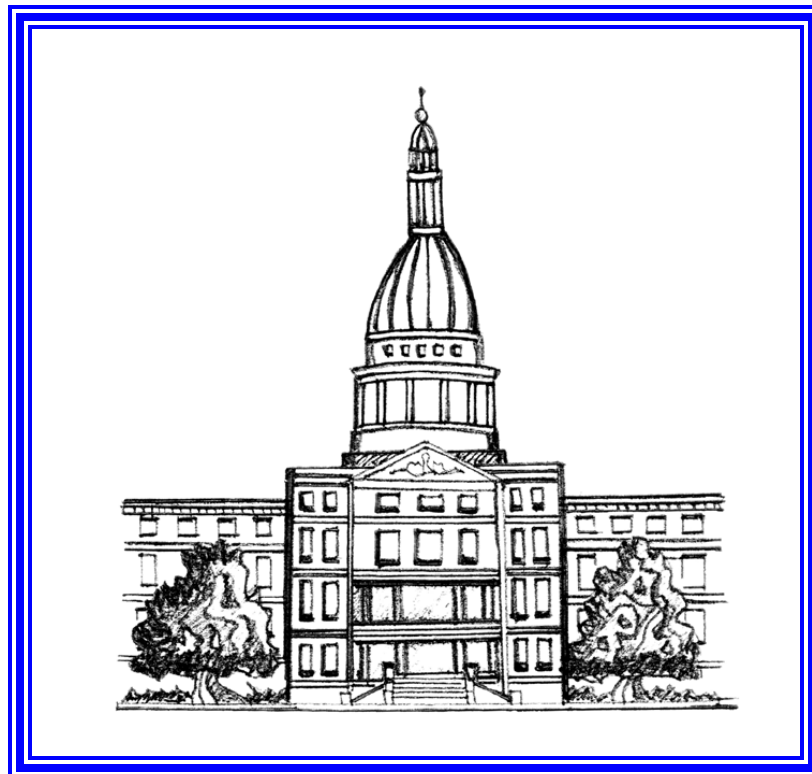




# League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area Voter Guide



## MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PRIMARY ELECTION August 5, 2008

Under a Michigan law upheld in July 2007 by the Michigan Supreme Court, ALL voters are required to show photo identification to vote at the polls. If you have no photo identification or don't have one with you, you must fill out and sign an affidavit in order to receive a ballot. The ID requirement does not apply to persons voting by absentee ballot.

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# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LANSING AREA VOTER GUIDE

## CANDIDATES FOR THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PRIMARY ELECTION

The League of Women Voters is a national nonpartisan organization established to encourage citizen participation in government. It never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. The League of Women Voters does support or oppose governmental action on issues after careful study, without regard to the stand of any political party. This Voter Guide is also available at: <http://lansing.mi.lwvnet.org>.

This guide was prepared with the help of League members, students and members of the community interested in the issues. The personal statement is limited to forty-five (45) words or fewer. The response to each question is limited to thirty-five (35) words. The answers are printed as submitted and have not been edited, except for necessary cutting when replies exceed the stated word limitations. If the candidate does not reply by the required date for publication, the words "Did not reply in time for publication" appear by the candidate's name. When a candidate exceeds the word limit the answer ends with an ellipse (...). They respond in alphabetical order by Party. The Michigan Secretary of State's Party will always appear first on the ballot. **All candidate responses are in bold.**

Publication of these statements and opinions of the candidates is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement thereof by the League of Women Voters. The League of Women Voters takes no responsibility for any of the views or facts as stated by the candidates.

Ingham County is holding a Primary on August 5, 2008. Candidates have been gracious enough to draft responses for this Voter's Guide. **All candidate responses are in bold.** The following races are covered in this Voter Guide.

Meridian Township Treasurer – 4 year term – Vote for 1 candidate

Meridian Township Trustee - 4 year term – Vote for 4 candidates

Meridian Township Park Commissioner – 4 year term – Vote for 5 candidates

Kathy Esselman

President

League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area

# Meridian Township Treasurer

**Election assigned to this office:** Primary Election 8/ 05 /2008

**Office Description:** The role of the elected Township Treasurer is to serve the dual role of Department Head and voting member of the Meridian Township policymaking board. The Treasurer's responsibilities include: serving as the township tax collector, bill payer, investor and supervisor of his/her department. (Meridian Charter Township website)

**Salary:** \$74,932.00 effective January 1, 2009

**Term of office:** 4 years

**Vote for 1**

## **TOM KLUNZINGER Republican (R)**

### PERSONAL STATEMENT:

**Previous service: Treasurer 1996-2000, Trustee 1980-1984. Established white drop box, made tax bills crystal-clear, initiated Redi-Ride service for Meridian, co-founded EDC, established Senior Day. Friend of Parks, 2001. Friends of Historic Meridian since 1976. Past Treasurer, Chair/President Ingham GOP/Riverwalk Theatre.**

1. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Treasurer?

