

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.

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?

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

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

GOALS

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

18TH DISTRICT

DAVID FERNQUIST Democrat, 38

Education: Michigan State University, B.A., Communications.
Occupation: Financial Consultant, Smith Barney.
Background: Husband and longtime (19 years) resident of Farmington Hills; married to Shari Kitzner, attorney and has one son, Daniel. Board of Trustees, Hill of Metropolitan Detroit, member Congregation Beth Abraham, Hill of Metros; member Oakland County Young Democrats; Men's Club Trustee; member Farmington Democratic Club; member Alpha Delta Phi.

In general, I approve of the proposed Solid Waste Plan. However, I do feel that greater emphasis should be placed on recycling, composting and public education of these alternatives. In addition, we should listen more closely to the individual communities when developing future plans. We should also be more frugal and clear thinking when spending taxpayer's dollars on preliminary or ongoing studies.

The economic/social well-being of the region depends, largely, on the cooperation between the City of Detroit, Oakland County, and other surrounding counties. We should work to coordinate our various law enforcement agencies to fight today's growing crime problem; continue participation in the 6 Mile Corridor Project; explore shared responsibilities as to public works and safety; and utilize economies of scale by combining our buying power for goods and services with the City's.

Improved fiscal plan: Reduction of waste and fraud; spend more on services and less on administration costs. Adoption of a "Truth in Budgeting Policy" allowing annual surplus (if any) to reduce millage the following year. Make county government more responsive to taxpayers, possibly through decentralization. Taxpayers should not have to take a vacation day to obtain deeds, marriage licenses, etc. Advocate fair and equitable revenue sharing plan with the state to help support our community.

DAVID L. MOFFITT Republican, 49

Education: J.D. University of Detroit, 1979; B.A. Philosophy, University of Michigan, 1976.
Occupation: 39 Year Inhouse Oakland County Commissioner; Senior Principal, McGill, McGuire & Fraz, Attorneys and Counselors at Law.
Background: Member, Executive Council, Southeastern Council of Governments (SEMGCOG), 1980; Vice-Chairperson, OCBC permanent standing Planning & Building Committee, 1989-1992; Chairperson, Zoning Coordinating Committee, 1989-1992. 1988 recipient, Most Distinguished Brief to Michigan Business Court award. Married, Katherine; Children: David 4, Grace, 2.

Public Act 641 requires counties to enact a plan for solid waste management approved by the MDNR. Oakland's plan relies upon land fills, recycling, re-use and composting. DNR approval of the plan is pending, and local community approval must be obtained, pursuant to a recent court decision, by 7-31-94. The plan is not a complete regulatory scheme, and new federal and state legislation allowing counties to control waste flows into county facilities is needed.

Oakland County and Detroit can cooperate in a number of areas, including allowing increased suburban representation on the Detroit Water Board, coordinating development plans and proposals for Eight Mile Boulevard improvement, and most importantly, in seeking workable, efficient regional transit cooperation with equitable funding sources and operation consistent with the needs of the citizens of both Oakland County and the City of Detroit.

My priorities include: No new tax increases of any kind, whether actually called "taxes" or disguised as unnecessary "user fee" increases; continued support of law enforcement, including affording our Prosecutor and Sheriff's Department all necessary resources; Achievement of a responsible solid waste management strategy; and Maintenance of the high quality of life Oakland County currently enjoys.

19TH DISTRICT

KURT LOPEZ Democrat, 34

Education: International Policy major at University of Michigan Dearborn (completion 1994). Michigan Political Leadership Program Fellow.
Occupation: Public-time pre-law student.
Background: Born in Mexico City. I have worked as an interpreter, bar clerk and account representative for automotive supplier. Resident of Michigan for 14 years. Eight years in Farmington Hills. Elected to Board of Directors to Latino Family Services 1994.

