

## St. Joseph Local Candidate Questionnaire

### 1. Do you support competition in Buchanan County's healthcare?

**Carl Jennings:**

Yes

**Jeff Schomburg:**

I believe health care needs more competition. In other sectors of business, competition improves quality and efficiency, spurs innovation, and drives down costs. Health care should be no exception.

**Kenton Randolph:**

We would need to address issues in our community first, which in turn would promote healthy competition that would strengthen our community as a whole.

**Marty Novak:**

Yes, I feel competition is a good thing. Competition improves quality, efficiency, inspires innovation, gives people a choice and drives down costs.

### 2. How do you feel the mask mandate went in St. Joseph?

**Carl Jennings:**

Acceptable

**Jeff Schomburg:**

Wearing a mask should not be mandated by the government. It is an individual's choice to wear or not wear a mask.

**Kenton Randolph:**

It did not go as planned due to individual decisions, and it wasn't scientifically proven to be effective.

**Marty Novak:**

I feel the mask mandate served its purpose at the time. While I'm not a proponent of mandates, I believe individuals are capable of making their own decisions on wearing a mask. I do respect private business decisions on requiring masks in their establishments. Remember, the original purpose of the mask mandate was to ensure that our healthcare institutions were not overwhelmed. That's why in March 2021, I presented the resolution before the council to eliminate the mask mandate in St. Joseph which was passed. I stand by that.

- 3. Do you support policies that would permit males and females to share the same public restrooms, locker rooms, and showers, based on their self-identified gender instead of their natural born gender?**

**Carl Jennings:**

No

**Jeff Schomburg:**

No

**Kenton Randolph:**

No as I believe that creates a safety threat for women.

**Marty Novak:**

No

- 4. Do you support requiring photo ID to vote?**

**Carl Jennings:**

Yes

**Jeff Schomburg:**

Yes

**Kenton Randolph:**

Yes

**Marty Novak:**

I believe voting is a sacred privilege and must be protected. I fully agree the Missouri Voter ID Requirement Amendment passed in 2016 requiring the presentation of voter IDs at public elections in order to prove national and state citizenship.

- 5. If faced with a budget deficit, would you support or oppose cutting spending rather than increasing taxes?**

**Carl Jennings:**

Yes

**Jeff Schomburg:**

Support cutting spending or find more efficient ways to spend the money

**Kenton Randolph:**

However, I'm only in favor of cutting spending for those things that will not have a long term impact on necessary items such as infrastructure.

**Marty Novak:**

I believe we must be fiscally responsible with the \$167 million annual budget. As with my personal budget, I believe we need make sure we're getting the most bang from every buck. If we don't have it, we can't spend it. Looking at all options and sources of alternative revenues as well as operational efficiencies, reduced spending and austerity must be exhausted before ever looking at raising taxes.

**6. If the council were given \$1M to use to fund projects in St. Joseph, what would you fund?**

**Carl Jennings:**

In the grand scheme of things 1M isn't a lot of money. But I would get a good start on sidewalks around the schools that do not have them.

**Jeff Schomburg:**

Spend the money according to what the needs are for the city at the time the money is given to us. Form a committee of citizens and business leaders to come up with an action plan to spend the money wisely.

**Kenton Randolph:**

Items that would have a long-term benefit to our community such as infrastructure, beautification, etc.

**Marty Novak:**

A one-time gift of \$1 million could be put to great use on a concerted effort on helping eliminate derelict buildings and blight. Using \$250,000 a year, for four years could go a long way. It could be used for increased property maintenance and code enforcement and increased demolition of derelict, abandoned, and condemned buildings and properties.

**7. Do you believe in equity (equal outcome) or equality (equal opportunity)?**

**Carl Jennings:**

Equality. Always

**Jeff Schomburg:**

This question can be interpreted in many different ways, could you please be more specific?

**Kenton Randolph:**

There's nothing holding us back from achieving equal opportunity, as it's based on individual decisions.

**Marty Novak:**

I believe in Equality, in which every individual is given the same opportunities to excel, prosper and grow.

**8. How does St. Joseph compare to Kansas City? What lessons can each city learn from each other?**

**Carl Jennings:**

We are not Kansas City. We do not want to be Kansas City. We want to be the best St. Joseph can be

**Jeff Schomburg:**

Comparing the two city's are like apples and oranges. Kansas City has approximately 500,000 people and St. Joseph has approximately 70,000. I would like to see St. Joseph have more economic growth like Kansas City but still have that small town feel. St. Joseph should not follow everything that Kansas City does, we should make decisions on what it best for our city.

**Kenton Randolph:**

It's not necessary to compare ourselves to Kansas City as we are a much smaller community. We would benefit from focusing on other communities that are comparable in size and succeeding and growing. Focus on creating a niche to capitalize on.

**Marty Novak:**

St. Joseph is a community where people care about each other. We have many organizations that exist specifically to help those in need. St. Joseph is easy to get around and navigate. St. Joseph has a rich history spanning all the way back to the Pony Express and Jesse James. Multiple St. Joseph Museums help keep this history alive. Saint Joseph has a fantastic Arts community, tremendous architecture. St. Joseph has all the retail shopping, entertainment – concerts, festivals – and amenities of a Kansas City but without the hassle.

**9. Merrick Garland stated that the greatest threat comes from racially or ethnically motivated violence, “specifically those who advocated for the superiority of the white race”. Do you agree or disagree?**

**Carl Jennings:**

Disagree

**Jeff Schomburg:**

I cannot answer this question due to the way it was asked. Your question is just a portion of the statement that Merrick Garland had stated. “In the FBI’s view, the top domestic violent extremist threat comes from racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists, specifically those who advocated for the superiority of the white race, “ Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a speech on Tuesday June 15th 2021 (1)

**Kenton Randolph:**

Disagree

**Marty Novak:**

The text penned by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence states my belief, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

**10. Are there circumstances where the city council can restrict the church from assembling? If so, under which circumstances?**

**Carl Jennings:**

No

**Jeff Schomburg:**

No

**Kenton Randolph:**

No that is violating ethical and personal rights.

**Marty Novak:**

I’m aware of no circumstances that the council could restrict free assembly of churches, nor would I ever support the City of St. Joseph restricting churches from gathering.

**Additional Info:**

**Jeff Schomburg:**

1. the Grio (thegrio.com) AG Merrick Garland: ‘top domestic violent extremist threat’ is white supremacy article written by Associated Press