

VOTER GUIDE – AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION
TOWNSHIP OF GROVELAND

Tuesday, August 4, 2020
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

You may VOTE in ONLY ONE PARTY'S PRIMARY - either Democratic or Republican – for ALL partisan offices on ballot.
Note: Candidates are ordered within each office by party with Democrats preceding Republicans.

3 Candidates for TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR for ONE 4-year term

<p>CANDIDATES for SUPERVISOR</p> <p>ONE 4-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>Republican ROBERT DEPALMA 3315 Groveland Rd. Ortonville, MI 48462</p>	<p>I have been Township Supervisor for over 24 years, and worked for the Township in other capacities for a total of 40 years. I was the longest serving chairman of the Township Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals (16 years) in the township history. I have done the Township's first Master Plan and every subsequent update and revision since the late 70's. I have been President of the State Wide Township Supervisors Association, and Oakland County Chapter of the Michigan Township Association. I am Vice Chairman of the County Solid Waste Committee, and a long-term member of the Federal Aide Surface Funding Committee, which is where federal paving money comes from.</p> <p>I would like to continue to bring additional improvement to our communities quality of life, while continuing to control our municipalities taxes. I want to maintain our best in class (lowest in the area) tax status.</p>	<p>The first issue is managing growth to preserve our "Up North Feel" of living here. This is done by managing the Master Plan and Zoning.</p> <p>The second is to continue to provide improvements to the quality of life, and reducing the cost of living here, through creative solutions without tax increases. Programs like NO HAZ (for hazardous waste), is one example. Funding the ISO study to lower home owners insurance cost, the most paving and repaving road projects, and gravel road work in our history are others. Our solution to become the Groveland Township Gas Company serves over 700 of our residents with natural gas, at a 40% reduced installation.</p> <p>The third priority is to continue our efforts to make sure the taxes we pay are a good value for service provided. We lowered taxes in 2019 and 2020 to the lowest township taxes in our history.</p>

GROVELAND TOWNSHIP PRIMARY (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for SUPERVISOR</p> <p>ONE 4-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>Republican STEPHANIE NICHOLSON 9540 Kier Rd. Holly, MI 48442</p>	<p>I am 38 years old, and have lived in Groveland Twp my whole life and am raising my family here. I'm a wife, mom, sister, daughter and career driven. My great grandparents and grandparents had businesses that served the township for many years and resided in Groveland Twp until they passed. My in-laws also resided in Groveland Twp and had a business which served the community until their passing. My husband has lived here all his life as well and has proudly served on Groveland Twp Fire Dept for 19.5 years and counting. Our family roots are here and we want to continue that tradition.</p> <p>I am running for Groveland Twp Supervisor to bring a change, to allow the residents to have their voices heard and not dismissed, to maintain protection and safety and make sure that our residents and business owners are aware and notified of all of their options. I am a certified firefighter and licensed paramedic, I also hold 2 Associates Degrees, a Bachelors Degree and a Masters Degree. I served on Groveland Twp Fire Dept for 6 years. I bring years of experience in management, administration, finance, safety, medical and team work. My candidacy for this position is for the residents.</p>	<p>The 3 issues facing Groveland Twp is maintaining our fire department at full capacity, bringing more community involvement & the growth within the township with the new ORV park.</p> <p>Groveland Twp Fire Department is our township's heart and soul. This is the only service that the residents pay for so this service should never be tampered with & all options should be investigated to maintain this service, which I would make my priority as the leader of the community.</p> <p>Groveland Twp is a small community that participates with other communities but our township has many options & talented individuals & companies that should be promoted. We also have a fire department with dedicated staff who have a lot to offer the residents if they knew those services were available. I would work with those that would want to take advantage of these services and get the information out there.</p> <p>The new ORV park is being built in Groveland Twp and with it will come new businesses, more traffic & more people. There needs to be a pre-plan & continuous monitoring to make sure that the township is prepared to handle the increase in traffic, people & emergency services while still covering the twp.</p>

