

## OTSEGO COUNTY



## PROSECUTOR

**KEVIN HESSELINK**

Republican

AGE: 41

RESIDENCE: Gaylord

EDUCATION: Northern Michigan University, bachelor's degree; Thomas Cooley Law School, law degree; Regional Police Academy.

POLITICAL CAREER: 10 years, Otsego County prosecutor.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER: 1987-1991, assistant prosecutor, Marquette County; 1991-94, chief assistant prosecutor, Otsego County; 1994-present, prosecutor, Otsego County.

TOP ISSUE/WHY?: The only issue for a prosecutor is justice. I have dedicated myself to being a "minister of justice," a humble public servant committed to legal principles, not politics or popularity. I have faithfully and fairly applied the law and implemented innovations to improve the entire justice system.

WHY VOTE FOR YOU?: I am the candidate with the most experience and expertise: a 17-year career, 10 as prosecutor; 100 felony trials; thousands of cases. An award-winning trial prosecutor, police academy instructor and chairman of multiple county boards. I am backed by law enforcement as a fighter for victims and justice.

**KYLE LEGEL**

Republican

AGE: 31

RESIDENCE: Gaylord

EDUCATION: 1995, B.A.,

University of Michigan; 1998, J.D., University of Tulsa College of Law.

POLITICAL CAREER: None.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER: 1999-2000, Blumberg & Blumberg, P.C., Gaylord; 2000-present, Carey & Jaskowski, PLLC, Grayling.

TOP ISSUE/WHY? A prosecutor must enforce the law in a fair and efficient manner. When this is done right, the prosecutor's decisions are respected by the community. I will make it a priority to restore the reputation of the office and will apply a common sense approach to the law.

WHY VOTE FOR YOU? It's time for a change, and as Otsego County prosecutor, I will bring a positive change to the position while protecting the residents of Otsego County. I will be an approachable leader who respects and listens to the concerns and suggestions of the community I serve.

**MICHAEL ROLA**

Republican

AGE: 46

RESIDENCE: Gaylord

EDUCATION: 1976, Warren Woods High School, Warren, Mich.; 1981, B.A., philosophy, Wayne State University; 1986, J.D.

Detroit College of Law; member Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity since 1985.

POLITICAL CAREER: None.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER: 1986, admitted to the State Bar of Michigan; 1987-1994, chief assistant prosecutor, Menominee County; 1994-2002, chief assistant prosecutor, Otsego County; 2002-present, associate council at the law firm of Blumberg and Blumberg, P.C., Gaylord. Handled more than 500 jury trials and successfully litigated several matters before the state Court of Appeals.

TOP ISSUE/WHY? Restoring public confidence in the pros-

ecutor's office. Unless all charging decisions and prosecutions are conducted in an equal and uniform fashion, public confidence in the office, law enforcement and the court system suffers.

WHY VOTE FOR YOU? In addition to 14 years as a prosecutor, I have had the benefit of both private civil practice and criminal defense experience. This, I believe, will allow me to more uniformly represent the citizens of Otsego County. To truly respect the rights of citizens, the law must be evenly enforced.

## SHERIFF

**MIKE ANTHONY**

Republican

AGE: 52

RESIDENCE: Gaylord.

EDUCATION: High school graduate, Ferris State College (1969-1974), Macomb Criminal Justice Training Center.

POLITICAL CAREER: None

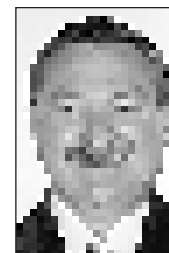
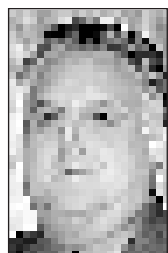
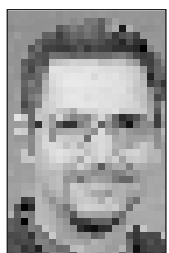
PROFESSIONAL CAREER: TOP ISSUE/WHY? Sheriff's Office needs more intense supervision. Personnel management, attentiveness to jail operations and listening to the law enforcement concerns of citizens must be priorities. Reform past practices that have resulted in exposure to civil liability and the non-productive spending of the taxpayer's dollars.

WHY VOTE FOR YOU? I have the professional background to best serve the people's law enforcement needs. Extensive experience in jail and patrol operations, administration, criminal investigation and teaching make me the most qualified candidate. I have an unblemished history of keeping the best interests of the people I serve foremost in mind.

**ABE CRUZ**

Republican

AGE: 48



RESIDENCE: Gaylord

EDUCATION: Sienna Heights College (Adrian); Michigan State Police recruit school, 1978.

POLITICAL CAREER: No response

PROFESSIONAL CAREER: Michigan Department of State Police, 25 years, stationed at Hart, New Baltimore, Detroit Freeway and Gaylord posts; criminal investigation division narcotics unit.

TOP ISSUE/WHY?

The need to develop and maintain high standards of professionalism at every level in the sheriff's department. Everyone must be held accountable on- and off-duty to gain community respect. We must enhance communication with local citizens and other law enforcement and emergency service agencies. WHY VOTE FOR ME? I have a passion for law enforcement. It's not just a job but a part of who I am. I am qualified and experienced. I will provide hands-on administration as a proactive leader. I know the importance of professionalism, accountability and proper communication within the law enforcement community.

**JAMES McBRIDE**

Republican

AGE: 53

RESIDENCE: Gaylord

EDUCATION: High School; Delta Community College law enforcement program; Southeastern Michigan Law Enforcement Academy; jail administrative school, Sheriff's Association.

POLITICAL CAREER:

Elected sheriff of Iosco County in 1984; elected sheriff of Otsego County in 2000 (only one of four sheriffs to be elected in two counties in state's history).

PROFESSIONAL CAREER: Caseville Police Department, 1970. Deputy sheriff, Iosco

County, 1971-80. Hired as undersheriff in Otsego County in 1993; appointed sheriff in 1998.

TOP ISSUE/WHY? Jail overcrowding; the 34-bed jail built in the 1970s needs updating to eliminate overcrowding caused by county population growth. State law forced county to hold inmates longer, causing overcrowding. We need a new jail at an affordable cost.

WHY VOTE FOR YOU? During last six years as sheriff, I have forged excellent working relationships with county leaders. Reinstated 24-hour road patrol. Received grants to enhance the sheriff's office at little expense to taxpayers. Appointed a jail administrator, detective and created a civil service division within the sheriff's office.

## CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS

**SUSAN DeFEYTER**

Republican

AGE: 28

RESIDENCE: Gaylord

EDUCATION: High school.

POLITICAL CAREER: None.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER: 1994-present, Otsego County Clerk's office.

TOP ISSUE/WHY? I

don't really have a top issue in this election. WHY VOTE FOR YOU? I have 10 years experience and knowledge working in the clerk's office. I have been the chief deputy for the past six years. I attend yearly conferences and any necessary meetings to keep up on the changes. I have the full support and backing of the current Otsego County clerk.

**LINDA R. MARTIN**

Republican

AGE: No response.

EDUCATION: Johannesburg-Lewiston High School, accounting and bookkeeping, computer skills.

POLITICAL CAREER: No prior elected public office.

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