# VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

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

#### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OAKLAND AREA

Website: my.lwv.org/michigan/oakland-area E-mail: lwvoami@gmail.com Phone: 248-594-6602

1 Candidate for TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR for ONE 4-year term PATRICK J. KITTLE 4647 Oakhurst Ridge Rd., Clarkston, MI 48348

1 Candidate for TOWNSHIP CLERK for ONE 4-year term CARI J. NEUBECK 6225 Simler Dr., Clarkston, MI 48346

1 Candidate for TREASURER for ONE 4-year term RACHEL LOUGHRIN 6859 Deerhill Dr., Clarkston, MI 48346

## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP (Continued)

#### 4 Candidates for TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE for FOUR 4-year terms

CANDIDATES for TRUSTEE  FOUR 4-year terms  Vote for no more than FOUR	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?
Republican JOSE ALIAGA 7610 Clintonville Rd. Clarkston, MI 48348	DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION	
Republican PAUL A. BROWN 8684 Thendara Clarkston, MI 48348	My family moved to Clarkston in 1968 and I attended Clarkston Schools. I love my community and if the voters believe that my background as a CPA and Executive, along with my knowledge of the community can bring value to the Township Board, I would be happy to server one last term as a Trustee. I have already served 7 years as Treasurer and 1 as a Trustee and I'm proud of what we have accomplished. While I'm ready and willing to serve again, I also believe that the board should be reflect input from candidates who are newer residents as well. There are several candidates who are newer to the community that I think could serve us well with fresh ideas. I've always seen public office as "public service" and not as a career. If I'm not elected, you'll probably find me in the audience at future meetings. It's been a great board and I've enjoyed working with them.	1) The impact of Covid-19 will be financially significant for the Township. We are losing hundreds of thousands of dollars in State shared revenue and we have a lot of work to do to tighten our spending. This issue must be solved without increasing taxes and I'm confident we can do so.  2) Facilitate planning and growth that will attract young families to the community. Projections currently have our fastest growing category as the over 55 age bracket. We need to keep balance for the future.  3) We have worked the past 2 years trying to acquire additional green space for parks. I think this remains an important item as the community builds out based on the master plan. If we don't save space now, we won't be able to in the future.

## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP (Continued)

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FOUR 4-year terms  Vote for no more than FOUR	office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	township official, take regarding each of them?
Republican TERRI NALLAMOTHU 7427 Foxburg Ct. Clarkston, MI 48348	Born and raised in Michigan. Have lived in Indepedence Township for over 20 years. I've been married for over 26 years and we have 3 beautiful children. I have a BA in business from St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, MI. MSA in Health Care Administration from CMU. I felt the call to serve my township when a vacancy arose over a year ago. I contacted the township and was unanimously voted into the position by the current board. I have been a precinct delegate for over 4 terms. I have worked on many campaigns and have tried hard to get good people to serve in political roles. I have great management and organizational skills. I have served on many boards of local companies and charities as well. I am good with managing finances. I have a passion to serve my community as well as many charities.	I feel the number one issue is trying to balance growth and keeping our communities charm. Secondly, the budget will be become an issue in the near future, I believe, with legacy and pension costs. Thirdly, how long will it take to get the township back on track after Covid effects on our community. When will people feel safe to open up completely again? When will businesses go back to normal? I don't want a "new normal."

### INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP (Continued)

CANDIDATES for TRUSTEE  FOUR 4-year terms  Vote for no more than FOUR	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?
Republican RONALD A. RITCHIE 4643 Eddystone Cir. Clarkston, MI 48346	I am a 25 year resident of Clarkston and former owner of Terry Machine Company, an automotive fastener manufacturer located on Dixie Highway. I am currently a Sr Account Manager at Kamax Inc, a fastener manufacturer; located in Rochester Hills.  I am a current two term Independence Township Trustee, running for re-election. For the last eight years, I have been the Board of Trustees liaison officer and member to the Planning Commission. I also currently serve on the Financial Audit, Elections, Van Norman Lake Improvement board, and Safety Path committees. I have served on many other committees and study groups over the past 8 years to improve township procedures and employee processes that maintain operational efficiency and taxpayer money.	The Top 3 Priorities?; the budget, the budget and the budget! Departments like public safety, fire department, parks recreation & seniors, DPW all have major cost pressures added to them with the COVID-19 crisis. The loss in State revenue sharing that is reducing by hundreds of thousands of dollars will make all local governments take major cost cutting steps within the 2020 calendar year and into the future. Keeping a balanced budget with appropriate reserves is a must. New work procedures for social distancing and the reopening of each department is causing much stress on employees as we process new ways to perform our duties while interacting with the public. The residents of Independence Township have authorize the prioritization of many miles of local roads to be resurfaced during 2020 and 2021, helping to end the frustration of our bad roads. I want to continue to maintain the small-town charm of Independence Township, while modernizing it's infrastructure to support the growth of new housing and businesses. This is the place that my family and I want to live, work and play!

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.