



# 2026 Nonpartisan VOTER GUIDE

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The Mining Journal and the LWV of  
Marquette County and John Scram  
in Memory of his wife, Theresa  
Scram, with financial support from  
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of Marquette County



**Community Foundation**  
OF MARQUETTE COUNTY

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**MIDTERM  
ELECTION**

Tuesday, November 3  
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

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Donate to the LWV of Marquette County

Use the QR code to make an online donation  
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League of Women Voters of  
Marquette County  
PO Box 585  
Marquette, MI 49855



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Check is made out to the "LWV of Marquette County" and is not tax-deductible. Or check is made out to "LWV Education Fund" and is tax-deductible

\_\_\_\_ I wish to support local

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# Skip the lines — vote early in person

You can even bring your absentee ballot and insert it into the tabulator

## EARLY VOTING SITES

10/24/2026 – 11/1/2026

Site 1 = Marquette City  
Peter White Public Library (Lower Level), 217 N. Front St. Marquette  
Time: 8 am – 4 pm  
Marquette City – Precincts 1-4

Site 2 = Marquette Township  
Marquette Township Community Center, 1000 Commerce Drive, Marquette  
Time: 8 am – 4 pm  
Marquette Township – Precinct 1  
Powell Township – Precinct 1

Site 3 = Forsyth Township  
Gwinn Community Building, 165 N. Maple Street, Gwinn  
Time: 8 am – 4 pm  
Ewing Township – Precinct 1  
Forsyth Township – Precinct 1-3  
Richmond Township – Precinct 1  
Turin Township – Precinct 1  
Wells Township – Precinct 1

Site 4 = Tilden Township

Tilden Township Hall, 3145 County Road PG, Ishpeming  
Time: 10 am – 6 pm  
Champion Township – Precinct 1  
Ely Township – Precinct 1  
Humboldt Township – Precinct 1  
Michigamme Township – Precinct 1  
Republic Township – Precinct 1  
Tilden Township – Precinct 1

Site 5 = Negaunee Township  
Negaunee Township Community Center, 42 M-35, Negaunee  
Time: 9 am – 5 pm  
Ishpeming Township – Precinct 1  
Negaunee Township – Precinct 1  
Negaunee City – Precinct 1  
Ishpeming City – Precinct 1

Site 6 = Chocolay Township  
Chocolay Township Hall, 5010 U.S. 41 South, Marquette  
Time: 8 am – 4 pm  
Chocolay Township – Precinct 1 & 2  
Sands Township – Precinct 1  
Skandia Township – Precinct 1  
West Branch – Precinct 1

This guide only includes local, contested races. Go to [VOTE411.org](https://VOTE411.org) to view updated candidate information for all races and candidates.

**VOTE  
411**



Scan this QR code if you'd rather join and pay online



## MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Date form completed \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address City State Zip Code

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Understanding the demographics of LWV's membership base helps us progress in our value of being a fully inclusive organization. Please fill out as much of the following info as you are comfortable with:

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_ Race/Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### DUES AMOUNT

Please select the dues amount you wish to pay. **The recommended rate is \$75.00**, but you may choose an amount below that, down to a minimum of \$20.00. Higher dues payments help to allow some members to pay below the recommended amount but do not grant additional benefits. *Attach a check payable to the League of Women Voters of Marquette County.*

☐ \$75.00/year ☐ \$150.00/year ☐ \$250.00/year ☐ \$500.00/year

☐ Choose your own amount (minimum \$20.00): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check here if you would like to be considered for dues assistance.

The amount you choose to pay in dues will be split between your local, state, and national League. Would you like to make an additional donation exclusively to your local League?

☐ Yes ☐ No Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

*If yes, please attach a separate check payable to the League of Women Voters of Marquette County*

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Select volunteer opportunities of interest:

☐ Voter Education ☐ Communications ☐ Advocacy ☐ Operations

Do you prefer in person, virtual, or hybrid meetings? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your availability (e.g., weekdays, weekends, evenings)? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any accessibility needs for attending meetings/events? \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your check(s) to LWV Marquette County PO Box 585 Marquette, MI 49855

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF MARQUETTE COUNTY

# Race: Michigan Senate District 38

**Description:** The Michigan Senate shares responsibility with the Michigan House of Representatives to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws. **Qualifications:** Senators are elected at the same time as the governor and serve 4-year terms concurrent with the governor's term of office. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 38 State Senate districts, which are re-apportioned after each census. **Term:** 4 years

## Candidates:

### Kelli J. Van Ginhoven

**Party:** Democratic

**Website:** www.

kvgforsenate2026.com

**Facebook:** www.facebook.

com/kvgforsenate2026

**Campaign Twitter Handle:**

KelliforMI2026

**Occupation / Current**

**Position:** Commissioner/

Delta County Board of

Commissioners

**Education:** 1998 Escanaba HS 2005

Bay College AAS Early Childhood

Education

**Qualifications and Experience:**

Delta County Board of

Commissioners, Escanaba Planning

Commission, Escanaba DDA, Delta

County Democrats Chair

**Q: EDUCATION:** How do you evaluate Michigan's current education system in terms of quality, funding, the teacher workforce and standardized testing? What changes, if any, would you propose or support?

**A:** Michigan's current education system is struggling. I will do all I can to put us back on the right track. Our school infrastructure cannot rely on millages for improvements. Our teachers can't be expected to make an impact when they have to work a second job to get by. Our children need to be successful with or without results of a standardized test. I will work to allocate funding for the expansion of public school infrastructure improvements, teacher loan forgiveness and sign on bonuses so our teachers stay in the state after graduation and commit our state to research in

alternative goal structuring to end standardized testing.

**Q: ECONOMY:** What policy initiatives do you support for residents to earn a living wage and address the overall question of affordability across Michigan?

**A:** Our median household income is not staying in line with the rising costs of everything. I am in favor of a state increase in the minimum wage, a mandatory higher wage for tipped workers and promoting our trade schools and union expansion within our most rural communities. I am also in favor of universal 4 year post HS education so our children are not starting their lives in large amounts of debt.

**Q: ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY:** How would you approach ensuring energy reliability, consumer affordability, and environmental

protection in Michigan?

**A:** We are on the precipice of something amazing. While other candidates in this race look to the future with uncertainty and fear (and that is then portrayed onto the electorate), I look to create a plan. We look at the short term-blockage of utility increases by billion dollar companies and a RICE unit carve out in the state clean energy law, I will advocate for clean and green energy expansion in our UP. Our Unions can be the leaders in the manufacturing and installation of solar and wind. There are so many options for the future that can come to fruition with a plan and leaders to get the job done.

**Q: IMMIGRATION:** What is your position on due process, First Amendment, and Fourth Amendment rights for all Michigan residents, including noncitizens, and what changes, if any, would you support?

**A:** I support due process for all residents including non citizens. I support all the Amendments, I don't cherry pick my Amendments. I would support expediting the residency process and expediting citizenship for those who request it.

### David Prestin

**Party:** Republican

**Website:**

daveprestinforsenate.com

**Facebook:** facebook.com/

electdaveprestin

**Occupation / Current**

**Position:** State

**Representative**

**Education:** Bay De Noc Community College, Waukesha County

Technical College, Northeast

Wisconsin Technical College,

University of Wisconsin-Waukesha,

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

**Qualifications and Experience:**

Current State Representative,

Former County Commissioner,

Licensed Paramedic, Volunteer

Firefighter, Small Business Owner,

former Alger-Delta Electric Co-Op

Board Member, Husband, Father

**Q: EDUCATION:** How do you evaluate Michigan's current education system in terms of quality, funding, the teacher workforce and standardized testing? What changes, if any, would you propose or support?

**A:** U.P. schools and teachers are doing the best with what they've been given from the state. Unfortunately, Lansing does not do enough to support rural school districts. We need the state to 1) give rural school districts more flexibility in how they spend their funds, ensuring that resources are spent to meet local needs, 2) pass my legislation that will change the teacher certification test and make it easier for U.P. schools to recruit new teachers from Wisconsin, and 3) protect parental rights in determining the education of their children, because a child's best advocate is their parent.

**Q: ECONOMY:** What policy initiatives do you support for residents to earn a living wage and



VAN GINHOVEN



PRESTIN

See District 38 p. 3

## District 38 from 2

address the overall question of affordability across Michigan?

A: The price of energy is a major cost of every product and service, and the U.P. is looking down the barrel of an energy crisis. If Lansing's green energy mandate is allowed to take effect, the remaining power plants in the U.P. will shut down and we will see the cost of energy skyrocket. Employers large and small would be forced to close their doors.

