



The Board of Directors of the Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce invites you to complete the questionnaire below to provide your vision and input on why you want to serve as a village president. Your responses will be published in their entirety on the chamber website and will be emailed out to the entire chamber membership. The Arlington Heights Chamber Board does not endorse candidates but works in partnership with all elected officials to foster positive economic growth through small business development and expansion for the betterment of the Arlington Heights community.

Please provide your complete questionnaire by **Tuesday, March 25th**. Please email to: Chris Nichols – AHCC Board Chair @ - chris@arlingtoncigar.com

Jon S. Ridler – Candidate for Mayor of Arlington Heights

1. What do you believe are the top three priorities for the Village of Arlington Heights over the next four years, and how do you plan to address them?

My top three priorities for Arlington Heights are Economic Growth & Business Development, Community Infrastructure & Public Safety, and Quality of Life & Inclusivity.

With over 20 years of experience leading the Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce and managing multiple chambers in the area, I have consistently strengthened our local economy by supporting businesses of all sizes. As Mayor, I will leverage my deep connections within the business community to encourage investment, streamline permitting processes, and expand the commercial tax base to stabilize residents' property tax burden and ensure long-term economic stability.

A safe and well-maintained community is essential for attracting families and businesses alike. My collaboration with local governments, nonprofits, and schools has prepared me to advocate for infrastructure improvements, enhance public transportation, and ensure police, fire, and emergency services have the resources they need. I will also champion sustainable infrastructure initiatives to keep Arlington Heights resilient and future-ready.

Building a community where everyone feels valued and included has been a cornerstone of my service to Arlington Heights. I have actively engaged with cultural and minority business groups to foster collaboration and promote social and economic growth. As Mayor, I will expand these efforts by promoting housing affordability, enhancing community events and cultural programs in all areas of the village, and ensuring all residents have a voice in our community's future. My experience advocating for businesses and community development makes me the leader Arlington Heights needs to achieve these goals.

2. What are your plans for supporting local businesses and attracting new businesses to the village?

I will encourage the Village's approach to be more proactive towards small businesses by enhancing the customer service culture, streamlining processes, improving access to key resources and grants, and pre-planned code-ready spaces that attract developers and businesses alike.

I will form a volunteer-led, non-governmental Economic Development Committee dedicated to recruiting new businesses and referrals from residents. This committee will target industries that complement our local economy, increasing revenue streams and expanding the commercial tax base to reduce reliance on residential property taxes.

Small businesses are the backbone of our community. Making it easier to launch and grow businesses locally will boost our tax base and drive economic growth.

3. How would you manage Arlington Heights' budget to ensure that critical services are funded while avoiding tax increases on residents and local businesses?

We must grow our local small business community which provides sales tax revenue which offsets raising property taxes. In addition to raising new revenue, we need to look at all spending to guarantee the most impact and service for each tax dollar and focus on using local businesses for village services when possible. There also needs to be more oversight into capturing the tax revenue due us from every area through new processes and procedures from the village board.

4. How would you involve the Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce in shaping long-term plans for the village, such as redevelopment of the Arlington Park property?

The Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization and economic development advocate, must have a seat at the table for all discussions regarding the redevelopment of the Arlington Park property. More stakeholders need to have a voice in the process and discussions.

5. How do you plan to foster collaboration between the mayor's office and other local leaders, such as those in the Arlington Heights Chamber of Commerce?

Through inclusive relationships, which I have established during my 20 years of serving the community. Having the ability to bring stakeholders to the table for the betterment of all and hearing different opinions and solutions concepts will help form strategies and decisions for the entire community.

Thank you for volunteering to lead our community

