

**VOTER GUIDE – AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION**  
***CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE***

**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](http://www.lwvoa.org)

**E-mail:** [contact@lwvoa.org](mailto: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.**

**1 Candidate for TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR for ONE 4-year term**

**PATRICK J. KITTLE** 4647 Oakhurst Ridge Rd., Clarkston, MI 48348

**1 Candidate for TOWNSHIP CLERK for ONE 4-year term**

**CARI J. NEUBECK** 6225 Simler Dr., Clarkston, MI 48346

**1 Candidate for TREASURER for ONE 4-year term**

**RACHEL LOUGHRIN** 6859 Deerhill Dr., Clarkston, MI 48346

## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP PRIMARY (Continued)

### 7 Candidates for TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE for FOUR 4-year terms

<b>CANDIDATES for TRUSTEE</b>  <b>FOUR 4-year terms</b> <i>Vote for no more than FOUR</i>	<b>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</b> <b>Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</b>	<b>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</b> <b>What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</b>
<i>Republican</i> <b>JOSE ALIAGA</b> 7610 Clintonville Rd. Clarkston, MI 48348	<b>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</b>	
<i>Republican</i> <b>PAUL A. BROWN</b> 8684 Thendara Clarkston, MI 48348	My family moved to Clarkston in 1968 and I attended Clarkston Schools. I love my community and if the voters believe that my background as a CPA and Executive, along with my knowledge of the community can bring value to the Township Board, I would be happy to server one last term as a Trustee. I have already served 7 years as Treasurer and 1 as a Trustee and I'm proud of what we have accomplished. While I'm ready and willing to serve again, I also believe that the board should be reflect input from candidates who are newer residents as well. There are several candidates who are newer to the community that I think could serve us well with fresh ideas. I've always seen public office as "public service" and not as a career. If I'm not elected, you'll probably find me in the audience at future meetings. It's been a great board and I've enjoyed working with them.	1) The impact of Covid-19 will be financially significant for the Township. We are losing hundreds of thousands of dollars in State shared revenue and we have a lot of work to do to tighten our spending. This issue must be solved without increasing taxes and I'm confident we can do so.  2) Facilitate planning and growth that will attract young families to the community. Projections currently have our fastest growing category as the over 55 age bracket. We need to keep balance for the future.  3) We have worked the past 2 years trying to acquire additional green space for parks. I think this remains an important item as the community builds out based on the master plan. If we don't save space now, we won't be able to in the future.

## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP PRIMARY (Continued)

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<p><i>Republican</i>  <b>SAM MORACO</b>                      8815 Pine Knob Rd.                      Clarkston, MI 48348</p>	<p>An Independence Township resident since 1996, I moved here with my wife of 35 years, Kelly, a City of Detroit school teacher, and my two daughters, ages 19 and 26. My wife and I are both military veterans. I have been a licensed builder since 1991 and have been building and renovating residential homes since then. I started building in this area with the 2nd phase of the Spring Lake Subdivision on Maybee Road. We have lived in three areas of the Township since then and are now in the rural part of the community, north of I-75.</p> <p>I have served on the Independence Township Planning Commission for almost 20 years. First appointed in 2003, I was involved in creating and updating our Master Plan three times. I am certified in Community Planning, Ecological Fundamental and the Michigan society of Planning through the Michigan State University Extension Program. I have also taken classes for Elected and Appointed Officials from the Michigan Association of Planners. I achieved my Master Citizen Planner Certification in 2005.</p> <p>In my capacity as a Planning Commissioner for the Township, I have helped to spearhead the revitalization of the Dixie Highway Plan and the Twp. Greenways plan</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I recognize the protection and preservation of the rural character of our community is most significant in importance. It is vital to identify and maintain the balance between commercial developments, understanding the need for commercial services and keeping the streetscape more rural in nature and respectful of the history of our community development.</li> <li>2. I wish to see to it that the Board provides true transparency to the residents. Engaging with residents through the use of the local newspaper and social media on a regular basis to provide meaningful updates about ordinance changes that affect the character of the Township, to provide residents with actual proposed changes and ample time to respond and provide input to local government.</li> <li>3. I intend to advocate for and implement effective and proper use and of local tax dollars, to provide for the staffing, funding, and upgrading of our Fire First Responders and Equipment Management as it has been intended. Bring the readiness force back up to 10-12 staff per day as was promised residents when the last millage passed. Instigate the sale of hundreds of thousands of dollars of decommissioned equipment the Township has stor...</li> </ol>
<p><i>Republican</i>  <b>TERRI NALLAMOTHU</b>                      7427 Foxburg Ct.                      Clarkston, MI 48348</p>	<p><b>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</b></p>	

## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP PRIMARY (Continued)

<b>CANDIDATES for TRUSTEE</b>  <b>FOUR 4-year terms</b> <i>Vote for no more than FOUR</i>	<b>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</b> <b>Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</b>	<b>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</b> <b>What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?</b>
<p><i>Republican</i>  <b>RONALD A. RITCHIE</b>                      4643 Eddystone Cir.                      Clarkston, MI 48346</p>	<p>I am a 25 year resident of Clarkston and former owner of Terry Machine Company, an automotive fastener manufacturer located on Dixie Highway. I am currently a Sr Account Manager at Kamax Inc, a fastener manufacturer; located in Rochester Hills.</p> <p>I am a current two term Independence Township Trustee, running for re-election. For the last eight years, I have been the Board of Trustees liaison officer and member to the Planning Commission. I also currently serve on the Financial Audit , Elections, Van Norman Lake Improvement board, and Safety Path committees. I have served on many other committees and study groups over the past 8 years to improve township procedures and employee processes that maintain operational efficiency and taxpayer money.</p>	<p>The Top 3 Priorities?; the budget, the budget and the budget! Departments like public safety, fire department, parks recreation &amp; seniors, DPW all have major cost pressures added to them with the COVID-19 crisis. The loss in State revenue sharing that is reducing by hundreds of thousands of dollars will make all local governments take major cost cutting steps within the 2020 calendar year and into the future. Keeping a balanced budget with appropriate reserves is a must. New work procedures for social distancing and the re-opening of each department is causing much stress on employees as we process new ways to perform our duties while interacting with the public. The residents of Independence Township have authorize the prioritization of many miles of local roads to be resurfaced during 2020 and 2021, helping to end the frustration of our bad roads. I want to continue to maintain the small-town charm of Independence Township, while modernizing it's infrastructure to support the growth of new housing and businesses. This is the place that my family and I want to live, work and play!</p>
<p><i>Republican</i>  <b>HEIDI R. WARRINGTON</b>                      5366 Wild Daisy Ct.                      Clarkston, MI 48346</p>	<p><b>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</b></p>	
<p><i>Republican</i>  <b>TERRY WHITNEY</b>                      4814 Sundale Dr.                      Clarkston, MI 48346</p>	<p><b>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</b></p>	

## INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP PRIMARY (Continued)

### THERE IS 1 PROPOSAL ON THE BALLOT.

<b>FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES OPERATING MILLAGE</b>	<p>Shall the Charter Township of Independence be authorized to levy up to 3.4509 mills for a period of five (5) years, starting with the December 2020 levy and expiring in December 2024, inclusive, for purposes of funding fire protection and emergency services, operations and capital expenditures, including advanced life support?</p> <p>In 2016, Township voters approved a millage for the above-stated purposes in the amount of 3.5653 mills. The 2016 millage expired in 2019 with a maximum allowable levy of 3.4509 mills. Approval of the above proposal would allow the Township to levy up to 3.4509 mills (being a continuation of the previously authorized fire and emergency services operating millage) as a new additional millage to replace the expired millage for purposes of continuing to provide fire protection and emergency services. Approval of this proposal would allow a tax limitation increase and approximate levy of \$3.45 per \$1,000 of taxable value on all taxable property in the Township. It is estimated that this proposal would result in the authorization to collect \$6,061,729.84 in the first year if approved and levied. It is estimated that 99.13% of the annual millage revenue would be disbursed to the Charter Township of Independence for fire protection and emergency services and, as required by law, 0.87% (8.7 tenths of one percent) would be disbursed to the Township's Sashabaw Road Corridor Improvement Authority. The amount disbursed to the Sashabaw Road Corridor Improvement Authority shall be collected solely from properties located in the Sashabaw Road Corridor Improvement Authority District.</p>
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