

June 19, 2024 DCTA Interviews with Dane County Executive Candidates

Summary

Q1: What is your vision for rural and urban towns in Dane County over the next 20 years?

Dana Pellebon

- Vision is that we're all having conversations
- Considerations: land for flood mitigation, preserving farmland, and sustainable growth

Regina Vidaver

- Preserve diversity of urban and rural mix with moderate growth for towns
- Considerations: access to transit, protect waterways and wetlands, and keeping communities connected

Wes Sparkman

- Provide opportunities for everyone to grow and thrive
- Considerations: sustainable development, agriculture, transportation, economic growth and jobs, arts

Melissa Agard

- County needs to partner with towns on growth
- County executive and staff will be resources for towns

Q2: What are your concerns about how the tax burden impacts town residents with fixed incomes? What are your goals for the total County debt?

Dana Pellebon

- County needs to have a capital improvement plan
- Make sure county is not adding more debt than is being retired

Regina Vidaver

- Make people feel like they are part of county and getting value
- County needs to have a capital improvement plan
- Maintain debt service under 15% of budget

Wes Sparkman

- Need to publicize available assistance programs

- Need efficient use of tax dollars

Melissa Agard

- Now is not the time for wish lists
- Protection of agricultural land is an economic investment

Q3: What is your position on the County purchasing land and taking it off the tax rolls? Would you support Dane County providing financial payments to local municipalities, similar to payments-in-lieu that the state provides to compensate municipalities and other local taxing jurisdictions since land owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is exempt from property tax?

Each candidate supports consulting with communities prior to county land purchases. They would need more information/discussion about payments to municipalities.