2): Our community and city is diverse, so affirmation is still very relevant for all to thrive and have equal exposure to education and employment opportunity. Affirmative action will have the benefit of assuring that there is a diverse range of qualified applicants to fill future positions. Also it can help fill the present skill gaps that we currently facing in our economy.



Valerie Sauve (Dist. 7): In my past role as a MPS high school math teacher, I acted as advisor for our school’s Accounting and Business Club. I was thrilled and honored to help open up the world of accounting and finance to students who would not have had the opportunity otherwise. Accounting and business classes were cut in my school as in many schools. Several of the students who participated in the club have now graduated from Marquette, UW-Oshkosh, and other universities with accounting, finance and economics degrees because of the experiences, internships and mentoring in high school and in college. If elected, I will look for ways that we can open more doors rather than hide or close them.

QUESTION EIGHT: What is your position on housing foreclosure? CITY ELECTIONS/MAYOR

Bob Donovan: No Answer given.

James Methu: This is one area where we can increase stabilization immediately. We will provide more funding to support the development of homes that add value to neighborhoods and help our city’s homeless, veterans, and work challenged. We can sell homes for \$1 and provide \$5000 in grant dollars to start up entrepreneurs who reside in the neighborhoods currently. I am committed to setting aside \$4 million in the next city budget. We will also increase our support for current homeowners.

COMMON COUNCIL

David Crowley (Dist. 7): Milwaukee has too many foreclosed homes in disrepair. We need to strategically invest in foreclosures that could be made into Safe Houses, renovated homes that would act as neighborhood resource centers. We need to hold banks and landlords accountable for maintaining vacant homes, and improve public safety in our neighborhoods in order to make these properties into desirable, and affordable, family residences.

Frank Emanuele, Jr. (Dist. 9): There is another problem in our city people buying houses in our city they can’t afford or people who had great jobs now that company has to down size do to our US leaders decisions and now that person has no jobs. I believe we are bouncing back but slowly from that. With the vacant homes in the city for the ones that are inhabitable then let me become training houses for the city’s police and fire departments. Invite the public out to see what we do when we have fires or train people what to do if there is a fire in there house show why you need working smoke detectors. Invite the suburb fire departments to come in and use them as training houses or let them burn them down and save the city money.

For the ones that are habitable the city can always offer for someone to buy them and flip them but we need to watch what they are doing to them I am seeing a lot of homes being rented to people who destroy the place or not take care of it and it makes the rest of the neighborhood look bad. This is where we need to create new zero tolerance ordinances to help control that and regulate that. We also need to start going after slumlords and their buildings there is no reason people need to live in an unsafe building. The city should buy these homes we can flip and let the trade schools come in and flip them and start helping families out who need a home and pay the rent to the city. The city can even flip these homes and sell them as normal and get a decent profit off of them to fund programs that were once unfunded.

Chevy Johnson (Dist. 2): Homeownership stabilizes neighborhoods and contributes to the tax base. We should work to fill foreclosed homes with families so that they do not become magnets for crime. We should be proactive in making sure that people who may go into tax foreclosure are aware of options to stay in their homes.

Chantia Lewis (Dist. 9): Our foreclosure rate has been on a consistent decrease over the last several years, however, we need to provide a more aggressive plan to develop additional homeowners for the large amount of inventory acquired on the city roll. As the Alderwoman of the 9th district, I will examine at all scenarios to develop or expand existing programs that will help produce a greater amount of homeowners each year.

Sherman Morton (Dist. 2): This is an issue that is so multi-faceted. Since the big foreclosure crisis, the city has done a lot to acquire some of these homes, but the city is not and cannot be landlords for an extended amount of time. We have to find a way to get these home into the hands of real people, not big investments groups that will be absentee landlords. The only real way to begin to create wealth in our blighted communities is to begin to create more homeowners. That will take some serious negotiating. We need to find banks that we can work with to help by lending the money needed to people for the purchase of these homes. Not to mention finding a way to keep people in their homes before the foreclosure issue even hits them.

Sean Muhammad (Dist. 15): Housing is an issue for many families and seniors. I believe that in a vocational education partnership, all of the abandoned, blighted and foreclosed houses can be rehabilitated to serve the needs of seniors and families. Property taxes must be held at their present rates and when possible, reduced.

COUNTY ELECTIONS/COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Larson: The neighborhoods that have been devastated by the foreclosure crisis is beyond heartbreaking. Some of these houses have been vacant for half a decade or longer. As county executive, I will work with neighborhood leaders who are ready to rally our community into recovery. I will fight for supportive services for residents who are in need of affordable housing.

Also, I feel there needs to be more community representation on the boards of the Housing Authority and Redevelopment Authority. As county executive, I will use the bully pulpit to bring awareness to the lack of community representation on the Housing Authority and Redevelopment Authority boards.

Joseph Thomas Klein: Milwaukee County should work to see that we have a stable and affordable housing stock. The housing bubble has affected the population most vulnerable to eviction. We need to have a pubic dialog about community-based, and cooperative based mortgage financing and protect our citizens from wall street gamblers, and exploitive banking institutions.

COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Martha R. Collins-De La Rosa (Dist. 18): Since the recession, working families are still trying to recover from the nation’s economic collapse. Corporations and financial institutions continue receiving stability and support; however families are struggling to make ends meet. Milwaukee County Foreclosure Initiative is committed to redevelopment of foreclosed homes in the County. We need to ensure the funding is available and more inner city residents are aware of such programs and develop pipelines for homeowners to receive the assistance needed.

Sequanna Taylor (Dist. 2): We need a stabilization plan, making sure homes are affordable base on the cost of living and pay in our city. Offering additional opportunities for many to become home owners and those that own their homes with resource to upkeep and maintain their home.

Valerie Sauve (Dist. 7): I would like to use my accounting and finance background and experience to find ways to support people staying in their homes or buying homes in areas of the Milwaukee County where there is vacant inventory. Providing assistance where we can through low/no cost loans along with financial mentoring and education will help to strengthen the foundation of our neighborhoods.