**Prepare and send out property tax bills twice yearly, collect all property taxes and remit appropriate amounts to other units of government, invest Township funds, voting member of Township Board.**

2. How could the management of the Township's funds be improved?

**Options are limited by state law, which has not changed in many years. I would work with the legislature to expand the safe, legal investment options, to help us achieve a better rate of return.**

3. What is the great challenge facing the Treasurer's Office in the coming year?

**Securing collection of past-due residential and business property taxes resulting from the growing amount of delinquencies/foreclosures caused by Michigan's depressed economy.**

4. How could you streamline tax assessment and collection for businesses and individuals?

**Online billing/payment is an option, but third-party fees (credit cards, PayPal) must be paid by individual taxpayer, not by Township. State law may have to be changed to allow for paperless billing/collection.**

5. The Treasurer oversees collection of delinquent personal property taxes due to schools and other local authorities. How could this process be improved?

**After a short period of time, these delinquencies are turned over to County for collection, by state law. At the local level, the Treasurer should use communication and compassion to secure payment of delinquent taxes.**

## **BRUCE LITTLE (R)**

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

**I am the former Township Supervisor, who would like to serve the residents as Township Treasurer. I offer 30 years of assessing and property tax administration experience. I have been married to Susan for 30 years. We have 1 daughter Leslie who attends Central.**

1. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Treasurer?

**To assure the proper administration of the Townships Property Tax collection system. To participate as a member of the Townships Governing Board. To monitor and advise the board on property taxation matters**

2. How could the management of the Township's funds be improved?

**By investing all available funds in the safest highest yield accounts allowed by law. Monitor and curtail any excessive spending such as unneeded vehicles, and unrealistic retirement benefits.**

3. What is the great challenge facing the Treasurer's Office in the coming year?

**The most challenging thing facing the Treasurer and the Township Board will be adjusting to anticipated cuts in revenue sharing without increasing taxes.**

4. How could you streamline tax assessment and collection for businesses and individuals?

**To streamline tax assessments and collections, the township must first assure that the assessments are correct and fair. The township must have properly certified and qualified personnel in the Assessor's office.**

5. The Treasurer oversees collection of delinquent personal property taxes due to schools and other local authorities. How could this process be improved?

**The collection process must start immediately when the taxes go delinquent. The treasurer must monitor businesses for movement out of the township. Leans must be attached if equipment will leave the township.**

## **JULIE BRIXIE Democrat (D)**

### PERSONAL STATEMENT:

**I intend to continue the fiscally sound collection and investment policies our board has put in place over the last eight years. My record includes strong support of local schools and businesses, sound land use planning, and environmental stewardship. I am committed to our community.**

1. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Treasurer?

**The Treasurer collects both real and personal property taxes, and delinquent personal property taxes. The Treasurer also invests surplus Township funds in approved investment vehicles and is a voting member of the Township board.**

2. How could the management of the Township's funds be improved?

**Safety of principal is extremely important. With the recent subprime lending crisis, many banks have experienced a ratings drop. I intend to comprehensively review banks with Township funds to insure the safety of those funds.**

3. What is the great challenge facing the Treasurer's Office in the coming year?

**The economy. During difficult economic times business failures and mortgage foreclosures increase and impact the collection of taxes. I plan to work closely with the county treasurer to help our residents and businesses avoid foreclosure.**

4. How could you streamline tax assessment and collection for businesses and individuals?

**Property assessments are performed by the Assessing Department. I would consider exploring online payments for business and residential tax collection, if there is enough demand.**

5. The Treasurer oversees collection of delinquent personal property taxes due to schools and other local authorities. How could this process be improved?

**I intend to use the methods allowed by law for collection of delinquent personal property taxes including: seizure, tagging and sale of personal property subject to tax, and continue current use of small claims court.**

# MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

**Election assigned to this office:** Primary Election 8/05/08

**Office Description:** The trustees approve the budget, enact ordinances for the health, safety and welfare of the community and oversee Township Government

**Salary:** \$10,615 effective January 1, 2009

**Term:** four year term

**Partisan Election**

**Vote for FOUR (4) Candidates.**

## ANGELA J. BOLDREY (R)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

**Hi, I'm Angela Boldrey. I've spent my entire life in Michigan and now my husband and I are raising our family in Okemos. Currently, I'm a stay-at-home mom, but prior to this, I had over 10 years experience with the Michigan Legislature and other organizations.**

1. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Board of Trustees?

