

COUNTY COMMISSIONER 2 YEAR TERM VOTE FOR ONE

Issues
Candidates for County Commissioner were asked to respond to each question in 75 words.

The candidates
Candidates for County Commissioner were asked to summarize their biographies in 75 words.

15TH DISTRICT

RONALD ZATE Democrat, 31

Education: Michigan State University, B.A., Communications/Public Science, Southeast High School, Onondaga.
Occupation: President and Founder, Liberty Hill Corporation (national marketing firm).
Background: Life-long Oakland County resident, have a long series of community roles. Serve on Birmingham City Counciling Board, Birmingham Historical Society Board, Open Spaces Theatre Board, belong to St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook, have done on-going fundraising events for several charities. In all these areas, I have tried for a balance to consider the views of all.

DONALD W. JENSEN Republicans

Education: University of Detroit, B.S.A., Detroit, Michigan.
Occupation: Oakland County Commissioner.
Background: Director of Advertising and Public Relations, Burnham Corp., Riverfront, Birmingham City Commissioner, 8 years; Birmingham Mayor, 1 year; Oakland County Commissioner, 8 years.

16TH DISTRICT

TIM DEWAN Democrat - DID NOT RESPOND

CHARLES E. PALMER Republicans, 63

Education: Royal Oak High School graduate, Detroit Apprenticeship School, attended Institute for Construction Management.
Occupation: President of Palmer Custom Builders, Inc., 20 years. They build General Contracting Company.
Background: Resident of district, 43 years. U.S. Army Veteran, Minister Church of Christ, Oakland County Commissioner since 1981; Planning and Building Committee Chairman, 1983-84; Public Service Committee 1991-92; Community Mental Health Services Board, 1991-94; Finance Committee, 1982-84; Clawson City Council, 13 years; Mayor 1989-77; Clawson School Board Trustee, 1983.

17TH DISTRICT

MICHAEL W. MEYER Democrat, 48

Education: B.A., Scholastic Philosophy, University of Detroit Mercy, M.A., Theology, D.M., Oral Theory, Occupational Pastoral Minister, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Plymouth.
Background: Head Community Schools Trustee, 11 years; Paul Harris Fellow, Head Rotary, Detroit Federation of Musicians, member, Local 8, Adjunct, Schoolcraft Community College (M.E.A.).

KAY SCHMID Republicans, 67

Education: Michigan College 1928-32, Wayne State Applied Technology College 1960-66, Michigan State University 1974, Insurance classes.
Occupation: Commissioner.
Background: Past Purchasing Agent, State licensed Fire Company, Life, Health, Insurance Agent, Lakes Area and Head Chairperson of Commerce, Chairperson, 10 member Republican Caucus 2 years, Commission Planning and Building Council Government, Finance, President, Michigan Association of Republican County Officials, Oakland Livingston Human Services Agency Executive Committee and Governing Board, MAC Community and Economic Development Committee, Serving Executive Committee.

SOLID WASTE PLAN

What is your opinion of the current Oakland County Solid Waste Plan, and what changes, if any, would you like to see?

The plan (currently being revised) is adequate, but lacks any new, long-term solutions. Although we should balance environmental protection with fiscal responsibility, we must not risk our tomorrow to merely save money today. Areas to improve include: creating incentives to encourage more recycling; fostering new markets for recycled materials (including increased county use of recycled products); working for a regional waste flow and disposal plan, and; investigating new disposal technology.

Act 641 plan currently in effect calls for recycling/incineration/landfilling. New 641 plans currently being formulated by Act 641 Committee, but not approved by Board of Commissioners, seeks State legislation to provide for 5-years, rather than 20-year plan to prevent County landfills from being filled with non-resident's trash.

The 641 Waste Management Plan is a blueprint of how the County's 61 communities provide waste disposal facilities with 20 year's capacity. The plan, by State law, has just been changed to only require 10 year's capacity with new facilities to be provided at 5 year capacity level and to delete from the plan unused and unneeded facilities. I support the plan and the changes.

