

January 31, 2009

On February 17, 2009, the voters of Sheboygan will have their first opportunity in the process that will select the next mayor of the City. There are three major candidates for mayor: Juan Perez, Bob Ryan, and Terry Van Akkeren. The Greater Sheboygan Committee (GSC) believes that Terry Van Akkeren and Bob Ryan each have the necessary background and experience to be an effective Mayor. As such, we encourage citizens to cast their votes in the primary for Mr. Van Akkeren or Mr. Ryan.

For the City of Sheboygan to move forward, particularly in difficult economic times, sound political leadership is required. Terry Van Akkeren has many years experience in local and State level government. Bob Ryan has experience on the City Council and the practical experience that comes with running a small business. There are differences between these two candidates; however, there is time enough between the primary and the April election for them to more fully present their positions.

We cannot support a second term bid by Mayor Perez. He has achieved some positive results in his first term, however, they have come at too great a cost. The achievements have been more than offset by the creation of a climate of divisiveness and constant political bickering. Instead of demonstrating the art of leadership, the Mayor has often rigidly opposed the City Council and public opinion. Political compromise and good faith disagreement are frequently absent. Adversarial confrontation is often present. The ambulance service transfer to the Fire Department is a perfect example of how not to handle a public policy issue. In addition to creating a climate of distrust and constant turmoil, the current Mayor has shown minimal accomplishments in the area of economic development and job creation.

The Greater Sheboygan Committee, is a group of local business persons interested in promoting effective and efficient local government. It has spent considerable time evaluating the positions and performance of the three candidates. We firmly believe Terry Van Akkeren and Bob Ryan are the best choices in the primary.

To learn more about the Greater Sheboygan Committee see:
www.greatersheboygan.org

Gary Maples
President
Greater Sheboygan Committee