

## Erin Stahl

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**From:** Erin Stahl ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 22, 2014 8:35 AM  
**To:** chad.selweski@macombdaily.com  
**Cc:** 'Erin Stahl,'  
**Subject:** Candidate for MC Executive --- Erin Stahl's view on the issues you asked about

Dear Chad,

Thank you for the opportunity to have your readers know all of the candidates thoughts on the important issues in Macomb County.

My answers are below.

If you would like any further clarification, please call me at 586.774.8181.

Kind regards,  
Ms. Erin Stahl, MSF  
586.774.8181  
[www.ErinStahl.com](http://www.ErinStahl.com)  
[erin@erinstahl.com](mailto:erin@erinstahl.com)

My years as a Mayor Protem and City Councilwoman in the 19th most populated city within Michigan, and earning my Masters in Finance DURING my 4-year term, gave me an eye-opening earth shattering wealth of knowledge and experience of how government REALLY operates. It is with that background I comment briefly on the following subjects within your limit of 200 words. I will put the answers on my website: [www.ErinStahl.com](http://www.ErinStahl.com)

(90 words) RETIREE HEALTH BOND: I wholeheartedly disagree with bonding out the retiree healthcare and the building maintenance. Why would we go into MORE debt to pay for health care? Business cannot "bill" the taxpayers, our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren for the rise in costs, the county should not either. There are lots of humane alternatives that we used in closed session negotiations in SCS—we looked at those who retired earning \$50,000 or more knowing they could absorb a slight increase in their co-pay. This and other humane adjustments saved the SCS citizens \$250,000.

(62 words) IMPROVEMENT BOND: I also disagree with bonding out any building improvements. There are financial planning tools we can use like a Sinking Fund to pay for upgrades. It entails monthly/ annually putting aside money or "sinking" money into an account to be used for expensive projects. This way you have the money in the bank beforehand to complete the project without going into debt.

(130 words) WATER AUTHORITY: After sitting in many TIFA (Tax Increment Finance Authority) meetings and other government meetings, I am very leery of any government "Authority" group. Decisions for expenditures are taken out of the city's authority, out of direct public scrutiny, and are way out of control. Captured tax money is spent idiotically, contractors are lined up with nice but unnecessary projects that would make them a quick buck, and even though the meetings are open to the public, only 2 out of 60,000 SCS residents have the time to come and to hold them accountable. And if residents do try to hold them accountable, the people are belittled, told they do not know what they are talking about, steamrolled, or told to move out of the city if they don't like it.

(89 words) BLUE ECONOMY: I have difficulties with using hard earned taxpayer dollars for projects that business people don't find viable if they built it on their own. My city has been toying with the idea of a hotel but NOBODY has jumped up and done it---because it is not a viable project! So why should we be manipulating the economy in this way? It makes no sense to waste money this way if businesses are not going to fully bear the risk of the costly project without any subsidies/citizen tax dollars.

(29 words) HACKEL GRADE:

Personality, charisma, speaking ability: 10

Public relations team: 10

Working with Commissioners: 2

Financial Team of Advisors: 1

Looking out for best long-term interests of Macomb county families: 4

(103 words) CHARTER COMMISSION BALLOT:

I definitely support convening another Charter Commission to revamp the charter. If passed, I would like to have them also look at changing our County Executive structure to Oakland County's Optional Unified form of government instead of Wayne County's Home Rule Charter form of government we modeled Macomb County after.

The County Commissioners are more in tune to the individual needs of their districts. I believe our county should have a stronger County Commission (like Oakland County) than having most of the power be in one person's hand like the County Executive (with the Home Rule Charter form in Macomb & Wayne Counties).

(189 words) OTHER GOP CANDIDATES:

I have spoken with both Randell and David. I think they are both great guys and I applaud anyone, especially any Republican, for running for any office in Macomb County. The media and spin put on facts and situations can be cruel and downright brutal.

My years as a Mayor Protem and City Councilwoman in the 19th most populated city within Michigan, and earning my Masters in Finance DURING my 4-year term, gave me an eye-opening earth shattering wealth of knowledge and experience of how government REALLY operates.

I believe that my oath of office to protect and serve never had an expiration date. I love being a public servant---the \$8,000 annual pay was just a bonus to me. My experiences with the media, public opinion, policy, finances, other communities, and my strong faith in God as my protector, keep me going. I'm just following God's path and He seems to give the right dose of strength and courage, the right tools, skills, knowledge, and people when I need it to be the voice of the citizens and expose and fix the wrong-doing by government employees and officials.

(101 words) M1 RAIL:

I agree with the comments of L. Brooks Patterson on Flash Point. He spoke about the rail system failing to operate efficiently even though the population in the 1980's was higher than it is today. When subsidizing the rail system went out for a vote it was defeated and then the rails were removed. Mr. Patterson had another great point I agree with: 1) if they are going to build a rail system, more riders would ride East and West not north and south. I wonder what these private investors are getting out of the deal with this ill-conceived government project.

--Erin Stahl, MSF

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Chad Selweski <[chad.selweski@macombdaily.com](mailto:chad.selweski@macombdaily.com)>

**Date:** July 20, 2014 at 1:32:02 PM EDT

**To:** Erin Stahl <[erinstahl@earthlink.net](mailto:erinstahl@earthlink.net)>

**Subject:** CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear candidate:

I still need information from you about your candidacy for county executive. Below are some of the issues I will be focusing on in a forthcoming story about the GOP primary. Please keep your answers under 200 words.

**Please return by the end of the day on Monday or Tuesday morning.**

Thank you,

Chad

- Do you support the Hackel administration's plan for a \$300 million bond issue to finance retiree health care and improvements to numerous county buildings? With the county jail crumbling and in need of replacement soon at a cost of up to \$200 million -- which would require another bond issue or a special millage -- do you worry that the county faces huge costs that could prove overwhelming? Explain.
- Do you support continued tri-county negotiations to take control of the Detroit Water and Sewer Department and put it in control of a regional water authority? Do you think a Macomb County water/sewer authority, which would entail purchasing the pipes and drains and equipment, is a feasible alternative? Explain.
- Do you think Mark Hackel's approach toward a Blue Water Economy -- possibly putting hotel developments and large piers on the Lake St. Clair waterfront -- is reasonable? Is it realistic in today's economy? Explain.
- What kind of grade would you give Hackel for his first term in office (on a scale of 1-10, 10 being the best)? Explain.
- Do you support or oppose the upcoming November ballot proposal that gives voters the option of re-opening the county charter for revisions and electing a new charter commission?
- Finally, what separates you (in terms of experience or your stance on the issues) from your GOP opponents?

- Randell: I need your age and occupation.

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--Erin Stahl, MSF  
Sent from my iPhone