

greater MANKATO *this month*

Election 2010

With the election season now upon us (the first primary elections are less than a month away), individuals often approach me, curious if Greater Mankato Growth (GMG) has an opinion on a particular candidate or issue. Not a surprising question, given that chambers of commerce and economic development organizations (GMG is both) have a long history of lending their support as the “*voice of business*” to a particular candidate or issue.

However, viewpoints among the businesses, can vary greatly depending on their size, industry and so forth. So, it’s impossible to project a singular voice for business on most issues. Rather, GMG’s work in public affairs focuses on providing opportunities for interactions and information exchange between our business community and our public policy leaders.

To provide important candidate information to our business community during the election season, GMG’s Public Affairs Steering Committee (made up of individuals from diverse business backgrounds and political affiliations) developed a list of characteristics candidates should have that will represent the area well, relative to business. These include:

- fiscal responsibility
- local and regional business issue awareness, appreciation and advocacy
- ability and willingness to promote and participate in open communication
- conscientiousness in researching issues
- visionary and independent thought process



Jonathan Zierdt
Greater Mankato Growth, Inc.
President & CEO

- resolute decision making
- capability to present and support ideas

A questionnaire with biographic and profile questions related to the above traits was sent to all candidates participating in the primary elections for local and county offices on August 10. Answers to these questions will be published on our website and sent to media outlets the week of **July 19**. Primary candidate forums will be scheduled the weeks of **July 26** and **August 2**. To learn the dates of our forums and other events, see candidate profile answers and access a host of other information on all sides of various issues, visit the Election 2010 area of our GMG website: greatermankato.com/gmg-election2010.php.

Throughout the 2010 election season GMG will work toward helping voters and candidates understand issues and perspectives before and after the election, with continued interaction, information sharing and survey work. In this way, we will be positioned to provide our leaders with the full spectrum of business thoughts from the marketplace - and truly be the *Voice FOR Business!*