

VOTER GUIDE



City of Owensboro Candidates for Mayor

**Primary Election
May 18, 2004**

*Questionnaire and compilation by
Steve Rocco*

public concerns → citizen action



**PUBLIC LIFE FOUNDATION
VOTER GUIDE
Candidates for Mayor of Owensboro
May 18, 2004, Primary Election**

BACKGROUND OF THE CANDIDATES IN TERMS OF EDUCATION,
WORK EXPERIENCE IN THE CIVIC ARENA, SPECIAL SKILLS AND
EXPERTISE



MIMI DAVIS

Education background

- Bachelor of Science; Elementary Education; Centenary College of Louisiana (1979)
- Post-undergraduate study; University of Texas at Austin (1980)
- Masters in Education; Vanderbilt University (1982)
- Doctor of Philosophy; Louisiana State University (1990)

Work and Other Experiences

- Currently, Owensboro City Commissioner
- Former public school teacher and college professor
- Advocate for children and families
- Published research articles in national peer-reviewed journals of education
- Served on the Messenger-Inquirer Board of Contributors (February 2001 -January 2002)

Community Service

- Immediate Past President, Kentucky Medical Association Alliance
- Project Director of The Learning Community, an initiative of the Citizens Committee on Education
- Early Childhood Committee Co-chair, Greater Owensboro Education Alliance
- Sustainer of the Junior League of Owensboro
- Member, Elizabeth Munday Senior Center Board
- PTO member, Sutton Elementary and Owensboro 5/6 Center
- Past member, H.L. Neblett Community Center Board
- Past member, Daviess County Public Schools Graduation 2010 Committee
- Past member, Rolling Heights/Harry Smith Family Development Advisory Board
- Past member, Citizens Health Care Advocates Board of Directors
- Member, Owensboro Metropolitan Zoning Ordinance Review Committee
- Member, PRIDE



J. TODD INMAN

I am the only son of James and Mary Jane Inman of Calvert City, KY. I was born and raised in Marshall County, where my parents still reside. After graduating from Marshall County High School, I received a Bachelor of Science in Journalism and Advertising, with an emphasis in public relations, from the University of Mississippi. During my time at Ole Miss I served in a

variety of leadership positions on and off campus and was honored in the publication *Who's Who Among American College's and Universities*.

I furthered my career in publishing while working for Taylor Publishing Company in Memphis, Tenn., until I took a position with State Farm Insurance in the Fire and Casualty claims division. During my 10-year career with State Farm, I have served in a variety of claim-handling positions and worked extensively in the Special Investigative Unit, specializing in arson and fire investigation. I was a certified instructor for the National Fire Academy, teaching arson detection for first responders and was a frequent lecturer and instructor on arson investigation. My last position prior to accepting my State Farm Agency business was as a claim superintendent in Lexington, KY., overseeing homeowners claims and litigation for Eastern Kentucky.

I have since developed a successful State Farm Agency in Owensboro. Growing from a former husband-and-wife operation, I have developed the current agency to employ one part-time and four full-time employees. I have taken great pride in being involved in many civic and charitable organizations and have served or currently am serving on the following boards and positions:

Wendell Foster Center Board of Directors
Mount St. Joseph Retreat Center Board of Directors
Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee
Friday After 5 Chairperson
March of Dimes Regional Board of Directors Vice-President
Owensboro-Daviess County Chamber of Commerce Contact Club Co-Chairperson
Cliff Hagan Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors
Riverpark Center Executive Search Committee
Downtown Owensboro Board of Directors
Riverpark Center Tomorrow's Broadway Audience Board of Directors
Wendell Foster Center Human Rights Committee
Owensboro-Daviess County Airport Board
President Audubon-Bon Harbor Neighborhood Alliance
Junior Achievement Volunteer

My proudest moment occurred June 23, 2001, when I and the former Jennifer “Jenny” Stalmach were married at SS. Joseph and Paul Catholic Church. We reside in the Bon Harbor Hills area of Owensboro.