**To be the main force in defining our township as we'd like to see it. Setting goals and helping solve tough issues in times of need.**

2. How does your background help you be an effective trustee?

**Prior to being a stay-at-home mom, I spent over 10 years working with the people of Michigan, helping to solve their problems and joining forces to build a consensus on tough issues.**

3. How can the township find a proper balance between development and preservation of green spaces?

**We have a wonderful park and recreation program here and let's make sure it succeeds. But I also think we need to be actively looking for the best developments in Michigan's trying financial times.**

4. How can the township respond to higher fuel prices for its own vehicles and help townspeople reduce the costs of shopping and their own commutes?

**Taking care of the township vehicles and purchasing those that are fuel efficient, yet affordable, should be a priority. Also, encouraging carpooling and shopping for local produce would be a start.**

5. How would you evaluate the expansion of IT services and the development of the motor pool for police, fire and emergency vehicles?

**Anything that helps the members of our community accomplish things faster and saves the taxpayers money should always be applauded. Also, safety of our families and children should always be our #1 priority.**

## **SAM FRANGIE (R)**

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

**I'm running for trustee in Meridian Township. Married, with three children, I live in Okemos. I'm employed by LAFCU as vice president of adjustments. Previously, I served as Trustee in Delhi Township, and I feel that my past experience will help me succeed.**

1. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Board of Trustees?

**The Trustees are responsible to set the township's budget, approve the zoning and ordinance, but most importantly, ensuring the safety and well being of the citizens in Meridian Township.**

2. How does your background help you be an effective trustee?

**Being a former trustee in Delhi Township, I gained a tremendous amount of experience of this position. Additionally, my employment and running a business provides the understanding of the fiscal and legal aspects.**

3. How can the township find a proper balance between development and preservation of green spaces?

**Having visionary elected officials who understand the constitutionality of their decisions helps maintain quality of life and balances between development and preservation of green spaces. It also prevents future conflict and unnecessary legal expenses.**

4. How can the township respond to higher fuel prices for its own vehicles and help townspeople reduce the costs of shopping and their own commutes?

**Reduce the amount of large vehicles and increase the use of the motor pool method. Biking paths on main roads and bike racks in shopping areas would encourage residents to utilize alternative transportation.**

5. How would you evaluate the expansion of IT services and the development of the motor pool for police, fire and emergency vehicles?

**Expansion of IT services increases efficiency and aids in communication between fire, police, and emergency vehicles, which decreases the need for these vehicles. This is especially when dealing with a tight budget.**

## **LORENE K. LECHLER (R)**

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

**I've been a newspaper reporter, radio broadcaster and have traveled all over the world, but I love the diversity, wisdom and character of this community. I want to serve, grow and develop this township.**

1. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Board of Trustees?

**We are responsible for the health, safety and welfare of the community. We attend board meetings and participate in the decisions and deliberations. We investigate to make the best decisions prior to voting.**

2. How does your background help you be an effective trustee?

**I offer a background in education, past President of an International Woman's Group in St. Lucia, lots of counseling with teens, three years of working with underwriters.**

3. How can the township find a proper balance between development and preservation of green spaces?

**In our township we have to work at balancing both. We are initiating a green space plan and have purchased 500 acres for parks and areas where people can have retreats.**

4. How can the township respond to higher fuel prices for its own vehicles and help townspeople reduce the costs of shopping and their own commutes?

**We are not the road people, that is the county. We can talk with CATA about expanding and changing routes, encourage biking, scooters and create a commercial environment where the needed stores are right here.**

5. How would you evaluate the expansion of IT services and the development of the motor pool for police, fire and emergency vehicles?

**Information Technology decisions have been made at the county level. Our police and firemen have GPS's and they are on the same frequency for communication. Our safety job is to listen and work in tandem.**

## **ANDY SUCH (R)**

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

**I have worked on the township board to make Meridian a great place to live and raise a family. With bi-partisan cooperation we have made Meridian Township a great place. I want to continue this cooperative effort and I'd appreciate your vote for Township Trustee.**

1. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Board of Trustees?

**The board must work together in a bi-partisan way to protect our open space, keep taxes low and see that the township services are meeting the needs of the residents.**

2. How does your background help you be an effective trustee?

**My experience on the Meridian Township Board and my communications background give me a practical, common sense approach to township policies. I don't try to fix the blame; I try to fix the problem.**

3. How can the township find a proper balance between development and preservation of green spaces?

**Our township board has managed growth; increased open space; developed a greenspace plan; and created the land preservation fund. I continue to support and implement smart growth policies in our township.**

4. How can the township respond to higher fuel prices for its own vehicles and help townspeople reduce the costs of shopping and their own commutes?

