

# Voter Guide General Election 2008

## League of Women Voters of the Mt. Pleasant Area

### About the Guide:

The League of Women Voters contacted candidates for biographical information and answers to questions on issues. Responses were edited by the League ONLY for spelling, punctuation and adherence to word limits. "Material not available" indicates responses were not received from the candidate.

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 candidate.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization established in 1920 to encourage citizen participation in government. It never supports or opposes any political party or candidates. For information about joining the League, please call 989 773-0265.

### Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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## Candidates for MI House of Representatives, District 99

Vote for one (1)

**QUESTION ONE:** Please provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office of state representative and the reasons you are running.

**QUESTION TWO:** State your top three priorities for the office and explain your reasons for choosing those priorities.

CANDIDATE	QUESTION ONE	QUESTION TWO
<p><b>Bill Caul</b> <b>Republican</b></p>	<p>Education: 1985-Certification as Director of Special Education; MSU. 1968-M.A., Michigan State University. 1965-B.S., St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana. Work Experience: Dec.2001-June 2002- Claire-Gladwin Day School Supervisor. 1987-1999-Dir. of Special Education, Mt. Pleasant Public Schools. 1966-1987- Elementary Special Education Teacher. 1966-1980- Varsity Assistant Baseball Coach. Public Offices Held: Jan.2005-Dec.2008- 99th District State Representative. Jan. 1985-Dec.1987- Mt. Pleasant City Commissioner. Family: My wife Sandy and I have been married 42 years. We have been blessed with three wonderful children, and four beautiful grandchildren. Reason for Running: I am seeking reelection to my third term so I can continue to make a difference for my District and the people of Michigan.</p>	<p>I look forward to doing my part as a State Legislator to continue to listen, learn and support policies that promote education as a life-long journey from early childhood to K-12 schools, to community colleges and training in the skilled trades, to universities. I will continue to work to increase access and affordability at all levels, and demand results that will insure our future. Embrace, cultivate and encourage Michigan's rich diversity by bridging racial, ethnic and other cultural divides in order to welcome people with talent and ambition to strengthen our state and preserve our future. Showcase Michigan as a great place to live by protecting our tremendous natural resources, supporting our hard working people with a can-do spirit and an eye for innovation thus casting Michigan as a place with unlimited potential for our children's future.</p>

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>QUESTION ONE</b>	<b>QUESTION TWO</b>
<p><b>Nancy J. White</b>  <b>Democrat</b>  <a href="http://www.nancyjwhite.net">www.nancyjwhite.net</a></p>	<p>I have a juris doctorate and practiced business law for approximately 13 years before turning to teaching. I teach a variety of classes including business law, real estate law, and construction law. I am running because different types of people need to be elected to office.</p>	<p>Health care, higher education, and diversifying the economy of Michigan. These issues are important to both the short and long term viability of the state and the people of Michigan.</p>
<p><b>Devon K. Smith</b>  <b>Libertarian</b></p>	<p>Material Not Available</p>	<p>Material Not Available</p>

## CANDIDATES FOR ISABELLA COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Vote for one (1)

**QUESTION ONE:** What specific policies are in place or what improvements would you implement to insure victims' rights are protected?

**QUESTION TWO:** Do you see a shift in the types of crimes in Isabella County? If so, what are your plans to address this?

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>QUESTION ONE</b>	<b>QUESTION TWO</b>
<p><b>Larry J. Burdick</b> <b>Republican</b></p> <p>Mt Pleasant</p> <p>Age: 53</p> <p>Occupation: Prosecuting Attorney</p> <p>Education: BS, Central Michigan University, 1977 JD, Wayne State University, 1980</p>	<p>For 27 years it has been my privilege to serve the citizens of Isabella County, the past 20 as your elected Prosecuting Attorney. During my career, I have personally litigated almost every type of criminal case.</p>	<p>In 1996, I obtained a grant to create the first victim rights coordinator for Isabella County. This year, we have obtained additional state funding to add a part time position to assist in this area. Victim services need to be responsive, inclusive and compassionate. Our staff strives to accomplish these goals. We continue to innovate, with defendant GPS tracking to protect victims of violence, and electronic communications with victims.</p>	<p>Our community has seen the tragedy of domestic violence in the recent deaths of two of our citizens. While not unique to Isabella County, abuse against family members continues to be a paramount concern. Outreach to those victims, added protections, such as GPS, community education, are all important efforts to combat this terrible problem. Drug dealing and drug abuse also continue to be a problem for us, and requires aggressive enforcement and treatment.</p>
<p><b>Thomas Weiss</b> <b>Democrat</b></p>	<p>Material Not Available</p>	<p>Material Not Available</p>	<p>Material Not Available</p>

## CANDIDATE FOR ISABELLA COUNTY SHERIFF

Vote for one (1)

**QUESTION ONE:** What changes or initiatives, if any, would you make in the operation of the Sheriff's Department?

**QUESTION TWO:** Do you see a shift in the types of crimes in Isabella County? If so, what are your plans to address this?

