

**Champaign County's  
Business Empowered PAC  
Candidate Survey**

Candidate Name: CHRISTOPHER E. ALIX

Office Sought (district): COUNTY BOARD DISTRICT 9

Campaign Committee Name: (PENDING)

Champaign Committee Address: 301 E. GEORGE HUFF DRIVE

City: URBANA Zip Code: 61801

Telephone: 217 337-6744 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail/Website: <sup>WEB</sup> ALIX9.COM <sup>EMAIL</sup> ALIX@PRAIRIECITY.COM

Are you seeking an endorsement from the Business Empowered PAC? Yes:  No: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you the owner of a business? Yes:  No: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, type of business and total number of employees: SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT  
& ELECTRONIC DESIGN. 1 - I'M AN INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT.

**Please Include a Brief Biography or Resume Along With Your Survey Responses. You May Also Include a Piece of Campaign Literature if You Like.**

**Return by December 18, 2009**

## Candidate Survey

Candidate name:

---

Please limit your responses to 150 words per question. Use additional pages as necessary. Please hand deliver or mail your completed survey to: Champaign County's **Business Empowered PAC**, 1817 S. Neil Street, Suite 201, Champaign, IL 61820.7269. Surveys must be received no later than 5 p.m. on December 18, 2009.

If you would prefer to complete this survey electronically, please contact Andrew Proctor at 217.359.1791 or AndrewP@champaigncounty.org.

---

1. If you are an incumbent, what are your top three accomplishments during your tenure in this office?
2. What are your top three priorities for improving the business climate in Champaign County?
3. In your opinion, what are the most important issues facing local businesses?
4. Please explain your perception of how the position you are seeking currently affects local businesses?
5. Under what circumstances would you vote to raise taxes and/or fees?
6. In your opinion should the Champaign County Auditor be appointed or elected?
7. Do you agree or disagree that it is important to have a cooperative intergovernmental relationship with other local units of government.

What areas of cooperation will you pursue?

8. Do you support or oppose the Olympian Drive extension north of Urbana and northwest of Champaign and as a county board member would you vote for financial support for the project?
  9. Would you support measures that would give businesses relief such as property tax credits and tax increment financing (TIF) assistance when municipal mandated costs are imposed? If yes, how?
  10. Do you believe government should continue to legislate restrictions and unfunded mandates on businesses or let the marketplace determine the activity? Why?
  11. In this current economic situation, sales tax revenues are declining. How would you propose to address declining municipal revenues?
  12. Do you support or oppose proposed reforms of the county board to single member districts?
  13. Is there any other information you would like to provide?
- 

**Surveys must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 18, 2009**

*Support may only be provided to candidates who complete and return this questionnaire.*

Return of this survey implies permission for your answers to be posted on the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce website and/or *Commerce Connection* newsletter. The PAC board reserves the right to edit all responses which exceed the 150 word restriction for the purpose of print space constraints in our publications.

Christopher E. Alix  
Business Empowered PAC Candidate Survey  
December 18, 2009

