



## Ottawa County Commissioner Candidate Questionnaire

District # 8 (Please insert your district number)

Name: Greg De Jong

Employer: Self Employed

Email gregdejong@gmail.com

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

1. Why are you running for office?

I want to make a difference in people's lives, daily. I get calls weekly with people asking questions or for help. With my 12 years of experience I can quickly get people in touch with those who can help them.

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

YES!! I served the resident of Allendale for 8 years and at the county level for 12 years.

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 take great pride in words like, team work, cooperation, and respect. I've been past board chair for 3 years and currently serve on 5 sub committees. I'm currently chair of our water resource committee. We can get more done by working together, not by yelling or screaming, cussing or threatening, which has happened at school board and county board meetings.

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

Protecting our freedoms, we need help from our state legislators to push back on the governors mandates. Funding public safety, with everything happening in the country we need to continue to train and equip our deputies with the tools they need to protect our students and residents. Preserving our quality of life, farm preservation is a priority, period. Without farms, we don't eat. We have the best parks system in Michigan and I pledge to continue supporting that.

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?

There needs to be a balance between all these sectors, or we can't have a vibrant Ottawa County. My concern is some of our smaller communities who depend on well water are having issues. With Ottawa County's growth we will need to continue to monitor this issue.

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?

For the last 12 years I have supported the sheriff's department. I plead to continue that support. We have some of the best leaders, staff and deputies in Michigan. All this nonsense talk about de-funding the police has to stop.

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?

We have a board of conservative commissions who spend residents monies wisely. We have 57 million dollars of federal monies (ARP) to spend in the next few years. Again funding public safety, along with funding for health needs of our residents. Also out of 83 counties, we are the 6th lowest taxed county in Michigan.

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.

I believe there is room at the table for all of us! I want to promote the ideal of our county's logo " Where you belong".

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

One of my best days as a commissioner was a couple of years ago when I co-chaired our fourth of July "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans parade". Being a commissioner is way more than just a board meeting. It's promoting your township and county. Volunteering, supporting our teams, showing up at school board meetings, the Rotary club, Lions club, giving out awards and ribbons at our science Olympics, chamber events and the list goes on and on.