

Supporting economic development and business in Crystal Lake
Mike Shorten

I support the efforts of business owners and operators in Crystal Lake and believe that their contributions as producers and employers are absolutely vital to the ongoing health of our community. As much as it is the responsibility of government to provide protection of the rights of people, it is also incumbent upon government to ensure that its policies do not hamper businesses growth.

As councilman one of the key ways that I will support business in Crystal Lake will be to ensure that the city maintains focus on its core responsibilities, including safety, security, planning and public works. I will support the continued efforts of the city's economic development team, their efforts to keep the people of Crystal Lake shopping in our community, to draw others outside our borders into Crystal Lake, and to attract new business and development into our community.

Given the current economy, I recognize that Crystal Lake will face tough competition from neighboring communities to attract business and new development. In order to provide for economic growth, the city will need to strike a balance between the desire to control growth and the need to allow businesses the flexibility to thrive. If elected, I will offer a balanced view of business and economic growth and with the input of the business community, will work to identify and advocate for changes in city code that unnecessarily hamper the efforts of businesses to grow and discourages new development.

By supporting a lower tax rate, we will be able to drive additional dollars into city businesses and enable the people of our community to stretch their dollars further. Last year the city imposed a sales tax increase that was ill timed and inadequately justified. I support a repeal of that the 2008 sales tax increase and will commit as city council member to vote against any tax increases, unless they are absolutely necessary to maintain key city services.

I believe that by focusing on maintaining and improving key city services, providing flexibility to businesses and reducing unnecessary taxes and regulation Crystal Lake will continue to be a good place to grow a business and an attractive area for new investment.