

## **Valuing Education**

Susan supports increasing Vocational Education opportunities throughout Illinois. Not all students need a college degree in order to meet the increasing demand for a skilled workforce.

Illinois has forced our local school districts to raise property taxes because the State Legislature has failed to follow its constitutional mandate for funding education. Illinois now has some of the highest property taxes in the nation.

As a former teacher, Susan is committed to education and will vote against unfunded mandates and supports local control within our school districts.

Susan will fight for adequate funding for our schools and resources teachers need to educate our children.

## **Law Enforcement and Public Safety**

Our government is delegated to protect the people we serve. Instead, Illinois legislators backed efforts to weaken police departments across the state, despite rising crime rates. We must empower our law enforcement community by providing them with the tools to get violent offenders off the streets. We need to combine resources with a plan to protect victims and address the root causes.

Susan is committed to working with the law enforcement community, advocates, and other organizations to find ways to solve problems that will make our state a safe place to raise families.

## **Second Amendment**

Susan believes and follows the Constitution of the United States. All Americans have the fundamental right “to keep and bear arms.” If the Constitution says we have the right to keep and bear Arms then we should not be infringed upon with a mandate to register our guns.

Susan’s family has been gun owners for generations. She holds a FOID card, a concealed carry license and will fight to protect our Second Amendment rights.

## **Healthcare**

Rural populations are more likely to travel long distances to access healthcare services. This can be a significant burden in terms of travel time, cost and time away from the workplace. In addition, the lack of reliable transportation is a barrier to care.

Adding to the problem is a shortage of healthcare professionals willing to relocate to a rural area, lack of broadband accessibility for telemedicine and an increasing number of mental health patients.

Even though children are covered by the All Kids Program for dental care, a majority of providers do not participate in the program. The risk of serious physical health problems later in life, such as heart disease, can increase for children with poor oral health. Untreated cavities can cause pain and infections that may lead to problems with eating, speaking, playing and learning. Children who have poor oral health often miss more school and receive lower grades than children receiving care.

Susan will work hard to find ways to provide safe, high-quality patient care, improve public transportation and increase broadband availability so telemedicine can be enhanced in the rural areas of the 53<sup>rd</sup> district.