

GI DEMS PLATFORM 2026

Economic Development: Attract environmentally friendly businesses that create good jobs and grow the tax base without harming our environment. Utilize local business expertise and professional marketing services to attract businesses to Grand Island. Bring in more basic services—like grocery stores, health care, and everyday retail—so residents can meet their needs on the island.

Taxation: Ensure taxation is fair, not overly burdensome to residents and enough to fund essential services, infrastructure, and community programs. Reduce residents' tax burden by attracting new businesses and increasing business-generated tax revenue.

Citizen Involvement: Promote active participation of Grand Island citizens in our local governance and within the GI Democratic Committee through outreach initiatives such as listening sessions, voter registration, and community meetings.

Government Transparency & Collaboration: Make town government open and easy to understand by giving residents access to budgets, documents, meetings, and records. Hold open government meetings and citizen-government “Town Hall” meetings to promote active Town – citizen communication, collaboration and trust.

Diversity & Inclusion: Enhance diversity and inclusion within local government and ensure that hiring practices welcomes qualified people from all backgrounds and prevents favoritism or nepotism. Follow the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) so town buildings, services, and meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Make sure town government respects all religions and people with no religion and keeps a clear separation of church and state.

Clean Energy: Promote clean energy—like solar rooftops, heat pumps, and electric town vehicles—to cut pollution and save money over time.

Infrastructure: Work with Erie County and New York State to keep roads safe and in good repair, and to maintain a dependable, environmentally safe sewer system. Ensure the sewer system on Grand Island is effective, well-designed, environmentally safe, and efficient to meet the needs of residents and businesses. Develop roads designed to be safe and accessible for drivers, public transit riders, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Recreation: Develop and support social and recreational opportunities that promotes social gatherings, enhance residents' quality of life. Build a centrally located community center for youth, adults, and seniors, with space for recreation, meetings, and programs. Provide public gathering spaces—‘third places’ outside home and work—for meetings, social events, and community activities. Support community events like concerts, festivals, outdoor movies, and food trucks. Support social & recreation events including concerts, festivals, movie nights, and food trucks. Create a community seasonal ice skating rink and concert pavilion.

Conservation: Protect Grand Island's water, open/green spaces, and wildlife while allowing responsible growth.

Eco-Tourism: Expand trails, bike paths, and parks so residents and visitors can enjoy the island's natural beauty and support local ecotourism businesses. Encourage businesses that support eco-tourism.

Communications: Improve accessibility to broadband services so everyone has access to affordable, highspeed internet and reliable phone service.

Community Center: Develop a community center with amenities such as a gym, youth & adult recreational facilities, a senior citizens center, and public meeting spaces with funding derived primarily from an expansion of business tax revenue and grants. Promote “third place” meeting facilities within a centralized community center for social, economic and community interactions outside of home and office spaces.

Town Center: Create a walkable, bikefriendly town center with trees, landscaping, and safe, attractive streets. Mandate vehicle parking behind new commercial buildings and enhance the landscaping around Town Hall.

Growth & Development: Limit new housing growth and focus on attracting clean businesses that protect the environment and provide good jobs and tax revenue.

Unions & Fair Working Practices: Support unions, living wages, benefits, and safe working conditions for all workers—including town employees and contractors.

Social Justice: Ensure Grand Island Police use ‘community policing’—collaborating with residents to prevent crime, build trust, and solve problems with minimum force. Make sure the town court treats everyone fairly, focuses on prevention and rehabilitation when appropriate, and uses the least severe penalties that still protect public safety.

Enhance Social-Economic Opportunities for All: Support affordable housing and enforce fair housing laws so no one is denied housing because of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, or sexual orientation or identity. Address homelessness with proven approaches that involve social services, mental health and substanceuse treatment, community policing, and the courts. Provide living wages and good health benefits for town employees and contractors

Education: Ensure quality educational opportunities exist for all GI residents through support of public education, community education & public libraries. Support strong public schools, community education, and libraries that protect individual rights and promote curiosity and learning, without censorship or partisan politics.

Developed by GI Dems Platform Sub-Committee:

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