



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

(269) 375-4225

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www.kalamazoohomepage.com

Candidate Questionnaire

1. Endorsements received so far?

I have been endorsed by Kalamazoo County Commissioners Dale Shugars and John Gisler, as well as Kalamazoo County GOP Chairman Scott McGraw. I will be posting their endorsements online very soon.

2. Have you ever run for elected office?

This is the first office I have ever run for, but I have a proven record of helping other candidates win. My efforts as a Field Organizer in Indiana in 2018 helped elect Mike Braun to the US Senate and re-elect Jim Banks to the US House of Representatives, among others.

3. What is my background?

I have a degree from Western Michigan University in Political Science, experience in property management, information technology, and campaign operations. I have also worked on a handful of construction sites.

4. What are my top priority issues if elected?

Those would be public safety and health, fiscal responsibility, economic recovery and development.

5. Why should the HBA support me?

If elected, I will support market-oriented policies that promote the construction of new housing, the remodeling of old housing and cleansing of blight, as far as it is within my power to do so.

6. Why should the HBA not support my opponent?

Either one of my opponents would reliably and predictably support left-wing policies such as ever-increasing taxes and fees, rent control and public housing, which have effects that are the opposite of their supposed benefits and that harm builders and consumers alike.

7. Who or what organization do I seek advice from?

When it comes to issues about real estate and property development, I can always turn to my friends Dale Shugars and Scott McGraw, who both once worked for the HBA, I can talk

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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to Treasurer Mary Balkema and read the resources on the Land Bank website, and I plan to make greater use of HBA's informational resources going forward.

8. How would I reduce regulations and promote new housing?

It is easy to get a regulation on the books, but a bear for legislators to get rid of them. Our litigious society has so many that there are surely some on the books that are so superfluous and unnecessary that nobody would miss them if they were gone. I might take a page from the President and mandate that for every new regulation, regulators must delete at least one. Beyond that, I would be open to any ideas.

9. What is my philosophy on development, taxes and fees?

I believe in keeping taxes and fees as low as possible. That money belongs to those who earn and create it. This requires fiscal discipline from government. As far as development, I believe in finding a balance between developing new areas, land conservation and redevelopment of blighted areas.

10. What else can be done to encourage housing development?

Although there would be costs involved, it would help to get flooding in this County under control so as to eliminate the destruction of property it causes. It is also possible that some land the County Land Bank has been holding on to could have its asking price reduced, which could encourage development and gain the County some revenue, which it will badly need during next year's shortfall. Mary Balkema has done a good job of this in the past and will continue to do so if re-elected.

11. What is my position on the rights of property owners to develop, redevelop and remodel?

Your land is yours to do with as you please, as long as it doesn't cause "neighborhood effects" that infringe on the property rights of others. I am open to the idea of mandating stricter standards of property upkeep, while also open to different ways that might be accomplished.

12. How do I define positive housing growth?

I define it as meeting market demand for new housing, while also finding ways to rebuild and sell properties that are for sale by owner or by the County, balancing both against the need to conserve some of the natural spaces in this County.

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13. How else can the HBA assist me?

I am looking for endorsements and campaign contributions. Before and after the election, I will be reading through whatever free resources HBA publishes, and I would like to meet with HBA every once in a while to discuss the state of the housing market in the County.

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