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### Candidates' Public Square, March 26, 2005 and April 2, 2005



[Listen to the commentary \(3/26/05\): RealAudio | MP3 Download](#)

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#### Candidates Public Square, March 26, 2005

(rebroadcast 6 pm Monday, April 4): Click on a name below to read the transcript of their statement.

##### Parkland Board of Trustees Candidates (vote for three):

Donna Giertz  
David Ehler  
Dana Trimble  
Al Weiss  
Susan Maurer  
Paul Quinlan

##### Champaign School Board Candidates (vote for three):

Nicole Storch  
Randal Kobel  
Barry Rowe  
Arlene Blank  
David Tomlinson  
Jeff Wampler

##### Contested Urbana School Board, District 2:

Jerry Moreland  
Benita Rollins-Gay (no transcript)

#### Candidates Public Square, April 2, 2005

(rebroadcast 6 pm Monday, April 4):

##### City of Champaign Township Supervisor:

Linda Abernathy  
Vicky Jones

##### City Clerk of Urbana:

John Farney  
Phyllis Clark

##### City of Champaign City Council, District 1:

Gina Jackson  
JW Pirtle (declined our offer to submit a commentary)

##### City of Champaign City Council, District 3:

Matt Varble  
Vic McIntosh (did not respond to our offer to submit a commentary)

##### City of Urbana City Council Candidates, Ward 4:

Brandon Bowersox

### Community

Events

Projects &  
Resources

Services

Community  
Advisory  
Committee

Anna Wall Scott

**City of Urbana City Council Candidates, Ward 5:**

Dennis Roberts  
Louis Mesker

**March 26, 2005**

Parkland Board of Trustees Candidates (vote for three):

Donna Giertz  
David Ehler  
Dana Trimble  
Al Weiss  
Susan Maurer  
Paul Quinlan

I'm **Donna Giertz**. I am running for the Parkland College Board of Trustees. I feel privileged to have taught at Parkland for the past 24 years. It is a tremendous asset in this community. I have always been active in community affairs and have experience in government, education and business that will make me an effective trustee. In light of our financial situation in the future, I feel especially qualified for this position because of my business background. At Parkland, I taught management, marketing and business-related courses I also know the college--its strengths and challenges and the diversity of the student body. I have met so many wonderful students throughout my teaching career there. Most are so appreciative of help and direction from the faculty. I found it very rewarding. In my retirement, I would like to give back to this outstanding college and community.

Parkland will be facing some daunting challenges in the future-- shrinking of state funding and the growing number of under-prepared students. Another challenge is the way Parkland embraces new technologies while maintaining its tradition as a student-friendly institution. I believe board members will be confronted with technology issues that we can scarcely imagine today.

As demonstrated by my campaign, I will be an active and involved trustee who will represent the college well in the local community and the state.

My goal in running for the Parkland College Board of Trustees is to insure that Parkland continues to provide a positive, high quality learning environment for its students at an affordable price and to enhance the college's role in the community and its service to students in the area.

Thank you.

Donna H. Giertz  
601 Park Lane Dr.  
Champaign, IL 61820  
217-351-9148

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Good Morning:

I would like to introduce myself: this is **David Ehler**. I currently reside at 4007 East Airport Road, Urbana, with my wife Julie. We have one son, Aaron and our late daughter, Amber. I currently serve on the Parkland Board of Trustees and I desire to continue in that capacity. I graduated from Rantoul Township High School in 1970. In 1974, I received my Bachelor of Science degree from the school of agriculture at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and have worked at the family business in Thomasboro managing the retail agricultural seed division since that time.

Having the privilege to serve as a trustee on the Parkland Board has afforded me the opportunity to work with some of the best people available in post secondary education. The administration, faculty, and staff have positioned the college on a solid foundation for the future. In times of declining state financial support, increasing health care costs and increasing enrollments, to name a few issues, the college has continued to excel. There is little doubt about the ability of the college to create an excellent graduate for the communities of District 505. The opportunities for the future of the college remain numerous. The interest level remains high in an equine center, and the completion of the greenhouse project remain as but two areas of my attention. As a board member, I would like to continue to lend my ideas and experience to the college.