CANDIDATE	BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE	QUESTION ONE	QUESTION TWO
<p><b>Leo Mioduszewski</b> <b>Republican</b></p> <p>5115 E. Valley Rd Mt Pleasant Age: 49</p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> Sheriff, Isabella County</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Masters Degree in Public Administration, Bachelor of Applied Arts in Business Administration and Broadcasting. Graduate of FBI National Academy. Numerous Executive Leadership Institutes for Sheriffs and Police Chiefs</p>	<p>Full time, certified law enforcement officer for the past 23 years. I oversee a budget of \$4.2 million, supervise over 60 employees and have extensive administrative, supervisory, budgeting, grant-writing and human resource management experience. I am also a trained K-9 Handler and Hostage Negotiator.</p>	<p>Partner with the Commission on Aging to implement "Project Lifesaver" which readily locates Alzheimer and dementia patients who walk away from their homes. Continue to partner with townships and villages in Isabella County to make sure their needs are being addressed. Deputies will work closely with schools to implement the STOPPED program. (Sheriff's Telling our Parents and Providing Educated Drivers). The STOPPED program notifies parents when their teenage driver is pulled over by a Sheriff's Deputy.</p>	<p>As a result of a very difficult economy, we are seeing increases in breaking &amp; enterings and larcenies. We have implemented an initiative to help combat those types of crimes: Detectives from the Sheriff's Department are working very closely with local police departments to share information and coordinate investigations. We are working with local police departments to conduct surveillance in areas that have been targeted by thieves.</p>

## CANDIDATES FOR ISABELLA COUNTY CLERK

Vote for one (1)

**QUESTION ONE:** What unique experience qualifies you to hold this office?

**QUESTION TWO:** What do you see as the major work and challenge in the County Clerk's office in the next four years?

CANDIDATE	BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE	QUESTION ONE	QUESTION TWO
<p><b>Joyce A. Swan</b> <b>Republican</b></p> <p>3588 E. Herrick Road Clare Age: 64</p> <p>Occupation: Isabella County Clerk Education: One year college in business at Ferris State University; MACC Educational Programs; State Accreditation Training Programs; IBM Computer training Program</p>	<p>I have worked in the County Clerk's Office for 31 years. I was hired in 1977 as Payroll/Deputy Clerk. In 1988, I was appointed Chief Deputy County Clerk. I held this position until 2001 when I was elected as Isabella County Clerk.</p>	<p>During my 8 years as county Clerk, I have had many unique experiences that qualify me to hold this office; but the most unique one was the transition of moving from punch card voting to a statewide optical scan voting system. I am very proud to say that the implementation process in Isabella County went very well and now every citizen in Isabella County has a voting system that is accurate, efficient, and secure.</p>	<p>We have completed the process of imaging all the birth, death and marriage records dating back to the 1930's. We are now in the process of preparing to image all circuit court documents dating back to the 1970's. I am very committed to keeping up with technology in the County Clerk's office in order to better serve the residents of Isabella County.</p>
<p><b>Andrew Thibodeau</b> <b>Democrat</b></p> <p>301 W Broomfield Rd Mt Pleasant</p>	<p>Material Not Available</p>	<p>Material Not Available</p>	<p>Material Not Available</p>

## CANDIDATES FOR ISABELLA COUNTY TREASURER

Vote for one (1)

**QUESTION ONE:** What unique experience qualifies you to hold this office?

**QUESTION TWO:** What do you see as the major work and challenge in the County Treasurer's office in the next four years?

CANDIDATE	BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE	QUESTION ONE	QUESTION TWO
<p><b>Steven W. Pickens</b> <b>Republican</b></p> <p>2343 N. Whiteville Rd Rosebush</p> <p>Age: 53</p> <p>Occupation: Isabella County Treasurer</p> <p>Education: Graduate MPHS 1973; Graduate CMU, 1977, BS in Business Administration, Accounting Major; Michigan Association of County Treasurers Educational Programs; Certificates in System Analysis &amp; Programming- IBM Training Centers; Continuing Education Accredited Workshops in Investing, Finance, Taxation.</p>	<p>Married 33 years, 3 sons; resident 53 years, Isabella County; Mt Pleasant Rotary Club member/ Past president; 16 years working private sector Vice-president, Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Mt Pleasant;</p> <p>Secretary/Treasurer/Manager Chippewa Beverage Co.; 18<sup>th</sup> year as County Treasurer of Isabella County; past president, Michigan Association County Treasurers.</p>	<p>I've been blessed with the opportunity to lead and direct the Treasurer's office the past 18 years. Through the years I have had many unique experiences as a taxpayer, business professional and County Treasurer that help enhance my qualifications. Through those experiences I understand first hand the needs, effects, and expectations of this public office and will continue to use these qualifications to further progress this office to meet the challenges of the future.</p>	<p>With the changing economic climate we are experiencing, it is imperative that the County's financial office have the knowledge and expertise to meet many challenges, such as the loss of state revenue sharing, decreased investment rates, increased foreclosures, and major legislative changes. I see the major challenge is to do more with less while continuing to give the public the quality of service they deserve from this office and their elected public official.</p>
<p><b>Brian J. Dupuis</b> <b>Democrat</b></p>	<p>Material Not Available</p>	<p>Material Not Available</p>	<p>Material Not Available</p>

## CANDIDATES FOR ISABELLA COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS

Vote for one (1)

**QUESTION ONE:** What unique experience qualifies you to hold this office?

**QUESTION TWO:** What do you see as the major work and challenge in the County Register of Deeds office in the next four years?

