

VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BLOOMFIELD

Tuesday, November 3, 2020
POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OAKLAND AREA

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2 Candidates for TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR for ONE 4-year term

CANDIDATES for SUPERVISOR ONE 4-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i>	Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?
<p><i>Democrat</i> DANI WALSH 7130 Wing Lk. Rd. Bloomfield, MI 48301</p>	<p>I am a lifelong resident of Bloomfield Township for 48 years. The education and life lessons learned while growing up in the Bloomfield Hills Schools District prepared me for success at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor and throughout my adult life.</p> <p>After 20+ years of working for global corporations and honing my skills in strategic planning, organizational management, process and budget efficiencies, procurement, training and workforce development, and management, I became a Business Consultant in 2018. I help businesses redefine or reinvent themselves to improve and succeed in a changing business environment.</p> <p>As a Trustee, I have an inside look to the lack of transparency and outdated business practices that risk the long-term sustainability of Bloomfield. As a public servant, whether it was going public with the OPEB & spending concerns, approving a land swap to save the nature center to the detriment of my property, or bringing citizen perspective to board decisions, I always put the citizens needs first. As Supervisor, I will bring successful business acumen and leadership you can trust to make Bloomfield stronger and rebuild the bridges with our schools & community.</p>	<p>1) Financial Concerns – Liabilities, spending, & accounting practices is the largest concern. Our OPEB liability was one of the least funded in Michigan. I agreed with Plante Moran, & the resident survey, that asked for budget cuts & shared sacrifice before taxing. Concern also surrounds the contracts negotiated before the compensation & staffing study was completed. I would end the pitting of employees vs citizens & approach it as a consultant that finds opportunities for efficiencies and reduction in spending, while maintaining services. Long-term we want this to be a great place to live & work.</p> <p>2) No master plan– The strategic plan expired about 7 years ago. Implementing a master plan would end the knee jerk decisions being made that are taking away from the vision & character of the township. I would like to implement a committee filled with leadership, employees, and citizens coming together to help</p> <p>3) Outdated Structure – “That’s the way it’s always been done” is not a reason to avoid improvement. A part-time Treasurer and part-time Supervisor would allow funds for a qualified Superintendent that reports to the entire board, ending the withholding of information to Trustees.</p>

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP (Continued)

CANDIDATES for SUPERVISOR ONE 4-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i>	Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?
<p>Republican DAN DEVINE 4511 Lakeview Ct. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301</p>	<p>Township Treasurer and Architect of the now-vulnerable AAA Bond Rating (2000-2016) by prudent investments and strategic planning.</p> <p>Negotiated Union Contracts in 2004 and 2010 saving Taxpayers over \$100 Million by closing the old Defined Benefit Pension and closing lifetime Retiree Healthcare Benefits for new hires.</p> <p>Successfully crafted Balanced Budgets, prudently invested Township Funds, and cost-effectively managed benefits involving over 500 Employees and Retirees.</p> <p>Certified Public Finance Administrator (CPFA).</p> <p>Experienced Municipal Law Expert and Attorney (1987-2020)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I pledge to develop a Resident Focused Strategic Plan to effectively guide the Township's future. I will work with the new Board of Trustees to prioritize exemplary services to Residents while sensibly addressing the Structural Budget Crisis exacerbated over the last 4 years and further complicated by the unknown economic fallout of COVID-19. We need to make the Residents Job #1 again. We will Re-Open Township Hall with a 5 Day Work Week and prohibit Free Luxury Cars for Elected Officials and Department Heads. 2. I pledge to straighten out the Water and Sewer Department's poor business practices and exorbitant billings and resolve the issues called out in the \$12 Million Class-Action Lawsuit lost in Court by Bloomfield Township. The Current Administration has used our Water and Sewer Fees to pay over \$1 Million to attorneys to fight a case against us. We Taxpayers are on the losing end either way. We will establish Free Online Access to all Accounting Records in real time to track revenues, expenses, debt and all Water, Sewer and Road Projects. 3. I pledge to provide Full Financial Transparency and Public Participation in all we do before decisions are made.

