

Mark Lane Announces General Election Write-In Campaign for Grosse Ile Township Clerk

September 9, 2020

Good evening Grosse Ile. My name is Mark Lane, and I am excited to announce that I am running in the General Election on November 3rd as an Independent Republican write-in candidate for Township Clerk!

Six and a half years ago, my family and I made an investment here on Grosse Ile. Since then I have observed the aimless direction of the Township Board and how it mishandles programs, finances, community issues, and input of residents with much dismay.

I believe that with my background and years of experience in communications and working with local leaders in government, I have the necessary talent and experience to improve and correct our present problems on the Township Board.

My wife and I are raising our children here, and we plan to live on Grosse Ile with my family for decades to come. I believe there are critically important enhancements in the Township government that must be made now to ensure long-term prosperity of the community.

As a member of the Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team, I am dedicated to giving all Islanders a meaningful choice about the future direction of Township government by establishing a new Township Board that is committed to positive change, transparency, inclusiveness and fiscal responsibility.

I ran in a three-way race for Township Clerk during the Primary Election that resulted in the two challengers splitting 59% of the votes cast by Islanders who believe it is time for a change. Although five of my Grosse Ile 2020 running mates were victorious in their races, I finished a close second to the 20 year incumbent Clerk.

I am now running in the General Election to give the majority of Islanders who are seeking positive change an opportunity for their votes to count on November 3rd.

I believe that there are distinct issues that separate the current Clerk and myself. Properly addressing responsibility by exercising common sense is vitally important to any position in the township government.

I understand the incumbent Clerk has been in office for many years, but experience without good judgement doesn't get the job done right.

This is my commitment to the residents of Grosse Ile. I have a **Ten Point Plan** for improving the performance of the Township Clerk's Office through positive change:

1. Reestablish the Township Communications Commission.
2. Restore the Township Communications Director position as a full-time job.
3. Implement a Township e-newsletter as well as news and feature broadcasts on social media and GI-TV to keep Islanders more informed in a timely manner about the actions, decisions and programs of Township government.

Broadcast live on GI-TV or web streaming platforms all of the public meetings of Township Commissions and Committees. Currently, numerous public meetings by Township bodies have no video or even audio records for their entire proceedings. The public deserves more transparency about these meetings than the current practice of merely maintaining summary minutes.

For example, the residents would greatly benefit from regular updates on the status of repairs to the Wayne County Bridge. We've seen the posts on Facebook asking when the repairs will be completed and what work is being done. We need the facts, not speculation on social media!

In summary, Islanders deserve to know what the government is doing in their community.

4. Increase voter education to ensure that voters understand how to avoid spoiling their ballots. Hundreds of ballots were not counted in the Grosse Ile 2020 Primary Election for certain candidate positions because voters were apparently confused about the rules for filling out partisan ballots.

I also want to do more to protect Islanders' rights to vote and the integrity of the vote totals. It is essential that every Islander who is eligible to vote on Grosse Ile is allowed to do so.

5. Enhance the Township's official records keeping and educate Township Commissions about the fact that State law allows them to keep detailed meeting minutes. Post all minutes on the Township web site in a timely manner. Presently, many of the minutes for Township Commissions and Committees are missing from the Township web site.

6. End the practice of allowing Township Board Members and other Township employees to use personal e-mail accounts for official business communications. All official business communications must be properly archived to comply with State law for records management -- specifically General Schedule 25.

7. Ensure the Township's Freedom of Information Act program complies with State law for sealing Township personnel files that contain unsubstantiated claims that place the Township at risk of litigation if improperly released.

8. Broaden the timely publication of Township contract bid opportunities and list bid awards on the Township's web site to strengthen the commitment to competitive bidding and transparency. Taxpayers have a right to know who is getting contracts and how much they are being paid.

9. Oversee strict compliance with the Michigan Campaign Finance Act that prohibits use of taxpayer-funded Township assets and Township personnel from engaging in campaign activities and expressed advocacy.

10. Advocate that the Michigan Legislature pass legislation to give townships the right to hold non-partisan Primary Elections and General Elections for citizens to elect Township Board Members.

If elected, by the end of my term in 2024, I would like citizens to primarily judge my tenure in office by my ability to accomplish my **Ten Point Plan**.

I also want citizens to measure my success in office by my ability to faithfully oversee well-run Township elections as well as proper public records management which are key responsibilities of the Township Clerk.

In addition, I will work with all members of the Township Board to focus on making Township Hall work for all Islanders again while improving the quality of life in the community.

As a member of the Grosse Ile 2020 Candidates Team, I truly believe Grosse Ile's best days are ahead if the next Township Board and citizens can work together to reform and improve Township government with positive change.

So let's join the team and make this happen. I ask for your **WRITE-IN** vote on November 3rd!

I look forward to seeing you on the campaign trail. Thank you, Islanders!