

A Campaign Statement from Mayor Peter Schwartzman

Dear friends and residents of Galesburg,

As I prepare to launch my campaign to serve another term as your mayor, I invite you to reflect on the past four years. How has Galesburg fared under my leadership? Below you will find a summary of the key areas I've focused on during my time in office.

Protecting Our Human and Financial Resources

- **By prioritizing our safety:** We have expanded our police force and fire fighters (for the first time in over 40 years) and added a mental health co-responder position.
- **By taking seriously our fiscal responsibility:** During all four years that I have been mayor, revenues have exceeded expenses (by an average of \$5 million!) while continuing to make the most aggressive contributions to fire and police pensions in decades. In addition, my pursuit of energy aggregation over the last four years has saved residents over \$7 million, and all of this has been accomplished while maintaining the lowest property tax rate in a decade.
- **By improving our city's health and humanitarian efforts:** In addition to removing all lead service lines in our community, I have provided support for a multiyear effort that resulted in a full-year warming shelter supported by new partnerships, a new Food Bank, and the creation of The Hunger Collaborative.

Investing in Our Future

- **By making major investments in roads** (including over \$2.5 million in 2024 alone).
- **By supporting the creation of new jobs** at places like Western Smokehouse (which will be headquartered in Galesburg), FCA, Graham Hospital, Solvera, and Nature's Treatment.
- **By making major investments in energy**, including attracting over \$10 million in private investments in solar in the city alone.
- **By supporting small business development** with innovative grant programs that have resulted in 28 new businesses during my tenure as mayor.
- **By advocating for responsible investment and accountability**, including the first scientific survey of city residents, an expansive Housing Study, an integrated Transportation Study, and two Strategic Plans.
- **By enhanced support for forward-thinking organizations** like KCAP, the Galesburg Visitor & Tourism, and various studies that will help direct the future of our community.

Preserving Our Assets

- **By enhancing our parks**, including the HT Custer upgrade, new equipment at Lancaster Park, the Dale Kelly Park rehab, and path improvements at Lake Storey.
- **By improving our recreational facilities:** Hawthorne Pool has been refurbished, tennis courts have been resurfaced and relighted, a new disc golf course has been installed, and Bunker Links has been setting records over the number of rounds played.

- **By enhancing our institutions:** During my first term as mayor, the city has lent its support to the new Public Library, a new venue for the Civic Arts Center, a new building for the Knox-Galesburg Symphony, the installation of a new “Galesburg” sign on Main Street, and the creation of the annual Lipanda Festival.
- **By beautifying the downtown area:** Over 470 trees have been planted, the Broadview Hotel and many other dilapidated buildings have been removed, and new holiday lights have been added.

Clearly, Galesburg is on the move! But even with all these accomplishments, there is still much we can do to improve the quality of life for our residents. If reelected as Mayor, here is a partial list of my priorities for the near future:

Improvements in infrastructure

- Continued street improvements
- Improved housing options for all socioeconomic groups (guided by the recently completed Housing Study)
- Improved and expanded public transportation (guided by the recently completed Transportation Study)

Improved efforts to tell our story and enhance our image

- Work on city branding and marketing
- Finalize plans for the Railroad Hall of Fame
- Plant many more trees and improve city entrances with better signage and landscaping

Improve quality of life for everyone in our community

- Create a downtown amphitheater
- Establish a year-round Farmers Market
- Pursue additional park enhancements (finish the Lake Storey loop, Cooke Park)
- Add recreational opportunities (pickleball enhancements, improvements at Lakeside and at Bunker Links)
- Address "at risk" youth with a community center that includes youth engagement, skills training, and mentorship.
- Address mental health challenges in our community through strategic investments and partnerships.

I look forward to continuing to work with all of you on these and other projects that will make Galesburg a place where *all* our residents thrive.

Thank you for your support,
Mayor Peter Schwartzman