



Ottawa County Commissioner Candidate Questionnaire

District # __11__ (Please insert your district number)

Name: Allison Miedema

Employer:

Email allison@allisonmiedema.com

**Please note this is a fillable word document for your convenience.*

1. Why are you running for office?

I am running for office first and foremost because I am trying to be faithful in going where God is leading me - trying to be obedient to His call on my life. Second, I want to protect the citizens and small businesses of Ottawa County from government overreach. I want to protect life at the county level and the innocence of children in the school systems. The current county commissioners, with the exception of Kyle Terpstra, have not been actively listening to their constituents, the people that elected them, they people they serve. Over 1000 parents and concerned citizens, including myself, showed up to an August 2021 Board of Commissioners meeting to share first hand testimony and objective data of the harms being done to children with the masking mandates. Our constitutional rights are always our rights and when they are being abused, new leaders must step in.

2. Have you ever run for political office before? If yes, please explain. **No**

3. What qualifications/experience do you feel you possess that will enable you to fulfill the responsibilities of the elected office you are seeking?

I have 22 years of teaching experience with a Masters in Early Childhood from Grand Valley State University. During these years, I have discovered that being a great teacher means that you must be a learner first. It is important to build relationships with those you serve, actively listen, surround yourself with wise counsel, be rooted in Christ each day, work hard - persevere, and stay humble. Never stop learning. I have worked with a variety of diverse people and situations - I have taught in a public school, private school, and am now homeschooling as well.

4. If elected, what would be your top priorities and why?

The current issues farmers are facing with rising costs of fuel, fertilizer, aquifer concerns, and extensive government program requirements of farmers affects each of us in the long run with food securities.

Evaluating the health department responsibilities and roles in our community and always ensuring that one person's role in the community doesn't subject its constituents to unconstitutional mandates.

I will always stand for life and protect the innocence of children.

5. Ottawa is blessed with diverse economic sectors: agriculture, tourism, industrial and commercial. For each of these, what do you think are the issues they will encounter in the next 2 years? If elected, how will you support each of these sectors?

Each of these will be challenged by labor shortages and inflation over the next 2 years. Much has already been done to attract people to Ottawa County and I would like to focus on ways we can continue to build on this. Speaking, learning from and working with leaders that are respected in their local community in each of these sectors will be of utmost importance. It is also important to be conservative with money in local government and keep more money in the hands of the people.

6. Safety for all citizens is a protection we expect. If elected, how will you ensure that the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department, Ottawa County Health Department and Ottawa County Court system equally and fairly provides safety to all residents?

All men are created equal and deserve fair and equal treatment. It is imperative to properly fund our local county sheriff's department for the training of its officers and the safety of them and the citizens they serve to protect each day. I will work closely with the departments to ensure that everyone's rights are being observed.

7. Ottawa County is financially more secure than many other Michigan counties. This is due to previous boards and administrations wisely spending and saving revenues. If elected, what will be your spending priorities for county dollars?

From early on in my adulthood, I have learned the importance of being responsible with money, taking the 11 week class of Financial Peace University through Dave Ramsey and successfully implementing it in my own household for the past 22 years. I will actively work to learn what current boards and administration of Ottawa County have done to save money for the county to determine best spending priorities.

8. Ottawa County is one of the fastest growing counties in Michigan, attracting people from many cultures, ethnicities, and lifestyles to support the growth of businesses throughout the county, if elected, how will you support diversity, inclusion and equity at the county level.

All people are precious and made in the image of God. I would never discriminate against anyone, nor prevent them from having opportunities based upon qualifications. As a county, we should always stand for excellence and show respect for all.

If you have any endorsements, current or past community or business affiliations that you would like to share, please note below.

*** Endorsed by Michigan Right to Life**

*** Endorsed and Vetted by Ottawa Impact**

*** Jared Schuitema Business Owner/Realtor Allendale, MI**

"Allison Miedema has a heart and skill set for service; it's evident in her every day life. She actively lives out her faith to God, which is evidenced with her passion for people and for truth. Allison exemplifies integrity, and is exactly the type of person you want working for you as your commissioner."

*** Michelle Wittingen Zeeland, MI**

"Our family had the pleasure of getting to know Allison Miedema while she was the teacher for all three of our children over the last six years. Our oldest was taught by her in traditional preschool and our middle and youngest children were taught by her in the Nature Based Preschool program that she started and led at our local school. As parents, we want the very best for our kids. Allison proved time and again that she is an amazing teacher who loves God and also genuinely cares for children, their parents and families. Her strong faith in God is evident in all that she does and our community is important to her. She was able to connect the preschoolers with residents of a local nursing home. These relationships became so special to the kids, but mostly to the nursing home residents. Allison was a wonderful teacher, but she is also someone who is ready to learn and has

great concern for all ages of this community. She wants to help those who aren't being heard. As an Ottawa County Commissioner, I know that she will do her very best to listen to your questions and concerns and do whatever she can to help. If you have any doubts, spend an hour with her and you will feel the same way. For our family, she started out as the teacher of our children and has become a friend that I look up to and whose faith and work ethic is inspiring.”

Nick & Kristen Langerak Tallmadge Township, Michigan

“We’ve known Allison for five years since she began teaching our kids. Allison cares deeply for her students and quickly became a very special person to us and our children. She is strong in her faith and pushes fear aside when she knows she is being called to any role. During the past two years I have seen her stand up for our freedoms on multiple occasions for our children and our rights as parents. She has wasted no time educating herself as well as others on digging deeper into our constitutional rights and her passion is contagious. As parents, we want her on our side. Ottawa County would be blessed to have Allison as county commissioner.”

Candy Kraker Allendale Charter Township Trustee

“Allison Miedema is a woman who truly seeks God’s leading. She is a woman of integrity, a defender, who values our God given freedoms, and will work to protect our families from poor decisions made at our county level! We would be truly blessed to have her on the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners! She has my 100% support!”