**I support the pathway program with opportunities to walk, run or bicycle throughout the township. I support new laws to encourage mixed use development to promote people working and living in the same neighborhood.**

5. How would you evaluate the expansion of IT services and the development of the motor pool for police, fire and emergency vehicles?

**Our information and technology services are excellent and we continue to improve the township website as another information tool for residents. The motor pool has led to less cost and more efficiency in township transportation.**

## **WAYNE R. BEYEA (D)**

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

**Meridian Township needs a leader who can skillfully manage development and stick to a plan to ensure that our community remains a great place to live. To maintain this quality of life we must make certain that future development is properly located and benefits citizens.**

1. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Board of Trustees?

**Promote public health and safety, protect property values and the environment while creating distinctive and attractive commercial areas and neighborhoods. This will be accomplished by fiscally responsible practices that maximize the value of services.**

2. How does your background help you be an effective trustee?

**I have over 18 years of planning and development experience and degrees in law, planning, and public administration. I have worked with hundreds of communities across Michigan on development issues while employed with MSU.**

3. How can the township find a proper balance between development and preservation of green spaces?

**Promote smart growth which directs development towards existing established areas while protecting our open space, agriculture, and nature areas from unwise development. This can be accomplished by following the adopted Master Plan.**

4. How can the township respond to higher fuel prices for its own vehicles and help townspeople reduce the costs of shopping and their own commutes?

**Promote community policing which requires non-motorized methods and increases interaction with citizens; acquire an inventory of hybrid vehicles. Create walkable neighborhoods and bike-friendly connections to commercial areas and support locally grown agriculture, products and services.**

5. How would you evaluate the expansion of IT services and the development of the motor pool for police, fire and emergency vehicles?

**Maintaining high quality public services and public infrastructure will keep Meridian Township competitive with other communities. A cost/benefit analysis should be weighed for any expansion of services to create the best value for citizens.**

## **BRETT DREYFUS (D)**

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

**Quality-of-life issues such as excessive development, noise, traffic, flooding and sewer backups, and efficient delivery of township services are extremely important to residents. I highly value citizen input, adhering to our Township Master Plan, and "doing things differently to get different results."**

1. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Board of Trustees?

**A trustee is an individual placed in a position of public trust with fiduciary responsibilities to manage the affairs of the township for the best interests of the Township.**

2. How does your background help you be an effective trustee?

**Served as Vice-Chair, Meridian Township Planning Commissioner (1999-2004) and assisted in the development of the Township Master Plan. Served one year on Meridian Township Zoning Board. Profession: Communications Specialist. Education: Political Science degree, MSU.**

3. How can the township find a proper balance between development and preservation of green spaces?

**Actively listen to citizens through public hearings; use the Master Plan to guide development decisions; prioritize smart growth and mixed land-use policies; encourage increased acquisition of natural areas through the Land Preservation Ordinance.**

4. How can the township respond to higher fuel prices for its own vehicles and help townspeople reduce the cost of shopping and their own commutes?

**Replace older vehicles with newer, fuel-efficient hybrids. Consider the use of alternate vehicles (personal transporters, mini-cars, scooters) for certain job functions. Encourage residents to ride bicycles using township network of bicycle paths.**

5. How would you evaluate the expansion of IT services and the development of the motor pool for police, fire and emergency vehicles?

**The motor pool helps reduce costs through bulk vehicle purchases, improves efficiency through appropriate departmental charges and helps track costs. IT expansion is necessary to meet network demands.**

## **ELIZABETH ANN LeGOFF (D)**

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

**I have been interested in Township concern since buying a home in Meridian Township. I have been on the Cable Commission and, currently, am on the Planning Commission. Now I want to give back to the Township in a different situation.**

1. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Board of Trustees?

**When considering Special Use Permits and Rezoning requests, Trustees must maintain a balance between the remaining open land and proposed developments. The Master Plan and Future Land Use should be used as blueprints.**

2. How does your background help you be an effective trustee?

**As a Planning Commission member, I am aware of current building and rezoning issues in the township. Public comments at meetings and letters enable me to hear the opinions of township citizens.**

3. How can the township find a proper balance between development and preservation of green spaces?

**The Master Plan, compiled by earlier Board and Planning Commission members, should be the blueprint for the proper balance. As it states, "it integrates those visions, values, goals and appropriate land use concepts."**

4. How can the township respond to higher fuel prices for its own vehicles and help townspeople reduce the costs of shopping and their own commutes?

**Township workers should plot work routes logistically, combining assignments when possible. The Township should work with CATA to expand bus service within The Township. Service on the route #1 is efficient, but limited elsewhere.**

5. How would you evaluate the expansion of IT services and the development of the motor pool for police, fire and emergency vehicles?

