

Fraser, Clinton Township voters to decide national, state and local seats, school board

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FRASER/CLINTON TOWNSHIP — In the *Fraser-Clinton Chronicle's* coverage area, voters will decide one U.S. congressional race, one state representative race, one county commissioner race, several local township races, and one school board race Nov. 3. Candidates were asked, in 75 words or fewer, to state their top goal(s) if elected. If a candidate went over the word limit, (...) replaces the rest of the answer. (I) indicates the candidate is an incumbent. The answers are printed verbatim except where material is omitted due to personal attacks or items we know to be false or that are blatant misrepresentations.

Clinton Township Supervisor

Two candidates are running for one four-year term.

Republican

Robert J. Cannon (I)

Age: 71

Occupation: Clinton Township Supervisor

Municipality of residence: Clinton Township

For how long: 45 years

Online campaign information: reelectrobertjcannon.com

Education: Bachelor of Science – Business Administration; MBA Master of Business Administration; EDS Education Leadership; all from Wayne State

Previously held elected offices: Clinton Township Trustee

Top goals: Roads, continued park improvements, excellent fire and police, water & sewer replacement/repair, financial stability, and support for our award winning recreation and senior citizen programs and the Gratiot Cruise, Festival of the Senses and honoring our Veterans throughout the year. Installation of a splash pad and inclusive playground are for summer 2021. Implementation of our recently adopted strategic plan is a priority including installation of bike/hike paths, Clinton River recreational accessibility and business development.

Democrat

Jason M. Davidson

Age: 42

Occupation: Business Manager

Municipality of residence: Clinton Township

For how long: 26 years

Online campaign information: www.facebook.com/electjasondavidson

Education: Associates of Applied Science in Credit & Finance – Macomb; Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance – Walsh College.

Previously held elected offices: Clintondale Board of Education (2002 – Current)

Top goals: It's time for a change in leadership to bring about community investment, park & trail enhancements, ethics reform, accountability, and the creation of a "One-Stop Business Center" to spur new economic development & business growth, and address vacant buildings. As a school leader, I led a financial turnaround with conservative budgeting, saved \$11M taxpayer dollars through refinancing, and had a 99% meeting attendance. I value a properly staffed police & fire departments and public services.

Clinton Township Clerk

Two candidates are running for one four-year term.

Democrat

Carol Shumard Diehl

Age: 72

Occupation: Civil Clerk 41B District Court 20 years

Municipality of residence: Clinton Township

For how long: 41 years

Online campaign information: Online go to Carol Shumard Diehl for Clerk

Education: LCHS and MCCC

Previously held elected offices: None

Top goals: Township Clerks must understand when its appropriate to seek legal counsel. As keeper of the records a Clerk must be trusted. Without seeking legal advice a Clerk can be sued as this Clerk has. Affidavits to run for office must be processed. Fellow citizens , help us achieve the change Clinton Township so badly needs.

Republican

Kim Meltzer (I)

Age: 56

Occupation: Clerk

Municipality of residence: Clinton Township

For how long: 30 years

Online campaign information: meltzerforclerk.com

Education: Bachelor's of Art – Political Science

Previously held elected offices: Clinton Township Trustee, State Representative and presently Clinton Township Clerk

Top goals: Experience and education matter. I am always studying to be the best in my field and recently achieved Master Clerk status. Of the more than 1500 Michigan Clerks, this status is only held by 59 other Clerks. This means I have prioritized being the best Clerk in the industry and will work to make Clinton Township elections accessible and accurate, making sure every vote counts. I am honored to serve Clinton Township.

Clinton Township Treasurer

Two candidates are running for one four-year term.

Republican

Robert C. Brandenburg

Age: 67

Occupation: Patent Attorney (retired)

Municipality of residence: Clinton Township

For how long: Five years

Online campaign information: bob4ctt.com

Education: J.D. (Law), University of Michigan; B.S.E. (Mechanical Engineering), University of Michigan.

Previously held elected offices: None

Top goals: I will provide responsive and efficient services as Treasurer. As a township board member, I will make the best use of the taxpayer's money. My legal background will help since the Treasurer's duties are defined by law and I can write effective ordinances.

