



ISABELLA COUNTY LOCAL VOTER GUIDE 2016

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government. The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

PRIMARY ELECTION

on Tuesday, August 2, 2016
POLLS ARE OPEN 7AM TO 8PM

Information on candidates running for national and state offices is available at the Michigan League of Women Voter website:
www.lwvmi.org
www.vote411.org

INSIDE CANDIDATE INFORMATION FOR THE UPCOMING RACES!

- Isabella County Sheriff
- Isabella County Road Commission
- Isabella County Drain Commission
- Isabella County Commission District 2
- Union Township Treasurer
- County Wide Proposals

Information for this Guide was compiled by the League of Women Voters, Mount Pleasant Area.

Responses are in candidates' own words and have not been edited. "Material not available" indicates responses were not received from candidates by the required date for publication.

Publication of these statements and opinions of 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. The League takes no responsibility for any of the views or facts stated by the candidates.

* In this election, you may vote in only one party's primary - either Republican or Democratic.



The League contacted candidates in contested races for biographical information and answers to questions on issues. The answers are printed as submitted and have not been edited. When a candidate exceeded the word limit the answer is ended with an ellipsis (...). If the candidate did not reply by the required date for publication, the words “Material Not Available” appear under the candidate’s name.

ISABELLA COUNTY SHERIFF - VOTE FOR ONE

QUESTION ONE: <i>What, if any, changes would you implement in the operation of the sheriff's office?</i>		QUESTION TWO: <i>Do you see a shift in the types of crimes in Isabella County? If so, what are your plans to address this?</i>	
CANDIDATE	BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE	QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2
<p>Michael Hosking REPUBLICAN Deputy Sheriff WEBSITE: http://www.hosking4sheriff.com CAMPAIGN PHONE: (989) 569-1145 EMAIL: mike@hosking4sheriff.com EDUCATION: Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from Suomi College (Hancock, MI) with minor in Liberal Arts. Graduated from Northern Michigan University Police Academy in 1998. Hundreds of hours in police in-service training, including specialties such as undercover narcotics, fire investigation, hazardous materials.</p>	<p>**16 yrs as Deputy Sheriff in Isabella County ** 1 yr as K-9 Officer in Hancock, MI **14 yrs as volunteer firefighter Experience/knowledge: Road patrol & Jail operations, grant writing, policy making, community relations, emergency pre-planning</p>	<p>A couple of issues need some change. The department has not had any officers in the schools for several years now, due to lack of funding. It also has not had a community policing program in about 10 years. These are two key areas of operations that need to be addressed. The safety and education of our students and senior citizens is a top priority for me. Having school resource officers present will help to ensure the safety of our children in school. Community policing-making deputies be more proactive within the community. Developing partnerships between the sheriff's office and businesses, community leaders and organizations will help bring the entities closer to the sheriff's department. As Sheriff, I would be more approachable and available to citizens and staff, including working road patrol shifts. I'll make incident reporting more accessible through the internet and develop ways to inform citizens of current crime trends and other important notifications.</p>	<p>As a deputy who has worked Isabella County for over 16 years, I have seen a shift in some crimes being committed. Being in touch with the citizens and communities all of these years has allowed me to have a very good understanding of the needs of citizens' safety. Drug crime has risen sharply in recent years with trends of methamphetamine, heroin and prescription drug abuse being predominant. My goal is to have a deputy put back into the drug team. I will work closely with the University and Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, as well as our courts, to further develop programs that not only curb these crimes, but help educate our children and focus on prevention. With strict goal setting, perseverance and community involvement, we can accomplish these goals together. Property crimes also are common for our area. I intend to use previous stats and techniques that will help predict these crime locations and better distribute our resources to help prevent these types of crime</p>
<p>Michael Main REPUBLICAN Sheriff WEBSITE: http://www.facebook.com/retainmichael-main/ EMAIL: retainmainisabellasheriff@outlook.com CAMPAIGN PHONE: (989) 854-0146 EDUCATION: I graduated from Montabella High School in 1987, attended Kirtland Community College Police Academy on the Dean's list with a 4.0. I have attended over 2500 hours of in-service training in my career. Some of these trainings included Police Chief school and other upper management training. I'm currently completing my Master's Degree in Criminal Justice. I have also attended classes at Mid-Michigan Community college, Central Michigan University, Montcalm Community and the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences in an effort to remain current with higher education mythology and skills.</p>	<p>27 years of public safety with Fire/Rescue, currently the chief of both. I have been serving as a full time Police Officer, Sergeant and Chief of Police for the last 18 years. I currently & proudly hold the Office of Sheriff for Isabella County.</p>	<p>I will review special assignments to the local narcotics team. I am aware and quite often first hand in the field, the effects of illicit drugs and the traumas that are inflicted by them. The office has no one assigned to this team, this is being reviewed to fill, if staffing will allow. A program for K-12 schools to be developed for a stronger presence. Increased training that will give deputies more range in dealing with different types of diversity. A review of all critical equipment needs is being conducted. I have also started a planning group on how to better process mental health inmates in the jail. There is a growing population of mental health arrestees that are coming into the jail, my intent will be to find a protocol that can be used to get them the true help they need and keep them from the jail setting. There are also public trust initiatives that I will be working on and implementing to build continued trust and mutual respect to all the people we serve.</p>	<p>The first and most prevalent is fraudulent activities. Nationwide fraud is in the Billions of dollars and countless victims. Programs of education to our community will be the best solution to stopping this type of crime. A lot of these crimes are outside of our state and country. The next is hardcore narcotics that plague our community. Local drug crime is on the rise and will continue, good education, strong enforcement and appropriate punishment is needed. Another increase involves home invasions or breaking and entering. There is nothing more disturbing to someone than another person violating their most secure sanctuary, such as a resident's home. I have given safety presentation to our community over the years and would continue this. I have in the past given presentations to groups like the Commission on aging and schools on this topic. The ability to have visible patrols, safety awareness programs and neighborhood monitoring groups, will help minimize this serious crime.</p>