I hope to retain my seat on the board of trustees at Parkland College. I would like to continue to give back to the community that has given so much to me, and would appreciate your vote in the April 5 election. This is David Ehler.

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My name is **Dana Trimble** and I am a candidate for re-election to the Parkland College Board of Trustees. It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as a member of the Parkland Board and to participate in helping an already exceptional institution become stronger, more flexible, more diverse, and better positioned to move forward in the future.

I was born and raised on a grain and livestock farm in Douglas County and graduated from Newman High School. I received both a Bachelor and Masters degree from the University of Illinois in agriculture. My wife, Binnie, works at the U of I in the Dean's Office of the College of Engineering. We have three children, two children-in-law and a granddaughter.

My diverse work career includes years on the family farm, and several years in management: of a seed corn company, a hazardous waste recycling plant, locally owned banks and now with Cargill, buying grain, contracting specialty grains and tailoring strategies to help maximize farmers' returns. Throughout these years our family has been active in local school, church, and community activities. I served on our local school board for over twelve years.

I have taken courses at Parkland College to enhance the knowledge and/or skills required in a current occupation as well as having taken courses to help in career transitions. Our children all benefited from the College For Kids Program. My desire to serve another term is the same desire that motivated me to seek election before: a chance to give back to the area that has provided me educational opportunities, a good place to raise a family and several career opportunities.

Parkland College belongs to the citizens of the district and provides much more than classrooms. It's a gathering place for skill development, continuing education, cultural events and social interaction. Whether on the main campus or at a satellite location, whether through a young or a 'young at heart' student; Parkland pays dividends by returning productive enriched minds to the community.

Elect a Parkland College Board of Trustees with the experience, knowledge and commitment to keep Parkland College a strong community center.

Thank you.

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My name is **Al Weiss** and I am running for Parkland Board of Trustees.

In December, a Parkland professor, contacted me about running for the

Board of Trustees. He was concerned about the future direction of the College when budgets are uncertain and there may be changes in administration. He knew that because I am an Educator with more than 15 years experience, I would ensure that community concerns were integrated into any policy decisions that the college made. Needless to say, I accepted the challenge and put my name on the ballot for April.

As with all publicly funded education, the greatest challenge facing Parkland will be maintaining a high level of education while state and federal funds are being reduced. It is imperative that someone with an education background evaluate the impact of the cuts in order to mitigate their impact on Parkland's most vital assets—its faculty, staff and students. As a member of the Board of Trustees, I will ensure that all Parkland's faculty, staff, and students are given top priority when budget and funding decisions are being made.

In the coming years my Priorities will be:

Ensuring that Parkland remains friendly and accessible to students with families by working to expand daycare options and enhance other programs for students with small children.

I will also ensure that Parkland maintains and extends flexible class scheduling, night and weekend classes, and online distance courses for students who work full-time or live in rural areas far from campus.

And last I will ensure that tuition remains reasonable and affordable for all residents of the Parkland district.

Parkland is a vital and important asset to East Central Illinois' Education Community, and I ask for your trust in making sure it remains available to all those who need it. Please vote for Al Weiss for Parkland Board of Trustees on April 5th.

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I'm **Susan Maurer** and I'm a candidate for Trustee for the Parkland College Board. I retired from Parkland in 2002 after 28.5 years as an instructor in the X-ray program. I was the Department Chair for Health Professions for my last 15 years. I have lived in Tolono for the last 23 years and served on the Unit 7 School Board for seven years from 1989 to 1996. I was elected to the Regional Board of Education for Champaign and Ford Counties in 1997. I am very interested in career and vocational education and was instrumental in the establishment of the dual credit program through which high school students can take Parkland classes and earn credit both at the high school and college level.

I believe that two pressing issues facing Parkland College over the next few years are the replacement of long term faculty, staff, and administration and the maintenance of high quality career and technical programs. Community colleges were started to meet local needs for high quality, lower cost education. They are experiencing many retirements of the first generation of faculty and staff. Hiring the right people as replacements is critical to continuing the excellent reputation Parkland College has earned.

