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## Q&A: County Board, District Four, 4-year term

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Republican county board member Jerry "JR" McBride and Democrat Dan Bailey are running for a 4-year position as a DuPage County Board member representing District 4.

District 4 covers all or parts of Addison, Bloomingdale, Carol Stream, Glen Ellyn, Glendale Heights, Lisle, Lombard, Wheaton and Winfield.

The following is an edited transcript of their answers to questions posed by the Daily Herald.

**Q.** Why are you running for this office, whether for re-election or election for the first time? Is there a particular issue that motivates you, and if so what is that? What will be your main priority in office?

**McBride:** As a father of five committed to the community and its future, I am seeking election to the DuPage County Board to dedicate myself to achieving the challenging balance between maintaining and improving our services while keeping them affordable for all our citizens. My main priority is to foster an open line of communication with the citizens of District 4. I believe it is crucial (that) all citizens have a voice in the issues that greatly affect their lives and families.

**Bailey:** To provide a good alternative, I'd work for honest open transparent and accountable government for DuPage that serves our residents first - that protects their interests and looks out for DuPage's long-term good.

I would work to improve transportation. We need safe, walkable, bikeable streets for all, especially our children and seniors. I would work to make our public transportation system service reliable to get us where we want and need to go when we want to get there.

**Q.** If you are an incumbent, describe your main contributions. Tell us of important initiatives you've led. If you are not an incumbent, tell us what contributions you would make.

**McBride:** I believe my victory in the primary demonstrates there is an interest and enthusiasm for a new and fresh voice in the political process. If elected, I would encourage the participation and expertise of our citizens and business leaders in addressing the issues that face the county.

**Bailey:** I would bring some experience and intelligence and an interest in creative problem-

solving. I like working with others to solve common problems. Mainly though, I bring a strong commitment to serve the constituents' interest and the long-term good for DuPage.

We need to include the working middle class in our planning. We need to keep housing in DuPage that teachers, firemen and convenience store workers can afford.

We need to build a transportation system that allows all of us to get around efficiently and economically as part of improving our quality of life.

**Q.** The county board is considering increasing the sales tax or taxing cigarettes in order to avoid cuts to close a budget deficit. Although decision on these proposes tax hikes could come before the next board is seated, we would still like to know if you support either or both of these tax hikes? If so, why? If not, why not?

**McBride:** A sales tax increase should not be enacted until an in-depth assessment is performed determining how it would affect local retailers and consumers. Maintaining a lower sales tax rate than Cook County has historically proven beneficial to our district. With regard to an increased tax on cigarettes, we need to carefully review the current budget and explore all options available for other sources of revenue, including a possible "sin tax." All potential sources of revenue need to be carefully evaluated to determine the economic impact on the citizens and the business community.

**Bailey:** I am not in favor of increasing these taxes. I prefer to look for ways to be more efficient in how we spend. If I can't find enough savings in reducing inefficiencies, then the cigarette tax is better.

**Q.** What cuts, if any, can be made to firm up the county budget? Please be specific.

**McBride:** I am generally pleased with the budget and the projected benefits it provides to the citizens of DuPage County. However, I continue to be concerned about shortfalls and I believe we are in need of long-term solutions to avoid budget problems and build a surplus. If cuts are vital, then each department should be required to review its expenses and reduce its budget by a percentage.

**Bailey:** County board members' salaries. Reduce the number of county board members to 12. Put the election commission responsibilities under the county clerk, and then we don't need the election commission.

**Q.** Should county government have home rule powers? If so, why? if not, why not? If you favor home rule powers, explain how the county should use them.

**McBride:** If the county board wants home rule, then it needs to be presented to the voters in a referendum, Should the citizens vote in favor of home nil; the county board will have an increased responsibility to the citizens of this county in how that power will be used and for what purpose.

**Bailey:** No. Home rule would be too much power for this county government that has already shown that it has not enough respect for the interests of the citizens.

**Q.** The state legislature recently gave counties the ability to pass ordinances banning smoking in public places like bars and restaurants, but the law only covers businesses in unincorporated areas. For DuPage, that means less than 50 establishments. Should the county enact a ban in the unincorporated areas, or work with municipalities to encourage them to cooperate in enacting a uniform ban? Explain why or why not. if you oppose a

smoking ban, please explain why.

**McBride:** I believe the county should work with the municipalities to enact a uniform ban on smoking in public places. I believe a smoking ban compliments our efforts to reduce health risks to our community.

**Bailey:** I am in favor of a smoking ban. I would first try to work with out municipalities to enact a uniform countywide ban. If that doesn't work, then we could lead with a county ordinance.

**Q.** What initiatives, if any, do you have in mind for your specific board district?

**McBride:** The vision and the mission of the county board must be responsive to the needs of the population. I want to ensure we are prepared for the demands of an aging citizenry as well as the needs of the young families moving to the area. We must formulate a long-term strategic economic plan to deal with capital expenditures and revenue growth. We should involve local business leaders and obtain their input and assistance in planning for the economic future of the community. We need to focus on improving coordination and access to social services, as well as plan for the transportation needs that will arise with increased growth and development We need to investigate and take advantage of all state and federal funds that may be available to assist us.

**Bailey:** Reevaluate highway construction plans for Route 56 and Route 53.

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