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP (Continued)

2 Candidates for TOWNSHIP CLERK for ONE 4-year term

CANDIDATES for CLERK ONE 4-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i>	Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?
<p><i>Democrat</i> MARTIN BROOK 1332 Lake Crescent Dr. Bloomfield, MI 48302</p>	<p>My experience and past track record in this community demonstrate the qualities necessary for success as Bloomfield Township Clerk. 24 years as an attorney practicing labor and employment law. 17 years as a Township resident. 6 years on the Bloomfield Hills School Board - 1 year as President of the Board. Plus deep community involvement. I serve on the Board of Directors of the Friends of The E.L. Johnson Nature Center, I am active with Bloomfield Hills Schools as a forensics coach and judge, and I am a member of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>I was elected to Bloomfield Hills School Board in 2005. I priorities were openness, strategic planning, budgeting/financial controls, and protecting/enhancing what makes our schools great (quality teachers, broad curriculum, and unique assets such as the Farm and Nature Center). For several years I was Chair of the Finance, Facilities, and Legal Affairs Committee. As Board President, I lead the District through a community-based effort to select a new Superintendent. In nearly 6 years on the Board, the best thing we did was bring the district back together and launch it on a new unified path.</p> <p>Learn more Facebook: @BrookforBloomfield</p>	<p>The Clerk runs elections and is a member of the Board of Trustees - the legislative body of the Township. As Clerk, I will:</p> <p>(1) Continue to run elections that you can trust and deliver excellent public services.</p> <p>(2) Be transparent and open. The business of the township must be clear and easily available. I believe in proactive openness and not openness simply for compliance sake. My prior School Board service demonstrates my commitment to these things and I hope you allow me to will bring this experience to the Bloomfield Township Clerk position.</p> <p>(3) Start a community conversation. The Township does not just have a structural budget deficit, it has a trust deficit! The Township Board cannot fix these deficits alone. It must initiate a community conversation that engages everyone and listens closely.</p> <p>(4) Make tough business decisions - openly and collaboratively. Township's tax revenue and budget are essentially flat when compared to numbers from before the great recession. Difficult decisions lay ahead and to be successful we must tackle them together</p> <p>I will work hard every day to earn your vote and your trust! I want to hear from you: martin.brook@comcast.net</p>

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for CLERK</p> <p>ONE 4-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>Republican TOM SMYLY 737 Satterlee Rd. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304</p>	<p>I attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, graduating with a BA in Psychology. I married my college sweetheart, Cyndi, and spent a few years serving in the non-profit sector. After attending the police academy in 2007, I was hired by the Bloomfield Township Police Department and have been an officer for over 12.5 years. I have received two lifesaving awards, multiple MADD awards, trained new recruits as a Field Training Officer, and assisted in our Empowering Self Defense Workshops for Women. Outside of my law enforcement career, I am also a local realtor and currently serve as President of my neighborhood association. Cyndi and I have 3 children in the Bloomfield Hills Schools.</p> <p>"Serving Every Resident With Excellence and Respect" is not only my campaign slogan, but what I have made a career doing in my 12.5 years of public service. I serve and work with individuals from all sides of the political aisle. I am dedicated to improving the lives of Bloomfield Twp residents, and believe government at every level is employed by and works on behalf of the citizenry, not the other way around. I am committed to providing the highest levels of efficiency and customer service.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Helping all Bloomfield Township residents navigate through the many recent changes in voting laws and practices. Since the last election cycle, Michigan passed No Reason Absentee Voting which allows any registered voter to receive an absentee application upon request. Some residents, however, may need guidance to understand the full process. Absentee applications must be completed and returned in order to then receive an absentee ballot on which to cast their vote. Additionally, Bloomfield Township has recently combined several voting precincts which is another change residents must be aware of. 2) Helping residents feel valued, cared for, and their concerns heard by providing efficient, positive customer service with a smile. Government should exist to help residents simplify and accentuate their lives, not complicate them. 3) Maintaining the sterling reputation retiring clerk, Jan Roncelli, has established in the office. The Clerk's office provides numerous support services including voter registration, elections, passports, record keeping, notary, and neighborhood associations. The position demands handling multiple items simultaneously, but never sacrificing excellence.

