



Candidate Questions for 2019

Your Name : Dr. Katherine Gaulke

1. What are the most important reasons that you decided to be a candidate for Town of Delavan Supervisor?

There are two Town Supervisor spots to be filled on April 2nd in this nonpartisan election. I am running against incumbents Kim Jedlicka and Larry Malsch. In addition to running for Town Supervisor, Larry Malsch is also running for Town Chairman, which if elected, would leave a Supervisor position open.

I love the Town of Delavan and where we live. When my high school sweetheart - and now husband of 21 years - Jason left the Navy, we chose to raise our family here. I want every family to have the opportunity that Jason and I have had - a great place to live, raise children, vacation and retire.

I am running for Town of Delavan Supervisor because I believe the Town Board needs supervisors with skills in construction, fundraising, and human resources. In addition to my education (doctorate in public service leadership, masters in health administration, and bachelors in business accounting) and founding a nonprofit organization, I have construction management, property management, and grant writing experience. I will be a watchdog for the taxpayer's dollars.

With our town about to build a new fire station, we need Town Supervisors who understand the construction management process and can help control costs and ask the right questions. The taxpayers have approved up to \$4 million for this project. Just because this much is approved doesn't mean we have to spend it all - the goal should be to build a long-lasting, forward-thinking fire station that meets our current and future needs. I worked for the company Cogdell Spencer Erdman (built the St. Mary's/Dean Hospital in Janesville) when we were stationed in Charleston, SC. I was involved throughout all steps of pre-construction, construction, and post-construction on numerous projects; including a free-standing emergency room. We need Town Supervisors who understand and have experience in all these steps.

We need Town Supervisors who understand what managing property entails and can help recommend the most cost-efficient and effective ways to do this. I have experience managing medical office buildings. Our town owns, maintains, and manages numerous properties. The town has a fiduciary duty to the taxpayer to maintain these resources. Additionally, we need someone who understands the personnel needs of managing property and has management experience. As a property manager, I worked with my maintenance staff to keep our properties

safe, propose capital improvements, and protect our shareholders investment. As the Payment Resolution Manager for HCA, I managed a team of 25 people that collected over \$1 million dollars a month. I know and understand what goes into leading staff, monitoring work performance, and fairly addressing staff concerns.

We need Town Supervisors who have grant writing experience and understand how to look for grants. As the founder of the Wisconsin Association of Free & Charitable Clinics (WAFCC), I secured a grant for almost \$400,000. I also worked on a project with the Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS) to review grants, so I have grant reviewing experience too. There are many projects our town should be looking at grant funding for, instead of taxpayer funding. There are many grant opportunities for our lake, watershed, fire station, public safety, parks, and more! I understand what is needed to write a proper grant application. We need Town Supervisors reviewing and giving input on grant applications that understand grant writer expectations and what makes a grant stand out from other grants.

Furthermore, I am disheartened with the amount of closed-door meetings and the apparent lack of transparency by our current town supervisors. Transparency is a cornerstone of democracy; and as Town Supervisor, I will ensure the government is not hiding anything from the taxpayer. The residents should be informed of and involved in key town discussions. After all, it's your money and we work for you.

2. What are the goals you wish to achieve if elected? How do you propose to see your goals implemented?

My plan as your Town Supervisor, is:

- **Fiscal Responsibility:** We need supervisors with accounting experience. I teach college-level finance and public administration. We need supervisors with grant writing experience. I have secured almost a million dollars in grants and sponsorships for nonprofit organizations. I would like to see the town explore more grant, collaboration, and sponsorship opportunities - there are ways to raise funds that don't involve taxes. We need Town Supervisors who not only think of the needs of today, but who plan for the future. We need Supervisors who don't spend taxpayer money for their own personal gain and who think about the long-term implications of their votes. I would like to see the town work with UW Whitewater to conduct an updated Delavan Lake economic impact study. I am committed to responsible spending, proactive budgeting, and protecting our town resources.
- **Public Safety:** We must ensure our police, fire, and rescue have the resources needed to keep us safe. This includes building a long-lasting forward-thinking fire station. Our town is in the process of planning and building a new fire station. It is important to have Town Supervisors that understand the construction management process to keep us on budget and ask insightful questions.
- **Transparent Government:** I support a transparent government that openly communicates with, listens to, and involves the public. Taxpayers should have representation and a voice on how their hard earned money is being spent. I am committed to being your voice on the Town of Delavan board.

3. What do you believe to be the most significant short-term and long-term problems facing our Town? What actions or solutions would you propose to deal with these problems?

Two continuous problems facing our town are road maintenance/repair and water quality (lake and well drinking water). A key challenge in addressing these is funding, in particular rules and assistance established by the state. Our town revenues are rather stagnant and incredibly reliant on property taxes. We need Town Board members who are creative and can think “outside of the box” for partnerships and funding of projects.