AL MATTINGLY

I was born and raised in Owensboro, the oldest of twelve children. I attended parochial grade school and graduated from Owensboro Catholic High School in 1965. I graduated from Brescia College in 1969 with a BA in Biology. During my college years I worked 44 hours a week for Western Kentucky Gas Company to pay my way through school and carried a full load each semester. I entered military service in 1969 attaining the rank of Sergeant within 6 months and was honorably discharged in 1972. While in the army I married Judy Wolfe. Upon returning home from service, we moved to Lexington where I intended studying physiology in graduate school. Before starting my studies I returned home to join the family plumbing, heating and cooling business. I have grown the business from 4 employees in 1973 to a current work force of 27 local people.

During the past 30 years I have been involved in Little League and Cub Scouts serving as Coach and Cub Master. I served on the former Our Lady of Lourdes School Board, serving as Chairman for two years. I served as a member of the committee that consolidated the parochial schools in Daviess County as well as a member of the original consolidated school board.

I have been active in my church serving in several leadership roles in our men's club, in ministries to several groups and as representative for our parish on the Diocesan Committee for Total Education.

I have served in leadership positions in local, state and national contractor organizations. In 2001 I served as president of the Kentucky Association of Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors. Under my guidance, we added 150 new members. I have been active in certifying men and women for handling refrigerant in compliance with EPA regulations and in teaching continuing education classes for Heating and Air-conditioning Journeymen.

In the last few years I have served on numerous boards in the community and now serve as City Commissioner for Owensboro.

My skills and expertise are those of a businessman who has worked and lived in this community all of my life. As such I have directed people, worked with budgets but above all through the use of common sense and reason and the ability to discern what people are really saying, stayed tuned into the needs and wants of our community.



TOM WATSON

I trained at Northwestern University Prosthetic & Orthotic Center at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. I am a Board Certified Prosthetist

certified by the American Board of Certification in Prosthetics and Orthotics.

I have thirty years experience in orthotics and prosthetics and I am the owner of Tom Watson's Prosthetic and Orthotic Lab, Inc., with offices in Owensboro and Evansville, Indiana. Our corporation is nationally recognized and is one of five beta testing sites for CAD Tracer system for prosthetics and orthotics. We also work in alliance with similar institutions in Europe.

My experience in civic areas has covered youth sports in baseball and football as well as paraprofessional coaching duties at Owensboro Catholic High School and Kentucky Wesleyan College.

I have served as chair of the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce and am a past board member of Industry, Inc., Owensboro Medical Health System and currently volunteer at the Daniel Pitino Shelter.

I am past president of American Orthotics and Prosthetics Association, current co-chair of O & P PAC. I work personally with the AOPA Veteran's Affairs committee and am a grass root lobbyist for the orthotic and prosthetic industry.

I have served as a motivational speaker and consider my ability to serve as a consensus builder to be one of my greatest skills.

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF THE CANDIDATES

MIMI DAVIS:

Government should use its powers to serve the common good of the citizenry.

Government should achieve public goals efficiently and effectively.

Government operations should be strategic and focused.

Government should be transparent and communicate openly with citizens.

Government should promote opportunities that encourage citizen participation in its work and decision-making.

Government should work to provide quality police and fire services to keep communities safe and secure.

Government should develop and maintain its infrastructure—the building block of a productive and prosperous community.

Government should promote quality parks and recreational activities for all ages to enjoy.

Government should invest in community development programs that promote opportunity with responsibility.

Government should address public health issues.

J. TODD INMAN

A government should be the least constrictive to its citizens as possible while still advancing causes for the good of the citizenry.

AL MATTINGLY

People come together and form governments for the common good of the group. They use government to perform the functions that they can't do individually. Since governments are of the people, by the people and for the people, they should serve the people and not the other way around.