Democrat

Paul Gielegem (I)

Age: 50

Occupation: Treasurer

Municipality of residence: Clinton Township

For how long: 49 years (with a few stints elsewhere for college or work)

Online campaign information: www.facebook.com/PG4CTT

Education: Graduate of Clintondale Community Schools, Associates Degree from Macomb Community College, Bachelors Degree from Wayne State University, and certifications as: Michigan Certified Public Treasurer (MiCPT) from the Michigan Municipal Treasurer's Association and Certified Public Funds Investment Manager (CPFIM) from the Association of Public Treasurer of the United States and Canada.

Previously held elected offices: State Representative, 1999 – 2004; County Commissioner, 2005 – 10; Chairman of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, 2009 – 10; and Clinton Twp. Trustee, 2012-16.

Top goals: Clinton Twp. is mostly developed and residential, with commercial corridors and few heavy-industrial sites--so as residents, we're in this together! We must prioritize safety through the pandemic, wise use of funding to maintain services, economic development focused on business retention and attraction for what comes next, and securing state and federal public infrastructure dollars to help improve our roads, water-lines, sewers, public parks and open spaces. I'm experienced at getting these things done.

Clinton Township Board of Trustees

Eight candidates are running for four four-year terms.

Republican

Mike Aiello

Age: 65

Occupation: No answer given

Municipality of residence: Clinton Twp Mi

For how long: 21 years

Online campaign information: Facebook

Education: Doctor of Chiropractic

Previously held elected offices: No answer given

Top goals: To be the Voice of representation for our voters in our community.

Implementing Citizens survey outreach programs.

To bring the Community together so we can build a Greater Community of tomorrow.

Greater Transparency from the Board to the community.

Making our community a safer community throughout our neighbor hoods & local roads.

Improve Health & Safety programs at all levels.

Expanding Senior programs.

Add a Small business growth support program...

Develop a Lower tax Structures

Republican (I)

Joe Aragona

Age: 32

Occupation: Trustee in Clinton Township

Municipality of residence: Clinton Township

For how long: I've lived in this community my entire life.

Online campaign information: votejoearagona.com

Education: B.S. in Biomedical Diagnostics

Previously held elected offices: None

Top goals: I want to make sure that Clinton Township is a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Improving roads, parks, and trails will bring better quality of life. Promoting and inviting small businesses will ensure Clinton Township is a great place to work. And supporting our public service (police and fire) will keep us and our families safe. I strive to be accessible to all residents. Please call at 586-484-1909 with any questions.

Democrat

Laura Cardamone

Age: 55

Occupation: Social Worker

Municipality of residence: Clinton Township

For how long: 15 years

Online campaign information: lauracardamone.com

Education: Master of Social Work (1990 Wayne State University)

Previously held elected offices: Chippewa Valley School Board 2014-2020

Top goals: If elected, my goals are (1) ensure effective response to our community and employees to COVID; (2) enhance and support small business opportunities in the township particularly in the south end of the Township; (3) address our roads and sidewalks to improve infrastructure and walkability; (4) improve cohesiveness on the Board and (5) work to be effective community partners with our business and schools.

Democrat

Mike Keys (I)

Age: 28

Occupation: Legislative Assistant, Macomb County

Municipality of residence: Clinton Township

For how long: Lifelong Resident

Online campaign information: mvkeys.com

Education: BA History and Political Science from Central Michigan University

Previously held elected offices: Clinton Township Trustee

Top goals: My top goals are to adopt a stronger ethics policy, ensure transparent oversight of the Township budget, and to provide local resources during the COVID-19 health crisis. I will continue working to deliver resources, food, and essentials to residents within our community. I intend to build on recent momentum and prioritize the re-development of major corridors like Groesbeck and Gratiot. By working together, we can rebuild our local economy safely. Visit mvkeys.com to learn more.

Democrat

Tammy Patton

Age: 49

Occupation: Counselor and Small Business Owner

Municipality of residence: Clinton Township

For how long: 16 years

Online campaign information: www.tammypattontrustee.com

Education: Bachelor's in Community Service, Master's in Community Counseling, and Ph.D in progress in Human Services

Previously held elected offices: None

Top goals: As welcome as I have felt in Clinton Township, I know that many cannot say the same, and I will fight for those that do not feel represented. Clinton Township needs increased transparency and honesty towards its citizens. Every voice is important and deserves to be heard. We need to focus on all of our community, not just some. We need to make sure our existing businesses are thriving, while attracting new businesses.

Republican

Phil Rode

Age: 62

Occupation: District Director for State Senator Michael MacDonald of the 10th District.