ISABELLA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION - VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN 2

QUESTION ONE: <i>What unique experience qualifies you to hold this office?</i>		QUESTION TWO: <i>What criteria will you use to prioritize the various road projects throughout Isabella County?</i>	
CANDIDATE	BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE	QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2
<p>John M. Graham REPUBLICAN Retired School Employee CAMPAIGN PHONE: (989) 644-2697 EMAIL: johnmgraham57@gmail.com EDUCATION: 12th Grade</p>	<p>Served on Township Board 18 years, Was appointed by County Board of Commission to Adhoc committee to look county take to Isabella Road Commission , Elected to Road Commission in 2014</p>	<p>I was a building contractor , worked for a public school as a maintenance and transportation director with just under a million dollar budget, also as project manager for a 5 million dollar addition and renovation project , construction manager for a 2 million dollar sports complex and 750,000.00 classroom weight room addition. Six years as Township Supervisor and Township Trustee Twelve years, Two years as Road Commissioner</p>	<p>As a board member my priority will be to repair or rebuild as many roads as possible however with current funding it is difficult , I prioritize the road project as funding comes available with grants from state ,federal ,tribal and township participation along with our budget this only allows to due so much</p>
<p>Terry Lee Turnwald REPUBLICAN Family Farmer CAMPAIGN PHONE: (989) 773-2091 EMAIL: thetman23@aol.com EDUCATION: Shepherd High School plus continuing education including chemical application certifications; Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program certifications; USDA Soil Conversation seminars and training;</p>	<p>Cash crop and animal farming; Land management; Equipment maintenance; Former small business owner; Former Commerical Bank Advisory Board memeber; Community, school and church volunteer</p>	<p>I am a life-long resident of the County with a background that makes a good fit to serve. Commitment: volunteer with school, church, township Board of Review and County Zoning Board of Appeals. Leadership: former Township DDA and Parish School Board, Chair Isabella County Soil Conversation; Vice-Chair (former Chair) Isabella Road Commission. Experience: independent family farmer with knowledge of tight budgets, machinery, building projects, trucks, drains, soils, seasonal use of resources.</p>	<p>Five criteria should be used to prioritize projects. 1) Safety concerns 2) Condition determined by objective rating system 3) Traffic Load 4) Route to critical destinations e.g. hospitals, schools, senior services 5) Availability of funds including Act 51/gas tax revenue;Tribal 2% dedicated to specific projects; federal and state grants; township contributions. In addition, we must find ways to keep gravel roads in safe, drivable condition which the Road Comm. began to tackle in 2016.</p>
<p>Kevin M. Blumberg DEMOCRAT Biomedical Engineer WEBSITE: http://biomedguys.com CAMPAIGN PHONE: (989) 560-1595 EMAIL: biomedicalolutions@yahoo.com EDUCATION: Wm A Wirt High School Gary IN University of Maryland United States Air Force</p>	<p>I have not had any political experience. This is my first campaign. I do however own my business since 2002. I believe being a business owner allows me to understand certain aspects of leadership.</p>	<p>I am new to politics and this position. There is a lot for me to learn. I am an extremely honest person. I live my life transparently so you will find it easy to know me. I plan on being a servant of the people and not the other way around.</p>	<p>The will of the people should be first and for most. You potentially will elect me to be your voice I will adhere to that.</p>
<p>TJ Smith DEMOCRAT Library Director EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science, Psychology</p>		<p>In addition to using the roads and enjoying travelling within the county, I worked for a summer as help at the Isabella County Road Commission garage, so I have experienced some of the types of issues they face. I am a passionate supporter of the work the Road Commission does and look forward to being a part of that process.</p>	<p>Criteria to prioritize projects would include traffic/use, available funds, the areas of other recent projects, and the reasoning for the necessity of the work. I would want to assure that funds for projects were being used equitably and effectively.</p>