**Expanding IT services will decrease fuel costs, though will increase electricity needs. Motor pools and coordinating with adjacent governments, is an excellent idea as long as there will be sufficient services during emergencies.**

## **LYNN OCHBERG (D)**

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

**Over 25 years of public service in land use decision-making, master planning, public safety assurance, environmental, cultural and entrepreneurial promotion evidence my strengths. I'm proud to be the last resident farmer selling maple syrup products at Meridian's Farmers Market. My donated artwork enhances Town Hall.**

1. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Board of Trustees?

**We will be entrusted with the health, safety and welfare of Meridian citizens, our public facilities, our annual budget, and our excellent professional staff. Future oriented policy governance, updated regularly with public input is key.**

2. How does your background help you be an effective trustee?

**My law degree, previous term as Trustee, 1988-92, and 29 years of business success as an artist, sugar bush farmer and equities manager prepare me to guide this Township's future with competence and sensitivity.**

3. How can the township find a proper balance between development and preservation of green spaces?

**Regular citizen and business stakeholder input at all land use decision-making procedures, plus state-of-the-art data collection and dissemination provide a solid foundation for balanced outcomes between development and natural resource preservation.**

4. How can the township respond to higher fuel prices for its own vehicles and help townspeople reduce the costs of shopping and their own commutes?

**Township vehicle replacement schedules should favor hybrid and alternative fuel engines. Support for public transportation, continued building of bike paths and pedestrian friendly access design in new development and redevelopment assure future fuel economy.**

5. How would you evaluate the expansion of IT services and the development of the motor pool for police, fire and emergency vehicles?

**Internet access to all Township business currently available and frequently updated at public libraries and on home computers at [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us) is excellent. As the Township motor pool transitions to fuel-efficient vehicles taxpayers will benefit.**

## **JOHN R. VEENSTRA (D)**

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

**I am the only Democratic Trustee running for re-election as a Democratic candidate for Trustee. My broad experience and knowledge of the issues and my positions defending individual rights, saving tax dollars, and protecting our environment make me worthy of renomination.**

1. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Board of Trustees?

**The Township Board are the people's elected representatives to control Meridian Township government. The Board adopts policies and set goals for Township government, authorizes spending of about \$32 million, adopts ordinances, and approves rezonings.**

2. How does your background help you be an effective trustee?

**As a current Democratic Trustee I know about Township government. Two terms as Ingham County Commissioner gave me a broad background in local government. My Sierra Club activities educate me about protecting the environment.**

3. How can the township find a proper balance between development and preservation of green spaces?

**The Board uses a variety of policies to keep Meridian a nice green place to live, including buying parkland and land preservation properties, protecting wetlands, and regulating development with zoning and open space requirements.**

4. How can the township respond to higher fuel prices for its own vehicles and help townspeople reduce the costs of shopping and their own commutes?

**I have been working for years to make Meridian government operations more energy efficient and for decades to make Meridian more bicycle friendly. We are approving Mixed Use developments where people live next to stores.**

5. How would you evaluate the expansion of IT services and the development of the motor pool for police, fire and emergency vehicles?

**I want all township services to be cost effective. For motor vehicles we should have policies to reduce the miles driven, to extend the life of vehicles, and to purchase more energy efficient vehicles.**

# Meridian Township Park Commissioner

**Election assigned to this office:** Primary Election 8/05/08

**Office Description:** The Meridian Township Park Commission is responsible for managing the acquisition, development and maintenance of park facilities. There are currently 29 parks /904-acres of parkland under their direction.

Meridian Township also has a Land Preservation Advisory Board that is appointed by the Township Board to advise the Board on acquisitions of environmentally valuable lands. Funding is obtained through a Land Preservation Millage. The Park Commission does not have authority or responsibility for the Land Preservation program (although one member of the Park Commission has a seat on the Land Preservation Advisory Board.)

**Salary: \$40.00 stipend per meeting, maximum of 24 meetings a year**

**Term: four year term**

**Partisan Election**

**Vote for FIVE (5) Candidates.**

## **ECKHART DERSCH (R)**

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

**Incumbent Eckhart Dersch, a 40 year resident of Meridian Township, retired from Michigan State University after a 35 year career in natural resources management. He wishes to give back to his community by applying his expertise to the office of Park Commissioner.**

1. Meridian Township has 1,250 acres of parkland. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Park Commissioners?

