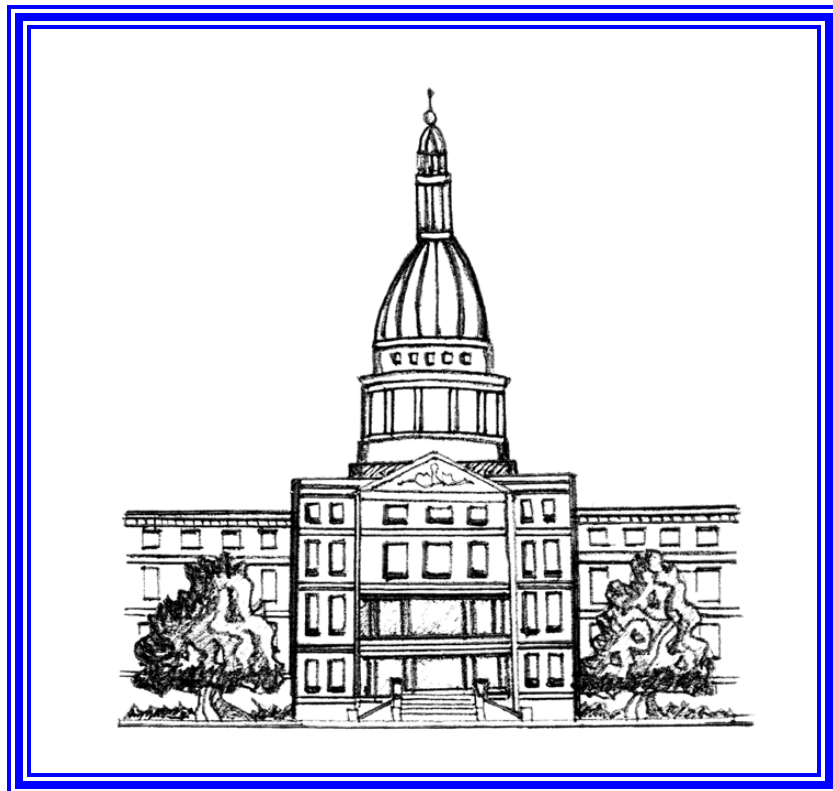




League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area Voter Guide



INGHAM COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION November 4, 2008

Under a Michigan law upheld in July 2007 by the Michigan Supreme Court, ALL voters are required to show photo identification to vote at the polls. If you have no photo identification or don't have one with you, you must fill out and sign an affidavit in order to receive a ballot. The ID requirement does not apply to persons voting by absentee ballot.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LANSING AREA VOTER GUIDE

CANDIDATES FOR THE INGHAM COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION

The League of Women Voters is a national nonpartisan organization established to encourage citizen participation in government. It never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. The League of Women Voters does support or oppose governmental action on issues after careful study, without regard to the stand of any political party. This Voter Guide is also available at: <http://lansing.mi.lwvnet.org> and at the Lansing City Clerk's website <http://www.lansingmi.gov/clerk/elections.jsp> and through the East Lansing City Clerk's website at <http://www.cityofeastlansing.com>.

This guide was prepared with the help of League members, students and members of the community interested in the issues. The personal statement is limited to forty-five (45) words or fewer. The response to each question is limited to thirty-five (35) words. The answers are printed as submitted and have not been edited, except for necessary cutting when replies exceed the stated word limitations. If the candidate does not reply by the required date for publication, the words "Did not reply in time for publication" appear by the candidate's name. When a candidate exceeds the word limit the answer ends with an ellipse (...). They respond in alphabetical order by Party. The Michigan Secretary of State's Party will always appear first on the ballot. **All candidate responses are in bold.**

Publication of these statements and opinions of the candidates is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement thereof by the League of Women Voters. The League of Women Voters takes no responsibility for any of the views or facts as stated by the candidates.

Ingham County is holding a General Election on November 4, 2008. Candidates have been gracious enough to draft responses for this Voter's Guide. **All candidate responses are in bold.** The following races are covered in this Voter Guide.

