

Candidates For Charter Commission

Bailey

(1) I am employed at Burroughs Corporation in the Public Relations Department. I am married and have two daughters. We have been residents of Farmington for almost three years.

(2) I have a sincere interest in the future of the Farmington area, and a desire to see the most favorable outcome to the problems which face us now. My education includes many courses in political science and government. I have been a member of the Farmington Jaycees



John Bailey

for two years serving as director last year and external vice president this year.

(3) I am in favor of continued investigation of the problems in the Farmington area. Because, to say that incorporation is definitely the final answer, without complete investigation is very difficult to say.

(4) I would not want taxes to be any higher than is absolutely necessary. I would make every effort to keep the tax rate in our community as low as possible and still keep our services at a point satisfactory to all.

(5) I favor non-partisan elections. With non-partisan elections, party politics will be kept out of local elections. A choice will be made between candidates on the basis of their qualifications, rather than their party. It also gives two men of the same party a chance to run against each other.

(6) A city manager is my choice. With a city manager the area will be controlled by a majority of the council, not one person.

(7) Appointing a clerk and treasurer will eliminate the expense of an election. It will also provide an opportunity to select experienced individuals in the respective fields as well as people who will work best with the local officials.

(8) I favor a large council election because they would provide the opportunity for good candidates to run regardless of their places of residence. For example, it would be possible for more than one candidate from any one subdivision to run for election.

The Questions

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In an effort to help the voters determine who to vote for on Oct. 23 for the nine-man charter commission, The Farmington Enterprise & Observer asked each one of the 16 candidates to answer a series of nine questions. All of the candidates, with the exception of Township Clerk Floyd Cairns who is ill, answered the questions. The questions follow.)

1. Please state age, address, occupation and how long you have been a resident of Farmington.

2. What two or three things in your background do you think most qualify you to serve on a city charter commission?

3. The Farmington Hills Charter Commission has two options: (a) It can write a charter promptly and proceed to the business of getting a new city started, or (b) it can conduct a legal investigation of the present city or to allow a consolidation study or simply preserve the township's boundaries. Which rate of speed do you favor? Briefly, why?

4. A city's tax rate can be set as high as 20 mills. What rate limitation would you like to see in a new city charter?

5. Do you favor partisan or non-partisan elections?

6. Do you favor a city manager or strong mayor type of chief executive?

7. Do you favor an elective or appointive clerk or treasurer?

8. Do you favor councilmen being elected at-large or from wards? Briefly, why?

9. Are there any matters not covered above that you think ought to be included in a city charter? Could you outline them briefly.

activities, experiences, organizational contacts, service projects, work, and widespread knowledge of community affairs will be immeasurably helpful in creating a useful charter.

(3) A knowledge of the type of people in Farmington, their needs and desires, and an ability to translate this information into action in creating a charter.

(4) The commission must do both to some extent; it must act promptly to avoid confusion of reorganization. I am firmly committed to consolidation, and this should be a simultaneous effort along with charter creation. I call for the prompt writing of a charter leading to consolidation of all the people of Farmington into one unit. It can be done. It must be done.

(5) I believe that we should provide all needed services for everyone at all times. Perhaps we'll waste less money if we do it as much as possible.

(6) Absolutely non-partisan. We will have enough problems.

(7) I believe that the Charter Commission should take whatever time is necessary to write the best possible charter for the Farmington Hills City. I see no particular need for haste since the Township's boundaries will be preserved during course of the Commission's deliberations. On the other hand, I see no particular merit in the Commission's dragging its feet for the maximum of two years. I am still of the opinion which I held at the time of the last incorporation attempt that consolidation of the present Township area and the present City of Farmington can best be approached after the citizens of Farmington Township have decided what kind of municipality they want to be. I, therefore,

shouldn't be tough. If it is, we'll get stronger candidates.

(8) Several. The existing board is not doing its best, but needs some revamping (not personnel, but procedures). Also, more citizens must participate at some level in local affairs.

(9) I feel councilmen should be elected at large. In an area the size of the proposed City of Farmington Hills, there is a pretty thorough community of interest throughout the area, and continuing election to wards might well result in the loss of the best people available.

