



August 3, 2010 Genesee County Primary Electronic Voter Guide

Non-Partisan election information prepared by the League of Women Voters of the Flint Area
The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work results in civic improvement.

Links to Voter Guides of State-wide Races:

- [Governor](#)
- [US House of Representatives – District 5](#)
- [Michigan Senate – District 26](#)
- [Michigan Senate – District 27](#)
- [Michigan House of Representatives – District 34](#)
- [Michigan House of Representatives – District 48](#)
- [Michigan House of Representatives – District 49](#)
- [Michigan House of Representatives – District 50](#)
- [Michigan House of Representatives – District 51](#)

Check our website – www.lwvflintarea.org
for future broadcast dates.

In this Edition:

[Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
[Genesee County Commissioner District 4](#)
[Genesee County Commissioner District 5](#)
[Genesee County Commissioner District 6](#)
[Genesee County Commissioner District 7](#)
[Genesee County Commissioner District 8](#)
[Genesee County Treasurer](#)
[Clayton Township Trustee](#)
[Grand Blanc Township Trustee](#)
[Montrose Township Treasurer](#)
[County-wide Proposals](#)
[City of Burton Proposals](#)
[Davison Township Proposals](#)
[City of Flint Proposals](#)
[Grand Blanc Township Proposals](#)

Candidate Forums on Comcast Public Access Channel 17

July 13 7:30 PM
26th District State Senator Candidate Forum

July 15 10:10 PM
Primary Contested County Commissioner
Video Forum: Districts 5, 7 & 8

Visit us on the web:

www.lwvflintarea.org



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What time are the polls open?

Polls are open from 7am to 8pm on Election Day.

Am I eligible to vote?

To register to vote in Michigan, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years of age by election day, a resident of Michigan and the city or township where you are applying to register to vote. You must register at least 30 days prior to the election

Where do I go to vote?

You must vote in your assigned precinct. Confirm your registration and polling place at [Michigan Voter Information](#) website.

Is Identification required to vote?

Michigan does require voters to show acceptable photo identification at the polls, such as a Michigan driver's license or ID card. However, those voters who do not have an acceptable photo ID or forgot to bring it with them still can vote. They can sign an affidavit stating they are not in possession of a photo ID. Their ballots are counted on Election Day.

I am a first time voter. What do I need to know?

If you have never voted in Michigan and you registered by mail, you must appear in person to vote in the first election in which you participate. This does not apply if you fall into one of these categories: 1) You hand delivered your registration to your clerk's office 2) You are over 60 years old 3) You are disabled or 4) You are eligible to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

Can voters be challenged based on home foreclosure?

No. Michigan Democrats and Republicans agree that "foreclosure lists" alone do not provide sufficient reason to challenge a person's voting status.

Am I eligible for absentee voting?

If you are a registered voter and will be unable to attend the polls on election day for one of the following reasons, you may obtain an absentee ballot:

- Age 60 years old or older
- Unable to vote without assistance at the polls
- Expecting to be out of town on election day
- In jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- Unable to attend the polls due to religious reasons
- Appointed to work as an election inspector in a precinct outside of your precinct residence

If you are eligible to vote absentee, you can [download/print your Absentee Ballot Application here](#) or obtain a preprinted application at your local clerk's office. Absentee ballots must be received by your local clerk's office no later than 2pm on the Saturday before the election. After receiving your ballot, you have until 8pm on Election Day to complete and return it.

If the ballot says to vote for 3 candidates, do I have to vote for 3?

May I vote for only 1 or 2? Yes, you may vote for less than the number listed on the ballot. However, be careful...voting for more than the listed number will invalidate your ballot.

[Back to TOP](#)

Each candidate was given an opportunity to answer the same questions regarding the office being sought. Candidate responses have not been edited, except when responses exceed the maximum limit, in which case the response ends with an ellipsis (...). The inclusion of these statements of the candidates 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. Races are listed by Party and then alphabetical order (and numerically by district, where applicable).

Genesee County Commissioner - District 4

5 Candidates for **ONE** Two-Year term – 1 REPUBLICAN, 4 DEMOCRATS

In a Primary election, you must choose which political party's primary to vote in and vote for only candidates of that party for all offices.

Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?	Question 2. What are your top priorities to help attract and grow business in Genesee County?	Question 3. What specific steps can the county take to protect its natural resources?
KEITH ALLEN, REPUBLICAN		
<p>If we do not appropriately prioritize services with consideration of budgetary constraints - we will continue in lockstep with the nation's out of control spending and debt which only limits our potential for greatness and ability to empower ourselves at the local level. It is my goal to begin healing our state and nation at the local level. It begins with difficult sacrifices that will allow us all to invest in our future. All of Genesee County must pull in the same direction with effective leadership providing clear vision. As an elected official I will focus on the basics: 1) Public safety must never be reduced; it is perennially our #1 problem inhibiting any rebound or growth which is key to our future.2) Infrastructure should also be a top priority for the same reasons. Better roads and development of transportation systems are crucial to our future. These are the roles in which government was meant to play, not several other misguided ones that now must be eliminated.</p>	<p>Supporting Public Safety, Infrastructure, and education systems are absolutely critical to allowing our inherent strengths to emerge as we transition from the decline of the automobile industry. Working and supporting these three top priorities will insure property values to grow and eliminate the need for cuts in service areas critical to adequate lifestyle needs throughout Genesee County. I am a firm believer in focusing on what you want rather than what you don't want - which is cutting Health and Human Services, Community, or Public Works. Because if we do, we will attract more of the same downward trend, which has been the case with leadership in Genesee County in the past few decades. We must specifically target and produce these areas which are exactly what businesses look for, factors which will enable business to not only grow but thrive. The business of Genesee County must be about redesigning everything for this purpose. Genesee county currently is far too ineffective.</p>	<p>Do more to partner with higher learning institutions for educational opportunities and maintain stewardship. This mutually beneficial relationship would produce long-term desired results and also foster a deep and abiding respect among it's citizenry for what is theirs for generations to come. As it stands now, there is no such connection, and therefore a projected negative consequence to come.</p>
CANDIDATES CONTINUED		

