

# 2022 Voter's Guide for the Johnson County Board of Supervisors Primary Election

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Jammie Bradshaw (R) . . . Pages 2-3

V Fixmer-Oraiz (D) . . . Pages 4-5

Jon Green (D) . . . Pages 6-7

Phil Hemingway (R) . . . Page 8

Seth Zimmermann (D) . . . Pages 9-10



# 2022 Voter's Guide for the Johnson County Board of Supervisors Primary Election

## JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CANDIDATES

### Jammie Bradshaw (R)

**Occupation:** Drone Technician/Pilot

**Email:** [bradshaw4countysupervisor@gmail.com](mailto:bradshaw4countysupervisor@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** [Jammie Bradshaw for Johnson County Supervisor](#)

**Website:** [bradshaw4johnsoncounty.com](http://bradshaw4johnsoncounty.com)

**Volunteer or Community Service:**



**What do you love most about the community?** I love the sense of Family that comes from being part of Johnson County. No matter where you are from, there is an instant connection and feeling of belonging here. People just seem to go out of their way to help others.

**With so many issues to address, what would be your primary focus on the board?** I cannot specify just one issue to focus on because I feel there are 2 primary issues which need to be addressed:

**Taxes:** Corporate taxes in Johnson County are far too high. Businesses are leaving and taking valuable jobs with them. Additionally, property taxes are higher here than the counties around us, which it makes for a very stressful and dire situation for families. Cutting taxes would increase the money families have to grow and prosper.

**Having A Voice:** The citizens of Johnson County have for far too long been left out of the decision-making process in the county. Supervisors meet when people are at work or in school, so if meetings were to occur later in the evening or even at the smaller towns in Johnson County at least once a month, people would have a chance to really be involved.

**How do you define economic development?** I think Economic Development cannot be defined just by the number of buildings or people you have in a county. Rather, economic development should be defined as how the citizens of the county are succeeding. When the schools are succeeding with a high number of high school graduates, it shows that a community is developing. When there are more private homeowners in a county, it shows economic development. When people are spending more money in the county at local businesses, this also shows economic growth because people are succeeding by making more money and keeping it in their pocket. It should be about the happiness and success of the people, not the number of buildings.

**Our community continues to grow. How should the county plan for future growth?** Every place needs a certain level of economic development; however, we must not rush development or we shall lose the things that make Johnson County unique. In the County, we have an amazing blend of farmers, tradesmen, professionals, and University professors. Because we have such an amazing set of skills and resources, we should use that to our benefit. We should have a farmer work with the supervisors, so the board knows the challenges that farmers and landowners face. We need a

## 2022 Voter's Guide for the Johnson County Board of Supervisors Primary Election

professor from the universities to join as a consultant to explain the ways that the board can support the student body. Lastly, we all need to teach our children that while college is the right path for some, it is not the only path to success. It is time to have the people set the pace that they want for the county growth along with the board.

**What are the most important issues facing businesses in our community and how can the county support them?** The biggest issues facing businesses are taxes along with staff shortages. As taxes rise and people are forced to leave the county to find more affordable housing and better paying jobs, the businesses here sink further and further behind. Each tax increase forces the businesses to make a decision to cut staff to stay in the county or potentially consider leaving. If we want to help businesses truly be successful, we need to lower taxes across the county. We need to ensure the employers and employees can afford to stay in Johnson County and continue to help it prosper.

**How can the county help attract and retain a diverse workforce?** One major way that the county can help attract and retain a diverse workforce would be to make it so that education is thought of in a different light. If we could allow students to do job shadowing with the University and other positions around the county, it would bring to light the amazing opportunities that exist within the county. Giving students the ability to see the day-to-day careers that exist locally would broaden the scope of what people think of when they think of Johnson County.

In addition, I would propose to have a "Welcome to Johnson County Workshop" monthly. This workshop would teach and demonstrate to incoming students and families the way that Johnson County works. Whether it be through interactions with Public Safety representatives or local businesses, it would allow people to see how great life here can be.

**What unique perspective or skills do you bring to the board?** I am a mother of four, a veteran, and a career woman. All my adult life I have worked with people of varying backgrounds and cultures. What my experience has taught me is how to respect and communicate with those with which I might not have the same opinions. This has allowed me to work through situations that may seem incredibly daunting and unending. It has also taught me to listen to those who have a great deal more knowledge in other areas than I do in order to achieve the best results possible.