Even as state funding is becoming problematic for community colleges, the public schools are closing vocational and technical programs because of lack of funding, low enrollment, and lack of trained teachers. Parkland does an excellent job of listening to the community through its advisory committees and Futures Conferences and using that input to create and adapt programs to meet the needs of our district. That relationship with the community must continue.

I am confident I have the skills and experience to be an excellent contributing Trustee.

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Paul Quinlan  
1817 Crescent Drive  
Champaign, IL 61821  
217/359-3256

My name is **Paul Quinlan**. I was a public school teacher for 35 years. I have been a member of the Parkland Board for two terms totaling 12 years.

I would submit that the Parkland Board of Trustees has been a strong supportive force backing Dr. Zelema Harris, Parkland's President. Parkland College has been of service to everyone both in and out of the District 505 who has a need for educational help from a community college.

The Parkland Board has a way of arriving at an agreement when there's a difference of opinion on the issues that they face. I believe that it is in the best interest of the public to continue with the current board for another term. As I am part of that board, I ask for your vote on April 5.

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Champaign School Board Candidates (vote for three):

Nicole Storch  
Randal Kobel  
Barry Rowe  
Arlene Blank  
David Tomlinson  
Jeff Wampler

Nicole Storch  
2211 N Barker Road  
Champaign, IL 61822  
217/863-2837

My name is **Nicole Storch**. I am a candidate for Champaign Unit 4 School Board. For 37 years I have worked with the Champaign Public Schools as a mother, a teacher, a dean of Students and as school board member.

I have consistently advocated for the highest academic standards for all students. To do this we must provide the necessary curricular resources to insure that each child is challenged to the best of his or her ability. In addition, in order to close the achievement gap we must provide a support system for those students whose parents either cannot or will not help them.

I support every effort to insure that our schools are safe and orderly. We must provide an atmosphere where teachers can teach and children can learn. To do this, discipline must be enforced fairly and consistently throughout the district, and parent involvement should be encouraged at every level.

I have earned a reputation as a financial conservative. This district is deeply in debt and difficult decisions will have to be made. I pledge to continue to manage the district's resources in a responsible manner.

Public service has always been an important part of my life. I believe that my background and experience in the schools gives me a unique perspective. In short, I have a record I am running on, not running from!

I ask for your support and your confidence one more time—Thank you.

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My name is **Randy Kobel**. I'm running for the Unit 4 school board. I'm a lifelong resident of Champaign; a product of the Unit 4 school system; and the father of two sons attending Franklin Middle School.

My sole purpose for running is to serve the interests of the district students in the best possible manner. I believe that public schools are critical to everyone and that good public schools reflect a healthy community.

The Unit 4 District faces many challenges including a budget deficit, retaining our wonderful teachers and support staff, equity issues and an aging physical plant. How we face these challenges now will define us as a community for many years.

I believe that we can resolve our issues by establishing a sense of trust between the district administration; the teachers and staff; the board; and the many diverse sectors of our community. We can only do this if everyone becomes involved with a willingness to speak frankly and listen openly. We have ready access to an incredibly well educated and talented community. We need to tap that pool of talent for creative solutions.

We should expect nothing short of excellence from our public schools. We have no problems that can't be resolved by good management, good planning and good will. Schools are not just buildings full of kids. They are our future. They are our future employees, bosses, civic leaders and neighbors. To accept mediocrity from our schools is to accept mediocrity in every aspect of our lives.

The only promise I make is to work hard for our children. To study the issues; listen carefully; and make my decisions based on what is best for all of the children.

Thank you for your time. Please make informed choices on April fifth.

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My name is **Barry Rowe** and I'm running for the Champaign Unit 4 school board. I retired in June, 2004 after 33 years of teaching. 25 of those years were in the Champaign schools. I have taught Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Computer Science in Champaign and in Danville, Oakwood, at the Illinois State University High School, Storefront School, and Parkland College. I also served as educational technology director for the Champaign schools for 4 years. My wife is a first grade teacher at Bottenfield school in Champaign and both of my children attended the Champaign schools and are now in college.