Ingham County Clerk – 4 year term – Vote for 1 candidate

Ingham County Drain Commissioner - 4 year term – Vote for 1 candidate

Ingham County Commissioners – 2 year term – Vote for 1 candidate

There are 16 Ingham County Commissioners

Kathy Esselman
President
League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area

Ingham County Clerk

Election assigned to this office: General Election 11/04/2008

Office Description: The County Clerk is the chief Election Official in the County and is responsible for keeping records of births, deaths, assumed names, co-partnerships, and issuing and filing marriage licenses. In addition, the Clerk processes gun permits, notary bonds, and passports. The Clerk also serves as the Chairperson of the Elections Scheduling Committee, Clerk of the Board of Commissioners, the Board of Canvassers, the Gun Board, and is the Clerk of the Circuit Court. The Clerk is also a member of the Plat Board and Election Commission.

Salary: \$85,150

Term of Office: 4 years

Partisan Election

Vote for 1

BARRY K. DAMON (R) Republican

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I am a retired Ingham County Court Conciliator/Investigator. I consider myself a person who would like to get our government back into the hands of the people. All of my Delegates, come from both sides of the political spectrum, and will have a part in my community advisory committee.

1. Do you think that all voters should have the right to vote absentee, without special circumstances such as travel or age? Would that increase turn-out for elections?

No. I believe there is too big a chance for voter fraud without close check and balance. The public needs to be educated that their vote really does count and they can make a difference.

2. Could the Ingham County Clerk's website be improved?

Yes. I do not like the present Disclaimer clause. It seems to indicate that all information, documentation, and forms, that are available to the public, could be flawed. Responsible service should not be flawed.

3. Could you suggest any outreach initiatives which might improve voter education or participation?

People believe that their vote doesn't make any difference. The formation of a Community Advisory Committee, will allow more involvement between "elected Officials" and their public, therefore encouraging voter participation.

MIKE BRYANTON (D) Democrat (Incumbent)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Mike Bryanton is a life-long resident of Ingham County, who has served as the Ingham County Clerk since January 1, 1995. The three main areas of responsibility include the legal storage and distribution of vital records, overseeing elections within the County and enforcing campaign finance laws.

1. Do you think that all voters should have the right to vote absentee, without special circumstances such as travel or age? Would that increase turn-out for elections?

Yes, I am a long-time advocate for no-reason absentee voting. I believe that by allowing no-reason absentee voting, we will see an increase in the number of ballots cast at elections.

2. Could the Ingham County Clerk's website be improved?

I believe the "look" of the website should be freshened up every few months, but for the most part, I think our website is informative and user friendly, but I am always open to suggestions.

3. Could you suggest any outreach initiatives which might improve voter education or participation?

Voter fairs at area high schools, malls and other public events are always a good way to register voters. However, voter registration events cannot be combined with political events.

Ingham County Drain Commissioner

Election assigned to this office: General Election 11/04/2008

Office Description: According to the Ingham County Directory, the Drain Commissioner provides for construction, maintenance and improvement of county public storm drains. Responsible for the legal establishment and administration of drainage districts. Assesses benefited property owners to pay for costs of the drains. Other responsibilities include lake level control, soil erosion control (through issuance of permits), acting as the County Board of Public Works, and review of proposed subdivision plats. (see Plat and Drainage Boards, which are related to this office.)

Salary: \$79, 596

Term: 4 years

Partisan Election

Vote for One (1) Candidates.

JEFFREY OESTERLE (R)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

My wife, Dawn, and I with our two sons own a family farm south of Mason. I am currently president of the Ingham County Farm Bureau. I have previously served as church president, Optimist Club board member, and member of Ingham County's Extension Advisory Council.

1. What are the greatest challenges facing the Drain Commission in such a diverse county which ranges from high density office buildings and heavy industry to family farms?

Urban drainage requires time management of surface runoff. The lack of permeable surfaces and natural water retention areas necessitate incorporation of management structures into the developments. In farming areas, many retention areas still exist naturally.

2. How does the Drain Commissioner relate to other Ingham County and local government entities, offices and agencies?

When government entities work together it is easier for citizens working to obtain permits or documentation, or trying to solve a problem, to achieve the desired outcome.

3. Many County residents have wells and septic systems. In dense developments, like Lake Lansing, that increases the risk of water borne parasites, like cryptosporidium. What can be done to guard Lake Lansing and the local water supply?

Surface water is at the greatest risk from marginal septic systems. Affected areas need to be serviced by wastewater treatment facilities. Until then efforts need to be taken to keep effluent from contaminating surface waters.