GROVELAND TOWNSHIP PRIMARY (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for SUPERVISOR</p> <p>ONE 4-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>Republican KEVIN R. SCRAMLIN 16449 Windy Knoll Holly, MI 48442</p>	<p>Having deep roots in the community, the Scramlin family has lived, worked and been an active part of Groveland Township since 1910. As owner and operator of Scramlin Farms, I have worked sun up until sun down farming in and around the community. My knowledge of the land, the people and what our township was built upon and stands for is plentiful. My dedication to the community and it's people along with keeping the small town, country feel is what I plan to take to the Township offices as I am running to become Groveland Township's Supervisor. Having been a Groveland Township resident my entire life, I am not a career politician that has spent decades in elected office, but a genuine, hard working person just like you. Common sense has seemed to have slipped away from our decision makers, and I plan to bring it back by making decisions through the eyes of a lifelong resident, not a power-driven politician. Let's build a better township together through open communication, community involvement, and down-to-earth decision making! Groveland is a great place to live and grow, let's make this possible for the generations to come! Vote so that we may have this opportunity together</p>	<p>Our township office has struggled with issues such as giving the residents a voice in the decision-making processes that are of concern in the day to day living in Groveland Township. I plan to give the voice back to the residents and let it be heard.</p> <p>The transparency of the operations of the township and ensuring that the Groveland Township residents are informed accurately and the proper chain of commands among elected officials has been in debate. I plan to inform the residents with accurate information with no ill intent other than serving the community and it's best interest as a whole.</p> <p>In the past, Groveland township officials have proposed changes to our Fire Department leaving our residents feeling powerless.</p> <p>Groveland Township is home to our Fire and First Responders! In order to provide our Groveland residents with the very best service, I plan to work towards any future agreements and make decisions or changes for the safety of the community and for those that serve and protect us.</p>

GROVELAND TOWNSHIP PRIMARY (Continued)

2 Candidates for TOWNSHIP CLERK for ONE 4-year term

<p>CANDIDATES for CLERK</p> <p>ONE 4-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>Republican PATTI BACK 735 Wolfe Rd. Ortonville, MI 48462</p>	<p>I am the current Groveland Township Clerk, appointed to serve in 2018. My husband Greg and I moved our family to Groveland in 1990 and raised four children who graduated from Brandon High School. I began working for the Groveland Township Fire Department in 1997 and moved to the Township offices where I served in many roles. In 2009 the Board chose me as the Deputy Clerk. I have earned my Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk certificate. I am a graduate of the Michigan Township Association Governance Academy. I have completed the State of Michigan Election Officials Accreditation Program. I am a current member of the Oakland County Clerk’s Association, Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks, International Institute of Municipal Clerks, and the Oakland County Chapter of the Michigan Township Association. I work with residents daily and am a diligent advocate for every resident.</p> <p>www.pattiforclerk.com</p>	<p>I want to keep Groveland Township aligned with the Master Plan. I want to complete efforts surrounding the township property development near the ORV park and the building of a new Fire Station 1, as well as, examine the possible installation of sewers along the Dixie Byway. I am looking forward to continuing to serve the residents and working with others on the Board in proactive ways. I am focused on providing the residents with the balance between the rural up-north feeling that brought them to Groveland Township, continuing low tax bills, and exploring amenities that residents bring to our attention.</p>
<p>Republican NICHOLE TOLLIVER 7201 Perryville Holly, MI 48442</p>	<p align="center">DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</p>	

GROVELAND TOWNSHIP PRIMARY (Continued)

2 Candidates for TREASURER for ONE 4-year term

<p>CANDIDATES for TREASURER</p> <p>ONE 4-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>Republican THERESA BILLS 4163 McGinnis Rd. Holly, MI 48442</p>	<p>My husband and I have lived here over 20 years, raised our two sons in Brandon Schools and we love the up north feel of our community. We run our own small business and have served many local residents. Living here is special and I want to preserve this way of life. I worked in education for over 30 years. That taught me great team building and leadership skills. Trust-based leadership requires taking ownership of all aspects of a job and being prepared. It means making no excuses, anticipating misconceptions and looking for ways to overcome obstacles and provide resources to meet needs. I transitioned to working in the township for the past 4 years. I have been cross trained in all departments. Right now the treasury department has a need for a leader with my qualities and skills. My Bachelor's degree in mathematics, analytical problem solving approach, training and experience in Assessment, Taxation, Accounting, and Investments along with my respectful, friendly way qualifies me to be your elected Treasurer. I've always had a servants heart and strive to empower others to succeed. I want be part of a leadership team that works for the benefit of all the residents.</p>	<p>Preserving our revenue streams, keeping taxes low and providing services to residents. Loss of state level revenue sharing will impact the township's finances. I know how to look for supplemental resources to replace lost funds so we can continue to provide services for residents without dipping into savings meant for infrastructure. Supporting the development of a commercial tax base on township owned property near the new ORV park will provide a revenue stream for the future to ensure that taxes remain low. During the coronavirus, the number of people wanting to complete transactions without coming into the office increased. To better serve them, I will work with the township board to analyze our procedures to determine which ones could be streamlined to provide remote access for residents. I will work with our financial institutions, vendors and Oakland County offices to explore paperless options for many common tasks, thus saving taxpayers money. One additional priority would be to make monthly meetings more accessible by video recording them in-house and posting them to our township website, grovelandtownship.net, YouTube channel and FaceBook page: Groveland Twp.</p>

