

## A BLUEPRINT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AURORA

We need to attract existing businesses to move to Aurora, assist businesses currently in Aurora to help them succeed and we need to encourage new businesses to choose Aurora as their home.

To accomplish this we must focus on cutting taxes to create a pro-growth climate; re-invigorating downtown Aurora; emphasizing local preference in city contracting; and recognizing the importance of a high-quality education in workforce development.

### CUTTING TAXES TO CREATE A PRO-GROWTH CLIMATE

- Repeal the Weisner tax increases – Aurorans pay almost three times as much in property taxes as our neighbors in Naperville.
- Institute a pilot sales tax moratorium in downtown Aurora – if the program is successful in helping to keep existing business and attract new business the program could be expanded to other parts of the city.
- Aggressively look for ways to decrease the tax burden on individuals, families and businesses in Aurora – cutting taxes creates jobs, which in turns expands our tax base and leads to increased revenue for the city.
- Cut wasteful and inefficient spending in city government – rather than looking to over-stretched taxpayers to foot the bill for spending, the city government should instead work to eliminate wasteful and inefficient spending.

### REINVIGORATING DOWNTOWN AURORA

- Institute a pilot sales tax moratorium in downtown Aurora.
- Create a comprehensive parking plan – a comprehensive plan for parking will help to encourage foot traffic.
- Streamline the permit process for building and renovation.
- Full utilization of Community Block Grants - \$4 million in CBGs remain unused.
- Create a volunteer Cultural Commission to help generate ideas on downtown revitalization.

### LOCAL PREFERENCE – INVESTING AURORA DOLLARS HERE AT HOME

- A local preference program should be instituted to insure that preference in city contracting is giving to Aurora businesses.
- Provide incentives for out of town contractors to use local sub-contractors.
- Work with the local Chambers of Commerce to actively identify and recruit local businesses to bid on city contracts.

### HIGH QUALITY EDUCATION – THE KEY TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- High quality education will insure that Aurora has a workforce that can compete with any other in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy.
- Public schools must be improved and the state should be aggressively lobbied to pay its share in educational costs in full and on time.
- We should explore magnet and charter schools.
- We should work closely with our local community colleges and local universities on workforce development issues.