



This survey was developed by members of the “We the People” sub groups Citizens for Good Government as well as the Region of Opportunity Team. Both Mayoral Candidates, Al Mattingly and Ron Payne were given the opportunity to respond to questions involving their commitment to downtown revitalization and development.

We would like to thank Mr. Mattingly and Mr. Payne for their willingness to complete this survey.

**Citizens for Good Government ■ Region of Opportunity Team**

## SCALE/KEY

<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
No interest	Some interest	Among my commitments	Among my top 5 or 6 issues	Among my top 3 economic development issues	My top economic development issue

**1. On a scale of 0 – 5 as shown above, please indicate your commitment to implementing a Downtown Owensboro Development Plan.**

**Al Mattingly’s response: 5**

I believe that the success of our River Front Development is linked to Downtown Redevelopment. If either fail, neither will be a success. I worked hard with Commissioner Brake, Judge Haire and Commissioner Riney to formulate a framework for the Downtown director whose sole purpose is to concentrate on making the vision of a revitalized downtown was one of the pieces that has been lacking in downtown redevelopment over the years.

A clear plan and implementation strategy is the other piece that has been missing. We, as a commission, have addressed that by engaging the Gateway Planning group to deliver a road map to our community for the revitalization effort as well as recommendations for a funding mechanism.

**Ron Payne’s response: 5**

I believe the implementation of a Downtown Master Plan is a key component of a successful economic development strategy. This is one of the reasons I objected to the Hwy 54 TIF project as it would have doomed downtown, in my opinion.

**2. From your perspective, how important is the connection between downtown revitalization and economic development in the Greater Owensboro area.**

**Al Mattingly’s response: 4**

Economic Development should be viewed as a stool with three legs. The first leg being based on education, technology and entrepreneurship. The second leg is based on retention and expansion of existing businesses. The third leg is based on recruitment of new businesses. Without any one of the legs the stool wobbles.

A revitalized downtown could open up business opportunities for entrepreneurs in our community as well as tourism opportunities. While we generally think of recruitment as big factories, recruitment can also be one, two or three employees in professional fields etc. Retention might be reflected in the fact that a re-vitalized, vibrant downtown with an entertainment district and a riverfront second to none may play a role in keeping some of our business people from leaving Owensboro and will certainly help in keeping young people here.

**Ron Payne’s response: 5**

A successfully developed Downtown is critical to our economic development plans. It would demonstrate we are a dynamic community open for business.

**3. In your administration – whether for four or eight years – indicate your priority for downtown revitalization among other major issues.**

**Al Mattingly's response: 5**

As previously mentioned, if we are successful in our river front development, we need a revitalized downtown as a compliment. If we are to be successful in re-vitalizing downtown we need attractions such as a riverfront to draw people downtown.

**Ron Payne's response: 5**

It would be my first priority. We need to construct a new Convention/Events center as soon as possible. I believe the State should be a significant partner in this undertaking. We will continue to loose tourism dollars and our community will not be as vibrant and attractive to new industry otherwise.

**4. Currently local government funds the Downtown Development Authority and the position of Executive Director who champions the cause of downtown development. Please indicate how important you consider this position.**

**Al Mattingly's response: 5**

If I did not consider the Authority and Director important, I would not have worked hard to resolve the issues with Fiscal Court as mentioned in number 1 above. Not only did we create and fund the agency and position; we set up an ongoing funding mechanism to assure its survivability.

**Ron Payne's response: 4**

If Downtown is to develop as it should it will require the efforts of a dedicated group such as the Downtown Development Authority with a full-time director, therefore I support this Authority.