I've led the fight to keep our power plants online and to restore affordability and reliability as the primary goal of our state's energy policy. Restoring common sense to energy policy will lower costs across the board and attract new investment that will last for generations.

Q: ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY: How would you approach ensuring energy reliability, consumer affordability, and environmental protection in Michigan?

A: Our energy policy must be completely focused on affordability and reliability, because there is nothing worse for the environment than energy poverty. I support an all-of-the-above strategy that depends on dispatchable fuels for baseload generation, which can be supplemented by renewables to help lower costs at times of peak demand.

Q: IMMIGRATION: What is your position on due process, First Amendment, and Fourth Amendment rights for all Michigan

residents, including noncitizens, and what changes, if any, would you support?

A: I strongly support the rule of law, and that means protecting the constitutional rights of citizens and legal residents. I've introduced legislation to bolster our 4th Amendment rights by protecting private property from warrantless searches under the so-called "Open Fields Doctrine", which has been abused by the DNR for far too long. I have also strongly opposed restrictions on our 1st and 2nd Amendment rights.

### Sara Cambensy

Party: No Party Affiliation

Website: [www.electsaracambensy.com](http://www.electsaracambensy.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/cambensyforsenate](https://facebook.com/cambensyforsenate)

Occupation / Current

Position: Education and Community Outreach,

Operating Engineers

Education: B.S. Education, Northern Michigan

University; Masters of

Public Administration, Northern Michigan University

Qualifications and Experience:

City Planning Commissioner, City Charter Commissioner, City Commissioner, 3-term MI State Representative (16 years total local and state public service)

Q: EDUCATION: How do you evaluate Michigan's current education system in terms of quality, funding, the teacher workforce and standardized testing? What changes, if any, would you propose or support?

A: Having worked for 10 years in Michigan's K-12 public schools,

we must ensure that there are safe learning environments for students and teachers and advocate for resources and policies that support student well-being. Promoting flexibility in curriculum design would allow educators to tailor their teaching methods to better meet the diverse needs of students and foster a more effective learning experience. Public education is still severely underfunded in Michigan, especially for rural areas that rely more on busing and have lower teacher salaries. Standardized testing should support student achievement gaps not drive curriculum reform.



CAMBENSY

Q: ECONOMY: What policy initiatives do you support for residents to earn a living wage and address the overall question of affordability across Michigan?

A: Addressing the affordability crisis in Michigan requires a multifaceted approach, including raising the minimum wage, improving access to affordable housing, and enhancing job opportunities. Without these changes, many Michiganders will continue to struggle to meet their basic needs. Public-private housing initiatives and grants with MSHDA that build more housing and keep rental rates lower open accessibility. Prioritizing state budgets that investment in local roads, schools, and water/wastewater infrastructure keep communities from having to raise rates and additional revenue off residents, keeping basic services at affordable rates.

Q: ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY: How would you approach ensuring energy reliability, consumer affordability, and environmental protection in Michigan?

A: We need a federal electrical investment act that can help alleviate much of the rate restraint on residents as we build and invest in our infrastructure and switch to more environmentally friendly energy generation methods. States cannot do this alone on the backs of residents. Our electrical grids and systems were originally built with a majority of federal dollars, and states once again need that kind of investment as we rebuild and upgrade our current systems while supplying clean, affordable energy to residents.

Q: IMMIGRATION: What is your position on due process, First Amendment, and Fourth Amendment rights for all Michigan residents, including noncitizens, and what changes, if any, would you support?

A: I believe everyone has a right to a fair and judicial process before being convicted. I strongly support our first amendment rights and freedom of speech, and I also support the right to privacy, and freedom from unreasonable searches or seizures by the government. Coming from proud immigrants in the 1800's from Europe and Canada, I believe we have the right system for noncitizens to apply and go through the correct channels for citizenship. Throughout that process, all people deserve to be treated fairly and with dignity and respect.

# Race: Michigan House District 109

**Description: Duties:** The Michigan House of Representatives shares responsibility with the Michigan Senate to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws. **Qualifications:** Representatives are elected in even-numbered years to 2-year terms. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 110 State House districts which are re-apportioned after each census. **Term:** 2 years

**Candidates:**

**Anna Aho Rink**

**Party:** Democratic  
**Website:** www.annaahorink4mi.com  
**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/annaahorink4mi  
**Occupation / Current Position:** Physician Assistant  
**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Health Science, Masters of Physician Assistant Studies  
**Qualifications and Experience:** Lifelong resident of the 109th district. I have been working in direct patient care as a PA for over 20 years.

**Q: EDUCATION:** How do you evaluate Michigan’s current education system in terms of quality, funding, the teacher workforce and standardized testing? What changes, if any, would you propose or support?

**A:** I support adjustments to funding allocation, using a combination of per-pupil funding and additional

weighted funding formulas to better support rural/underserved public schools. I support teacher recruitment and retention efforts that focus on better pay, benefits, and retirement, as well as incentives for teaching in areas of need. We can further improve the quality of education by refocusing our priorities away from standardized testing as a measure of student achievement and teacher merit. I support investments in school safety, student mental health, literacy programs, and universal school meals.



AHO RINK

**Q: ECONOMY:** What policy initiatives do you support for residents to earn a living wage and address the overall question of affordability across Michigan?

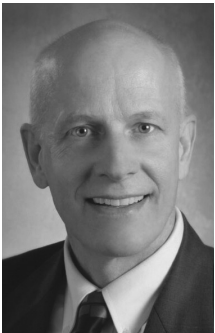
**A:** Michigan families need an economy that works for them. I support raising wages, protecting collective bargaining rights, strengthening unions, and expanding apprenticeship and skilled trades programs so more residents can access good-paying careers. To address affordability, we must invest in the workforce and affordable housing, expand first-time homebuyer assistance, and crack down on corporate speculation that drives up housing costs. I also support small businesses and local entrepreneurs, investing in infrastructure and establishing commonsense guardrails on AI to protect jobs, privacy, and workers as technology evolves.

**Q: ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY:** How would you approach ensuring energy reliability, consumer affordability, and environmental protection in Michigan?

**A:** We need an energy policy that balances reliability, affordability, and environmental protection. I support holding utility companies accountable by tying rate increases to measurable improvements in reliability and infrastructure. We should invest in grid modernization, local energy resilience, and clean energy projects that lower long-term costs and strengthen energy independence on a timeline that works for our communities. We must protect our natural resources by holding polluters accountable, investing in conservation and outdoor recreation, and promoting sustainable growth that protects our forests, public lands, and clean water.

**Q: IMMIGRATION:** What is your position on due process, First Amendment, and Fourth Amendment rights for all Michigan residents, including noncitizens, and what changes, if any, would you support?

**A:** I believe the constitutional rights guaranteed by the First, Fourth, and Fourteenth Amendments must be respected for everyone in Michigan. State and local law enforcement should focus on keeping our communities safe while building trust with the people they serve. I



BOHNAK

support clear policies that ensure law enforcement follows constitutional protections, respects civil liberties, and treats all individuals fairly under the law. Michigan should uphold public safety while protecting the rights and dignity of every resident.

**Karl Bohnak**

**Party:** Republican  
**Biographical Info:** No response

**Q: EDUCATION:** How do you evaluate Michigan’s current education system in terms of quality, funding, the teacher workforce and standardized testing? What changes, if any, would you propose or support?

**A:** - no response -

**Q: ECONOMY:** What policy initiatives do you support for residents to earn a living wage and address the overall question of affordability across Michigan?

**A:** - no response -

**Q: ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY:** How would you approach ensuring energy reliability, consumer affordability, and environmental protection in Michigan?

**A:** - no response -

**Q: IMMIGRATION:** What is your position on due process, First Amendment, and Fourth Amendment rights for all Michigan residents, including noncitizens, and what changes, if any, would you support?

**A:** - no response -

# Race: 96th District Court Judge

Description: Marquette County District Court is the primary trial court of limited jurisdiction, often called the “people’s court”. This court handles the initial phases of all criminal cases, adult misdemeanors, civil lawsuits seeking up to \$25,000, landlord-tenant disputes, and civil infractions. Vote for not more than one (1).

## Candidates:

### Patrick J. Crowley

Party: Non-Partisan

Website: [crowleyforjudge.com](http://crowleyforjudge.com)

Campaign Phone:

9062610275

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/patrickcrowleyforjudge/](http://www.facebook.com/patrickcrowleyforjudge/)

Education: B.S., Northern

Michigan University; J.D.,

University of Dayton School of Law

## Questions:

Q: Describe your qualifications and experience for this office and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?