(10) I prefer to approach the development of the charter with an open mind. I do feel that the City of Farmington Hills should be primarily a residential community and that the charter should be drafted with this end in mind.

the City of Farmington Hills must be high enough so that the City can provide those services which the citizens of the community want and are willing to pay for. During the study by the Charter Commission the public will have every opportunity to tell what level of services they want in the new city. I will support the study by the City. I ought to be able to get along with a charter limitation in the neighborhood of seven mills.

(5) At the present time I lean toward or prefer to see an election, although I recognize a great many arguments in favor of partisan elections. I would expect to view this issue with an open mind.

(6) In a city the size of the proposed City of Farmington Hills, I believe that the city manager type of chief executive has many advantages over the strong mayor type. There are compelling reasons otherwise I would favor the city manager.

(7) I see no reason why the post of clerk or treasurer need to be elected. These are essentially detail jobs and ought to be subject to appointment by the council.

(8) Since the manager type of government is the present type in Farmington City, I lean towards that type. At the same time, if it does become cumbersome in running a government this size in the future, then I favor the mayor type.

(9) I favor an appointive clerk and treasurer.

(10) I favor councilmen being elected at-large. This way we can have the best rather than some poor ones from different wards.

areas working in a planning capacity in close association and cooperation with all levels of local government, civic action groups, economic and education institutions.

(3) I favor the immediate and serious deliberation and composition of a proposed charter. Recent history of Charter Commissions in Michigan shows that even with diligence and deliberate speed, the two year limit may well be exhausted. We must remember also that Michigan provides a two year limit on its charter proposal process only. The Charter Commission may be recalled by petition after each unsuccessful charter proposal.

(4) Without the benefit of professional consultation which would certainly be available to a convened Charter Commission, I favor a limitation of between 10 and 15 mills.

(5) Non-partisan.

(6) City Manager—Council form.

(7) Clerk and Treasurer appointed by city council.

(8) Councilmen should be elected at-large so that all residents have a voice in the selection of the entire legislative body. That large election would diminish, if not eliminate, special interest by area and factionalism within the community.

(9) Statutes prescribe both mandatory and permissive provisions. Among those which are permissive, I would insist upon the citizen's right of initiative and referendum. Our charter should prohibit the enactment of an income tax or excise taxes unless approved by a majority of the voters. The Charter should make provision for strict zoning and planning standards including population density control so as to preserve the character of our community.

(10) I believe that we should get right to the business at hand of creating a charter for the city which will suit the best interests of all the people. We all know that the City of Farmington is interested in the township. It is interested in the industrial Park and the sub-divisions from Haggerty Road to the city limits. The city knows that the rest of the township will be taken over by the County Home Rule in the next few years. They only want the cream of the township and nothing else.

(11) I believe that we should get the millage only the mill above the present millage at the time of incorporation.

(12) I am in favor of non-partisan elections.

(13) I favor a city manager.

(14) I feel the clerk and treasurer should be elected.

(15) I believe the councilmen should be elected at-large as the old ward system tends to become somebody's private domain.

(16) I certainly want to see that all taxation is voted upon and that all council meetings will be open to the public. I feel improvements should be requested by the people and paid for by the people in the improved area.

(17) I would prefer a low tax limitation consistent with the level of services required by the citizens of the new city. The tax rate should reflect current spending (including voted millage), but should not allow for waste in operations.

(18) I favor non-partisan elections so as to encourage able people who are not politicians to serve their community.

(19) The city manager type of local government would seem to be the most desirable since it tends to bring stability as well as professional competence to the community. Of course, the city manager would be responsible to the council, which in turn must be responsive to the will of the voters.

(20) I lean toward a single

Pierce

(1) Age 42, 22306 Baintree Rd., attorney and have resided in Farmington for five years.

(2) Seventeen years experience in law, trial attorney, advisor and consultant. Familiar with operations of government. President, North Farmington Parents Association and past-president of Kenbrook PTA.

(3) First, I would comply with the requirements of the law as a charter commissioner, which means that I favor framing a charter within 100 days after election. I would urge acceptance of such charter by the electorate, only if it complies with the expressed and stated purposes of the Farmington Township Citizens Council for Community Development.

Briefly, these are a simple minimum government requiring special area assessments where residents of a particular area desire a public improvement, broad initiative, referendum and recall provisions. Controlled low population density and zoning for sound community development, and strict limitations on taxes. Specific prohibition against income tax subject to change only by vote of electorate.

