

2nd Ward Alderman

Ryan Bongard Profile

Summary & Qualifications

My name is Ryan Bongard, and I am running for City Council to provide new energy and perspective in support of the 2nd Ward. For the past eleven years, I have been proud to tell others this community is my home and appreciate the support by so many residents in this campaign.



St. Charles is an amazing community, with a rich history and wonderful opportunity for residents and business alike. As a husband, father, small business owner and volunteer, I have tremendous respect for so many who dedicate their personal and professional time to making this community a great place to raise a family, run a business and build long-lasting relationships.

I believe a candidate's personal and professional experience, combined with policy position, are an important first step before asking residents for their support.

- Chief Executive Officer, Twelve21 LLC
- Husband and Father of Four D303 Students
- St. Charles Zoning Board of Appeals (Board Member)
- Member of St. Charles Chamber of Commerce
- Master's Degree in Business Analytics from the University of Notre Dame
- 2019 City Council Candidate
- St. Charles Youth Baseball Board Member & Volunteer Coach
- Volunteer HOA President & Treasurer

My campaign for City Council is in effort to support the dedication by those who have served before me, to help strengthen all that is great in our city and find agreeable solutions to the challenges facing St. Charles. I appreciate the St. Charles Chamber of Commerce for taking the time to learn more about my candidacy as well as the candidates who wish to serve St. Charles.

Priorities – Improve Resident Engagement

What makes St. Charles great are the people who call our city home. However, there is a growing disconnect between residents and City Council in terms of engagement and participation. I believe we can do better. We must find a way to bring local government to residents in every form possible – live attendance, town halls, conference calls, surveys, and social media – to ensure a strong relationship between all parties.

Priorities – Support Existing Business

As our community works its way through the challenges of Covid-19, its important local business owners understand they have absolute support from the City Council. The Mayor, Aldermen and City Staff must work in unison with business owners to find creative solutions to ensure both survival and success. City government needs to continually consider revisions to existing protocol to ensure every active business stays open as we manage our way through this pandemic.

Priorities – Positive Change

Anyone who stands up to serve St. Charles is an asset to our community. However, we must be mindful of the correlation between years of service and resident apathy. When we have individuals serving for more than ten years in any given role, there is a strong likelihood that residents disconnect from city government. The 2021 Consolidated Election is a great opportunity to usher in positive change for St. Charles.

Priorities – Enhance Pedestrian Safety

The downtown First Street Development is an exciting investment for St. Charles and the Fox Valley. The vision by community leaders in pursuing this project has been a strong addition to our community and should serve as an attractive destination for both residents and future business. However, as traffic to our downtown increases, City Council and Staff should consider ways to improve pedestrian safety so we are able to genuinely enjoy our downtown sector.

Priorities – Business Community Diversification

Maintaining a unique business community is important to both residents and existing businesses alike. City Staff, on the direction of Council, must be encouraged and expected to attract different types of business to St. Charles. This is critically important to the health of our current businesses while also ensuring a strong reputation for our city. We need to increase professional services organizations, targeted retail and find ways to expand secondary businesses in relation to the Fox River.

Priorities – Charlestowne Mall

For more than a decade, the Charlestowne Mall has been in decline. This disappointing reality is not the fault of City Council or Staff, however after numerous planning discussions, market studies and concept plans, it sits nearly vacant. Now is the time for new leadership to put this project at the top of the City's priority list and develop a solution which strengthens our community. In addition to the Charlestowne Mall, there remains a great deal of opportunity for future development east of the Fox River.