

Michelle Bork

WHY I DESERVE YOUR VOTE TO THE BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD

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 that “Your top Five Priorities” are the most important?

d__1__ Promoting economic development

First we need to have a great economic development plan. With a good plan and follow through, all other aspects will follow including an increased tax base. With additional revenue, we can improve the township's infrastructure, provide more services for our residents, and improve police and fire protection.

k__2__ Improving services for citizens and being more customer friendly

My entire life I have prided myself on my excellent customer service skills. From my special attention to my paper-route clients when I was 11, to my exceptional service I provide for my travel clients today. Listening to the needs and suggestions of those who I am working with and helping them resolve any issues and offer my time creates a great relationship.

f__3__ Full Disclosure of Township financial records (publish on Township website)

I like order, cleanliness, and keeping things simple. This is how I feel about finances as well. They should be kept in a straightforward, easy-to-read format that everyone can look at and understand. The township records are the tax payers financial records and they should be available to not only to view, but to interpret easily.

g__4__ Maintaining and improving infrastructure (roads, water, sewer)

Safety is always my number one concern. Well-maintained roads, proper lighting for our streets, pedestrian-friendly walk and bike paths, clean, healthy drinking water, and proper drainage for our township are all part of my safety concerns.

h__5__ Improving the commercial development and revitalization of the Temperance Overlay District & the surrounding area.

As I visit other towns I notice the thriving downtown areas where local businesses can shine. Towns where residents can find all of the goods and services they need without going far from home. Towns where entertainment fill the streets and community can gather to meet. I would like to see that kind of town become a reality for Bedford. Not only for our residents, but also to be a destination for others to visit and feel at home.

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

See above answers 1 and 5.

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 and streamed live on the Bedford Township website?

I would love town-hall meetings! I feel there is a tremendous amount of ideas that our community has to share and I would be excited to hear them! I believe all township events and meetings should be easily accessed by any and all forms of communication including streaming live, social media and podcasts.

4. What is your position on using the Township Access TV Channel on Buckeye Cable and live streaming on the Township website 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 upcoming 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 am in full support of using all forms of media to keep our residents informed and involved. Utilizing our television access, social media, podcast series, youtube channel, and live-stream internet programs is a great way to reach the whole community and hopefully get more people excited about the opportunities and events in Bedford.

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?

I believe all issues should be fully researched before the board meeting. With a shared Google Drive system in place, all board members can easily access and add resources and information to an issues' folder and view all pros and cons to that subject to be brought to the meeting. Keeping everyone informed with an open conversation about it will make for a more productive meeting.

6. There may be some tough future decisions concerning cuts to current employee and trustee benefits. Are you willing to make these cuts if necessary?

Having owned my own businesses for the last 20 years I have employed hundreds of people. I understand the expenses of having employees with insurance, tax liabilities, and other costs involved. I also understand that good, hard-working employees are an asset to any workplace. Anyone who has worked for me will tell you that I don't like to waste money. I will always look at cost-saving ideas and weigh the options to what is best for the overall picture.

7. What is your opinion of the current practice by the Bedford Township Supervisor of limiting the time for public commentary to 2 minutes concerning agenda items and 3 minutes for general comments at the end of each Bedford Township Board Meeting? Would you recommend any changes to this policy?

I think there should be a time limit if there is an abundance of people wanting to speak. I do not like how it is currently handled. It feels very rude and intimidating. I would like to see a more welcoming, positive board meeting where the audience feels a part of the conversation.

8. What motivated you to seek a position on the Bedford Township Board? 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?

I love being involved with the Bedford Community. My motivation is to make Bedford a better place to live. A board member should be the voice of the people. Each board member should bring ideas and new visions on improving our township to every meeting. Improvement starts with the sharing of ideas.

Michelle Bork

Candidate for Bedford Township Trustee

9. How many Bedford Township Board meetings have you attended in the past year? How many times have you watched the videos of Bedford Township Board meetings during the past year? After attending or viewing past meetings, do you have any recommendations to improve the efficiency and decorum at future meetings.

I attend or watch via TV almost every meeting in the past 6 months (when available). I would improve visual aids to every meeting including a large monitor behind the members with the documents/maps/spreadsheet/agenda items so all can view it both in the audience and at home. Live stream it on the website so those without cable can view it from home or from wherever they might be. Welcome the audience as they arrive by standing at the door and greeting each person as they walk in. There needs to be a research person there to answer any questions that come up by looking it up on the computer as the meeting is being conducted.

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

My vision is to create a more business-friendly and resident-friendly environment where both feel welcomed when walking through the Government Center doors. I would like to see Bedford thrive with community events that celebrate the arts, music, and family. I would like to see new ideas implemented to attract young families to want to raise their children here and feel a larger sense of community. I want our residents to feel safe and positive about our township.

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

With my open communication policy, I would invite anyone who feels this way to meet with me to discuss any and all issues I am not fulfilling.