# 2022 Voter's Guide for the Johnson County Board of Supervisors Primary Election

## JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CANDIDATES



### V Fixmer-Oraiz (D)

**Occupation:** CEO & Founder Astig Planning

**Email:** [fixmeroraiz@electvfo.com](mailto:fixmeroraiz@electvfo.com)

**Twitter:** [@vfojoco](https://twitter.com/vfojoco)

**Facebook:** [V Fixmer-Oraiz for Johnson County Supervisor](https://www.facebook.com/V-Fixmer-Oraiz-for-Johnson-County-Supervisor)

**Website:** [www.electvfo.com](http://www.electvfo.com)

**Other:** [www.instagram.com/vfojoco](https://www.instagram.com/vfojoco)

#### **Candidate Volunteer or Community Service:**

- Committee Co-Chair, [APA Iowa Chapter's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee](#)
- Vice President, [Johnson County Affordable Housing Coalition](#)
- Board Member, [Iowa City Area Business Partnership](#)
- Adjunct Instructor- [Global Health Studies, University of Iowa](#)
- Alumni, [Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses](#)

**What do you love most about the community?** In Johnson County we are incredibly fortunate to have smart, passionate people who genuinely care for each other. As we have seen during the Covid-19 pandemic and the derecho storm, we need one another. We also get to enjoy an abundance of natural areas, parks, and a vibrant cultural landscape!

**With so many issues to address, what would be your primary focus on the board?** COVID-19 has exposed the widening gaps in our social safety net- gaps that have allowed entire communities to fall through the cracks. As a planner who has engaged in creating more resilient communities, I am invested in safeguarding our communities from the next derecho storm or global health pandemic. I will work toward creating a COVID-19 Recovery Plan that is focused on re-imagining and rebuilding a safer and more equitable county. As an underestimated business owner, I am aware of the barriers in place and intimidation that is felt when trying to make our dreams a reality. I will work toward removing those barriers and creating a more inclusive business ecosystem. I will analyze and support policy/ funding options that look beyond subsidized housing and include measures that get people into safe and affordable housing that does not cost more than a third of their monthly income.

**How do you define economic development?** Economic development is a process by which our local community members can improve their quality of life through access to livable wages, healthy food, safe/affordable housing, and recreation/enjoyment opportunities. Inclusive economic development should foster the growth of small and medium-sized businesses by reducing barriers to accessing capital, providing multilingual business resources, and providing accessible business education and training resources.

**Our community continues to grow. How should the county plan for future growth?** According to the U.S Census 2020 data, Johnson County is projected to grow another 16.4% by 2030. The nuance of that information suggests that the growth will see an increase in 3% of the Black

## 2022 Voter's Guide for the Johnson County Board of Supervisors Primary Election

population and the Latino/a/e/x population will grow by less than 1%, while the White population will shrink 3%. This means that we need to do the work to create a more inclusive county. We need to make sure that leadership reflects the global majority and that we have more diversity in our school leadership, non-profit leadership, and municipal and county leadership. As a county, we need to instill a workplace culture that is welcoming to everyone who steps through the door to get a building permit, a license to operate a kitchen or start a small business.

**What are the most important issues facing businesses in our community and how can the county support them?** We have a serious workforce/labor shortage, affordable housing shortage, and our rural areas need to have access to affordable transportation options and well-serviced roadway networks. The county should continue to focus on providing creative solutions to workforce/labor issues, particularly through finding more solutions to childcare and affordable housing options- People should be able to live/work/school their children all in the same town or area. Our rural roadways need to remain well-maintained in order for vital economic development to occur, either through farm activity or access to shipment of goods on semi-trailer trucks.

**How can the county help attract and retain a diverse workforce?** Affordable housing and childcare are essential components to attracting and retaining a diverse workforce. The county has recently allocated federal funding to establish more options for childcare and should continue that support as we seek other options. Reducing barriers to establishing small businesses is essential- we need to ensure that people who come in seeking a permit or commercial kitchen license can do so in an effective and efficient manner.

**What unique perspective or skills do you bring to the board?** I am a small business owner with 15+ years of training and experience in environmental and community planning. As a professional community planner, I have worked with the cities of Coralville, Iowa City, Kalona, Council Bluffs, Marshalltown, and North Liberty on various projects, including EPA-funded Brownfields Redevelopment, an Extreme Weather Event in Iowa City's South District Neighborhood, and the Flood Resilience Action Plan for Coralville. In this work, I consider climate and social justice as critical to building stronger communities. These experiences have prepared me to meet this critical moment. I believe that resilience and healing are possible. If we work together, we can build a Johnson County where everyone has what they need to thrive. I'm running for Johnson County Supervisor to make that vision a reality, and I'm asking for your support.

