

# Washington County Board of Supervisors – District 6

**Matt Japp**

**Steven Kruger**

**Dennis Zolck**

## Questions List

Other	County Priorities	Decency	Personal Story	Homosexuality
Biographical	State to County	Property Tax	Constitution	Past President
Motivation	Revenue	Eminent Domain	Family	Anything else?
Qualifications	Job Creation (County)	County Business	Personal/Political	
Sustainable	Gambling	Connection	Abortion/capital	
Development	Immigration	Governing documents	punishment/etc.	

## Other - Information about making contact with the candidate.

<b>Matt Japp</b>	Answers copied from email response received Thursday, April 03, 2014 6:05 PM
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	Answers copied from email response received Tuesday, April 01, 2014 2:01 PM
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	01:03 PM 3/22/2014 Candidate first sent a "stump speech". Answers copied from email response received Fri, 4 Apr 2014 5:51pm.

## Biographical - Please include biographical information you consider important for voters to know and/or reference your website.

<b>Matt Japp</b>	I have lived in Washington County my entire life. From the Village of Washington to Kennard and now in the rural area, I believe I have an insight on what the people have concerns with.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	I am a lifelong resident of Washington County, graduated from Arlington High School, Graduate of the Nebraska Leadership program, married, and operate the family farm which has been in our family for over 120 years.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	I have lived in Washington County since 1971. I presently live in district # 6 and have been here for approximately 8 years. I grew up on a farm in Iowa and came to Nebraska in 1968, when I joined the Omaha Police Department. I worked in various positions while I was an Omaha Police Officer. From there I went to Omaha Public Power District where I worked in several different positions. I started out at the north Omaha Coal plant as assistant production planner. I then transferred to the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power plant and first worked with project 1991 upgrade of the Fort Calhoun nuclear plant. There I worked with projects and budget for the upgrade. I then worked in the planning and scheduling for outages and shut downs. After leaving OPPD, worked for Fru-Con Construction Corporation at the Cargill, Blair Ne plant. I oversee the construction and startup of the Corn Oil prep and extraction plant. Accomplishing the best and shortest start up in Cargill history. After leaving Fru-con, I applied at the Methodist Hospital in the security department where I worked as a security Officer. I worked with staff to create there security Identification card system. I have been there for fifteen enjoyable years working with and helping people. I am a people person and I enjoy working with people and challenges.

## Motivation - What has motivated you to seek this office? What do you hope to accomplish?

<b>Matt Japp</b>	I want to provide the public with local government to account.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	I feel it's important to have a voice in the way our tax dollars are spent. I would want to maintain a budget that allows the county to maintain the current services without allowing expenses to get out of hand.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	I am disappointed in the actions of the County board and the behind door decisions that have been made. These decisions affect the community with no community input. Holding these meetings during the day when most people are working is unfair to the community. Budgeting is an open check book at the expense of the tax paying community. Our taxes are high enough and having an excess of over 8 million dollars in the county treasurer is a total lack of responsibility. The bickering between board members is totally unacceptable. They are adults and should act as such.

## Qualifications - What three qualifications do you bring to this office?

<b>Matt Japp</b>	I know how to operate a successful business. I know how to work with clients, vendors and employees. I can help the road department get the support they need to make wiser decisions in their daily business and budgeting.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	My experience on previous boards has taught me about budgets, negotiating salaries, and forward planning. I have served 21 years on the Washington County Fair Board, 12 years on the Logan View School Board, and 11 years on the Nebraska State Fair Board.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	I feel that my knowledge and education working in several different positions has qualified me to be an asset to the board. I have worked with budgets, managed employees and people in my entire career. I have the respect for everyone and their opinions. There is a clear need for a board that can work together. I can and will work with other board members to have Washington County prosper. With correct budgeting and planning, it can and will bring our taxes into perspective. That is the key to any county or company's survival.

Sustainable Development - *In some venues, the term "sustainable development" is tied to the UN Agenda 21 thinking. Others consider conservation of natural resources to be tantamount. Where would you place yourself on environmental issues and why?*

<b>Matt Japp</b>	Conservation is saving our natural resources. I believe in using our environmental resources wisely for the benefit of our economy. However to use the term "sustainable development" as a ploy to take our land away is unjustified.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	As a farmer, I am very much aware of the importance of taking care of the environment.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	In 1992 The United Nations Conference set up a non-binding voluntary action plan for environment development. As a county board member I feel it is necessary to protect our environment to a certain level. In my mind, this does not consist of making recreation, dams or putting restraining rules and conditions on the people that raise our food or provide us with the necessities of life. Protection is different than regulations and laws. Regulations and laws are binding as I see it. The United Nations Agenda 21 was set-up to protect where possible and not to create laws that affect the lively hood of our people.

