

WHY SHOULD I VOTE FOR YOU?

A Tool to Help Question and Evaluate Candidates for Bedford Township Office

- 1) **Priorities** – What should be the top five priorities of Township Hall over the next four (4) years? (1 = most important) Why do you feel these are the top five?
- a _____ Improving police protection
 - b _____ Improving fire protection
 - c _____ Improving parks and recreation
 - d _____ Promoting economic development
 - e _____ Reducing the size of Township government
 - f _____ Full Disclosure of Township financial records (publish on Township web site)
 - g _____ Maintaining and improving infrastructure (roads, water, sewer)
 - h _____ Reducing litigation against the Township
 - i _____ Up-dating Planning, zoning and land use
 - j _____ Promoting greater fiscal responsibility and lower taxes
 - k _____ Improving services for citizens and being more customer friendly
 - l _____ Improving the use of the Township Public Access Station on Buckeye Cable.
 - m _____ Making better, bold and courageous decisions that benefit the entire township long term in spite of intense written and vocal pressure from special interest groups.
 - n _____ Recognizing and protecting the property rights of all citizens
 - o _____ Improving the use of the Township web site to communicate with residents.

Why do you feel that “Your top Five Priorities” are the most important?

I will not prioritize these items as they are all equally important to me. These items should be goals which are striven for on a continual basis.

2. What is your position on economic development for Bedford Township, especially the Temperance area? What is your plan to encourage economic development?

I was the County Commissioner that the Bedford Township Supervisor approached to help establish the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for Lambertville back in the 1990s. As a Bedford Township Trustee, I voted in favor of extending the DDA for another 20 years. Unfortunately, a DDA is not available for use in the Temperance or Samaria areas. I think a person who actually owns/operates a business should be appointed as a member to the Economic Development Committee (EDC) and our EDC should be working more closely with Monroe County’s EDC and Industrial Development Corporation (IDC). As a County Commissioner, I voted to subsidize the IDC program in order to sustain it. I was a member of the Monroe County Planning Commission and the Chairperson for the Bedford Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). I am a member of the Bedford Township Planning Commission. Updating planning, zoning and land use can make a difference in the economic development of an area. When BZA waivers become abundant in one area, then you know it is time to review and revise your ordinances. Economic development and growth needs to be managed. I know for a fact that If we fail to manage the growth and development within our own community, then someone else will manage it for us.

3. What is your position on "Town Hall Meetings" where township officials can meet with residents to discuss their concerns and to keep them informed of what is going on in the

township? Would you be willing to have these on a monthly basis and also have them televised?

I am definitely in favor of Town Hall meetings. Officials cannot address concerns/issues if they are not presented to them. As a County Commissioner, I voted to televise the County Commission meetings in the 1990s. I would like to have Bedford residents offer topics of discussion for those meetings also. We need to follow up on questions that could not be answered at future meetings.

4. What is your position on using the Township Access TV Channel on Buckeye Cable to communicate with the public? For example, a monthly one-hour TV show hosted by the Supervisor or Clerk to get current information out to residents about various issues, township boards and up-coming meetings. Since most Township Board meetings do not last the full 3 hours that is allotted, this show could be broadcasted at the end of one of the meetings each month with the public in attendance.

I think it is a great idea! MPACT in Monroe has been using their channel for this purpose, and much more for years. The timeframe doesn't matter to me – either after the regular Board meeting, or another night. When Bedford Township was experiencing a building boom, the Regular Board meetings, attendance and discussions were quite lengthy. Extensive discussion regarding agenda items was the norm during my 12 years as a County Commissioner also.

5. What is your position concerning having all board members being fully informed before decisions are made at Township Board Meetings? Do you think that there is enough discussion on issues by all board members when decisions are made currently?

Yes, I believe all board members should be fully informed before all decisions are made at Township Board Meetings. Extensive discussion regarding agenda items was the norm during my 12 years as a County Commissioner and I definitely would like more discussion during Township board meetings. It takes a majority of votes to approve or deny any action. I think the public is entitled to the thought process board members use in their decision-making and voting. I would like to have more discussion/participation from the public also.

6. Do you feel that the current practice of having a township attorney in attendance at all Bedford Township meetings is necessary?

Not necessarily. It all depends on the nature and issue of the agenda items. I do believe in following the Township attorney's recommendations when the township is paying for legal opinions and professional guidance.

7. What do you see is your role as a member the Bedford Township Board? Do you think that all board members should take the responsibility for placing topics on the meeting agenda?

The Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and Trustees (entire board) are required to attend township board meetings and participate in decisions and deliberations and have an equal vote in the legislative process. Thus, all board members should take responsibility for placing topics on the meeting agenda. It is the Supervisor or Chairperson who ultimately decides which items are placed on the agenda for board or committee meetings. The Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer are delegated specific statutory duties and responsibilities while the Trustees serve on various other boards and act as liaisons of the Township Board other committees. The Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and Trustees oversee the fiduciary responsibilities of managing the funds of the township in order to preserve the health, safety and general welfare of the public they serve

in the best interests of the public while maintaining a position of public trust with the residents of the respective community.

8. Over the past 8 years the current Bedford Township Board has made a number of important decisions. Do you agree with their decision on the following matters? If not, what is your opinion on these decisions?

I will defer to comment on items a, b, c, and d as I have been there since 2008, ***not*** for the last 8 years. I prefer not to second guess those decisions made by board members from 8 years ago.

a. Bedford Township was involved in 3 major lawsuits in the past 4 years which cost residents thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of lost time by Township officials.

b. Continued the previous township board's practice of salting away taxpayers' funds (over 1 million dollars) to be used for the construction of a new township hall, even though these funds could have been used for such things as road improvements, park maintenance, police and fire protection.

c. Construction of a new township hall.

d. Denial of bringing a major retailer to Bedford on the Whitman property.

9. What are some new ideas that you would recommend if elected? What is your "Vision" for Bedford Township in the next 4 years?

I plan to be a full-time and active Certified Clerk with an "open-door" policy in order to carry out the responsibilities of the Clerk's office as outlined on the Bedford Township website. I plan to fully-utilize and expand the township website. I plan to share information with the residents of Bedford regarding the new election laws of 2012, the additional legislation (enactment by 1/1/2013) and the "SAFE Initiatives" legislation from the Secretary of State's office which is nearing the end of the legislative process.

I have a proven track-record of voting: 1990 – 2002 as a County Commissioner and 2008 – 2012 as a Bedford Township trustee. Roads (MAC Transportation Committee, Self-Help Program and TMACOG), Economic Development (Cabela's, DDA, IDC, Lambertville Kroger, Auto Zone, Fisher expansion, etc), Information Technology (Computers at County, Laptops in Deputy cars, website) and Public Safety: Fire Department (Bedford Fire Commissioner, CERT, millages) and Law Enforcement (laptops in Deputy cars, Bedford Public Schools Liaison officer, Bedford Township deputies, millages) are some of the areas I have been involved with over the last 20 + years. I believe that effective leadership involves using skills of collaboration, cooperation, negotiation, networking and creative resourcing with the local, state and federal level officials, departments and agencies. I also believe my voting record speaks for itself as to my vision for Bedford Township.

10. How should the public hold you as an elected official accountable for your campaign promises and your votes?

The public should hold elected officials accountable for their campaign promises through the voting process. I promise to do the best I can with the information provided to me for the citizens of Bedford Township. My focus is, and always has been, the Bedford Township Community because Bedford is *my* community, Bedford is *your* community and Bedford is *our* community!