CANDIDATE	BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE	QUESTION ONE	QUESTION TWO
<p><b>Sharon Brown</b> <b>Republican</b></p> <p>1084 El Camino Grande Lake Isabella</p> <p>Age: 58</p> <p>Occupation: Isabella County Register of Deeds</p> <p>Education: High School Grad w/ Designations from association continuing education and also some college credits through different associations.</p>	<p>Real estate for 2 years; clerk in the Register of Deeds office from March 1988 thru September 1994, selected by the Probate Judge, Prosecutor and the County Clerk from 4 other applicants to fulfill the remaining years of Register Nelda Gilmore, who retired, a position to which I happily hold.</p>	<p>In the past I was a township treasurer, realtor, and a clerk in the Register of Deeds office since March 1988. After being appointed Register in 1994, I dove right into the Register of Deeds Association, working on the Legislative Committee which works with the legislators in Lansing on bills that affect all landowners in the state. In 2002, I was president of the Association and in 2005 was awarded the Register of the Year.</p>	<p>We have completed putting deed, mortgage, lien, etc. information on computer and are in the process of doing images. This information dates back to the 1800s and allows searchers and the public easy access to information without having to lift heavy books and search through microfilm. We have the indexes online but the images will have to wait until we complete the removal of social security numbers from the documents.</p>

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>QUESTION ONE</b>	<b>QUESTION TWO</b>
<p><b>Joel Welty</b> <b>Democrat</b></p> <p>4736 S Rolland Rd Blanchard</p> <p>Age: 81</p> <p>Occupation: Executive Director Michigan Alliance of Cooperatives</p> <p>Education: Graduated Oberlin College (Ohio) BS degree, major: History, minor: Economics</p>	<p>2 years U.S. Infantry; 10 years Alarm Industry; 41 years Cooperatives; Director of Property Management for FCH Services, managing 9,000 homes in Michigan &amp; Indiana. I trained the boards of directors of housing cooperatives; Real Estate Brokers license; Residential Contractor's license; wrote monthly column for National Association of Housing Cooperatives</p>	<p>As a housing developer, housing property manager, trainer, writer and housing lobbyist, I have an understanding of the vital role played by the Register of Deeds. I understand the importance of attention to detail and close observance of the law. I also understand the importance of meeting the needs of the people we serve.</p>	<p>Information technology has made, or is making substantial changes in how we manage large quantities of data. I want to explore what applications might prove beneficial in the Register of Deeds office. Also, our service to the public must be helpful, complete and welcoming. I would like to survey those who have used the Register of Deeds services to ask what improvements might be made in order to serve them better.</p>

**CANDIDATES FOR ISABELLA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION  
6 YEAR TERM**

Vote for one (1)

**QUESTION ONE:** What unique experience qualifies you to hold this office?

**QUESTION TWO:** Given scarce resources, how would you maintain safe conditions for ALL county roads?

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>QUESTION ONE</b>	<b>QUESTION TWO</b>
<p><b>Bob Curtiss</b> <b>Republican</b></p> <p>2734 N Winn Rd Mt Pleasant Age 67</p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> Retired/Isabella County Road Commissioner</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Shepherd High School graduate</p>	<p>I worked for the Isabella County Road Commission for 24 years, rising to the level of General Superintendent. I have been an Isabella County Road Commissioner for the past 6 years.</p>	<p>I am a lifelong resident of Isabella County, a former employee of the Road Commission and a current Road Commissioner. In the past 6 years I have attended many meetings, seminars and conferences that are related to issues of roads, safety, maintenance and funding. I have prepared budgets for projects and for maintenance. In the past I have had to set schedules for construction and maintenance projects.</p>	<p>I believe that all county roads must be maintained even though we are going through a period of limited resources. Construction will have to be limited so that we can continue to maintain over 1,370 miles of Isabella County roads.</p>

<p><b>Margie Williams</b>  <b>Democrat</b></p> <p>1104 E. Michigan  Mt Pleasant  Age 53  <b>Occupation:</b>  <b>Education:</b> BS degree in  Education; completing Masters  degree in Interpersonal  Communication</p>	<p>Long time County resident;  active member Democratic  party; Church Council; Co-  chair of Church and Society;  member 2 church choirs</p> <p>Past involvement: founding  member, treasurer, board chair  Community Soup Kitchen;  County co-coordinator,  treasurer of County  CROPWalk; Wesley  Foundation board member,  personnel Chair; Mt Pleasant  2000 Social Services  Committee; PTO board  member</p>	<p>As an active volunteer and  leader in various community  activities, I've been involved  in making the community a  better place. My research on  the Isabella Road  Commission reveals a need  for change to become the  model of an open, honest and  transparent entity. Closed  door personnel decisions must  be kept to a minimum and  road and building priorities  must be drawn up and posted  for the public to see and  discuss. We must do better.</p>	<p>In tight times we have to work  smarter and use our scarce  resources wisely. Priorities  must be drawn up and publicly  posted and there can be no pet  projects. Because we can no  longer have sacred cows, everything  must be open to  discussion, from the amount of  supervisory personnel to the  salaries of the Road  Commissioners themselves.  Zero-based budgeting may be  called for and cooperation with  other government entities can  leverage limited resources.</p>
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**CANDIDATES FOR ISABELLA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION  
4 YEAR TERM**

Vote for one (1)

**QUESTION ONE:** What unique experience qualifies you to hold this office?

**QUESTION TWO:** Given scarce resources, how would you maintain safe conditions for ALL county roads?

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>QUESTION ONE</b>	<b>QUESTION TWO</b>
<p><b>David Livermore, Jr.</b> <b>Republican</b></p> <p>8060 W. Airline Rd Weidman Age 43 <b>Occupation:</b> Small Business Owner/Electrical Contractor <b>Education:</b> 12+</p>	<p>I have lived in Isabella County most of my life. I am a small business owner; a local fire chief; a member of my church board; as well as volunteering in many capacities within my community. I have experience in business management, employee supervision, estimating &amp; bidding.</p>	<p>I have served on this board since March, 2007 as an appointed candidate, which has allowed me to gain knowledge of the road financing process within the State of Michigan and Isabella County. My experience in business management, estimating, construction, and state contracts are qualities which I believe qualify me to serve on this board.</p>	<p>We will need to continue to work with our townships to keep the roads as safe as possible. I believe we need to take care of the roads we have now versus building new ones until the funding issues are resolved. We will need to seek grant funding and continue to work with our state legislators on the funding issues we face.</p>
<p><b>Dean T. Kreiner</b> <b>Democrat</b></p>	<p>Material not available</p>	<p>Material not available</p>	<p>Material not available</p>

