

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS – GRAND TRAVERSE AREA
VOTER GUIDE**

Grand Traverse County, Michigan

General Election: Tuesday, November 4, 2008

Polling Hours: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Candidates' responses are presented exactly as submitted unless they exceeded the word limit, in which case the response ends with an ellipsis (...).

COUNTY COMMISSION District 1		
	Please provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office and the reasons you are running. (150 word limit)	State your top three priorities for the office and explain your reasons for choosing those priorities. (150 word limit)
Bruce R. Hooper Republican	Qualification: I was born in America of American parents and I have reached adulthood. My reason for running for re-election to my second term is a keen sense of civic responsibility. This responsibility was instilled in me first by my grandfather who served on the county road commission for many years, rising to the position of chairman. Secondly, my parents continued to nurture this sense of responsibility toward the events that effect everyone in our community. My mother was energetically active in church service, in growing the Farm Bureau membership and promotion and in the township where she served many years as trustee. My father, a third generation peninsula farmer, believed that it was an imperative that we be well informed and active in civic life. He believed it to be our responsibility and duty as citizens of a democratic republic. So with this sense of duty, I am eager ...	I believe the top priority and prevailing responsibility of a county commissioner is the financial viability of our county. I will continue the fiscally conservative policies that have long been the practice of this and previous boards. These policies have positioned our county to be able to respond nimbly to the economic turmoil in which we find ourselves. My second priority will be a resolution to the Boardman Dams issue. This is an issue that has had every aspect and all alternatives extensively studied for about 5 years. I am eager to see the Boardman River Dams Committee's recommendation so that we can begin to move forward toward an implementation. Although I know it is an issue with many opposing constituencies, I am confident that a solution can be reached that will benefit and please the majority of the folks in our county. My third priority is a completion of ...
Bernol Soutar Democrat	-retired beverage distributor/owner. -University of Michigan graduate 1968 - political science major. -Eastern Michigan University and Kansas University graduate scholar in Geography, land use planning, urban-agricultural interaction. -Eucharistic Minister - St Joseph Catholic Church, Mapleton. -US Army sergeant 1962-1965 linguist/interpreter. As a native Michigander now that I have retired it is time for me to give back to the land I love. My experience in business and solidarity with those not blessed with advantages gives me a firm base to envision and wrestle with the problems of Grand Traverse County. These times of economic hardship require a breadth of vision but also knowledge of details. As a Geographer I look at the big picture. As a business person I look at the bottom line. As a student I will never cease learning or asking questions. As a father with a daughter in college I have hope for the future.	1) My top priority is to maintain if not improve the quality of life we have here in Grand Traverse County. We are blessed with gorgeous land, water and city, and people that require cultivation or we will lose them. Already our manufacturing community is disintegrating, our brightest minds are seeking jobs elsewhere because of the lack, and our infrastructure is crumbling without constant attention and adequate funding. 2) A related priority is our old boy network. The cynicism brought on by one party rule and a network that does not benefit more than a few must be changed. 3) My third priority is to do this within the confines of a limited budget. Local government is at the bottom end of the governmental feeding trough and our local taxes hurt most because we see them but we also can see the benefit if the monies are not squandered.

