

## District 10, 20 county supervisor candidates talk issues

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### Second of two parts

JEFFERSON — Area residents were invited to meet the eight candidates for four contested seats on the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors during a debate on Tuesday evening.

The event, held at the Fort Community Credit Union's Puerner Room in Jefferson, was sponsored by the chambers of commerce in Jefferson and Fort Atkinson, American Association of University Women in Jefferson, WFAW Radio and the Daily Jefferson County Union.

WFAW news director Michael Clish served as moderator.

The candidates on the ballot in the April 5 election include District 10 incumbent Lloyd Zastrow and challenger Mark Groose, District 20 incumbent Jim Mode and challenger Frankie Fuller, District 27 incumbent Glen Borland and challenger Robert Bennett, and District 30 incumbent Walt Christensen and challenger Gary Kutz.

District 10 includes Wards 1 and 3 in the Town of Concord, Wards 3 and 4 in the Town of Ixonia; District 20, Wards 1, 2 and 3 in the Town of Jefferson and Ward 4 in the Town of Oakland; District 27, Wards 3 and 4 in the City of Fort Atkinson; and District 30, Wards 4-6 in the Town of Koshkonong and Ward 1 in the Town of Sumner.

The following focuses on the responses from candidates in Districts 10 and 20. District 10 challenger, Mark Groose, was unable to attend the debate. To accommodate space and ensure equal coverage, an article on the District 27 and 30 candidates appeared in Wednesday's Daily Union.



### SUPERVISORS DEBATE

SUPERVISORS DEBATE — Seven of the eight candidates running for four contested Jefferson County Board of Supervisors seats in the April 5 election took part in a debate Tuesday evening at the Fort Community Credit Union in Jefferson. The supervisor seats are for Districts 10, 20, 27 and 30. Shown here are scenes from the event for two of the seats (the other two were covered in Wednesday's Daily Union). For more photos, [click here](#). — Daily Union photos by Christine Spanger.

Following opening statements, during which each candidate had two minutes to introduce themselves (see related article on A8), the candidates were asked five questions.

- Drugs certainly are a problem in the county — heroin, alcohol, etc. What are your thoughts on what the county has done, what the county should do in the future and, specifically, the TAD (treatment alternatives and diversions) programs — alcohol and drug treatment courts?

“I agree with providing adequate funding to help these people out because putting them in jail does not help,” Zastrow said. “You have to counsel, you have to give them programs, you have to have qualified people out there working with them to try to get them off of it, which is extremely difficult. I would be in favor of providing whatever funding is needed because I think it’s a very important program because it affects people of all ages, not just a small group, but kids age 12 on up to people in their 50s and 60s. That’s something that has to be dealt with.”

Zastrow said he was told a few years ago that Jefferson County is a “choice location” when it comes to drugs.

“Madison is known to be one of the top areas in our country where drugs come,” he said. “They are brought to Madison and then are distributed out into all the various areas. We’re in an area where it’s very easy to get and distribute drugs, so anything to help these people, we’ve got to work on.”

Mode agreed that drugs are a serious problem.

“It’s an expensive problem, not only in dollars, but also in lives that are wasted,” Mode said. “In Human Services, we see not only a lot of expense in treating adults that are on drugs to try to get them clean, but also in taking care of children. A lot of people who are abusing heroin, the majority of the people fall in the age group of 25 to 45. A lot of them have families and if both parents are addicted, the children end up being neglected and we end up putting them in alternate living conditions until such time as the parents can be treated and get back on their feet.”

There also are costs in the Sheriff’s Office with the Jefferson County Drug Task Force. He added that there are arrests and processing, treatment of inmates and costs in the District Attorney’s Office and court system.

“The TAD program is, so far as I know, used primarily for alcohol and from what I’ve seen so far, it seems to be working,” Mode said. “Individuals who go through the program, the majority of them stay sober and stay in society. What we can do in the future, I think, is (continue to use it) primarily as an education program to try to keep people from abusing drugs and also treatment programs. I don’t believe in incarceration except in cases where the people are actually dealing the drugs.”

Fuller said she “doesn’t like (drugs).”

“It’s very unfortunate and I don’t understand what motivates somebody to try to use some of the drugs that are available out there in the first place,” Fuller said. “But there needs to be prevention and I think that our Fort Atkinson Police Department is making an effort to provide information through the DARE Program and talking to students. That’s where prevention program starts — in educating the younger people.

“The other thing is that, when you see somebody who’s drinking too much or people are inebriated and intoxicated, suggest to them that maybe it’s time to go home,” she continued. “Be a good example. We all need to look at what we do as an example for those kinds of things. Having resources, I think that having a lot of cuts at the state level have hurt us in terms of money and programs that might be available at the early prevention level.”

- Growth: Address the county’s agriculture preservation plan, smart-growth goals, the county’s plan for growth and what strategies you see for growth.

“Job growth is coupled with jobs being available already,” Zastrow said. “We already have how many large structures right here in the City of Jefferson that are standing empty, that used to employ many hundreds of people. Those jobs no longer exist, so these workers are now being forced to look elsewhere for work.”

He said that big industries seem to be going along the edge of Waukesha County and in the Madison area.

