

These five questions reflect the biggest issues the Cathedral Area currently faces. They were sent to 11 of the 12 at-large candidates for a written response.

We were not successful in contacting Roger Powell Sr.

Warren Dorris, Cesar Guerrero, James Lanham, Nicole Lurry, Isiah Williams Jr., Glenda Wright-McCullum, and Robert Wunderlich did not respond.

Hudson Hollister, Joe Clement, Jeremy Brzycki, and Jan Quillman responded in that order. That is the order in which their responses will be listed here.

All answers were cut and pasted from candidate responses and have not been edited.

The Cathedral Area Preservation Association does not endorse any one candidate.

1. How do you plan to advocate, through policy, for the funding, expansion, and sustainability of Joliet's NOPT?

Hudson Hollister:

I have noticed that some conversations about police funding assume that Neighborhood-Oriented Policing Teams are somehow a supplement to regular policing, worthy of funding if core priorities are fully supplied. I will work to confront and oppose that assumption. All police work should be neighborhood-oriented. Joliet's NOPT should be recognized, funded, and prioritized as a core operation of the police department, not as an optional special program.

Joe Clement:

Joliet NOPT is currently fully funded and operating effectively and efficiently. I am a fiscally responsible public official currently and will continue to be if elected to the Joliet City Council. I will not be a public official who throws money at problems that do not exist. If there is a problem with the Cathedral area NOPT, let's work to fix it within the current budget. If an analysis proves that more funding is needed, I will support it. I believe most homeownership property taxpayers in the Cathedral area will agree with this approach to all government service functions.

Jeremy Brzycki:

Growing the Neighborhood-Oriented Policing Team is a major part of my campaign. I attended numerous community meetings over the last 6 months, and I was impressed to see neighborhood officers on many of them. I truly feel that neighborhood-based policing initiatives will help reduce crime in Joliet and build trust between the police and the citizens. As a City Councilman,

I will seek to add more neighborhoods to the program and bolster its number of officers. I would also encourage neighborhood officers to participate in community events to help drive more positive interactions.

Jan Quillman:

Being the chair of the Public Safety committee I will continue to advocate for neighborhood policing to be fully restored. Currently the city is down about 30 police officers. The city is supposed to get some monies from the federal government. These monies come with restrictions. Hopefully this will free up other monies to help us to restore neighborhood policing.

2. Single family rentals are held to less stringent standards than multi-family units, leading to major concerns for tenants, neighbors, and the city at large. How will you advance the needed policy of including single family rental homes in the City's Rental Inspection Program so the standards of these homes are raised?

Hudson Hollister:

I will work with other members of the Council to move to bring our already-proposed single-family rental inspection ordinance off the table and back onto the council's agenda, and continue doing that until we pass it.

Joe Clement:

I would support annual inspections of any residential rental unit in Joliet. The lessor, which is a business, would bear the cost of the annual inspection, which should be provided at cost. This is a safety initiative that should not be viewed as a municipal revenue generator.

Jeremy Brzycki:

I would support the expansion of rental inspections to single family rentals, provided that the application fee is half the current one-unit fee. In addition, inspections must be conducted soon after the application is filed and the inspection process uniform to prevent an undue burden on the landlord while still providing benefit to the prospective tenant.

Jan Quillman:

I have been working with neighborhood organizations to have an ordinance to regulate a single-family rental policy for the last few years. The ordinance went to city council for approval. The council decided a meeting should take place with the realtors and the groups involved, it was tabled. Much to my surprise the meeting never took place due to a retirement in the planning division. The ball was dropped. I am currently waiting for staff to set this meeting up. The details are still being worked out. Then it will go to the Land Use Committee. When a draft can be agreed on the ordinance will be brought before the Council for approval.

3. Will you advocate for the issuance of bonds to pay for the revitalization of Joliet's corridors and gateways? If you do not support bonding, where can the city realistically find the dedicated resources to address this decades long issue?

Hudson Hollister:

Yes. Joliet has been very conservative in its use of bond-based financing, and has almost no bond debt, while our peer cities have hundreds of millions to nearly \$1 billion. I support the use of bonds to pay for projects that are reasonably expected to enhance economic activity, such as the proposed Chicago Street plaza and improvements to our commercial corridors, especially Jackson/Maple/Route 6.

Joe Clement:

As part of my platform, I have proposed a new permanent Infrastructure Replacement Fund (IRF) to finance future projects rather than incurring costly long term debt through bond issues. I propose dedicating at least \$3,000,000 of our annual gaming revenue toward this fund. If we had done this beginning in 1990, we would now have a \$90,000,000 infrastructure fund where the interest income would provide sufficient revenue to finance much of our annual discretionary infrastructure projects.