County Priorities - *What order of priority would you place on dealing with which issues facing the county?*

<b>Matt Japp</b>	I place the highest property on maintaining a viable and safe road system. We need road system for our economic maintenance and safety of our children to go to school. The second being working with the sheriff department.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	Issues that I feel are the priority: - Developing a multi-year budget that will address our needs in the future without tax increases. -Several Bridges in the county need to be replaced and several hard surface roads are also in need of repairs. -Finding a solution for housing of our inmates in the future would be another priority.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	There are several issues that I would like to address. Some of these issues I have addressed in my campaign and are a priority to me. However, I am sure there are more issues on the agenda that have a higher priority. We as a board will take each issue at face value and set a priority level to address them. As we proceed through the year and each item is dealt with appropriately, I will work with other board members to bring my issues up and to move forward with my agenda as soon as possible. With the cooperation of the board and everyone working as a team, there should be no reason that my priorities should not be addressed within a reasonable time frame.

State to County Revenue - *What actions have you/would you take to ensure that the county receives its proportionate share of tax dollars from the State of Nebraska? What actions have you/would you take to ensure that the county receives its proportionate representation on boards and commissions, which allocate state tax dollars which fund counties and county services?*

<b>Matt Japp</b>	I would talk to our State Legislatures on the need of more State aid to lower local property taxes. I would work with and promote Washington County to encourage more companies expand and locate in the area. This would broaden and diversify the local economy to lessen the tax burden on property taxes.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	I have met several times with our State Senator. I have also been to Lincoln and met with the State Auditor.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	The County Board must always be in touch with the federal and state departments that allocate tax dollars for county services. You must stay up to date with the knowledge of what tax dollars are available. Being aware of what is available, the County Board can take appropriate action to take advantage of these allocations. It is vital that the County Board oversees that individuals (whether Volunteer or appointed) for these vital positions are in place so the county has representation in all aspects whether federal, state, or county.

Job Creation (County) - *How can the county board help in job creation? What would you do to make the county more business friendly? What specific ideas do you have for jobs?*

<b>Matt Japp</b>	Working with groups that help bring in companies into the Cargill campus has been very beneficial to the local tax revenue of the area. I would work with the Department of Roads to assure we have a viable highway system. I also believe working with other villages to get commercial zoning in place for future businesses in the county.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	We have been working in partnership with the Gateway Development Program to seek out new business opportunities. We are currently working on getting our "livestock friendly" designation, which will help in promoting agricultural opportunities.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	The County Board has the power to allocate time and resources for education and training, to supply the need for skilled workers that new companies look for when choosing a location for new growth of existing businesses. Sending out the feeling of welcoming to new companies. A friendly and cordial atmosphere to new prospects. Lowering taxes and incentives to draw new business and to also lessen the burden of existing businesses would help a lot. When starting new businesses you first have to do a study on where the cost of operation exists. Taxes and incentives are a big factor along with available man power is key to choosing the right location for a new businesses. I myself can't draw new businesses to the county. It takes the cooperation of the Board and the people of the county to work together and make it feasible and cost effective to start, draw and keep businesses in our county.

Gambling - *Discuss the pros and cons of government having more revenue from gambling.*

<b>Matt Japp</b>	These does not affect the office I am seeking.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	This is a discussion at the state level. It may create more revenue but it is not a sustainable revenue source.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	I believe that there is a time and a place for legal gambling. It is totally up to the people of Washington County to make that decision of whether to have legalize gambling in there county. It is not up to me to make that decision for the County. It is my understanding that Gambling can bring in revenue for the county and may cause some tax relief for our county. I also understand that there may be some consequences with legalizing gambling such as the crime rate going up and possible addiction to gambling. That issue should be voted on and let the people of Washington county make that decision.