I would like to see the town apply for, and be awarded, more grants. There are many projects our town should be looking to grant and partnership funding for, instead of raising taxes or taking on more debt ; for example funding for our lake, watershed, fire station, public safety, parks, and more! We need Town Supervisors that have the ability to find, write, and review grants. I have this experience. I’ve secured close to \$1 million for organizations via grants and fundraisers in my decade of service to the nonprofit sector. I’ve also served as a grant reviewer, so I understand what is needed to write a proper grant application too. We need Town Supervisors reviewing and giving input on grant applications that understand the grant application process.

As a member of the Town of Delavan Public Works Committee, we purchased equipment that allowed Public Works staff to assist with the completion of the Community Park watershed project. This project is reducing the phosphorus and sediment that enters Delavan Lake and helping to stabilize upstream land. This equipment purchase and use of Public Works staff resulted in an additional \$30,000 in taxpayer savings on the project bid. We need supervisors who are thinking about different ways to approach projects and utilize the resources we have to address our problems.

4. The Town’s watershed consultant, Dr. Peter Berrini, has recommended dredging the Mound Road ponds to bring back their effectiveness in trapping sediment and pollutants, to keep them from entering the Inlet and therefore Delavan Lake. Do you support the dredging project, or what other solution to restoring the ponds do you support?

We know that what comes into our lake dictates the quality of our lake. The Delavan Lake watershed is a key driver in both attaining and sustaining a healthy lake ecology and habitat. This is why attention must be given to the watershed, in particular the Mound Road ponds. Dredging in most instances is a tool; it should be followed by continued maintenance and monitoring. Currently, the Mound Road ponds are well overdue for dredging, and as such runoff, silt, and nutrients are flowing into our lake. Recognizing that there are multiple municipalities that economically benefit from a healthy and clean Delavan Lake, we should work together to find funding to dredge the Mound Road pond and maintain them. Additional solutions include strategic placement of restoration and conservation programs.

5. Do you support the Town creating a reserve fund for lake projects?

Yes, I support the Town of Delavan having a reserve fund for lake projects. I believe this already exists and support the continuation of the Town planning for lake improvements via this fund; such as the USGS monitoring, sediment testing, and future dredging projects.

I would also like to see the regional municipalities that economically benefit from our lake be more involved with funding for lake projects; after all, they receive the tax revenues and benefit from the commerce created by Delavan Lake.

6. Currently, a small portion of the Town budget is allocated to maintenance and capital improvements to the Lake. Do you intend to maintain, increase, or decrease this current spending pattern?

Because of the way the state has constrained local governments, the Town budget significantly relies on property taxes. Currently, this creates a rather flat budget and doesn't allow for much inflation or growth in expenses. This makes it challenging to address high dollar capital improvements and even the continued safety of our Town (adding police and fire staff).

I think the Town should be looking at creative ways to partner with other municipalities and organizations, along with apply for more grants to help fund our much needed watershed dredging, maintenance, and monitoring. That's why we need Town Supervisors with grant writing experience.

Property values are bolstered when our lake is healthy and decline when our lake isn't. Maintaining our lake is both environmentally and fiscally imperative - we must maintain our lake health to continue to properly fund our town government and all our public programs.

7. Recognizing the importance of Delavan Lake to the economy of the Town of Delavan, how would you ensure that the priorities listed above are implemented?

The 2005 Delavan Lake Impact Study demonstrated how our neighboring municipalities economically benefit from our lake. I will support policies that forge and strengthen regional relationships and that recognize and support a healthy Delavan Lake economy. I think we should be focusing on collecting data on what works on our lake to apply for grants. I would like to see the town conduct another Delavan Lake Impact Study with UW Whitewater.

8. Why should a voter cast their ballot for you?

I will protect our lake and keep it healthy, work to fix our roads, ensure our police, fire, and rescue have the resources needed to keep us safe, and maintain a fiscally responsible budget.

I am uniquely qualified to be your Town Supervisor. When I ran for State Assembly this past fall, I attended numerous municipality council, board, and committee meetings across District 32. During that time, I saw how other towns are approaching similar situations to the Town of Delavan, including ways we can improve our community and collaborate with other municipalities. I will bring an understanding of our entire district and fresh ideas as your Town Supervisor.

I have my doctorate in Public Service Leadership. As a college professor, I teach undergraduate and graduate health care, public administration, and government courses. I also have served on the Town of Delavan Public Works Committee for almost four years, have spoken to thousands of residents, and I regularly attend Town meetings. I am on the board of the Delavan Lake Improvement Association, am a member of the Walworth County Community Alliance (formerly

Delavan-Darien Community Alliance), and am a member of Rotary. I understand the needs of our great town and am committed to being your voice on the Town of Delavan Board.

Additionally, I have the skill-set we need on the board: construction management and grant writing experience.

Our town is in the process of planning and building a new fire station. It is important to have board members that understand the construction management process to keep us on budget, ask meaningful questions, and build a long-last forward-thinking facility.

Furthermore, the town board approves grants before they are submitted. I would like to see the town seek more grants for our lake, parks, roads, public safety, and fire station. Having a board member that understands how to find, write, and review grants will increase our chances of grant approval, improve our town resources, and protect taxpayer dollars.

Vote Katherine Gaulke April 2nd.

-- Return to Mary O'Connor in the enclosed envelope --