I believe we need to provide the best education possible for all students. The current concern about the African-American student achievement gap needs to be faced not just so we can "get out from under" the court's consent decree, but because it is right. All students can learn and our schools have not done as well as we can to close the achievement gap. But the current method of facing this problem is ignoring those who will help these students the most -- the fine teaching staff of the Champaign schools. For true learning to take place, we must support the people who are in the front line of education do their job. True educational reform comes out of dedicated teachers deciding to make changes. This cannot be dictated by the board or administration. Support and respect for the teaching staff is what will make these reforms successful. The administrative team needs to see that the board expects them to work with the teachers -- not micromanage them. There needs to be a change in the board.

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Hi, I'm **Arlene Blank**, a candidate for the Champaign Unit 4 School Board. I retired from the school district in June 2002 after 29 years, the last 16 as the Assistant Superintendent for Support Services.

I am very knowledgeable about the District and am very concerned about its recent fiscal problems. Unit 4 has been the beneficiary of several years of sustained economic growth in Champaign and Savoy. Growth which has provided significant financial resources for the District.

Unfortunately, in little more than two and one half years the District has found itself with a debt of almost five million dollars. A debt which will require significant budget cuts, cuts which will result in lost positions among the teaching, support and administrative staffs.

At a time when the District is focusing on increasing academic achievement, it must cut its budget. Cuts of two million dollars in fiscal years 2006 and 2007 along with one million in 2008 will hamper these efforts.

Discussion on how to continue to provide the quality education which Unit 4 owes to its students and taxpayers has not to date addressed the need for a written fiscal plan which would lessen the impact of the budget cuts and develop ways and means whereby the District will live within its budget and avoid the fiscal problems in future years which it now faces. The District needs to permanently employ a Business Manager with the expertise to manage an 80 million dollar budget. The voters in Unit 4 need to elect Board members, on April 5, who will pay attention to fiscal affairs rather than apparently approving expenditures without sufficient study and realizing the impact they will have on the budget and ultimately student achievement.

I am asking you to cast your vote for Arlene Blank , on April 5, and I pledge that I will work diligently to serve as a Board member who sets policy and not micro manage and work with my fellow Board members to develop a fiscal plan which provides for a balanced budget which the District can live within and continue to increase student achievement.

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Good morning, my name is **Dave Tomlinson**, and I am a candidate for the Champaign schools unit 4 board of education. My family and I have lived in the Champaign area for almost 20 years. We have two children in the district, a daughter at centennial and a son at Jefferson.

Through my position as a local firefighter, I have had the opportunity to teach many of your children important fire safety and water safety lessons in their classrooms. Over the last eight years I have had the pleasure of being in all of the districts elementary and middle schools, along with centennial to bring important safety messages to our children.

I have become increasingly concerned about the lack of equity for ALL students in the district, the lack of support that teachers and staff receive and the overall climate in the schools. I have seen behavior and discipline issues that are getting worse. These issues along with the current financial situation of the district have motivated me to try and bring positive change to the board.

When you elect me to serve your children, the teachers and staff, and you the taxpayers, I will work hard to make governance decisions with the following guiding principles.

1. How does this decision effect the achievement of every segment of our

student population?

2. How does this decision affect the teachers and support staff?

And

3. How does this decision effect the dollar investment you have made with your local, state, and federal taxes?

I firmly believe that besides the child's family, that the most important people in a young person's life are the teachers, principals and school staff. We, as parents, citizens and taxpayers, must support these hard working people who help shape the very future of our society.

I look forward to serving your children and you over the next four years and I appreciate your vote. Look at the bottom of the ballot for David Tomlinson!

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My name is **Jeff Wampler** and I am a candidate for re-election to the Champaign Unit 4 School District. I have served on the Board for 4 years.

I am a life long resident of Champaign. I have 3 children that attend District schools, a son at Bottenfield, a daughter at Edison Middle School and my oldest son at Central High School.

When I took office, test scores were declining for all students, especially for minority and low income students. The Board asked the new Administration to make closing the achievement gap the number one priority.