**CANDIDATE FOR ISABELLA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION  
2 YEAR TERM**

Vote for one (1)

**QUESTION ONE:** What unique experience qualifies you to hold this office?

**QUESTION TWO:** Given scarce resources, how would you maintain safe conditions for ALL county roads?

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>QUESTION ONE</b>	<b>QUESTION TWO</b>
<p><b>Terry Turnwald Republican</b></p> <p>5434 East Millbrook Rd Shepherd</p> <p>Age 56</p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> Farm Owner/Operator <b>Education:</b> Shepherd Public Schools MI Dept. Agriculture (licensing/cert); Training seminars &amp; classes at MSU; National/MI Soil Conservation Districts; Strategic Marketing Services, Inc.</p>	<p><b>Current:</b> Isabella County Soil Conservation District Chair; Lincoln Township Board of Review; Knights of Columbus. <b>Former:</b> Isabella County Zoning Board of Appeals; Commercial Natø Bank Advisory Board; Charter Township of Union East DDA; St. Vincent DePaul School Board; St Vincent DePaul Parish Council; MI Pork Producers Assoc (vice-chair Mid-Mich)</p>	<p>Understands the competing needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•owns farmland in three townships;</li> <li>•owned business, Union Township DDA</li> </ul> <p>Represented diverse groups on variety of boards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•rural and developing townships</li> <li>•school families and bank stockholders</li> <li>•farmers and environmentalists</li> </ul> <p>Experienced solving problems through inter-governmental cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•ICSCD works with federal, state, and county; and makes land use decisions affecting entire county</li> </ul> <p>Committed to long-term planning and knows first-hand impact of short-term decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Zoning Board, Farm Owner</li> </ul>	<p>The Board should be responsible for gathering information, developing a strategic plan, setting priorities and ensuring professionals can get the job done.</p> <p>We should: Divide the budget between construction, repair and maintenance. Know where development will happen and plan for future construction. Have an inventory of road conditions; spend repair dollars on the worse roads first. Update traffic counts; spend maintenance dollars where they are needed most. Search for new revenue. Invest in energy savings.</p>

## CANDIDATES FOR ISABELLA COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

Vote for one (1)

**QUESTION ONE:** Most voters know nothing about the job of drain commissioner. Explain why the job of drain commissioner is significant.

**QUESTION TWO:** As drain commissioner, how would you balance the power to tax people against concern for the limited resources of individual citizens?

CANDIDATE	BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE	QUESTION ONE	QUESTION TWO
<p><b>Russ Alwood</b> <b>Republican</b></p> <p>2435 O'Connell Drive, Mt. Pleasant Age: 62</p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> Landscaping</p> <p><b>Education:</b> High school graduate, USMC Vietnam Veteran</p>	<p>Construction work: Operating Engineers Local 324 underground construction and ditch digging. Builder 25 years. Nursery and landscape operations manager 20 years. Isabella County Commissioner, Union Township trustee 8 years. Planning and Zoning Boards.</p>	<p>It's a very important job because you raise people's taxes. You must be able to justify the tax increase in order to reconstruct a county drain or build a new one. There are 400 county drains as well as all lake dams under the office of drains in the county to be inspected. Drains are very important in new development such as was seen the past few years. The cleaner drains we have, the less chance of flooding.</p>	<p>A smart drain commissioner will try to find alternate sources of funding. If there are big developments in the area, the drain office can put the responsibility on the developer to enlarge the drains, saving the taxpayer money. Also spreading the tax drain district assessment over a larger area reduces cost to each owner. Keeping the drains clear of sediment, brush and trees will enhance their longevity. Proper drain construction and sizing will also keep costs down.</p>

<p><b>Rick Jakubiec</b> <b>Democrat</b></p> <p>1658 East River Road Mt. Pleasant Age: 56</p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> Electrical Contractor</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Bachelor of Science, CMU</p>	<p>Thirty-year resident, former Isabella County employee in Resource Management, involved in the installation and servicing of the remedial water system, Isabella County landfill, and community water system at Lake Isabella. 25 years small business owner, active in county fair, Central Michigan Community Hospital, Red Cross, and Sacred Heart Parish and athletics.</p>	<p>The drain commissioner is responsible for the construction and maintenance of county drains; is the enforcing authority for the soil and sedimentation act; maintains and oversees the remedial water system at the county landfill and the Lake Isabella water system; and sits on the parks and recreation board. Is responsible for water management that is safe, environmentally sound, and benefits the county residents.</p>	<p>By engineering drains that solve the water problem in a cost effective manner involving all residents within the proposed drain district in the determination process. Secure an adequate number of project bids, both construction and bond, fair assessment for each person, calculate the optimum combination of annual payments and interest rate for the total apportionment of the district. The cost to the individual is addressed while ensuring the health and safety of the county.</p>
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**CANDIDATES FOR ISABELLA COUNTY COMMISSION  
DISTRICT 4**

Vote for one (1)

**QUESTION ONE:** Assuming a need to make substantial cuts in the County budget, what process or measures would you advocate to deal with a budget shortfall?

**QUESTION TWO:** What practices are in place or would you like to see in place to ensure the Commission adequately responds to the demands of County growth?

