

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS – GRAND TRAVERSE AREA
VOTER GUIDE
Leelanau County

General Election: Tuesday, November 4, 2008

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

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

COUNTY COMMISSIONER District III 2-year term		
	Please provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office and the reasons you are running. (150 words)	State your top three priorities for the office and explain your reasons for choosing those priorities. (150 words)
Jackie Freeman (Democrat)	Suttons Bay Village Trustee -Public Works Committee Member -Former Planning Commission Member -Trained Volunteer - Benzie Housing Council, Foreclosure Rebound program -Certified English as a Second Language Tutor -Women's Resource Center Volunteer -Former art teacher at a psychiatric hospital -Former Substitute Teacher, TBAISD and TCAPS -Former Instructor, American Management Association Certification Program - born/raised Northern Michigan; 18 years Washington DC experience. MA degree, Organization Development; Owner: Michigan Debt Settlement (Resolve/reduce consumers' credit card and medical debts; advocate to save families from foreclosure.) Deliver debt-relief workshops to non-profit agencies. I work tirelessly to ensure families and retirees survive in this economy. I'd oppose new building projects and steer available funds to services directly benefiting seniors and families. I will put families before self-interest or bureaucracy. I will push to change the process for receiving public input to encourage more citizen participation and I will schedule regular hours to meet with constituents.	1) Share services countywide. Use inmate labor programs to offset staffing shortages for grounds maintenance. Contract with local businesses rather than downstate firms; make it policy to put taxpayer money back into the county instead of enriching downstate businesses. (eg: county employees were asked to buy prescriptions at Meijer and Walmart and shop there while they wait. Shop Leelanau First should be policy.) 2) Attract clean industry like film production. Amend obstacles like road closing regulations that impede our attractiveness as a production location - intentionally build a base for film production. Encourage a proactive mindset countywide that supports small business in zoning and planning decisions. Stop micromanaging peoples' businesses and lives. 3) Stop spending resources on building projects. The Suttons Bay Township should operate from the Governmental Center, rather than build a proposed stand-alone building. The Governmental Center should be filled with agencies and departments that pay rent.
Richard A. Schmuckal (Republican)	Did not respond in time to be included in this guide.	

COUNTY COMMISSIONER District VI 2-year term		
	Please provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office and the reasons you are running. (150 words)	State your top three priorities for the office and explain your reasons for choosing those priorities. (150 words)
<p>David Marshall (Democrat) www.electdavidmarshall.com</p>	<p>The people of Leelanau deserve effective government that is focused on the needs of our families now while planning for a vibrant future. The Board of Commissioners must address the key issues facing the county in ways that lead to long-term, financially-wise solutions. Commissioners should provide good stewardship of our resources, both economically and environmentally. We must plan for sustainable growth that preserves the beauty and integrity of our natural resource. The current board’s policies have not always managed change and growth as much as they have reacted to problems and crises. I have more than 30 years of leadership and planning experience, I’ve been a full-time resident for several years, I am actively involved in community and church, and I am a leader in the business life of Leelanau (president of the Glen Lake Chamber of Commerce). I am the right person to help shape Leelanau’s future.</p>	<p>1. Provide good stewardship of our resources. Leelanau needs Commissioners who will apply sound judgment and fiscal responsibility when making decisions with public tax dollars. We must wisely invest in our infrastructure and promote efficiency in government. We can't afford to waste Leelanau's precious resources. 2. Plan for sound, wise growth. I will work for planned, intentional, and sustainable growth that expands economic opportunity while preserving the beauty and integrity of our vast land and water resources. The decisions we make today determine what Leelanau will be in the future. 3. Promote cooperation between government, business and residents. As a local business owner, I know we make the best decisions when we join together. I will take the time to engage residents and understand how county decisions will affect you and your family. We have to learn to work together for the future of Leelanau County.</p>
<p>Dan Semple (Republican)</p>	<p>Associations: -Glen Lake School Board, 16 years, 1984-2000, past president for about 6 years - Chairman Glen Arbor Planning and Zoning Commission c.1986-2000 -Chair of Glen Arbor Board of Appeals c. 1986-88. Personal: -Resided in Leelanau County for more than 28 years (since 1980) -Married to Jan Semple for 37 years -Three children; all graduated from Glen Lake Schools - Proud Grandpa. Professional: -Owned and operated Glen Eden Resort on Glen Lake 1980-1999 -BS Electrical Engineering degree, University of Illinois 1971 -Electrical Engineering Design Consultant 1980-present (automotive entertainment and rear vision systems -Employed by Motorola, Ford Motor, BMW, Audiovox 1971-1980 -Hold four patents Interests/activities: -Fishing -Bicycling -Reading - Woodworking -Hunting -Travel.</p>	<p>Three Top Priorities: 1) Budgetary constraint. Government funding must be carefully managed to meet increasing pressures due to energy costs, uncertain economic conditions, and community needs. 2) Provide leadership on farmland, environmental, and conservation issues through improved collaboration with government and citizen groups. 3) Facilitate improved communications with community groups and individuals within District 6 to ensure that the County Commission is on track with our community’s goals and vision.</p>