Governments have become very complicated and because of that people feel out of touch, left out and sometimes—just plain frightened. A good elected official will make it his/her job to lift the veil of fear and remind the people that they should not fear what they create. Governments that are open in their decision making and elected officials who are approachable and responsive do more to raise the people's trust than any other thing.

The best government is one that is inclusive of all in society and allows participation regardless of agreement or disagreement. Everyone should be allowed their say and then decisions should be made for the common good.

TOM WATSON

I believe government should provide basic and essential services, in the most open manner as possible and within the constraints of its financial capabilities, while doing the most for those who have the least.

<p>WHO ARE THE PRINCIPAL PEOPLE VOLUNTEERING FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN? WHO ARE YOUR PRIMARY CONTRIBUTORS? WHO ARE YOUR ADVISORS?</p>

MIMI DAVIS:

My support base crosses all socioeconomic levels, gender, ethnic backgrounds, and races. I met these people at church, at my children's

schools, through civic activities, through my work as city commissioner, and through my husband's profession as a physician.

My primary contributors are family members and citizens of Owensboro who represent a cross-section of people who live and work in Owensboro. Many are members of the medical community, of which I am a part as the spouse of a physician.

Dan Griffith, Debbie Nunley and G. Ted Smith are my primary advisors.

J. TODD INMAN:

Our executive committee is composed of the following:

Thomas L. Vittitow—Campaign Manager, who is retired from the Daviess County Board of Education and the Owensboro Police Department, as well as Kentucky Educational Television where he served for 20 years. Currently he is the general manager for the Mills Hazel Property Management Company.

Susan Tierney, who started working at the courthouse at the age of 17 and has been working in the court system except for one brief period. Upon the retirement of the clerk, Pat Hardesty, she was appointed Circuit Clerk by Judge Garland Howard. In 1999, she ran for the unexpired term in November and won the election. She ran unopposed in 2000 and still is serving as the Circuit Court Clerk.

Chris Gaddis, principal of Cravens Elementary School. He is a member of the Kentucky Association of Elementary School Principals, national Association of Elementary School Principals and the Kentucky Association of School Administrators.

Leslie Froehlich, a realtor and trainer with Century 21 Partners in Owensboro. She has been a member of the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce for several years and currently is co-chair of the Contact Club. Also, she serves on the Board of Directors for the Owensboro Board of Realtors.

Nick Cambron, the owner of Owensboro Body Shop. He has served as a deacon at Masonville Baptist Church and is active in several Owensboro organizations including Kiwanis, Owensboro Rotary and Owensboro Jaycees. In addition, he has served as a board member for Girls Incorporated, St. Joseph Peace Mission and is a board member of the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce. Also, he has been a member of the Executive Committee for the Daviess County Democratic Party,

Chairman for the Owensboro Chamber Small Business Committee and Vice-Chairman for the Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Margie C. Niehaus, a former operating room nurse and “sometime” supervisor of surgery in hospitals in Cincinnati and Chicago. As the on-site nurse for the largest chapter of the American Red Cross in the world, she cared for 485 employees. She has taught Health Career Courses in the Vocational School System and was a 2001 graduate of the Owensboro Leadership program.

David Hemingway, participates in the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce Small Business Committee, Friday After Five Sponsorship Committee, as well as being the Friday After Five Street Fair Chairman for four years and Board Member for five years. He works for Spring as an Account Manager covering Western Kentucky.

Todd Stelmach, employed by the Hines Group/Premium Allied Tool, Inc., for 33 years. He has been Corporate Treasurer/CFO for the past 20 years. He served as treasurer of the campaign to elect Susan Tierney Circuit Court Clerk in 1999 and has served as secretary and treasurer of the Immaculate Men’s Club.

AL MATTINGLY:

My brother, Dennis Mattingly, co-worker Bill Glenn and friends Barry Embry and Bobby McCormick are my primary advisers. Other family members, Connie Brown, Lisa Clark and many friends are campaigning for me.

