Q&A DELAWARE COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES

All county council member candidates were asked the same questions by the creators of this guide. The answers that follow are in their own words.

Questions asked:

1. What strengths and experiences could you bring to this office?

2. What are the three key messages of your campaign?

3. Many residents believe their vote doesn't count; what roots do you already have in your community, and how will you ensure their voices are heard?

We gave a character count limit for each response from candidates to keep them within similar lengths. However, there is variation. To ensure we fully honor their responses, we are sharing each answer as it was submitted.
You can find candidate contact information in the "Snapshot" sections.
Note: Names listed in alphabetical order and by party.

Q&A DELAWARE COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES

DISTRICT #3

Matt Kantz (R)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - I've served on Delaware County Council in District 3 for 4 years, the last three as President Pro Tempore. Council is the county's fiscal body, so I've read every line of the budget, reviewed tax abatement requests, and led our Strategic Financial Planning and IT Committees. I also chair the Municipal Unit Strategic Taskforce, bringing our towns and the county together on Local Income Tax (LIT) review. Alongside that, I've built a 20+-year career in healthcare technology and project management and started my own business. That work keeps me reading financials, managing budgets, and answering for results. I know how county government works day to day, and I'll bring that same discipline to the commissioner's office.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - My key messages are simple goals – find employers who provide better-paying jobs, continue to improve county infrastructure, and increase the efficiency of how county government operates. Moving forward, county government is being tasked with doing more with less, so we need to apply common-sense business practices and technology to local government to make it more efficient. We need to continuous focus infrastructure improvements to attract new businesses. And we need to sell the benefits of Delaware County to potential businesses who bring in better-paying jobs.
- **Q3: The county continues to experience population growth. What infrastructure investments do you believe should be prioritized to ensure essential services and quality of life can keep pace with the growth?**
  - Growth is concentrated along the I-69 corridor, so I will start there. The I-69 and State Road 28 interchange needs a major investment – water,

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Matt Kantz (Continued)

- sewer, and road capacity – before it can carry the development it's positioned for. Same at the SR 332 exit in Yorktown, along with I-69 and 67/bypass, both of which need signal and road work for heavy traffic. Utilities come first everywhere because no rooftop or employer arrives ahead of that. We have a dozen or more bridges in need of emergency repair, that would come next, along with drainage chnages after the major floods. Finally, broadband access for everyone in the county.

Ken Mace (D)

- **Q1: What strengths and experiences do you bring to this office?**
  - I am a lifelong resident of Delaware County and was employed by the Delaware County Courts as a probation officer from 1987 until I retired in 2019. I am familiar with the functions and processes of county government and have professional relationships with many local agencies and schools.
- **Q2: What are the three key messages of your campaign?**
  - I want to strengthen a bi-partisan presence in county government. I want to advocate for the people in our community who need help. I want to be accessible to the people I represent.
- **Q3: The county continues to experience population growth. What infrastructure investments do you believe should be prioritized to ensure essential services and quality of life can keep pace with the growth?**
  - In my opinion, several areas of the the county, and many neighborhoods in Muncie, are in "food deserts". Building more grocery stores would lessen food insecurities and create jobs. I would also support attracting a second hospital to Delaware County.

LOCAL RACE
SNAPSHOT

COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES
DISTRICT #3

Matt Kantz (R)

- **Website:** https://www.kantz4commissioner.com/
- **Facebook:** Matt Kantz for Delaware County Commissioner
- **Instagram:** kantz4commissioner

Ken Mace (D)

- **Email:** maceforcommissioner@gmail.com

County Commissioner's role: "The County Commissioners are responsible for the administration of County business and may enact ordinances and resolutions as established by state law. In addition to performing executive duties, the County Commissioners also exercise many of the legislative powers and duties of the county." They primarily serve over parts of the county not in a city. (Delaware County Website).