

# Reduce Costs, Increase Revenues

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### By WBNG News

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This week on Action News, we're profiling the candidates and their issues in the race for Binghamton Mayor.

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Tonight, Republican candidate Rich David.

Action News reporter Gabe Osterhout tells why David believes his experience as a [business](#) owner and former deputy mayor make him the right choice.

Republican Rich David says he feels the pain of increased costs of doing business in Binghamton.

He owns Terra Cotta and Flashbacks downtown.

"What we need to do is stop making it more difficult for business to function in Binghamton. When you continue to raise taxes by double digits each year, when you continue to raise water and sewer rates, you are causing a disincentive for [businesses](#) to come to Binghamton to grow or expand in Binghamton," says David.

A former deputy mayor, David says turning the city around will require reducing expenses while increasing revenues.

He has a plan to cut 13 administrative positions in city hall, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars a year.

David would also like to reduce the size of management in the police and fire departments.

Those departments make up a majority of personnel costs in the city.

"In addition, we need to go department by department looking for efficiencies such as my cold asphalt recycling plan which will save 300-thousand dollars annually," says David.

David says the key is streamlining, reorganizing and sharing services where possible.

"I think the city of Binghamton currently faces a variety of very significant [financial](#) and economic hurdles. Really, what I think we need is somebody with the right combination of education and public sector and private sector experience," he says.

David says he's asking voters to put party politics aside when considering the future of the city and its leadership.

In Binghamton, Gabe Osterhout, WBNG-TV Action News.

David says he would work with unions during contract negotiations to make sure the result is what's best for both the employees and the taxpayers.

And, he would budget ahead for any potential increases in pension costs.

You have 2 chances to hear from the candidates first hand.

The Binghamton University College Republicans and College Democrats will host a debate.

It's this Wednesday, October 21st at 7:00 PM at the Old Union Hall on campus.

There will be another debate next Wednesday, October 28th.

It starts at 7:00 PM in City Council Chambers.

That debate is sponsored by the Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce, the League of Women Voters and the BCC Center for Civic Engagement.

Election Day is November 3rd.