

2024 Candidate Forum- Council Member at Large and City Council Ward 4

10/21/2024

Sponsored by:



Schedule of Events

11:30 – 11:50 Lunch

11:50 – Tom Partridge, Noon Rotary President

Introductions – Brad Meier, President/CEO Owatonna Chamber of Commerce and Tourism

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Forum Moderator: John Havelka, Edward Jones - Havelka

Format of Forum

Questions

- No questions provided to the candidates in advance
- Questions from the audience will be reviewed and passed on to the moderator if appropriate and if time allows
- Candidates will alternate responses to each questions and will be allowed one minute for each question-should the candidates go past their allotted time, the moderator will cut them off
- Opening statement (two minutes): yellow card (60 sec.), red card (stop)
- Answer question (one minute): yellow card (30 sec.), red card (stop)
- Closing statement (two minutes): yellow card (60 sec.), red card (stop)

***Candidate bios were submitted by the candidates and were not modified or edited by the hosting organizations.**

***Bios of candidates are on back side of agenda**

COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE AND CITY COUNCIL WARD 4



Marc Boyett (At-Large Candidate)

- I am Marc Boyett, and I am excited to be running for the Owatonna City Council at Large. With a diverse background in entrepreneurship and community engagement, I have dedicated my life to fostering positive change and supporting local businesses. My journey began with a paper route in my early teens, where I learned the value of hard work, responsibility, and customer service.
- As a former Branch Seneschal in the Society for Creative Anachronism, I developed my leadership skills, emphasizing collaboration and transparency. My vision for Owatonna includes three key points: first, creating and enhancing mentorship programs that connect startups with established business owners; second, streamlining the permit process and giving more opportunities to support our entrepreneurs; and third, ensuring that I always listen to my constituents because your voice is what guides my decisions in council chambers.
- I am passionate about financial transparency and government accountability, striving for a fair and equitable approach in all aspects of governance. Together, we can ensure that Owatonna remains a vibrant, economically strong community for future generations. Thank you for your support!
- Your voice, Our future.



Mark Breon (At-Large Candidate)

- I am Mark Breon, and I am excited to announce my candidacy for the Owatonna Council Member at Large position. With a deep-rooted commitment to our community, I have lived in Owatonna for the past 25 years, where my wife and I have raised four of our wonderful children.
- Professionally, I serve as the Operations Manager at Lakeside Foods, in the City of Owatonna for the past four years. Prior to this role, I dedicated 17 years to the respiratory field with the last five years as a Regional Operations Manager. My career has been defined by hard work, dedication, and a passion for improving systems and processes.
- Born in Missouri and raised in Phoenix, Arizona, I bring a diverse background and a broad perspective to the table. As an avid outdoorsman, I love fishing and spending time in nature which has instilled in me a strong appreciation for our environment and the importance of preserving it for future generations.
- I am known for being friendly, outgoing, and caring, always ready to lend a helping hand to my neighbors. My goal is to bring this same spirit of community and service to the City Council where I will work tirelessly to make Owatonna an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.
- Together, we can build a brighter future for Owatonna. I humbly ask for your support and your vote.



Joe Peterson (At-Large Candidate)

- I was born and raised in Owatonna, graduating from OHS in 1973. I went off to Michigan State University for two years and then spent the next eight years traveling throughout the western United States while living in small towns near national parks. I supported myself by working in the food service and auto service/repair while learning about small town politics and lifestyles. I spent one winter living in a teepee. I eventually decided Owatonna was the best place to raise my family and moved back to my hometown in 1984. I purchased my current home in August of that year and have lived there now for over 40 years.
- While my four children were growing up, I was able to volunteer as a soccer and t-ball coach for the park and rec, and a wrestling coach. I was also a den leader for the Cub Scouts.
- I worked in restaurant management at Happy Chef for two years and went back into automotive service and repair at Nelsons Gas until 1989. During the late 80's, I started part-time weekend work as a DJ for KRFO radio while Todd Hale was still running the station. In 1989 I was hired by Federated Insurance where I then spent the next eighteen years, leaving in 2007 and returning to college.
- In 2008 I graduated from Minnesota State-Mankato with a BS degree in Addiction Studies. I then passed the Licensed Alcohol Drug Counselor exams and began a different kind of career of service in helping others. My addiction counseling career included working in Inpatient and Outpatient treatment programs in Owatonna, Faribault, Mankato and Rochester. I spent a year working at Beauterre



