

**Champaign County's
Business Empowered PAC
Candidate Survey**

Candidate Name: Stephanie Holderfield

Office Sought (district): Champaign County Board District 1

Campaign Committee Name: Friends of Stephanie Holderfield

Champaign Committee Address: P O Box 1077

City: Mahomet Zip Code: 61853

Telephone: 217 202-2158 Fax: _____

E-mail/Website: tbd email: stephanieholderfield@msn.com

Are you seeking an endorsement from the Business Empowered PAC? Yes: No: _____

Are you the owner of a business? Yes: _____ No: Independent Contractor

If yes, type of business and total number of employees: Real Estate

Please Include a Brief Biography or Resume Along With Your Survey Responses. You May Also Include a Piece of Campaign Literature if You Like.

Return by December 18, 2009

Andrew Proctor, Champaign County Chamber of Commerce, 1817 S. Neil Street, Suite 201, Champaign, IL 61820
AndrewP@champaigncounty.org, phone: 217-359-1791, fax: 217-359-1809

Candidate Survey

Candidate name: _____

Please limit your responses to 150 words per question. Use additional pages as necessary. Please hand deliver or mail your completed survey to: Champaign County's **Business Empowered PAC**, 1817 S. Neil Street, Suite 201, Champaign, IL 61820.7269. Surveys must be received no later than 5 p.m. on December 18, 2009.

If you would prefer to complete this survey electronically, please contact Andrew Proctor at 217.359.1791 or AndrewP@champaigncounty.org.

1. If you are an incumbent, what are your top three accomplishments during your tenure in this office?
I am not an incumbent.
2. What are your top three priorities for improving the business climate in Champaign County?
First I think we need to determine how to improve the Rantoul area with new business incentives like the seed corn company's. There are existing buildings that could be utilized as a research park. We need to find ways to promote to rural areas business expansion as well as offer incentives. We need to promote Champaign County as a place to bring manufacturing plants. We need to work with the EDC and the Chamber to procure those relationships. I support the use of think tanks and I believe it is a good idea to bring in capable and able business entity's to help develop better ways to economically serve our community.
3. In your opinion, what are the most important issues facing local businesses? Lack of cooperation in government to involve trained professionals in our community to participate and offer advice.
4. Please explain your perception of how the position you are seeking currently affects local businesses? The County Board does not directly affect local businesses. However, if government entities do not encourage participation with other voluntary trade associations as well as invite those involved in economic growth to participate in the process, then economic growth can be prohibitive.
5. Under what circumstances would you vote to raise taxes and/or fees? I do not advocate raising taxes and hope that does not happen. Before taxes or fees are raised I would hope that the County Board would sharpen the accounting pencil and find other means as an alternative.
6. In your opinion should the Champaign County Auditor be appointed or elected? Elected!
7. Do you agree or disagree that it is important to have a cooperative intergovernmental relationship with other local units of government. Absolutely agree!

What areas of cooperation will you pursue? Bridging the gap between the Champaign County Chamber, Realtor Association, Apartment Association and other business community's with in the County.

8. Do you support or oppose the Olympian Drive extension north of Urbana and northwest of Champaign and as a county board member would you vote for financial support for the project? Yes, this project will create jobs which will spur and grow other businesses in Champaign County. Job growth should be our priority in this community.
9. Would you support measures that would give businesses relief such as property tax credits and tax increment financing (TIF) assistance when municipal mandated costs are imposed? I have been involved in many different subdivision developments that have benefited communities in my area

utilizing TIF assistance. There has been much success in housing, commercial development which was spurred by job growth and promotes economic stability. If yes, how? I think when you utilize a TIF you need to evaluate how it will affect the community at large. Also by participating in a TIF the deciding body needs to be mindful of gentrification. Most importantly having a good understanding of how the process will help produce and procure smart growth to affectively grow a community.

10. Do you believe government should continue to legislate restrictions and unfunded mandates on businesses or let the marketplace determine the activity? The marketplace understands and knows what it can bare. Why? Because businesses are in the trenches and they understand what and how to procure activity.
11. In this current economic situation, sales tax revenues are declining. How would you propose to address declining municipal revenues? Job growth such as the Olympian Drive extension.
12. Do you support or oppose proposed reforms of the county board to single member districts? I am not yet convinced that the reduction in county board members will benefit the county as a whole. My biggest concern is for the rural areas. My concern is that the focus will be lost regarding Champaign County as a whole. I'd like to review this issue in more depth and detail as well as study how to affectively govern. I do believe that 27 members are cumbersome and make it more difficult to affectively communicate during full board meetings. Maybe they should give people time limits on speaking, which might help!
13. Is there any other information you would like to provide? Small businesses drive our economy and encourage economic growth. As a business oriented person in this community it is imperative to understand what challenges face small business today and in the future. By supporting small businesses we keep big government out of how those businesses are comprised, run or taxed. Keeping Champaign County a viable community to sustain our quality of life is a goal that all governing bodies should attain. Let's work together to keep Champaign County working.

Surveys must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 18, 2009

Support may only be provided to candidates who complete and return this questionnaire.

Return of this survey implies permission for your answers to be posted on the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce website and/or *Commerce Connection* newsletter. The PAC board reserves the right to edit all responses which exceed the 150 word restriction for the purpose of print space constraints in our publications.