I am the primary contributor to my campaign. A group of friends and associates raised money by selling barbecue chickens and burgoo. Other significant contributors are Bill and Kim Jagoe, Bill Castlen, Brian Haines, John Worth, Jerry Owens, Bill Carrico, Bruce Kenney and many others. A full list of campaign contributors is available from the Daviess County Court House.

TOM WATSON:

My campaign is comprised of a broad spectrum of citizen volunteers from throughout the community. Friends, acquaintances and business associates are the contributors to my campaign. My advisors include but are not limited to Hugh Haydon, Fred Reeves, Ed Riney, Captain David Osborne, Bill Barron, Pam and Jeff Blackstone, Barbara Watson and the Bible.

WHY ARE YOU SEEKING THIS OFFICE?

MIMI DAVIS:

Simply, I possess a passion for public service. My passion derives from my belief that our system of representative government deserves our utmost respect as well as our active participation. My passion results from believing we all have a responsibility to give back to our communities to make the world a better place, particularly for future generations.

J. TODD INMAN:

The main reason for my entering this race is to help advance Owensboro forward. With no hidden agenda, or political motive I believe a new face to Owensboro government can advance changes where needed. Our city seems to have reached a plateau in the past few years and we need an energized leader to advance causes for the good of the people.

AL MATTINGLY:

I am a life-long resident of this community. I have received many blessings and support from the people in Owensboro and as a good steward of these blessings, it is my belief that I should give back to the community through the sharing of my time and talent.

I have found public service, as a city commissioner, one of the most rewarding and fulfilling things I have done in my life. I have made a difference in Owensboro as a commissioner regarding the interaction of government and people and believe I can do an even better job as mayor.

TOM WATSON:

I am seeking this office because of my deep love for my community. I believe it is my turn to lead and I am ready for the challenge. I have a debt to repay to the community that has been so good to me. I feel the community needs new leadership, someone with a business background and the ability to work with a diverse group of people. I am not running to make history or pave the way for other elected offices. I am, as the Book says, making myself available.

<p>IF ELECTED, HOW MUCH TIME WOULD YOU BE ABLE (OR WILLING) TO DEVOTE TO THIS OFFICE? WHAT OTHER OBLIGATIONS (EMPLOYMENT, CIVIC, FAMILY, ETC.) COULD BE DISTRACTIONS FROM THE DUTIES OF THIS OFFICE?</p>
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MIMI DAVIS:

I plan to be a full-time mayor and will be available to citizens of the community each day, particularly during hours my children attend school. I have always striven to be organized and to plan strategically so that I can accomplish my goals. As mayor, I will do the same so I can maintain a balance between work and home.

I participate in civic activities that will enhance my role as mayor. As project director of the Learning Community (an initiative of the Owensboro Citizens Committee on Education) and as co-chair of the early childhood committee of the Greater Owensboro Education Alliance, I will promote lifelong learning opportunities.

I also serve on the board of the Elizabeth Munday Senior Citizen Center, which provides an opportunity for me to learn about issues of our elder population. As an active member of the Daviess County Medical Society Alliance, I work to improve the quality of life in our community, particularly as it relates to public health. Currently, my job outside the home is as city commissioner.

J. TODD INMAN:

I believe you can see from my past and current civic involvement I have devoted an extraordinary amount of time for such involvement. Obviously once elected to the position of mayor I will need to step down from these organizations and devote my energies solely to the office. Distractions mentioned above are prevalent with or without political involvement, and must be dealt with accordingly. My first allegiance lies with my family, however I am very lucky to have a wife who also is as active, if not more, than I am and thus happy to support me within this role.

AL MATTINGLY:

In a *Messenger-Inquirer* article dated October 16, 2002, I said “A commissioner should be hard working and dedicated. This is a part-time position with full-time responsibilities, so a city commissioner will be asked to balance family and career along with the needs of the community. That’s hard work. You must be dedicated to what you are doing or you’ll let one of those responsibilities slip.” This statement is just as true for a mayor.