1. Not applicable.
2. (1) Ensure that even in these austere economic times, the County provides its essential public services in a way that promotes the safety and welfare of all of Champaign County's citizens, keeping Champaign County a place that people want to live and work. (2) Encourage greater involvement in the budgeting process, not only by the County Board, but by interested citizens--to help the County provide the services its citizens expect while avoiding unnecessary tax burdens; and (3) focus on economic and environmental sustainability through long-term comprehensive planning, ensuring that future generations of County citizens can continue to build and grow our strong economic base.
3. The same issues facing businesses everywhere in the USA—customers and clients with less disposable income; lenders reluctant to provide financing; competition from foreign enterprises who enjoy the benefits of the American marketplace without the attendant responsibilities. Fortunately Champaign County also has rare economic assets: the stability of a world-class research university; high-tech, medical and innovative manufacturing enterprises that can compete at the highest level; and a base of proud, educated, locally focused citizens who will help lead, not follow, the coming recovery.
4. The Champaign County Board makes economic and land-use decisions which have wide and long-term effects on business and development. The County is a major employer, and the salaries and wages it pays are spent on local goods and services. The County itself purchases many goods and services from local vendors. And as I said in my answer to #1, above all the County Board oversees the delivery of essential services that keep Champaign county a safe and enjoyable place to live—helping businesses recruit and retain qualified staff and long-term customers.
5. Responsible balanced budgeting requires that tax rates be adjusted to match the County's spending. My experience in city government has been that although no one enjoys paying taxes, few taxpayers are willing to participate in the budget process where the spending decisions are made. I will encourage colleagues on the County Board and interested citizens to look carefully at current and future spending so as to better align spending (and thus tax rates) with the needs and desires of Champaign County's taxpayers.
6. I applaud the current County Board's decision to allow the voters of Champaign County to decide this question by referendum in the upcoming general election. I'm looking forward to hearing the debate that will surely unfold over the next eleven months. But since the question will be decided by referendum and will be a "done

deal” by the time my term begins, my opinion is no more important than that of any other Champaign County voter.

7. Intergovernmental cooperation is absolutely essential, especially here in Illinois with our abundance of overlapping units of local government. In my service on the Urbana Community Development Commission, Urbana Plan Commission, Urbana City Council and the Urbana & Champaign Sanitary District Board, I’ve helped develop and implement numerous intergovernmental agreements and have enjoyed the opportunity to work with peers in other local governments. The County Board has an obligation to consider the needs of dozens of municipalities, townships, and other taxing districts within the County and I intend to encourage cooperation and collaboration among units of government wherever possible.
8. I generally support the Olympian drive extension, which is consistent with long-term plans at the County and City levels. The proposed railroad overpass would offer public convenience and public safety benefits. I am aware of valid environmental concerns about the project, and I expect effort to be invested in arriving at a choice of alignment and design that minimizes adverse impacts. I would vote for financial support of a plan if I felt sufficiently addressed the concerns of stakeholders in the affected area, and if the financial terms were in the County’s best interests.
9. I’d to consider proposed measures on their individual merit. Based on my experiences with the Urbana Plan Commission and Urbana City Council, I recognize that TIF districts and other creative means of allocating tax revenues can be effective tools for revitalizing distressed neighborhoods and encouraging viable economic development when applied appropriately. Such programs also carry a risk of advantaging one business or developer at the expense of another, so caution is required.
10. I believe that government strengthens the free market when it regulates areas in which the market would otherwise reward irresponsible or unsustainable conduct. Governments certainly have an obligation not to impose unnecessary burdens, but recent events on Wall Street demonstrate the risks of irresponsible conduct in the absence of regulations. By helping maintain a level playing field in which businesses succeed based on innovation, competence, integrity and long-term viability, government helps the market create a solid, prosperous and sustainable economy. As a business owner I feel can draw the line between reasonable and unreasonable regulations.
11. Austere times call for careful re-examination of budget priorities to ensure that essential services can be delivered at a reasonable cost to the taxpayer. The current County Board has already implemented cost-saving measures which I will encourage the Board to continue and expand upon. Again, this is a time when citizen input is essential, to help the County determine the appropriate level of services to provide based on available resources.

12. This issue will probably be decided before I am a member of the County Board. I do not have a strong personal opinion—to me, the structure of the board is less important than having engaged, informed and dedicated individuals serving on it.
13. I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this survey and I encourage Champaign County voters to come on on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup> to vote for the candidates of their choice.

Brief Bio:

Christopher Alix has lived in the Champaign-Urbana area since 1984, and south Urbana since 1995. He owns and operates Prairie City Computing, a local consulting practice specializing in software development and electronic design. He has served on the Urbana Community Development Commission, the Urbana Plan Commission, the Urbana City Council, and is now President of the Board of the Urbana & Champaign Sanitary District. He is an alumnus of the University of Illinois College of Engineering.