



Board of Supervisors

From the Desk of Terrence L. Neuzil

Vice Chair

Johnson County Board of Supervisors



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Neuzil to Hold November Government and You Listening Posts

*Plans to Discuss Budget Strategies to
Address Downturn in the Economy*

(IOWA CITY IA) Terrence Neuzil, member of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, will hold his "Government and You" Listening Posts in November. The listening posts last one hour and provide residents an opportunity to discuss local, state and national government issues in an informal setting. Each month during the listening posts, citizens also can learn and discuss a hot and emerging issue that Johnson County is facing. In November, the Hot Topics Discussion will be on his plans to discuss budget strategies to address the downturn in the economy. Neuzil, who sits on the County Finance Committee, will present his call for ten initiatives for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2010 budget. These include:

1. Freeze all county operational expenses, including vehicle and technology expenses at FY '09 levels with limited exceptions for fuel, postage, utilities and emergency expenditures.
2. Initiate a series of strategic policy priority meetings with the public to identify top spending priorities. Limit new programs unless offset with the replacement of existing programs.
3. Pay down existing debt and complete all planned building infrastructure projects. Any additional projects and maintenance will need to be deferred that go beyond the FY '09 funding level. Do not stop the planning process or study of a new Justice Center; but consider a phased in approach.
4. Continue to meet the needs of county employees and agreements made in collective bargaining. Implement a freeze on hiring new employees unless the position is cost neutral, and review procedures for potential employee sharing, early retirement, layoffs or furloughs.
5. Review public office hours, identify potential waiting lists for services and service delivery cutbacks and determine contingent plans if further budget cuts are necessary.
6. Review fees, enhance revenues and diversify funding streams.
7. Identify fuel efficient and cost effective energy savings and sustainability strategies.
8. Ask the Joint Emergency Communication Center Board to stay at or below its FY '09 tax levy for funding of the Joint Communications Center, radio towers and employee expenses; ask other boards and commissions that receive county dollars to also live within their FY '09 budget levels.
9. Work with state and federal officials to stop unfunded mandates passed on to local government.
10. Ask local leaders to follow the county in prioritizing services, limit tax increases and promote and encourage intergovernmental collaboration and cooperation.

A list of dates, times and locations include:

- Friday, November 7th, 7:30am at the Brueggers Bagels, 715 S. Riverside Dr. in Iowa City.
- Thursday, November 14th, 4pm at the Johnson County Administration Building, Board of Supervisors Office, 913 S. Dubuque St. in Iowa City.
- Monday, November 17th, 4pm at Iguanas Mexican Restaurant, 104 Main St, Hills.
- Tuesday, November 25th, 12:00pm at the Iowa City/Johnson County Senior Center, 28 S Linn St

For more information, please call 356-6000.