## 2022 Voter's Guide for the Johnson County Board of Supervisors Primary Election

### JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CANDIDATES



#### Jon Green (D)

**Occupation:** County Supervisor, most recently IT Administrator

**Email:** [info@greenforjc.com](mailto:info@greenforjc.com)

**Twitter:** [@modestholdings](https://twitter.com/modestholdings)

**Facebook:** [Green for Johnson County](https://www.facebook.com/GreenforJohnsonCounty)

**Website:** [greenforjc.com](https://www.greenforjc.com)

**Other:** [PX/SMS 307-828-1004](tel:307-828-1004)

**Volunteer or Community Service:** I spent a great deal of time in late 2020 helping our neighbors in Linn County especially recover from the derecho, from delivering supplies in the immediate aftermath to spending about a dozen weekends with a saw removing trees most volunteers were unable to tackle or that struggling renters or homeowners could not afford to contract out. I have volunteered with the Center for Worker Justice and have also been active with the Catholic Worker House.

**What do you love most about the community?** Our potential. We have the resources and the talent and lots of good work already tackled. We need diverse leadership to ensure we continue our progress.

**With so many issues to address, what would be your primary focus on the board?** The successful and timely disbursement of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds is and will remain a primary focus. These dollars represent not only an opportunity to fund generational initiatives, but also to rebuild local government capacity including partnerships with other local entities. Many ARPA projects address environmental concerns, but we must keep these issues at the forefront of our decision making processes regardless of funding source.

**How do you define economic development?** Activities designed to increase economic opportunities in the county; such as the provision of infrastructure targeted toward growth (as opposed to maintenance), direct demand generation, incentives for desired investment, technical assistance, loan guarantees, grant-making, et cetera.

**Our community continues to grow. How should the county plan for future growth?** While all of Johnson County is growing, different areas of the county grow faster than others. We should work to ensure every corner of the county has opportunities for growth to ensure no community is left behind, to ease the burdens on infrastructure and service provision in high-growth communities, and to provide the greatest possible variety of residential options for potential immigrants. Johnson County has long been committed to thoughtful and sustainable growth through tools such as the Unified Development Ordinance and Future Land Use Map, we need to continue updating and improving these tools.

## 2022 Voter's Guide for the Johnson County Board of Supervisors Primary Election

**What are the most important issues facing businesses in our community and how can the county support them?** All businesses are facing headwinds due to a confluence of factors including the pandemic, inflationary pressures, supply chain difficulties and, in general, a more volatile world than what we experienced up until the arrival of CoVid. Rather than blaming the virus, however, we should view it as a catalyst for thoughtful, positive change. The biggest help local government can provide is in addressing our labor force shortage and providing access to capital.

**How can the county help attract and retain a diverse workforce?** Access to affordable housing and childcare are the two most pressing challenges in Johnson County when considering our workforce needs, and access to transit quickly becomes an issue for anyone not living in the urban core. We need to significantly expand our housing stock across all areas of the county, especially at the less expensive end of the spectrum. Unfortunately, we're currently building too many high-end units. Johnson County desperately needs starter homes as well as multi-family developments for both purchase and lease. I've also been working on expanding access to childcare, especially for shift workers and those who need expanded transportation options.

**What unique perspective or skills do you bring to the board?** My background in other areas of government (small town mayor, governor's press secretary) is unique among the other supervisors and candidates. While other supervisors are also from rural parts of the county, I am the only candidate or incumbent to hail from south of the metro. My background is in journalism and IT, also unique among the candidates and incumbents.

# 2022 Voter's Guide for the Johnson County Board of Supervisors Primary Election

## JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CANDIDATES

**Phil Hemmingway (R)**

**Email:** [hemingwayforsupervisor@gmail.com](mailto:hemingwayforsupervisor@gmail.com)

**DID NOT RESPOND TO QUESTIONNAIRE**



## 2022 Voter's Guide for the Johnson County Board of Supervisors Primary Election

### JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CANDIDATES



#### Seth Zimmermann (D)

**Occupation:** Environmental Specialist

**Email:** [Seth@Seth4Supervisor.com](mailto:Seth@Seth4Supervisor.com)

**Facebook:** [Seth Zimmermann for Johnson County Supervisor](#)

**Website:** [Seth4Supervisor.com](http://Seth4Supervisor.com)

- **Volunteer or community service:** 2 Terms on the board of Bur Oak Land Trust, property steward, I donated my herd of goats to do timber stand improvement on one of their properties
- 17 years of Iowa Project AWARE leadership managing 400 volunteers per week and the logistics for feeding, camping, transportation, boat procurement, recycling of tons of garbage and much more
- Helped set up a non profit, Ncompass to support Project AWARE and other clean water initiatives. I serve on the board.
- Volunteer and donate to Solon Food pantry
- Long time supporter of Iowa City Hospice
- Various creek cleanups around the county.
- Volunteered for farm to street dinner
- I Was an EMT on a all volunteer ambulance crew when I lived out East