If the Charter drafted within such period did not comply with the above principles I favor consulting the maximum period possible until such a charter is framed. In the meantime, any study desired could be completed and the township boundaries are thereby preserved. In my opinion, preventing annexation of township territory by incorporation would not adversely affect consolidation but in fact might remove some obstacles to consolidation. Consideration then could be objectively discussed with the City of Farmington on equal basis without any threats of annexation.

Personally, I favor a consolidation study; if the township boundaries are preserved and it is not used to sabotage incorporation.

(4) I favor a low and strict limitation on the tax rate consistent with proven needs. The tax rate should reflect local spending including voted millage but should not allow any excesses.

(5) I favor non-partisan elections.

(6) I favor a city manager or a modification thereof.

(7) The charter should provide for combining administrative offices. At this time I favor an appointive clerk-treasurer.

(8) I favor councilmen being elected at-large. This system results in better qualified



Frederick Lichtman

costs without loss of service to the community since clerical help is required. The office should be elective so as to be responsive to the will of the voters.

(9) Councilmen should be elected at-large so that all residents have a voice in the selection of the entire legislative body. That large election would diminish, if not eliminate, special interest by area and factionalism within the community.

(10) Statutes prescribe both mandatory and permissive provisions. Among those which are permissive, I would insist upon the citizen's right of initiative and referendum. Our charter should prohibit the enactment of an income tax or excise taxes unless approved by a majority of the voters. The Charter should make provision for strict zoning and planning standards including population density control so as to preserve the character of our community.

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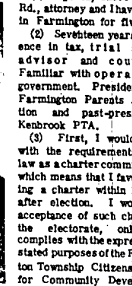
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(18) I would prefer a low tax limitation consistent with the level of services required by the citizens of the new city. The tax rate should reflect current spending (including voted millage), but should not allow for waste in operations.

(19) The city manager type of local government would seem to be the most desirable since it tends to bring stability as well as professional competence to the community. Of course, the city manager would be responsible to the council, which in turn must be responsive to the will of the voters.

(20) I lean toward a single



Robert B. Pierce

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If the Charter drafted within such period did not comply with the above principles I favor consulting the maximum period possible until such a charter is framed. In the meantime, any study desired could be completed and the township boundaries are thereby preserved. In my opinion, preventing annexation of township territory by incorporation would not adversely affect consolidation but in fact might remove some obstacles to consolidation. Consideration then could be objectively discussed with the City of Farmington on equal basis without any threats of annexation.

Personally, I favor a consolidation study; if the township boundaries are preserved and it is not used to sabotage incorporation.

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Cairns

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Cairns, the clerk of Farmington Township, suffered a heart attack Sep. 23 and this prevented him from replying to the questions.)

(1) I prefer to approach the development of the charter with an open mind. I do feel that the City of Farmington Hills should be primarily a residential community and that the charter should be drafted with this end in mind.

(2) Past experience as a member of the Farmington Township Board for five and a half years together with active participation in community affairs over many years. Also, service on a previous "Study Committee on Incorporation" prior to the last similar election.

(3) I prefer doing what we would be elected to do, namely prepare to be the best of our ability a charter to be submitted to the people in a reasonable amount of time and work legislative and diligently on preparing a charter that the people want and not one that they would find onerous. Unless a charter is accepted by the electorate the time will eventually run out and we would have only a brief period of "boundary protection" and annexation be with us again anyway.

(4) I would suggest, subject to "up to date" research on needs, that a seven mill limitation would be adequate. Future needs would be voted in accordance with a city charter similar in fact to the township government.

(5) I am undecided on this at this time.

(6) A city manager government.

(7) Appointed clerk and treasurer.

(8) Elected at large.

(9) They are too numerous to outline briefly but most important would be to prepare a charter giving the city form of government following as closely as possible the working of a

Duke

(1) Age 38, 27639 Forestbrook Dr., Developer, have lived in the Township 14 years.

(2) Past experience as a member of the Farmington Township Board for five and a half years together with active participation in community affairs over many years. Also, service on a previous "Study Committee on Incorporation" prior to the last similar election.

