Why are you running for your position? What experiences and perspectives do you bring to the table that will help make the 52nd district a better place?

I am running for State Senate because I care deeply about the Southern Tier. I was raised in Downtown Binghamton, the last of nine children, and I raised my family here as well. I have devoted most of my life to public service in this region. I was the first woman elected to county-wide office, first as County Clerk and then again as County Executive. I served as an elected Democrat in a County that leans Republican, but I didn’t let that stop me from getting things done. I learned to work with everyone to deliver for this area, and I believe I have the skills to do the same in Albany. I understand this community and its needs, and I understand how to make government work for us, and if elected I know I will be able to deliver for the Southern Tier once again.

Candidate did not respond

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue in your district and why?

Jobs. For me that is the issue at the heart of almost all of the problems plaguing the Southern Tier. We have the best public university in New York State but we struggle to retain any graduates because of the lack of job opportunity. As a result as a community we suffer from a brain drain, and our population is aging. We need jobs here to attract and retain young people. As a Grandmother, it drives me nuts to think that my Grandchildren might not be able to find good jobs here if they wanted to stay close to their family. This lack of good jobs creates other problems in our community as well. Poverty, crime, blight, struggling schools. These are each unique and complex problems, but I do believe there is a connection between each and the poor economy and job market.

Candidate did not respond
How do you envision engaging with the community and addressing the concerns they may have? More specifically, what would you do to engage Binghamton University students in these community issues?

I have always believed that Binghamton University is one of our greatest assets. It’s brings so much to this community, jobs, research, culture, athletics, you name it, BU brings it. But really it comes down to the students, they are truly the greatest asset to our community. BU students have transformed Downtown Binghamton. They created a housing market where there had not been one in decades, and they are supporting an explosion of small businesses Downtown. If elected, I plan to hold frequent community forums and meetings to discuss the concerns of residents of the Southern Tier, and getting the student population to participate would be a huge priority. One of my top priorities is retaining young people – and I know to do that I have to truly understand how young people experience Binghamton, what they would like to change, how they see Binghamton evolving in the future.

Corruption in Albany has made statewide news in the past few months. If elected, how do you plan to address corruption? Do you support ethics reform at the state level? If so, please explain. If not, what would you do instead?

I am as disturbed by corruption in Albany as the next person and I think it is imperative that we finally take this issue seriously. I myself, am running for this seat as a direct result of corruption in Albany. Our Senator was convicted of lying to the F.B.I., had to vacate his Senate seat and here we are. I’m sure this sounds familiar to students from areas all around New York. To me the most obvious first step is term limits. I have pledged to serve no more than three full terms if elected and have also pledged to introduce legislation to bring term limits to the Senate. Individuals should not win a seat in a safe district and camp out in the Senate for the rest of their lives. If you can’t accomplish your goals in ten years then Senator might not be the job for you, and…[Response was over 150 words]

Many Binghamton University students want to remain in the area after graduation, but feel that there are not many economic opportunities here. What is your plan to attract high-paying jobs and other economic opportunities to retain these students?

Bringing jobs to this area and retaining students is my number one priority and I will work day in and day out to bring better economic opportunity to our region. As County Executive, I was able to redevelop brownfields and create corporate parks to bring jobs to this area. I also created a small business incubator and was deployed by the Governor to negotiate with companies that were threatening to leave our area after devastating flooding hit the Southern Tier and I was successful in retaining them. I believe we can bring more jobs and better jobs to this area both by private recruitment and through State economic development initiatives such as the Regional Economic Development Council and Start UP New York. I believe I am the only candidate with the experience necessary to successfully navigate the Southern Tier back towards prosperity, and if elected it will be my mission…
Why are you running for your position? What experiences and perspectives do you bring to the table that will help make Broome a better county?

I am running because this position allows me to contribute best to my community. The core missions of the District Attorney are to protect the innocent, convict the guilty and do so within the bounds of the law. To illustrate the nature of what the District Attorney does - in just the past 15 months I have tried 3 horrific murder cases involving some of the most violent crimes in Broome County history and brought the offenders to justice. I use this background each day to guide the decision-making of 17 assistant district attorneys. On community issues, my office has been a leader in every significant criminal justice issue – DWI, child abuse, gang violence, sexual assault, drug trafficking and many others. These efforts have resulted in my selection this year as the NY Bar Association’s Prosecutor of the Year and as the President of the NYS DAs Association.