PATRICK E. LINDEMANN (D) (Incumbent) Did not respond in time for publication

Ingham County Board of Commissioners

Election assigned to this office: General Election 11/04/2008

Office Description: The Board acts as a policy-making body for all county affairs and has the power to pass ordinances pertaining to county matters. It appoints the equalization Director, the Controller, Health Officer, Medical Examiner, Animal Control Director and the County Attorney, in addition to many members of the various board and commissions functioning within the county. The budget must be approved and all spending authorized by the Board of Commissioners. The following committees cover all phases of the Board's duties: County Services, Finance, Human Resources, Law Enforcement and Judiciary. These committees report their recommendations to the entire Board for action.

Salary: \$10,971.00 a year and a per diem of \$60 for committee and Board meetings up to 6 per month

Term: 2 year term

Partisan Election

Vote for One (1) Candidates.

Ingham County Commissioner #1

NEAL ALAN BARNCARD (R)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I have spent a lifetime of commitment to my God, family and country. I have served as clergyman in my local church, husband of 18 years and 4 years honorable service in the U.S. Navy. I ask you for your support to serve as Commissioner.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

We have spent years killing the geese that lay our golden eggs. The biggest has run over to the neighbor's farm. Can we earn the trust of a new goose with the same hired help?

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

Why don't we already know what systems are affordable and serve our people's needs? Are the current elected officials unaware of the peoples needs? This is another reason why we need new people in office.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

All of these questions have the same solution. It lies in the needed change in leadership that understands the fundamental values of capitalism that can support all these wonderful governmental services we want to give.

VICTOR G. CELENTINO (D) (Incumbent)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Eight years as a County Commissioner, special education teacher at Dwight Rich Middle School, member of the Law Enforcement and Finance Committees, MI Works board, Airport Authority, tri-county Aging, Lansing Township Westside Water Committee, Vice Chair of the Board 2008, Chairperson (2004,2006).

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

With a 5.6 million deficit for 2009 budget, the county needs to look at different ways to fund programs and make prudent cuts. During the budget process, human services needs would be my priority.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public

safety units?

Just as Lansing and Lansing Township fund their own public safety, the county must look at different ways to fund out-county road patrol by engaging the out-county officials for cost-savings measures.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

I believe we should maintain this highly succesful health care plan where over 14,000 uninsured residents are covered. We can do this by making it a top priority during the budget process.

Ingham County Commissioner #2

LARRY VANOSTRAN (R)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I am a life-long resident of Lansing who wants to make life better in our county. As an area realtor for 38 years, I've seen both the ups and downs of our economy. These are serious times and we must work together to find solutions.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

We shouldn't make changes just for their own sake. Tougher budget controls need to be implemented. We need to make cuts carefully and look for ways to increase revenue without raising property taxes.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

Public safety is critical to the success of our county. All options need to be on the table, but we must avoid short-term solutions that increase redundancy. This needs careful consideration.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

With Michigan leading the nation in unemployment, it is imperative that this program be maintained. It's in our county's best interests to help those who've lost or can't afford access to basic health care.

DEBBIE DeLEON (D) (Incumbent)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Thank you for granting me the distinct privilege of serving for the past four terms. With your continued support, I will continue working relentlessly to best represent the hard working families and individuals of the 2nd District, especially in this difficult economy. Ingham County First!

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

Facing a shortfall of \$5.6M for '09, we can no longer expect to protect the level of services and staff positions. Must find a balance in making prudent cuts we are now forced to make.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

This discretionary service needs to be addressed in an equitable manner across the board. Indicators already project 2010 revenues to be worse for Ingham...townships really need to create their own, if they want the service.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

It must at least be maintained, especially now, when it is most needed. Without some level of coverage, the needs would far exceed abilities of local hospitals to meet, dragging our economy down even further.

Ingham County Commissioner #3

CYNTHIA A. MOQUIST (R)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

As your County Commissioner I would like to help bring prosperity and dignity to everyone in an economy that is struggling. I would like to work as your advocate and make informed decisions that will benefit and strengthen our community.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

Evaluate why we would be at a \$4,000,000 deficit and find ways to make our budget work and still keep vital programs.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

Public safety units need to be funded and we should not depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

The Ingham Health Plan should be strengthened while keeping within our budget and working toward preventive health care services.