**Our responsibility is to provide safe, people-friendly park facilities while also exercising fiscal accountability, planning ahead, serving visitors of all abilities, and making appropriate policy decisions.**

2. What special qualifications would you bring to this Commission?

**My special qualifications include advanced education in natural resources and park management (MSU and Cornell University), over seven terms as Park Commissioner, an abiding interest in preserving green-space, and having a non-partisan orientation.**

3. Can the township continue to maintain green spaces and wetlands, even in difficult economic times?

**Yes. Meridian residents wisely approved modest millages to support parks and to acquire and protect natural areas - hopefully in perpetuity.**

4. How does the software and Global Imaging System (GIS) technology help promote conservation and protect the natural environment of the Township?

**Recent advances in GIS precision are helping us enormously, especially in planning and designing parks, inventorying natural features, monitoring park boundaries, and protecting sensitive environments.**

5. Are there any innovative approaches to economically managing Meridian Township's parks?

**Just a few of the ways include more partnering with County Parks and local businesses, using local professional talent and Scouts, seeking grants and in-kind services, encouraging help from volunteers.**

**JEAN E. KORDENBROCK (R) Did not respond in time for publication**

**SUSAN K. LONG (R) Did not respond in time for publication**

**DEBRA LEE PIPER (R)**

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

**Walking in the woods is my hobby. I was inspired to be a candidate for Park Commissioner during a walk down a winding nature trail. These rapidly changing times demand dedicated leadership and cooperative partnerships to protect and preserve the parks for future generations.**

1. Meridian Township has 1,250 acres of parkland. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Park Commissioners?

**According to the official Charter Township of Meridian Budget 2008 report the responsibility of the Meridian Township Park Commission is to acquire and manage parks and recreation facilities on behalf of the Township.**

2. What special qualifications would you bring to this Commission?

**Special qualifications that I will bring to this Commission involve my ability to organize and prioritize work activities to efficiently meet objectives and accomplish tasks. I am an honest, cheerful and energetic team member.**

3. Can the township continue to maintain green spaces and wetlands, even in difficult economic times?

**Yes, the Township can continue to maintain green spaces and wetlands by working with more community partners and by promoting a rationale for protection and restoration that focuses on a range of benefits.**

4. How does the software and Global Imaging System (GIS) technology help promote conservation and protect the natural environment of the Township?

**Software and GIS technology are useful tools for tracking and managing natural resources. The derivative maps and statistics help assess the changing trends of nature and environment. GIS proposes reasonable ways to prevent natural disaster.**

5. Are there any innovative approaches to economically managing Meridian Township's parks?

**One innovative approach to economically manage Meridian Township parks is to harness the energy of residents through a comprehensive community stewardship program. Volunteers and community groups are assigned to manage individual parks as park stewards.**

## **JEFF ROSTONI (R)**

### PERSONAL STATEMENT:

**My name is Jeff Rostoni and I am running for Meridian Township Park Commission. I have a sincere interest in promoting, maintaining and expanding our local area parks. I hope that I can contribute to our park system with the help of your vote.**

1. Meridian Township has 1,250 acres of parkland. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Park Commissioners?

**The responsibility of the Meridian Township Park Commissioners is to help plan, manage and develop the parks with the help of the Parks and Recreation department as well as advocate on behalf of the community.**

2. What special qualifications would you bring to this Commission?

**I am an environmental consultant with an environmental degree from MSU. As a long time resident of Haslett and board member of the Haslett Beautification Association, I am dedicated to enhancing the Haslett community.**

3. Can the township continue to maintain green spaces and wetlands, even in difficult economic times?

**Promoting park awareness is key to increasing utilization of parks and natural areas. This will increase community interest resulting in continued preservation of parks and natural areas through millage renewals even in difficult economic times.**

4. How does the software and Global Imaging System (GIS) technology help promote conservation and protect the natural environment of the Township?

**GIS is a visual tool to show the community the area's land use in effort to help maintain balance of development and greenspace. This illustration can help advocate park development and preservation of natural areas.**

5. Are there any innovative approaches to economically managing Meridian Township's parks?

**Promoting community input and increasing park use is critical in continued funding of parks and natural areas. Reaching out to other civic groups, implementing grants, and keeping high community interest will help advance our parks.**

**JOHN STRICKLER (R) Did not respond in time for publication**

**WILLIAM WILLIAMS (R)**

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

**I pledge to serve my community and listen intently to input and concerns. I will represent THE PEOPLE of our township with honesty, dedication, and integrity.**

1. Meridian Township has 1,250 acres of parkland. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Park Commissioners?

**A quality community deserves a great park system. A park commissioner maintains the good work that has been accomplished and puts forth new ideas so the parks can continue to evolve and maintain its significance.**

2. What special qualifications would you bring to this Commission?

**Growing up in Flint, MI, I had the opportunity to play in top quality parks. Today those parks are in deplorable condition. I am dedicated to maintain and promote excellence for Meridian Township's park system.**

3. Can the township continue to maintain green spaces and wetlands, even in difficult economic times?

**Yes, as long as the park commission and the people of Meridian Township work together for the betterment of our great community. Teamwork is the key to success.**

4. How does the software and Global Imaging System (GIS) technology help promote conservation and protect the natural environment of the Township?