Now, Stratton has made 2 consecutive years of gain that have removed them off the States warning list. Test scores are up for the first time in years. All elementary scores at the District level are now above State averages. An example of the achievements include third grade math, where scores for white students increased 8.6%, scores for african-american students increased 29.4% and scores for low income students increased 25.4%. The new Administration is making a difference.

The District is also dealing with substantial Budget cuts. The District must find a way to reduce spending while still protecting student achievement.

I ask for your support of April 5.

Jeff Wampler

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**Contested Urbana School Board, District 2:**

Jerry Moreland

Benita Rollins-Gay (no transcript)

Hello, my name is **Jerry G. Moreland**. I am currently a member of the Board of Education, Urbana District #116, Ward 2.

It has been my pleasure to serve on the Board of Education and the community of Urbana. My involvement began when my third daughter, Novella, enrolled at King School in Urbana. Naturally, my wife, Shirley and I became involved in every facet of my daughters education. Shirley and I joined the PTA and later heard of a grass roots organization by the name of United Citizens and Neighbors (UCAN). This organization meets once a



month to improve the educational and living standards for residents in the King School and Carle Park neighborhoods. I joined UCAN and in time was elected it's President. In response to the over-crowding issues at King School, UCAN was involved in the petition to the Urbana School District for the four classroom addition.

In the year 2003 there was an election for the vacant seat on the Urbana BOE, so I ran as a write-in candidate for Ward 2 and won.

In the next four years, I'd like to continue to serve the members of my community. To continue to work for the students of our district to ensure that all students get the best opportunities for a quality education. There are resolutions to the issues of closing the achievement gap, the budget, the unkept promise of Governor Blagojevich to provide the remaining funds totalling \$250K to USD #116 for the four classrooms added at King School; all of which I'd like to be a part of.

These are just a few reasons why I'd like your vote on April 5th. The most important being the quality of education provided to the students of Urbana School District #116.

Thank You for Your Time and Consideration and to WILL Radio for The Candidates Public Square.

Jerry G. Moreland

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**Candidates Public Square, April 2, 2005;  
Candidates Listed by Office**

**City of Champaign Township Supervisor:**

Linda Abernathy  
Vicky Jones

**Linda Abernathy**

I'm Linda Abernathy - Candidate for City of Champaign Township Supervisor. The supervisor is CEO of the Township and oversees general assistance to the poor and serves on the Champaign Urbana Public Health District Board.

In 1994, I founded Best Interest of Children to prevent children from experiencing out of home placements. I currently serve as the President and CEO. BIOC was selected as a state pilot site for the Family Conference Program, specifically developed to keep children safely at home. Each year we serve over 250 children and partner extensively with the community.

I have been a resident of Champaign for 36 years. This month I celebrated 33 years of marriage. We have two daughters, four grandchildren and have attended Vineyard Christian fellowship for over 24 years.

I am an experienced leader with a reputation for honesty, integrity and fiscal responsibility. I have over 14 years experience in township government. I was appointed by Governor Thompson to serve as an Illinois delegate for a national discussion about welfare.

Both Democrats and Republicans have praised my work with children and families.

As your Township Supervisor, I will serve with the same enthusiasm and hard work. I will respect families while helping them transition from dependence to independence and will work with the business community to create entry level jobs.

As a board member of the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District I will work to preserve vital services for our children and elderly while working to improve staff morale.

I look forward to serving the citizens Champaign - Urbana and beginning an open honest dialogue - as we together make this office a model for other communities.

I'm Linda Abernathy and I'd appreciate your vote April 5<sup>th</sup>.

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**Vicky Jones**

I am Vicky Jones and I am a candidate to be your new Township Supervisor for the City of Champaign. I have been a resident of this Township for the last 38 years and have raised my daughters here. I have volunteered many hours serving civic organizations such as the Girl Scouts, Little League, and the Champaign School district.

Since 1996, I have been serving my community as a General Assistance Caseworker for the Township office. My experiences in this position have made me very aware of the need for public assistance in our society. My current, firsthand knowledge of rules governing the General Assistance program allows me to administer the policies as required by the State.