Douglas Voss (At-Large Incumbent)

- Age 59 and married to Tammy for 34 years with 3 Children – all OHS graduates and 4 Grandchildren
- Graduated Owatonna High School 1983 and Bethel University 1987
- Born and raised in Owatonna. Coached hockey at all levels in Owatonna. Owned and operated a small business – Fame Awards – since 1988. Have been a member of the Owatonna Chamber of Commerce for 36 years. Attended the Owatonna Leadership Academy in 2020. Served on the Steele County Park Board for 9 years.
- Was elected to the City Council in 2016. Was re-elected in 2020. Have served as Vice-Chair of the Economic Development Authority since 2016. Served for 6 years on the Owatonna Business Development Center as secretary. Currently serve on the EDA, City/OPU Liaison Council and the Safety Center task force.

Recovery Institute here in Owatonna and in 2016 I was hired by Freeborn County to do state mandated Rule 25 assessments, retiring from there in December 2023.

- After 10 months of retirement, I saw a need within the community for school bus drivers. I successfully obtained my Class B CDL with a school bus endorsement and now drive a large bus for the Owatonna Bus Company.
- I am a member of the Owatonna Senior Center, 20 Rifle and Pistol Club and a life member of the Owatonna Gun Club. I enjoy archery, playing pool, riding motorcycle and going on long hikes in various national parks. You may often see my wife and I out on the Owatonna trail system walking our three dogs.
- I am running for Council at Large, because my personal experiences working on changing the city ordinances have shown me that there is a huge disconnect between the people in positions of power and those who are just living their lives the best as they can with what little they have. I would suggest Henry David Thoreau's essay On The Duty of Civil Disobedience has played a large part in preparing me for public office. I have a minor degree in Sociology-which really means nothing. Yet, Sociology is the scientific study of society, human behavior and social relationships. It examines how society works, why it works, and how it might change. All change begins from within and that is why I am running for a seat at this table.

City Council Ward 4



Gordon Henricksen (Ward 4 Candidate)

- My name is Gordon Henricksen I am 52 Years old, I was born and raised in Iowa, I went to northwest Iowa technical college for construction, I then became a volunteer Firefighter in 1993. while working full-time with an electrician. In 1998 I became Certified as an Emergency Medical Technician, I also volunteered my time as a reserve police officer.
- In 1999 I move to Omaha Nebraska to work full time on an ambulance service. In 2002 I became certified as an Emergency Medical Dispatcher and started school to increase my emergency medical technician to EMT Intermediate. In 2005 I continued upgrading my medical training with becoming a EMT Instructor and doing FEMA Classes.
- I am married to my wife for ten years and have a stepson that received his master's degree in 2023. My wife and I moved here to Owatonna in December 2019. In my spare time I like to do woodworking, DIY Projects, cooking, going to my parents' house and sitting at the lake fishing. I enjoy spending time with my wife and our dogs.



Kevin Raney (Ward 4 Incumbent)

- I've lived in Owatonna since 1980. I've been married to my wife Monica for 38 years. We have two children. Our son Jake is married to Sami and they live in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. We are proud grandparents to their 5-year-old twin daughters Madi and Mya.
- Our daughter Michaela is married to Marc and they live in Waseca. She just started her 8th year of teaching. She has been at the Owatonna High School for the past 3 years.

Current areas of community involvement:

- City Council member since 2012, serving the last 8 years as Vice President
- Owatonna Economic Development Authority since 2012, serving as Chairman for the last 10 years
- Owatonna Tourism Executive Committee
- Board member for the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities serving as Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee
- Highway 14 Coalition since 2012
- 2014 - Board Member
- 2016 - Vice President
- 2020 – current - President – part of my duties is to testify at the State Capitol to several committees
- Committee member of the Owatonna High School Athletic Hall of Fame
- A former “Big brother” - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota
- Owatonna High School Varsity Assistant Fastpitch coach

- President of the Owatonna Officials Association

Past areas of community involvement:

- Board member - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota
- Leadership Owatonna
- Blandin Foundation Leadership in Ethnical Diversity Communities
- Owatonna Park and Recreation Board from 1999-2011, serving as President for the final 12 years
- Grand Knight - Owatonna Knights of Columbus
- 2005 Owatonna Knights of Columbus Knight of the Year
- 2020 Big Brother of the Year
- Board member - Owatonna Basketball Association
- Lowes grant for playground equipment at Lake Kohlmeier