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>QUESTION ONE</b>	<b>QUESTION TWO</b>
<p><b>Christine Alwood Republican</b></p> <p>2435 O'Connor Drive Mt Pleasant</p> <p>Age : 48</p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> Central Michigan University ó Fundraising</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Bachelor of Science Degree ó CMU</p>	<p>Privileged to serve ten years as District #4 County Commissioner. Served ten years as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner and seven years as an Isabella County Planning Commissioner. Lived in Isabella County for 30 years, raised my family in the Mt. Pleasant community. Currently chairing the Isabella County Sesquicentennial Committee.</p>	<p>Determine (through review of county financial data) and ensure the funding of mandated services, provide for public safety and senior citizen services in the community and then prioritize and assess the current county services. Once assessed, seek public input, cut those areas with the least impact to the community and services provided to the public. Explore alternate funding areas such as grants. Continue to promote economic development to expand the tax base. Streamline internal processes.</p>	<p>The Isabella County Planning Commission recently updated the County Master Plan for the nine townships that are zoned by the County. This is a vision document that will guide farmland preservation, future development and the "landscape" for Isabella County in the years to come. Important to continue dialogue and communication with other governmental units (road commission, city, townships) to address growth and infrastructure needs with the most efficient use of taxpayer funds.</p>

<p><b>William O. Dailey</b> <b>Democrat</b></p> <p>3215 N. Concourse Drive Mt Pleasant</p> <p>Age: 57</p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> CMU faculty (Communication and Dramatic Arts)</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Bachelors of Chemical Engineering (South Dakota School of Mines and Technology); Masters of Communication (University of Colorado at Denver); Doctorate of Communication (Northwestern University, Evanston, Il)</p>	<p>I have a breadth of experiences that should serve me well as a county commissioner. I have degrees in engineering and communication. At CMU, I have served as Assessment Coordinator, President of the Faculty Union, Chair of the Academic Senate, Chair of my department and member of two bargaining teams.</p>	<p>In terms of cuts, I would be inclined to spread the cutbacks across the county services and functions as opposed to cutting one single department, for example. I would probably have all departments cut back by a certain percentage of budget and figure out how to do that with some guidelines like keeping what is essential (and legally mandated) and applying triage to projects that can wait or are not immediately important.</p>	<p>I think growth is basically good. I do think it is better to plan early and work out the kinks as opposed to trying to fix what we missed when it has grown into a real and expensive problem. I would be inclined to work with all representative and interested parties in expansions so that we make growth decisions that serve the needs and interests of as many people as would seem possible and reasonable.</p>
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## CANDIDATES FOR ISABELLA COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5

Vote for one (1)

**QUESTION ONE:** Assuming a need to make substantial cuts in the County budget, what process or measures would you advocate to deal with a budget shortfall?

**QUESTION TWO:** What practices are in place or would you like to see in place to ensure the Commission adequately responds to the demands of County growth?

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>QUESTION ONE</b>	<b>QUESTION TWO</b>
<p><b>Charles Pepper</b> <b>Republican</b></p>	<p>material not available</p>	<p>material not available</p>	<p>material not available</p>
<p><b>James S. Moreno</b> <b>Democrat</b></p> <p>1015 Andre Ave, Apt A Mt. Pleasant Age 60</p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> Student Mid Michigan Community College pursuing degree in Computer Information Systems</p> <p><b>Education:</b> BS from CMU, Health Promotion in a Corporate or Hospital Setting</p>	<p>Served 6 years on Mt. Pleasant City Commission 2001-2007. The City Hall moving into the Borden Building, the sale of old City Hall, the selection of a new city manager and finally the long awaited Owner Occupied Residential Incentive Program are fruits of that time.</p>	<p>I would suggest looking in each county department for places to make cuts, possibly using zero based budgeting as a way to get to leanest but most functional budget possible. I would also want an energy audit to be done so the county could possibly have an energy saving program like the School District does with the resultant savings. I would also see if the county could use biodiesel like they're doing in St. Johns.</p>	<p>I would encourage the county to develop an Entertainment Authority to put on musical and cultural events like a Riverfest or Isabella County Blues and Jazz Festival, similar to the Common Grounds Fest that they have in Lansing. This would provide another way for the County to generate revenue and stimulate the local economy and be fun. This would of necessity be a collaboration with other organizations in the community, always a good thing.</p>

CANDIDATE	BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE	QUESTION ONE	QUESTION TWO
<p><b>Ron A Roby</b> <b>Write-in Candidate</b></p> <p>201 E Bennett Mt Pleasant Age 53</p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> Owner, Publisher, Researcher, and Writer, ñIsabella County Readerö</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Graduate of Johannesburg-Lewiston Area Schools; Associate of Arts, Kirtland Community College; Bachelor of Science in Education, Central Michigan University; Masters of Social Work, University of Michigan</p>	<p>Lived in rural and metropolitan areas, seeing good in both and importance of a balance. Lived here 30+ years, choosing it as my home. Work experience in education, social work, including with persons with developmental disabilities, and hospice.</p> <p>Nine years Mt Pleasant City Commission</p> <p>Currently serving 6<sup>th</sup> year on County Commission</p>	<p>Current County Commission is proactively working to prevent substantial cuts, constantly reviewing. Recent example: consolidating bonds resulting in sizable savings. On-going building maintenance to prevent costly repairs later. Replace items when needed, with more energy-efficient ones. Continue improving technology allowing fewer persons to complete same work so all positions left open by retirement won't have to be filled. Shared services with other agencies. Hold other entities responsible for cost of services provided.</p>	<p>County has planning, zoning in place; work with townships that have separate planning, zoning from County needs to continue and expand. Continued open communication needed between all governmental entities in county. Shared community services need to be in place when possible. Long range planning of roadways, water, recycling, and waste management. Learn from other areas that have experienced growth. Support Farmland preservation to maintain farming industry and rural beauty of the County.</p>

**CANDIDATES FOR ISABELLA COUNTY COMMISSION  
DISTRICT 7**

Vote for one (1)

**QUESTION ONE:** Assuming a need to make substantial cuts in the County budget, what process or measures would you advocate to deal with a budget shortfall?