Township Government is supported by real estate taxes. As the Supervisor, I will guarantee accountability to the taxpayers for their tax dollars while continuing to serve qualified residents of our community.

I believe I can bring a fresh, new prospective and renewed energy to the Board at the C-U Public Health District, and look forward to being on that Board.

I am the most qualified person to fill this position for our community. Knowledge and experience are imperative to keeping Township Government running smoothly. I have worked to become familiar with all functions carried out by the Supervisor. I would very much like to expand my service to our community from the current Township Caseworker to being YOUR new Township Supervisor. Together, we can continue making Township services available, and affordable, for everyone. Please support me, Vicky Jones, on April 5th.

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**City Clerk of Urbana**

John Farney  
Phyllis Clark

**John Farney**

Hello, my name is John Farney and I am a candidate for Urbana City Clerk.

There are several issues surrounding Phyllis Clark's mismanagement of her office that encouraged me to run.

Clark failed by providing misinformation during this year's primary election. Clark said candidates for Alderman needed only 1 petition signature to be on the ballot. That is false. State law says no fewer than 25 signatures is required to be on the ballot.

Clark disregarded notices from the County Clerk reminding her to publish a Specimen Ballot before the February 22 primary election. Clark did not publish this ballot as required by law.

The name of Joanne Chester, Cunningham Township Assessor, will appear

on the ballot misspelled because of Phyllis Clark. My own name will not appear on the ballot as I filed, my nickname "J.J." was omitted by Clark.

I will save taxpayer money through digital documentation, eliminating waste in office supplies. Not only is this a taxpayer friendly idea, it's environmentally friendly as the gross waste of paper would be eliminated.

I intend to have all public documents that go through this office available on the web. Phyllis Clark has fought to keep her office from modernization and becoming more customer friendly. Why wouldn't you want citizens to have 24-hour access to your office?

I promise to be at work as City Clerk. Phyllis Clark is absent from the office on a regular basis. No business can be successful without the boss there to oversee day to day operations.

I promise to no longer practice nepotism. Clark's current practice of having family on the city payroll costs every citizen of Urbana.

And, let's not forget that Phyllis Clark doesn't pay her taxes -- that's a fact!

It's time for a change in City Hall. I am that needed change. I promise to be a steward of the public trust by being accurate and dependable. I promise that I will be the outsider in City Hall as I have no political agenda and owe nothing to special interests that have substantial influence on the incoming City Administration.

Electing John Farney as your next City Clerk will be the first step in true progress for Urbana. I would appreciate your vote on April 5.

**Clarification** from Jay Pearce, WILL Radio Station Manager:

The tax in question was a Sewer Benefit Tax of \$124, which was due last summer and has since been paid.

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### **Phyllis Clark**

Hi! I'm Phyllis Clark the Urbana City Clerk. I have had the pleasure of serving as your City Clerk for the last 12 years and would like to continue serving you for another term.

I am the immediate past president of the Municipal Clerks of Illinois. Under my leadership I provided the clerks of Illinois with legislative guidance, educational seminars, scholarship programs and mentors to help them fulfill their requirements for certification and professional growth.

During my tenure as City Clerk, I have implemented a filing system that has decreased the retrieval time for documents, worked with the Information Systems department of the City to provide citizens access to city council agendas and packets via the internet as well as working in conjunction with the Illinois State Archives to bring current the city's document destruction policy.

In my next term as your clerk, I will bring forth more technology that will enhance the flow of the city council. It is my quest to implement the paperless agenda and packets by working to digitize this process.

April 5<sup>th</sup> is Election Day for municipal government and your vote counts. Your vote for Phyllis D. Clark is a vote for continued professionalism, efficiency and nonpartisan service.

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**City of Champaign City Council, District 1:**  
Gina Jackson

JW Pirtle (declined our offer to submit a commentary)

**Gina Jackson**

Hi, I'm Gina Jackson candidate for District 1 Champaign City Council. I was born and raised in the Champaign-Urbana area. As a child I attended Urbana High School where I participated in track and field and Student government. I was inducted into the school's Hall of Fame for my accomplishments. I attended the U Of I for a time, then entered the United States Army and served 23 years.