A: Just as people should expect their Executive and Legislative branch to be responsive to their needs, the Judicial Branch, including the 96th District Court, should be responsive to the needs of the citizens of Marquette County. Court operations can easily become impersonal - churn and burn - to clear the docket at the court’s convenience. One of the things that I take pride in is my

ability to hear, address, and educate my clients about their concerns, the process, and the potential outcomes. Understanding what brought them to this point is key to an optimal outcome. I want to ensure our courts are serving those before it in a similar fashion. That is why I’m running.

As Marquette County’s Chief Public Defender, I go to work everyday to serve this community. I’ve spent my career advocating



**CROWLEY**

for people in every aspect of the Court’s jurisdiction. From serving as a prosecutor, to a civil attorney, to criminal defense – I’m uniquely ready to hit the ground running.

Q: If you observed a party in your courtroom being ineffectively represented, either by themselves or a lawyer, how would you handle the situation?

A: A judge’s responsibility is not to act as an advocate for either side, but to ensure that everyone receives a fair hearing and that the integrity of the process is protected. If I observe a party being ineffectively represented—whether by counsel or through self-representation—I will first make sure the individual understands the proceedings, their rights, and the consequences of the decisions being made.

For a self-represented litigant, I will explain procedural requirements in plain language and provide reasonable accommodations

within the bounds of neutrality. If an attorney’s performance raises serious concerns, I will create a clear record, inquire as appropriate, and take any steps authorized by law to protect the party’s rights, including granting continuances when justice requires.

A courtroom should not be a place where outcomes turn on confusion or intimidation. My role will be to ensure that every person is heard, treated with dignity, and afforded due process.

Q: In April 2026, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution in support of Gold Standard of law enforcement professionalism. What role would your court play in mediating the relationship between law enforcement and the community?

A: The court’s role is different from that of law enforcement but is central to building public trust. The Gold Standard initiative is ultimately about professionalism, accountability, and confidence in our institutions. A court contributes to those goals by ensuring that every case is handled fairly.

As Chief Public Defender, I’ve seen that trust is built when people believe they will be treated fairly and with dignity, regardless of their background or circumstances. A judge cannot, and should not, serve as a mediator in a political sense between law enforcement and the community, but the court can serve as a neutral forum where facts are tested, rights are protected, and

government actions are subject to meaningful and efficient review. This is how my court will function. When the public sees that the court is impartial, transparent, and efficient, confidence in the justice system grows. My responsibility will be to ensure that everyone who enters my courtroom experiences exactly that.

Q: What is your position regarding alternative courts and/or diversionary programs, to meet our community’s needs for drug courts, mental health courts, veterans’ courts, etc.?

A: As the only candidate who has led a county department, I’m uniquely positioned to implement mental health and drug courts - and I’ve already made progress. As an authorizing official, I currently oversee the defense component of Marquette County’s Drug, Sobriety, and Veteran’s Courts.

The Public Defender’s Office serves as an important bridge between the justice system and community resources. Many clients face challenges involving housing, mental health, substance use, employment, and family stability. By connecting individuals with social services, our office helps address underlying issues, promotes positive outcomes, and supports safer, healthier communities.

We have an opportunity to make a systemic change and address mental health crises with the creation of a mental health court. As the first candidate to call for

## 96th District from 5

the creation of this Court, I'm committed to advocating with partners in Lansing to ensure we receive the funding and resources to make this vision a reality.

### Derek G. Swajanen

Party: Non-Partisan

Website: [www.swajanenforjudge.com](http://www.swajanenforjudge.com)

Campaign Phone:

(906)360-9014

Facebook Page: [facebook.com/swajanenforjudge2026](https://facebook.com/swajanenforjudge2026)

Education: Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Lansing, MI



SWAJANEN

### Questions:

Q: Describe your qualifications and experience for this office and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?

A: In order to serve the citizens of Marquette County, three things are important: knowing the community; dedication; and professional experience.

Regarding the community aspect, I am a lifelong resident of Marquette County and my wife Dana and I raised our four daughters in Marquette. I am very active in the community, including coaching and founding numerous sports and youth groups as well as volunteering on many local boards.

Regarding dedication, Marquette County citizens deserve a judge that works hard, has integrity, and provides a fair and impartial courtroom.

Lastly, professional experience is extremely important. I have almost 30 years of courtroom experience handling the same type of cases that District Court handles daily. About 80% of District Court cases

are criminal in nature and every criminal case begins there, along with civil cases under \$25,000 and landlord-tenant cases. I am by far the most experienced candidate for the citizens of Marquette.

Q: If you observed a party in your courtroom being ineffectively represented, either by themselves or a lawyer, how would you handle the situation?

A: Marquette County citizens need their 96th Judicial Court Judge to understand the complexities of the legal system and that is why I am the perfect candidate. With almost 30 years of courtroom experience, I have been in almost every legal situation imaginable.

As a District Judge, the primary duty is to maintain an independent, fair and equal judicial system. The judge should also maintain high standards of conduct to ensure that there is independence and integrity in the system.

Having a District Judge that has practical courtroom experience is important when looking for or observing ineffective representation. Also, self represented litigants face an immense challenge at times, as they are not versed in the legal system.

In facing an issue of ineffective assistance, whether by someone

represented by an attorney or someone representing themselves, sometimes careful intervention, such as a side-bar, is needed, but in all cases there should be a maintenance of fairness.

Q: In April 2026, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution in support of Gold Standard of law enforcement professionalism. What role would your court play in mediating the relationship between law enforcement and the community?

A: As the District Court Judge, my job would be to uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary branch of government, while providing the citizens of Marquette County access to the judicial system in a fair and impartial way.

Also, Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct Canon 2 states that a judge should respect and observe the law and at all times the conduct and manner of the judge should promote public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary. It goes on to state that without regard to a person's race, gender or other protected personal characteristic, a judge should treat every person fairly, with courtesy and respect.

As the next 96th District Court Judge, I will apply the laws as written and I will respect and observe the law. I would also use my almost 30 years of courtroom experience in promoting public confidence and treating everyone fairly and with the utmost integrity.

Q: What is your position

regarding alternative courts and/or diversionary programs, to meet our community's needs for drug courts, mental health courts, veterans' courts, etc.?

A: I have been an active courtroom attorney for almost 30 years. I was an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for a number of years, handling all levels of cases including homicide cases. I have represented retained and indigent individuals, and handled complex civil litigation. My extensive practice has allowed me to see a wide range of cases, including how various alternative and diversionary programs work.

Almost every day I go to the Marquette District Court and see many of the same names on the docket sheet. We need to get to the root of the problem, and many times that is by treating the underlying reasons for the criminal behavior. I stand firmly behind sobriety court, drug court and veterans' court. I want to also instill a veterans' court in District Court as currently individuals have to wait too long and get a felony conviction before they are accepted into a veterans' court. I also want to implement a mental health court, as that is a huge need today.



# Race: Marquette County District 1 Commissioner

**Description:** Vote for not more than one (1) The Marquette County Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body with other groups carrying out county policies and/or advising the commissioners while they are in the process of making policy. One or more of the questions posed to candidates in this race refer to the Marquette County 2040 Master Plan. Use this link to view the plan: <https://www.mqtcoplan.org/>

## Candidates:

### Cody Mayer

Party: Democratic

Campaign Phone: 906-203-2030

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/codyomayer](http://www.facebook.com/codyomayer)

Education: BS Public

Administration, Northern Michigan University

Military Experience:

Current service member, MI Army National Guard.

November 30th will mark 12 years of service.

## Questions:

**Q:** Describe your qualifications and experience for this office and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?

**A:** Current Marquette City Commissioner and Former Mayor of Marquette. Come November I will have served six years on the City Commission.  
— Current Sault Tribe Housing Commissioner representing Unit 5 (Greater Marquette and Munising

Area)

— Sergeant in the Michigan Army National Guard, where I have held numerous roles such as Unit Career Counselor, Equal Opportunity Leader, Training NCO, Drug Prevention leader and many more. I have had two domestic mobilizations during my almost twelve years of service including volunteering to assist the Houghton/Hancock region in 2018 after the “Father’s Day flood” and was also sent to Washington DC for almost 3 months following the attempted January 6th



**MAYER**

Insurrection.

— Current board member for the MI Municipal League Foundation

— Former two term student body President of NMU

— Previous experience working as a local personal and small business banker and as a certified lender.

— Current full-time role is in the Mining Industry

**Q:** What are the main challenges facing your district? How would you advocate to address those challenge?

**A:** Good Governance: Before policy can be discussed in a meaningful way, the County Board itself needs to operate differently. Decisions made behind closed doors, without public notice, input, or debate is not how a local unit of government is supposed to operate. If elected, I will keep the public informed of what decisions are being considered and those

considerations will be made in public meetings. These meetings are not to simply rubber stamp pre-determined agenda items, the Open Meetings Act exists for a reason. The public has every right to expect transparency and productive collaboration from their elected leaders.

