

= Tom Weisner =

Tom Weisner (born c . 1949) is an American politician . He is the mayor of Aurora , Illinois , which is the second largest municipality in the state . He won re @-@ election on April 9 , 2013 . Prior to his election he worked for over eighteen years in high @-@ ranking positions in the city of Aurora and for five years as a volunteer in the Peace Corps .

He has been involved in several interstate new stories . In 2007 , he was embroiled in an interstate advertising controversy when the Governor of Kentucky used video footage of the local casino taken on a visit to Aurora for his re @-@ election campaign , which included a platform against gambling . In 2008 , his city @-@ wide wifi installation initiative was halted due to change in business strategy by the installing company . His decision @-@ making skills again made headlines outside of Illinois when a Planned Parenthood clinic 's permits became an issue .

= = Background = =

Weisner is a native of Batavia , Illinois , but moved to Aurora thirty years before becoming a political candidate . Weisner has been married to Marilyn Hogan Weisner sine 1972 . The Weisners raised two sons ; Thaddeus , who died in 2006 , and Anthony . Weisner earned his bachelor 's degree from Aurora University in organizational management .

Prior to becoming an Aurora city employee in 1986 , Weisner worked in the private sector and spent five years in the Solomon Islands , where he gave medical services and other assistance to natives with the Peace Corps and International Human Assistance Program . He and his wife were stationed in rain forests on the Island of Guadalcanal .

Weisner had held several department head positions in Aurora since beginning his first position as emergency service coordinator in January 1986 . By fall 1987 , Weisner had become the superintendent of the Aurora Department of Motor Vehicles . He later served as the director of equipment services for Aurora and was subsequently appointed Aurora 's director of public property in a 1991 city hall reorganization . In 1999 , he was appointed Aurora 's director of community services and organizational development , which was his last position before running for public office . He resigned from this position in February 2004 during the city 's water contamination crisis . The city 's residents were under a boil water order at the time of his resignation . The order to boil drinking water contaminated with E. coli bacteria lasted for ten days .

Weisner served as a delegate to the 2012 Democratic National Convention .

= = Campaign = =

In November 2002 , two @-@ term incumbent David Stover announced he would not seek re @-@ election . In May 2003 , Weisner announced he would run for election in the February 22 , 2005 municipal primary election . Weisner announced his candidacy for mayor almost two years before the election , in order to solidify his base of support , which might have gone to other potential candidates if he waited . Eventually , a final field of five contested for the two spots on the ballot for the April 5 , 2005 general election , but Weisner had endorsements from eight of the twelve city council members and a huge funding advantage .

In the first Aurora mayoral race without an incumbent in twenty years , Democrat Weisner garnered 60 % of the vote and Republican Richard Irvin finished second with 33 % to advance to the general election . Irvin was the only African @-@ American in the race . Weisner won eight of the city 's 10 wards and nearly two @-@ thirds of its precincts . When Obama visited Aurora on February 25 for his 10th town hall meeting after his 2004 United States Senate election in Illinois , he noted that as a Democrat he was inclined to support Weisner , but he made no endorsement . However , in the final days before the general election , Obama returned to endorse Weisner . The day after the election , the Chicago Tribune reported Weisner took 59 % of the vote , and the Chicago Sun @-@ Times reported that he took 68 % . When the results were finally tabulated in Aurora , which spans four counties , the Tribune turned out to be correct . Weisner took the oath of office on April 26 , 2005 .

= = Mayor = =

During the first few weeks of his tenure as mayor , he made national news by considering passing an ordinance against untimely holiday decorations , when citizens complained of Christmas decorations abounding during the summer . At about the same time in June 2005 , he was considering proposing a strict whistleblower protection ordinance in response to an alderman bribery scandal .

In July 2007 , first @-@ term Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher visited Weisner and took footage of the Hollywood Casino of Aurora . In August , when Fletcher 's re @-@ election ad campaign began airing on television in Kentucky , journalists began calling Weisner 's office about the ads which used the footage as a backdrop for a message regarding the evils and temptations casinos bring into communities . The footage was included in the very first ads that Fletcher aired and the Kentucky press noted that Aurora City Hall was not pleased with the usage . One Kentucky journalist referred to the Aurora casino as the " unnamed villain " in Fletcher 's anti @-@ gambling ads .