ISABELLA COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSION - VOTE FOR ONE

QUESTION ONE: <i>What unique experience qualifies you to hold this office?</i>		QUESTION TWO: <i>What practices are in place or would you like to see in place to ensure this office adequately responds to the demands of county growth?</i>	
CANDIDATE	BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE	QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2
<p>Scott W. Brown REPUBLICAN Builder CAMPAIGN PHONE: (989) 954-5286 EDUCATION: High School</p>	<p>Born and raised on the farm, 30 years in construction</p>	<p>I understand the need for proper working drains, in my construction career I help the plumber install drain line when he got behind, and on the farm I learned the importance maintaining field tile for proper drainage.</p>	<p>Drain maintenance, make sure brush and tree are not over growing ditch banks. Also making sure when tile is replaced with the proper tile.</p>
<p>Robert J. Willoughby REPUBLICAN Materials not available</p>	<p>Materials not available</p>	<p>Materials not available</p>	<p>Materials not available</p>
<p>Richard Jakubiec DEMOCRAT Isabella County Drain Commissioner EDUCATION: BS in Chemistry and Biology from CMU</p>	<p>Eight years as Drain Commissioner</p>	<p>I graduated from Central Michigan University with a BS degree in chemistry and biology. I was self employed in the construction field for 26 years. I am the current drain commissioner with eight years experience in the office.</p>	<p>The construction and maintenance of drain infrastructure. Newly constructed drains are spurring development. 700 plus drain maintenance requests have been completed increasing crop production, safer roads, and quality of life for county residents. New storm water document was written allowing for a faster permitting process and limiting water issues in future developments. Agreement's with the MDEQ have reduced operational and testing costs to the county at the closed land fill. A new lake level agreement at Lake Isabella was reached reducing shoreline erosion. Minor maintenance was completed on the Lake Isabella dam repairing eroded shoreline, reducing sediment in the river. Global positioning of drains allows for future location for development. \$3,000,000.00 in grants awarded for funding of drain construction, reconstruction, equipment, and mapping programs. Drain construction materials are purchased direct from the factory increasing savings. Most projects are funded locally</p>



con't from previous page

ISABELLA COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSION - VOTE FOR ONE

QUESTION ONE: <i>What unique experience qualifies you to hold this office?</i>		QUESTION TWO: <i>What practices are in place or would you like to see in place to ensure this office adequately responds to the demands of county growth?</i>	
CANDIDATE	BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE	QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2
William Scott Moss DEMOCRAT Self Employed Farmer CAMPAIGN PHONE: (989) 944-0844 EDUCATION: Having lived in Mt. Pleasant my whole life I graduated from Mt. Pleasant High School	Operating and managing our own farm, and running a successful custom farming operation, past years experience of managing factory operations	Operating and managing our own farm, and running a successful custom farming operation, past years experience of managing factory operations	Try to be more concious about spending other people's money !