**Economy:** Continue efforts to diversify our economy in Marquette beyond hospitality and tourism. Advocate at the State level for a local tourism tax, where the funds can actually be used to support the community. Continue to advocate for local control over short term rental caps.

**Health:** Work to improve mental health services and childcare

**Housing:** See next section

**Q:** Marquette County 2040 Master Plan goals for Districts 1 and 3 are to develop affordable housing and workforce housing for all - including seniors, young families, people with disabilities, and lower-income residents - while preserving ‘community character’ with its natural areas and shorelines. What specific County actions would you support to advance these goals simultaneously?

**A:** Since being elected to the Marquette City Commission almost six years ago, I have consistently fought for more housing options in our community. Items that I voted on as a commissioner have led

to the development or planned development of up to 800 new units of housing in our community across a vast spectrum of price points. I will work with community leaders, NMU, Tribal Nations, and community organizations to continue advocating for more housing in the city and throughout the county.

**Building Codes:** This topic affects homeowners, renters, landlords, and small businesses. Bring plumbing and mechanical inspections back to county level instead of the State, who has one inspector for the entire UP. Work collaboratively so city zoning and county building permits can be streamlined. Tenants with concerns should be able to submit a simple online form that goes to both the city fire inspector, and the County building codes department.

**Q:** What will be your strategy for effectively communicating with constituents?

**A:** I will communicate with residents in advance when major decisions are being discussed and explain my stance on votes that the commission takes via my public social media page. Additionally, I have maintained throughout my time on the City Commission my personal contact information being available on the city website, I fully intend on maintaining this if elected to the county commission. Most importantly I will communicate proactively and conduct myself in a transparent manner.

# Race: Marquette County District 3 Commissioner

Description: Vote for not more than one (1) The Marquette County Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body with other groups carrying out county policies and/or advising the commissioners while they are in the process of making policy. One or more of the questions posed to candidates in this race refer to the Marquette County 2040 Master Plan. Use this link to view the plan: <https://www.mqtcoplan.org/>

## Candidates:

### Jenna Smith

Party: Democratic

Website: [www.jennasmithformqt.com](http://www.jennasmithformqt.com)

Campaign Phone: 231-333-4821

Facebook Page:

[www.facebook.com/jennasmithformqtcounty/](https://www.facebook.com/jennasmithformqtcounty/)

Education: University of

Michigan, Bachelor of Arts in

Psychology and Environmental Studies



SMITH

## Questions:

Q: Describe your qualifications and experience for this office and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?

A: I bring seven years of experience on the Marquette City Commission, including three years as Mayor, where I helped oversee a \$78 million budget and guide long term planning for our community. During that time, I worked on

housing, infrastructure, and economic development, and helped deliver projects like an inclusive playground, public art highlighting Indigenous culture, redevelopment of blighted properties, expanded lakeshore access, recycling improvements, and a downtown social district that supports small businesses. I also partnered on major decisions like selecting NMU's president and improving trails and infrastructure. Combined with my background in human resources, I understand both

policy and real world impacts. I am running to continue serving and give voters a clear voice in their representation.

Q: What are the main challenges facing your district? How would you advocate to address those challenge?

A: One of the main challenges in District 3 is maintaining and improving infrastructure while keeping services reliable and affordable for residents. Roads, sidewalks, utilities, and broadband all require ongoing investment and thoughtful planning, especially as our community grows and ages. Another key challenge is supporting a strong and stable local economy that allows people to live and work here long term. Through my work in human resources, I see firsthand how workforce attraction and retention depend on quality of life, access to services, and

economic opportunity. I would advocate for smart, strategic investments in infrastructure, continued regional collaboration, and careful budgeting to ensure long term stability. My approach is to focus on practical solutions that keep our community strong, connected, and accessible for everyone.

Q: Marquette County 2040 Master Plan goals for Districts 1 and 3 are to develop affordable housing and workforce housing for all - including seniors, young families, people with disabilities, and lower-income residents - while preserving 'community character' with its natural areas and shorelines. What specific County actions would you support to advance these goals simultaneously?

A: The 2040 Marquette County Master Plan calls for expanding housing while protecting the natural character that defines Marquette County. I support focusing growth within existing communities through redevelopment and infill, which helps use current infrastructure and reduces pressure on natural areas. My experience redeveloping underused properties shows how we can add housing while strengthening neighborhoods. I would also support a wider range of housing types so seniors, families, and workers can all find a place to live. I have worked on housing initiatives in Marquette County for over a decade and will continue to do so whether

I am elected or not. I served on the Marquette Housing Commission from 2015-2017, as Mayor I personally instigated the City of Marquette's first Ad Hoc Housing Committee in 2020, and I currently serve on Lake Superior Community Partnership's Housing Now Leadership Council. This complex issue is critically important to me, and to our community.

Q: What will be your strategy for effectively communicating with constituents?

A: My communication style is rooted in being accessible, consistent, and honest. While serving on the City Commission from 2017-2024, I focused on clear and transparent communication, and I would continue that at the county level. I plan to use social media to keep the public informed of County-level happenings, and I am very responsive to emails, phone calls, and texts from constituents. I also truly enjoy meeting residents around the community and speaking at various events. I believe it is important not just to share decisions, but to explain the reasoning behind them and listen before decisions are made. I have an excellent track record of meeting attendance, as I take these elected positions incredibly seriously. Strong communication builds trust, and that means showing up, being straightforward, and following through on commitments to the people you represent.

# Race: Marquette City Commission

**Description:** The City Commission acts as the legislative branch of city government. The City of Marquette elects seven commissioners during non-partisan, city-wide elections. All official action of the Commission is accomplished through ordinance, resolution, motion or order. The duties of the Commission are to represent the citizens of Marquette, establish policies and approve the budget. Vote for not more than three (3)

## Candidates:

### Margaret Brumm

Party: Non-Partisan  
Campaign Phone: 331-444-8497

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/margaret.brumm.3](http://www.facebook.com/margaret.brumm.3)

Education: B.S.Ch.E, with Honor from Michigan Technological University and J.D. from University of Michigan Law School  
Military Experience: none



**BRUMM**

## Questions:

**Q:** What makes you uniquely qualified for the Marquette City Commission?

**A:** I am uniquely qualified for the Marquette City Commission because I was born and raised in Marquette, finished my education in Michigan, lived in different places and traveled all over the world and returned to Marquette in early 2017 to deal with family obligations. Since returning to Marquette, I have become active in local politics, routinely attending meetings of

the City and County Commission, serving as an appointed member of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Advisory Board and serving a term as an elected member of the Marquette Board of Light and Power. I am familiar with local issues and have met and worked (sometimes officially and sometimes unofficially) with local elected officials. My areas of focus include: cigarette butt recycling, co-sponsoring a milk giveaway program with Jilbert's Dairy during late 2025, and creating and running a library/homework program for local children during the first days of the pandemic. I am willing to serve the people.

**Q:** What are two priorities that Marquette should address and what actions would you, as commissioner, take regarding these priorities?

**A:** 1. Reviewing budget priorities to focus more money on maintaining and improving existing city services, infrastructure and park facilities for the residents. There needs to be short term reallocation of funds from "nice to have" projects, like expensive Public Art projects that are designed to attract "the right type of tourists", to budget friendly public art that benefits local artists and the residents of the city of Marquette. Infrastructure includes sidewalks and streets and installing nets on storm sewers to stop toxic trash from entering Lake Superior. 2. Request an audit of all vendor contracts with the City to verify work has been done and kept within allocated budget. This includes the

multi-million dollar contract with Johnson Controls that was sold to the City Commission as a deal that would bring such large savings to the City that the deal would pay for itself. It's time to find out if that contract did, in fact, "pay for itself".

### Kevin A. Clegg

Party: Non-Partisan

Campaign Phone: 906-251-1873

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61594238702793](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61594238702793)

Education: B.S. Outdoor Recreation Leadership & Management

## Questions:

**Q:** What makes you uniquely qualified for the Marquette City Commission?



**CLEGG**

**A:** For the past four years I have served on the Marquette City Planning Commission, for the last year as the chair. I served as a liaison to the Board of Zoning Appeals and helped guide the development of our new Community Master Plan, which was adopted in 2024. The PC has continually refined the city's Land Development Code to assess the permitted heights, setbacks, and allowances to make property development easier and more enticing for builders and developers, with a focus on allowing more affordable developments. The refinements in our code have resulted in fewer variance requests and Board of Zoning Appeals cases that have come before

that board in recent years than in those that preceded them.