One of Weisner 's major initiatives was to make Aurora the first city in Illinois to construct a complete wireless Internet infrastructure . In January 2008 while it was in the middle of installing the city 's wifi network , MetroFi switched from an advertising @-@ based model to a subscription @-@ based business model and suspended construction . MetroFi had also contracted to install a network for Naperville , Illinois and attempted to sell partially installed networks to both cities . In June 2008 , Metrofi shut down all its wifi operations across the nation .

= = = Mayoralty = = =

As of the July 1 , 2007 United States Census Bureau population estimates , Aurora had a population of 170 @, @ 855 . Thus , Weisner served as mayor of a city ranked as the 135th largest incorporated municipality in the United States and the second largest in the state of Illinois . It is located 35 miles (56 @. @ 3 km) west of the Loop in Chicago .

Under Mayor Weisner 's administration , the crime rate fell to a 32 @-@ year low and has been under the national average for 3 years . The City of Aurora has also developed a 21st @-@ century police station with an on @-@ site 911 operations center , county branch court , jail , and training center . The state of the art police station is utilizes green technologies to make it energy efficient and thus reducing energy costs . Part of those green technologies include solar panels and taking advantage of storm water run off to power the building .

Infrastructure improvements and cost saving measures

Mayor Weisner also worked with members of the City Council to insure that 108 miles of Aurora residential and arterial streets were surfaced . Traffic congestion was reduced with the completion of widening East Indian Trail from Farnsworth Ave to Mitchell Road . This project was completed with minimal cost to the city by obtaining a \$ 6 million federal grant . Furthermore , under Mayor Weisner , the City of Aurora has made significant efforts in reducing the flooding that occurs when combined sewers lines back up . The City of Aurora also retrofitted several of its buildings , using stimulus funds , to be more energy efficient . The modifications are expected to cut down annual energy costs by 40 % .

Job creation

Peerless Industries moved to Aurora and established a 307 @, @ 813 @-@ square @-@ foot (28 @, @ 596 @. @ 8 m2) facility . Peerless Industries is one of the largest US @-@ based manufacturers of audio @-@ visual mounting solutions . They have operations in China , Mexico , and two facilities in Melrose Park , IL . Through the utilization of a TIF district , the popular Ballydoyle Irish Restaurant and Pub was able to open a second location within the city . In addition , the previous year , the creation of the Illinois Tollway interchange at Eola Road on Interstate 88 created another avenue of access to Aurora for Chicago @-@ based commerce . The tollway is expected to bring an increased retail and restaurant presence to the city . This has been realized

with the introduction of a Chick @-@ Fil @-@ a , Golden Corral , Chipolte , and a Von Maur Dry Goods . In 2009 , 425 new jobs were added to the city with the introduction of the North American headquarters of Freudenberg Household Products .

Budget transparency

The City of Aurora , under Mayor Weisner , has also been the recipient of the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officer 's Association . The award is given to municipalities that conduct their budget process in an open and reader friendly manner . Aurora last won the award in 2009 .

= = Criticism = =

He was cited in The Washington Post in a controversy about the methods a Planned Parenthood clinic used to obtain permits . In October 2008 , he co @-@ authored a Chicago Tribune op @-@ ed article against the Canadian National Railway plan to purchase the Elgin , Joliet and Eastern Railway because he viewed the long @-@ term traffic projections in the plan as substandard .

= = = Re @-@ election = = =

In early March 2008 , two Aurora City Council Aldermen announced their candidacies for mayor . In May 2008 , Weisner announced his intentions to run for re @-@ election in the non @-@ partisan February 24 , 2009 primary election after the two challengers announced . In the shadow of the Rod Blagojevich corruption scandal , his campaign has since been criticized by his opponents for accepting contributions from businesses that the city awarded contracts to . However , he won re @-@ election on April 7 , 2009 .

He ran unopposed for re @-@ election on April 9 , 2013 .