

**Downers Grove Community Advocates**

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Please answer the following questions and return by February 21, 2011.

Please attach any extra sheets you deem necessary.

Candidate for: **Downers Grove Village Council**

Name: **Becky Rheintgen**

Home Address: **4633 Cumnor Road**

Work Address: **4028 N. Cass Avenue Westmont, IL 60559**

Phone number: **(630) 971-9405**

How long have you been a resident of Downers Grove? **13 years**

Web site address: **[www.voteforbecky.com](http://www.voteforbecky.com)**

Do you own a business in Downers Grove?

**No, our Electrical Contractor business and Property Management Company are based out of Westmont.**

Reason for running for office?

**In my career, I worked in an atmosphere where I was able to identify needs in the community, be part of a team to identify solutions to those needs and see the very real benefit of those solutions. Since deciding to focus on being a stay home mom, I've found that while satisfying in so many ways, I miss having the opportunity to make a difference in the community. A few years ago I began to volunteer in our Village; first on the Grove Foundation and then as a member of several Village Boards and Commissions. Now, with the opportunity presented by a retiring Village Council member, I would like to take those experiences and broaden my service to our community. The Village Council should be a cross section of the community. It should include the voice of small business owners, young families, and community organizations. It should also represent the demographics of Downers Grove; young and old, men and women, mothers and fathers. As your representative on the council, I can make a difference by adding to the diversity of the council – by filling a void. Our residents need to have complete confidence that when our seven elected officials act – they act on our behalf and not for some particular political faction**

What are the three most important issues facing the Village? (In order of priority.)

- 1) *The poor economy's impact on Village finances.* I believe it still may be years before the economy gets back on track. With this uncertainty in our future, it is a priority for the Village to continue to evaluate expenditures and look for more affordable ways to conduct village business. The current council and staff have worked hard at this and if elected, I pledge to roll up my sleeves and tackle the budget with the same tenacity. Additionally, the uncertainty of the State of Illinois finances and how it may affect our Village is an ongoing concern and more than a little unsettling. Our Village needs to be conservative with its spending and be prepared to address this issue if it worsens.
- 2) *Continuing infrastructure improvements.* Providing exceptional public works including, including infrastructure maintenance and improvement (in addition to police and fire protection) are part of the basic municipal services we should all expect. Providing safe roads for residents and continuing to implement the stormwater action plan should be priorities for our village. It's hard to drive anywhere in town and not see the need for improved street maintenance. As the recent Street Survey indicated, many roads in Downers Grove are in disrepair. If elected, I would propose earmarking specific funds for road replacement and promote shortening the road replacement and repair timeline to improve safety.

Our Watershed Infrastructure Improvement Project is beginning to provide some relief to residents – but still there are many who worry about what's going to happen to their home if they lose power. Still too many of us suffer when the rain comes and we need to be diligent about continuing the improvement project we started. I know we can fix this and as your representative on the Village Council I will make sure we keep this vital, unfinished project a top priority.

- 3) *The continued ability for the Economic Development Corporation to continue to bring new businesses to Downers Grove.* As a small business owner, I understand challenges that businesses face and appreciate the true value a strong and vibrant business community provides for the citizens of Downers Grove. Aside from revenue contributions to the village, the benefits of a well-rounded commercial, service, industrial and retail marketplace are immeasurable. It is important to continue to fund the Economic Development Corporation with dedicated funding sources. This organization, as well as the Chamber of Commerce and our Downtown Management Corporation are invaluable to the village as a whole. As a commissioner, attracting new business, retaining current business, providing and protecting economic opportunity would be priorities for me. I would use my vote and opportunity to help craft legislation, to try and create a environment which is attractive to business and helps promote business growth. It's been said that the government that governs least, governs best. But for public health and safety, I think local government should make every effort to be as little burden on business as possible.

Previous community service or volunteer activity, including previous elected positions.

- Downers Grove Human Services Commission 2005
- Downers Grove Community Events Commission 2005 - Present
- Grove Foundation Member 2004- Present
- Grove Foundation Secretary 2007- Present
- Downers Grove Citizen Summit
- District 58 Financial Advisory Committee 2006
- Founder of Bolingbrook Character Counts Coalition 2003