

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.

22ND DISTRICT PUTNAM WEEKLEY Libertarian, 35

Education: B.A. in German from Wayne State University; Currently in Masters program for Comparative Literature
Occupation: Basement Helping Hands elderly direct care assistant.
Background: Born in Rochester, Michigan. Resident of Royal Oak since 1990.

23RD DISTRICT GILDA Z. JACOBS Democrat, 45

Education: B.S. 1970, M.S. 1971 University of Michigan.
Occupation: Development Director, JACO 1983-present.
Former Administrative Aide to State Senator Doug Rose 1978-1982. Special Education Teacher, Madison District 1971-1978.
Background: Mayor Pro Tem, City of Huntington Woods 1980-present. Commissioner, City of Huntington Woods 1981-1982. Alternate, SEMCOG. Representative, Oakland County Center for Fair Housing. Board Member, Neighborhood Project. Member, Huntington Woods Friends of the Library. Member, Berkeley Schools Strategic Plan Implementation Committee, Women's Division of Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

KURT S. KRAMER Republican, 39

Education: Associate Degree in Technology, B.S. in Automotive Management, Minor Business Administration.
Occupation: System Administrator, Michigan Air Force; National Guard.
Background: I have lived in St. Louis, Missouri and Colorado, but have lived in Oakland County for the past six years. During my career, I have received numerous awards for suggestions and have been responsible for budgets in excess of one million dollars.

24TH DISTRICT EUGENE KACZMAR Democrat, 68

Education: Lawrence Technological University, Engineering Graduate, B.S.I.E.; Wayne State University, M.B.A. (Finance)
Occupation: Retired Facility Planning Engineer, Ford Motor Company and General Motors.
Background: County Commissioner, Madison Heights and part of Royal Oak. Commissioner: Finance, Planning and Building; Substance Abuse Advisory; Zoning Coordinating; Solid Waste Planning (All); Area Agency on Aging (All).
As Madison Heights Councilman, served on Zoning Board of Appeals, Delegate to SEMCOG and Planning Commission. World War II, U.S. Navy, St. Dennis sailor, 18 years.

BRIAN SENIA Republican - DID NOT RESPOND

25TH DISTRICT RUEL E. MCPHERSON Democrat, 67

Education: Hazel Park High School graduate; Oakland and Macomb Community College.
Occupation: Court Officer, Owner McPherson Legal Process Services.
Background: Former Elected Constable, Hazel Park Councilman, 8 years; seeking 7th term, Oakland County Commissioner; Former Wrestling Coach at Cranbrook High School and Southfield High School. Volunteer Moderator, Past President Hazel Park Kiwanis Club, Past President Michigan Wrestling Club, Volunteer Wrestling Coach and Referee, Married, 8 children, 8 grandchildren.

Thursday, October 27, 1994

League of Women Voters

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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?

I would like to see implemented a system where private waste-disposal companies could compete freely for individual residence-contracts. Of course voluntary neighborhood associations would be encouraged to bargain collectively for contracts as well.

The revised Oakland County Solid Waste plan calls for some recycling, but relies on exporting solid waste to landfills outside of Oakland to meet our needs. The County needs to learn from communities like Huntington Woods which have strong recycling programs. The County plan should emphasize resource recovery, not disposal, in conjunction with an aggressive education component.

At this time, I support the Oakland County Solid Waste Plan, which has been submitted to the state government for approval.

The Solid Waste Plan, as amended June 9, 1994, is much improved because incineration is no longer considered as a viable means of waste management. I would like to see an increase of recycling programs in the county to decrease our reliance on landfilling. Many communities have not set up recycling programs. The County should require participation.

Should eliminate incineration. County should hold in reserve the landfill that the county owns. County should embark on a renewed education and support programs for recycling and composting. County should choose people to serve on the solid waste plan who do not have a vested interest and who think in the area of protection of the environment.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

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

Since the business and cultural ties between Oakland County and Detroit are so strong and deep, I am more interested in what distinguishes our two communities. I believe that we are obliged to learn from each other how to best manage municipal affairs.

We need to develop a regional transportation plan that would combine a sharing of operating plans, personnel, maintenance, and equipment. We need to make Oakland County jobs more accessible to Detroit residents who rely on public transportation. Collaborative efforts to reduce ozone, pollution, and the waste stream are critical. We need to collectively pursue ways to reduce crime and drug trafficking by sharing information and expertise. Federal and state grants should be pursued jointly.

I think Oakland County and the City of Detroit can work together to improve public transportation between them. There is a lot of details to work out so that the people that use it the most, shoulder most of the cost of operation.

First of all, I would include Macomb County in the collaborations. Areas of possible cooperation include: Public transit; Drain sewer, and water systems; Highway networks; Recreational outlets; Library facilities; and Cultural exchange. Exclusion from this list should not be a limiting factor in considering other opportunities for cost effectiveness. If we brainstorm this idea with the new administration in Detroit, a lot of good things can happen.

Through the Eight Mile Boulevard Association, Eight Mile communities need to work together. The recent Detroit Clean Sweep and the Adopt a Highways and area block clubs are good examples of cooperative programs.

GOALS

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

First and foremost I would publicize the activities of the commission, through letters to the press and by my personal presence at local gatherings. I would also strive to keep taxes low and to eliminate discretionary spending. Third, as the representative of my district, I will advocate publicly a defense of individual rights against the current political hysteria, whatever that may be.

I will bring county government to the people and local units of government by educating them on what county government does (it's the best kept secret) and how county government can help them. Secondly, I will work to create a south end branch of the clerk's office. Finally, I will work to create a more bi-partisan, balanced approach to problem solving on the County Commission.

To find practical ways to: increase county efficiency; reduce bureaucratic red tape; reduce government in our day to day lives.

Upon re-election, my three highest goals will be: Decrease in crime and drug abuse; Road improvement; and Equity in district court financing.

A cooperative law enforcement effort along our corridor and south end of Oakland County. To develop a cooperation with the Community College, Huron Clinton Authority and the Oakland County Parks and Recreation to build a field house structure for activity in the winter and summer months for all ages and gender. To get more Democrats as Alternative Chairman of various committees to balance the Board with different point of views.