Genesee County Commissioner – District 4 (Continued)

<p>Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?</p>	<p>Question 2. What are your top priorities to help attract and grow business in Genesee County?</p>	<p>Question 3. What specific steps can the county take to protect its natural resources?</p>
<p>WENDY N. BRAUN, DEMOCRAT</p>		
<p>The two most important issues facing the 4th District are blighted properties owned by the Land Bank, and the lack of a Senior Center. The first issue, the Land Bank, which is partially funded through delinquent tax funds received news that their funding was being cut by \$336,000.00 for this fiscal year. My solution is to partner with the City of Flint, since the majority of these properties are in Flint, and utilize a portion of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds to restore the funding to the Land Bank, so the 17 employees laid off, would be recalled and services restored. The second, addressing the lack of a Senior Center in the 4th District needs to be resolved. When this millage was passed in 2006, 7.3 million dollars was collected County wide, and 3.8 million was distributed back to the various centers. The problem was, and still is, no center in the district. I will work with the other commissioners to find a location to open a center without exceeding the budget.</p>	<p>My first priority is to form a board comprised of area business leaders and elected officials to streamline the process that is currently in place for a new business to open. There are far too many hurdles, from an unfavorable tax structure, an unwillingness to grant some types of zoning variances, and relaxing some rules and regulations that were put in place many, many years ago that are no longer relevant. Michigan is in the bottom 5 as being a business friendly state, and private enterprise is what drives our economy. Government's job is not to provide jobs, its purpose should be to provide an environment that allows private business to thrive and prosper. The only way this can happen is to get Local, State, and Federal officials, and members of the private sector together, and come up with a plan that works for everyone. You can't keep doing the same thing over and over and expect a different result. Our main goal is to make Genesee County a great place to work and live once again.</p>	<p>The (PEAS) Pollution Emergency Alerting System has been in operation since 1975, and should be used to report environmental pollution emergencies such as tanker accidents, and releases of reportable quantities of hazardous substances as required. In addition the County should have a working relationship with groups including the Flint River Watershed Coalition, the Flint Area Steelheaders, and the Sierra Club which all help in protecting our environment. There are grants available through the Natural Resource's Trust fund that the County should explore to possibly secure funding for projects previously unattainable due to budget constraints.</p>
<p>Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?</p>	<p>Question 2. What are your top priorities to help attract and grow business in Genesee County?</p>	<p>Question 3. What specific steps can the county take to protect its natural resources?</p>
<p>SHERI L. GOYETTE, DEMOCRAT</p>		
<p>Availability of jobs in our area. If elected, I would make Genesee County known for its willingness to assist businesses large and small through tax exempt options and other incentives.</p>	<p>I would form a committee of citizens and business owners to help re-invent Genesee County and what she has to offer.</p>	<p>By going "Green" in every capacity possible. Joining with local businesses to give coupon incentives for residents and neighborhoods that recycle. Assist all Cities and Townships in Genesee County to promote curb-site recycling.</p>
<p>CANDIDATES CONTINUED</p>		

Genesee County Commissioner – District 4 (Continued)

Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?	Question 2. What are your top priorities to help attract and grow business in Genesee County?	Question 3. What specific steps can the county take to protect its natural resources?
JOHN W. NORTHRUP, DEMOCRAT		
<p>Employment Opportunities I have voted for the formation of a water authority that will make Genesee County and the City of Flint independent from the Detroit water service. This action has created the potential for 1,000 jobs in our region. These will be jobs for construction workers, engineers, laborers, real estate professionals and water department employees. Our community will benefit short term with jobs and long term with lower water rates that we will control. I will continue to support this effort. Modernization of County service delivery I have supported the consolidation of County Departments to more efficiently deliver services. A recent example of my actions is the consolidation of Genesee County's Emergency Management/Homeland Security office under Sheriff Robert Pickell. I will continue to seek ways to further consolidate County functions. Another example is my support for the consolidation of the Office of County Clerk with the Office of County Register of Deeds</p>	<p>My top priorities to attract and grow business in our community are the promotion of a County wide economic development policy and the development of the water line. I recently voted to put in place an economic development study that involved collaboration by Genesee County, the City of Flint, and the Genesee County Regional Chamber of Commerce. For us to attract new businesses and jobs, we must have an active, modern, and unified County marketing effort. We must reach out and sell employers on the benefits of doing business here. With respect to the water line, Genesee County must be a leader in attracting water-dependent industries to locate in our area. We must provide opportunities for the creation of new industries that use water in their process.</p>	<p>Growing up on a farm in Genesee County, I believe in preserving fresh air, clean water and uncontaminated soil. County government must obey federal and state laws relating to environmental use and quality. Thus, we are limited. However, under the auspices of federal and state law the County can create tools to improve the quality of our environment. One tool that I voted for and continue to support is the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA) which enables the clean up of contaminated and blighted properties for new business use. New business formation creates jobs for our community.</p>
STEVAN PIRKOVIC, DEMOCRAT <i>Response Not Received</i>		

[Back to TOP](#)

Genesee County Commissioner - District 5

3 Candidates for **ONE TWO-Year Term** – 2 REPUBLICANS, 1 DEMOCRAT

In a Primary election, you must choose which political party's primary to vote in and vote for only candidates of that party for all offices.