County Commissioner District Two - VOTE FOR ONE

QUESTION ONE: <i>List your qualifications.</i>		QUESTION TWO: <i>Expand on an issue (s) of importance to you and list your priorities should you be elected.</i>	
CANDIDATE	BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE	QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2
Frank Engler REPUBLICAN Fourth Generation Farmer CAMPAIGN PHONE: (989) 773-9054 EMAIL: fsengler@yahoo.com PRESENT OCCUPATION: Retired Banker EDUCATION: Beal City High School, Michigan State University-Agricultural Technology	Current-Deerfield township Board of Review/Chairman, Isabella Canvassing board, Isabella Conservation District-chair/vice-chair, Past- Greenstone Farm Credit Service-17yrs, Chairperson, finance, audit cmte., Farm Bureau- Pres, Beal City K of C	Having served over 30 years on Isabella Conservation District Board, I dealt with environmental issues important to Isabella County. Acquiring over 2 million dollars in grants, the District implemented programs such as hazardous waste & tire disposal, well closures, & erosion control, to name a few. As Chairman of Greenstone Farm Credit Services, I gained leadership skills & an understanding of budgets and the audit process. I spent time in Washington and Lansing, working to solve problems.	The top priority for any board is to live within your means. With limited resources, it is crucial that funds are distributed wisely & equitably. Another priority is to ensure that policy reflects forward thinking that addresses both short and long-term directions. It is also important to find ways to solve problems by bringing agencies & organizations together. The most pressing issue is usually the one that no one sees coming, such as an e-coli outbreak in our streams. I am a problem solver.
Ed Oplinger REPUBLICAN Farmer EDUCATION: High School	Served on: soil conservation service 3 yrs, Chippewa Hills board of education 5 yrs., Michigan High School rodeo ass. president for 2 yrs. Homeworks Tri County Electric for 7 yrs last 2 yrs as chairman. Presently on Wolverine Electric board.	Materials not available	Materials not available
John Haupt DEMOCRAT Farmer, County Commission CAMPAIGN PHONE: (989) 644-3390 EMAIL: taxladyesther@yahoo.com EDUCATION: High school diploma & College fire coursers	I have been on the Isabella County Commission for twelve years	Taxpayer farmer, farming 450 acres, former Fire Chief of Fremont -Deerfield Township fire department for 12 years. I have served on the Board of Review for Deerfield Township, Community enrollment of the 911 governing board, I am on the board of Parks and Recreation, I was also on the Building Committee for the Commission on Aging Building.	When first elected I wanted accountability, that is top priority, second I strive to keep a balanced budget, third is to keep the people I represent always informed of what is happening in there community.



UNION TOWNSHIP TREASURER - VOTE FOR ONE

QUESTION ONE: <i>What unique experience qualifies you to hold this office?</i>		QUESTION TWO: <i>What do you see as the major work and challenge for this office in the next four years?</i>	
CANDIDATE	BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE	QUESTION 1	QUESTION 2
<p>Sarvjit Chowdhary REPUBLICAN Retired WEBSITE: http://www.Chowdhary For Treasurer.com CAMPAIGN PHONE: (989) 400-2686 EMAIL: savichowdhary@yahoo.com EDUCATION: Ph.D. in Genetics and MBA in Finance</p>	<p>An extensive knowledge and decades of experience in business and government; focus on accounting, budgeting, management, and proper handling of financial transactions; and public service with caring attitude for fellow human beings.</p>	<p>I have doctorate and master of business administration with focus on finance and information system. I have extensive knowledge and decades of experience in business and government accounting, budgeting, management and proper handling of financial transactions in three continents. Additionally, my experience entails university teaching, research and public service. Currently, I am Board Member of 3 commissions in Union township and Isabella county representing aging and economic development.</p>	<p>Accountability, economic growth, fiscal responsibility, prosperity and integrity are my key issues. I strongly believe that government should be transparent and accountable. I will pursue so by effectively running the treasurer's office, assuring legally compliant transactions, improving tax collection strategies and practices, collaborating with all stakeholders, work with the board of township for Excellence award, and build positive relationships with all involved from all sectors.</p>
<p>Diana K. Engler REPUBLICAN Operation Specialist CAMPAIGN PHONE: (269) 986-8444 EMAIL: dkbella@gmail.com EDUCATION: PhD Animal Science MBA Finance and Information Technology</p>	<p>I'm employed with EG Workforce Solutions a Southwest Michigan based company. I've been with them 37+ years. I now work from Mount Pleasant managing timeclock systems for 6 clients ranging from 19 to 200 employees per client.</p>	<p>I've held a corporate VP position, managed several of our offices over my tenure with EG. Developed and headed up our training department, signed checks, developed and managed to budgets, a key developer and implementer of several software upgrades/changes over the years. The importance of accuracy, efficiency and meeting deadline is critical. I believe my qualification would fit well with the position of Treasure with Union Twp.</p>	<p>When I was approached about running for this position a major concern was to have someone in the position that was more available to do the job and responding in a timelier manner to residents/business. I've been fortunate to have had/have a successful career with EG. Now that I've built a home here and live in Union Township, Mount Pleasant, MI I would like to use my years of experience in doing this job at the same level of accuracy, integrity and honesty.</p>
<p>Kimberly M. Rice DEMOCRAT Township Treasurer, Charter Township of Union CAMPAIGN PHONE: (989) 560-0612 EMAIL: cross1km@gmail.com EDUCATION: BS from Central Michigan University: Health Fitness in Preventative and Rehabilitative Programs Major</p>	<p>Since being elected Treasurer in 2014, I have used my accounting expertise and problem-solving skills to keep the Township's finances on track. I am computer savvy, possess good people skills, and have been commended for my organizational abilities.</p>	<p>As the incumbent Treasurer, I already posses detailed knowledge of the inner workings of the Township's finances and organization. I have attended several conferences continuing my education and becoming even more effective.</p>	<p>I am passionate about continuing to implement the Township's Master Plan, most specifically the continuing process of making our community pedestrian friendly everywhere. I have been involved in discussions with property and business owners about the positive effects adding new sidewalks could have.</p>