BRIAN McGRAIN (D)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I am honored to be the Democratic candidate for County Commission District #3, and I plan to put my experiences and talents to use so that we may achieve a renewed vigor in Ingham County and a heightened prosperity for ourselves and future generations.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

Perhaps initially through attrition, but in the years to come the Commission will have to look carefully at every dollar spent and appropriately evaluate the effectiveness of programs and services offered to county residents.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

Law enforcement services should be concentrated where they are most needed. If communities feel they are being under-serviced, then we may need to look at new models for adequately funding public safety.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

It is critical that we strengthen the IHP. Not only should every person be guaranteed some level of health care, but Ingham County would be wise to view the plan as an economic development tool.

Ingham County Commissioner #4

VICKIE L. NIKLAS (R)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I have lived in Ingham County all my life and want to see it become the most prosperous in Michigan. To see Ingham County become the most attractive to companies looking to start new businesses and for existing businesses to expand.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

Each department must look at efficiencies by consolidating services, such as combining departments. First and foremost we must find away to cut costs without cutting jobs.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

Everyone should contribute to the costs in order to spread the fees out. If a township can provide for themselves, that should be first, if not then they should share in the cost.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

Medical services are vital to our County, maintaining this service and strengthening it is a must; by continuing to use volunteers can keep costs down. We should also be looking at other avenues for additional funding.

REBECCA BAHAR-COOK (D) (Incumbent)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

As a professional woman, wife and mother of two, the concerns of residents of Ingham County are my own: to prioritize the safety of our citizens, protect vital services to our most vulnerable and work to stop the bleeding from the foreclosure fiasco.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

The county is dealing with this situation by asking each department to submit a budget with a five percent reduction so that cuts will cause the least amount of pain to Ingham County residents.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

Unless they are willing to help pay for the cost of services, I do not believe that townships should depend on the Ingham County's Sheriff's Department for law enforcement.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

I am committed to protecting this vital service in the budget and continue to look for ways to expand the program to include additional health care benefits.

Ingham County Commissioner #5

ANDREA UTRUP (R) Did not respond in time for publication

ANDY SCHOR (D) (Incumbent)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I'm proud of my past service to my Lansing constituents and Ingham County. We must maintain the expected quality of life in Lansing and throughout the county. I'm committed to supporting Hawk Island, the Zoo, our health initiatives, and all services that the county provides.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

The county is already dealing with this by keeping positions open, cutting services that are less productive, and shifting costs. We are trying to not affect employees and not raise taxes at the same time.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

No. Townships should contribute to road patrol through millages. Cities and charter townships pay for their own police as well as the county millage. Small, rural townships only pay the county millage, and are subsidized.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

Yes, as Human Services Chair I am committed to our promise of complete access to health care. We must continue putting dollars into the Ingham Health Plan, and we must increase the services it provides.

Ingham County Commissioner #6

JENNIFER LEE-WILLIAMS (R) Did not respond in time for publication

DALE COPELGE (D) (Incumbent)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I am a 2nd term County Commissioner employed at the State of Michigan as an engineer. I serve on the County Services and Law Enforcement Committees, and the following boards: CEI -Community Mental Health, Michigan Works!, Lansing Public Service, and married 20

years, 3 children.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

The county must identify alternatives to fund programs (i.e.: regional partnerships, grant opportunities ...) while eliminating duplicated services and unnecessary programs due to a \$5.6 million deficit for the 2009 budget.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

Many government entities in Ingham (Lansing, East Lansing, and Lansing Township) fund their own public safety departments. The county and affect units must work closely to find alternatives (cost-savings measures) to fund road patrol.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

Yes, we need to maintain this service because it is a very successful health care plan that over 14,000 uninsured residents in Ingham County use. We must make this a priority during the budget process.

Ingham County Commissioner #7

ROBERT KERR (R)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

As County Commissioner, I want to use my use my experience as a Parental Rights advocate to enact common sense changes in county government, to protect Ingham County Families, and to limit government intrusion, making Ingham a model that other counties seek to replicate.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

Eliminating a \$4M deficit will require a holistic approach, but increasing the Joint custody recommendations will yield a significant savings in the \$15M Support collection budget and better child outcomes (crime, drugs, school..).

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

Choosing the Ingham County Sheriff's department for law enforcement is a matter of local discretion and governance. Choice in police service providers may yield lower costs for the community.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

Ingham County needs to maintain the Ingham Health plan, but we must find ways to work with community hospitals, ensuring that residents get the correct level of services from the correct source.