At present I run a business and serve as one of Owensboro’s city commissioners. I have good people working in my business and this allows

me to spend as much time on city business as is necessary. I have full support from my wife and family in my bid for the office of mayor.

TOM WATSON:

It has been such a long time since we have had a mayor that is not retired from gainful employment that I don't think it is clear how much time will be needed to perform the duties of mayor. Therefore, my answer reflects my personal work ethic that I do not do anything halfway. I am committed to do a first-class job. Time management is one of my strong suits, so I feel comfortable I will be able to manage all tasks appropriately. I also have been blessed to have a son that is capable of running the business (Tom Watson's Prosthetic and Orthotic Lab, Inc.).

<p>TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU FEEL GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC? HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU FEEL OPENNESS IS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT?</p>
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MIMI DAVIS:

I think that government should be as transparent and open as possible. As city commissioner, I have striven to do this and will do the same as mayor.

Teddy Roosevelt, one of our nation's presidents, said it best: "My power vanishes into thin air the instant my fellow citizens, who are straight and honest, cease to believe that I represent them and fight for what is straight and honest. That is all the strength I have."

If government officials are not straight and honest, there will be an erosion of public trust, which is critical to one's ability to lead, to persuade, and to build a consensus for a common agenda that benefits everyone. As mayor, I will strive to be straight and honest.

Openness in local government is critical. Government exists to serve the people, is funded by the people—not just elected persons should participate in information gathering and sharing, deliberations, and decision-making.

J. TODD INMAN:

I believe this is the cornerstone of local government. Having a degree in the journalism field I understand the need for transparency in the public eye. Government operations whenever possible should be open and free to inspection.

There is, however, on occasion the need to conduct matters in private, which are necessary for the common good of the people. I would offer our current laws which govern this are adequate and protect the citizens. In an effort to display the utmost trust, such meetings should be adequately recorded and preserved for a later time. This would enable a retrospective review of government and provide a basis for future decisions in government.

I would also offer that accessibility dictates a proactive approach by government to engage citizens in decision making. Neighborhood Alliances are an example of this type of out reach.

AL MATTINGLY:

I believe government should be as open as possible. There are times when it is necessary to go into closed session and those are defined by law. The day-to-day operation of city government is managed by the city manager. It is his responsibility to implement the programs and direction given to him by the board of commissioners. This implementation should also be as open as possible and is supported by the open records laws.

I also think it is important for elected officials to be available to the public, not only at city hall, but also at public functions, gatherings and celebrations. I believe it's very important that elected officials go out into the community to debate changes they propose in public policy.

As stated above, I believe it's our duty to try to be as inclusive as possible in our decision making and to help remove the fear that people have of their own creation...governments.

TOM WATSON:

Local government should be as open and responsive as possible. It is an absolute necessity to have citizen input even though at times this process is time consuming and may slow the process.

HOW DO YOU THINK THOSE ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE CAN FACILITATE INCREASED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN CITY GOVERNMENT? DO YOU PROPOSE ANY SPECIFIC STEPS OR CHANGES TO ENHANCE OPENNESS, TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS?

MIMI DAVIS:

Elected officials can facilitate increased public involvement by supporting the Neighborhood Alliance Program; it provides a vital communication link between the citizens and city hall. They can support the City Manager's and Police Department's Citizens Academies and they can participate in public discussions (e.g., Community Conversations focus groups). They can learn to listen actively and responsively.

Most important, trust is the foundation of any relationship. Thus, elected officials must work to establish and maintain a foundation of clarity, honesty, understanding, and openness. Maintaining this foundation will promote public involvement.

I plan to promote existing programs (e.g., the Neighborhood Alliance program and citizen academies). As mayor, I will strive to be involved in a wide-range of activities enabling me to hear citizen ideas and concerns.

J. TODD INMAN:

As you will see in one of the issues listed below, our first plan addressed the ability to increase public involvement. One thing we must be mindful of in today's society is the numerous time constraints placed upon our citizens. As we evolve into a more mobile and advanced society so do the demands placed upon the lives of everyday citizens. We as leaders must recognize this and increase the number of opportunities for interaction and make this interaction more user friendly.