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP (Continued)

1 Candidate for TOWNSHIP TREASURER for ONE 4-year term

<p>CANDIDATES for TREASURER</p> <p>ONE 4-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>Republican BRIAN E. KEPES 4615 Pickering Rd. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301</p>	<p>I believe I have provided solid results and a proven record to continue to serve as your Bloomfield Treasurer. In the last four years, township reserves have earned \$2,881,000, verses the previous Treasurer’s last four years earning only \$476,000. We performed 6 times better by eliminating excessive broker fees and investing in safe government bonds. I have provided 26 years of service to the Township, 15 on the Zoning Board of Appeals and Tax Board of Review, 7 as Trustee, and 4 as your Treasurer. Professionally I am a Certified Public Accountant, started, built, and managed successful businesses’ for over thirty years. Additionally, I have provided active long-term leadership in diverse community organizations. To date, we have eliminated approximately \$1,000,000 in annual perpetual costs and fees. As a fiscal conservative, I will maintain a laser focus on continued taxpayer cost reductions and value enhancements for the benefit of Bloomfield Township residents.</p>	<p>First, continue to meet and exceed residents' expectations of a safe, secure, and stable community while balancing the limited revenues available, even in the face of these hopefully once in a lifetime catastrophic events. Second, provide and support innovative solutions to our challenges that include road maintenance and/or provide opportunities for new roads, the essential maintenance and restoration of our aging water and sewer infrastructure. Also provide and improve the very best services to our residents while retaining and attracting top quality staff to perform these vital services like police, fire, and advanced life support. Third, we need a cohesive Township Board that can maintain the trust of the taxpayers and provide a transparent, civil, and respectful local government we can all be proud of. Last but certainly not least, we need to remain committed to fiscally conservative policies and keep our tax rates low and maximize value for residents.</p>

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP (Continued)

8 Candidates for TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE for FOUR 4-year terms

<p>CANDIDATES for TRUSTEE</p> <p>FOUR 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than FOUR</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p><i>Democrat</i> STEPHANIE FAKIH 1537 Quarton Ridge Cir. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301</p>	<p>I grew up in Bloomfield Township. I attended Birmingham Public Schools and Cranbrook Kingswood before moving to Ann Arbor to attend the University of Michigan. I moved back to Bloomfield Township after graduating from Fordham University School of Law in New York City. I am running for Bloomfield Township Trustee because I am dedicated to keeping the community a desirable place for homeowners to invest and for families to grow.</p> <p>As an attorney and member of legislative committees tasked with offering position statements to Michigan legislators on proposed legislation, I am abreast of new laws and can help identify trends and potential problem areas for the Township and its residents. I am also actively involved in the community through volunteering, both as an attorney and as a citizen. I dedicate a portion of my legal practice to pro bono service for those who cannot afford zealous counsel. I am also a candidate for the MSU Extension Master Gardener program which was created, in part, to encourage community engagement in gardening and other small farming practices. I am passionate about civic engagement and believe an engaged citizenry helps create robust and desirable communities.</p>	<p>The top three "priority issues" facing Bloomfield Township include maintaining a balanced and transparent Township budget, enhancing Township services to retain Township residents and attract new residents, and creating more opportunities for community engagement.</p> <p>If elected to be Bloomfield Township Trustee, I will work to encourage continued investment in Township properties. The Township is in a unique position with little development opportunity. Bloomfield Township has established properties and we must strive to maximize the value of those properties and other investments. As Township Trustee I would also work to expand and enhance Township services like electronic and hazardous waste recycling while ensuring the Township remains one of the safest communities for families. It is also important to create volunteer opportunities for Township residents, increasing engagement with elected officials and with other members of the community. Encouraging community engagement helps strengthen neighborhood bonds and ties to a sustained Township.</p> <p>I encourage Township residents to visit my website FakihforTrustee.com to learn more about me and why they should vote Fakih for Trustee.</p>
<p><i>Democrat</i> MITSUAKI MURASHIGE 5760 Whethersfield Ln., #5E Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301</p>	<p>I am a fairly new resident since 2009. My work brought me to Michigan, and my son was in Middle School at the time. He was surrounded by great peers, and this community helped raise my son to be honest and successful. So, I am running for office to contribute my time and services to help with the needs of this community. My work ethics are to be prompt and efficient, and I will bring sincerity and honesty to this position.</p>	<p>I will not assume that I know all of the problems of this community, but I feel our community needs are not heard. So, I will promise to lend an ear to listen to these needs, and I welcome criticism and complaints from our community. I will put trust in the people who will share their frustrations, as I believe these are coming from people who really care.</p>