COUNTY COMMISSIONER District VII 2-year term		
	Please provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office and the reasons you are running. (150 words)	State your top three priorities for the office and explain your reasons for choosing those priorities. (150 words)
Traci J. Cruz (Democrat)	I am running to become the 7th District representative to the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners because I believe that everyone needs a safe and healthy place to live, all interests need to be heard and we need to start making responsible investments in our future. As a small farmer, small business owner and municipal government employee, I believe my experience working in the private and public sector has given me the ability to quickly understand our diverse, and sometimes opposing, community needs. Our future prosperity depends on our ability to work cooperatively with our neighbors and within our own community. Through my volunteer work in our community and as a former Leelanau County and Benzie County employee, I have built and maintained trusted working relationships with local citizens and officials. I will continue to build on that goodwill to bring the most responsible leadership to our community.	1) Putting the needs of all of our citizens first is my priority as a County Commissioner. That begins with listening and leading; I will begin to accomplish that by hosting town-hall meetings in Kasson and Solon Township to talk about current issues such as our property tax equalizations and valuations. 2) We have to find ways to enter into mutually beneficial inter-governmental agreements to maintain healthy and safe places to live, work, and prosper and to ease costs. 3) By being proactive rather than reactive leaders, we can set written policy at the Board level; we can begin to build a roadmap for how we want to grow into our future. We need to thoroughly examine the over-all costs associated with projects presented to us for our support. Establishing written criteria will ensure our investment is truly a responsible one.
Melinda C. Lautner (Republican)	While my family came to Leelanau county in the 1860's, I didn't come along until 1962. I grew up on a cherry farm, graduated from St. Francis then attended NMC. Jim and I married 26 years ago and live on his family's centennial farm. After running a greenhouse for several years I took over the day to day operations of the farm and run a seasonal farm market. Our children are Ginger, married to a local farmer, Clint farms with us and has his own cow/calf herd. Lexi and Amelia attend NMC. I bring to the board a unique ability to look at all issues from every angle and study the necessity. I am not afraid to ask the tough questions or take a stand to represent the best interests of all residents. I have taken board leadership classes and continue to hold office hours to stay connected with all constituents.	First is a balanced budget. Efficiency and accountability are very important. As I look at every issue, I remember that this money is your hard earned money. Within the budget a police department that is equipped to provide safety to all. Good service from all departments including our health department. Avoiding duplication of service is a must and with our good practices water quality continues to improve. Second, good policy. Staying in tune with all concerns and meeting those challenges with reasonable solutions. Third would be accountability to tax payers. I have supported lower taxes and controlled spending. Recognizing the necessity of each request is very important. By doing these things responsibly we can keep farmers farming, businesses employing and teachers teaching. I will continue to work hard to keep Leelanau County a great place to raise our kids, work, and enjoy life.

