

**1. Tell us about yourself, family, education, etc.**

My name is Matt Kasten. I am 51 years old and have lived in Brighton, Illinois all my life. I will be married to my wife Carolyn 30 years in April. I have a 25 year old son Adam and a 15 year old daughter, Alyssa. I graduated from Southwestern High School and attended Lewis and Clark Community College, as well as St. Louis Community College where I studied Criminal Justice and Paramedicine. I served many years on the Brighton/Betsey Ann Fire Protection District, also serving as an EMT/Board Member for the Area Ambulance Service-Brighton Unit. I also worked as a part-time Police Officer for the Brighton PD for many years, while working as a full time Paramedic for Alton Memorial EMS/Christian Hospital EMS. I then worked nearly 19 years for ARCH Air Medical Service/Air Methods Corporation in the following capacities: Flight Paramedic; Customer Service Senior Manager; Program Director; and ended my tenure as the Regional Business Director. I was an ownership partner for Kasten Photography in Brighton for many years. I currently own KasTech, LLC dba Digital Doc in Chesterfield, Missouri. Currently, I serve as a Brighton Village Trustee, Board of Directors for Altonized Community Federal Credit Union, and the Board of Directors for the Chesterfield Regional Chamber of Commerce. I have been very active all my life when it comes to volunteering in the community and surrounding areas. For more detail, please feel free to visit my profile on LinkedIn (Matthew P. Kasten).

**2. Why did you first decide to run for this position?**

I am running for Village President (Mayor) because I love the community. I grew up here and want to do what I can to make it better in any way possible. I am a firm believer that one shouldn't complain or be critical of something unless you are willing to be part of the solution. I have volunteered hundreds of hours in our community throughout my life because I love helping others and want Brighton to continue to have that "small town feel" with the financial strength to provide our citizens with a safe and prosperous environment.

**3. What do you hope to accomplish during your term for the Village and Residents?**

A few of the goals that I will strive to accomplish during my term are as follows:

- a. Economic Development for the Village of Brighton (keeping our small town feel but continuing our economic development in order to stay fiscally strong to maintain long term Sustainability for our village.) There needs to be sufficient revenue sources in order to provide the necessary services for the community.
- b. Clean Up Brighton (residential and commercial) so that we are all proud to work and reside in Brighton. Vacant and dilapidated homes, businesses and properties pose a health and safety concern for our community. As I have lived here all my life, I've seen over the years that we have fallen short on taking pride in our properties and feel that we need to spruce up our community so we can take pride in our environment.
- c. City Government to Community/Citizen Communications. I am a firm believer that communication is key. I understand that we can't always discuss every matter in granular detail due to laws, regulations, etc., but I do feel that we need to be as transparent as possible with our citizens, simply because we work for them and they deserve proper

communications. By encouraging open lines of dialogue, I feel things will be more productive. I believe when a person understands the rationale behind a specific decision, whether it be yes or no, it makes those decisions more palatable. There will be many tasks that are subcategories to the items listed above, but these are goals to work toward, and as we make improvements along the way we will see positive changes in the Community. As a side note, I know from experience not to overload one's self with too many things at first, or you will NOT be productive in achieving your goals!

**4. How do you plan to accomplish those goals during your term?**

In order to accomplish your goals, you must have TEAMWORK. As we all know, the Mayor needs to be a visionary and lead by example – but without the support and teamwork of the Board of Trustees, Employees of the Village and Community support, we will not make progress. As our Mayor, I will continue to listen to concerns and assure that we are all doing what is right for BRIGHTON. I know it may sound like political propaganda, but City Administration must all work together as a cohesive TEAM to be productive. If we are on our own personal agendas, we will not be able to make change for the better. We must all keep an open mind and be flexible. The world as we know it now is very complex and can be frustrating at times, but if we simply remain calm, respectful and professional while making decisions, we will DO THE RIGHT THING!

**5. What do you think the most challenging part of this position will be?**

I feel the most challenging part of the job will be - not always being able to accommodate every request. In my current business, we strive for all 5 Star customer reviews, but I also understand that you will not always make everyone happy all the time – it's simply not possible! With that being said, I have worked the majority of my career in public service and have learned how to handle all types of personalities. Once again, we may not be able to always accommodate everyone's request; but let us listen closely to what others have to say and try our best to accommodate and/or compromise, while treating everyone with respect during the process.

**6. Where do you see the future of the Village?**

I see the future of Brighton will be strong as long as we work together as one (TEAMWORK). Our Community of approximately 2,272 citizens is a great place to live and raise a family, but there is work to be done to assure that we are able to provide adequate services to the Community for years to come. The cost of living as well as doing business continues to rise each year, and local government must be fiscally responsible with the taxpayer's money. We need to assure that we have the strongest sales tax base possible. I understand that due to the geographic location of Brighton, most large companies and/or franchises do not choose to call Brighton home – but I feel there is room for economic growth while keeping that small hometown feel. Another focus must be on grants, donations, and other alternative sources of funding for special projects that help our community. The Village of Brighton is filled with awesome people that are very smart, talented, caring and giving. We need to involve those that want to help to make a difference. No one person by themselves can make Brighton better...as the old saying goes – it takes a Village to make a difference.

Brighton has beautiful parks to be proud of, with plenty of opportunities for growth; sporting events, community events, picnics, fairs, etc. Let's work together and think outside of the box on how we can make it a better Brighton for all.

**7. Why should someone vote for you?**

Why should you vote for Matt? Those that know me well can tell you that I put my heart and soul in all that I do. My work ethic is stronger than most and I can assure you that I will work hard for constituents. I feel that I have a very diverse background and education that will allow for me to lead Brighton in the right direction. I will not always be right – I am only human and will make mistakes but if you don't try to make a difference, you really have no room to complain. Although every day is a learning experience, I feel that being a Village Trustee has provided me with the basic knowledge needed to be the Mayor. There is a lot more involved in being in Public Service/City Administration than the average person understands. Many hours of meetings and volunteer work; time away from your family, stress, being available 24/7 and you sure don't do it for the money – you do it because you love your community and want to help others and make a difference. With that being said, I am KASTEN my vote for MATT!

Lastly, I would like to also extend my congratulations to my opponent Tom Mitchell. Tom is a great guy and I wish him good luck!

Sincerely,

Matt Kasten

@Kasten2021 #KastenForBrightonMayor #Kasten2021