**The GIS gives a broad overview instead of a piecemeal look at park projects. It reveals a better sense of environmental impact now and in the future.**

5. Are there any innovative approaches to economically managing Meridian Township's parks?

**Grant opportunities, volunteer and service groups are the economic backbone of our park system. My focus will be on researching innovative, economic approaches by evaluating other park systems combined with community involvement.**

## **MARILYN ARONOFF (D)**

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

**I came to mid-Michigan as a young adult, living in East Lansing and Meridian Township. I raised my children here and, worked as a sociologist at MSU. I have been actively involved in community affairs and consider local political participation a key element of our society.**

1. Meridian Township has 1,250 acres of parkland. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Park Commissioners?

**The mission of the 5 elected Park Commissioners is to work with the Townships Director of Parks and Recreation to guide all aspects of the park system including maintenance, development and acquisition of new parkland.**

2. What special qualifications would you bring to this Commission?

**Both personally and professionally, my key interests are community, environment, and participation each one basic to a vibrant park program. I value working with others to resolve problems in an atmosphere of mutual respect.**

3. Can the township continue to maintain green spaces and wetlands, even in difficult economic times?

**Michigan has faced periodic downturns before this one. Assets for weathering this decline include access to park millage funding, creative staff leadership and strong public support for area park and recreation programs**

4. How does the software and Global Imaging System (GIS) technology help promote conservation and protect the natural environment of the Township?

**Since GIS technology makes multiple sources of land use and environmental resource data accessible, and can present its findings dynamically, it should be useful for groups making decisions about how to use local resources wisely.**

5. Are there any innovative approaches to economically managing Meridian Township's parks?

**Understanding other communities experiences with park management may offer novel insights for us. I would seek out comparative data as a source of new ideas and as a touchstone for evaluating our own efforts.**

## **TERI BANAS (D)**

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

**I am seeking my second, four-year term on the commission and presently serve as chairperson. I have worked for more neighborhood parks and athletic fields here. I am totally committed to public service and enjoy working on behalf of Meridian Township residents.**

1. Meridian Township has 1,250 acres of parkland. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Park Commissioners?

**Our role is to oversee the park system, set policies for its use and care, and make decisions about improvements and acquisitions. This is done with an eye to geographic needs and population trends.**

2. What special qualifications would you bring to this Commission?

**My unique background includes four years on the commission. As a former journalist, I also bring 18 years of government experience. An educator today, I am committed to improving the lives of youths and families.**

3. Can the township continue to maintain green spaces and wetlands, even in difficult economic times?

**Nearly one-third of our park budget is used for maintenance, but public groups and scouts help out with special projects and clean-up days. Also, the township has a separate millage for maintaining preserve areas.**

4. How does the software and Global Imaging System (GIS) technology help promote conservation and protect the natural environment of the Township?

**GIS provides detailed mapping data on a variety of issues including wetlands and floodplains. We have used it to create maps for the Red Cedar Natural Area and Eastgate Park to better analyze encroachment issues.**

5. Are there any innovative approaches to economically managing Meridian Township's parks?

**Yes. Partnerships are key. We share a land management coordinator with the Land Preservation Board; work with the county for a dog park; seek grants; and urge developers to build neighborhood parks.**

## **MARK STEPHENS (D)**

### PERSONAL STATEMENT:

**I am Mark Stephens. My wife, Mary Kay, daughter Molly, son Daniel, and I are residents of Haslett in Meridian Township. I've lived here since 1989 and truly enjoy what Meridian has to offer. I work for Michigan State in the Department of CARRS and coordinate Project FISH.**

1. Meridian Township has 1,250 acres of parkland. What is the responsibility of the Meridian Township Park Commissioners?

**We act as the liaison of the public to the parks director and township board. We are elected to be their voice, partner and advocate for our park lands for their use.**

2. What special qualifications would you bring to this Commission?

**I have access to many resources that are associated with passive and active recreation and have been involved in outdoor recreation programming for more than 30 years.**

3. Can the township continue to maintain green spaces and wetlands, even in difficult economic times?

**With creative partnerships we can maintain what we have in Meridian Township. We may have to ask for more support from our community as our parks and greenspace are very important to our quality of life.**

4. How does the software and Global Imaging System (GIS) technology help promote conservation and protect the natural environment of the Township?