Although I approve of the Solid Waste Plan, I believe that the current administration should have taken better care in researching a way to implement it that would be in better touch with the communities' needs. They have now potentially wasted \$13 million of the \$15 million plan because representatives did not listen to their community. A more vigorous approach should be followed concerning recycling and reducing, specifically in the commercial sector of the county.

Without Detroit, Oakland County as we know it would never have existed. We need to pursue a plan which will halt urban sprawl and its abuse of land. Detroit is a lost jewel, and its new administration has given us the responsibility to seek cooperative efforts with regard to transportation, law enforcement, education, foreign investment, and job creation. We must embrace Detroit and help put it back on the map.

To break the glass ceiling imposed by the Oakland County Executive which discriminates against women, African Americans and Hispanics by his appointments of all-white males as department heads. Cutting the waste of money by increasing the delivery of services and reducing administrative costs. To create sturdy chords of commitment by Oakland County to the success of the city of Detroit.

DONN L. WOLF Republican, 60

Education: University of Michigan, A.B., E.T.S. M.A.
Occupation: Regional Manager, Detroit Edison.
Background: Inhouse Commissioner; Committee: Vice Chair General Government, Chair Airport, Member Finance, Current President, Michigan Association of Counties, Board of Directors, National Association of Counties, Current Member and Past President, Western Community Action Agency and Human Services Board, Former Mayor and Council Member, Farmington Hills, Former member, Michigan Commission on Inter-Governmental Relations (Glenns Appointment), Am Arbor Drive Commission and Energy Committee.

Through the legislative efforts of Oakland County, Public Act 641 has been amended resulting in a much more realistic plan that gives Oakland County more local control of landfills. Because of this we are moving forward with a plan that will fulfill our needs and be in compliance with DNR regulations. I would like tighter controls on landfill sites and operations and expanded recycling efforts. Long haul rail shipment is my current project.

The change in leadership in Detroit has opened up real communications between the City and Oakland County. This is a big step in planning for the entire urban-rural area. Two specific projects that should be explored are the possible development of a cooperative equitable transportation system and an economic development plan that will benefit both Detroit and Oakland County.

Continue to reduce County expenditures by scrutinizing every program as to its operations and necessity. Accelerate road and transportation improvements. Continue to strengthen law enforcement with the strongest stand possible against crime and drugs.

20TH DISTRICT

LAWRENCE R. PERNICK Democrat, 62

Education: Wayne State University, B.S.; CPUC designation.
Occupation: Insurance Counselor.
Background: County Commissioner, 1989 to present. Board Chairman, 1972; Finance, Oversight, Audit Committee; Democratic Caucus Chair, SEMCOG, past vice chair; National Association of Counties, HV-A09 Committee, Chair; Michigan Association of Counties, Health Committee; Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland; Board member; Southeast Michigan Coalition; member; Southeast-Living AM District Club, member; Oakland County HV-A08 task force, member.

The current solid waste plan will be amended to delete incineration because air quality permits cannot be obtained and local communities will not pay the increased costs when compared to landfilling. The county must concentrate on education for recycling, reduction and reuse. Further attempts should be made to negotiate a contract with Detroit to use their incinerator. Finally, additional landfill capacity should be sought from existing landfills to meet state requirements.

The county should begin serious efforts to co-ordinate land use planning and development to slow urban sprawl. The Sheriff should be the focus of efforts to unite law enforcement coordination efforts in areas of narcotics enforcement, training, communications and special services leaving local units to more effectively patrol their communities. The county should work to provide a meaningful public transit network to reduce dependence on cars and expansion of the expensive road network.

Redesign government to be customer oriented with better methods. Create branch operations with modern technology. Change spending priorities in personnel. Management must be reduced and providers of service increased. Qualified women and minorities must be given an equal opportunity for advancement. The Oakland County glass ceiling must be smashed! The criminal justice system must be reformed. Police, prosecutors, jails all need to be reviewed and modernized to fight crime more effectively and reduce recidivism.