**QUESTION TWO:** What practices are in place or would you like to see in place to ensure the Commission adequately responds to the demands of County growth?

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>QUESTION ONE</b>	<b>QUESTION TWO</b>
<p><b>Ben Witt</b> <b>Republican</b></p> <p>401 E Broomfield St. Saxe RHD Apt., Mt Pleasant, MI 48858 Age: 29</p> <p>Occupation: Residence Hall Director</p> <p>Education: B.S., Grand Valley State University -02</p>	<p>I have worked for CMU for four years as a Residence Hall Director. Prior to that, I worked for the US Secret Service in Washington, DC. I grew up in the town of Wellston, Michigan and graduated from Brethren High School. I attended college at Grand Valley State University.</p>	<p>When it comes to dealing with a budget shortfall, anything is on the table. Some ideas include increasing private or foundation support. Selling off some county assets is also a possibility. Employee pay modifications and non-essential position elimination are two other tough, but sometimes necessary solutions.</p>	<p>Environmental protection standards that ensure that the scenic beauty and quality of life of Mount Pleasant are not compromised as a result of development; Ensuring that public transportation is utilized in the most efficient and cost effective way possible; Expanding programs for seniors and school children as demand exceeds available resources.</p>

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>QUESTION ONE</b>	<b>QUESTION TWO</b>
<p><b>Frances B. Lichtman</b> <b>Democrat</b></p> <p>1212 Tomah Drive Mt Pleasant</p> <p>Age: 60 Occupation: Instructor of Mathematics, Alma College Education: B.A. in Mathematics Education, Michigan State University M.A. in Mathematics, Louisiana State University Additional courses in finance, management, marketing, and accounting at Central Michigan University</p>	<p>Isabella County Commissioner, six years, County Commission Vice-Chair, Finance and Administration Committee-Chair, Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, Community Corrections Advisory Board, Local Emergency Planning Committee, Mid Michigan Development Corporation Client Council. Additional service: Mt. Pleasant Planning Commission, Southwest Association of Neighbors, Mt. Pleasant/CMU Task Force, Mt. Pleasant Lions Club.</p>	<p>In the event that substantial cuts are required, all services should be evaluated, while ensuring that County departments are able to carry out constitutional and statutory mandates. Commissioners will need to collectively identify the relative priority and the acceptable levels of services, considering demand. A consistent and objective process for decision-making should be established prior to discussion of any specific changes. Opportunity for all citizens to provide input throughout the process is essential.</p>	<p>Policies guiding County growth and development should result from open discussion, a collaborative process among units of government, and broad-based public input. A modern Smart Growth approach could enhance quality of life for all. As demands for services and infrastructure increase, cooperation and coordination among city, county, and township governments becomes more important. Ongoing efforts to attract new business and industry have the potential to broaden the tax base while retaining the region's environmental health.</p>

## CANDIDATES FOR UNION TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

Vote for One (1)

**QUESTION ONE:** What practices are in place or would you like to see in place to ensure the Board adequately responds to the demands of township growth?

**QUESTION TWO:** What is your position regarding the sharing of governmental services such as fire; police; parks and recreation; water and sewage treatment among local units of government?

CANDIDATE	BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE	QUESTION ONE	QUESTION TWO
<b>Richard Haynes</b> <b>Republican</b>	material not available	material not available	material not available
<p><b>John Barker</b> <b>Democrat</b></p> <p>5411 E. Hazel Lane Mt Pleasant Age 66 <b>Occupation:</b> Retired <b>Education:</b> Master of Public Administration degree from Central Michigan University and Bachelor of Science in Journalism degree from University of Maryland</p>	<p>Former manager in both the public and private sectors including five years as Detroit Edison corporate executive. City and county government management experience. Supervised multi-million dollar construction and business projects. Directed construction of 200 mile long fiber optic educational telecommunications network. Nuclear-trained Submarine Service veteran. Master Gardener and avid fisherman.</p>	<p>Like many communities across America, Union Township needs a new approach to growth and development that reflects our world today. Our township has changed in the past ten years and policies should too. A Smart Growth initiative could help the township focus on the needs of township citizens including those who wish to walk or bicycle. More detailed long range planning is needed to accommodate and properly prioritize local government spending on infrastructure improvements.</p>	<p>Taxpayers deserve the most efficient services that local governments can provide. The Michigan Township Association encourages local units of government to work together. When negotiations are fair and equitable it makes sense to find economies of scale that work for everyone involved. The devil is in the details and I am a detailed person who will do his best to represent his constituents in joint discussions and agreements. Effective local government is our goal.</p>

**CANDIDATES FOR UNION TOWNSHIP CLERK**

Vote for one (1)

**QUESTION ONE:** What unique experience qualifies you to hold office?

**QUESTION TWO:** What practices are in place or would you like to see in place to ensure this office responds to the demands of township growth?