GROVELAND TOWNSHIP PRIMARY (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for <u>TREASURER</u></p> <p>ONE 4-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>Republican SHELLY KIDD 3690 Grange Hall Rd. Holly, MI 48442</p>	<p>I am running to remain the Groveland Township Treasurer because I have lived in Groveland Township for 43 years and I care about providing the best quality of service for our community. I took every opportunity to educate myself as a Treasurer. I took a 3-year educational program with the Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association (MMTA) and Central Michigan University, I was awarded my certification as a Michigan Certified Professional Treasurer (MiCPT) in June of 2018. I continue to educate myself in the MMTA Advance Institute. I have served as Groveland Township's Deputy Treasurer for 3 and a half years. In January 2019, I was unanimously appointed to serve as Groveland Township's Treasurer. I have been a good steward of our tax dollars. I have worked diligently to maximize the township's rate of return on investments. My fiduciary responsibilities include the distribution of tax and PILT payments, balancing the tax roll and submitting settlement to Oakland County, which I have done for the past 5 years and have balanced to the penny. I know what is required to run the treasurers office and I possess the skills and knowledge to fulfill the statutory duties and responsibilities.</p>	<p>I believe our number one priority is to preserve and maintain our safe rural environment. With the vast amount of land owned by the State of Michigan in Groveland Township and receiving Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), I would promote the development of family orientated businesses and recreational facilities that align with Groveland Townships Master Plan along the Dixie Highway corridor. To ensure tax revenue for the township, while also keeping our rural environment intact. Next, Groveland Township Fire Department millage has expired and is up for renewal. I encourage our residents to exercise their constitutional duty and vote to either, renew the millage or reject the millage. Last but not least, keeping taxes low and affordable for our residents. I look for innovative new revenue streams, reduce spending where it can be reduced, and maximize the rate of return on investments of public funds. Also, streamline and cut redundant procedures to maximize the tasks performed in a shorter amount time, while still maintaining and giving the best possible service to our residents.</p>

GROVELAND TOWNSHIP PRIMARY (Continued)

3 Candidates for TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE for TWO 4-year terms

<p>CANDIDATES for TRUSTEE</p> <p>TWO 4-year terms</p> <p><i>Vote for no more than TWO</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</p> <p>Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</p> <p>What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p><i>Republican</i></p> <p>JIM CHRISTOPHER</p> <p>901 S. Brandt Rd. Ortonville, MI 48462</p>	<p>My wife and I have had the pleasure of living in Groveland Township since 2000. I hold a MS degree in Business Management with concentrations in finance, operations management and strategic planning. In addition, I have the pleasure of a lengthy and successful career within the inter-related disciplines that comprise real estate management -- program, project, construction, facility and property management -- with a lifetime of business-related insights from common labor to senior management. My peers and colleagues think of me as a highly approachable, strategic, analytical and innovative leader.</p> <p>I have supported our Township for many years as a member of the Board of Review and Board of Zoning Appeals; Liaison to the Oakland County CISMA; Planning Commissioner and Trustee -- these last two positions are current..</p> <p>In the course of execution of the Township strategic plan my education, business and Township-specific experience will be of critical value as we move forward to develop property -- creating a revenue stream to lessen the cost of living within our Township.</p>	<p>Our Township is challenged by the significant area of non tax producing land. In an effort to lessen the cost of living as well as fund key services within the Township, innovative solutions such as signage, cellular tower and land leases augment what can be garnered through property taxes.</p> <p>Similar to the efforts just cited, the recent creation of a State and County supported Off Road Vehicle (ORV) park offers an incredibly unique opportunity to create a significant and enduring income stream for our Township through the development of adjacent, Township-owned property. Development of the property will create rental income and the park will draw a business tax base to the community. The park and well-executed development of our property are of significant importance.</p> <p>Retention of the Michigan State Police is an effective and economically responsible solution to law enforcement within the Township and remains a priority on equal footing with the retention of the Fire Department -- now secured by a fiscally responsible and enduring plan that should provide the basis for its identity for years to come.</p>