Municipality of residence: Clinton Township

For how long: 55 years

Online campaign information: www.philrode.com

Education: Received a Bachelors Degree from Wayne State University in business and finance.

Previously held elected offices: N/A

Top goals: As a Clinton Township resident for over 55 years, I understand the issues our community faces: vacancies, dangerous roads, and more. To combat these recurring issues, I support re-development of key business corridors (Garfield/Groesbeck/Gratiot), our first responders who work tirelessly for our community, maintaining a responsible budget, implementing services to benefit our senior citizens, and more. As Trustee, I will utilize my extensive knowledge of our community when making decisions that will impact our residents.

Republican

Kenneth A. Tardie

Age: 73

Occupation: Attorney

Municipality of residence: Clinton Township

For how long: 16 months

Online campaign information: CTTV Interview (Youtube)

Education: St. Ladislaus High School, Hillsdale College, Detroit College of Law (now Michigan State University)

Previously held elected offices: None

Top goals: The Covic pandemic has economically crippled individuals and businesses in our Township. When elected, I hope to offer new insight and leadership to the Board of Trustees in further effort to ameliorate the economic effects of the pandemic. I believe the rental assistance program announced by Supervisor Cannon is one such step. My experience as a small business owner and attorney will provide an excellent knowledge base from which I can draw when elected Trustee.

Democrat

Jenifer Jo West (nickname Joie) (I)

Age: 66

Occupation: Trustee, Charter Township of Clinton

Municipality of residence: Clinton Township, MI; Macomb County

For how long: 27 years

Online campaign information: www.west4trustee.com

Education: BS – Medical Technology; MS – Anatomy and Physiology, Both from Michigan State University. Completed a Fellowship – Creating Healthier Communities

Previously held elected offices: Clinton Township Trustee – since 2004

Top goals: 1. Economic Development. I want to assist, support and maintain the small businesses that were impacted by the Pandemic. I want to see them bring their employees back to work.

2. Safety. I want to improve the safety in the neighborhoods. Starting with improving and maintaining the quality of the Roads.

3. Fiscal Responsibility. Clinton Township has taken a financial hit with the Pandemic. It is important that the trustees make good financial decisions.

Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education

Four candidates are running for two six-year terms.

Jolene Andriaschko

Age: 45

Occupation: Deputy Director for Early Childhood Services, School Readiness

Municipality of residence: Macomb Township

For how long: On and off for the past 35 years.

Online campaign information: Facebook Page: Dr. Jolene Andriaschko for Chippewa Valley School Board.

Education: Doctor of Education

Previously held offices: None

Top goals: My top goal would be to strengthen communication. Chippewa Valley has opportunities for growth in communicating in a timely manner. The pandemic has highlighted this as a growth area, where information is rapidly changing, and families are increasingly anxious about what school will continue to look like. This can be even further enhanced by meeting people where they are, by understanding at a greater depth the community that it serves.

Christopher Gura

Age: 49

Occupation: Attorney

Municipality of residence: Macomb Township

For how long: Since 2007; Raised in Clinton Township from 1972 to 1995

Online campaign information: www.guraforschoolbaord.com

Education: Juris Doctor, University of Detroit Mercy School of Law (2002); BA, Michigan State University (1994);

Macomb Community College (1989-1991); Chippewa Valley High School Graduate (1989)

Previously held elected offices: None

Top goals: My top goal is to help ensure that the district continues to prepare our students to be successful, productive members of society. Embracing the non-partisan nature of the position, and building upon my experience as President of the Chippewa Valley Educational Foundation, I would work with all stakeholders to sustain a well-rounded public school experience, focusing not only on academic excellence and safety, but also on fiscal accountability to preserve all programming for our students.

Aimee Spooner Crellin

Age: 47

Occupation: Youth Specialist

Municipality of residence: Clinton Township

For how long: 44 years

Online campaign information: Aimee Spooner Crellin for School Board on Facebook

Education: Bachelor of Science in Business

Previously held elected offices: N/A

Top goals: There are several key goals, that as a board member, I would like to focus on. The main goal being security. I believe that every teacher, student and parent should be 100% certain that they are part of a safe learning environment. Another goal that is as important is increasing community and parent involvement within the district. Increasing parental and community involvement and participation will strengthen our school district as a whole.

Robert Wojtowicz

Did not return questionnaire by press time.