Broome County needs big changes. Broome currently has the highest property crime rate and second highest overall crime index rate in the State, and the heroin and drug epidemic have taken the heart and soul of our community. I have plans to address these issues; currently there is no plan. As a former Assistant District Attorney and current Defense Attorney, I have the experience our community needs to make Broome County safe again. During my 10 years as a Prosecutor and Defense Attorney, I have a winning record. Broome County needs a new leader, with passion, new ideas and energy to get the job done.

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue facing Broome County as it pertains to the District Attorney’s office and why?

The most significant and immediate issue facing the criminal justice system is the upsurge in opioid abuse and heroin addiction. The most obvious sign of the significance of this problem is the increase in deaths from opioid and heroin overdoses - from 12 in 2012 to 39 in 2014. These addictions are also the main driving force that have caused an increase in property and overall crime in Broome County, as addicted persons commit both property and violent crimes to sustain their addiction. The need to address this issue puts tremendous strain upon the resources of all parts of our community – the community affected by the addiction in family members, employers affected by addicted employees, the police, corrections and prosecutors charged with enforcing the law, and treatment providers attempting to give effective medical treatment with inadequate financial resources. Any solution will require the entire community’s participation.

The heroin epidemic is the most pressing issue facing Broome County. There were 39 heroin drug overdose deaths in 2013. Broome County’s overdose rate is seven times the national average. People are dying in record numbers, and the D.A.’s Office has no plan.
How would you address the heroin and other drugs problem in the county? Please explain with specific details.

**Education and Prevention:** The District Attorney, law enforcement, recovering addicts, parents of persons who have died from drug overdoses, and medical providers, have been going into schools to educate kids, parents, teachers and other school personnel about the dangers of prescription pain medication abuse and heroin addiction. We must educate the medical community about the dangers of over-prescribing pain medication.

**Treatment:** The District Attorney was part of the team that helped establish the Broome County Drug Treatment Court and the Veterans Treatment Court, which uses the criminal justice system to engage low-level non-violent offenders in long-term treatment programs and to thereby return successfully as contributing members of their families and the community.

**Enforcement:** The District Attorney’s Office aggressively prosecutes drug dealers within the bounds of the law. The DA’s office convicts a higher percentage of felony drug offenders than the state average and sends a higher percentage to prison.

I have a detailed plan to address heroin and drug use in Broome County. First, we will take cars, cash and property from drug dealers to fund drug prevention and treatment programs. We will create a Drug Crimes Bureau at the D.A.’s Office, with specialized attorneys, which will streamline prosecutions and win at trial. And I will assign a full-time investigator to assist police agencies. I will assign an Assistant D.A. to each school district to work with students, parents and educators. More of my plan can be found at my website, CornwellForDA.com.

Do you believe that the District Attorney’s office should put more resources toward the prosecution of cybercrimes, such as identity theft and internet fraud?

There is a great need to address this growing criminal problem. A local District Attorney’s Office has very limited resources to address the wide variety of crimes within our jurisdiction – child abuse, domestic violence, violent crime, DWI, drug trafficking, elder abuse and many others. Investigation and prosecution of cyber crime often involves gathering evidence from across the country and even the world. Accordingly, federal authorities such as the FBI and U.S. Attorneys Offices are often the most appropriate and effective agencies to address cyber crime. Our office has a close working relationship with those agencies and cooperates in investigating cyber crimes as appropriate. In summary, our community should increase investigative and prosecution resources addressed to cyber crime, but the best place to allocate those resources effectively may be to the federal authorities who can then work with the District Attorney to protect victims and to bring cyber criminals to justice.

We need to work with the Attorney General’s Office and Federal Investigators on issues of cybercrime, so we are all on the same page with no duplication of efforts. Since these crimes fall under multiple jurisdictions, we must use all resources effectively. We recognize this is a growing problem that needs to be addressed with a multifaceted approach.
GET OUT & VOTE 2015

VESTAL TOWN COUNCIL

Patty Fitzgerald
Democrat

Fran Majewski
Republican

Why are you running for your position? What experiences and perspectives do you bring to the table that will help make Vestal a better town?