The ability of government to merely call a meeting of the citizens (i.e, Town Hall Meeting) is beginning to be a thing of the past. Government must do more outreach to engage citizens at the citizens' convenience to gather input.

AL MATTINGLY:

I believe that "public officials" are just that...PUBLIC and as such should make themselves available to the public as much as possible. This can be done through many ways, public meetings being one but public officials should not limit their involvement to public events only. As city commissioner I attended neighborhood alliance meetings, forums, focus groups, charitable events, etc. By meeting people in less formal settings you can get a better feel for the attitude of the public on issues.

TOM WATSON:

I will appoint deserving people to boards that are willing to work and lead. I will appropriately rotate them in a manner as to be the most productive as possible. I will seek input on issues and provide resolutions reflecting multiple points of view.

AS A CANDIDATE FOR CITY OFFICE, HOW MAY THE PUBLIC CONTACT YOU AND GIVE YOU INPUT?

MIMI DAVIS:

The public can contact me via my Web site: www.votemimi.com. And citizens can call me at home (686-7972) or at city hall (687-4444).

J. TODD INMAN:

We have listed our Website www.inmanformayor.com which has contact information, or they may reach me at my office, 1302 Frederica Street, Owensboro, KY 42301, (270) 684-2081 or at home (270) 570-8633.

AL MATTINGLY:

I can be reached at city hall 687-8550, City Action Line 687-4444, at work 684-9434, at home 685-4876, by fax 684-9496, by e-mail alhvac@aol.com or my Web site www.AlMattinglyForMayor.com.

TOM WATSON:

I will be and have been as accessible as possible by phone, e-mail, forums, and most of all, by face-to-face meetings. My Website www.watsonformayor.com will be converted to www.MayorWatson.com to allow Internet users to contact me. Both domain sites were secured to allow for such communication.

WHAT ARE THE TOP ISSUES THAT CONCERN THE CITY OF OWENSBORO AND ITS CITIZENS, AND HOW DO YOU BELIEVE CITY GOVERNMENT CAN ADDRESS THOSE CONCERNS?

MIMI DAVIS:

1. Education and Economic Development: The critical relationship between education and economic development is an important issue. The city can address this concern by continuing to seek state funding to build an advanced technology center.

As project director of the Learning Community (an initiative of the Owensboro Citizens Committee on Education) and as co-chair of the early childhood committee of the Greater Owensboro Education Alliance, I will promote lifelong learning opportunities that will contribute to an educated work force and promote economic development.

As mayor, I will utilize the Kentucky League of Cities, the National League of Cities, and the U.S. Council of Mayors as resources to develop ideas that foster lifelong learning opportunities for us all. Supporting educational opportunities is a major goal of all three organizations.

2. **Public Safety:** I plan to do whatever is necessary to support the city's public safety officers as they strive to keep us safe and secure. I will work with and support our police officers as they combat our community's illegal drug problems—an increasingly serious issue.
3. **Stormwater Management:** I will support the implementation of our city's Stormwater Master Plan. Many goals of the plan have been achieved but much remains to be accomplished. I will also support the city's yearly stormwater/sewer system maintenance program.
4. **Riverfront Development:** The city's riverfront is one of our greatest assets—as a great former mayor said, “It's our living room, our front door.” I will support the comprehensive Riverfront Development Plan and collaborate with our elected officials at the state and federal levels to obtain additional funding for the project. Securing additional funds for the stabilization wall to prevent future erosion is of utmost importance.
5. **Health:** I will work with area agencies to promote healthy lifestyle choices. I also am passionate about the development of a state-of-the-art cancer center that will focus on prevention, education, early detection, and quality treatment. Currently, I am actively working with The Foundation for Health of Owensboro Medical Health System to secure a federal grant for two new Linear Accelerators to meet the needs of patients who require radiation treatment. The current equipment is 11 years old and breaks down too frequently.