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for TRUSTEE</p> <p>FOUR 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than FOUR</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>Democrat VALERIE SAYLES MURRAY 4831 Ballantrae Rd. Bloomfield, MI 48301</p>	<p>I'm running for Bloomfield Township Trustee as a 35-year homeowner and resident. My goal is to restore honesty, transparency, and fiscal responsibility to the board, while creating an environment where resident input is welcomed. I spent 9 years in the business community, as an Advertising Media Buyer/Planner and manager of Operations. I most recently was an IT/support staff for Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills Schools for 20+ years, and still substitute. I served 6 terms on my subdivision board, including Road Paving chair, where I had my first experiences working with the Township and County Road Commission. I have a degree in Communications from MSU, and years of IT training, provided by the district technology department, along with crisis intervention. I've worked on local campaigns for Promote the Vote, Voters Not Politicians, passing absentee voting for any reason in Michigan, and more. I am devoted to this community, spending 10 years and counting as an Adopt-A-Road volunteer, cleaning up "The Murray Mile" in the Twp. I am also a foster home for rescue kittens, having hosted over 100 mom cats and kittens in our home. I am very dedicated to, & love this community.</p>	<p>My top priority is to ensure that the Township is financially sound. Through research, we learned the Township has accumulated a great deal of debt, not just the OPEB benefits that have been allowed to accumulate. & most recently passing a generous 6 year employment contract, while only proposing a 1 year budget. We need to do a forensic audit, establish a Strategic Plan, something we used to have, but expired and not renewed. I want to see the Plante Moran and more recent staffing study. Residents paid for these studies, but have not been disclosed or available. Utilize expert advice in a new, long term plan & provide security for employees. Sadly, the Township has become a very divided and hostile environment. I promise to work diligently towards a more cohesive board, and resident friendly meetings, where input is welcome and actually addressed. We have a very well educated, resourceful community in the Township, why not use some of that experience to further the services and programs we can provide residents. I want to restore the trust of the residents. Residents are a top priority, it's over 90% of our community! Let's return to be a wonderful, family based community.</p>