<p>Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?</p>	<p>Question 2. What are your top priorities to help attract and grow business in Genesee County?</p>	<p>Question 3. What specific steps can the county take to protect its natural resources?</p>
<p>WM ROGER BUELL, REPUBLICAN</p>		
<p>The two most important issues facing our area are jobs and home values. If elected, I will implement strategies to ensure that the existing businesses we have can expand without unnecessary government regulation. I will ensure that new businesses are welcomed to our area and that vacant or under-utilized land and buildings are used first. A proactive approach with this focus will bring in jobs, jobs, jobs and result in an increase in home values.</p>	<p>My top priority is to attract and grow businesses through the reduction in un-necessary rules regulations through the adoption of a set of unified development process standards. These standards will create a level playing field for all growth and expansion throughout the County. These standards will reduce the permit process so that expansion of existing businesses is encouraged and not discouraged.</p> <p>To attract businesses, I am proposing that the areas selected by the county for growth and redevelopment are processed in advance, so they can be marketed to developers with the guarantee of a very short development time frame for development. In essence, the time between plan creation and groundbreaking would be reduced to the shortest time possible to ensure a good return on their investment. By taking this approach, we will show developers that Genesee County is open for business.</p>	<p>To protect the county's natural resources, the Board needs to ensure that existing developed areas are re-developed first. It is important to reuse existing properties instead of giving incentives for growth which encroaches on rural areas and leads to tearing down trees and destroying other natural resources. We need to encourage smart growth through the utilization of existing infrastructure. All county utilities to include roads, water and sewer lines need to be brought through the planning process. As a result we guarantee utilities are not provided to area which should not be serviced because of existing regional planning rules. In addition, through education and the proper government incentives, existing and new development can be shown the financial benefits of green building design. All other efforts throughout the county need to ensure that we are using energy wisely and that materials are re-purposed for our future.</p>
<p>MILES T GADOLA, REPUBLICAN</p>		
<p>Continuing to provide the citizens with the most effective and efficient services. Look for opportunities to consolidate and streamline services, so as to reduce expenses, and save the taxpayers money. Further, we must maintain a balanced budget. Government must live within its means just as we do in our own homes.</p>	<p>The Waterline Project has the potential to provide hundreds of jobs in the construction and trade industries. It will ultimately reduce the cost of water for all citizens of Genesee County. Further, the access to water, controlled locally, will avail us the opportunity to market that resource to growing industries. We will be able to assure water availability and costs.</p>	<p>Make decisions that maintain green space and limit the amount of environmental impact those decisions will have in our communities. Also, to analyze and consider those opportunities for growth with businesses and industries that are committed to minimizing their impact on the health of the community overall.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Candidates Continued</p>		

Genesee County Commissioner – District 5 (Continued)

<p>Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?</p>	<p>Question 2. What are your top priorities to help attract and grow business in Genesee County?</p>	<p>Question 3. What specific steps can the county take to protect its natural resources?</p>
<p>LINDA J. HOFF, DEMOCRAT - WEBSITE: www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Linda-Hoff-for-Genesee-County-Commissioner/107760939269058?ref=sgm</p>		
<p>1) Public service in the face of declining revenues: We must open county government to greater participation and engage in methods that allow us to work smarter with less money, that includes embracing technology for expanded communication and efficiency in operations. We need to seek developmental grants to assist the county in acquiring necessary technology and training. We also need to work with each union-represented and non-represented work groups to rework contracts to eliminate excesses as a means to ensure optimum levels of employment.</p> <p>2) We need to attract and maintain a strong base for business and residential investment. To do this we need to look for ways to engage every community in the county for the benefit of the "whole." We need to support business investment while ensuring living wages, fair practices and safe environments. It will require creativity, compromise and education to launch the area into diversified, high-tech, and alternative types of employment.</p>	<p>We have to be open to a diversified work environment, the reliance on "GM for life" has been a huge disservice to the residents. We've learned that no company is too big to fail and that all businesses need to adapt to changing times; the same holds true for cities, counties and states. To build strength, we need to develop a strong and diverse infrastructure of education and healthy communities to readily meet business needs as they develop. Secondly, we need to ensure attractive tax and incentive packages to encourage businesses to invest. There are numerous examples of businesses that want to invest in communities only to find that the region is not prepared with adequate talent. We've also seen examples of people being trained for jobs before the jobs are available, forcing residents to relocate. We need to do a better job with proactive planning and implementing strategies for growth rather than trying to react as situations arise.</p>	<p>First and foremost, we must realize the value of our great natural resources and work hard to protect them as valuable long-term resources, not to be abused for short-term profit. This region has a history of hard work and creativity which we must now put to use to create and showcase green innovation practices. Renewable and clean energy, as well as green practices are the cornerstone of the economy that will allow us to rise from our current problems and be the benchmark for other municipalities. Every decision we make needs to be measured in a strategic sense for cost/benefit and long-term value to the residents of our county. We need instill in our residents and businesses the knowledge that a healthy environment is necessary for healthy residents, healthy workers, and a healthy economy.</p>

[Back to TOP](#)

Genesee County Commissioner – District 6 – Next Page

Genesee County Commissioner - District 6

5 Candidates for **ONE TWO-Year Term** – 2 REPUBLICANS, 3 DEMOCRATS

In a Primary election, you must choose which political party's primary to vote in and vote for only candidates of that party for all offices.