TODD TENNIS (D) (Incumbent)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

As a county commissioner, I have been a fighter for working families. I have worked hard to expand health care opportunities for county residents, provide alternatives for troubled youth, and make county government more efficient.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

The county board has asked department heads to cut their budgets to address the shortfall. We have also worked out a plan with county employees to reduce health care spending without reducing benefits.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

When cuts must be made in the Sheriffs department, they must come from non-mandated services. Due to the economy, the county may be forced to continue cutting services. Townships need to consider all options.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

It has been difficult in light of the budget situation to maintain this service, let alone strengthen it. However, it is my goal to provide basic health care services for all county residents.

Ingham County Commissioner #8

CHRISTOPHER EWALD (R) Did not respond in time for publication

MARC THOMAS (D) (Incumbent) Did not respond in time for publication

Ingham County Commissioner #9

LA'SHUNDA GRIFFIN (R)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I'm running for Commissioner to improve the community for my family and Ingham residents. The poor economic condition in Michigan is reflective of continued mismanagement on all levels of government. I offer sound, practical stewardship to Ingham County that focuses on safety, health and prosperity.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

The same way families of Ingham County must manage their finances. Ingham County must also prioritize and cut unnecessary spending. No tax or fee increases, County residents pay too much in taxes already.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

No. They should not only depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff for law enforcement, but could also fund their own public safety units.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

Yes, it could be maintained, and should be strengthened by elected officials especially during these hard economic times.

CAROL N. KOENIG (D)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

As an attorney and citizen I strongly believe that people working together with their local government can make a difference in the world. I am committed to working with you for the benefit of our community.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

The deficit is actually looming closer to 5.5 million. Difficult decisions are ahead. The County Commissioners will have to work harder, smarter and leaner than ever before. Together, we will do what is right.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

In times of economic stress smaller local governments are put in a difficult position. If county services are being cut or consolidated, they may have to be even more self reliant than before.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

The Ingham Health Plan is a jewel in the crown of Ingham County. I intent to protect this program as it becomes even more important to those suffering from hard economic times.

Ingham County Commissioner #10

BRAD DENNIS (R)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

As a student at Michigan State University, I feel I can best represent our interests to county government. I offer a unique perspective on campus issues as well as the judgment required to make decisions that impact the entire county.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

Currently, Ingham County Government is ineffective and inefficient. Instead of cutting vital services, the Board of Commissioners should focus on creating a more efficient county government through program audits and instituting municipal best practices.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

While I believe in local control, if service levels can be maintained or increased at a savings to the taxpayers; I believe it should be considered. Ultimately, this should be the townships' decision to make.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

Strengthening the program is not currently fiscally responsible. If efficiencies can be found and duplicated effort eliminated, perhaps extra dollars could be saved to meet the every rising cost of health care.

MARK GREBNER (D) (Incumbent)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

38 year resident of East Lansing and Ingham County; Alumni Distinguished Scholar; Bachelor's - MSU; J. D. - University of Michigan; Elected County Commissioner at age 23; Currently serving fourteenth 2-year term; Served three terms as Board Chairperson; Author of Ingham County's Ethics Policy.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

We'll use the same approach we always do: cutting programs where it will hurt the least, finding new revenues, rethinking how we deliver services, seeking a small increase in our tax rate.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

They should stop depending on the County for primary police coverage, but they're too small to start individual police departments. Best answer: County helps them purchase services from nearby small city departments.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

Our Health Plan has been a triumph - many counties have asked help establishing similar programs. But at 15,000 we may be reaching maximum feasible coverage in Ingham; it's becoming hard finding additional eligible people.

Ingham County Commissioner #11

ROLF PETERSON (R)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I'm 57, a person who's dedicated to children: coached Haslett Youth Baseball; held roles in HYRA; worked with AWANA Clubs; and developed 'Child Abuse Prevention Plans'. CEO businessman working tirelessly for 'green' energy, conservation and wildlife restoration. I humbly ask for your vote this November.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

Do the job they should be doing. Bring needed 'local advocacy', making the needs of Meridian Township known. Our 'third world' roads, our neglected Lake Lansing Parks, its time Meridian Twp got some representation.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

Meridian Twp has its own police force and has no need for Sheriff 'road patrols' nor would I support the funding of such.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

Ingham County shouldn't be duplicating the same services that Medicaid provides. If an adult cannot afford medical coverage, they should apply for Medicaid and any current funds would be better spent elsewhere – County Parks!

