

**LIVINGSTON-MCLEAN COUNTIES CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL
BLOOMINGTON & NORMAL TRADES & LABOR
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

NAME Elizabeth Johnston PHONE 309-530-4051

OFFICE SEEKING McLean County Board, District 5

ADDRESS 3321 Topaz Road, Normal, IL 61761

EMAIL elizabethjohnstonLCSW@gmail.com WEBSITE www.voteelizabethjohnston.com

1. OCCUPATION

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

2. LIST THE ELECTIVE AND APPOINTIVE PUBLIC OFFICES YOU HAVE HELD:

I have not held public office before.

3. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE PRIVATIZATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE?

County government services are either mandated by laws or fill a need the private market does not fill. Private corporations that control entire service sectors (schools, prisons, etc.) often maximize profit at the expense of quality services. I believe competitive bidding on projects is appropriate and there are many factors to consider when choosing contractors, as in the benefits of hiring local and contributions to the community.

4. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE PREVAILING WAGE LAW? PLEASE EXPLAIN

I support the Prevailing Wage Law, as it provides a standard income and benefits according to work provided. Our economy thrives on a viable middle class receiving a livable wage, and Prevailing Wage Law seeks to set such benchmarks for workers.

5. IF ELECTED, WOULD YOU OPPOSE LOCAL "RIGHT TO WORK" INITIATIVES THAT WOULD PROHIBIT UNIONIZED WORKERS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS FROM VOLUNTARILY AGREEING TO "UNION SECURITY" PROVISIONS WHICH ALLOW THE UNION TO RECOVER THE COSTS OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FROM ALL THE WORKERS THAT FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES THE UNION TO REPRESENT IN THE WORKPLACE? YES NO

COMMENTS The recent Janus v. AFSCME decision may make it difficult to block such initiatives, but I hope that employees, who benefit from collective bargaining, will recognize and continue to contribute voluntarily as it benefits both their compensation and workplace safety.

6. DO YOU FAVOR BINDING ARBITRATION FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES? WHY OR WHY NOT?

I am not in favor of Binding Arbitration. Government decisions and management need to be as transparent as possible. Employees should have the right to appeal any decision that negatively impacts, especially when the decision is made without public oversight.

PLEASE USE THE BACK IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL SPACE

Bloomington & Normal Trades & Labor PO Box 3396 Bloomington IL 61702

EMAIL: matejka53@aol.com

7. DO YOU SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF CITY/COUNTY/STATE EMPLOYEES TO COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN? WHY OR WHYNOT?
I support collective bargaining for governmental employees. This is the biggest expense of local government, making it a frequent target to reduce expenses. Preserving adequate pay for public employees is key to keeping qualified staff members.

8. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON PROPOSED CARD CHECK LEGISLATION? PLEASE EXPLAIN.
I am unaware of new proposed legislation in Illinois, but Card Check Legislation provides a structure for unionization. It is in the best interest of workers and the community for employees to belong to a union. Unions benefit workers in the community whether they belong to a union or not, to promote better pay and benefits.

9. WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP ATTRACT HIGHER PAYING JOBS TO THIS AREA?
The County Board plays a pivotal role in regional planning and supports business recruitment through the Economic Development Council/Small Business Development Center. As a member of the Board, I hope to push for creating a haven for sustainable industries, easily shipped from the heartland in any direction.

10. WHAT EXISTING POLICIES OR LAWS DO YOU FEEL NEED TO BE CHANGED OR DELETED?
As with many local governments in McLean County, I would like to see meeting times moved to evenings. The open meetings act is designed to increase access and participation. Any open meeting that allows for public comment should be held at a time when most residents can attend without taking time off work.

11. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS THAT WOULD HELP IMPROVE YOUR OFFICE OR YOUR COMMUNITY?
Our community is in need of affordable housing and development of middle class jobs to stabilize our economy. We need to build a future where we can rely on a variety of employment sectors.

12. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE USE OF DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS PRISONERS TO REPLACE WORKERS?
The Department of Corrections using prisoner labor in theory seems like a cost saving technique, but when work is devalued, it is not beneficial for rehabilitation. I would like to see workers hired and paid proper wages whether they are inmates or not.

13. WHAT SUGGESTIONS TO DO YOU HAVE OR PROPOSALS TO ENSURE MORE HIRING OF LOCAL PEOPLE ON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.
Part of BN Advantage is encouraging our community to buy local. The same strategy should be used to outline the benefits of high retention rates of wages when you hire locally too. Elected officials and the community need to gain greater awareness and not underestimate the benefits of hiring local labor on the local economy.

14. WOULD YOU SUPPORT PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS AS A REQUIREMENT FOR ANY LOCAL GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES TO DEVELOPERS?
Project Labor Agreements are beneficial to both developers and workers and I would support them. They set out contractual obligations ensuring quality work, expected deadlines, fair pay, and job safety.

PLEASE USE THE BACK IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL SPACE