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE MT. PLEASANT AREA

VISIT OUR WEB PAGE

mtpleasantarea.mi.lwvnet.org

"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK

www.face.com/lwvmpa



COUNTY WIDE PROPOSALS

RENEWAL OF FIXED OPERATIONAL MILLAGE

Shall separate tax limitations be established for a four-year time period, or until altered by the voters of Isabella County, for the County of Isabella, Townships and Intermediate School District within the County, the aggregate of which shall not exceed 7.89 mills as follows:

County of Isabella..... 6.6100 mills

Townships..... 1.0000 mills

Intermediate School District..... 0.2800 mills

Total 7.8900 mills

If approved and levied in full, this millage will raise an estimated \$13,573,445.00 for the County, Township and Intermediate School District in the first calendar year of the levy. In accordance with State law, a small portion of the millage may also be disbursed to the Downtown Development Authorities of the Cities of Clare, Mt Pleasant and Union Township; the Tax Increment Finance Authorities of the City of Mt. Pleasant and the Broomfield Redevelopment Authority of the City of Mt Pleasant.

YES [for the measure] NO [against the measure]

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (I-RIDE) MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

For the purpose of continuing to fund the capital and operational needs of the public transportation services of the Isabella County Transportation Commission (I-Ride) and its successor within Isabella County, at the same level previously approved by the voters in 2012, shall the Constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Isabella, Michigan, previously increased by up to 0.9929 of one (1) mill (\$0.9929 per \$1,000 of Taxable Value) be continued and renewed for a period of four (4) years, 2016-2019, inclusive?

If approved and levied in full, this millage will raise an estimated \$1,708,120 for the County-wide public transportation services in the first calendar year of the levy. In accordance with State law, a small portion of the millage may also be disbursed to the Downtown Development Authorities of the Cities of Clare, Mt. Pleasant, and Union Township; the Tax Increment Finance Authorities of the City of Mt. Pleasant; and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority of the City of Mt Pleasant.

YES [for the measure] NO [against the measure]

Take A Friend To 
VOTE!   

VOTE411.ORG

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

Vote411.org is the one-stop shop for non-partisan information on elections and candidates.

Read and compare candidate responses to questions on relevant issues.

Find your polling place and find out what will be on your ballot.

Be an informed voter!

*Your education.
Your healthcare.
Your community.
Your future.
Your vote counts for many things. Take control. Get registered. Get educated. Get out and vote. Learn more at www.VOTE411.org*

VOTE411.org is the nation's premiere online election resource.

The League of Women Voters has added our voter's guide to **VOTE411.org** so that it can serve as a resource for all Michigan voters.



The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates or political parties.