DIANNE HOLMAN (D) (Incumbent)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

As a six-year Ingham County Commissioner, my experience in township, county and state government, my commitment to public service, and my background on economic development issues as a small business owner, are assets that I use to make careful decisions on behalf of Ingham County residents.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

I support a multi-faceted approach to prevent budget deficits, including increasing program efficiency, capital expenditure reduction, revenue increases (fees, grants, tapping into all available state and federal funding), and as a last resort, staff reduction.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

The county needs a strong regional law enforcement system, providing basic law enforcement services throughout the county. Townships desiring or requiring a higher level of law enforcement should pay for additional services.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

It is difficult to increase expand programs, including the Ingham Health Plan in this economic climate, however, ever effort must be made to make sure that the County does not lose ground on the progress ...

Ingham County Commissioner #12

KIRK MARTIN (R) Did not respond in time for publication

DEB NOLAN (D) (Incumbent)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I am honored to be the County Commissioner for the southern part of Meridian Township. I have worked hard on issues concerning Okemos Road, the Ingham County Road Commission, Juvenile Justice, and the new Ingham County Family Center.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

Unfortunately, the deficit for 2009 for the Ingham County budget is \$5,600,000. Each department reduced expenditures by five percent. A hiring freeze was instituted. Twenty-three positions were eliminated, only seven of which are currently filled.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

Currently all money-saving measures are on the table. Certain townships and all cities in Ingham County have their own police departments. Charging those local governments who use the Sheriff for free is a possibility.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

The Ingham Health Plan is a priority for me as a County Commissioner. We have been able to continue the plan but are not able to expand it as much as we would like because of difficult financial times.

Ingham County Commissioner #13

RANDY G. SHAFER (R) (Incumbent)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Randy was raised on a farm and assumed responsibilities after his father's passing. He had many diverse jobs while paying his way through college. He has experience in Government, Business, Industry, Construction and Agriculture. He is a high school teacher in Applied Technology for 35 years....

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

The county has expanded services in many areas beyond it's ability with the current taxation. And citizens cannot afford more. The Board has a high turnover and short institutional knowledge of the long term ramifications.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

Public Safety is a number one priority. All citizens are served by the Ingham County Sheriff Department through, patrol, rescue, dive, narcotics, detective and jail. It is fundamentally wrong and illogical for one to believe ...

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

The Ingham Health Plan has proven effective. It certainly reduces the cost of local hospitals that are required to see patients in ER for issues that better addressed in an office at a fraction of ...

Ingham County Commissioner #14

STEVE DOUGAN (R) (Incumbent)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I seek a third term to the Board of Commissioners as the only candidate whose life experiences are primarily financial. As such, I bring understanding of budgets and the ability to recommend efficiencies in tough times. I am very involved in my community.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

Virtually every solution the \$4 million budget gap has occurred on the side of "cuts." 23 positions are to be lost, eight of which are current employees. I would further cut the \$600,000 contingency.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

All budgets are balancing acts. Sheriff's services may seem to unduly benefit rural areas, but the jail, courts and prosecution are more urban focused. I strongly support continued sheriff's services to rural townships.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

Ingham Health Plan covers over 15,000 people and is nearly at 80% of its target. Expansion of any service at a time with tight revenues is impractical. There are unlimited wants, there are finite resources.

PETER SPADAFORE (D) Did not respond in time for publication
Ingham County Commissioner #15

MIKE SEVERINO (R) (Incumbent)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Mike Severino represents District 15, which includes Holt and Aurelius Township. He was first elected in 1998. Commissioner Severino is a U.S. Army veteran, an attorney, a real estate broker, and RN at Sparrow Hospital. He lives with his wife and daughter in Holt.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

We have implemented a hiring freeze for the remainder of 2008. For 2009's budget, maintaining vital services like the health department and public safety was accomplished by reducing staff positions and reorganizing some county departments.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

Smaller townships simply don't have the tax base or the legal authority to levy a tax high enough to pay for their own police department. Abandoning their police coverage would put us all at risk.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

As a healthcare professional, this is certainly a priority to me. We've continued funding for IHP in 2009. The support of the county, local hospitals and primary care physicians is vital to maintaining this program.

LAURA R. DAVIS (D)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

As a lifelong Michigander, I care deeply about where we're headed. I am issue literate, yet not afraid to ask questions if I need clarity. Education, prevailing wages and pay equity, job training and volunteerism are vital for our economic future.