I have been on the town board from 2008-current. The reason why I’m running for my third term is because I feel being involved with all the department heads is very important. Keeping a check on their spending. My first election was in 2008. Three people were running for two seats. Out the three people I was the top candidate. My second term no one ran against me. Perspectives: To keep the spending in check. Work together as a board. Going out to look at thing when people call you about a problem. I know that I can't fix everything. But show that I care to our tax payers.

I have served for 12 years as Town of Vestal Councilman, Current Deputy Supervisor. My responsibilities include negotiating with town labor unions, managing our $18 Million dollar budget to balance increasing expenses with unfunded mandates and continuation of services to residents. I implemented the School Resource Officer program to protect students, faculty and others by placing a Police Officer in our schools. Assisted in flood recovery after 3 devasting events.

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue in Vestal and why?

At this time the most importance issue is the town tax. With the state calling for a .73 tax increase is slim. Last year it was 2%. As of this time we are at 1.5% an still working to get it lower. The Town Of Vestal offers a lot to our community. Rec program, Parks, Trail rail,Highway Dept, Water Dept, Police/ Ambulance & 150+ volunteer fire fighter.

Controlling Expenses: While we are fortunate to experience high growth and development within the Town via retail and university growth, this growth places a strain on Town services by increasing our expenses. Growth, coupled with the property tax cap mandated by the State, makes it harder each year to balance our budget. Our expenses (including supplies, health care coverage, salaries, fire trucks, road materials and hundreds of other items) increase each year and we must stay below the state mandated cap of less than 1% (actual cap 0.73%) for property tax increases. We look at every opportunity to reduce expenses, while still providing the services our residents need and deserve. We do a good job and are trying to do an even better job. Town taxes are the lowest percentage of annual taxes, comparing Town, School and County taxes. Our services include police, fire, snowplowing, road repair, parks and recreation...

How do you envision engaging with the community and addressing the concerns they may have? More specifically, what would you do to engage Binghamton University students in these community issues?

As town board council person our community looks for our help/voice on getting them the answer. School tax we have no control over. Our town has not stop asking about the fire call at the University. I would love to see a small fire house at the University. For sure their are folks their that a fire fights for their home town. What a plus that would do.

The Town Board meets at least 4 times a month to discuss issues, our email system is open to anyone and my personal cell phone is on our website. I welcome the community to do anyone of these venues to express their concern or leave comments. I have recently met with a small number of BU students to request their ideas, concerns and help in my current campaign. To date two very strong and energetic individuals have stepped forward and have been a great help. For four or more years these people are our residents, and I wish to hear what everyone has to say.
GET OUT & VOTE 2015

VESTAL TOWN COUNCIL

Darlene Bucinell
Democrat

Gregory Roberts
Republican

Why are you running for your position? What experiences and perspectives do you bring to the table that will help make Vestal a better town?

I’m a regular attendee at Vestal Town Board meetings since 2005. I’ve been following the issues and am familiar with the history. I’ve taken time to further educate myself by attending community classes. I’m a Vestal Citizens Police Academy graduate, Neighborhood Watch Group organizer and Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament volunteer. I take great pride and interest in my community. After listening to the concerns of the people, I feel it’s time for me to do more to bring forward a better Vestal.

I am running for my position because I grew up in Vestal and feel very vested in its success and am looking at the next 35+ years to settle down and one day hopefully to raise my family here. For the past 8 years, I have been very involved with community groups such as Southern Tier Young Professionals and the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce. I have been involved with these groups in learning about what our areas economic priorities need to be and also with trying to address the “brain-drain” of BU graduates and young professionals leaving or marketing Binghamton so they will move here. Being an older millennial, I think I can bring a level of experience of what Vestal needs to do to meet the needs of future generations.

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue in Vestal and why?

With the State imposed tax cap it is important to control our money through efficiency in government to collaborate our efforts with shared services and equipment with local municipalities.

Vestal has two major challenges. Like many towns, it is dealing with the fiscal pressure of protecting the quality of public services it offers when those services are becoming more expensive and you have a tax base that is over burden with property taxes. The second challenge is, I am not sure what the town board has as a vision for Vestal as a community. We need to have a plan for how Vestal is going to fit in and connect to the changes going on in Binghamton. This is important as Vestal is first and foremost a residential community with safe neighborhoods and excellent public schools. Vestal needs to protect these strengths and also market it so young professionals and graduates will see Vestal as a place they will want to settle down with their future families too.

