



## Ottawa County Commissioner Candidate Questionnaire

### District #10

Name: Jenni Shepherd-Kelley

Employer: PGM Technologies, Inc.

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1. Why are you running for office?

I want to be a voice and an advocate for the families and local business owners in Ottawa County.

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

Yes, I was a Precinct Delegate.

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

My husband and I have built four successful small businesses. I manage our company's finances and as a natural critical-thinker, I excel at prioritizing, and budgeting. My role in the business includes the research and development of new business and potential growth opportunities. This experience will aid in identifying gaps within our community that require our attention. As a woman, who has children and a career, I am great at scheduling and multitasking. As a College Volleyball Coach, listening, planning, and helping people become their best is my passion.

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

Review departments for deficiencies and take appropriate action as needed.

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?

The state of our economy impacts everyone. Each of these economic sectors is already feeling the effects of hyper-inflation, which not only includes the cost of goods and services to create the product, it also has been impacted by the current overall shipping and delivery crisis which in turn affects the ability of the businesses in these sectors to continue to maintain viable business practices. Identifying and removing overregulation of these industries will create opportunities for these businesses to continue to thrive even in times of crisis from a national level.

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?

Funding our police adequately, and monitoring each department to ensure they are not stripping anyone of their rights to equality would be a top priority of mine. All men and women are created equal and have rights to equal treatment under the law.

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?

Ottawa county was known for the lowest millage rate in the state not long ago. In 2018, we were the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest millage county in the state and now we are the 6<sup>th</sup>. We are trending in the wrong direction. I want to bring us back where we can manage our county budget within our means instead of raising taxes on our families to pay for overspending.

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 am called to love all people. I want there to be opportunities for everyone in Ottawa County no matter your demographic. Everyone deserves a chance to earn prosperity. Ensuring that businesses can keep their doors open and not stand in the way of their success will make more employment opportunities in Ottawa County.

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

Endorsed by Right to Life of Michigan

Vetted and endorsed by Ottawa Impact

“In Jenni Shepherd-Kelley, voters have an all too rare opportunity to elect someone who goes beyond caring about them as simply a vote and cares for them as people. I am confident that you will find that her intelligence, conservative principles, and servant’s heart will make a positive difference in your life and the lives of the entire community. Please join me in supporting Jenni Shepherd-Kelley for Commissioner!”

-Patrick Colbeck

Former Michigan State Senator

“Jenni Shepherd-Kelley has my full endorsement. Jenni has a very strong background in business with a high level of integrity and supports the values that create environments people desire to not only visit but want to call home. She is very dedicated and exactly what Ottawa County needs as Commissioner.”

-Nancy Schindlbeck

Long Standing Ottawa County Real Estate Agent and Resident