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>QUESTION ONE</b>	<b>QUESTION TWO</b>
<p><b>Peter Gallinat</b> <b>Democrat</b></p> <p>3700 E. Deerfield Rd Mt. Pleasant</p> <p>Age: 24 Occupation: Food and Beverage Associate Education: Attended Ferris State University and Central Michigan University, Majors in Anthropology and Political Science, Minor in Public Administration</p>	<p>As a veteran campaigner I have been involved in elections for school bonds, State legislature, Congress and President. I was elected President of College Democrats both while at Ferris State University and Central Michigan University. I currently serve as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair of the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional Democrats of Michigan.</p>	<p>As of now, there is no one on the Township board under the age of 40. I live in one of many student housing apartments where together we make up about a third of the population in Union Township. I, better than anyone else, understand the needs of those in Union Township who have recently graduated from college or still in college.</p>	<p>The first thing we need to do is implement 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology in Union Township. Open up Township government with an easy to use state of the art website. We must work together with the city officials of Mount Pleasant and Isabella County officials. By cutting through the bureaucratic red tape we can develop investments like efficient recycling, safe sidewalks, and improved roads</p>

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>QUESTION ONE</b>	<b>QUESTION TWO</b>
<p><b>Margie Henry Independent</b></p> <p>3155 S. Meridian Road, Mt. Pleasant Occupation: Charter Township of Union Clerk Education: Muskegon Business College</p>	<p>I have lived in Union Township for the past 32 years. A member of the Planning commission for 11 years, Election precinct inspector for 20 years, I have served as Township Clerk for the last 2 years. I save the Township \$12,000 yearly by not accepting health insurance.</p>	<p>During those 2 years as clerk I have administrated 4 elections and a mid-term census which I earned the Township \$146,737.24 of additional revenue sharing dollars. I have extensive training in managing municipal budgets. I have completed the following courses: Michigan Dept of State accreditation program, Internal Control Education Seminar, Audit Education Seminar, Accounting fixed assets, and Budget Basic plus Educational seminar. I am a member of the Michigan Municipal Clerks Association. Certified elections inspector.</p>	<p>Our Township elected officials and office staff have worked very aggressively to prepare for the growth that has occurred and we hope that it will continue to take place in the township. We update our Master Plan on a regular basis. The current infrastructure of Union Township is adequate for now; and is in the process of being updated for anticipated growth.</p>

## CANDIDATE FOR UNION TOWNSHIP TREASURER

Vote for one (1)

**QUESTION ONE:** What practices are in place or would you like to see in place to ensure the Board adequately responds to the demands of township growth?

**QUESTION TWO:** What is your position regarding the sharing of governmental services such as fire, police, parks and recreation, water and sewage treatment among local units of government?

CANDIDATE	BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE	QUESTION ONE	QUESTION TWO
<p><b>Pam Stovak</b> <b>Republican</b></p> <p>2196 McDonald Drive Mt. Pleasant Age: 57</p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> Part time faculty member, CMU</p> <p><b>Education:</b> BSBA and MBA</p>	<p>I am a lifelong resident of Isabella County with 25 years of business experience at CMU and Dow. I have managed resources; produced accurate, reliable reports; and created and implemented new concepts. I have worked successfully with professionals at all levels and can adapt to changing business environments.</p>	<p>I believe the Township Master Plan can fulfill the needs of the township if it is updated and followed based on input from the township residents. Our township has experienced enormous growth in the past, and can continue to grow if we can plan for and adapt to our changing environment.</p>	<p>The township must keep an open mind to sharing services, keeping township interest as a priority. My experiences working with a wide range of professionals both in private business and governmental agencies have given me the skills to work with all governmental units for the benefit of all.</p>

## CANDIDATES FOR UNION TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Vote for four (4)

**QUESTION ONE:** What practices are in place or would you like to see in place to ensure the Board adequately responds to the demands of township growth?

**QUESTION TWO:** What is your position regarding the sharing of governmental services such as fire, police, parks and recreation, water and sewage treatment among local units of government?

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>QUESTION ONE</b>	<b>QUESTION TWO</b>
<b>Alex Fuller Republican</b>	Material not available	Material not available	Material not available
<p><b>Marian L. McDonald Republican</b></p> <p>960 South Whiteville Road, Mt. Pleasant Age: 73</p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> Retired</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Graduate of Coleman High School</p>	<p>I was elected and served 18 years as Union Township Clerk, 1978-1996. I have been a Trustee for 18 years, 1990-2008, currently on the board. I worked on the election board for several years before and since. Because I have been involved in Union Township decisions for the past 30 years, I feel I can serve the residents of Union Township well.</p>	<p>I will continue to keep the Township financially safe and work with the Board on projects we feel are the best for our residents.</p>	<p>Regarding sewer or water sharing with the City of Mt. Pleasant we were unable to form a joint sewer authority thus we went on our own. We are expanding our current facility and can furnish our expanding township well. Police we feel the total amount of tax dollars we give to the County especially since our growth the last 3 years--should be adequate for the County to put extra deputies in place.</p>
<b>Tracy Nelson Republican</b>	Material not available	Material not available	Material not available

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>QUESTION ONE</b>	<b>QUESTION TWO</b>
<p><b>Brian Wood Republican</b></p> <p>5053 Corvallis Drive Mt. Pleasant Age 33</p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> Barber</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Military Training and Education, Barber College</p>	<p>4 years Military; 6 years Church Leadership with Youth and Community Ministries. Self-employed Small Business Owner.</p>	<p>More responsible decision making when it comes to rezoning. Maintain the integrity of our residential areas. Better process for deciding what are true needs and wants of the Township. Fiscal responsibility. Work together instead of fighting with neighboring government units.</p>	<p>If adequate funding is provided for a service and is able to be performed at a quality level by the unit providing the service, then sharing can be beneficial to both governing units. But if not, the unit requiring service should provide its own.</p>
<p><b>John Dinse Democrat</b></p> <p>1206 East High St Mt. Pleasant Age: 65</p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> Retired CMU Political Science Faculty Member, Currently part time CMU instructor</p> <p><b>Education:</b> AB, U of M; MA, WMU; Ph.D., Indiana University</p>	<p>37 year Isabella Co. resident; Member, Isabella Commission on Aging Advisory Board; Member, steering committee for construction of new COA senior center; Chair, Mt. Pleasant Area Diversity Group; Executive committee member, Michigan Assn for Higher Education; President, CMU Faculty Assn.; Chairperson, CMU Academic Senate.</p>	<p>The growth of Union Township's population, coupled with increased real estate and commercial development, require changes in the governance and administration of the Township. In particular, citizens need to have more opportunity for input into decisions. Union Township government has to be made more open and accountable to the larger interest of the population. Township administration should be improved in terms of professionalism, promptness, equal treatment, and courtesy in responding to residents' concerns and requests.</p>	<p>Local governmental units should be more cooperative in sharing services. Sometimes in the past, attempts to form partnerships among the City, County, and Townships have been undermined by reluctance to share power equitably. The public interest would be served by leaders focusing on the actual costs and benefits of joint provision of public services. Systematic analysis should be given to greater cooperation in the areas of recycling, public safety, roads, and land use planning.</p>