**Q:** What are two priorities that Marquette should address and what actions would you, as commissioner, take regarding these priorities?

**A:** The highest priority for me is dealing with the affordability crisis. I say affordability, and not just "housing affordability", because it's a multi-faceted problem, and I plan to make it top of mind in every decision. On the planning commission we have eased building requirements to make it easier to build affordable housing options. I'll continue to work toward decreasing building costs, collaborate on transportation options, improve winter walkability, and add active transportation routes.

Budgeting, including increasing revenue, is my second priority. This problem is also multi-faceted and all options will be investigated. First, we should levy a tourism tax that can be used to help fund city infrastructure, protect our lakeshore, fix our roads, and upgrade sewer systems. Tourists should pay for the increased wear and tear on our city resources.

### Mark Curran

Party: Non-Partisan

Campaign Phone: 906-360-0759

Education: Northern Michigan University, BS Business Management



**CURRAN**

## Commission from 9

Questions:

Q: What makes you uniquely qualified for the Marquette City Commission?

A: For more than 30 years, I have proudly called Marquette home. During that time, I have dedicated my career and volunteer efforts to strengthening our community through housing, business development, environmental stewardship, youth programs, and public service.

I believe the strongest communities are built by people who invest not only their money, but also their time, experience, and commitment to future generations.

I have worked to make a lasting, positive impact on the Marquette community by:

\*Helping build and develop well over 600 housing units for local families, students, seniors, and working professionals.

\*Owning and managing more than 400 homes and apartment rentals, providing quality housing and maintaining long-term investments in our neighborhoods.

\*Creating and growing multiple successful local businesses that have generated jobs, supported local contractors, and contributed to our local economy.

Q: What are two priorities that Marquette should address and what actions would you, as commissioner, take regarding these priorities?

A: The priorities that I see the city needs to tackle are intertwined with each other.

Everyone talks about housing.

Everyone talks about homeless. Everyone talks about physical and financial security of the city.

Every step we take toward securing these priorities will help the other ones. More housing helps homelessness. Housing helps our budgets with more revenue. More housing means more places for people to live and work. We also need to work on sustainable tourism. We currently have a boom bust tourist season and I don't want to see more businesses go seasonal. Some of our trails in the surrounding area need help with repair and preservation. These are complex problems which need to be broken down into small manageable pieces. I have the direct knowledge and experience. Also, we need to work hand in hand with our regional partners, such as the County and surrounding townships. We are in this together!

**Ross W. Johnson**

Party: Non-Partisan  
Campaign Phone: 7189863734

Education: Bachelors of Science, Communications and Performance Studies, NMU

Questions:

Q: What makes you uniquely qualified for the Marquette City Commission?

A: Born and raised in Marquette, I have a deep love and gratitude for the place that raised me. After traveling the country for work and living in major hubs like New York City and Los Angeles, I chose to come back home. I don't just live here; I actively chose Marquette as the place I want to invest my life and energy. My time

in NYC and LA taught me how to thrive in high-pressure, fast-paced industries. When I returned, one of the jobs I held before becoming General Manager of Double Trouble Entertainment was as the City of Marquette's Finish Carpenter. During my time with the city, I saw how the sausage was made, as it were, and as a homeowner and taxpayer, I feel it is time for some efficiencies. Along with an efficiently run Public Works Department, Marquette needs to find new and exciting ways to generate income instead of taxing its residents. With my life experience and proven energy, I'm the person to think outside the box, take action, be accountable, and get things done.

Q: What are two priorities that Marquette should address and what actions would you, as commissioner, take regarding these priorities?

A: The heavy industry of yesteryear is gone. Like it or not, tourism is our new reality. As a city, we need to find new, creative ways to

generate income from people who are now discovering what we've all known for so long. Marquette is a special place. I will ensure that the people discovering our city will help pay for its upkeep. By generating income from tourists, we can fund city services without squeezing the wallets of our year-round residents.

Also, as previously mentioned, I believe the city's Public Works Department is run extremely inefficiently. Some of the ways in which we can have a well-run city

are:

Prioritizing upkeep by fixing minor wear-and-tear issues early instead of waiting for expensive, reactive repairs.

Tracking key performance indicators such as work order completion rates and response times will allow us to eliminate backlogs and optimize staffing and approach, ultimately saving taxpayer dollars.

Being hyper-transparent and ultra-accountable.

**Marcella Krupski**

Party: Non-Partisan  
Campaign Phone: 847-867-8817

Questions:

Q: What makes you uniquely qualified for the Marquette City Commission?

A: My professional, political, and community experience gives me a perspective that I believe would be valuable on the Commission. I have spent the past 16 years working in Marquette's hospitality industry—as a sommelier, bartender, server, barista, and small-business professional. I understand both the challenges facing local businesses and the realities of the workers who keep our tourism economy running. I also have political experience working on campaigns and on Capitol Hill, where I learned how to build relationships, advocate effectively, and work with people who have different perspectives. Most importantly, I have deep

See **Commission** p. 11



**KRUPSKI**



**JOHNSON**

## Commission from 10

connections throughout our community. I know people in our local businesses, nonprofits, and service industries, and I care deeply about Marquette's future. I would bring a collaborative, practical approach to the Commission, along with a commitment to listening to the people most affected by the decisions we make.

Q: What are two priorities that Marquette should address and what actions would you, as commissioner, take regarding these priorities?

A: My two priorities are housing affordability and transportation, which I see as interconnected. Many who work in Marquette can't afford to live here and instead commute from Negaunee, Ishpeming, and surrounding communities, adding costs in gas, insurance, and vehicle maintenance. I would support development policies that expand attainable housing while respecting existing neighborhoods, including workforce housing, apartments, and appropriately scaled higher-density development. I would advocate for stronger regional transportation, including expanded evening and weekend service and exploring options such as microtransit and rideshare partnerships. These issues also intersect with sustainable tourism and homelessness. We need a tourism economy that benefits residents, workers, and local businesses, while supporting organizations serving people experiencing homelessness and maintaining safe public spaces. I believe we can approach these challenges with compassion and accountability.

**Matthew Luttenberger**  
Party: Non-Partisan

Questions:

Q: What makes you uniquely qualified for the Marquette City Commission?

A: Nothing.

This is an elected position that is to review and sign off on activities in the city. Every city resident is qualified. If prior experience on a board qualifies someone, I would suggest it also makes them biased. Paying attention to the evolution of our city, and speaking up when time permits, are really the only qualifications needed for this position.

Keeping an inquisitive mind, organizing appropriate questions, and listening to the concerns of residents is really not that hard. Everyone is qualified to do that.

Q: What are two priorities that Marquette should address and what actions would you, as commissioner, take regarding these priorities?

A: The current seated officials have been working on the persistent problems very well in my opinion. The next few years will be marked by what is done at the old hospital site and how to navigate our town without the need of individual vehicles.

As for the old hospital, I think we are being overly generous to the group that owns that whole site. There should be a motion to divide that property to allow for smaller developers, and home ownership, to proceed without full site development. One key aspect



LUTTENBERGER

is the "taxes" that group pays goes directly to a fund they can use on other properties. It's not illegal, but I think that should be addressed.

Our town has a lot of hills and small pocket neighborhoods. A transit system that does not connect to the wider county would be helpful for residents to enjoy our culture. Riding a bus out to the island would reduce wear and tear on the road, while allowing sight-seeing tours to visitors and residents. A 3rd street route would be helpful too.

**Paul Schloegel**

Party: Non-Partisan

Campaign Phone: 906-362-1922

Education: BS NMU  
Communication and

Political Science

Military Experience: NA

Questions:

Q: What makes you uniquely qualified for the Marquette City Commission?

A: I feel my past experiences have prepared me for serving our community. I run a small business here in town. I've served our community for over 20 years in advisory roles including 6yrs on the Presque Isle Advisory Committee, 2 years BZA, 6yrs on the Planning Commission 3 years appointed City Commission, elected 2 years Marquette Board of Light and power and 3 years elected City Commission. As a Marquette Resident for 36+ years and visitor for years prior, I've seen Marquette



SCHLOEGEL

evolve into what it is today. I'm very proud of Marquette's past and have great respect for those that have come before me. At the same time, I've been a part of the process that has gotten us to where we are today. I'm not afraid to tackle any topic that our community has to deal with, and I will always be an advocate for the people.

Q: What are two priorities that Marquette should address and what actions would you, as commissioner, take regarding these priorities?

A: Fiscal responsibility and general oversight to ensure our community

is spending our taxpayer money in a way that impacts our daily lives in a positive manner. Also understanding when and why the city might need to responsibly bond for projects if needed. Until we can generate another revenue source for our general fund we have got to spend responsibly and tax increases are not an option.