REGISTER OF DEEDS		
	Please provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office and the reasons you are running. (150 words)	State your top three priorities for the office and explain your reasons for choosing those priorities. (150 words)
Susan E. Boyd (Democrat)	I've been an accountant for 25 years and am currently employed as controller at Northern Michigan Equipment Co. My work experience has given me the organizational and evaluative skills necessary for running a productive and cost-efficient department. I'm very organized and accurate, comfortable with supervisory responsibilities, and technologically proficient enough to institute changes necessary to increase efficiency and enhance the services provided to the public. I am running for this office because it is an opportunity to make a difference – a difference in terms of responsible use of taxpayer money as well as providing the best service possible to users.	My top priorities for the office are: 1) Consolidation of the Register of Deeds and County Clerk positions 2) Evaluate/upgrade software 3) Data protection/security. An elected office is all about the taxpayer and my priorities are based in that premise. The current state of the economy affects everyone and fiscal accountability and responsibility have indeed become very important issues. Thirty one counties currently have a combined County Clerk/Register of Deeds position, and in comparing document volume and staffing of this office with others, combining these positions and eliminating the duplication of supervisory oversight is practical and warranted. An upgrade in software would increase accessibility to users, thereby reducing workload further. Enhancing the service to public users would possibly even increase revenues. Another issue is protection of personal data currently available on documents. The proliferation of identity theft and property fraud has prompted many offices to implement preventive measures.
Sue C. Stoffel (Republican)	I have had the privilege to live in Leelanau County my entire life. I am a graduate of Northport Public School, recently had my thirty-fourth wedding anniversary and have two great children. Our daughter is twenty-one years old, also a graduate of Northport School and is now a student at Kendall School of Design. Our son is a junior at Leland Public School and is seventeen years old. Experience is my qualification for the position of Leelanau County Register of Deeds. I started in the Leelanau County Equalization Department learning property descriptions, mapping, tax information and working with the Townships. Transferring then to the Register of Deeds as Chief Deputy for 20 years and was appointed Register of Deeds in 2007. I believe the Register of Deeds has an important responsibility to keep the land records accurate and easily accessible for everyone.	By law the Register of Deeds has many statutes it is required to follow when recording documents. My goal is to abide by these to keep the land records accurate. Experience and attending educational conferences helps to maintain this. Technology is improving and I feel it is my duty to provide the best system for our office with consideration of cost to taxpayers. We are currently exploring different computer software. At this time our records are on-line back to 1991. With Title Companies, attorneys and the general public relying on these records, it is important to have readily available as many as possible. Our department is in the process of adding ten more years through a special automation fund. When this is complete, my goal is to have at least forty years of records on-line. While the economy has slowed down this is an opportunity to complete this process.

LEELANAU TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR		
	Please provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office and the reasons you are running. (150 words)	State your top three priorities for the office and explain your reasons for choosing those priorities. (150 words)
<p>Marsha Buehler (Independent) http://marshabuehler.homestead.com/</p>	<p>Tom and I have been Township residents since 1995. I hold a degree in Political Science, am a certified Master Citizen Planner, managing partner of Cherry Basket Farms LLC, and vice president of Thomas Food Equipment Inc. My experience in private business is broad: sales, service, administrative, and executive. I have an understanding of health insurance, budget, finance, township governance and planning law. I served from 2003-2007 on the Leelanau Township Planning Commission as secretary and vice chairman, was co-chair of the Visioning Land Use Committee, currently township representative to the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Committee, and an active member of numerous community organizations. I am an independent candidate because I am increasingly dissatisfied with the process and product of Township Board decisions. I will bring a new climate of straightforward, proactive and accountable leadership to Township decision making. Spending must be controlled; the supervisor must lead the effort.</p>	<p>1) Budget: Economic conditions demand at every level the most efficient and effective ways to meet the needs of the citizens. Government cannot rely upon increased revenue or public willingness to approve millage requests. Expenditures and policies must be sustainable; government must tighten the public budget- just as citizens are tightening their budgets.2) Inclusive government: It is crucial to the vitality of our community that government be representative of all ages and interests, natives and newcomers alike. It's about people, not politics. 3) Transparent process: Agendas, minutes, expenditures, bid requests, etc. should be posted on the township website. Leelanau County provides website capacity and our citizens should have easy, free access to public information. The Township should develop an email notification list for interested citizens. Posting of information at the Township Hall is not adequate. Lack of access to information leads to mistrust and dissension, which is destructive, costly, and avoidable.</p>

