

1. How involved have you been with DeKalb County government or community issues? What expertise and experience in working to address community issues do you bring?

I have been deeply involved in DeKalb County's community and government affairs for many years, bringing a wealth of experience, commitment, and proven leadership. My journey began with grassroots efforts, organizing initiatives to combat food deserts and drive economic development in over 20 communities. As an advocate for seniors and veterans, I have led programs focused on education, safety, and support, including founding a community choir, women's empowerment groups, and a veteran's advocacy organization.

In 2015, I was elected as a Post Seat Holder for House District 86, a role that allowed me to influence local governance and advocate for residents' needs. My experience extends to serving as the first female Executive Administrator and Director for two international nonprofits and as COO of a homeless organization, equipping me with strategic oversight and administrative skills. My diverse background, including managing senior projects and co-founding a youth mentoring program, has prepared me to effectively represent DeKalb on the Board of Commissioners.

2. What is your experience in managing an organization's finances and what is the largest budget for which you have been responsible?

I have extensive experience managing finances in both the nonprofit and private sectors. Currently, I oversee and approve annual budgets, including managing a \$3 million budget for various organizations I own and co-own. My responsibilities include financial planning, accounting, and ensuring compliance with financial regulations. As CEO of Adams Enterprise and co-founder of Restoration International Ministries, I have gained hands-on experience in financial management, including payroll, contractor oversight, and resource allocation.

My expertise extends to budgeting and financial oversight within the nonprofit community, where I have led initiatives impacting vulnerable populations like seniors and veterans. These experiences have reinforced the importance of transparency, strategic planning, and fiscal responsibility—skills I will bring to the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners to ensure efficient and effective use of public funds.

3. What are the Top Three issues that you want to address for change in DeKalb County once you become a member of the BOC?

My top three priorities are public safety, homelessness, and animal welfare. Public safety is critical to a thriving community, and I plan to enhance coordination between law enforcement, emergency services, and community organizations to ensure faster response times and increased visibility of first responders. Homelessness is at an all-time high, and I will advocate for sustainable solutions, including affordable housing, mental health and addiction services, and job training programs. Animal welfare also needs attention, and I will work to improve shelter conditions, increase funding for spay and neuter programs, and strengthen partnerships with local animal welfare organizations.

4. What other areas do you consider needing improvement in DeKalb County and how would you change them?

A major area of DeKalb County that is in great need of some significant improvement is Code Enforcement. It must be assured that code enforcement is being applied equitably and effectively and that the officers on staff are carrying out their inspections and enforcing the regulations as they are meant to be. In addressing the overall effectiveness and accountability within the department, I suggest improved oversight measures to monitor more effectively the activity of inspections and outcomes therefrom. Regular audits and performance reviews will allow the enforcement practices to be consistent, transparent, and per community expectations. Closer scrutiny of accountability will redeem public trust and ensure Code Enforcement serves all residents fairly.

Also, a historically big issue of contention has been the water billing system in DeKalb County, which residents say has consistently overcharged them and failed to address their account problems. My priority is ensuring that each outstanding water account and overcharged bill is dealt with fully, completely, and fairly. Unpaid accounts need to be flagged, discrepancies investigated, and development of a clear way forward on how to settle unpaid accounts. This will help us come up with a focused plan for redress and prevention.

5. As a member of the BOC, what would you do to make the #311 system more functional, transparent, and effective?

To revitalize the 311 system, I will advocate for a comprehensive technology upgrade and restore full staffing levels. Implementing a modern Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system will streamline service requests, track response times, and ensure accountability. Enhanced online and mobile accessibility will allow residents to report issues in real time, and a feedback loop will provide valuable insights into service improvement.

6. How much of a priority is it for you to address the administration and reporting of citizen advisory and oversight boards? What would you do to make sure these boards are functioning effectively?

Addressing the stagnant appointments and lack of evaluation on DeKalb's 40 citizen advisory and oversight boards is a top priority. I will initiate a comprehensive review to assess their effectiveness and ensure compliance with operational standards. I will advocate for transparent recruitment processes and term limits to bring fresh, diverse voices to these boards, reflecting the broader community.

7. What is your stance on annexation of unincorporated DeKalb areas into adjacent cities?

I support annexations that create logical boundaries and improve service delivery, but they must be resident-focused and not driven solely by a city's desire to expand its tax base. I will advocate for a transparent annexation process that includes resident participation, ensuring annexations benefit the communities involved and respect their needs.

8. What is your stance on further creation of new cities in DeKalb?

I believe we should first focus on improving DeKalb County's service delivery before pursuing new city formations. By enhancing management, streamlining operations, and investing in better customer service, we can address existing service gaps. However, if communities strongly feel cityhood is their best option, I support their right to pursue it through an inclusive, transparent process.

9. Would you support adopting OpenGov or a similar platform in DeKalb County for providing governmental accountability and transparency to constituents?

Yes, I fully support adopting OpenGov to enhance transparency and accountability in DeKalb County. The platform will provide clear, accessible financial and operational data, building trust between the government and residents. However, I will ensure that the platform is properly utilized, with full integration and oversight to maximize its benefits.

10. Which if any of the recommendations would you NOT support being changed in the Organizational Act and why?

I do not support making the Charter Review Commission a permanent body. Instead, a structured review every 6 to 10 years would be more effective, allowing for necessary reforms without the constant pressure of ongoing review, which could lead to politicization or unnecessary changes.

11. Would you support the development of citizen engagement groups intentionally designed to foster more "bottom-up" communication and dialogue from and with neighborhood residents?

Yes, I fully support the creation of citizen engagement groups. Enhancing direct dialogue between residents and the Board of Commissioners will build trust, improve decision-making, and ensure that government actions align with community needs and priorities. This approach empowers residents to actively participate in shaping their neighborhoods and fosters a more united DeKalb County.