Infrastructure maintenance is another priority topic. We are fortunate that previous Commissions have also found this topic very important and it is because of their foresight that Marquette has not had any major issues. Major weather events are becoming much more common, and we need to maintain and improve our infrastructure to ensure we are able to handle what the future holds. I realize people probably expect me to focus on affordable housing or the homelessness issues also needing addressing, but day in and day out it comes down to our tax dollars...Yours and mine.

# Race: Marquette City Board of Light & Power

Vote for not more than two (2)

Candidates:

**Dave Campana**  
Party: Non-Partisan  
Military Experience: US Army  
Campaign Mailing Address: 1711  
Grandview Dr, Marquette, mi,  
49855

Questions:

Q: Describe the skills and  
experience that make you qualified  
for this office and explain your  
reasons for running.

A: - no response -

Q: What are the top three priority  
issues that the MBLP should  
address and what actions would  
you, as a board member, take  
regarding each of them?

A: - no response -

Q: What do you think MBLP  
should be doing to prepare for  
meeting the state-mandated  
transition to 100% carbon-free  
energy by 2040?

A: - no response -

**Kurtis Monroe**  
Party: Non-Partisan  
Questions:

Q: Describe the skills and  
experience that make you qualified  
for this office and explain your  
reasons for running.  
A: - no response -

Q: What are the top three priority  
issues that the MBLP should  
address and what actions would  
you, as a board member, take  
regarding each of them?

A: - no response

Q: What do you think MBLP  
should be doing to prepare for  
meeting the state-mandated  
transition to 100% carbon-free  
energy by 2040?

A: - no response -

**John Prince**  
Party: Non-Partisan  
Campaign Mailing  
Address: 3023 Island Beach  
Road, Marquette, MI,  
49855  
Campaign Phone: 906-361-  
2569  
Education: Graduate  
Marquette High School



PRINCE

1974, Apprenticeship IBEW 906  
1976

Questions:

Q: Describe the skills and  
experience that make you qualified  
for this office and explain your  
reasons for running.

A: With over 50 years in the  
electrical construction industry  
and 40 years owning and operating  
an electrical contracting company,  
I would bring my experiences in  
customer service, construction,  
business management and  
importance of developing/retaining  
dedicated talented personal.  
After previously serving on the  
Marquette Board of Light and  
Power, I take great pride in service  
to our community and I would  
provide all necessary efforts so the  
rate payers are confident that their  
local power company complies

with policies and is  
positioned to provide most  
reliable affordable rates.

Q: What are the top three  
priority issues that the  
MBLP should address and  
what actions would you,  
as a board member, take  
regarding each of them?

A: 1. Provide necessary support  
to continue to invest in Marquette  
Energy Center and pole/  
transformer distribution systems.  
The Marquette energy Center  
has been on line less than 10  
years, with proper maintenance  
investment, there should be over 30  
plus years of service remaining.  
2. Secure plan to locate entity for  
beneficial use of Pine Hill Fly Ash  
product so site can be sold.

Q: What do you think MBLP  
should be doing to prepare for  
meeting the state-mandated  
transition to 100% carbon-free  
energy by 2040?

A: The MBLP will need to plan  
and be prepared for the 2040  
state mandate as it is currently  
written. When mandate was  
implemented, there were  
compliance exceptions for several  
lower Michigan companies. The  
MBLP rate payers should be able  
to utilize their Marquette Energy  
Center investment and not have  
to incur additional cost since their  
Marquette Energy Center already  
produces low emissions. The MBLP  
must look out 10 - 20+ years and  
be nimble to adjust to possible state  
and federal laws and mandates.

# Race: Ishpeming City Council (*partial term and full term*)

Description: Vote for not more than one (1) candidate for a 2-year Partial Term.

The Ishpeming City Council consists of five (5) members elected from the City at large. Each council member serves a term of four (4) years and is limited to serving two (2) consecutive terms. City Council members are responsible for enacting local legislation, adopting annual city budgets, determining overall city policies, and appointing the City Manager. City Council meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Council Chambers at Ishpeming City Hall.

Candidates:

**Claudia Demarest**  
 Party: Non-Partisan  
 Questions:

Q: What makes you uniquely qualified for the Ishpeming City Council?

A: My experience as a former Ishpeming City Council Member having served 8 years previously. I have a deep understanding of community and the issues facing our community. I believe in following our Charter and our Ordinances. I'm always available to listen to residents with any complaints and helping to resolve their complaints.

Q: What are the top three priorities the Ishpeming City Council should address and what actions would you, as a council member, take regarding each of them?

A: 1. The General Fund. We need to be more fiscally responsible, we need the get a balanced budget sometimes we have to make some very hard decisions. We rely on staff to provide us with the information to make our decisions and by retaining a competent city manager that knows what he is doing is key to getting our finances in order.

2. Infrastructure. We need to continue improving our infrastructure and the only way we can do that is by pursuing grants and low interest loans.

3. Affordable Housing. We need to encourage developers to come in to meet the needs of all residents.

**Andrea Jackson**  
 Party: Non-Partisan  
 Campaign Phone: 906-360-5252  
 Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/AndreaforIshpeming](http://www.facebook.com/AndreaforIshpeming)  
 Education: Bachelor's of Public Administration - Northern Michigan University



JACKSON

Questions:

Q: What makes you uniquely qualified for the Ishpeming City Council?

A: Growing up, my family was always involved in the community. After earning my Bachelor's degree from Northern Michigan University in Public Administration, I began to pay more attention to local politics. I have experience with small business, volunteer organizations and event management. I have worked with people of different generations,

viewpoints and pride myself on listening before making decisions. I am now ready to be more directly involved in shaping the future of the City of Ishpeming. I believe my education and experience make me uniquely qualified for the position of Ishpeming City Council.

Q: What are the top three priorities the Ishpeming City Council should address and what actions would you, as a council member, take regarding each of them?

A: Like many historic mining towns, Ishpeming faces complex issues, but our city is already taking proactive steps forward. My top three priorities are housing, infrastructure, and downtown development. First, housing. I will support ongoing development and collaborate with the Marquette County Land Bank to eliminate blighted properties. Enforcing rental codes and streamlining zoning will remove barriers to construction and remodeling, expanding housing options while protecting current taxpayers. Second, infrastructure. I support our "dig once" policy, while main corridors take priority, side streets cannot be overlooked. I will push to assess residential roads and secure state and federal grants so every neighborhood gets equal attention. Third, downtown development. Events like the Farmers Market show what makes Ishpeming vibrant. I will work with the DDA to leverage economic funds, support

existing businesses, and attract new investment to showcase our communities bright future.

**Justin White**  
 Party: Non-Partisan

Questions:

Q: What makes you uniquely qualified for the Ishpeming City Council?

A: - no response -

Q: What are the top three priorities the Ishpeming City Council should address and what actions would you, as a council member, take regarding each of them?

A: - no response -

## Race: Ishpeming City Council (*full term*)

Description: Vote for not more than two (2) candidates for a 4-year Term.

The Ishpeming City Council consists of five (5) members elected from the City at large. Each council member serves a term of four (4) years and is limited to serving two (2) consecutive terms. City Council members are responsible for enacting local legislation, adopting annual city budgets, determining overall city policies, and appointing the City Manager. City Council meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Council Chambers at Ishpeming City Hall.

See **Council** p. 14

**Commission** from 10

**Candidates:**

**William Anderson Jr.**

Party: Non-Partisan  
Campaign Phone: (906)250-1352

**Questions:**

Q: What makes you uniquely qualified for the Ishpeming City Council?

A: I bring nearly 30 years of experience in municipal government, with a unique perspective gained from serving in a variety of roles within local government. My experience includes working as a municipal employee, managing employees and departments, and serving as an elected policymaker. My professional and community experience includes 10 years at K.I. Sawyer, working for both the U.S. Air Force and Marquette County; 11.5 years as the Water/Sewer Supervisor for the City of Negaunee; 3 years as a Negaunee City Councilman; 12 years as a volunteer firefighter for the City of Negaunee; and 5 years as the Public Works

Director for the City of Ishpeming. In addition to my municipal experience, I have spent the past 8 years as a developer. During that time, I have worked to revitalize businesses and properties, transforming them into successful attractions that provide value and opportunities for community members. Financial Management I have experience developing and maintaining balanced budg



**ANDERSON JR.**

Q: What are the top three priorities the Ishpeming City Council should address and what actions would you, as a council member, take regarding each of them?

A: - no response -

**Collin Fleury**

Party: Non-Partisan  
Campaign Phone: (906)360-0785  
Education: High School graduate, Trade School graduate

**Questions:**

Q: What makes you uniquely qualified for the Ishpeming City Council?