How do you envision engaging with the community and addressing the concerns they may have? More specifically, what would you do to engage Binghamton University students in these community issues?

I’ve kept myself engaged by attending the town board meeting and listening to the concerns since 2005. This is what has prompted me to run for the position. The University has always been a great resource to the community. I hope the students will take advantage of the government volunteer programs that the town offers.

I would invite the Center for Civic Engagement, the Student Association, and other student and university leaders to work with me on how we could build a stronger dialog between local town government and the student population in Vestal. I would be interested in developing more academic, community, and civic volunteer opportunities for BU students in the Town of Vestal.
VESTAL HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Ken Fortier
Democrat

Rocco Turdo
Republican

Why are you running for your position? What experiences and perspectives do you bring to the table that will help make Vestal a better town?

I am running for Vestal Highway Superintendent on the Democratic line because I will bring fresh and cost-saving ideas from my experience of 29 years with Johnson City Public Works. I have this many years’ experience in all phases of public works, including heavy equipment operation, road reconstruction work, experience in the departments of sewer, parks and recycling. I was the lead contract negotiator as the Union president for the last 12 years. I have been an advocate for coworkers and I understand the dynamics of supervisor/worker relationships. I have been an active Vestal Volunteer Fireman for the last 19 years. My station is the first due at Binghamton University when a call comes in. I have been a Fire Safety educator for 17 years. I have volunteered many hours of training for RAs and students on campus fire safety.

My experience of 29 years plowing with Johnson City, including many states of emergency and also the Blizzard of 1993, allows me to have the required knowledge and perspective of proper snow removal operations. I will utilize the police department as my eyes; also I will personally be out in advance of pending storms in order to get a jump on salting and plowing operations. I will have teams in sections working together with continuous updates on conditions, so that they can assist other sectors as needed. Between working with the Johnson City Public Works as well as the Vestal Fire Department, I understand the need to be ready 24/7. I am also considering merging Vestal Highway and Parks Departments which would translate to more efficient use of crews by being able to access more manpower for weather emergencies.

How do you plan to manage and maintain the 135 miles of road that need to be plowed during the winter months?

Currently I have 19 plow routes in place. Each route can be completed in 2-4 hours. This allows us to keep up during the heavy snowfalls. With the staffing in place now we also keep a 2nd and 3rd shift on to manage any weather related issues. I am also in contact with a local wireless vendor on implementing a fleet management tracking system. Other municipalities have seen an 8-10 month return on investment utilizing this technology.

Do you have a plan to speed up the process in which people can report potholes or other dangerous road conditions?

I plan to have a pothole hotline and also to use social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc) so people have real time input. Also, I will attend Board meetings on a regular basis in order to obtain concerns from residents regarding these as well as other issues. I plan to look into having a method that heats up the road patch during the cold weather so it will adhere to the road better, and therefore won’t be taken out by the snowplows.

I am working with our IT Director to see if we can establish a Road Condition Alert System and add it to the Town’s website. Our process now I believe is working well. We respond quickly to all e-mails and phone calls. But adding social media in the mix will be an added benefit for everyone involved.
VESTAL TOWN SUPERVISOR

Why are you running for your position? What experiences and perspectives do you bring to the table that will help make Vestal a better town?

Why am I running? So I can continue what I have started in my first four years as Supervisor of this great town. I have worked hard to put Vestal on stable ground and maintain the quality of life the people of Vestal expect and deserve. My experience on the Town Board for 6 years and my 4 years as the supervisor provide me with valuable history needed to plan for the future. In addition, I have many years’ experience working with various Town volunteer organizations.

Candidate did not respond

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue in Vestal and why?

The most pressing issue in Vestal is really two fold. First, we need to stay under the state imposed tax cap (this year is .73%) The second is while staying under the cap, finding enough funds to keep all of our services operating at current levels and not cut valuable services such as Fire, Police, Parks, Recreation and the list goes on.

Candidate did not respond

How do you envision engaging with the community and addressing the concerns they may have? More specifically, what would you do to engage Binghamton University students in these community issues?

I always reach out to any one I can to try to get them involved. The University is a great resource. The town of Vestal provides a great opportunity for the students to become involved in government. There is always a need for volunteers to participate in our many community boards such as Conservation Advisory Commission or the Recreation Commission to name just two.

