

Why It's Misleading:

Statement: Lake County Board Member Sandra Hart approved an increased \$503 million budget for Lake County, including a 300% jump in spending for Special Service Areas

Fact: Special Service Areas (SSAs) are put in place by voters in a specific area so that they can make improvements to infrastructure, such as sidewalks, roads, or water service. If residents in this particular area want these improvements, they must vote for the money to be collected for those improvements. No other residents are impacted by these SSAs. The county collects these dollars on behalf of the SSA, which is why the budget is impacted. The large jump in SSAs is because two areas in Lake County—one in Mundelein and one in Gurnee—have voted to make improvements.

Why It Matters: To say that any board member has any impact on an SSA is completely false and disingenuous. The SSA is created by the neighborhood who wants it, and has no impact on any other Lake County resident. As an aside, we haven't even voted on this budget yet. I'll be voting against it on Tuesday because of the \$1 million tax levy increase, which I don't think we need.

Statement: Sandra Hart approved increased borrowing and the total long term debt of Lake County has more than doubled from \$81 million to \$194 million

Fact: In 2011 and 2012 (prior to me being on the board), Lake County determined that there was a need for a new courthouse. While the courthouse will primarily be built with existing funds set aside for capital improvements, there was a need to issue bonds to cover the costs upfront. In 2012, the board authorized \$90 million construction bonds. Again, this is prior to me being on the board.

Why It Matters: Any time capital improvements are made, it's common for any organization to borrow money and pay those monies back over time. It would be poor fiscal policy for any government agency to overtax residents and keep money for twenty years in anticipation of a capital improvement.

Statement: Sandra Hart approved policies which have decreased the equalized assessed value of all residential property in Lake County by an average of 8%

Fact: There is no factual information here. As most residents know, the EAV has declined because of economic conditions since 2008. As the economy improves, we begin to see increases in EAV.

Why It Matters: It is dishonest to try to link the policies of the Lake County Board to a reduction, or an increase, to the EAV. To put out false information to confuse people is wrong and does nothing to educate the voters.

Statement: It seems like Sandra Hart wants to use our property tax dollars as her personal ATM

Fact: There is no factual information here at all. Is my opponent saying that I am stealing money from Lake County taxpayers?

Why It Matters: I believe that people deserve to vote for or against someone based on the issues and where that person stands. I also believe that we live in a community that is better than this. It puts an ugly face on local politics, which we really haven't seen before.