Continued on next page

LEELANAU TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR (continued)		
<p>Charles Carman (Democrat)</p>	<p>I am running to conserve taxpayers’ money and to protect the local people, seasonal residents, and the land itself from the incumbent township government that favors developers. My ancestors began living in Northport in 1867. My great-grandparents built and lived in David Chrobak’s Mill Pond Inn. Until 1972 my grandparents owned the house now owned by Jerry Woods, and I began visiting in 1949. I became a seasonal homeowner in 1988 and I moved here permanently in 2001. I was a magazine entrepreneur, starting from scratch and running four national and regional trade magazines. I built a business that directly employed 25 full-time people and many more freelancers. Annual cash flow was twice the Leelanau Township budget. From 2005 – 2007 I was a volunteer community activist, favoring open government, voting on tax increases, and competitive bidding on government projects, and opposing the most expensive per-household sewer ever built in Michigan.</p>	<p>1. We should have open government on the side of the taxpayers and citizens. We must have votes on any major expenditures. All the facts should be clearly presented to the public before taking action. We must have competitive bidding on all major expenditures. I’m running because the current Supervisor has avoided elections, hidden costs, pushed through votes without time for deliberation, and granted \$16,000,000 in contracts on one project without competitive bidding. 2. We must have responsible and prudent oversight and management of existing projects. Our biggest infrastructure project is currently overseen by the Supervisor, who pushed it through, and by allies he appointed. 3. We must be skeptical about old and new projects that threaten taxpayer finances and the ecology. No more tax breaks and special consideration should be given to real estate developers. Developers must pay their own way.</p>
<p>James Neve (Republican)</p>	<p>Township government is becoming ever more complex, and I believe my experience is well suited to meeting this challenge. • Leelanau Township Supervisor for eight years. • Treasurer of Northport/Leelanau Township Utility Authority • Bachelor’s & Master’s Degrees in Civil Engineering; registered Professional Engineer • Extensive college course work in management and public administration • Former President, Neve & Associates, traffic engineering consulting • Thirty-seven years in supervisory and management level positions in state government & Michigan State University • Performed on-site transportation policy analysis and development for Saudi Arabian government • Experience as chairman and/or an executive board member of several state government issue advising groups • United Way fund raising at state department and university/college levels • Leelanau Township property owner 19 years and full time resident for 14 years. I believe local government is most relevant and effective when it is open and responsive, representative of diverse viewpoints, fiscally conservative, well-managed and accessible to citizens.</p>	<p>1) Provide leadership that facilitates a cooperative environment in which the township board, its employees and appointed boards and commission can work effectively to meet the needs of township government, its citizens and visitors. Government can not function efficiently and effectively to serve the people when internal strife and chaos exists. 2) Complete construction and implementation of the Leelanau Township wastewater treatment system in the Village of Northport and along three miles of township shoreline on Northport Bay. The sewer system can attract development to these already developed areas thereby relieving development pressure on agricultural and open areas in the township while protecting ground and surface waters. 3) Facilitate the updating of the township mater plan and zoning ordinance to reflect citizen desires and comply with new state Planning Enabling and Zoning Enabling Acts. Township government must be responsive to its citizens’ vision of the future while compiling with state/federal laws.</p>