GROVELAND TOWNSHIP PRIMARY (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for TRUSTEE</p> <p>TWO 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than TWO</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>Republican GINA MUZZARELLI 3119 Groveland Rd. Ortonville, MI 48462</p>	<p>Gina loves our rural community, she has always been community minded and served in both volunteer and elected positions since moving to the Ortonville area in 1991. BGO, BGYA, Small Planet co-op, Brandon All Sports Boosters, Brandon Band Parent Group and the Brandon School Board are some examples. She participated in the Groveland Twp. master plan meetings and will continue to work for, help to maintain and follow the vision, which aligns with the master plan that the citizens of the Township helped to create in Groveland.</p> <p>Representing the majority of township constituents is a priority.</p> <p>She has an investigative nature, the drive to research, ask questions to form an opinion and make confident decisions based on a broad scope of information.</p> <p>Gina enjoys teamwork that offers each member's perspective and is not one to feel inhibited or stifled to express our own thoughts or concerns.</p> <p>She is passionate about health, food and influencing the correction of environmental practices that are harmful to our health and food sources. Since 1978, she has worked in and attended colleges and universities in various medical disciplines. Her life mission is patient advocacy.</p>	<p>The master plan for the township. I will work to maintain and follow the vision, which aligns with the master plan that the citizens of the Township helped to create in Groveland Twp. that clearly states the wish to maintain the rural up north feel of the township while exploring taxable revenue streams.</p> <p>CONTINUING fiscal responsibility, I take very seriously that a trustee is co responsible for the fiduciary health of the township. I support a size appropriate, cross-trained staff as stated in the employee handbook to provide services to our residents. I expect honest and open communication, monthly up to date reports that are essential to monitoring a long term plan which keeps the fire department in tact to service Groveland Twp residents and maintain its training, support of personnel and ISO rating, keeping the Michigan State police post, NO HAZ and dumpster services for the residents.</p> <p>Legal counsel - questioning the legal guidance provided by both the legal service hired and the conflicting answers from the Michigan guidance available to townships. I will continue to request clarification and accountability for the services and the "answers" we are paying for.</p>

GROVELAND TOWNSHIP PRIMARY (Continued)

CANDIDATES for TRUSTEE TWO 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than TWO</i>	Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?
<p><i>Republican</i> SUSAN TAYLOR 508 N. Brandt Rd. P. O. Box 651 Ortonville, MI 48462</p>	<p>As a 22-year resident of Groveland Township, I have not only fallen in love with our community, but I have heeded the call to serve. I have been married to Norm for 24 years and I am the proud Mom of Hunter. I've been attached to this community since the mid 70's with family ties to Ortonville and loved this community as a child.</p> <p>I am not a career Politician but have made the choice to become involved where I see the need for a true representative for the residents and to be a voice for the fine residents of Groveland Township. I bring to the table leadership as well as team building skills which I obtained as a Customer Relations Director with Chrysler, Volvo and Toyota eventually working with, assisting and implementing the Right From the Start program with Chrysler. I bring empathy, level headedness, rational, fresh eyes and a uncompromisable work ethic for service. As a former membership chair and trustee for the Ortonville Historical Society in the late 90's to early 2000's, I started the Saturday Coffee Café' to help support the Mill with donations that eventually assisted in the completion of the Military display on the second floor.</p>	<p>I feel that it is time for change as change can be a great thing. We simply cannot settle for the status quo and the way it has always been done approach. New ideas, new approaches, new eyes and a new team that would work well together for the betterment for the future of our Township is what is needed. Maintaining our Fire Department is paramount. With the ORV park slated to open later this summer, it will be exciting to see the changes and possible growth to Dixie Highway with new businesses moving in adding to our tax base revenue. We are on a precipice and it is an exciting time for our Township. Maintaining the rural aura of our Township is paramount. That is one of the main reasons why we choose to make Groveland Township our home. Having a country feel and atmosphere that people drive hours to obtain right out our back door is an amazing blessing and it is important to retain that country feel. I would also love to see more community involvement. I would like to see Community Days at the Township offices. An opportunity to meet and mingle with not only your neighbors, but your Township representatives in a fun, casual, upbeat location. Our Township park would be perfect.</p>

THERE IS 1 PROPOSAL ON THE BALLOT.

<p>FIRE MILLAGE RENEWAL</p>	<p>Shall the Township of Groveland, Oakland County, Michigan, for the purpose of providing fire, rescue and related services in the township through the Groveland Township Fire Department, be authorized to levy on all taxable real property within Groveland Township for a period of four (4) years (2020 thru 2023 inclusive) up to 3.8005 mills on each dollar (\$3.8005 per \$1,000) of taxable value as finally equalized pursuant to Michigan law? If approved, the first year shall be levied at 3.5000 mills, generating estimated revenue of \$801,974.25</p>
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