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>QUESTION ONE</b>	<b>QUESTION TWO</b>
<p><b>Tim Lannen Democrat</b></p> <p>1129 Meadow Dr. Mt. Pleasant</p> <p>Age: 47</p> <p><b>Education:</b> BS in Education, CMU 1986; Associates in Fire Science, MMCC 2006</p>	<p>2002-present: Fire Safety Officer, State of Michigan, Dept of Community Health, Mt Pleasant Center; 1992-present: Firefighter/Medical First Responder, City of Mt. Pleasant; 1986-2002 Supply- chain management of high voltage electrical products to Michigan Municipal Electric Dept., Rural Electric Co- operatives and Michigan's Investor Owned Utilities.</p>	<p>As citizens of Union Township we have the right, if we choose, to be involved in the democratic process. Government cannot be viewed as a machine outside our control. As voters, it is our charge to encourage and support candidates that will view their role on the board, as a professional obligation, and who will critically think through the issues before them, while considering the short and long term, big picture impacts on the Township citizens.</p>	<p>Fire and police services are life safety services. These services regularly cross geographic governmental boundaries. The professionals providing these services understand the importance of clear lines of communication and authority, and therefore follow the Incident Command System during an emergency. Boards of local government certainly should consider all options available to improve services, safety, and recreational opportunities and facilities to its citizens. All citizens deserve that their tax dollars be maximized to provide them well.</p>

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>QUESTION ONE</b>	<b>QUESTION TWO</b>
<p><b>Phil Mikus</b> <b>Democrat</b></p> <p>2163 Cornerstone Drive Mt. Pleasant Age: 53</p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> Recycling Manager, Granger Companies</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Completing Bachelor of Arts, CMU</p>	<p>Lifelong area resident. Witnessed the growth and development of Union Township. Past Recycling Coordinator, Isabella County (1987-1990); past chairman, Michigan Recycling Coalition (2005-2007); manager of sales for the multi-million dollar recycling division of the Granger Companies (1990-present); current chairman of the Friends of the Broadway Theatre. Married, home owner.</p>	<p>Continued successful growth in Union Township will rely on adequate long range planning, collaborative efforts among local elected officials, and investment from the private sector. We need to create long range capital budgets to manage our growth. I support new approaches to planning and development that will protect the environment, encourage pedestrian traffic, and promote private investment.</p>	<p>The sharing of governmental services must be a balanced equation for all of the local units involved. Sitting down to discuss our shared needs, and determine what each can bring to the table is the first step toward reaching a solution. There are many models of successful governmental partnership that benefit the citizens of each body. My first goal will be to support better public safety services for residents.</p>
<p><b>John P. Verwey</b> <b>Democrat</b></p>	<p>Material not available</p>	<p>Material not available</p>	<p>Material not available</p>
<p><b>Ernest E. Cantu</b> <b>Independent</b></p> <p>2770 Sable Court Mt. Pleasant Age: 61</p> <p><b>Education:</b> High School Diploma plus some college</p>	<p>Born and raised in Alma and St. Louis area. Moved to Isabella County about 7 years ago.</p>	<p>Need community input. Listen to what the people have to say.</p>	<p>Make sure that there is an open line of communication between all units of government and make sure the decisions that are made are in the best interest of the township.</p>

CANDIDATE	BACKGROUND/ EXPERIENCE	QUESTION ONE	QUESTION TWO
<p><b>Jim Horton</b> <b>Independent</b></p> <p>3089 Hunters Trail Mt. Pleasant Age: 45</p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> Pharmacy Director for Six Pharmacies in the Central Michigan area</p> <p><b>Education:</b> J.D. Cum Laude, Detroit College of Law, 1992; B.S.Pharm., Ferris State University, 1987</p>	<p>Union Township Trustee (Elected Republican) 2004- Present; Union Township Planning Commissioner 2004- Present; Union Township Zoning Board of Appeals, 1999-2004; Mount Pleasant Public Schools Board of Education 1999-2004 (Elected Twice); Pharmacy Director/Business Owner; Married for 19 years with 3 teenage children.</p>	<p>Union Township has experienced significant commercial growth over the last few years. The importance of balancing this growth with the preservation of neighborhoods has to be a board priority. The development of Internet based information and payment services needs to be continued. Finally, continuing and improving the communication and cooperation with other local units of government is necessary to ensure that Union Township remains a desired place to live and operate a business.</p>	<p>As a resident of Union Township, it is important to me that the taxes I pay are used in the most fiscally sound way possible. The sharing of governmental services is a sound idea in the economic times of today. Communication and cooperation is necessary in order to accomplish this mission with other governmental entities. It is important that Union Township maintain a leading role if such sharing would occur.</p>