**What do you love most about the community?** The thing that I love the most about the community of Johnson County is the community itself. In my experience, the people of Johnson County are decent, kind, hardworking and inclusive. While I have always loved Johnson County, my run for Supervisor has really opened my eyes to all of the amazing people in our community following their passion to try and make their communities a better place for everyone.

**With so many issues to address, what would be your primary focus on the board?** In a word, access is the single biggest problem in our county. Access to healthy food, clean water, affordable housing, health care, child care, and assistance for mental illness. Each one of these access issues are huge on their own much less combining them all. The good news is that we already have groups within county governance and services that are working on each and every one of them. It will be my primary focus to reach out to these people that are working towards solutions and support them. Additionally, I will focus on reaching out to those in need of services and finding out how we can better deliver the services; see what is working and what needs work. As a Supervisor I want to be the one that everyone is comfortable reaching out to with the knowledge that I will listen and their voice will be heard in county governance, with the understanding that we all want what is best for the citizens of Johnson County.

**How do you define economic development?** To me, economic development is continuous growth that engages all stakeholders in our community in the process of creating a holistic vision where all community members have the opportunity to prosper. I feel strongly that it is the local businesses

## 2022 Voter's Guide for the Johnson County Board of Supervisors Primary Election

that make our community unique, vibrant and resilient. Recently we have invested in thoughtful placemaking throughout our county. These places are the kitchen tables of our larger community. These are the places where we meet, connect, plan, and dream of the next big ideas for our community. Our downtown, our bike trails, our parks, our farmers market are places where people gather and can vet their crazy ideas, build a business, and chase their dream of providing something unique to our community all while being supported in doing what they love.

**Our community continues to grow. How should the county plan for future growth?** I believe the county plan for future growth should focus on efficient use of land. Our county should try to keep infrastructure needs concentrated around our cities and towns so that all communities have clean water and other essential services without the huge capital investment it takes to reach isolated areas. I believe that green space and connectivity of our communities with walking and biking paths, public transportation, and accessible services are ways to improve quality of life and help mitigate environmental impacts. I believe that thoughtful development should be encouraged and guidance provided for energy efficiency and building orientation to best harvest passive solar and reduce runoff and support a healthy environment.

**What are the most important issues facing businesses in our community and how can the county support them?** Most business owners I speak with say that their number one issue is hiring and retaining good staff. I feel that the county's move to raise the minimum wage was a good first step to helping people feel valued. They are also overwhelmed by the business of keeping their business open, that they are not able to focus on the very service that they wanted to bring to the community. The resources within our community are endless and tapping into the University and the Tippie School of Business seems like a natural conduit to help small businesses. We need to invest in our workforce as a whole by providing advancement opportunities for employees which may include higher education, specialized training, low cost -high quality child care, and should include investing in our local businesses.

**How can the county help attract and retain a diverse workforce?** The county can help attract and retain a diverse workforce by encouraging local area business leaders to raise the minimum wage. The county should continue to support affordable housing that is spread throughout our community and sited near the services that everyone needs. Bolstering pedestrian friendly infrastructure such as bike trails and sidewalks offers alternative modes of transport, recreation and exercise. Providing mass transit options and breaking down the barriers between Coralville and Iowa City can broaden access to jobs and reduce time spent in transit. The county can also continue to be welcoming and inclusive of those in need. There are atrocities all over the world that people are fleeing and we should welcome those in need into our communities. They will add to the diversity, productivity and resiliency of our community if we can just give them a safe and supported place to land. The County can help foster this by providing multilingual documents and hiring multilingual staff.

**What unique perspective or skills do you bring to the board?** I am a bridge builder and a fence mender who truly believes that we are all in this together and that together we are able to achieve great things. I believe that each of us has a lot to offer to our community and we need to engage everyone in the process. An engaged community is an empowered community and empowered communities are vibrant and inviting. I promise to reach out into all of the communities of Johnson County and be accessible and approachable. I have considered Johnson County my home since before I could speak, I love it here, and I am its staunchest advocate. No one on this ballot cares more about this community or will work harder than I will to improve the lives of everyone in Johnson County.