

VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION
TOWNSHIP OF GROVELAND

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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1 Candidate for TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR for ONE 4-year term

<p>CANDIDATES for SUPERVISOR</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><i>Republican</i> ROBERT DEPALMA 3315 Groveland Rd. Ortonville, MI 48462</p>	<p>I have been Township Supervisor for over 24 years, and worked for the Township in other capacities for a total of 40 years. I was the longest serving chairman of the Township Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals (16 years) in the township history. I have done the Township's first Master Plan and every subsequent update and revision since the late 70's. I have been President of the State Wide Township Supervisors Association, and Oakland County Chapter of the Michigan Township Association. I am Vice Chairman of the County Solid Waste Committee, and a long-term member of the Federal Aide Surface Funding Committee, which is where federal paving money comes from.</p> <p>I would like to continue to bring additional improvement to our communities quality of life, while continuing to control our municipalities taxes. I want to maintain our best in class (lowest in the area) tax status.</p>	<p>The first issue is managing growth to preserve our "Up North Feel" of living here. This is done by managing the Master Plan and Zoning.</p> <p>The second is to continue to provide improvements to the quality of life, and reducing the cost of living here, through creative solutions without tax increases. Programs like NO HAZ (for hazardous waste), is one example. Funding the ISO study to lower home owners insurance cost, the most paving and repaving road projects, and gravel road work in our history are others. Our solution to become the Groveland Township Gas Company serves over 700 of our residents with natural gas, at a 40% reduced installation.</p> <p>The third priority is to continue our efforts to make sure the taxes we pay are a good value for service provided. We lowered taxes in 2019 and 2020 to the lowest township taxes in our history.</p>

GROVELAND TOWNSHIP (Continued)

1 Candidate 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>Republican PATTI BACK 735 Wolfe Rd. Ortonville, MI 48462</p>	<p>I am the current Groveland Township Clerk, appointed to serve in 2018. My husband Greg and I moved our family to Groveland in 1990 and raised four children who graduated from Brandon High School. I began working for the Groveland Township Fire Department in 1997 and moved to the Township offices where I served in many roles. In 2009 the Board chose me as the Deputy Clerk. I have earned my Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk certificate. I am a graduate of the Michigan Township Association Governance Academy. I have completed the State of Michigan Election Officials Accreditation Program. I am a current member of the Oakland County Clerk’s Association, Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks, International Institute of Municipal Clerks, and the Oakland County Chapter of the Michigan Township Association. I work with residents daily and am a diligent advocate for every resident.</p> <p>www.pattiforclerk.com</p>	<p>I want to keep Groveland Township aligned with the Master Plan. I want to complete efforts surrounding the township property development near the ORV park and the building of a new Fire Station 1, as well as, examine the possible installation of sewers along the Dixie Byway. I am looking forward to continuing to serve the residents and working with others on the Board in proactive ways. I am focused on providing the residents with the balance between the rural up-north feeling that brought them to Groveland Township, continuing low tax bills, and exploring amenities that residents bring to our attention.</p>

GROVELAND TOWNSHIP (Continued)

1 Candidate for 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 THERESA BILLS 4163 McGinnis Rd. Holly, MI 48442</p>	<p>My husband and I have lived here over 20 years, raised our two sons in Brandon Schools and we love the up north feel of our community. We run our own small business and have served many local residents. Living here is special and I want to preserve this way of life. I worked in education for over 30 years. That taught me great team building and leadership skills. Trust-based leadership requires taking ownership of all aspects of a job and being prepared. It means making no excuses, anticipating misconceptions and looking for ways to overcome obstacles and provide resources to meet needs. I transitioned to working in the township for the past 4 years. I have been cross trained in all departments. Right now the treasury department has a need for a leader with my qualities and skills. My Bachelor's degree in mathematics, analytical problem solving approach, training and experience in Assessment, Taxation, Accounting, and Investments along with my respectful, friendly way qualifies me to be your elected Treasurer. I've always had a servants heart and strive to empower others to succeed. I want be part of a leadership team that works for the benefit of all the residents.</p>	<p>Preserving our revenue streams, keeping taxes low and providing services to residents. Loss of state level revenue sharing will impact the township's finances. I know how to look for supplemental resources to replace lost funds so we can continue to provide services for residents without dipping into savings meant for infrastructure. Supporting the development of a commercial tax base on township owned property near the new ORV park will provide a revenue stream for the future to ensure that taxes remain low. During the coronavirus, the number of people wanting to complete transactions without coming into the office increased. To better serve them, I will work with the township board to analyze our procedures to determine which ones could be streamlined to provide remote access for residents. I will work with our financial institutions, vendors and Oakland County offices to explore paperless options for many common tasks, thus saving taxpayers money. One additional priority would be to make monthly meetings more accessible by video recording them in-house and posting them to our township website, grovelandtownship.net, YouTube channel and FaceBook page: Groveland Twp.</p>

