

## Two seek District 27 county supervisor seat

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Voters in District 27 soon will decide whether to retain Glen Borland as their representative on the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors or give the seat to challenger Robert Bennett.

The two will face off in the election on Tuesday, April 5.

District 27 includes Wards 3 and 4 in the City of Fort Atkinson.

The candidates were asked to provide the Daily Union information on their background, experience and top issues of concern related to being a county supervisor. The following are their responses, with the incumbent first.

### Glen Borland

Glen Borland has served on the board of supervisors since being appointed upon his retirement from the School District of Fort Atkinson in 1996. He said he took the seat out of a sense of duty to the area that has “been so good” to him.

“My reason to serve then was, and still is, a desire to give back to the community and area that mean so much to me,” he said. “I am not a politician.”

A football coach for many years, he said county government works best when all supervisors work as a team.

“The team approach by committee makes for a positive experience, along with good leadership from our county administrator and department heads,” he said, noting that he currently serves on the University of Wisconsin-Extension and Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium committees.

As a current member of UW-Extension panel, Borland noted, he is concerned about the future of extension work in Jefferson County.

“The proposed and ongoing reorganization has the potential to have serious negative consequences,” he said. “Extension help as we know it could be significantly changed and at an increased cost to the county.”

Borland pointed out that as a current and former member of the overseeing committee within Jefferson County, he feels he has firsthand appreciation and knowledge of the situation.

“I feel I could help stand strong against reorganization potential with detrimental changes to the current program,” he said.

Further, in terms of economic development, Borland pointed out that the JCEDC is in the beginning stages of a capital campaign in an effort to promote and foster responsible economic development in Jefferson County.

“This is an effort to develop a premier private/public partnership leading to collaborative retention, expansion and attraction efforts for business and employment development,” Borland said. “It’s a major step forward to increase the tax base and improve sustainability and quality for our children. I would be privileged to stay a part of this effort.”

Generally, he said, a county supervisor position should not be viewed from the political standpoint, but, rather, whether it is perceived to be the in best interest of Jefferson County.

### **Robert Bennett**

Challenger Robert Bennett said he is seeking public office to provide a new approach to the board of supervisors.

“One of the reasons that I wanted to seek the supervisor’s office was to bring some open-minded ideas and take a fresh look at some of the services that we have for recreation and how can we best serve all the county residents out there,” Bennett said.

He noted that he has 40 years of wide experience in managing people and setting real attainable goals within a budget, and that he understands that the needs of the citizens are our top priority in county government today.

Like Borland, he also cited the rising challenge of meeting the county’s needs on an ever-restricted budget as the top issue facing the county.

“One of the things that I think is a top priority is to look carefully at all the departments’ priority spending lists and determine what their actual needs are in relation to cost and benefits for our constituents out there,” Bennett said.

He said the time is now to evaluate all department spending and ensure that the county’s urgent needs are met and that money is not just being spent because it is in the budget.

He suggested that such funding could be allocated equally among departments to benefit the most residents.

“I think there’s a place to be proactive with the reallocation of some of the county taxpayer dollars, rather than spend the money just for the sake of the budget,” he said “I spent over 40 years in sales and marketing, so I can relate in talking to constituents out there. I also started a small business, built it up and sold it, so I know what it’s like to meet a budget and meet payroll.”

In addition, Bennet said he would like to review and allocate recreational dollars that have the most economic impact on tax revenues and also benefit the most county stakeholders.

Bennett said he is running for a seat on the board to help make the county a better place, and he believes his experience in sales and marketing and past service on business association boards and associations have given him the experience to help lead the county.

He said he would bring an open mind and fresh ideas to the board that will help lead and continue to develop Jefferson County as a very desirable place to live.