I have consistently been an advocate for social justice and change. This trait was inherited from my grandparents who were proprietors of Holt Sanitation Hauling Company and Larry's Cafe. I am the youngest of four children my parents are Edwin and Daisy Jackson both long time community activists and life long residents of the C-U area.

This historical connection gives me a unique perspective into the culture of District 1 as well as the issues and problems facing its residents.

I am a Member of Church Of the Living God in Champaign and also Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority. I'm currently serving on the follow boards and commissions: Champaign County Mental Health Board, Champaign Children's Advocacy Center, City of Champaign Planning Commission and the American Legion local, county, and state levels.

I will be a valuable asset to the Champaign City Council. As representative for District 1, I will put forth a determined effort, tirelessly fighting for the betterment of the district including but certainly not limited to:

Ensuring proportionate distribution of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds.

Encouraging and seeking funding for neighborhood commercial and economical development

Instituting Quarterly Town Hall Precinct meetings to include the University community.

Partnering in developing a healthier working relations with the Champaign Police Department to ensure a safer environment for all residents.

It's time for a change - vote for me Gina Jackson, dedicated and committed to a better Champaign.

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**City of Champaign City Council, District 3:**

Matt Varble

Vic McIntosh (did not respond to our offer to submit a commentary)

**Matt Varble**

My name is Matt Varble and I am running for Champaign City Council in District 3. I am employed as an Equal Opportunity Manager for ADM. I also possess a degree in industrial and labor relations and human resource management from Cornell University and am currently pursuing an MBA. I have previously served in our city government as a Human Relations Commission for the City of Champaign.

I believe your vote for city council on April 5<sup>th</sup> is an endorsement of the vision and ideas that I have presented to our community. The ideas I have presented include having a smoke free environment in our city parks and restaurants, promoting smart growth in our community, working to improve race relations, and pursuing increased economic development in Northeast Champaign through obtaining Federal Empowerment Zone designation.

The old guard still remains in strong support of my opponent for the City Council race in District 3 even though no real promises, ideas, or vision has been presented to the community from the opposition. Thus, I believe it is time for new people, new voices, and new ideas to be given an opportunity to lead, by being elected as your representative. Let's work together to move into the future by bringing a new vision and new approach to our City government. I respectfully ask for your support on the April 5 general election.

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**City of Urbana City Council Candidates, Ward 4:**

Brandon Bowersox

Anna Wall Scott

**Brandon Bowersox**

I'm Brandon Bowersox. I am a Democratic candidate for Urbana City Council, Ward 4. I face an opponent on April 5, so please learn about the candidates and plan to vote.

I became involved in Urbana's growth planning in 2000. As co-owner of a downtown Urbana business, I was a public participant in the Downtown Strategic Planning process which created a plan and action steps to revitalize downtown. Since then I have participated in the county's Long Range Transportation Plan, Urbana's Comprehensive Plan, and more. Now I'm running for City Council to continue working for healthy, sustainable growth in Urbana.

On the Urbana City Council I will:

- 1) Promote smart growth and responsible business expansion. We must build our tax base and support our schools with sustainable growth.
- 2) Preserve and build strong neighborhoods. We must preserve historic structures, enforce codes, and maintain quality parks, trees, and sidewalks.
- 3) Protect our environment. We must expand recycling and safeguard our open space and water resources.

and 4) Revitalize our downtown and Philo Road. We must continue the rebirth of downtown and create a new vision for Philo Road.

What is smart growth? Urbana can grow smartly and sustainably by using proven techniques to discourage sprawl and unplanned growth:

- Balanced transportation plans can support a healthy balance of driving, walking, biking, and public transit.
- Design guidelines are a tool to ensure that new development is compatible with the neighborhood.
- Big box zoning can ensure that large stores do not hurt residential areas or local businesses.

We can use proven tools to encourage quality growth on the edges and redevelopment inside the city.