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

Cooperation and creativity are crucial in maintaining essential programs while moving to equilibrium again. I love finding solutions that address more than one issue, like using gases from water treatment to generate electricity.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

A countywide ballot proposal would allow voters to decide how best to fund public safety. Every county resident is entitled to efficient, adequately staffed law enforcement, regardless of current economic conditions.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

The Ingham County Health Plan should be maintained to ensure broad access to basic preventative health care, especially during this challenging economic time when more people are at risk of falling through the cracks.

Ingham County Commissioner #16

DONALD R. VICKERS (R)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Resident of Ingham County for 57 years, married to Judy (43 years), 3 children and 4 grandchildren. Teacher and principal in area schools for 30 years. Former Leslie Township Supervisor and Ingham County Commissioner. Current economic development consultant for the City of Leslie.

Response to Questions

1. According to the June 13, 2008 issue of the Lansing State Journal, Ingham County could face a \$4,000,000 deficit this budget year. How should the county deal with this situation?

The adopted budget is \$191.7 million. Due to economic stress, each department needs to be reviewed, streamlined where necessary and strong fiscally responsible programs adopted. Residents are also facing the same economic stresses.

2. In a time of economic stress, should all townships, regardless of average income, depend upon the Ingham County Sheriff's Department for their law enforcement rather than fund their own public safety units?

Everyone in Ingham County pays the same millage rate. Different areas have different service needs, the townships need to have public safety provided similar to when the sheriffs department assists the entities with police departments.

3. The Ingham Health Plan offers access to basic medical care for adults who cannot get or afford medical coverage. In the current economic climate, can this vital service be maintained or strengthened?

The health plan should be maintained. Our residents health should be of primary importance to county government. Neglecting the early health needs of our residents will only lead to greater financial costs in the future.

JOE GUENTHER (D) Did not respond in time for publication

State Proposals

Proposal 08-1

A LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE TO PERMIT THE USE AND CULTIVATION OF MARIJUANA FOR SPECIFIED MEDICAL CONDITIONS

-

The proposed law would:

- **Permit physician approved use of marijuana by registered patients with debilitating medical conditions including cancer, glaucoma, HIV, AIDS, hepatitis C, MS and other conditions as may be approved by the Department of Community Health.**
- **Permit registered individuals to grow limited amounts of marijuana for qualifying patients in an enclosed, locked facility.**
- **Require Department of Community Health to establish an identification card system for patients qualified to use marijuana and individuals qualified to grow marijuana.**
- **Permit registered and unregistered patients and primary caregivers to assert medical reasons for using marijuana as a defense to any prosecution involving marijuana.**

Should this proposal be adopted?

Yes
No

Proposal 08-2

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ADDRESS HUMAN EMBRYO AND HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH IN MICHIGAN

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- **Expand the use of human embryos for any research permitted under federal law subject to the following limits: the embryos--**

--are created for fertility purposes:

--are not suitable for implantation or are in excess of clinical needs;

--would be discarded unless used for research;

--were donated by the person seeking fertility treatment.

- **Provide that stem cells cannot be taken from human embryos more than 14 days after cell division begins.**
- **Prohibit any person from selling or purchasing human embryos for stem cell research.**
- **Prohibit state and local laws that prevent, restrict or discourage stem cell research, future therapies and cures.**

Should this proposal be adopted?

Yes

No

Ingham County Proposals

**ESTABLISHING SEPARATE TAX LIMITATIONS
FOR INGHAM COUNTY, THE TOWNSHIPS
AND THE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Shall Separate tax limitations be established for an indefinite period, or until altered by the voters of the county for the County of Ingham and the townships and the intermediate school district within the county, the aggregate of which shall not exceed 8.0 mills as follows:

-

	<u>Mills</u>
County of Ingham	6.8
Townships	1.0
Intermediate School District	<u>0.2</u>
Total	8.0

YES

NO

**MILLAGE PROPOSITION
CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (CATA)**

**CITY OF LANSING, CITY OF EAST LANSING, MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP
LANSING TOWNSHIP AND DELHI TOWNSHIP**

Shall the public transportation authority, the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA), for continued service, as provided by Public Act 55 of 1963, as amended, levy additional taxes in an amount not to exceed 0.787 mill (that being \$0.787 per thousand dollars of taxable value) on real and personal property located within the City of Lansing, City of East Lansing, Meridian Township, Lansing Township and Delhi Township for the years 2008 through 2012 inclusive? If approved and levied, this millage would generate approximately \$4,750,000.00 in 2008.