Candidate did not respond
BINGHAMTON CITY COUNCIL- DISTRICT 4
Conrad Taylor | John Cordisco
Democrat | Republican

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue in your district and why?

The most pressing issue for students in the 4th District is Downtown Development. I will work to foster economic development in our city and use my position on city council to invest in downtown infrastructure and make sure that student concerns are addressed. Binghamton has the potential to be a cultural hotspot in New York State, and we need people in local government who are ready to spearhead this revitalization. I am proud to say that I was a staff member for Projection Festival LUMA. LUMA crowded the streets of Downtown Binghamton with thousands of people who came to enjoy projections which literally and figuratively lit up Downtown. I see LUMA, along with many other projects, as a way of reigniting the spirit of Binghamton and drawing many to rediscover our city.

How do you envision engaging with the community and addressing the concerns they may have? More specifically, what would you do to engage Binghamton University students in these community issues?

I want to be a New Voice for the people of the 4th District. A major focus of my platform is making local government work for citizens. I will always be available to my constituents when they want to contact me. Students are often underserved by local government. I will respond to student issues promptly, and encourage government departments to address their concerns. Residents of the 4th district deserve a passionate and energetic voice representing them on city council. I will be that voice. I won’t just respond to issues. I have already started to engage students by involving them in the political process through my campaign. Almost 1500 students have been registered to vote in Broome County by my campaign. I will continue to encourage more students to register, and further involve them in government.

What changes, if any, would you make to public transportation in your district and why?

Transportation infrastructure in the 4th District needs further investment. I support expanding upon bus coverage on the Northside, so that people can get to work easier and get to grocery stores which are located far out of district with greater ease, at least until we can get a proper grocery store into the Northside. Binghamton needs to spend greater amounts of city funding on roads in the Northside. The city has repaved more than 100 roads in the past three years, only two of which have been on the Northside. When elected, I will fight to include greater amounts of Northside development in our budget.
Do you have any plans to address the housing blight in your district, and the city as a whole? Please explain why or why not.

Blight is a major issue for my campaign. The Northside currently suffers from the presence of too many blighted houses. Not only are these properties eyesores, but they cause a reduction in property values and damage the quality of life for Northside residents. In May of this year, I went to Detroit to attend the 2015 Reclaiming Vacant Properties Conference. I learned about how other major cities have worked to deal with vacant properties and I would like to bring those ideas to Binghamton. These methods include vacant lot competitions, new community gardens, and the use of grants to turn blighted properties into beautiful community centers and gardens. I want to attack this issue with every weapon we have in order to spur economic development and help turn Binghamton into the thriving metropolis it deserves to be.

If you could make changes to the building codes or code enforcement in the city, what would they be? If you would not make any changes, please explain why not.

In order to help the residents of the Northside, I will advocate improvement to code enforcement. Code inspectors do not come to the Northside and inspect properties often enough, enabling landlords to keep their properties in a state of disrepair. People should not be spending their hard earned money to live in substandard housing. Not only that, but residents who do keep their properties up to code should not be forced to live alongside buildings that are eyesores. In many cases, students have to suffer the consequences of landlord’s neglect, and student’s code complaints are usually ignored. When elected, I will support legislation that would require landlords to keep properties up to code before receiving any kind of city financial assistance.

Candidate did not respond
BINGHAMTON CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 1

Jerry Motsavage
Democrat

Giovanni Scaringi
Republican

In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue in your district and why?

The most pressing issues in my district based on the calls I receive from my residents are code issues and drug activity. Code issues range from garbage strewn properties, properties in disrepair and properties with lawns not being maintained. Also, there are many reports of drug deals taking place in many areas in my district. The residents do a great job in reporting this drug activity to the police or myself as they are the eyes and ears for our police department throughout the City. Once reported, the police do a great job in addressing this problem.

Candidate did not respond

How do you envision engaging with the community and addressing the concerns they may have? More specifically, what would you do to engage Binghamton University students in these community issues?

To engage the residents and Binghamton University students and address their needs and concerns, my district has the First Ward West Neighborhood Watch that meets every month. The meeting is attended by many residents from different areas of my district to discuss and address any problems they may have. Also, we have different departments and guests present at each meeting discussing what they do and how they can help handle resident’s concerns. I would inform all Binghamton University students living in my district when the meetings are held and encourage them to attend.

