

# ELECTION 2002: COUNTY BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS

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firefighter

**POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:** None  
**PRIORITIES:** Taking care of the county budget, controlling growth and working on traffic issues.

**WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU?** I am trying to give residents in the 6th District a choice, a new face and maybe a new voice on the commission. It's my way of getting involved instead of sitting back and complaining and wondering why some these issues aren't being addressed or wondering about the way they are being addressed.

## WEXFORD

### DISTRICT 4

#### FRANCES M. OKOREN

Democrat

■ **AGE:** 58  
■ **RESIDENCE:** Boon  
■ **EDUCATION:** Specialist degree in instructional technology from Wayne State University, 1985; master's degree in secondary education mathematics from Michigan State University, 1972; bachelor of science in secondary education/mathematics from MSU, 1972; bachelor of science in secondary education/mathematics from MSU, 1966; Cadillac High School, 1962.

■ **PROFESSION:** Teaching math for business at Baker College in Cadillac. Retired from teaching math at St. Clair High School.

■ **POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:** Wexford County Board of Commissioners, 1997-present.

■ **PRIORITIES:** Would like to see the departments and elected officials work cooperatively to deal with the decreased revenues; to see more locations and funding for recycling; to see the landfill become a department that meets the criteria required by the Department of Environmental Quality; to see the Civic Center have more activities and increased revenue.

■ **WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU?:** I'm concerned that they get represented. I attend my township meetings and let people know what's going on at the county level and I've got some experience at doing the job.

#### LARRY W. COPLEY

Republican

■ **AGE:** 60  
■ **RESIDENCE:** Cherry Grove Township

■ **EDUCATION:** Bachelor's degree in police administration at Michigan State University, 1964; Cadillac High School, 1960.

■ **PROFESSION:** Retired from Michigan State Police, where he was lieutenant in charge of central records section in Lansing.

■ **POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:** None.

■ **PRIORITIES:** Making sure county finances are in good shape. In the past, the county commission has put finances in jeopardy by not asking voters to decide on the ice arena and the courthouse expansion. They're going to have to pay for them with increased taxes or reduced services. My long-term goal is to maintain a community with a superior quality of life that attracts economic stability. If elected, I will work to adopt the new Wexford County master plan that provides long-term methods to improve the county.

■ **WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU?:** I will bring some new ideas to the county. I intend to increase communications between the commission and the electorate. I will seek to publicize the agendas and minutes so people who don't attend the meetings can be better informed.

### DISTRICT 5

#### LAURA LEE SMIT

Republican

■ **AGE:** 63  
■ **RESIDENCE:** Cadillac  
■ **EDUCATION:** Lowell High School, 1957

■ **PROFESSION:** Owns Laura Lee's Landing resort and store.

■ **POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:** None

■ **PRIORITIES:** I'm going to have to educate myself to the issues. I myself don't like to spend money I don't have, and the county's going to have to avoid doing that, too. The county and township have done a great deal to the exterior of the lakes and I think the interior has been forgotten. If we don't take care of them, we're going to lose our lakes. We can't leave this up to the Department of Natural Resources.

■ **WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU?:** I've lived in Cadillac a long time. I'm a very honest person. I'm not afraid to stand up for what I believe in.

#### GREG WILLIS

Libertarian

■ **AGE:** 49  
■ **RESIDENCE:** Cadillac  
■ **EDUCATION:** General equivalency diploma after spending 10 years in the U.S. Navy; some course work in English and creative writing and business at North-western Michigan College.

■ **PROFESSION:** Quality tech-

nician with Borg Warner Cooling Systems in Cadillac.

■ **POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:** Ran unsuccessfully for county commission in 1998 and for state representative in 2000.

■ **PRIORITIES:** To cut the size of government and cut the costs so we can start rolling back property tax rates.

■ **WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU:** I want smaller government. If we can get a commission in there that can listen to the people on large purchases like the ice arena and the county courthouse addition, we'll be a lot better off. Any time you have a major expenditure like that, you should put it before the voters and this county doesn't do that.

### DISTRICT 8

#### SARAH R. MCKEEVER

Republican

■ **AGE:** 30  
■ **RESIDENCE:** Cadillac  
■ **EDUCATION:** Master's in Business Administration from Baker College in Cadillac in 1998; a bachelor's in business administration from Eastern Michigan University in 1994; is attending Ferris State University for teacher certification for secondary business and social studies. Graduated from Airport Community Senior High School in Carleton, Mich., in 1990.

■ **PROFESSION:** Work for Avon Rubber and Plastics in quality control.

■ **POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:** Campaigned for

Republican State Sen. Norm Shinkle of Monroe, 1990; was a precinct delegate for the Republican Party in 1990.