The proposed Solid Waste Plan is good. Recycling and composting are essential to the success of the plan. More effort ought to be focused on seeking preventative solutions to solid waste through collaborative research funded by corporations, and tested through universities. The best solution will come through a mutual input from government agencies and corporate leaders.

The BOC passed a 641 Solid Waste Plan on 6/29/94 to send to DNR for approval. Twenty four members consisting of elected officials, staff, citizens, environmentalists and the trash industry spent untold hours on the plan to be approved by all local governments. BOC were successful in reducing the 20 year mandated siting capacity to 10/5 year program by state government. Waste facilities, excluding an incinerator, have been sited by the committee.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

In what areas do you see new opportunities for collaboration between Oakland County and the City of Detroit?

By seizing the opportunity for improved Detroit-Oakland County cooperation, we can also lead the way toward a more productive relationship. Through positive leadership and innovative thinking, we can create a renewed sense of community pride and unity for the entire metropolitan area. Areas for cooperation include: coordinating law enforcement efforts; reducing duplicate programs; improving common public services (i.e., transit, sewer), and; coordinating efforts for federal and state funding.

A good start was Oakland County's efforts in cleaning up a section of Detroit. More of this should be undertaken provided Detroiters show initiative in maintaining and expanding cleaned out areas. Perhaps the most cooperation Oakland County can show Detroit is by using our present economic growth to provide employment for Detroit residents. Detroit must in turn cooperate by educating and training qualified workers.

We should be willing to work together as partners in all areas of mutual concern and benefit. Among these are transportation, infrastructure, air quality and other environmental matters which are just a few which require cooperation.

Collaboration between Oakland County and the City of Detroit can be beneficial to all the citizens of the county and the city in areas of law enforcement, regional transportation, and water needs. Such collaboration can bridge any gap that may exist and lead to cost containment.

With SMART and DOOT sharing bus lines, standardizing fares, collaboration has begun. Oakland is in support of Detroit's application for a Federal Empowerment Zone. Oakland Community and Economic Development is working with Detroit on 8 Mile Task Force. Oakland County organized a huge contingency of local governments and volunteers to help clean up Detroit. In six months of Detroit's new administration, I believe that is a tremendous start.

GOALS

What are the three most important goals you would like to achieve if you are elected to the position of Oakland County Commissioner?

As our government was created to serve its people, my first goal is more responsive representation. Through community walks, town meetings, and a resident hotline, I will encourage residents to use me as a resource. Second, using these opportunities, residents will learn about county services and know how to get their money's worth. Third, I will work for more effective and creative thinking. We should be an example of what good county government can accomplish.

Finally resolve our solid waste problem without further major capital expenditures. Reduce crime. Increasing crime causes dramatic increases in the prosecutor's budget. That is turn causes more court activity with its heavier judicial expenses, which in turn fills jails to overflowing. Punishment for crime in our County must be swift and severe to prevent would-be felons and to prevent recidivism. Continue economic development activities to insure employment opportunities without diminished quality of life.

Protecting the fiscal integrity of Oakland County by continuing to reduce and eliminate unneeded expenditures. Complete the Full Management Mental Health System service programs to help more Oakland Citizens who need these services they provide. Support or provide programs that protect, serve and enhance the lives of Oakland County Citizens.

Adoption of a Truth in Budgeting Policy wherein surpluses would be used to reduce millages. A more "user-friendly" County Government with flex-hours, satellite offices, and the greater use of modern technology in delivering services. To seek equal opportunity for all employees of the County (in the work place regarding advancement).

With our new contract for Community Mental Health Services with the state, I feel it imperative that the administration of this over \$100 million budget become a County Department for accountability. Continue our strong budgetary process by saving taxpayer dollars with privatization and computer updates of services. As Pontiac is a long way from many areas of the county: to bring services to areas of the county to service the residents.