

## WHY SHOULD I VOTE FOR YOU?

### A Tool to Help Question and Evaluate Candidates for Bedford Township Office

- 1) **Priorities** – What should be the top five priorities of Township Hall over the next four (4) years? (1 = most important) Why do you feel these are the top five?
- a \_\_\_3\_\_\_ Improving police protection
  - b \_\_\_4\_\_\_ Improving fire protection
  - c \_\_\_15\_\_\_ Improving parks and recreation
  - d \_\_\_5\_\_\_ Promoting economic development
  - e \_\_\_6\_\_\_ Reducing the size of Township government
  - f \_\_\_10\_\_\_ Full Disclosure of Township financial records (publish on Township web site)
  - g \_\_\_1\_\_\_ Maintaining and improving infrastructure (roads, water, sewer)
  - h \_\_\_7\_\_\_ Reducing litigation against the Township
  - i \_\_\_14\_\_\_ Up-dating Planning, zoning and land use
  - j \_\_\_2\_\_\_ Promoting greater fiscal responsibility and lower taxes
  - k \_\_\_13\_\_\_ Improving services for citizens and being more customer friendly
  - l \_\_\_12\_\_\_ Improving the use of the Township Public Access Station on Buckeye Cable.
  - m \_\_\_11\_\_\_ Making better, bold and courageous decisions that benefit the entire township long term in spite of intense written and vocal pressure from special interest groups.
  - n \_\_\_8\_\_\_ Recognizing and protecting the property rights of all citizens
  - o \_\_\_9\_\_\_ Improving the use of the Township web site to communicate with residents.

Why do you feel that “Your top Five Priorities” are the most important?

I believe the two fundamentals a limited government was created for is infrastructure and security. Taxpayers expect their tax dollars to be used wisely as an investment, and as a Trustee, our responsibility is to ensure they receive a fair return on that investment. My top five priorities focus on the items that would provide residents with the greatest return on their investments.

2. What is your position on economic development for Bedford Township, especially the Temperance area? What is your plan to encourage economic development?

One idea I have for economic development is to provide an opportunity for an ambitious individual, selected as an independent contractor, to have the ability to raise capital through grants at the state and federal level as well as private donations. That capital, through specific criteria, can be used as incentive for recruiting business and more importantly, retaining local business. This individuals compensation could be a percentage of the amount of capital they raise so it would not come at taxpayer expense.

3. What is your position on "Town Hall Meetings" where township officials can meet with residents to discuss their concerns and to keep them informed of what is going on in the township? Would you be willing to have these on a monthly basis and also have them televised?

A township elected official should be expected to answer any and all questions appropriate when they are out for a walk or getting groceries in the community. That is part of the job description in my opinion. Based on this belief, any increased transparency would get my support.

**4.** What is your position on using the Township Access TV Channel on Buckeye Cable to communicate with the public? For example, a monthly one-hour TV show hosted by the Supervisor or Clerk to get current information out to residents about various issues, township boards and up-coming meetings. Since most Township Board meetings do not last the full 3 hours that is allotted, this show could be broadcasted at the end of one of the meetings each month with the public in attendance.

Same response as above.

**5.** What is your position concerning having all board members being fully informed before decisions are made at Township Board Meetings? Do you think that there is enough discussion on issues by all board members when decisions are made currently?

If a board member does not believe they have a full understanding of the facts and have made a clear opinion on the subject, they should table an issue until they can reasonably make a decision.

**6.** Do you feel that the current practice of having a township attorney in attendance at all Bedford Township meetings is necessary?

No. Every day I work with attorneys, and they provide useful services and confidence in issues that we are unsure of. However, in the other 95% of business issues that are regular, it would be an expensive decision and not a fruitful return on investment.

**7.** What do you see is your role as a member the Bedford Township Board? Do you think that all board members should take the responsibility for placing topics on the meeting agenda?

I believe that a board member and government in general, should have limited powers. In the broadest of terms, I don't believe our government would function best if we have all board members place issues on the agenda when only one or two are of necessity.

**8.** Over the past 8 years the current Bedford Township Board has made a number of important decisions. Do you agree with their decision on the following matters? If not, what is your opinion on these decisions?

a. Bedford Township was involved in 3 major lawsuits in the past 4 years which cost residents thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of lost time by Township officials.

Litigation is expensive and should limited because there is not only a cost directly to the parties involved, but in this case, a cost to all Bedford residents.

b. Continued the previous township board's practice of salting away taxpayers' funds (over 1 million dollars) to be used for the construction of a new township hall, even though these funds could have been used for such things as road improvements, park maintenance, police and fire protection.

Most successful businesses run lean and because of this, are able to take care of necessities in tough times as well as prosperous times. All decisions should be made with this in mind.

c. Construction of a new township hall.

Same answer as above.

d. Denial of bringing a major retailer to Bedford on the Whitman property.

In any decision, reasonable compromises can be made if both sides are willing to talk and listen. I am not sure if that was the case.

**9.** What are some new ideas that you would recommend if elected? What is your "Vision" for Bedford Township in the next 4 years?

I would like to explore my previously mentioned planned for economic development. But we need to focus on the basics. There are a lot of nice things we could allocate tax dollars for, but if we continue to neglect our primary purpose of infrastructure and security, tax payers will feel they haven't received a fair handshake with their tax dollars.

**10.** How should the public hold you as an elected official accountable for your campaign promises and your votes?

I have always felt that I have not convinced voters of my abilities to provide leadership in the trustee position, they should not vote for me and I should not be elected. If my ideas are not as popular as another candidate, that candidate should be the elected official and not me. I'm running because I get the sense that my views are mainstream in Bedford and would get represented fairly.