<p>Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?</p>	<p>Question 2. What are your top priorities to help attract and grow business in Genesee County?</p>	<p>Question 3. What specific steps can the county take to protect its natural resources?</p>
--	---	---

JOSEPH GRAVES, REPUBLICAN - WEBSITE: www.voteforgraves.com

<p>Jobs and the economy as a whole have to be the number one priority of the county commissioners. We have the highest unemployment rate in the nation and we have to become more job friendly. This will require a major restructuring of how we do business in this county. Just a few short years ago, our county had a 22 million dollar rainy day fund. Now the fund is empty and serious layoffs will take place. Had the county commission made the serious revisions and cuts years ago, we would not be looking at massive layoffs now. Three years ago, the county commission passed a county wide ordinance that would put all ambulance providers currently doing business in our county out of business in favor of a large conglomerate from Saginaw. This ordinance does not reduce response time or costs. In fact it will increase both! It is currently in litigation and our county commissioners continue to spend tax dollars we don't have to pass an ordinance we don't need. Stop the Waste!</p>	<p>Infrastructure, energy costs, bureaucratic red tape and costs make it very difficult for any business already here or new ones who are considering bringing jobs to our county. I recently talked with a businessman who owns 13 franchises throughout Michigan and Ohio. He considered opening a store in Genesee County but was faced with a \$20,000.00 sewer "hook up" fee. He was then forced to revise his plans. This is just one example and examples like this cannot continue if we are going to turn our economy around. We need the businesses and the jobs. The time it takes to get permits approved has to be slashed drastically. We need to do all we can to move fast and responsibly with new prospective job providers. Many job providers are more than willing to invest into our economy and provide jobs that pay a living wage, but they need to know we are willing to invest in them and not punish them for their risks or investment. It is not too late for a turn around, but we must move with urgency.</p>	<p>Any natural resource is a treasure and needs to be protected. I believe a lack of pride in our county contributes to some of the problems we now face. People do enjoy bike paths, parks, picnic areas and of course our wonderful inland waters. We need to restore our pride and our population and then utilize our municipalities planning commissions to further the use of our natural resources.</p>
--	--	--

SEAN MCDERMOTT, REPUBLICAN
Response Not Received

Candidates Continued

Genesee County Commissioner – District 6 (Continued)

Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?	Question 2. What are your top priorities to help attract and grow business in Genesee County?	Question 3. What specific steps can the county take to protect its natural resources?
DAN HARRELL, DEMOCRAT		
<p>The Board of Commissioners has one statutory responsibility-to balance the County budget. My first priority is to balance that budget and maintain necessary public services including public safety and public health. The County can save tax dollars by looking at ways to coordinate and consolidate County departments and services. Two quick examples of consolidation involve the County Register of Deeds and County Emergency Management that were recently merged or will be merged with other County departments to save tax dollars. Secondly, our roads are a mess. My second priority is to work to improve county road repair. The County Board is working with the Road Commission to merge Road Commission administrative functions like the Human Resources Department with the County to reduce administrative costs and put more dollars into road repair. And, once the County has its financial house in order, the Board must renew its commitment to help fund county road maintenance and repair.</p>	<p>Genesee County worked with local units of government, the private sector, and community leaders to revamp its job creation organization, giving the lead role in job retention and creation to the Genesee County Regional Chamber of Commerce economic development arm. That organization has worked very hard to grow business and to develop new job opportunities throughout Genesee County. The County's role in this process was to help fund the new organization and support its efforts. I believe that the County Board must renew that commitment to job creation by paying its fair share of the costs and fully supporting the Regional Chamber .</p>	<p>The County takes steps through the Genesee County Drain Commission and the County Health Department to protect our land and water resources through such requirements as erosion protection, inspection and approval of new septic systems, and retention pond requirements for construction of new housing developments, multi-family dwellings and major business construction. We especially need to protect our water resources. The Genesee County Parks system offers a variety of education programs for our young people targeting environmental conservation and protection. The Board of Commissioners needs to continue to encourage these kinds of programs. The Board of Commissioners ought to be supporting regional planning that places a priority on such things as saving our open spaces, our farmlands, and that helps communities to develop systematically instead of growth by sprawl of disorganized overdevelopment.</p>
MATT HENRY, DEMOCRAT <i>Response Not Received</i>		
Candidates Continued		

Genesee County Commissioner – District 6 (Continued)

<p>Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?</p>	<p>Question 2. What are your top priorities to help attract and grow business in Genesee County?</p>	<p>Question 3. What specific steps can the county take to protect its natural resources?</p>
<p>JOSHUA J. WHITE, DEMOCRAT - WEBSITE: www.joshuajwhite.com</p>		
<p>Job Creation and County budget crisis. We can create jobs through improving infrastructure and roads. We have to look to attracting new business to the county to put people back to work. We also must provide a business friendly environment for our small business owners. These are the folks who live in the county and employee people who also live in the county. These people have strong community ties and will be less likely to pack up and leave us for China or Mexico. Budget crisis first things first we have to quit suing each other wasting tax payer and County money. Also not make stupid decisions like hiring lobbyist that were not needed in the first place. Times are tough for everyone especially in this State, but laying off more workers is not the answer that is a quick fix that really creates a larger problem down the road.</p>	<p>We must fix our crumbling roads! We must improve on existing infrastructure and create as friendly as a business environment as possible for small and medium size business. This county once put the entire country on its back during the War and times of prosperity that followed. It's time we came together as one people and do it again. Rather it be green energy technologies or other innovative jobs and careers, we have smart people in this county, our leaders just have to bring these jobs to them. This means we have to elect leadership that is going to put people over politics.</p>	<p>Working closely with the State DNR, EPA, as well as organizations like Clean water and Michigan Conservation Club and Sierra Club to monitor the pollutants is a start. We must hold companies as well as individuals responsible for any destruction to our resources. As far as lakes go must continue to fight against invasive species.</p>

[Back to TOP](#)

Genesee County Commissioner - District 7

3 Candidates for **ONE TWO-Year Term** – 1 REPUBLICANS, 2 DEMOCRATS

In a Primary election, you must choose which political party's primary to vote in and vote for only candidates of that party for all offices.