(3) I prefer doing what we would be elected to do, namely prepare to be the best of our ability a charter to be submitted to the people in a reasonable amount of time and work legislative and diligently on preparing a charter that the people want and not one that they would find onerous. Unless a charter is accepted by the electorate the time will eventually run out and we would have only a brief period of "boundary protection" and annexation be with us again anyway.

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township form of government. This would maintain to the best degree government as we now know it in Farmington Township and yet give us the benefits of our own road maintenance department, protection of boundaries and incorporating the rights of initiative and referendum and providing for improvements on a special assessment basis for the areas served and providing against a future income tax.

(10) Past experience in the Washington County and Milan



Richard Lewis Gould

(1) I favor at-large elections for council. The ward system of representation tends to fractionalize a community.

(2) I would favor the inclusion of initiative and referendum and recall, charter review every five years and strong planning and zoning provisions.

(3) Active civic affairs and dedicated to community development. Secretary of Farmington Township Industrial Development Committee.

(4) I would favor using the full two years to develop a charter so as to preserve the township boundaries while all the possibilities of consolidation are being investigated.

(5) I would prefer to establish a very nominal tax rate. Let water, sewer and street improvement be done by special assessment districts, and special projects by voted millage only.

(6) Non-partisan elections.

(7) City Manager type of government.

(8) Prefer clerk and treasurer to be elected.

(9) Favor councilmen being elected at large.

(10) Feel that planning and zoning should be established to preserve and improve the desirable community we now have.

Lichtman

(1) Age 39, 28618 Kendallwood Dr., Vice President, Tulsa Oil Corporation, resident seven years.

(2) Attorney with extensive experience in zoning and municipal matters. First Village Attorney, Village of Wolverson Lake, Chairman, education committee, Citizens Council for Community Development, responsible for study and presentation of the facts on incorporation.

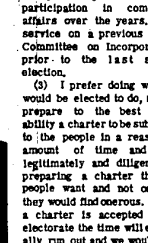
(3) I favor a prompt writing of a charter for voter approval. Home Rule, with its attendant benefits to our citizens is too important to delay. A positive incorporation vote will preserve boundaries and consolidation studies can proceed after incorporation.

(4) I would prefer a low tax limitation consistent with the level of services required by the citizens of the new city. The tax rate should reflect current spending (including voted millage), but should not allow for waste in operations.

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Floyd A. Cairns

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shouldn't be tough. If it is, we'll get stronger candidates.

(2) Several. The existing board is not doing its best, but needs some revamping (not personnel, but procedures). Also, more citizens must participate at some level in local affairs.

(3) I feel councilmen should be elected at large. In an area the size of the proposed City of Farmington Hills, there is a pretty thorough community of interest throughout the area, and continuing election to wards might well result in the loss of the best people available.

(4) I see no reason why the post of clerk or treasurer need to be elected. These are essentially detail jobs and ought to be subject to appointment by the council.

(5) Since the manager type of government is the present type in Farmington City, I lean towards that type. At the same time, if it does become cumbersome in running a government this size in the future, then I favor the mayor type.

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(13) I favor a city manager.

(14) I feel the clerk and treasurer should be elected.



Edwin C. Blumberg

(1) Age 39, 28533 Glenardon, family doctor, five year resident.

(2) An adult lifetime of training and experience in working with people at many levels and in many situations. Since people will write the charter, use it and live under it, this experience will be invaluable.

(3) A wide variety of

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Brennan

(1) I am 41 years of age. I live at 29630 Farmhill, I am an attorney and have lived in Farmington for 11 years.

(2) I have been a municipal attorney for over nine years. I am active in the Public Corporation Section of the Michigan Bar Association. I am a member of the Michigan Society of Planning Officials, and have a rather broad knowledge of municipal problems.

(3) I believe that the Charter Commission should take whatever time is necessary to write the best possible charter for the Farmington Hills City. I see no particular need for haste since the Township's boundaries will be preserved during course of the Commission's deliberations. On the other hand, I see no particular merit in the Commission's dragging its feet for the maximum of two years. I am still of the opinion which I held at the time of the last incorporation attempt that consolidation of the present Township area and the present City of Farmington can best be approached after the citizens of Farmington Township have decided what kind of municipality they want to be. I, therefore,

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