

VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION
VILLAGE OF ORTONVILLE

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 VILLAGE PRESIDENT for ONE 2-year term

<p>CANDIDATES for VILLAGE PRESIDENT</p> <p>ONE 2-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</p> <p>Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Village President, including relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</p> <p>What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your village and what actions would you, as a village official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>TONJA BRICE 654 E. Ridge Ortonville, MI 48462</p>	<p>A Village resident for 9 years, and township for 25, employed in the Village for 19 years, raised children in the district, and hosted 11 exchange students. Current Village President, Planning Commissioner, DDA Board member, and volunteer in multiple community entities. Degrees earned in Library Technology, Psychology and an Integration of Education, Psychology and Criminal Justice. Certified as Michigan Planner, Substitute Teacher, soft skills in Critical Thinking, Productive Work Habits, Emotional Intelligence, and Accountability at Work, Hazard Communication, and Redevelopment Ready Communities program. I am an open minded problem solver who values the opinions of others, and considers residents, business owners, and local community members as Ortonville team players. I am a researcher who analyzes data, searches for unmet needs, and is ready to acquire opportunities for our community, while fiscally responsible. I listen to, respect, and respond to all voices in the community.</p>	<p>To intentionally increase collaboration with surrounding entities including Brandon Township and Brandon School District, facilitating open lines of communication, unified improvements, and shared resources when feasible.</p> <p>To realistically build from the current foundation of Village projects through grants and other funding sources to improve safety, walkability and usage of current gems in the residential and business districts of the Village.</p> <p>To actively increase partnership with the Planning Commission and Downtown Development Authority, tripling our resources and knowledge, creating a unified team for Ortonville into generations to come.</p>

VILLAGE OF ORTONVILLE (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for VILLAGE PRESIDENT</p> <p>ONE 2-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</p> <p>Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Village President, including relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</p> <p>What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your village and what actions would you, as a village official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>DANIEL T. ESCHMANN 616 Mill St. Ortonville, MI 48462</p>	<p>I am married to my wife Elizabeth for over 31 years and have two sons, Jacob and Joshua. Elizabeth loves to bake and spends most of her time volunteering at our church. Jacob and Joshua are working in the Technical service area. We have lived in Ortonville now for 27 years. I am employed by PPG with 34 years of service with an education in Electronic Engineering. I am the Service / Account manager covering 13 accounts in U.S. and Canada. I love our village and its small-town charm!. I have served on Ortonville council for 12 years. I am running for Village President to provide better leadership to our governing body. Our residents deserve it and should expect it. I am for the village residents as a whole, not just a select few. I want nothing but the best for the Village of Ortonville. Protecting residents tax dollars. The village residents are double taxed now paying Village and Brandon township taxes. Residents should not pay more, they should be paying less.</p>	<p>Village ordinances need to be updated. Example; The old chicken ordinance did not allow residents to have chickens, I worked with council to allow residents to have chickens. Septic system management, I apposed an attempt to mandate village residents go on sewers. I motioned to put the sewer proposal up for a resident vote. Overwhelming our residents voted no. Residents must be allowed to vote on projects like sewers. Continue the support to residents and businesses for proper septic system maintenance. Septic system management will protect our rivers, creeks and drinking water. Businesses have been hurt by COVID-19. While most our businesses are back up and running, There are some that were affected more than others. We need to make sure the Government and local support are helping the right business owners. Our DDA has done a terrific job in maintaining a safe environment while still holding our outdoor farmers market. The attendance has been warm and welcoming.</p>

VILLAGE OF ORTONVILLE (Continued)

7 Candidates for VILLAGE TRUSTEE for THREE 4-year terms

CANDIDATES for VILLAGE COUNCIL THREE 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than THREE</i>	Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Village Council 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 village and what actions would you, as a village official, take regarding each of them?
MARK BUTZU 193 Mill St. Ortonville, MI 48462	DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION	
ANA COLE 436 Edward St. Ortonville, MI 48462	DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION	
MELANIE NIVELT 130 Crescent Hill Dr. Ortonville, MI 48462	Married 32 years, have a son, daughter and four grandchildren. 17 years in the community. Graduate of Oakland University with a degree in Communications and Advertising. Own/operate my own business. Current Planning Commissioner (9 years) and past Village Council Trustee (2007 - 2010). Currently volunteer with DDA on multiple activities including our first downtown mural project. Extensive experience and knowledge with Ortonville's council, employees, budgets, capital improvement plan, zoning ordinances, master plan, Robert's Rules, MMA, MML and OMA. Served on the following committee's: Planning Commission, Personnel, IT, Wayfinding, Skate Park, Mural, Luminaries, Chicken and Waste Hauling. Continuously take classes/webinars and stay relevant on government mandates. I'm pro local businesses, community involvement, transparency, accountability and respect. The businesses need support now more than ever, residents need to be heard and council members need to listen.	Excessive Meeting Expenditures: We need civility, professionalism and respect restored to our Village Council. Meetings are not efficiently run and special meetings/pay is excessive. My plan would limit the amount of meetings and cap the pay. Lack of Support for Businesses and Residents: There is a lack of support and timely attention to our businesses, citizens and village committees. We need to help our businesses survive unprecedented times. I will support business owners desire for a business funded septic system. We need to work with owner's to alleviate water, flooding and septic issues. I support directional signage for businesses to increase their customer base. I support walking trails that respect homeowners and safely link our downtown to main roads. Transparency/Communication: We need to stop Open Meetings Act and FOIA Violations, stop the micromanagement of Village Employees and boards. I research extensively and gain public insight before making decisions.
ANTHONY M. RANDAZZO 117 James St. Ortonville, MI 48462	DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION	

VILLAGE OF ORTONVILLE (Continued)

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COLEEN SKORNICKA 175 Granger Rd. Ortonville, MI 48462	DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION	
RONALD H. SUTTON P.O. Box 321 Ortonville, MI 48462	DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION	
GREG J. YOURST 385 Arbor Pine Dr. Ortonville, MI 48462	I am married with two grown sons and have resided in the village of Ortonville for 20 years. My work experience has been in the outdoor Industry throughout the United States including strategic operations, rolling out new programs and the development of operational standards for one of the largest outdoor companies in the U.S. I have initiated numerous youth programs with Bass Pro Shops, National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), Ducks Unlimited (D.U.) and Boy Scouts of America. I am an avid outdoorsman and belong to the Oakland County Sportsman Club, North Oakland D.U., NWTF and National Rifle Association. My extensive involvement and experience on planning and fund raising committees afford me great experiences to share with my local community. I believe in researching issues, working cooperatively and making tough decisions when necessary. My business background and my personal values will allow me to make a positive contribution to the future growth of Ortonville.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ortonville has finite boundaries. I believe that we need to address and make use of what we have to attract new business, amenities and new residents. 2. We need to work with our local businesses and attractions to create excitement and give the public reasons to go downtown. We are a small village and need to work within our means. I propose a calendar of monthly events that would attract foot traffic in our village and have numerous proposals for consideration. 3. To focus on progress for the village working as a cohesive team for the betterment of the village, being a voice for the residents and having the fortitude to do what's right for the community is a necessity. I bring this and more to the table.

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.