COUNTY COMMISSION District 2		
	Please provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office and the reasons you are running. (150 word limit)	State your top three priorities for the office and explain your reasons for choosing those priorities. (150 word limit)
Larry C. Inman Republican	Did not respond in time to be included in this guide.	
James Edward Schmidt Independent	<p>62 YEARS OLD – (YOUNG LAD) – GRADUATED 1966 – MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE 1966 (LIBERAL ARTS) – GRADUATED HENRY FORD TRADE SCHOOL– 1968 (NIGHTS) TOOL & DIE (MASTER CERTIFICATE) – GRADUATED DETROIT COLLEGE OF BUSINESS 1992 (NIGHTS)–ASSOCIATES DEGREE IN ACCOUNTING – GRADUATED BAKER COLLEGE 1998 (NIGHTS)–DEGREE IN ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING—PRESENTLY SINCE FALL 2007 STUDENT AT NORTHWESTERN MICHIGAN COLLEGE IN – PRE-LAW– (PARA-LEGAL PROGRAM) – WITH 3.357 G.P.A. – GRANTED (2) SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PRESENT FALL 2008 SEMESTER (ALL ONLINE LAW CLASSES — DOES NOT CONSTRICT MY TIME OR SCHEDULE FOR BEING FULL-TIME COUNTY COMMISSIONER. WAS A BEEF CATTLE (BLACK ANGUES) AND LARGE APPLE ORCHARD FARMER FOR 42 YEARS– (FAMILY FARM) – WAS PART OWNER AND RAN A MANUFACTURING PLANT THAT MANUFACTURED MILITARY COMPONENTS FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPT. OF DEFENSE FOR 38 YEARS (FAMILY BUSINESS FOUNDED IN 1942). I AM GENERALLY QUIET AND A GOOD LISTENER BUT I HAVE A PASSION TO MAKE IDEAS – PLANS AND GOVERNMENT PROJECTS SUCCEED FOR ...</p>	<p>1) I WISH TO DONATE 80% OF MY FIRST YEARS SALARY BACK TO THE COMMUNITY TO USE THE MONIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY PROJECTS. 2) I REPRESENT EACH INDIVIDUAL ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS – AND WISH TO MEET WITH ANY RESIDENT– VOTER ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS TO DISCUSS AND PRESENT THEIR DESIRES AND REQUESTS BEFORE THE GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. 3) I HAVE NO BUSINESS OR OTHER MONETARY GAIN I REPRESENT. SO I AM SEEKING THE JOB AS GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY COMMISSIONER FOR DISTRICT 2 —SOLELY TO REPRESENT THE CITIZENS. I am legally blind but can read 20 point font print or larger.</p>

COUNTY COMMISSION District 5		
	Please provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office and the reasons you are running. (150 word limit)	State your top three priorities for the office and explain your reasons for choosing those priorities. (150 word limit)
David Barr Republican	I am married with two children and a third on the way. I have been a resident of Grand Traverse County for over 30 years, the last 11 I have been employed at WTCM Radio. I'm currently the President of the TBA ISD Regional Board Association and Vice-President of the TCAPS Board of Education. I serve as the Rotary Assistant District Governor, am a former member of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Listen America Boards, member of the Optimist and Elks Clubs, memeber of the Father Fred Foundation Capital Campaign Community Division Co-chair, and a member of the County Planning Commission. I'm a former small business owner and currently operate a small ad agency. I am running because I believe the County Board can provide greater oversight and a better vision for the future of the County.	1) Greater Operational Oversight. We need to demand annual reviews from all administrators, scrutinize annual financial reports and department reviews and demand accountability from all departments. BATA, the Solid Waste Plan and the Septage treatment facility are just three examples of improper oversight. That is unacceptable. 2) Work to improve our infrastructure and create a long-term vision for the county, city and townships. Through greater cooperation we can pool our resources to improve our chances of attracting a greater range of businesses to the area. The Grand Vision is a start. 3) Improve Veterans Health Services. We are seven years into the war on terror. We have vet's that need services for their injuries, not to mention the veteran's from WW2, Korea and Vietnam that deserve better benefits. Money is available from Washington, we need to properly staff the local VA to make sure that money gets to those who need it.
Ross Richardson Democrat	Small business owner (31 years) of a 100-seat independent restaurant in Springfield, IL (now semi-retired). Current member Traverse City Planning Commission, and TC Citizens Operational and Fiscal Analysis Committee (COFAC). Former Assistant IL State Fire Marshal, and Executive Assistant to the Director, IL Department Mines & Minerals. Volunteer/Strategist: Stop the West Front Street Parking Deck campaign, and the "We Listen" campaign to elect a new City Commission. Three years Colorado School of Mines (Mining/Geological Engineering); BS in Political Science from Northern Illinois University (1973); graduate level coursework in Public Administration. Family: Married 35 years to Ann Laurence. One child, Daniel, now managing the family business ... and Zoe, (the golden retriever). I'm running because citizens need to take more responsibility for their government. I intend to bring a fresh perspective of independent leadership to the Grand Traverse County Commission and demand accountability, fiscal responsibility and transparency.	My top three priorities are accountability, ethics and environmental leadership. 1) County government is structured to insulate decision-makers from public input. Many boards function independently, without oversight. Road Commissioners are appointed to terms three times as long as the County Commissioners who appoint them. We must welcome and include public involvement throughout the process, and make County government accountable to the citizens. 2) Cronyism has ruled on the County Commission. Commissioners are more worried about whether they can do business (privately) with the County than the public interest. We must eliminate no-bid contracts and conflicts-of-interest. We must close revolving doors between public managers and private contractors doing business with the County. 3) County environmental leadership is critical. Solid waste must be reduced and recycling increased. Grand Traverse County must implement conservation measures for its own operations, and promote green policies for the public.

