

Lifelong Kalamazoo County resident Ann Nieuwenhuis announced today that she will seek a second term as a Kalamazoo County Commissioner. Ann Nieuwenhuis is well known for being a strong advocate for Agriculture, working to improve the quality of life for older adults and as an actively involved County Commissioner who takes the time to help County residents resolve their problems.

“I am proud of keeping my campaign promises during this past 16 months,” Nieuwenhuis says. “I believe that citizens in District 15 recognize that a stronger collaborative relationship with Comstock Township, the City of Galesburg and Kalamazoo County Government exists due to my regular attendance at their monthly meetings, community project involvement and frequent voter interaction. I’ve enjoyed working with them and look forward to strengthening the partnership”.

Nieuwenhuis says she values being recognized as a hard-working County Commissioner. She takes pride in being prepared for Commission meetings which requires making time to read and digest the information plus asking the *right* questions prior to the County Board of Commissioner’s meeting to maximize discussion and deliberation time.

Nieuwenhuis indicates that “Trust is easier to earn when you take the time to really listen to resident concerns and decide together the correct course of action. You must follow through with contacts to the appropriate people and ensure that the problem is addressed in a timely manner.”

Regarding future goals Nieuwenhuis states, “Local critical conversations are needed now. Today’s problems are complex. We need to approach the issues in a realistic manner by beginning locally and work together to confront our long-term problems.”

Her top four priorities for future prosperity include:

1. **Reinvest** in our state’s transportation infrastructure to drive our economy forward. This investment will create jobs, attract businesses, increase property values and ultimately save tax payer dollars.
2. **Refuse** unfunded mandates which continue to be a serious threat to local government. Municipalities need to join forces and speak with one voice regarding the fiscal and social damage of state enforced unfunded mandates.
3. **Attract and retain** people who can incorporate knowledge, technology and innovation into regional products and services that will succeed in today’s global economy.
4. **Strengthen** the essential components of our agricultural industry by supporting the agricultural processing industry, encourage partnerships to enhance environmental stewardship and invest in the development of new technologies.

“I am proud of my accomplishments,” Nieuwenhuis says. “I look forward to a second term so that I may help create and work toward achieving a long-term vision for a vital Kalamazoo County.”