<p>Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?</p>	<p>Question 2. What are your top priorities to help attract and grow business in Genesee County?</p>	<p>Question 3. What specific steps can the county take to protect its natural resources?</p>
<p>KEVIN BERRY, REPUBLICAN <i>Response Not Received</i></p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Candidates Continued</p>		

Genesee County Commissioner – District 7 (Continued)

Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?	Question 2. What are your top priorities to help attract and grow business in Genesee County?	Question 3. What specific steps can the county take to protect its natural resources?
ARCHIE H. BAILEY, DEMOCRAT		
<p>Public safety is my number one priority. Providing support to all police agencies, the prosecutor's office and the court system is imperative.</p>	<p>Move from the county from a manufacturing economy to a high tech base. Kettering University, the University of Michigan-Flint and Mott Community College have already started the transformation. The addition of the Michigan State University Medical School will also be a positive addition. County government should cooperate in any way it can.</p>	<p>The county's greatest natural resource is its county park system. Genesee County has the largest public park system in the State of Michigan. The park system is well managed and I believe it is one of the county's jewels.</p>
KATHY A. RIDLEY, DEMOCRAT		
<p>The two most important issues facing district 7 communities are balancing budgets and trying to maintain services without raising taxes or eliminating a service. I will be visible in the communities of district 7. I will be talking with residents and community leaders to better understand their needs and concerns. I would like to hold a summit with area leaders to discuss duplication of services. Each community is different and unique and circumstances are different. Generating ideas and discussing our concerns would help bring our communities together. By doing this, we may find a common ground, and work toward joining services.</p>	<p>My top priority to help attract and grow business in Genesee County is to network with organizations, community leaders and residents to explore new ideas and think "outside the box". Each community has a master plan and goals they would like to accomplish. Using that and new ideas, we can goal set at the county level to help our area communities succeed. In order for our county to prosper we need to work together as one. This will not happen overnight. It will take hard work and dedication, and I am up to the challenge! Our county needs to diversify so when we have another economic downturn we can sustain it.</p>	<p>As the largest county park system in the state of Michigan we need to continue to support our parks and recreation department. We have several organizations, groups and coalitions that actively work with our park system to preserve and protect our natural resources. Our parks and rec division have been great stewards of our tax dollars. Even with budget cuts they have provided our county with excellent services and we need to continue to support them. Our park system is an asset to this county and we should be very proud of the service it offers. I would like us to promote our parks more, throughout the state, to help generate more income for our park system.</p>

[Back to TOP](#)

Genesee County Commissioner - District 8

3 Candidates for **ONE TWO-Year Term** – 1 REPUBLICANS, 2 DEMOCRATS

In a Primary election, you must choose which political party's primary to vote in and vote for only candidates of that party for all offices.

<p>Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?</p>	<p>Question 2. What are your top priorities to help attract and grow business in Genesee County?</p>	<p>Question 3. What specific steps can the county take to protect its natural resources?</p>
--	---	---

DAVID B. ROBERTSON, REPUBLICAN – WEBSITE: www.votedbr.com

<p>The most important issue facing Genesee County is, and has been for a long time, job loss. Genesee County, once a case-study for American economic excellence has been transformed into a case-study in economic failure. I am tired of hearing the press and "analysts" use our home as an example of how the US is in decline or, worse, hearing comedians mock our current situation. No amount of government spending will create sustainable jobs. The only way to do so is to correct the errors of high taxation and oppressive regulation that drive businesses away. While county government is not the only source of these issues, it must do its part to correct them and I pledge to do so. The second issue faced by Genesee County is specific to our county government. We must restructure and reduce the size of county government to save tax dollars. If elected I will work to revitalize this county and make it a business-friendly environment where job providers will want to come and stay.</p>	<p>Politicians in this country have worked diligently to bolster the myth that the path to economic success is government spending. The reality is that dollars sought by politicians are to bolster their own re-election success. The truth is that no government has ever spent its way to economic security. Here in Genesee County we must look to the lessons of History and reduce government spending and eliminate punitive regulations that drive away business. County government must be part of the solution by reducing its cost structure. We must focus on essential county services and eliminate those that are not needed. The dire economic situation we face does not allow for the luxury of extra "nice to have" services. The people of Genesee County are outstanding. They were once at the heart of what made the US the greatest country on Earth and can be again if given the chance. The solution to our problems must come from the people. Government, at best, can only get out of the way.</p>	<p>Genesee County is at the very gateway between the heavily populated section of southeast Michigan and its wealth of recreational opportunities. As such, we offer the residents of Genesee county a unique chance to live in an area offering both urban and rural advantages. The precious natural resources of this county and this state are everyone's responsibility to protect. We will not accomplish protection of these resources through "green jobs". These are merely "pet" projects latched onto by opportunistic politicians. Real protection of natural resources comes from responsible economic development. A prosperous county is equipped to take the steps needed to protect its resources. We must attract businesses and jobs to Genesee County to do this. Right now countless residents drive long distances out of this county for work, wasting fuel and generating emissions. I believe that ANY job in Genesee County is a "green" job if it allows a county resident to live and work here.</p>
---	---	--

