



Ottawa County Commissioner Candidate Questionnaire

District # 9 (Please insert your district number)

Name: Philip Kuyers

Employer:

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

1. Why are you running for office?

To keep Ottawa County to be the best place to live and raise a family with affordable housing. Good paying jobs with one of the lowest tax rates in the state and safe place supported by the Sheriff Department. Keeping the county as one of the best financial counties in the state

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

YES I have been President of Ottawa County Farm Bureau having been a dairy farmer for 40 years
Elected as County Commissioner

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

Past Chair of Board of County Commissioners
Current President of Michigan Associations of Counties
Current board member of National Association of Counties
Over 40 years of self-owned business

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

- Financial stability for the County of Ottawa- To keep low bond rating for all citizens
- A strong support for the Sheriff department and courts system – Safe community
- The **BEST** County parks in the state – Healthy lifestyle
- To keep a safe and abundant water resource for development and agriculture – Growth of businesses and abundance of local food supply to support existing businesses.

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 sector.

- Agriculture in the county is rated 1st or 2nd in the state. We need to help them with a strong work force and viable water resources. Understanding the water limitations will be a major focal point for growth in Ottawa County.
- We help tourism by supporting advertisement of West Michigan and all the great adventures it has to offer. Ottawa County has the best parks in the state and draws a lot of people to the area. Supporting different venues and activities in the parks will promote a healthy lifestyle and generate greater interest in the area. One example of promoting the parks is the quarterly newsletter from the Parks.
- Industrial and commercial growth in Ottawa country helps creates a booming economic area where people want to live and grow their families. West Michigan is growing and making a name for itself as a place where you can secure good wages, live in a safe neighborhood and maintain a healthy

lifestyle. Supporting local businesses will help make this a reality and protect the future of the county. As a county we need to keep and help with good resources for all of these industries.

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 County Commissioner I have always supported the Sheriff department 100% and will continue to support all of the other safety departments to keep this a safe and healthy place to LIVE!!

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?

- To keep Ottawa County the best fiscal county in the state and maintain the top bond rating.
- Sheriff Department by supporting request for resources.
- Ottawa County Courts through support of staffing and facilities to support the country growth.
- Comprehensive spending with the American Recue Plan to create sustainable financial plans for the future of Ottawa county.

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.

Keeping a strong and effective DEI department and educate the public on what it does for growing a stronger Ottawa County

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

Sheriff Steve Kempker - Ottawa County Sheriff

Joe Bush - Water Resources

John Scholtz - Past administrator of Parks

John Nash - Supervisor of Spring Lake Township

Steve Currie _ Administrator of MAC (Michigan Association of Counties)

Senator Roger Victory- Michigan state Senator

Kelly Van Timmeren - Owner of Van Timmeren Greenhouse