YES

NO

EAST LANSING CITY

**PROPOSAL TO AUTHORIZE SALE OF THE
UNIVERSITY PARKING RAMP**

Shall the City Council be authorized to sell the 249-space parking garage commonly known as the University Place Parking Ramp – Lot 12 located between Charles Street, Albert Avenue, and MAC Avenue which is owned by the City as Unit No. 1, University Place Condominium, under Master Deed recorded at Liber 1661, Page 551, of Ingham County Records, except the adjacent park plaza described as a limited common element to Unit No. 1, which shall be retained by the

City?

YES

NO

**PROPOSAL TO AUTHORIZE SALE OF THE CITY LAND LEASED
TO THE UNIVERSITY PLACE CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION**

Shall the City Council be authorized to sell the 1.57-acre parcel of land bounded by Charles Street, Albert Avenue, and MAC Avenue which is currently leased to the University Place Condominium Association for an initial term ending March 10, 2026 under Ground Lease recorded at Liber 1661, Page 221, of Ingham County Records, being Tax Parcel No. 33-20-02-18-150-014.

YES

NO

**OPERATING MILLAGE
RENEWAL PROPOSAL**

This proposal will allow the school district to maintain the number of mills required to be levied on all taxable property to enable the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance and renews operating millage that will expire with the 2008 tax levy.

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 18.2597 mills (\$18.2597 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, and 1 mill (\$1.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) which may be assessed against all principal residences, qualified agricultural property, qualified forest property, industrial personal property and commercial personal property in the School District of the City of East Lansing, Ingham and Clinton Counties, Michigan be renewed for a period of 10 years, 2009 to 2018, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes: the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect from combined local property taxes authorized herein if the millages are approved and levied in 2009 is approximately, \$9,422,010 (this is a renewal of a portion of the previously authorized millage which expires in 2008 tax levy and will be levied only to the extent necessary to receive the per pupil foundation allowance)?

**YES
NO**

**MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL, BUILDING
AND SITE SINKING FUND TAX LEVY**

Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 1.286 mills (\$1.286 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in the School District of the City of East Lansing, Ingham and Clinton Counties, Michigan, be renewed for a period of ten years, 2009 to 2018, inclusive, to create a sinking fund for the construction or repair of school buildings, acquisition of real estate, and all purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2009 is approximately \$1,465,267 (this is a renewal of a portion of the previously authorized millage which will expire with the 2008 tax levy)?

**YES
NO**

**Williamston Community Schools
RECREATION MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

This proposal would authorize the Williamston Community Schools to levy a tax to provide for the continued operation of a system of public recreation and playgrounds by the School District.

Shall the Williamston Community Schools, County of Ingham, Michigan, be authorized to levy .75 mills on taxable property in the School District to provide funds for operating a system of public recreation and playgrounds, by increasing the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the School District for a period of five (5) years, being the years 2008 to 2012, inclusive? It is estimated that .75 mills (\$0.75 per \$1,000 on taxable valuation) would raise approximately \$323,000 in the first year it is levied.

**YES
NO**

Northwest Community Schools

BONDING PROPOSAL

Shall Northwest Community Schools, Jackson and Ingham Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Five Million Five Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$5,515,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, for the purpose of:

acquiring and installing educational technology equipment and related infrastructure improvements, including electrical system upgrades.

The following is for information purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the purposed bonds in 2008 is .99 mills (\$0.99 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation.) The maximum number of years the bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, will not exceed twelve (12) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is .91 mill (\$0.91 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

YES

NO



Please join us and make a difference!

The total annual dues for 2008-2009 are \$59.00. This includes \$28.00 for LWV-US, \$21.00 for LWV-MI, and \$10.00 for LWV-LA. If another member resides in the same household, the dues for the second member are \$29.50. National and state dues are assessed to our local league based on the national membership list as of January 31, 2009.

If you wish to join or renew your membership, please complete this form and mail in the enclosed envelope to:

LWV-LA
P.O. Box 971
E. Lansing, MI 48826

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Please note that we will keep your information confidential.

Amount enclosed:

\$ _____ \$59.00 for one member

\$ _____ \$88.50 for two members in the same household

Additional donations:

\$ _____ for LWV-LA

\$ _____ for League of Women Voters Education Fund (Please use separate check)



League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area
Box 971
East Lansing, MI 48826