COUNTY COMMISSION District 7		
	Please provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office and the reasons you are running. (150 word limit)	State your top three priorities for the office and explain your reasons for choosing those priorities. (150 word limit)
Christine Maxbauer Republican	I was born and raised in Traverse City. I am a fifth generation native. I attended Eastern Elementary, Traverse City Central, and Northwestern Michigan College. After college, I went to work for Shell Oil Company. Shell began drilling for oil in Michigan in 1967. I went to work for the company in 1974. During my 30 year career at Shell, I worked for HR, Production, Safety, Gas Accounting. My last years at Shell I was assigned as a Logistics Specialist.	1) Budgeting For Outcomes (BFO). BFO is producing results citizens value at a price they are willing to pay. Every one of us does this daily for our families. We shop for value. Shouldn't we expect the same from government? 2) Board Governance. The board is the link between citizens and government. I would like written governing policies with an emphasis on ends (products, impacts, benefits, outcomes) and their relative worth. 3) Public Involvement. I have televised meetings for over one year. That priority will continue. Great strides have been made but not all meetings are televised (Parks and Rec, Resource Recovery, and BPW to name a few). Parks and Rec will spend \$889,241 of your money in 2009. Resource Recovery will spend \$802,006 in 2009 and the BPW oversees the Septage Facility.
Tom Mair Green	In 1987, I moved to Traverse City with my wife and bought a home. My university studies were in Business Administration. Since 1996, I have been active politically. My first major action was as a petitioner to place the Green Party on all Michigan ballots. The third petition drive was successful. In 1998, I co-founded the Traverse Bay Watershed Greens, a local of the Green Party of Michigan. In 2002, I became active in government and was appointed by the Mayor of Traverse City to Parks & Recreation Commissioner. I served two terms or six years. Recycling in parks and re-writing the Park Usage Policy were accomplishments. In 2004, I ran for Grand Traverse County Clerk. My reason for running was to educate voters, about the Green Party and choices to make voting fair. I'm running to make this county the best place for all of us to live in.	1. Grassroots Democracy. We need to rebuild our democracy from the grassroots up, starting with the county. We need representation from multiple political parties. We need to hold fair elections that allow an opportunity to vote for who you really want. We should keep our utilities publicly owned. Grassroots means citizen involvement at all levels of decision making. 2. Social Justice. We need to respect one another. We need to negotiate and talk through differences and reach consensus. We need quality education and affordable health care. We need to place people before profits. 3. Ecological Wisdom. We need clean air, land, and water. We need to reward the use of energy conservation, alternative energy, and green building concepts. We need safe food to eat. To save energy and support local business, we need to promote the sale of locally produced foods. Together we can do all of the above.