J. TODD INMAN:

We need a city where citizen input is welcomed, where economic development is creating new and better-paying jobs, where we're developing leaders, where our downtown and riverfront are developed to their fullest extent, where local businesses and entrepreneurs are encouraged to grow, and where we're getting the most we can from Frankfort and Washington, D.C.

My first initiative is the creation of a Community Visioning Plan that would gather citizen input and ideas in an unprecedented fashion. Surveys, forums, roundtable discussions and direct interviews would all be used to encourage ideas from everyone.

The second state of the Visioning Plan would be a comprehensive survey of Owensboro's residents, a census of sorts. Every Owensboro resident would be sent a general visioning survey and have an opportunity for their voice to be heard. At the same time, in-depth surveys regarding specific parts of our core services, police, fire, sanitation and other city departments would be used to learn from the people inside and outside those areas and how those services can be delivered as the best value for the taxpayer's dollar.

I would offer critical human services, infrastructure and the like issues which are before city government today, such as substance abuse and drainage, are also a critical part of city government.

AL MATTINGLY:

The top issues in no particular order are:

- A. Economic development—The city can continue to work on this issue with the county by funding the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corp. (Industry Inc.). We must work closely, not only with the county, but also with others in our region who have just as much at stake as we do. As Mayor, I will call for a Western Kentucky Economic Summit hosted by Owensboro to see how we can work together regionally to attract more industry to Western Kentucky.
- B. Work force development-This is tied closely to the first issue. Without a sufficient and well-trained work force we are at a significant disadvantage with other communities. The Technology Center is a start but we must realize that hard skills are only a part of the equation. Soft skills such as math and language arts as well as the ability to show up on time, listen to detail and apply what is learned are also important.

- C. The third part of the puzzle is education. We must become a community where learning is prized and rewarded. A learning community is one that believes in learning for all ages and places its importance at the top of their quality of life chart. For too long we have placed learning at the bottom of the ladder. Now, the new economy prizes mental skills as much or more than physical skills and we must somehow convey that in a pertinent way to our young people, parents and work force.
- D. Health Care--One of the major concerns, if not the number one concern of our community is health care. It touches each and every one of us regardless of our socioeconomic station in life. The Public Life Foundation did a study that tells us we have one of the highest costs for health insurance in the state and one of the highest ratios of patients to primary care physicians in the state. As Mayor I will ask why this is and what is the solution. I also believe there is much distrust between the public and the hospital. I will ask the new CEO and the Hospital board to address the issue and work to restore the public trust of this institution.
- E. Riverfront Development--The development of our riverfront is vital for several reasons. First it will help focus the community toward the river again and will encourage the redevelopment of downtown. But the most important thing that riverfront development will do is to give the community something to be proud of and in doing so energize civic pride and participation. As mayor I will work to make sure that this development goes forward.
- F. Public Safety and Infrastructure-I add a sixth issue because I believe that public safety and infrastructure along with parks and recreation are the reasons people come together and form governments. As mayor I will continue to emphasize the delivery of these service at the levels deserved by the citizens of this community.
- G. Long Range Plan--As mayor I will call for a long range plan, put together with input from the community that will tie together all of the above issues as well as all the master plans done over the last five years. As a community, we will spend over \$500 million dollars in the next ten years. We want to be sure, as public officials, that we spend this money wisely and in the way our community desires.

TOM WATSON:

- A. Effective Community Leadership: I believe we can be the most effective, efficient community by beginning the discussion on consolidated government.