A: - no response -

Q: What are the top three priorities the Ishpeming City Council should address and what actions would you, as a council member, take regarding each of them?

A: - no response -

**Kurt Kipling**

Party: Non-Partisan  
Campaign Phone: (906)250-9672  
Education: Ishpeming High School  
Military Experience: None  
Questions:

Q: What makes you uniquely qualified for the Ishpeming City Council?

A: I am a lifelong resident of Ishpeming and have been actively engaged in the community throughout my life. I attended Ishpeming Public Schools. I have served on various committees, as a City Council Member, and as Mayor. I have a deep understanding of the City's history and people. I am accessible to residents and want to hear their input. I am also the type of person who wants to get to the bottom of things, understand all sides of an issue, and find the best solution for everyone. And finally,

I don't have a personal agenda, vendetta, or business interest as my reason for serving.

Q: What are the top three priorities the Ishpeming City Council should address and what actions would you, as a council member, take regarding each of them?

A: The top three priorities for the City are: achieving financial stability, continuing infrastructure improvements, and growing our tax base through creative housing solutions. To achieve financial stability, we must explore burdens on our general fund and put a stop to them. We must spend wisely to protect the general fund for our future. To continue addressing our aging infrastructure, we must find grants as our residents cannot afford to pay debt caused by past neglect. Our streets need paving and we still have some underground work to do, so it's going to be important to find new revenue. Growing our tax base through new development is important, but we've got to be smart about it. We need private partners, housing development incentives, and construction that doesn't further burden our infrastructure. I will be open to finding solutions and working with others.



# Race: Ishpeming Mayor

**Description:** Vote for not more than one (1) candidate. The Ishpeming City Council consists of five (5) members elected from the City at large. Each council member serves a term of four (4) years and is limited to serving two (2) consecutive terms. City Council members are responsible for enacting local legislation, adopting annual city budgets, determining overall city policies, and appointing the City Manager. City Council meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month in the Council Chambers at Ishpeming City Hall. The Mayor is elected at each General City Election. Those council members whose terms do not expire immediately following the General Election are automatically candidates for the office of Mayor.

## Candidates:

### Brett Argall

Party: Non-Partisan  
Campaign Phone: 906-458-5615  
Facebook Page:  
www.facebook.com/



ARGALL

profiphp?id=61564024521360  
Education: Bachelors - Accounting Major

## Questions:

**Q:** What are your priorities as Mayor of the City of Ishpeming and how would you address them if elected.

**A:** My priority as Mayor is to make Ishpeming a community where families choose to settle down, entrepreneurs choose to invest, and other communities want to emulate. It is a grand vision, but it is what Ishpeming deserves. That begins with planning for the future. We must maintain and improve our water, sewer, and roads. With two major infrastructure projects underway, now is the time to prepare for what comes next. Through my work on the DDA, I've focused on building a vibrant business community. Supporting our longtime businesses while actively seeking new opportunities and

investment is a key for our future business growth.

Communication must also be a priority. Residents deserve important information delivered clearly, simply, and quickly. None of these goals are accomplished by one person. They require city staff, the Council, local businesses, and most importantly, the people who call Ishpeming home.

I ask for your vote this November and the opportunity to serve as your Mayor.

### Jason Chapman

Party: Non-Partisan  
Website: Facebook.com/chapmanforIshpeming/  
Campaign Phone: 906-458-1226  
Facebook Page:  
facebook.com/chapmanforIshpeming/  
Education: 2006 Graduate of Westwood High School, Some College



CHAPMAN

## Questions:

**Q:** What are your priorities as Mayor of the City of Ishpeming and how would you address them if elected.

**A:** I would like to continue to see increased transparency, a focus on economic and housing development, a renewed focus on constituent service, and continued work on improving our infrastructure.

We also need to focus on cultivating relationships with our elected officials at the county, state, and federal level. I've built relationships with elected officials that have proven beneficial for the city; working together with Senator McBroom and

Representative Bohnak to bring a new fire engine to the city that was a direct state budget item. These relationships help us with grant opportunities, state and federal funding, economic development assistance, and much more. We must also continue working on making Ishpeming a better place for families. From building new housing units to fixing our neighborhood playgrounds, we have to do more. I also have the experience of several years on the city council and a term as mayor. With such a tight budget, experience is needed now more than ever.

# Race: Negaunee Mayor

**Description:** Vote for not more than one (1)

## Candidates:

### Jon Becker

Party: Non-Partisan  
Campaign Phone: 906-458-4221

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561419553193  
Education: BA in Speech Communication from Wayne State University

## Questions:



BECKER

**Q:** What are your priorities as Mayor of the City of Negaunee and how would you address them if elected?

**A:** We need to be proactive about

maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure and public facilities. I will work with the Council and staff to establish clear priorities, pursue state/federal funding and coordinate projects as responsible stewards of taxpayer resources. Housing is essential to our community's future. I support

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**Mayor** from 10

practical approaches that work for people at different stages of life and income levels, make use of underutilized property and work with developers and regional partners to reduce barriers to projects.

I would work to make the city a responsive, predictable partner for business. That means maintaining clear development processes, communicating effectively with applicants, helping identify available grants and continuing to invest in the areas that contribute to a vibrant local economy. We need to preserve what makes our community special while making thoughtful investments that position us to remain an affordable, welcoming place to live, work and raise a family.

**Amanda Ghanavati**  
Party: Non-Partisan  
Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559499736016](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559499736016)  
Education: LPN from Northern Michigan University



GHANAVATI

Questions:

Q: What are your priorities as Mayor of the City of Negaunee and how would you address them if elected?

A: Transparency is an important issue that has struck a cord with many citizens. I think having live recorded meetings and conducting regular surveys on issues is an important part in encouraging community involvement. As a city council member, I have pushed for and supported the live recording and broadcast of all city council meetings. I think we could go a step further to include planning commission and zoning board meetings as well. I hope to see that come to fruition as mayor.

Another issue that is important in Negaunee today, is fiscal responsibility. As mayor, I aim to make sure that our tax dollars are going where they are needed most for Negaunee, to serve all citizens. I would do this by being more hands on with greater oversight of how money is being handled, and working with appropriate city staff within my scope to ensure accounting for all spending is being handled accurately and responsibly, and that we are following the corrective action plans of recent audits.

**Race: Negaunee City Council**

Description: Vote for not more

than two (2)

Candidates:

**Kevin N. Flohe**  
Party: Non-Partisan

Questions:

Q: What is your background and what specific skills or experiences do you have that will help you serve the City of Negaunee?

A: - no response -

Q: What are the top three issues facing the City of Negaunee and how will you address these if elected?

A: - no response -

**Kristen Wainio**  
Party: Non-Partisan  
Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/share/18HGZ59VLu/?mibextid=wwXIfr](http://www.facebook.com/share/18HGZ59VLu/?mibextid=wwXIfr)



WAINIO

Questions:

Q: What is your background and what specific skills or experiences do you have that will help you serve the City of Negaunee?

A: Every day at work, I talk with coworkers, residents, and family members — listening and problem-

solving when needed.

I was very proud to be part of the Protect Old Town movement. We got our neighbors to vote YES and saved 5 acres the city had planned to build housing on. I went door to door with flyers, talking with many Negaunee residents along the way. I want my constituents to know they can always come to me with their concerns or to share their views — I'll listen first, and I'll bring those concerns to the council to start a real discussion.

But most of all, I want Negaunee citizens to know I am NOT afraid to ask the tough questions.

Q: What are the top three issues facing the City of Negaunee and how will you address these if elected?

- A:
1. Government transparency
  2. Fiscal responsibility
  3. Accountability

My answer to all three of these is connected: there should never be just one person making decisions for our city, with everyone else expected to be a rubber stamp. Our main objective on this council is to equally make decisions that are best for our neighbors and our town together.

# Proposals

## MARQUETTE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

### LIBRARY MILLAGE RENEWAL

Shall the previously voted increase in charter millage in the amount of one mill (\$1.00 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable value), reduced to 0.8761 mill (\$.8761 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed in an amount not to exceed 0.8761 mill (\$.8761 on each \$1,000.00 of taxable value) and levied for a period of two (2) years, 2026 to 2027 inclusive, to be distributed to the Peter White Public Library for the purpose of providing library services to the residents of the Charter Township of Marquette? The estimated revenue the Township will collect in the first year, if the millage is approved and levied, is approximately \$313,703.67.

### POWELL TOWNSHIP

### HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE AND RECYCLING SERVICES

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Powell Township, Marquette County, Michigan, be increased and levied at 1.00 mills (\$1.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) upon expiration of the current garbage collection millage for a period of 3 years, from 2027 to 2029, inclusive, for the purpose of providing funds for continued township household garbage collection, Powell Town-

ship Transfer Station operations, recycling and related waste disposal services?

