



## Candidate Questionnaire for Whitewater Municipal Election

April 4, 2017

### Aldermanic District 1 - Patrick Wellnitz

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**Q1. What motivates you to want to become or seek another term as a Common Council member?**

I want to continue to make a positive difference for our city residents, the businesses located in our City, as well as keeping the City of Whitewater a great place to live, work and visit.

**Q2. Which aspects of your background make you suitable for this position?**

My entire adult life has been spent serving the public in many various positions and organizations, including; as a life-long business owner in Whitewater, as a Certified Public Accountant, served 14 years in the military, currently with the Whitewater Fire Department the past 17 years, 10 years with the Board of Directors for Whitewater Youth Football including as President for 8 years, as well as serving as Director on Downtown Whitewater Inc.

I have also been on the Whitewater Common Council representing the citizens and District 1 since 2015.

All of these experiences have developed skills needed to deal with many issues coming before the Whitewater Common Council.

These experiences have developed skills that include resolving conflicts that satisfy opposing interests, examining all the elements of an issue and making a decision for the greatest benefit for all the parties even if they are difficult decisions, being a good listener and understanding others viewpoints, always looking at all the possibilities with an open mind.

As a business owner and CPA, I have years of experience in looking at financial issues and determining the best course of action, managing many different ventures, creating long-term growth and balancing the varied interests of all the parties involved.

**Q3. Whitewater is fortunate to have several independent organizations such as the Food Pantry, the Clothes Closet, and the Bethel House, to name a few, that provide needed social services for our community. Do you think they should be consolidated in one physical location, making them easier to access for those in need? If so, how might that be accomplished?**

If it could be accomplished it would improve the access to the three services to be located in one location but that would need to start with the three independent organizations getting together and discussing the various requirements and space needs of each organization and finding a location that could satisfy all three organizations.

**Q4. There seems to be consensus that citizens of Whitewater would like a grocery store. Specifically how would you go about making that happen?**

Since Sentry closed, the Common Council has actively explored many options to bring another grocery store into Whitewater. We will continue to pursue opportunities that may develop into another grocery store in Whitewater.

**Q5. Occasions like St. Patrick's Day and Spring Splash can negatively impact the community. Do you feel that it is appropriate for the city to be involved in regulating such events, and, if so, how?**

It is the responsibility of the City government to be involved in large public events as needed to provide a safe environment for citizens and guests. Many of the large public events have a positive impact in our community but the City of Whitewater should be involved to avoid negative impacts to our community. City ordinances can be a great tool to ensure the events have the necessary services to provide a safe environment and not cause issues with other citizens of Whitewater.

**Q6. What are the top two or three economic development priorities that you will champion as a member of the Common Council?**

We should continue to bring new businesses to Whitewater; to work and partner with Downtown Whitewater Inc. to help strengthen and grow the local businesses in the heart of our City, and to work with the CDA to help bring in new businesses into our Industrial Park – developing these businesses will create a larger tax base as well as create jobs that will strengthen our community.

**Q7. As University students move into available housing rentals in Whitewater, there is a chilling effect on single-family housing. What can be done to encourage more development of single-family homes and therefore an increase in that population?**

Developing more student housing apartment complexes near the UW-W campus with the R-3A University Residential Overlay district such as the property currently being developed at Starin Rd and Prince St will reduce the demand for single-family houses being converted into student housing.

The City of Whitewater should also continue to work with developers into creating new single family housing subdivisions.

**Q8. Whitewater used to have both regular bus service and train service. For some decades it has not had either and the most recent experiment with a bus did not last long. Do you think that it is important to look for alternatives to automobiles for transportation to any distance outside of town and back?**

It is always important to look at alternatives that may serve the community better and keep an open mind regarding services but ultimately demand for alternative transportation will be a guide to whether different transportation possibilities are economically viable.

**Q9. It has been difficult to get citizens to participate in local government by running for Common Council or joining City boards and commissions. Why do you think this is true and how would you encourage others to become actively involved?**

It takes a considerable time investment to be actively engaged in local government, there is much more involvement than just the twice monthly Council meetings or regularly scheduled committee meetings and the time commitment perhaps keeps some citizens from participating. To encourage more citizens to become involved, we need to continue to keep the meetings and committees organized and efficient to stay productive and moving forward. Citizens will become involved with issues that are important to them and that requires the City of Whitewater to continue to keep the citizens well informed of the happenings occurring in our community as informed citizens will be active citizens.

**Q10. Is there something that the City of Whitewater is not presently doing that you believe will significantly improve the quality of life and strengthen the local economy? What is that and why do you believe it to be important?**

I believe the City of Whitewater is doing a great job working towards improving our community. We have exceptionally dedicated Common Council members, City Staff, Businesses, non-profit organizations as well as our citizens all working together to make Whitewater a better place to live and work. It is not an easy task to govern a diverse community such as Whitewater and I feel all the involved participants have done a tremendous job in keeping our City moving forward.