- B. Economic Development: Everything I do as mayor will be with an emphasis on economic development. Creating a more efficient government will be the focus of this process. I will look for a niche or create one.
- C. Education, Training and Workforce Development: Without continued progress in education, our economic future will be bleak. I will continue the fight for the tech center. My association with our state and national elected officials will be an asset that sets me apart from the other candidates. I will try to create a local student professional scholarship program and a college student intern program.
- D. Quality of Life Issues: Riverfront development and entertainment opportunities for all citizens. City sponsored curbside recycling (if voluntary). Customer service training should be provided for all city employees. Substance abuse programs for public safety with an emphasis on rehab are important for the health of the community. Continued progress with health care and consistent monitoring of how health care is delivered.
- E. Basic Services: As mayor, I will focus on continued progress with infrastructure, transportation, trash, drainage, sewers, police and fire protection.

AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, DO YOU FEEL YOUR PRIMARY FOCUS SHOULD BE ON INTERNAL CITY GOVERNMENT MATTERS (STREETS, SEWERS, POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION, ETC.) OR EXTERNAL MATTERS RELATING TO COMMUNITY PROGRESS (COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, NETWORKING IN FRANKFORT, ETC.)? HOW WOULD YOU BALANCE YOUR DUTIES ACCORDINGLY?

MIMI DAVIS:

As mayor, I plan to maintain a balance between external and internal matters. The budget process each spring, however, provides the City Commission the opportunity to focus intently on internal matters of the city.

At other times, I will balance my duties accordingly by thoughtfully studying the issues (external and internal) and allocating time appropriately. I have done this as city commissioner.

J. TODD INMAN:

I feel the primary role of city government is to first provide the internal city

government operations. Your mayor should provide guidance and leadership on these issues but the primary caretaker should be that of the paid professional staff.

Your mayor's primary focus should be on those external matters which affect the city. By addressing "bigger picture" items such as workforce development and the acquisition of federal and state funding, this will open more opportunities to internal city matters. Without a growing economy, continued growth in tax revenue and a favorable community climate the core services listed above will not have revenue necessary to continue their function.

AL MATTINGLY:

As an elected official I believe that internal and external affairs are equally important. The nice thing about a city manager form of government is that a certain amount of the internal detail is taken care of by the city manager through the department heads. The mayor can then use his time for external matters such as networking with state and federal officials, promoting the value of education, involving the community in discussions that question the current way we do economic and workforce development and using the power and prestige of the mayor's office to make sure the right questions are asked. As city commissioner, I spent 25% of my time on external affairs and 75% on internal affairs or setting policy. As mayor, I believe that these percentages will be more balanced.

A mayor is no different than any other leader. He or she may have many issues that they juggle day to day, giving priority to the most pressing one at the time. I do that in my business every day. At the same time I am continually thinking about the future and questioning the way things are done. If I don't, my business suffers and soon starts to decline. A mayor doesn't have to have all the answers but he should be willing to ask the questions!

TOM WATSON:

I feel that my focus will be equally balanced internally and externally. I feel we have very proficient city department heads. Our City Manager is very qualified to manage these people and to micromanage him would be counterproductive.

Working externally is the area I would be most effective. My relationship with state and federally elected officials is excellent. Having the opportunity to lobby in Washington for years will give me a definite advantage in this area. Being able to navigate these important waters will be a huge advantage for our citizens.

As I look for ways to boost economic development, I will offer these ideas in short form with more detail to be found on the Web site (watsonformayor.com), or you can contact me personally for more details.

I would like to create a riverfront improvement tax management financing district. We would need the General Assembly to adopt legislation to achieve this. I have talked with Brian Crall who believes this is possible. There is precedence for this type of legislation as Bowling Green utilized this for their industrial park.

I would like to create a program offering training vouchers to businesses that would be accepted at local colleges. Crafted properly, this money could count toward the one million dollar commitment required as a match for the technology center.

Other programs I would promote include creating a high wage job incentive program for businesses that create primary jobs at 200% of the local average. Those businesses could receive a grant of "x" number of dollars.

I would also create a small business council to review the license and regulations required to do business in the city with the goal of creating a single application process.

I would like to create a network of businesses that would help high school students who by no other means available get a chance to continue their education. This "adopt a scholar program" would need to be done in conjunction with the area schools so that all high school graduates would have a chance to continue their education.