



## Ottawa County Commissioner Candidate Questionnaire

District # 9 (Please insert your district number)

Name: *Roger Belknap*  
Employer: *Islander Analytical Consulting*  
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1. Why are you running for office?

*I am grateful for the freedom and opportunity that being an American provides. I have benefitted greatly in my life by growing up in Ottawa County and I want the same opportunities for my children and the next generations.*

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?

*Although I have not run for political office before, my professional career spans over 20 years working in the public service sector and serving various elected boards and appointed public bodies. Most recently, I worked for the Michigan Department of Transportation as the Transportation Asset Management Council Program Coordinator.*

*I have infrastructure planning, budgeting and management background gained while working as the Public Works Director for both the City of Cedar Springs and the Village of Spring Lake. I have also worked for the Kent County Road Commission where I was heavily involved with building roadway information data systems and working with local transportation and community development initiatives.*

*I understand the important connection that our physical infrastructure has in relation to healthy families, successful economic centers, and quality of life for people and the environment. I've earned both a Bachelor's and Master's in Public Administration and over the course of my career, I've obtained licenses for municipal water supply operations as well as other vocational achievements and training.*

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

*My top priority would be to analyze the performance of the county's departments and seek to understand the key variables and processes that effect outcomes as well as identify trending issues. In my experience, I have found it is important to ask critical questions and investigate causation of desired outcomes and the apparent causes of falling short of desired outcome.*

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?

*Ottawa County has been blessed, however heavy inflation and the rising cost of energy will undoubtedly harm every sector mentioned. In my opinion, the most important element to all of this is the participants: the families and*

*individuals that live and work in Ottawa County. All these sectors rely on the health of families and individuals and their ability to participate in the economy. I'm running to support the People of Ottawa County first, which means fiscal accountability, defending liberties and free enterprise of individuals and limiting the scope of the administrative/regulatory/governmental sector from overreach.*

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 these departments exist to serve the people of Ottawa County. Fairness and equality are outcomes of treating all people with respect, and not favoring one segment of the population over another. Fairness and equality are also values that are based upon the sovereignty of the citizen and a respect for all human life. Liberty draws from new people coming into the political process so that new voices can be heard and so that entrenched regimes and tyranny can be prevented. I am grateful that as an American, our founders and reformers recognized the need for our first and second amendments, Bill of Rights which support and maintain the rights of individuals to protect and defend themselves.*

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?

*This question is very similar to question 4 in that background and analysis is needed ahead of establishing and announcing spending priorities. Also, considering the challenges we now face that I mentioned in response to question 5, I'm running to support the People of Ottawa County first, which means fiscal accountability, defending liberties and free enterprise of individuals and limiting the scope of the administrative/regulatory/governmental sector from overreach.*

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 the draw of Ottawa County has been freedom first, then the high quality of life, amazing environmental resources, strong family, civic and religious heritage, all of which has led to economic prosperity. We have an organic heritage of success in Ottawa County built upon labor and investment from peoples that have come from across all parts of the world. Freedom begets opportunity for all people.*

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

*Vetted and endorsed by Ottawa Impact*

*The only candidate for Ottawa County Commission District 9 to receive endorsement from Right-to-Life of Michigan Member of Ottawa County Patriots*