“Jefferson County winds up being a bedroom community where people like to live and are willing to commute because, generally, they also have a better wage scale at those locations,” Zastrow said. “So you’re fighting some elements here. We shouldn’t stop trying to get businesses to come, but possibly (we should) deal more with smaller businesses (rather) than trying to get the big ones that are here for four or five years and then they close shop. That doesn’t do you much good.”

Incumbent Mode spoke about the land-use plan Jefferson County currently has.

“Presently, the county has a land-use plan and has had one for quite a few years,” he said. “It provides what’s called an urban service area for each municipality — an area around the municipality for development — whether it be for housing or industry or commerce, and this area cannot be part of the farmland preservation program. We also, in the county, have a limit on the amount of building that can go on in the farmland area.”

Mode explained that, with plant closings and anticipated layoffs this year, Jefferson County has lost about 1,000 jobs.

“In a survey that was taken just recently, other industries and businesses in the county plan on adding about 1,000 employees in the near future,” Mode said. “The secret is to match up the

people that are out of work and their skills with the industries and the businesses that need the people and the skills that they need.

“As for people coming in and out of the county, we have about 15,000 residents that work outside the county,” he continued. “We have about 11,000 that live outside the county and come to Jefferson County to work. These are all things that are being taken into account with the Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium in our future planning.”

Fuller spoke next.

“Through what I’ve been learning with the visioning and planning work that has been being done in Fort Atkinson, there are strategies to develop smart growth that limits the amount of money that we spend in terms of building infrastructure for areas that are really rural,” Fuller said. “(We need to) target where the growth should be. We have a lot of farmland in this area and, as I’ve been walking around knocking on doors introducing myself, I see there are several vacant farms that would make wonderful homes for families that are interested in small farming opportunities and I think those are the kinds of things that we need to focus on.”

- What roles would you like to be involved in? What committees would you like to serve on for the county board?

“Previously, I had served on the Human Resources, Fair Park, Health Department and the Planning and Zoning committees, UW-Extension and a few others that I can’t remember,” Zastrow said. “In the future, I would like to serve on any of those committees that I would be a benefit to. Planning and Zoning is close to my heart because I’m a farmer. I love the land. I’m going to be concerned about what happens to this land. I don’t want it to be gobbled up and ruined. I want it to be preserved to provide food for the future for our children, grandchildren and beyond.”

Zastrow said he likes to think of himself as “one of those guys” who, rather than doing everything by the book, utilizes some common sense.

“Sometimes people are so rigid in how they do things that common sense falls by the wayside and in the process, they aren’t really serving the citizens,” he said. “If I could serve on the Highway Committee and the town board — we’re repairing roads and trying to preserve roads all the time — so I guess whatever the chairperson and administrator want me to serve on, I’m willing to do so.”

Mode said he would like to continue serving on the Human Services board.

“That board, according to state statute, is appointed by the county administrator with the approval of the county board,” Mode explained. “Other than that, I have experience on several committees

and I will serve on any committee where the county board chairperson thinks my skills are needed.”

The Planning and Zoning Committee is where Fuller said she would like to serve.

“This county is a water-rich area and I think we need to protect those waterways and water that we have and I would like to help do that,” Fuller said. “The other committees in which I might be interested would be UW-Extension because of my work with the Master Gardener and strong support for the 4-H and other programs that UW-Extension offers.”

- What do you think of the size (30 members) of the county board?

All the candidates agreed that a 30-member county board has and still is working well.

Zastrow said he believes there are only so many committees a person can serve on effectively.

Mode agreed and also pointed out that taxes tend to rise with smaller county boards.

Fuller said 30 is a good number because it provides plenty of people to keep in contact with, but not so many that it becomes overwhelming.

- What is your opinion of county infrastructure?

“As far as the buildings are concerned, after the Highway Shop went up, I don’t see that we need too much of anything in the near future,” Zastrow said. “I (supported) leaving the old location and build some new facilities there, but I was voted off the board before we could vote any farther on that, and we had dealt with that years prior to that.”

Zastrow said he believes Jefferson County has a “pretty good handle” on the highways.

“Even though our state is, like, 42nd in the nation of quality of roads and bridges, I don’t think Jefferson County contributes a whole lot to that statistic,” he said. “So if we just continue to keep our roads up and maintain the buildings, replacing things as time goes on, I don’t see anything major in the near future.”

Building-wise, the county infrastructure currently is in great shape, Mode said.

“I think it’s very important that we keep maintaining the buildings that we have,” Mode said. “We have to keep the technology up to date as we go along. I think, in the long run, if you maintain what we have, it’s a lot cheaper than trying to build new.

“As far as the roads go, we figure we need to rebuild at least 10 miles of county highway each year so that each one of our roads gets redone once every 20 years,” he continued. “We’ve been running a little behind, doing seven or eight miles, and so that’s catching up a little bit and we have to improve there. Other than that, I think things are in relatively good shape compared to some of the other counties.”

Fuller said she did not have much to add.

“The roads — my understanding is that they schedule them regularly and get done what they can do,” she said.

“I like the idea that they’re using less salt on the roads for winter snowplowing,” she added.

“There’s a new formulary that uses (brine) and I think that’s a good idea that’s less damaging to the roads. There also are some new things coming out that I think will help improve the life of the roads. So I think the county is really on top of those particular issues.