Jeremy Brzycki:

I am not against bonding to revitalize our gateways if that is the funding measure we need to use, as I absolutely support the need to rehabilitate the entrances to our city. However, I think that bringing more industries to the area and using the increased revenue to support this activity is a better solution. I would favor bonding for other downtown projects related to implementation of

the downtown Strategic plan, such as redevelopment of our lakefront and installation of a city park-these are major capital projects that will be difficult for us to undertake in the short term otherwise.

Jan Quillman:

I would not want bonds to be issued for this project or any other project until we stabilize our economy. It is not prudent to embark on any more spending at this time. I think each gateway should be evaluated and any repairs should be budgeted for annually. However, many of our gateways are controlled by IDOT. Due to possible liabilities IDOT has told me cannot do it. Hopefully, we can work out an intergovernmental agreement so that we will be able to beautify these areas.

4. What steps will you take to ensure the development and implementation of the City of Joliet's Comprehensive Plan, which has been budgeted for yet stalled since 2019?

Hudson Hollister:

Our lack of a Comprehensive Plan is our single greatest impediment to effective city management, since without a Comprehensive Plan every policy debate goes back to first principles. I will insist that the planning process be restarted and I will work to include all Joliet's communities in collaborative creation of the Comprehensive Plan.

Joe Clement:

The city manager is responsible for implementation and the City Council is responsible for oversight of the city manager. I will be requesting quarterly public updates on the progress of the comprehensive plan to make sure we are working toward our goals. If not, we will need to know why.

Jeremy Brzycki:

The City has already identified barriers to completing the plan this year (<https://www.joliet.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=27261>). To begin the process, we will need to hire a planning director, engage the RATIO consulting service to begin preparing the plan, and convene the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) to assist in carrying out the plan. If we can achieve these milestones, I believe we will achieve significant progress toward completion on the Comprehensive Plan.

Jan Quillman:

The plan was instituted in 2019. Unfortunately, the 2020 pandemic has placed everything on hold. As the mayor said in his address to the city, we are better off than anticipated. There was talk at the beginning of this pandemic of possible layoffs of police, fire and city workers. That could have also resulted in the closing of a Firehouse. Thankfully, some of our revenues came in better than expected. Hopefully in the coming months we will be able to continue to reevaluate our position to move forward with the comprehensive plan.

5. Compared to other budgetary priorities, the city of Joliet does not prioritize historical, cultural, and artistic institutions as assets in a meaningful way. What will you do to push to change this vast disparity so that the city can leverage our well situated assets?

Hudson Hollister:

I will defend the city's commitments to our historical, cultural, and artistic institutions. I will work with these institutions to establish longer-term agreements and commitments to provide the certainty that their grantors and funders often require. At the same time, I will seek to defuse competition among Joliet's nonprofits for city funding by prioritizing new projects that can benefit all of them, such as a shared grantwriting function.

Joe Clement:

I am aware the City of Joliet subsidizes our public library and its programs / events, the Joliet Rialto Theater and our municipal baseball stadium, in addition to providing security and support for various cultural or social events throughout the year. I do not know the combined ratio of these expenditures as part of our overall budget. I would be glad to discuss with what you believe our goal should be for the overall percentage of the Joliet municipal budget toward support for local history, culture and art and see if we can work to make sure an agreed upon goals can be met. While no one will ever accuse me of being a Renaissance man, I do recognize and the public art and cultural institutions and believe they are an important part of our community's education, growth and image.

Jeremy Brzycki:

The City needs to do much more to promote our unique artistic, architectural, and cultural institutions-they truly set us apart from other communities. Personally, I keep finding new and

amazing things in Joliet one of two ways-by accident or word of mouth! We cannot continue this way-the city needs to help promote local artists by holding art exhibitions and festivals downtown where artists can showcase their pieces. Also, we should commission local artists to repaint our murals and bridge embankments. The artistic community also needs to have a voice on the CPAC. In addition, while new construction has many advantages, the City should retain our architectural treasures as much as possible and aggressively pursue new uses for our vacant properties. We also need a professional marketing manager to advertise our city! We can't keep being the best-kept secret in Illinois.

Jan Quillman:

Funds available must be allocated by priority, unfortunately, the cultural, historic and artistic institutions were affected by the 2008 recession and never fully recovered. Those funds from the casino were used to fund the arts and the historical cultural and artistic institutions originally. Now with the pandemic, casino revenues are down even more which has affected income into the city. I cannot foresee any immediate relief of these programs. Funding for this endeavor could come from private and public sources, fundraising and grants that may be available through the State or Federal government.