LEELANAU TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE		
	Please provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office and the reasons you are running. (150 words)	State your top three priorities for the office and explain your reasons for choosing those priorities. (150 words)
Jose Barrera (Democrat)	Age 59, property owner since 1993, township resident since 2001. Love for our community, open and honest government. Bay Area Transportation Authority, BATA, board member. Leelanau County Economic Development board member, Leelanau Peninsula and Suttons Bay Chamber of Commerce. Frindship Community Center board member. Leelanau Twp. Planning Commission advisory committee. Formerly: Burton, Mich. City Council, Planning Commission, Genessee County EDC, Mott Community College Mechanical Technology faculty.	1. Open honest government, better communication with voter public with regards to public decision making. 2. Smart growth. As our community changes land use and property rights will be a top priority. 3. Preserve the quality of life we enjoy in Leelanau Twp, for all residents, business owners and visitors.
Gary Fredrickson (Republican)	Gary Fredrickson is a life long resident of Leelanau Township and operates the family's Centennial Farm. Married to Carol with three grown children: son Greg and his wife Dee and 3 children, Grant, Elizabeth and Davis, son Nels and his wife Kathy and 2 children, Owen and Tristan, daughter Christine. Leelanau Township Board, Leelanau Township Fire Department, Northport EMS. Member of: Trinity Church UCC, Michigan Plum Advisory Board, State Horticultural Society. Past member of NW Michigan Farm Bureau Board, Soil Conservation District Board, Red Cross Board, U. S. Coast Guard. Conservationist of the year 1985	1) I believe that it is important to maintain the infrastructure that we now provide to the citizens and the visitors that come to our area while keeping up with the changing world. 2) Maintain and improve Braman Hill, Christmas Cove, Buster Dame Ball Fields, Leelanau Township Fire Station, Omena Beach, Peterson Park, Leelanau Township Cemetery, Omena Hillcrest Cemetery, Woolsey Airport, Omena Fire Station and Community Room. 3) As a life long resident of Leelanau Township I care deeply about this community, its history, its future and its people.

Continued on next page

LEELANAU TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE (continued)		
<p>Edward Reinsch (Republican)</p>	<p>Married to Susan for 26 years; one daughter, Allison, lives in Tucson, AZ. Moved to Northport in 1976. Fruit farmer for 12 years and real estate agent for ten. Longtime coach, athletic director and bus driver for the Northport and Leland schools. Served 8 years on the Village Council, 6 as President, and 4 years on the Leelanau Township Planning Commission, the last two as Chairman. Served ten plus years with the Fire Department. Chair of Northport’s Sportsmens Club for several years and Director for Michigan United Conservation Clubs. I care a great deal for this community. I want to see its long and proud history continued with its rural character and traditions. I also am a firm believer in property rights and owners’ abilities to use them. With new developments proposed and a new sewer system, the future holds many new possibilities. I want to be here to help.</p>	<p>I really don’t have an agenda. However, this was a community that if we had a problem, we would come together and make sure we got it fixed. I would like to see more of that kind of camaraderie. And, I would surely make myself available to any questions or concerns. Next, with new developments proposed and a new sewer, we have many possibilities in front of us. When we had an Economic Development Committee in the past, one of our big downsides was the lack of sewers. Maybe it is time to revisit some possibilities. I would like to be here to help guide us in this process. Lastly, property rights are always a major issue. I would like to see our rights protected with our long and proud history in mind. The rural character of our community makes this a desirable place to live, and that must be protected.</p>
<p>James Thomas (Independent)</p>	<p>The Thomas family has been a part of the Leelanau Township community since 1856. My wife, Nancy, and I moved here from Minnesota. We own a small farm north of Northport, currently planted in canola for the production of bio-diesel fuel. My mother was an elementary school teacher and my father worked for the Boy Scouts of America. He retired to Northport and passed away here in 1979. I have a 35-year background in commercial and residential construction, as both a contractor and tradesman. What I feel qualifies me for this office: I am honest and I can't be swayed by pressure. My decisions would be made by listening to the concerns and opinions of the community. The main reason I am running for township trustee is to make sure the money the township is spending is done so in a responsible and appropriate manner and one that benefits all residents.</p>	<p>1) To stop frivolous spending. The township purchased a \$2,400 picnic table for Braman Hill skateboard area. The township has \$22,000 slated to be spent for the construction of an outhouse at Woolsey Airport. The township, having met its financial obligation relative to the sewer project, then voted 3-2 to give, not loan, an additional \$18,000 to the sewer district for start-up costs with no payback provision. 2) To ensure that the bidding process for work to be completed on township projects is handled in a professional and organized manner. It doesn't appear that the township follows any standard operating procedure in the completion of the bidding process. For example, in 2008, the contract for the mowing of the township airport and cemetery was given to the 2007 contractor/highest bidder, possibly because other bidders had no specifics in writing on which to figure a bid.</p>