If approved and levied in full, this millage will raise an estimated \$128,798 in the first year of levy.

### ISHPEMING CITY LIBRARY MILLAGE

“For continuing to provide current Library services, shall the City of Ishpeming, Marquette County, Michigan be authorized to levy up to an additional 2.1 mills (\$2.10 per \$1000.00 taxable value) for Library operations and, concurrently, up to .4 mills (\$0.40 per \$1000.00 taxable value) for Library capital expenditures on all property assessed for taxes within the City of Ishpeming for a period of six (6) years (2026 – 2031, inclusive)? The combined new 2.5 mills will raise approximately \$399,527.30 in the first year.”

### ISHPEMING CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT

#### SECTION 2.10

Should Section 2.10 of the Charter be amended to add a requirement that a person must have been, for at least one year, a registered and qualified elector and a resident of the City, to be an eligible candidate for election or appointment to any elective City office?

### ISHPEMING CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT

#### SECTION 2.15, 2.16, 2.17

Should the Charter be amended to require the Council to declare a seat vacant within 15 days of learning of facts indicating that a

vacancy may exist, clarify that petitions are required for candidates for appointment to fill a vacancy and provide a fifteen (15) day additional time limit for the Council to fill the vacancy if they fail to do so within the initial thirty (30) day period?

### ISHPEMING CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT

#### SECTION 5.10

Should Section 5.10 of the Charter be amended to require that the City Manager reside within a 20-mile radius of the City, to align the Charter with current Michigan law?

Statement of Purpose: This amendment will bring the residency requirement into compliance with current state law, while still requiring the manager to reside close to the city.

### ISHPEMING CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT

#### SECTION 10.6

Should Section 10.6 of the Charter be amended to require oral bids for purchases of \$8,000.00 or less, written bids for purchases of \$25,000.00 or less, and sealed bids for purchases over \$25,000.00?

Statement of Purpose: This amendment will increase the dollar limits for competitive bids to require oral bids for purchases of \$8,000.00 or less, written bids for purchases of \$25,000.00 or less, and sealed bids for purchases over \$25,000.00.

These competitive bidding categories were last amended in 1996.

### GWINN AREA COMMUNITY

## SCHOOLS BOND PROPOSAL

Shall Gwinn Area Community Schools, Marquette County, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Twenty-Four Million Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$24,950,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

- erecting, furnishing, and equipping an elementary school addition to the middle/high school building;
- partially remodeling, furnishing and refurbishing, and equipping and re-equipping school buildings;
- purchasing school buses; and
- preparing, developing, and improving sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2027 is 1.89 mills (\$1.89 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is thirty (30) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 2.29 mills (\$2.29 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

# Race: Powell Township School District Board of Education

Description: Vote for not more than four (4)

Candidates:

**Matthew S. Anderson**  
Party: Non-Partisan  
Campaign Phone: 906-869-2956  
Education: M.S. Forestry

Questions:

Q: What is motivating you to run for the school board?

A: I have three children that attend Powell Township school and care deeply about this community.

Q: What issues relevant to your school district are you especially concerned about?

A: Student safety and maintaining local community control of our children's education.

Q: What in your background qualifies you to raise questions on budgets and policies presented at board meetings?

A: I have been on the school board for seven years, owned and operated a family business for nine years and been the fire chief in Powell for two years.

**Richard Baker**  
Party: Non-Partisan

Questions:

Q: What is motivating you to run

for the school board?

A: - no response -

Q: What issues relevant to your school district are you especially concerned about?

A: - no response -



ANDERSON

Q: What in your background qualifies you to raise questions on budgets and policies presented at board meetings?

A: - no response -  
Anthony Fortunato  
Party: Non-Partisan

Questions:

Q: What is motivating you to run for the school board?

A: - no response -

Q: What issues relevant to your school district are you especially concerned about?

A: - no response -

Q: What in your background qualifies you to raise questions on budgets and policies presented at board meetings?

A: - no response -

**Kristen Karls**  
Party: Non-Partisan  
Campaign Phone: 906-235-6967  
Education: Bachelor's Degree in International Studies



KARLS

Questions:

Q: What is motivating you to run for the school board?

A: I would have to say that my main motivation for running for the Powell Township school board is my children. I have a student at Powell Township School, and as someone who also lives in Big Bay I know many of the other students that attend that school. I also know many of the teachers and other employees at the school. The small school is already doing some great things for all of their students, and I want to see the school continue to grow and succeed. I feel that doing things locally is where someone can make the most positive impact. This is my way of getting involved at the local level to help continue to make our community a wonderful place for all the families that live here.

Q: What issues relevant to your school district are you especially concerned about?

A: Most recently, two issues have been at the forefront of my mind, bussing and the lack of after school programming. I am a solo parent with one kid going to Marquette Senior High School and one going to Powell Township School. I have spent time talking with both schools' transportation departments trying to make sure that both of my children will have adequate bussing to get them to and from school safely. What concerns me is that many of Powell Township School

children become students who attend Marquette Senior High School, and there is not a set bus from that school that comes up to Big Bay. Instead this is a burden that Powell Township bussing has had to take on. It is my hope that through some critical thinking discussions we can come up with a better solution. In regards to an after school program for the students, I do feel that this is something that is well within the capacity of the school, and would only benefit the families whose children go to Powell.

Q: What in your background qualifies you to raise questions on budgets and policies presented at board meetings?

A: As a self-employed person, I understand the importance of going through budgets and making the best financial decisions in order for continued success. I understand that it's also not always about the bottom line, but also what serves the community best. When it comes to looking at both the budget and the needs of the community, conscious discernment is needed which is a value that I am committed to and one that I continue to refine.

**Bridget Moran**  
Party: Non-Partisan  
Campaign Phone: 906-236-4766  
Education: Master of Social Work



MORAN

See **Powell** p. 19

Powell from 18

Questions:

Q: What is motivating you to run for the school board?

A: Powell Township School is a very special place to me. I went there from preschool through 8th grade. As a small school, it provided unique opportunities that I wouldn't have had elsewhere. The daily connection to nature and family-like environment made it

a truly wonderful place to spend my formative years. An additional strong motivator is that my niece and nephew attend the school. They are the fourth generation in my family that have gone there. Although most of the staff that were there when I was a student have since retired, Powell Township remains an amazing school. I want to help the school maintain the high quality of its education and its amazing staff.

Q: What issues relevant to your school district are you especially

concerned about?

A: I want Powell Township to remain a place where people want to work and send their children to school. As a board member, multiple people have spoken to me about getting the playground redone, so I would like to start working on that more should I get re-elected. I'd also like to continue working on policies and procedures related to bullying. While it is certainly an issue in every school, we are in a unique position to manage it due to our size.

Q: What in your background qualifies you to raise questions on budgets and policies presented at board meetings?

A: As I stated above, I attended school at Powell Township. I think this makes me uniquely qualified as I have a direct understanding of what the day-to-day can look like in such a small district. I also see things from a systems perspective and have a genuine interest in how school districts operate.

Race: Republic/Michigamme Schools Board of Education

Description: Vote for not more than (3)

Candidates:

Matthew Barbercheck  
Party: Non-Partisan

Questions:

Q: What is motivating you to run for the school board?

A: We are offering our youth less than what was offered to prior generations and I must course-correct that trajectory.

Q: What issues relevant to your school district are you especially concerned about?

A: I want to leverage the strengths of a well funded and small school environment to be the heart of our community and help each individual student find their strengths and

role in our society.

Q: What in your background qualifies you to raise questions on budgets and policies presented at board meetings?

A: I was a classroom educator for 9 years and spent many years working in a variety of private sector businesses.

Wade Holsworth  
Party: Non-Partisan

Questions:

Q: What is motivating you to run for the school board?

A: - no response -

Q: What issues relevant to your school district are you especially concerned about?

A: - no response -

Q: What in your background qualifies you to raise questions on budgets and policies presented at board meetings?

A: - no response -

Jacob Spear  
Party: Non-Partisan

Questions:

Q: What is motivating you to run for the school board?

A: - no response -

Q: What issues relevant to your school district are you especially concerned about?

A: - no response -

Q: What in your background qualifies you to raise questions on

budgets and policies presented at board meetings?

A: - no response -

William Wheeler  
Party: Non-Partisan

Questions:

Q: What is motivating you to run for the school board?

A: - no response -

Q: What issues relevant to your school district are you especially concerned about?

A: - no response -

Q: What in your background qualifies you to raise questions on budgets and policies presented at board meetings?

A: - no response -