I am a business owner, homeowner, and I want to continue my work for healthy growth in Urbana. To learn more about my platform, or to send your ideas and suggestions for Urbana, visit my website: W W W dot vote bowersox dot org, that's Vote B O W E R S O X dot org.

Please mark your calendar to vote Tuesday, April 5.

**Anna Wall Scott**

Thank you for your invitation to participate in "The Candidate's Public Square." I am a candidate for the office of Urbana Alderman, to serve Ward 4. I have resided at the Ward 4, address of 309 West Michigan Ave. for over 30 years. I am a professor of Sociology at Parkland College, with the degrees of B.A., M. Ed, and M.S.W. all received at the University of Illinois, Urbana.

As a candidate for the office of Urbana's 4<sup>th</sup> ward Alderman, my political actions will be dictated by the needs of the city of Urbana, and my constituents. Economic growth and curbing the escalating tax burdens facing property owners are a few of my priorities. One approach which in my opinion would be effective in addressing economic growth, would be the appointment of a Commission to specifically address this problem. This commission should be made up of successful entrepreneurs, and citizens who would advise the City Council on how to achieve this goal. It is my opinion that healthy economic growth would have positive reverberations for the entire community. Another result might be economic complementarity for the agenda of our great University of Illinois.

Augmenting our law enforcement would be another priority, since according to the media, various kinds of crime are escalating in the community which pose questions of safety particularly for females.

My political experience is broad. I was the first woman ever elected to the Illinois Democrat State Central Committee, and subsequently served as vice chair of the State Democrat Party (with the late Richard A. Daley) for four years. During that time, I was a member of the Democrat National Committee and a delegate to a Democrat Nominating Convention.

Because of a change in Political Ideology, I became a Republican in 1992; however I will weigh all the evidence on behalf of all political issues with which I might have to consider. Urbana has certain issues which are neither Democrat, nor Republican.

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**City of Urbana City Council Candidates, Ward 5:**

Dennis Roberts  
Louis Mesker

**Dennis Roberts**

Hi listeners of WILL radio.

My name is Dennis Roberts and I am the Democratic candidate for the Urbana City Council in Ward 5. Ward 5 includes the homes of the older East Urbana neighborhoods and the area extending north up Cunningham Avenue to the expressway. It is the largest Ward in the city and it has a diverse population.

During the Primary election I put in a lot of time walking on all the streets in the Ward to knock on doors and say "Hello" to residents. I met Republicans, Democrats, Independents, the unregistered, the homeless, and a woman who had just lost her job. I listened to many stories and many suggestions concerning the future of Urbana. It is my aim to represent all Ward 5 residents and their vision to the best of my ability.

I had served as Chairman of the Historic East Urbana Neighborhood Association and have been the Interim appointment on City Council for Ward 5 for the last 3 months. I've voted on development agreements, the Presbyterian Church expansion, funding proposals, housing money, the domestic partner registry, traffic ordinances, and I helped remove the low wall at Elm and Vine Street that obstructed sight and caused an vehicle accident back in January.

I support commercial development and an increased tax base for the City. I support a beautification and development project on Cunningham Avenue. I am working with HEUNA and the Park District to renew Victory Park.

I hope these goals mesh with your own vision for the future of Urbana, and that you will allow me to continue serving on the Urbana City Council, Ward 5.

Thank you.

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Louis Mesker

My name is Louis Bud Mesker. I am a candidate for alderman in ward five in Urbana. I want to work for all citizens of Urbana for the welfare and prosperity of the entire community.

I am a retired chief fire officer of the University of Illinois Fire Department.

I have assisted in training coordination between Champaign, Urbana, and U of I Fire Departments. This demonstrates my ability to work with diverse government bodies.

I am the project coordinator for an office equipment firm for 35 years and am involved with companies statewide. I know how business works and what it requires.

I am the past District Governor, past president and president-elect of the Greater Champaign County Chapter of AMBUCS.

I am committed to community service especially for the physically challenged in my community.

I believe that government exists to serve, protect, and enhance the quality of life for the citizens who elect it.



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