LELAND TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE		
	Please provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office and the reasons you are running. (150 words)	State your top three priorities for the office and explain your reasons for choosing those priorities. (150 words)
<p>Susan Och (Democrat) http://frconnect.blogspot.com</p>	<p>I have lived in Lake Leelanau since 1990, raising three daughters: Anna, in 7th grade in Leland School, Shelagh and Liz who graduated from Leland School as valedictorians. My husband Richard is a finish carpenter. Born and raised in Lockport, NY, I attended Buffalo State College. I've worked in the orchards of Western New York, in specialty foods sales in Hawaii, and as a table games dealer at Leelanau Sands Casino since 1992. I've led the Leland 4-H Chess club for over 15 years, and have served on the 4-H Youth Association Board since 2001. In 1998-99 I served on the Leland School Facilities Committee, resulting in the community consensus keeping Leland School in the village, saving tax dollars and preventing sprawl. My blog, French Road Connections, chronicles community in Leland Township. A community minded, forward thinking collaborator, I can voice the concerns of a large cross-section of Leland Township.</p>	<p>1. Maintaining good government. We follow laws and procedures to ensure that decisions are made fairly, with all parties having meaningful input, and avoiding even the appearance of impropriety. Good government values transparency, avoids conflicts of interest, follows procedures, and operates under the rule of law, the open meetings act, Freedom of Information Act, etc 2. Our pristine small town environment is our biggest cash crop. Leland Township will be addressing big issues, like the lake side septic problem, but also many small decisions that impact our scenic beauty and small town character. 3. Economic development. Rising fuel prices are making long commutes more and more unfeasible. We need to grow more jobs here, encourage home-based businesses, and let existing businesses grow here. Our new zoning should enhance the local food movement, allow for home wind and solar, and let us take advantage of the growing knowledge economy.</p>
<p>Steven Plamondon (Republican)</p>	<p>Leland Township Resident entire life; Son of Ralph & Suzanne Plamondon; Married 25 years to Bonnie; Sons Jacob 18 & Tyler 24, Grandson Joel. Graduate of Lake Leelanau St. Mary & ITT. Employed 25 years by Hobart Corp as Branch, District, & Region Operations Manager. Presently own Plamondon Sales & Service DBA Hobart Sales & Service. Owner P & P Land Co. Past & Present Community & Civic Involvement: Member Lake Leelanau St Mary Parish; National Cherry Festival Board of Directors & Air Show Director; Member Eagle Lodge #4077; High School Varsity Baseball Coach; Youth Travel Hockey Coach; Michigan Amateur Hockey Association Board Member & District Chairperson; Grand Traverse Hockey Association Board Member Serving as President, VP, Sec, & Treasurer. Involved Citizens Enterprise Board Member & VP. Former Member of Suttons Bay/Bingham Rescue Unit. Finishing First term as Leland Township Trustee. Township Board Rep on ZBA & ERF Committee.</p>	<p>1) Responsible development while maintaining the unique characteristics that have kept many of us in this township our whole life and drawn many new residents as well. 2) Maintaining the high quality EMS & Fire services we presently have while trying to control ever increasing costs. 3) Planning for future need of sewage disposal in our current sewer district, as well as, any potential expansion or addition of sewer districts in the township.</p>