Candidate did not respond

What changes, if any, would you make to public transportation in your district and why

My district is served quite well by the bus transportation of the Broome County transit system. If there are particular areas residents or students feel are not serviced as to their needs, we can meet with County officials and see if changes can be made.

Candidate did not respond
Do you have any plans to address the housing blight in your district, and the city as a whole? Please explain why or why not.

To address the housing blight in my district and the City I recommend the Code Department to continue their Code sweeps throughout my district and the City and identify and issue citations for all areas of non-compliance. I encourage the City to have all properties besides single residences to be registered and have local property manager information on file as to speed up the Code process. Repeat offenders of our City code laws need to be better handled by the Courts to help lessen their repeat violations. The City needs to demolish as many severely blighted properties in neighborhoods as possible as they are a deterrent to residents having pride in their neighborhoods and promoting neighborhood growth.

Candidate did not respond

If you could make changes to the building codes or code enforcement in the city, what would they be? If you would not make any changes, please explain why not.

The Code department does a great job in addressing problem properties in our City. I would like all residents and tenants to be informed of their rights and what steps they should take to report a problem. With all residents working together to report problem properties, our Code department can be more effective. The Code department should continue to have as many Code sweeps throughout all parts of the City. Code also needs the cooperation of the Courts to handle repeat offenders accordingly to reduce repeat violations.

Candidate did not respond
### In your opinion, what is the most pressing issue in your district and why?

The most critical issue facing the City is the lack of jobs. The crushing affects of poverty are felt in every district of the City. Binghamton’s children are growing up in poverty, the statistics bear this out. There needs to be more collaboration between the City, County, and Town Economic Development offices. The Governors Regional Economic Development Councils are a step in the right direction. A project like BU’s Pharmacy School (even though located in JC) will benefit City residents. More collaboration, cooperation and communication is needed. Also the rise in crime and drug use can be directly related to the lack of jobs. Coupled with this is the need for more quality housing. Everyone needs a good place to live, especially or seniors, and again it is well documented we have an aging population.

### How do you envision engaging with the community and addressing the concerns they may have?

A number of things come to mind. As part of the campaign we created a Facebook Page and a Website. I think both of these would be good tools for staying engaged with folks in the 2nd District. The City’s Website is not an effective tool for Council members. Also I would like to have quarterly “Town Hall” meetings at various locations within the district (utilizing local churches, our two elementary schools and West Middle School) to continue to give residents a voice. These would obviously be open to students living within the District as well. I think the Center for Civic Engagement would be an ideal forum for getting students involved with projects in the District, there are a lot of opportunities for engagement, including mentoring, after school programs, clean-ups, urban gardening etc.

### What changes, if any, would you make to public transportation in your district and why

At the NYS Dept. of Transportation I was the Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator so I would like to see a lot more folks walking and biking to work, school, shopping etc. These requires more infrastructure, bike lanes, bike racks/shelters, and a commitment to continue to build out the Two Rivers Greenway. Also we need to find a way to maximize Broome County Transit and the OCC bus system. We also need better bus shelters for riders with real time scheduling. Buses should be equipped with GPS, and transit shelters should relay bus arrivals to bus shelters/riders. We could also reduce the number of stops to speed up service. This is a topic that needs much more discussion.
Do you have any plans to address the housing blight in your district, and the city as a whole? Please explain why or why not.

One way to address the issue of blight is to enhance and promote the City’s current Home Ownership Academy. This provides classes for first time home owners and (if classes are completed) money for Closing Costs. Also there are low interest loans available, up to $20,000 for single family homes and $40,000 for a two family. We need owner occupied homes in our neighborhoods. Coupled with this the City needs to work closely with the Broome County Land Bank to repurpose vacant buildings. 50 Front St. is a good example of this. Finally we need a “zero tolerance” policy for absentee landlords and chronic offenders.

Candidate did not respond

If you could make changes to the building codes or code enforcement in the city, what would they be? If you would not make any changes, please explain why not.

I think when it comes to Code Enforcement in the City there needs to be more collaboration and cooperation between the Code Office and City Police. Often the worst buildings are also the ones with the most criminal activity. Also, it has been brought to my attention that the Code Enforcement office is lacking clerical staff (necessary to handle the volume of paperwork and phone calls) as well as software to track and report on the work accomplished. Finally those in the know have suggested we need a special “Code Court” similar to Traffic Court which deals only with these issues.

Candidate did not respond