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for <u>TRUSTEE</u></p> <p>FOUR 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than FOUR</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p><i>Democrat</i> LINDA P. ULREY 1236 Hidden Lk. Dr. Bloomfield, MI 48302</p>	<p>Educational: Michigan State University - B.A.; Masters of Business Administration - U of Detroit Mercy. 35 Years experience as a FCA executive as Plant Manager, Director of Global Supplier Quality & Procurement and Supply Chain Mgt. As Plant manager I was responsible for all operations of facility including, HR management, Finance, Engineering and Manufacturing Operations. In Global Supplier Quality responsible for ensuring management of automotive supply chain quality conformance throughout all divisions. I seek the position as trustee to bring operational and finance experience combined with fresh perspective on the management of township services to its residents. Our township has serious financial challenges which must be met with creativity, transparency, acumen and a resolve to ensure our community is viewed as a superior place to live. All residents must feel valued and welcome to express different and diverse ideas to solve our community issues. I welcome and encourage more resident participation in their local government via advisory groups. I seek to partner with the BHSD and BTPL to create a programs and offerings to our residents that maximize value and opportunity.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a lack of a coherent Master Plan for the township. Every community needs a well thought out plan for how it wants its community to move forward. Residents can be an active part in the creation of this vision for their community. There is resident little involvement in township decisions. This must change and I aim to change that by utilizing the experience and intelligence of our community members through extensive participation in advisory councils including our high school students, seniors and young families. 2. The township has deep financial liabilities that have not been publicly vetted whether OPEB debit or escalating W&S charges or a balanced budget. I am committed to information transparency, residents are willing to accept negative information if provided honestly and with a plan for resolution. Facts must be transparent and not hidden behind closed doors - this has led to suspicion and divisiveness in the community. This will end if I am elected and be replaced by receptivity of diverse opinion, and a willingness to share all information good or bad. 3. City Mgr. for the Twp. - a good idea that needs serious discussion for long term management stability.

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for TRUSTEE</p> <p>FOUR 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than FOUR</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>Republican NEAL BARNETT 6730 Oakhills Dr. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301</p>	<p>I have worked as an attorney for thirty-two years primarily in the areas of trusts and estates and probate litigation. I am also a psychologist. Finances are a major part of my legal practice. I have lived in Bloomfield Township most of my life. My wife and I raised our three children in the Township. I have been on the Bloomfield Township Board as a Trustee for over 16 years. I was on the Zoning Board of Appeals prior to being on the Board of Trustees. I am also on the Planning Commission, Financial Sustainability Committee, Design Review Board (alternate), Election Commission and Gilbert Lake Board.</p> <p>I am running for re-election because Bloomfield Township is a wonderful place to live and I believe I have contributed to making Bloomfield Township an exemplary community. I want to maintain it's excellence and continue to make it an attractive place for young families and seniors to live.</p> <p>I have the institutional knowledge of Bloomfield Township that the other candidates lack. I work well with people and am a consensus builder. My legal and financial background have been important skills that I have brought to the Board as a Trustee.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delivering outstanding services to the residents and being nimble enough to adjust to the changing needs of our residents. 2. Confronting issues facing the Township without being divisive. As Justice Scalia said, "we are different we are one", " I attack ideas not people. Some people have bad ideas." 3. The finances of Bloomfield Township are strong. we have cut significant expenses and financial liabilities in the past few years. However, with the current pandemic we are in uncharted territory and must be prepared for further spikes of COVID-19 and its impact on our finances and investments. We must continue to work closely with our financial advisors and be prudent with our investments.

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for <u>TRUSTEE</u></p> <p>FOUR 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than FOUR</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p><i>Republican</i> TIMOTHY ROBERT MEYER 3036 W. Ridge Ct. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302</p>	<p>As former Deputy Executive appointed by Brooks Patterson to lead Economic Development and Community Affairs for Oakland County, I clearly understand the complexity of government, especially legislation, programs and funding, which directly impact Bloomfield Township. As the longest serving Chancellor of Oakland Community College, I shepherd the organization through the Great Recession while always maintaining a AAA rating, balanced budget, and offering the lowest tuition in the State. Our community faces unprecedented change. The pandemic is dramatically changing our way of life, along with the programs and operational needs of our township. We need solid, proven leadership experience to face these challenges with a record of sound financial management. This community has been good to me and my family, and now is the time to offer my leadership skills back to our community.</p>	<p>The social changes currently being felt by our community are the beginning of a long process of change and adaptation for Bloomfield Township. The seemingly interpersonal issues of the day are trivial in comparison to the difficult discussions required to meet this challenge, and of which I have extensive Boardroom experience to overcome. Bloomfield Township needs a strong vision, supported by a strategic plan on how to get there. We need to own our future. In building consensus towards the future, I will be personally involved in interactive citizen communication including public forums, study sessions, etc. Some call it transparency. Another vital priority is ensuring the Township has a solid and properly compensated organizational structure to deliver on emerging community priorities. The recent professional compensation study provides insight for such decision-making. Solid fiscal management is a must, including program prioritization, funding review, maintaining an AAA rating, and a balanced budget.</p>