Candidates Continued

Genesee County Commissioner – District 8 (Continued)

Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?	Question 2. What are your top priorities to help attract and grow business in Genesee County?	Question 3. What specific steps can the county take to protect its natural resources?
MIKE COBURN, DEMOCRAT		
<p>Two of the most important issues facing the 8th district are home foreclosures and crime. If elected I would request a 1 year moratorium on home foreclosures due to back taxes and work with the county treasurer to keep families in their homes.</p> <p>To control crime in the 8th district you have to fully fund the Sheriff's office and the Prosecutor's office because with the constant element of crime, population and small businesses would certainly leave our area. To fund these two departments I realize big cuts would have to be made in non essential areas.</p>	<p>To attract new businesses in Genesee County I am in favor of tax abatements for small businesses on a limited basis.</p> <p>I would encourage the County EDC to streamline new businesses and new businesses start up.</p> <p>With the Obama stimulus plan still in effect I would seek out all grants and all low interest loans available to help those who want to start a business.</p>	<p>As a tree hugger who graduated college from the upper peninsula I am in favor of keeping open and maintaining the county parks.</p> <p>I am also in favor in tearing down blighted properties and turning them into green zones.</p> <p>I realize as money is tighter and tighter much of this work would have to be done by citizen volunteers and corporate sponsors.</p> <p>The use of our high school students during the summer vacations to earn credit towards college is something that could be explored.</p>
TED HENRY, DEMOCRAT <i>Response Not Received</i>		

[Back to TOP](#)

Genesee County Commissioner – District 8 – Next Page

Genesee County Treasurer

3 Candidates for **ONE FOUR-Year Term** – 1 REPUBLICANS, 2 DEMOCRATS

In a Primary election, you must choose which political party's primary to vote in and vote for only candidates of that party for all offices.

<p>Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?</p>	<p>Question 2. What is your experience managing and balancing budgets?</p>	<p>Question 3. With an increasing number of properties heading into foreclosure, what ideas will you implement or support as Treasurer to help reduce the rate of tax foreclosures?</p>
--	---	--

JUDY ZABIK, REPUBLICAN

<p>The two most important issues facing the County Treasurer are (1) the Genesee County Land Bank and the financial impact it has on the county, and (2) the number of home foreclosures the county is experiencing. I would first address the most glaring problem I see as treasurer, and that is the issue of the Genesee County Land Bank. The Land Bank owns over 4000 properties, which means that there are 4000 properties that don't generate property tax revenue to the county. In addition, the county (i.e., taxpayers) subsidize the Land Bank -this year alone it was \$1.3 million. As a result, the county has experienced tremendous budget shortfalls and is laying employees off. As treasurer, I would audit the Land Bank to determine the impact it has on the county and decide if it needs to be pared back or eliminated altogether. I would also review programs available to help people who are facing foreclosures. It only benefits the residents of the county to keep people in their own homes.</p>	<p>With over 25 years in finance and accounting, I have experience not only in developing corporate budgets, but implementing and reporting on them as well. It was my responsibility to help create, manage and report on budgets at both the plant level and corporate level with Burroughs (Unisys) in Detroit and Plymouth. I have created and managed several budgets on a smaller scale for non-profit organizations with which I volunteered my time. Budgets are absolutely essential to organizational integrity and viability. I intend to bring accountability, as well as transparency, to the citizens of Genesee County by making myself and all county financials accessible.</p>	<p>As I mentioned, I would review and improve the county program for those families facing foreclosure to help them stay in their own homes. I would also release properties owned by the Genesee County Land Bank to make affordable housing available to those who have either lost their homes or are in danger of losing their homes.</p>
---	--	---

Candidates Continued

<p style="text-align: center;">Candidates Continued</p>
--

Genesee County Treasurer (Continued)

<p>Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?</p>	<p>Question 2. What is your experience managing and balancing budgets?</p>	<p>Question 3. With an increasing number of properties heading into foreclosure, what ideas will you implement or support as Treasurer to help reduce the rate of tax foreclosures?</p>
<p>DEBORAH CHERRY, DEMOCRAT – WEBSITE: www.CherryForTreasurer.com</p>		
<p>The unemployment crisis in Genesee County affects every aspect of our life and has led to the increased number of foreclosures we have experienced in our county. As Treasurer, I, like all elected officials, must be focused on creating an environment that promotes job growth. An important component to job growth is having strong communities. The Treasurer can impact that by decreasing the number of foreclosures that are occurring in our County and second by making sure that vacant land will be reused in ways that strengthens neighborhoods. Efforts to decrease foreclosures must include assisting responsible homeowners before they are in crisis. The Land Bank, working with neighborhoods and communities, can redevelop vacant land and can also assist our economic development efforts by being a partner to support realistic business opportunities. As Treasurer, I will be persistent in my efforts to improve our county and I will reach out to all community leaders to achieve these goals.</p>	<p>I grew up in a family of bricklayers and electricians and my parents taught me the value of an education and hard work. I have spent my lifetime working in public service and I have focused on management and oversight of public funds, spending over 30 years working both in non-profit service agencies and as an elected official. As a program coordinator, I was responsible for monitoring and assessing how agencies spent both federal and state funds. My job was to make sure they met their obligations and spent their funds as determined by law. As a Genesee County Commissioner and Chairperson, I developed the County Budget and had oversight of the Treasurer's office. As a State Representative and a Senator, I have sat on the Appropriations Committees and was responsible for the Community Health budget, along with many others. I was a part of creating legislation that Genesee County uses in its foreclosure and land bank operations.</p>	<p>People work hard all their life to own a home and the Treasurer must do all she can to help them protect it. I will create a taskforce of local government to identify people who are having difficulty before they are delinquent in their taxes. I will bring resources and services together to focus on responsible homeowners who need assistance. The Treasurer must be an advocate for them. The current Foreclosure Prevention Program is helpful but is limited in its ability to assist. That's why identifying people who need help even earlier is important. The Treasurer's office can be more efficient and I want to work with local government to make all of us more cost-effective. Providing the opportunity to taxpayers to conduct business over the Internet is just one example. Strong communities are the ultimate answer and I will spend every moment committed and working to make Genesee County the place where people want to raise their families.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Candidates Continued</p>		

