



Ottawa County Commissioner Candidate Questionnaire

District # ____3____ (Please insert your district number)

Name: Doug Zylstra
Employer: Self Employed
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**Please note this is a fillable word document for your convenience.*

1. Why are you running for office?

I am running for re-election to continue advocating for the following principles in a way that actively includes all of Holland residents.

- Housing: Expanding Housing opportunities throughout the County but especially here in the Holland area.*
- Health Care: Ensuring that the County is doing all it can to continue investing in the physical and mental health of Ottawa and Holland residents*
- Cost of Government: Promoting increased transparency in our county government and improving oversight of operations.*

2. Have you ever run for political office before? If yes, please explain.

Yes, I ran for County Commissioner beginning in 2014, and won the seat two attempts later.

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 feel that I have a strong willingness to serve and desire to give voice to and represent citizens of the City of Holland.

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

Similar to question one, to continue advocating for the following principles in a way that actively includes all of Holland residents.

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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?

I believe that all four sectors share many of the same fundamental challenges. For all, developing a qualified, trained workforce will be the number one goal and challenge. I believe the Board can support this effort by advocating for and developing more opportunities around Housing and Child Care.

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

As I have these past four years, I will continue to advocate and vote for resources so that these three areas can continue to carry out their vital functions.

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?

My spending priorities for the upcoming two years would be focused on allocating our American Rescue Plan (ARP) dollars in a way that supports our community, and especially focuses on the critical areas of Housing and Child Care and Education.

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.

As County Commissioner, my 2019 vote to fund the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is still the most important vote I have made. I will always be a vote to continue the important work this Office does both within our organization and throughout the Ottawa Community.

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