■ **PRIORITIES:** To stay within budget and not cost the taxpayers any money needlessly.

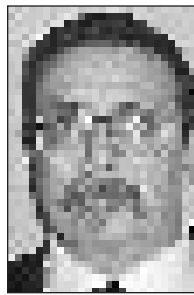
■ **WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU:** I am a well organized, enthusiastic person who enjoys a challenge.

#### ANITA LOUISE FAGERMAN

No party affiliation

■ **AGE:** 33  
■ **RESIDENCE:** Haring Township

■ **EDUCATION:** Studying for doctorate in organization and management from Capella University; master's in quality management from Eastern Michigan University; master's in applied statistics from Purdue



University; bachelor's degree in applied mathematics from Ferris State University.

■ **PROFESSION:** Instructor/trainer at Ferris State University on the QS 9000 automotive system. Co-owns FMD, a design and engineering firm in Williamsburg and is a statistician, quality engineer and quality auditor for the business.

■ **POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:** None.

■ **PRIORITIES:** The Michigan Constitution, its policies and freedom are my priorities; from this, all things flow.

■ **WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU?:**

The integrity to think before I act, to confer with others before making lasting decisions and the ability to admit when I am wrong. I have the self-control to hold my tongue, to not cave in to peer pressure, and to know both my limitations and my abilities. I know when to say no, and when to stop an activity that is not healthy or proper. I have compassion for the workforce that is losing more of its freedoms and rights. I will fight for our continued freedom with an indomitable spirit. I have the desire to secure our blessings of freedom for ourselves and our children. Being courteous to my fellow citizens is very important to me. I firmly believe that each and every person should respect the elderly, appreciate the young, and be nice to one another, regardless of any situation. We are a society of people and must learn to live with one another.



#### GARY FULLER

No party affiliation

■ **AGE:** 58  
■ **RESIDENCE:** Selma Township

■ **EDUCATION:** Bachelor's degree in engineering from Michigan State University in 1965; graduated from Haslett High School in 1961.

■ **PROFESSION:** Retired as director of public works for Wexford County.

■ **POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:** Working for appointed public works board for 24 years.

■ **PRIORITIES:** To bring the county back into financial solvency. Would want to see a detailed review of county expenditures. We're seeing all too much that there are budget crunches all of a sudden at the end of the year.

■ **WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU?:** Experience.

### DISTRICT 9

#### DARRELL KELLEY

Republican

■ **AGE:** 46

■ **RESIDENCE:** Clam Lake Township

■ **EDUCATION:** Graduated from Marion High School, 1973

■ **PROFESSION:** Licensed property and casualty agent for Cadillac Insurance Center; Owns Kel's Ideal Tavern in Marion.

■ **POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:** Chairman of Wexford County Board of Commissioners, 2000-present; county commissioner, 1999-present; mayor of McBain, 1991-92; member of tax increment finance authority board and Downtown Development Authority board in McBain, 1988-94.

■ **PRIORITIES:** Continue to provide level of services we presently have at the county despite the challenge of depleting revenue streams. Continue to try to improve our infrastructure, also a challenge due to limited revenues.

■ **WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU?:** My business experience provides a real common-sense approach to the tough decisions that we make; not only in policy and procedure and budgetary matters. My ability to get groups together to work together. County government needs to work closely with townships and city to provide services without duplication.

#### ALBERT NELSON

No party affiliation

■ **AGE:** 58  
■ **RESIDENCE:** Haring Township

■ **EDUCATION:** Cadillac High School, 1962; has taken college courses, mostly in law enforcement, management and budgeting, from Central Michigan University and other colleges.

■ **PROFESSION:** Retired administrative lieutenant for the Cadillac Police Department. Owns and operates Mr. Foisie's Pasties in Cadillac with wife Gail.

■ **POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:** Served on Haring Township Board of Trustees, 1983-95.

■ **PRIORITIES:** Fiscal responsibility. I think the county board spends a lot of money we don't have. Would look at the courthouse addition and the ice arena and find out where we're going to get the money for this without going to the taxpayers. A lot of other programs are going to suffer in order to deal with this. We're going to have to come up with some revenues to pay for this debt over the long term. Money from the interest on the landfill funds is going to dry up. Would look at making cuts in non-essential programs, though not the ones that deal with safety, welfare and health.

■ **WHY SHOULD VOTERS ELECT YOU?:** I've been a lifelong resident of the county. I own and operate a small business in the county. I have a lot of experience in the area of administration. I share most of the community values. I think I will bring a different voice to the table. I will not impose debt on the taxpayer without a vote.