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for <u>TRUSTEE</u></p> <p>FOUR 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than FOUR</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p><i>Republican</i> MICHAEL SCHOSTAK 6070 Darramoor Rd. Bloomfield, MI 48301</p>	<p>I am the father of 2 young children and a business consultant, with a bachelors degree and MBA in business, economics and finance from The Wharton School and the University of Michigan. As part of my 18+ years of professional experience, I spent 2 years working at the U.S. Defense Department building financial models, conducting cost/benefit analysis, and doing policy analysis on classified military and intelligence programs, after which I spent 3 years on Wall Street working in investment banking.</p> <p>After several years out East, I chose to move back and live in Bloomfield Township because of the overall quality of life enjoyed by residents, and as trustee I have, and will, work to protect and improve it. My financial and analytical skills have allowed me to develop a deep understanding of our budget and financial position. I know that positivity and team building will always surpass negativity and hostility in getting things done. I bring a pragmatic, innovative approach to problem solving, always putting residents' needs above petty politics. Bloomfield Township residents can always count on me to tell it like it is and to answer their calls or emails when they need something.</p>	<p>The heightened unease and distrust of township government among many residents is concerning. I would push to improve access by allowing remote commenting at Board meetings, creating new subcommittees that bring together subject matter experts from among the residents in areas like finance & accounting or design. We must make sure that accurate information is made available to everyone at all times.</p> <p>There is a misalignment between the growth in tax revenue and operating expenses that will strain future budgets. Some issues are already identified, I will encourage the board to continue working to mitigate expense growth and keep the budget balanced while maintaining healthy reserves.</p> <p>Bloomfield's median age has increased to over 50. While we need to serve our seniors well so that they can age in place, I believe we need to better attract young families to maintain the strength of property values and retain the vibrancy of our community. One area of opportunity I see is recreation and green space, in fact I was instrumental in the protection of the E.L. Johnson Nature Center and the addition of 10 acres of green space in the township with easements that protect them in perpetuity</p>

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP (Continued)

CANDIDATES for TRUSTEE FOUR 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than FOUR</i>	Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?
<p><i>Republican</i> DON VALENTE 2763 Mackintosh Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302</p>	<p>I am running for Trustee to offer my experience to Township residents because I recently retired.</p> <p>My wife & I are 45 year Bloomfield Twp. residents.</p> <p>We have a 50 year marriage with 5 children (3 doctors, 1 Attorney & a Para Legal) & 14 grandchildren</p> <p>My education includes the following degrees: B.S. in Accounting, an M.B.A. in Finance & a J.D. Law Degree.</p> <p>My employment & experience includes: Employment with 3 Nat'l CPA firms in Accounting & Auditing, the U.S. Justice Dept. & Wayne & Oakland County Prosecutor Offices and 35 years of self-employed practice of Law in business & real estate.</p>	<p>i. Effect savings to drastically reduce almost \$200 M of Twp. debt, including \$164 M for unfunded employee health care debt that has almost doubled in the last 8 years, and then reduce taxes.</p> <p>ii. Modify the 2020 employee contracts effective 4-1-2020 for 6 years of uncertain economic times although based on a 1 year budget, including but not limited to a 2.5% raise each year for hundreds of employees and bonuses to assure \$100 a month health care.</p> <p>iii. Stop the 4 day work week and luxury vehicles to many employees. for their personal use 24/7/365 including on their 3 day weekends for better service for residents and eliminate over-the-top benefits.</p>

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan national organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party. Candidate responses are included as submitted and have not been edited except in cases where the replies have exceeded the stated word limitations. **Spelling and Grammar were not corrected.** The inclusion of candidates' statements and opinions is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters which takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by the candidates.