Immigration - *What role should each level of government have in the immigration issue? From city, to county, to state, to federal?*

<b>Matt Japp</b>	I would listen to what my local citizens want to enact.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	Immigration issues need to be evaluated at the State and Federal level, where laws can be written.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	It is a fact that our federal government has an obligation to uphold our constitution and protect our citizens of the United States from illegal emigrants coming to our country illegally. Bringing with them crime, corruption and diseases from other countries to cause undue pain and suffering to our citizens. I hate to see the cities, counties and states getting involved in the regulation and law enforcement of laws that the federal government is failing to uphold. I know our laws and citizens are being affected by the failure of our federal government to do their job. It is also our duty as individual citizens to let the federal government know how we feel about these issues. It is only by voting in elected officials that we the people can elect the right people that we feel can and will change the outcome of these issues.

Decency - *Should decency laws, including things like sex trafficking, be written at the national, state, county, or local level? What should they include? Who should enforce them?*

<b>Matt Japp</b>	Our county already has enacted county ordinances I believe have served us well. Our local sheriff department I believe has adequately controlled this situation.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	Another issue that needs to come from the State and Federal level.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	All laws are set and regulated by each jurisdiction which include some city, county, state and federal laws. Each has the right to create and enforce laws as they see necessary.

Property Tax - *Discuss what authorization/control you see the board having with regard to the County Assessor's assessments and resulting taxation.*

<b>Matt Japp</b>	Most of the County Assessor's authority has been taken away and the County Assessor's is just a regulator of the policies of the Nebraska Department of Revenue.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	The County Assessor is required to follow state guidelines when setting property assessments. As County Board members, our job is to be sure he is following those guidelines.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	The board has an obligation to keep costs down and to perform their job responsibilities. To protect the county citizens from being overburdened by taxation. An obligation to lower the mill levy by not excessively over budgeting or expanding costs due to improper managing and the over spending of our tax dollars.

Eminent Domain - *Describe your thinking on eminent domain and private property rights.*

<b>Matt Japp</b>	Eminent domain should be used only for the construction of road and of last resort. The counties need State Statutory authority that the county board needs to give permission before other governmental agencies can use eminent domain within our county. When governmental agencies like the Papio Missouri Natural Resources District have the ability to reduce our tax base without county board approval is unjust.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	Eminent domain should be used as a last resort, after all other negotiations have failed, if there is a need to acquire property.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	I feel that there is no one or no government entity that has the right to take the property from a private person against their will. This is an issue that I am personally passionate about. Everyone has the right to own an item or property without having to worry about someone or some government entity taking their property from them. It is necessary for the government to prove that, this is private property, it must be taken for public use, and the owner must get just compensation. I feel that this is an unjust confiscation of private property and I will suggest zoning restrictions and other means to detour the taking of private property for public use.

County Business Connection - *Do you, a family member, or your employer have any business relationship serving the county? Please describe.*

<b>Matt Japp</b>	Japp Bros grading has bid on road grading projects for the county. These types of projects are sealed low bids. I may have to abstain for voting if such project comes up for bid.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	I have none.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	I do have a son that is an investigator for the Washington County Sheriff Department.

Governing documents - *What do you see as the major governing documents for this position?*

<b>Matt Japp</b>	The county ordinances and zoning regulations.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	The County Board Handbook.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	The county board must have a rules of conduct, code of ethics and have in writing an organization and duties book which is standard in most cases. This is usually called the County Charter and is a legislative document adopted by the people of the county in which it exists. These rules shall apply to the board of supervisors of the county.

Personal Story - Please briefly describe a situation where you had to stand alone for what you thought was right when the momentum was pushing the other way. What was the result?

<b>Matt Japp</b>	I stand for what I believe is right and just. At times there is give and take.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	Hiring additional personnel at the court house is a situation where I voted against the majority. I felt it was unnecessary.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	I was brought up to stand for what I thought was right and taught to be a law abiding citizen. I joined the Omaha Police Department to help and stand for my views as a law abiding citizen. I found myself in many situations that called for a level head and quick judgment. On one occasion I went to the 14th story of the National Bank Building in downtown Omaha where a woman was poised on the exterior ledge of the building. Other officers were already on the scene and no one was doing anything to help or talk to the party on the ledge. No supervisory Officers could be contacted and I took it onto myself to crawl out onto the ledge and start a conversation with the woman threatening to jump. I talked to the lady for about forty five minutes and positioned myself directly over the fire escape one story directly below me. I finally offered the woman a cigarette and held it close to me as I told her if you want it, come over here and grab it. Luckily, she did so and when she did I grabbed her arm pulled her into me and we rolled off onto the fire escape below. This was a quick decision that I made as an officer. I did in fact receive a national award for my quick thinking, bravery and disregard for my own safety from the Fraternal Order of Police and Law Enforcement Officers. This outcome saved a live and I was proud to serve.