**They are only as good as the people using them. That said, mapping natural areas, people and the needs of both are what these programs are designed to do so the impact of our activities can be wisely managed.**

5. Are there any innovative approaches to economically managing Meridian Townships parks?

**Yes. Public involvement. Private/Public and Public/Public partnerships, state and federal grant programs, many of these we have been taking advantage of in our community.**

**TODD D. WILSON (D) Did not respond in time for publication**

**EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICE  
(911 SERVICE) MILLAGE RENEWAL AND  
RESTORATION QUESTION**

For the purpose of renewing and restoring funding for a comprehensive countywide 911 Emergency Telephone and Dispatch System at the same millage level previously approved by the voters in 1996, 2000, and in 2004, shall the Constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Ingham, Michigan, be renewed at 0.8431 of one (1) mill, and shall the previously authorized reduced millage of 0.0069 of one (1) mill be restored, for a return to the previously voted total limitation increase of 0.8500 mill (\$0.8500 per \$1,000 of Taxable Value) for a period of four (4) years (2008-2011) inclusive?

*(If approved and levied in full, this millage will raise an estimated \$6,790,381 for the countywide 911 Emergency Telephone and Dispatch System in the first calendar year of the levy based on taxable value. If approved and levied, a portion of the millage may be distributed to the Cities of Lansing and East Lansing for 911 operations in the Ingham County 911 Service Plan. In accordance with State law, a portion of the millage may also be disbursed to the Downtown Development Authorities of the Cities of Leslie, Mason, Williamston, and the Townships of Delhi, Ingham, Lansing, Leroy, Meridian, and Vevay; the Tax Increment Finance Authorities of the Cities of East Lansing, Lansing, and Williamston; the Local Development Finance Authorities of the Cities of Leslie and Mason; and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities of the County of Ingham, the Cities of East Lansing and Lansing, and the Townships of Delhi and Ingham.)*

**YES  
NO**

**INGHAM COUNTY FARMLAND AND  
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION INITIATIVE  
MILLAGE QUESTION**

For the purpose of protecting farmland and other open space lands, including waterways, wildlife habitat, wetlands, and other natural lands, and to encourage urban development, shall the Constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Ingham, Michigan, be increased by 0.1400 mills (\$0.14 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of ten (10) years (2008-2017) inclusive?

*(If approved and levied in full, this Millage will raise an estimated additional \$1,056,323 for farmland and open space preservation in the first calendar year of the levy based on state taxable valuation. If approved and levied, a portion of the millage may be disbursed, in accordance with State law, to the Downtown Development Authorities of the Cities of Leslie, Mason, Williamston, and the Townships of Delhi, Ingham, Leroy, Meridian, and Vevay; the Tax Increment Finance Authorities of the Cities of East Lansing, Lansing, and Williamston; the Local Development Finance Authorities of the Cities of Leslie and Mason; and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities of the County of Ingham, the Cities of East Lansing and Lansing, and the Townships of Delhi and Ingham.)*

**YES  
NO**

**CAPITAL AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY  
IMPROVEMENT PLAN  
PROPOSAL**

Shall the Capital Area District Library levy a new additional millage not to exceed .96 of one mill (\$.96 per thousand dollars of taxable value) for the period 2008 through 2029 inclusive for the purpose of: acquiring, developing and improving sites; constructing, expanding and renovating public library buildings; providing space which may be used for the Impression 5 Science Center; equipping and furnishing the library buildings and supporting public library services in those buildings? The amount of revenue raised by the levy in 2008 is estimated to be \$6,628,000.

If this proposal passes, the owner of a home with a market value of \$100,000 would pay an additional \$48 in property taxes.

New buildings are planned to be constructed in the following communities: City of Lansing, Delhi Township (Holt), City of Mason, Meridian Township (Okemos), and the City of Williamston. The following facilities are planned to be expanded: Aurelius Library, Dansville Library, Meridian Township (Haslett Library) Leslie Library, South Lansing Library, Stockbridge Library. The Foster Library and Webberville Library are planned for renovation.

**YES  
NO**



*Please join us and make a difference!*

The total annual dues for 2008-2009 are \$59.00. This includes \$28.00 for LWV-US, \$21.00 for LWV-MI, and \$10.00 for LWV-LA. If another member resides in the same household, the dues for the second member are \$29.50. National and state dues are assessed to our local league based on the national membership list as of January 31, 2009.

If you wish to join or renew your membership, please complete this form and mail in the enclosed envelope to:

LWV-LA  
P.O. Box 971  
E. Lansing, MI 48826

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that we will keep your information confidential.

Amount enclosed:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$59.00 for one member

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$88.50 for two members in the same household

Additional donations:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for LWV-LA

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for League of Women Voters Education Fund (Please use separate check)



League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area  
Box 971  
East Lansing, MI 48826