COUNTY COMMISSION District 8		
	Please provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office and the reasons you are running. (150 word limit)	State your top three priorities for the office and explain your reasons for choosing those priorities. (150 word limit)
Larry B. Fleis Republican	I am a lifelong resident of Grand Traverse County. I have been married to my wife Marilyn for 40 years; we have 4 children and 7 grandkids. I have a variety of experience from serving on boards for Blair Township to serving the public as a police officer for 29 years. I enjoy being involved in the local community and strive to represent my neighbors of southern Grand Traverse County. Allow me to work on your behalf to ensure that G.T. County continues to prosper in the future. - Grand Traverse County Commissioner, District 8, 2007-present. -President of Lark Lawn & Garden, Inc., 1974-present. -Blair Township Board Trustee, 2000-2006. -Blair Township Zoning Board of Appeals, 1996-2006. -Retired Captain of T. C. Police Department after 29 years of service.	My top three priorities are as follows: 1) Road Commission- I am working to make the G. T. County Road Commission Board elected positions instead of appointed. I also support the board being increased from 3 to 5 members. This will allow for a better representation of the whole county. I have had many requests from voters in favor of these changes. 2) Resolving ongoing solid waste dilemma- I plan to work to gain consensus from all the municipalities within the county in order to rewrite the present solid waste policy and ordinance. 3) Construction of new jail facility- The present correctional facility will soon need more space. This is a problem resulting from previous band-aids that have been applied to get us by temporarily. We need to formulate a plan for the location and building of a new jail facility and possible new law enforcement center.
Phil Scott Democrat	I have a wide range of experience in the management of government programs: -Program management and contract administration. -Budget controls and budget management. - State Executive-27 years. -Acting Director-Otsego County Department of Human Services. -Director: Office of Refugee Resettlement. -Manager: Office of Resource Management. - Chair, Mayfield Township Planning Commission. -Substitute Teacher: Kingsley and Buckley. Daughters- Allie: Captain US Army: Iraq, Germany and South Korea; Shonita: US Peace Corps: Namibia, Africa.	County government had to be sued to provide for truly open meetings. County government failed to implement change in the operation and funding of the septage system to make it a viable operation for county and township residents, in this time of falling home prices and lower tax revenues County Commissioners voted themselves a 25 percent pay increase, after one year of debate the County Commission refused to either permit the election of County Road Commission seats or, at a minimum, to set up districts for each individual appointed to the Road Commission. After such a record we clearly need change in leadership which provides more openness in County government along with policies which are both fair and responsive to the needs of all voters in Grand Traverse County. I will work on behalf of the residents of Grand Traverse County to bring real, collaborative planning and decision-making between townships ...

COUNTY COMMISSION District 9		
	Please provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office and the reasons you are running. (150 word limit)	State your top three priorities for the office and explain your reasons for choosing those priorities. (150 word limit)
Addison A Wheelock, Jr. Republican	Lifetime resident of Grand Traverse County. Married for over 30 years to Jamie and have 4 adult children and 5 grandchildren. 3rd generation business owner of Wheelock & Sons Welding, Inc. Coached youth baseball, softball, Odyssey of The Mind & a 4-H Leader. I have been a volunteer Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician for over 34 years. I did serve on the Long Lake Township Board for 18 years and have been County Commissioner for the 9th district for 10 years. I am the current Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. I am a member of St. Francis Parrish. I have dedicated my life to the well being and safety of the community in which I live and strive to keep this a place that our children, and their children will cherish.	#1. Public Safety. 34 years as a firefighter/EMT. Attended US Dept of Justice school on planning for future jail needs. Served on the GT County Blue ribbon jail committee to study alternatives to incarceration and future needs. Active participant in overview of entire criminal justice system. I also spearheaded the commitment to the 4 Million dollar surface repairs to 40 miles of primary county roads. I have a firm belief that people have a right to feel safe in the community in which they live. # 2. Fiscal Responsibility. I always work to develop goals and objectives. We need strategic plans to meet those goals, and need to budget conservatively and monitor that budget. I believe, from being a business man myself that this is core to county government. #3. Affordable Housing. I supported the creation of the County Land Bank through which we have acquired tax foreclosed properties. Through a partnership with Habitat for ...
Don Dierkes Democrat	I chose to run for County Commissioner for District # 9 because I feel that my opponent lacks the forward thinking necessary for this growing county. I have been a summer resident in the county for 50 some years. My wife and I have lived here year a round for 11 years. I am a retired educator and have 3 married daughters and 7 grandchildren. It is for my grandchildren that I am concerned about the callous decisions made by the current Board, their recent pay increase to themselves when their part time position require no salary or benefits. Their oversight of contractors and inability to make changes when problems occurred, IE the waste Treatment Plant and Boardman Dams. I will work for openness, competency and forward thinking on the Board.	1) First the Board has to take charge of it's budget priorities. Though the County is growing in population and the tax base is increasing, infrastructure cost will outpace these increases and I feel the economy will continue to be slow for several years. 2) The Board has to make itself more available to the average resident. Newsletters, live and taped broadcast, and internet use are a good start, but all meetings of all committees and commissions must be made available to the public. Meeting held in obscure locations should stop and a central location should be used. Board members themselves should show more leadership in their respective areas as well as the County as a whole. 3) Public election of at least 3 appointed areas should be enacted, the Road Commission, Sewage Treatment and Waste Management Commissioners, and the traverse Area library Board. Salary's and benefits for the Road Commissioners should be stopped.