Constitution - Regardless of the position sought, "upholding the Constitution" is part of the oath of office. What does taking that oath mean to you?

<b>Matt Japp</b>	Uphold the laws of the land.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	To me it means following the laws and statutes set by the State of Nebraska.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	Taking the oath to me, is one of the most important undertakings of my life. The honor to represent my fellow citizens of Washington County. The opportunity to uphold the constitution along with my six other board members is not only an honor but a commitment to do the best I can and make proud the citizens of Washington County .

Family - What role has your family played in your seeking this office? In holding this position, how do you foresee it affecting your family?

<b>Matt Japp</b>	I would use my roles on the county board to work with my brother in the political offices he holds for the benefit of all Washington County. I believe holding this office would have no negative effect on my family.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	My family has always been supportive of me serving on boards.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	Before I committed to this election I sat down and seriously discussed every aspect of and what effects this may have on my family both positive and negative. I have the unanimous support of my family unconditionally.

Everyone questions - (Regardless of what office is being sought, we ask the following questions so voters can better predict how you will handle tough issues.)

Personal/Political - To what degree should an office holder's personal principles be reflected in political decision making? To whom/what will you go for counsel in decision making?

<b>Matt Japp</b>	Personal principles should be held in high regard. The public needs to know my beliefs and know I will stay true to my beliefs. One should not change their beliefs just to get elected. If one is open to the public, one should have a good idea of the positions and morality of my constituents. I would also consult with experts and other persons that have had to make a similar decision.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	I seek out other board members from other counties in Nebraska, who have faced similar situations. I have also sought out the State Auditor and the Attorney General.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	I believe that my personal principles may or may not have an effect on my decision making when it comes to the law, religion, ethical upbringing and social understanding. I will try to make judgments only with the citizens of this county's best interests in mind. I will seek counseling and the opinion of my fellow board members and the citizens of the county. In legal matters I will read the laws and talk with the county attorney to seek legal advice. With that in mind I will try to make a legal consensual decision.

Abortion/capital punishment/etc. - What definition do you give for each of these terms: pro-life, pro-choice? How do you define yourself and how did you arrive at that view? How does your position relate to the death penalty, embryonic stem cell research, and physician-assisted suicide?

<b>Matt Japp</b>	Does not affect my office I am seeking.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	Not applicable to the position I am seeking.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	After reading the above question, I have only to say, there is exceptions to every rule regarding pro-life or pro-choice as well as the death penalty, embryonic stem cell research and physician-assisted suicides. Each case should be looked at case by case. I have been in situations as an officer and have seen many different criteria's and there is no clear decision. Each case should be reviewed on its own merit and situation. There is no clear cut yes or no to these terms.

Homosexuality - *Some consider same-sex relationships should carry the same rights and privileges as traditional marriage. Some view homosexuality as an issue of potential discrimination on the level with race or ethnicity. Some consider it a matter of personal privacy. Some say marriage, for numerous reasons, should remain defined by government as between one man and one woman. Some say children should be raised by a mother and a father and that they are being forgotten in today's discussions on the subject. With which group's philosophy do you most closely agree, and why?*

<b>Matt Japp</b>	Does not affect my office I am seeking.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	Not applicable to the position I am seeking.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	I personally believe a marriage is between a man and a woman. If the union of two people is to (as the bible states) to bear young and to reproduce in the image of God. There is no room for compromise. If two people of same sex want to be partners in life, that is their decision and not to infringe on the laws of nature. I do believe that there should be a recognition of life partners to have the rights to be beside each other in many situations if that is their choice.

Past President - *What key considerations did you use in deciding how you voted for President in 2012?*

<b>Matt Japp</b>	What would be best for the economy of the country.
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	Party affiliation
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	My decision was determined by who would stand up for the constitution and our rights as citizens of the Great United States.

Anything else? - *Declare anything else you want voters to know about you.*

<b>Matt Japp</b>	[nothing further noted]
<b>Steven Kruger</b>	Most people like to say what they are going to do if elected. I want the voters to know what I have done as the supervisor for District 6. -Lowered the county tax levy for the last three years. -Was successful in reducing tax-asking dollars when compared to the previous year. -Instead of using property tax dollars, I promoted using inheritance tax funds to pay down bonds early, saving the county interest. - Made sure that the roads in District 6 receive the same priority as other roads in the county.
<b>Dennis Zolck</b>	I am proud to be an American!