



Home Builders Association of Western Michigan
5700 West Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

(269) 375-4225

Fax: (269) 375-6493

www.kalamazoohomepage.com

Home Builders Association of Western Michigan Government Relations Committee

Information Request Form

Candidate Name: David E. Gilbert

Street address: 21448 Marywood Trail

City / State / Zip: Battle Creek, Mi. 49017

County: Calhoun

Length of residence: About 20 years

Phone: 269 838-7305

E-mail: degilbert@ymail.com or dave@davegilbertforprosecutor.com

Website: davegilbertforprosecutor.com

Campaign committee name & address: 21448 Marywood Trail Battle Creek, Mi. 49017

Occupation: Calhoun County Prosecuting Attorney

Candidate for which office: Calhoun County Prosecutor

Incumbent? Yes

- **Please list endorsements received to date.**

- **Have you ever run for elective office? Yes**

Mission Statement

The Home Builders Association of Western Michigan exists so that members of the residential construction industry can conduct their business ethically and efficiently to provide our communities with safe, quality, affordable housing, and to promote home ownership



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- **What is your background (education, employment, other relevant experience)?**

Graduated Michigan State University, dual majors Criminal Justice/Political Science Pre-law

Graduated Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Began practice in 1988 as a General Practice attorney emphasizing Special Education Law

Assistant/Chief Assistant Prosecutor Barry County 1990-1995

General Practice Attorney 1995-2013 - Criminal Defense, Juvenile, Abuse/neglect,

Business/Corporate/Labor Law, Estates and Property Rights litigation

Elected Calhoun Prosecutor taking office on 1/1/13, re-elected 2016 and up for re-election now

Elected to the Criminal Law Section Board for the State Bar, still serving, Chair 2012-2013

Elected to Prisons a Corrections Board for the State Bar, still serving

Elected to the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan Board of Directors, still serving

Appointed to and served on numerous boards by the State Court Administrator's Office, the State

Bar of Michigan, and others, including the Steering Committee on Public Policy, the Standing

Committee on the Unauthorized Practice of Law, the Criminal Justice Information Center Board of

Directors, the Criminal Law Forms Committee, served at the Chair of the Special Issues

Committee twice for the State Bar of Michigan's Representative Assembly, the Board of the

ALANO Club of Battle Creek, and the Boy Scouts of America, where I chaired the District

Committee for the Nottawa Trails District for a number of years [Eagle Scout, 1976].

I have successfully tried hundreds of high severity and capital cases both as a defense attorney and prosecutor and have run law offices almost my entire career.

- **What are your top priority issues if elected / re-elected?**

Continuing to ensure justice is done in Calhoun County, advocating specialty courts to deal with specific issues in our society that can be dealt with better than with a conviction, while upholding the law and holding criminals accountable for their actions by reducing plea bargaining and requiring felony firearm convictions in crimes committed with firearms.

- **Why should the residential construction and remodeling community support your candidacy?**

Construction Companies, builders and their employee are members of the community and just as susceptible to crime as everyone else, more so with property at work sites, fraudulent payments and other crimes directed at tradesmen and tradeswomen.

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- **Why should the residential construction and remodeling community NOT support your opponent's candidacy (if applicable)?**

I am not aware of him having any experience in criminal law, none as a prosecutor. Last year he took a job with the Branch County Defender's Office. I am not aware of any felony or misdemeanor trials, although that does not mean he has done none. I know him best as an Immigration Attorney.

- **Today the home building and remodeling community is confronted with a wide array of complex issues. Who and/or what organization in your community do you use for advice and counsel**

There is no "organization" in my community I use for advice or counsel. When an issue comes up, I speak to the individual builder who has been victimized, I will speak to friends in the construction industry and real estate professionals

- **Government regulations, policies, ordinances and codes continue to be a top concern of the residential construction and remodeling industry. What would you recommend to reduce regulations to promote and support the need for additional housing in our area?**

Contact your state legislators for statutory issues. Most of the problems I see [but don't deal with as County Prosecutor] are zoning ordinances on the city/township/village level that are not uniform, with different degree of enforcement. I have found it is best to establish relationships with the elected officials on the local level as they are generally more knowledgeable on local issues and are able to make the needed changes.

- **What is your philosophy on residential development, impact fees, property taxes, etc.?**

We are all expected to follow the law. As a prosecutor, I am expected to uphold all the laws of the State of Michigan.

- **What else can be done to encourage and support new housing development?**

Continue looking at rebuilding or remodeling current structures, and show the benefits of tearing down old spaces for new construction such as foreclosures, dilapidated or antiquated properties. I see a need to renew communities from within.

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- **What is your position on the rights of property owners with regard to development, redevelopment and remodeling?**

That question is too open; property owners are stuck with the restrictions in their deeds and local ordinances unless they want to change them through court. They should be mindful of what their development and remodeling does to their neighborhood, including resale values, but also use and enjoyment.

- **How would you define positive growth in housing for our area?**

Changing blighted areas into beautiful residential areas.

- **How can the HBA of Western Michigan assist you if you are elected?**

I don't know

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