

VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION
COUNTY COMMISSIONER – DISTRICT 4

Tuesday, November 6, 2018
POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OAKLAND AREA

Website: www.lwvoa.org

E-mail: contact@lwvoa.org

Phone: 248-594-6602

2 Candidates for COUNTY COMMISSIONER for ONE 2-year term

CANDIDATES for <u>COUNTY COMMISSION</u> ONE 2-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i>	Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for County Commissioner and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues that the County Commission should address and what actions would you, as a commissioner, take regarding each of them?
<p><i>Republican</i> TOM MIDDLETON 6928 Tapon Dr. Clarkston, MI 48346</p>	<p>Life-long Oakland County resident, married to Kathy for 50 years with three grown children and four grandchildren. Active as Oakland County Commissioner serving as Chairperson of Finance and a member of Personnel Committee; Oakland County Employee Retirement Commission; County Drain Board; and on five lake boards. Served as president of Michigan Association of Conservation Districts and the National Association of Conservation Districts' Great Lakes Committee. Involved with Oakland County MSU Extension Leadership Council and Past President of Clarkston Area Optimist Club. Formerly a State Representative serving on the Appropriations Committee, member of Oxford Board of Education and a 4-H leader. I have been a farmer for 50 years with a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture & Natural Resources Communications from MSU. I bring to the Commission my experience in business, leadership, active community participation and balancing state and county budgets without raising taxes.</p>	<p>AAA BOND RATING The county needs to stay focused on a solid fiscal plan to maintain our AAA credit rating. This excellent bond rating helps all units of government in Oakland County save taxpayers' dollars. AAA bond rating attracts businesses that are looking to relocate, giving them the confidence that Oakland County is a fiscally well run county.</p> <p>CREATE JOBS Jobs that provide services needed by seniors could make the county more senior friendly and also help reduce unemployment numbers. The County Executive's Economic Development program is a means of identifying those jobs that are needed.</p> <p>AMENDMENTS TO THE MICHIGAN INDIGENT DEFENSE ACT The County Board of Commissioners has to be ready to make changes to the budget to cover a \$9 million unfunded mandate, passed on to the county by the state, which would provide lawyer services for indigent persons. For Oakland County this cost would not include necessary physical adjustments to facilities and adding prosecutors.</p>

COUNTY COMMISSIONER – DISTRICT 4 (Continued)

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<p>Democrat TED VILLELLA 5691 S. Aylesbury Dr. Waterford, MI 48327</p>	<p>I was born the third of seven children in a small town near Pittsburgh, PA. I hold a BA in Sociology from Oakland University and a Master of Education with a specialization in Instructional Technology from Wayne State University.</p> <p>As a County Commissioner, in the beginning, my strongest focus will be on Constituent Services. Senior Services are a high priority, transportation, access to affordable health care including mental health, dental, and vision – the common-sense stuff. Oakland County residents of all ages need access to services like these and the County can be more pro-active in making sure everyone is included.</p> <p>My second focus is on Legislative Oversight. The County funds various programs and services. An important part of the job is to assess the effects of those programs and services. I have expertise in assessment and evaluation. Oakland County residents need to know how well their government is doing. We cannot manage what we decline to measure.</p>	<p>Roads are first and what I would do cannot be explained in less than 1000 characters - simply unrealistic. All county issues must be addressed. Prioritizing them ensures some will never be addressed. Fix what is broken? No, do sound research to discover what citizens want and how to address it. The board is uniquely situated to be the unit of county government that keeps an eye on the future. Good commissioners must anticipate changes in society. A vision of the future becomes reality is through enabling legislation. I will be working to keep the entire county operation focused on excellence and cost effectiveness, while maintaining integrity and transparency. Being a research based in my endeavors, I will benchmark the best to learn how to improve.</p> <p>As a nation we are moving into uncharted waters. Polarity has never been worse. Our two-party system is failing under the weight of this polarity. We need fair-minded Commissioners willing to reach anywhere a consensus can be found.</p>

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan national organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party. Candidate responses are included as submitted and have not been edited except in cases where the replies have exceeded the stated word limitations. **Spelling and Grammar were not corrected.** The inclusion of candidates' statements and opinions 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 which takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by the candidates.