GROVELAND TOWNSHIP (Continued)

2 Candidates for TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE for TWO 4-year terms

CANDIDATES for TRUSTEE TWO 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than TWO</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> JIM CHRISTOPHER 901 S. Brandt Rd. Ortonville, MI 48462</p>	<p>My wife and I have had the pleasure of living in Groveland Township since 2000. I hold a MS degree in Business Management with concentrations in finance, operations management and strategic planning. In addition, I have the pleasure of a lengthy and successful career within the inter-related disciplines that comprise real estate management -- program, project, construction, facility and property management -- with a lifetime of business-related insights from common labor to senior management. My peers and colleagues think of me as a highly approachable, strategic, analytical and innovative leader.</p> <p>I have supported our Township for many years as a member of the Board of Review and Board of Zoning Appeals; Liaison to the Oakland County CISMA; Planning Commissioner and Trustee -- these last two positions are current..</p> <p>In the course of execution of the Township strategic plan my education, business and Township-specific experience will be of critical value as we move forward to develop property -- creating a revenue stream to lessen the cost of living within our Township.</p>	<p>Our Township is challenged by the significant area of non tax producing land. In an effort to lessen the cost of living as well as fund key services within the Township, innovative solutions such as signage, cellular tower and land leases augment what can be garnered through property taxes.</p> <p>Similar to the efforts just cited, the recent creation of a State and County supported Off Road Vehicle (ORV) park offers an incredibly unique opportunity to create a significant and enduring income stream for our Township through the development of adjacent, Township-owned property. Development of the property will create rental income and the park will draw a business tax base to the community. The park and well-executed development of our property are of significant importance.</p> <p>Retention of the Michigan State Police is an effective and economically responsible solution to law enforcement within the Township and remains a priority on equal footing with the retention of the Fire Department -- now secured by a fiscally responsible and enduring plan that should provide the basis for its identity for years to come.</p>

GROVELAND TOWNSHIP (Continued)

CANDIDATES for TRUSTEE TWO 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than TWO</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> GINA MUZZARELLI 3119 Groveland Rd. Ortonville, MI 48462</p>	<p>Gina loves our rural community, she has always been community minded and served in both volunteer and elected positions since moving to the Ortonville area in 1991. BGO, BGYA, Small Planet co-op, Brandon All Sports Boosters, Brandon Band Parent Group and the Brandon School Board are some examples. She participated in the Groveland Twp. master plan meetings and will continue to work for, help to maintain and follow the vision, which aligns with the master plan that the citizens of the Township helped to create in Groveland.</p> <p>Representing the majority of township constituents is a priority.</p> <p>She has an investigative nature, the drive to research, ask questions to form an opinion and make confident decisions based on a broad scope of information.</p> <p>Gina enjoys teamwork that offers each member's perspective and is not one to feel inhibited or stifled to express our own thoughts or concerns.</p> <p>She is passionate about health, food and influencing the correction of environmental practices that are harmful to our health and food sources. Since 1978, she has worked in and attended colleges and universities in various medical disciplines. Her life mission is patient advocacy.</p>	<p>The master plan for the township. I will work to maintain and follow the vision, which aligns with the master plan that the citizens of the Township helped to create in Groveland Twp. that clearly states the wish to maintain the rural up north feel of the township while exploring taxable revenue streams.</p> <p>CONTINUING fiscal responsibility, I take very seriously that a trustee is co responsible for the fiduciary health of the township. I support a size appropriate, cross-trained staff as stated in the employee handbook to provide services to our residents. I expect honest and open communication, monthly up to date reports that are essential to monitoring a long term plan which keeps the fire department in tact to service Groveland Twp residents and maintain its training, support of personnel and ISO rating, keeping the Michigan State police post, NO HAZ and dumpster services for the residents.</p> <p>Legal counsel - questioning the legal guidance provided by both the legal service hired and the conflicting answers from the Michigan guidance available to townships. I will continue to request clarification and accountability for the services and the "answers" we are paying for.</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.