Genesee County Treasurer (Continued)

<p>Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?</p>	<p>Question 2. What is your experience managing and balancing budgets?</p>	<p>Question 3. With an increasing number of properties heading into foreclosure, what ideas will you implement or support as Treasurer to help reduce the rate of tax foreclosures?</p>
<p>LEE GONZALES, DEMOCRAT – WEBSITE: www.leegonzales.org</p>		
<p>Jobs and economic growth. Our unemployment rate has skyrocketed and too many of our neighbors are losing their homes. These problems are linked to Genesee County's mortgage crisis and property valuation crisis.</p> <p>As State Rep., I've promoted economic growth by working closely with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and local leaders. MEDC has partnered with economic development efforts like Flint's Swedish Biogas Project. I would foster this MEDC linkage. My Advanced Battery Technology legislation was signed into law in 2009 and has attracted \$6 billion in private sector investment. Advanced battery manufacturing is part of Michigan's Alternative Energy targeted sectors, which looks promising from my viewpoint.</p> <p>There's no one solution to spark job growth, but it takes some bold ideas, innovative thinking and follow through. I will work tirelessly to bring people together and enlist the support from the public and private sectors.</p>	<p>I have extensive experience in managing and balancing budgets. As House Appropriations Subcommittee Chair on Transportation, I oversee a \$3.2 billion budget for all transportation needs in Michigan. It is all restricted revenue (state gasoline tax, license & registration fees and federal gas tax) and there are no general fund dollars in this budget. As Chair I negotiate all budget line items with my counterpart in the Senate.</p> <p>As Assistant Treasurer for seven years I was on Treasurer Dan Kildee's management team and played a key role in this department's budget, all office operations including investment practices and securing 5 credit rating upgrades. Procedures on property tax collections also encompass the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund (an annual borrowing) whose funds are distributed to local school districts and other taxing units.</p> <p>Additionally, I'm knowledgeable of the budget and management functions within the Genesee County Land Bank, with which I played a key role.</p>	<p>We must combat the impact of foreclosures and vacant properties because this predicament affects the quality of life in our communities. There is a need to prevent tax foreclosures to keep homeowners in their homes. This should provide some relief for the home value crisis and help stabilize our neighborhoods. So it makes sense to link with federal and state programs and other collaborative efforts that allow families to stay in their homes.</p> <p>Previously as Assistant Treasurer, I helped design the Treasurer's "Foreclosure Prevention Program for Homeowners" which presently assists 900 families. I'm a proponent for this vital service.</p> <p>Reduction of the rate of tax foreclosures relates to Q1 above, e.g. jobs and economic growth. Yet government is not a substitute for private sector growth, and the more I work with business leaders I realize economic development is a partnership between government and the private sector. That's what I will bring to the Treasurer's Office.</p>

[Back to TOP](#)

Clayton Township Trustee – Next Page

Clayton Township Trustee

3 Candidates for ONE vacancy with TWO years of term remaining –
1 REPUBLICANS, 2 DEMOCRATS

In a Primary election, you must choose which political party's primary to vote in and vote for only candidates of that party for all offices.

Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?	Question 2. What specific ordinance amendments or revisions would you propose?	Question 3. What areas or services would you support cutting or reducing in an effort to balance the budget?
HEATH LORINCZ, REPUBLICAN <i>Response Not Received</i>		
RICK CARUSO, DEMOCRAT		
1. Decreasing Revenues/ You either have to increase revenues or decrease spending. My first instinct is to look at ways to cut the cost of township government. I think we need to look seriously at reducing the number of full time employees at the township and going to part time employees or reducing services. 2. Public Safety/ As it stands right now, we can't afford to continue to provide the fire and police service that currently exists. Although both of our services are excellent, we as a Board or the residents with a vote need to decide how much service they are willing to pay for or are willing to lose.	I don't think we need to amend or revise ordinances as much as we need to enforce the ordinances already in place. An example would be to ensure everyone who has sewer available to their property is hooked in.	Without having sufficient information about the real cost of all services provided by the township and hoping that this information will be made available to Board members, it would be premature to suggest any specific areas or services that might be reduced.
MIKE CROCKETT, DEMOCRAT <i>Response Not Received</i>		

[Back to Top](#)

Grand Blanc Township Trustee – Next Page

Grand Blanc Township Trustee

3 Candidates for *ONE FOUR-Year Term* – 1 REPUBLICANS, 2 DEMOCRATS

In a Primary election, you must choose which political party’s primary to vote in and vote for only candidates of that party for all offices.

Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?	Question 2. What specific ordinance amendments or revisions would you propose?	Question 3. What areas or services would you support cutting or reducing in an effort to balance the budget?
<p>CLARK DENNIS KENT, REPUBLICAN</p> <p><i>Response Not Received</i></p>		
<p>HANS RODGERS, REPUBLICAN</p> <p><i>Response Not Received</i></p>		
<p>LAURA ALLEN-BESSER, DEMOCRAT</p>		
<p>1)Revenue- find ways to stabilize and work toward growing the community; find cost saving measures. Grand Blanc's has much to offer, hotels, shopping and other amenities that appeals to tourist and residents alike. We need to focus on building and showcasing these qualities. 2)Fire Department funding- look at communities who have utilized various ways to support their departments, including ones that allow for cross training, and other methods of funding.</p>	<p>Main changes that I would propose would be directly correlated with the township budget as well as cost saving measures. I also would like to propose township involvement with Back to the Bricks as well as other venues that would increase revenue to the township proprietors and draw people back to Grand Blanc.</p>	<p>In this economic climate there is no department or cost cutting measures that should be exempt from reductions. However we cannot afford to cut essential services to the point of disarray. The hard questions must be asked and every cost savings measure needs to be addressed in an orderly manner to insure continuity for the residents of Grand Blanc.</p>
<p>BRIAN RIVET, DEMOCRAT</p> <p><i>Response Not Received</i></p>		

[Back to Top](#)

Montrose Township Treasurer

1 Candidate for *ONE TWO-Year Term* – 0 REPUBLICANS, 1 DEMOCRAT

In a Primary election, you must choose which political party's primary to vote in and vote for only candidates of that party for all offices.

Question 1. What are the two most important issues facing your area and if elected, how would you handle them?	Question 2. What is your experience managing and balancing budgets?	Question 3. With an increasing number of properties heading into foreclosure, what ideas will you implement or support as Treasurer to help reduce the rate of tax foreclosures?
GAIL FIKES, DEMOCRAT <i>Response Not Received</i>		

[Back to Top](#)

Proposal Language

COUNTY WIDE

MASS TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

Shall the authorization of the Mass Transportation Authority to levy a tax of 4/10 of one mill (\$.40 per \$1,000.00) on the taxable valuation of property in Genesee County as finally equalized be renewed for each of the five (5) years from 2011 through 2015 inclusive in order to provide demand response ("Your Ride") and other related services for the elderly, persons with disabilities, the disadvantaged and other members of the public both in the City of Flint and other areas in Genesee County.

The estimated revenue that will be collected during that first year this millage is authorized and levied is \$4,554,431.60. This is a renewal of the Mass Transportation Authority Millage which expires after the 2010 levy.

The following local authorities created by local units of government in Genesee County are expected to continue to capture a portion of the tax increment revenue collected from taxpayers within their district boundaries and receive a disbursement from this millage renewal:

City of Clio Downtown Development Authority for the Clio Tax Increment Finance Authority, City of Davison Downtown Development Authority and Local Development Finance Authority, City of Fenton Downtown Development Authority and Local Development Finance Authority, City of Flint Downtown Development Authority, City of Grand Blanc Downtown Development Authority, City of Linden Downtown Development Authority, City of Montrose Downtown Development Authority, City of Swartz Creek Downtown Development Authority, Genesee County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and Land Bank Authority, Davison Township Downtown Development Authority, Vienna Township Business Development Area, Village of Lennon Downtown Development Authority, Village of Otisville Downtown Development Authority, Village of Otter Lake Downtown Development Authority.

[Back to Top](#)

Proposals Continued

CITY OF BURTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT MILLAGE

Shall an additional one (1) mill be levied against the taxable property within the City of Burton for a period of twenty (20) years commencing July 1, 2011. The purpose of this levy being to provide funding for capital improvements and the operations of the City of Burton Fire Department. August 03, 2010 Ballot Proposals 2

DAVISON TOWNSHIP

POLICE SERVICES MILLAGE

Shall the previously voted increase in the limit on taxes which may be assessed against all property in the Township of Davison, Genesee County, Michigan of 1.5 mills (\$1.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) be renewed for a period of 10 years, 2011 to 2020, inclusive, to provide funds for police services raising an estimated \$750,968 in the first year the millage is levied?

CITY OF FLINT

FLINT PUBLIC SCHOOLS MILLAGE PROPOSAL BUILDING AND SITE SINKING FUND TAX LEVY

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in School District of the City of Flint, Genesee County, Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed 4 mills (\$4.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2011 to 2020, inclusive, to create a sinking fund for the construction or repair of school buildings and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2011 is approximately \$4,722,467?

FLINT PUBLIC LIBRARY

FLINT PUBLIC LIBRARY MILLAGE PROPOSAL

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property within the Flint Public Library District be increased in an amount not to exceed 1.4 mills (\$1.40 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable value) for a period of 10 years, beginning in the year 2012 and ending in the year 2021, inclusive, as a renewal of the 0.9 mills previously authorized by the electors of the Library District in 2002 plus new additional millage in the amount of 0.5 mills, for the purpose of providing funds for Library purposes? It is estimated that 1.4 mills would raise approximately \$1,761,000 when first levied in 2012. August 03, 2010 Ballot Proposals 3

GRAND BLANC TOWNSHIP

MOSQUITO CONTROL MILLAGE

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in the Township of Grand Blanc, Genesee County, Michigan, be increased, and the Township Board authorized to levy not to exceed .2377 mills (\$.2377 cents on each \$1,000 of Taxable Valuation) for a period of four (4) years 2010 through 2014, inclusive for the purpose of providing funds for Mosquito Control. The estimated revenue this increase will produce during the Calendar Year 2010 is \$293,660. (This is a renewal of the Mosquito Millage that expired with the 2009 tax levy).

[Back to Top](#)