

WHY I AM RUNNING

2 Elect 2
ANN NIEUWENHUIS
KALAMAZOO COUNTY COMMISSION

Common Sense Solutions for Kalamazoo County

I am seeking re-election to the office of County Commissioner so I can continue to be actively engaged—locally and statewide—in the critical conversations to solve today’s governmental problems. We need to approach issues in a realistic manner and work together to confront our long-term problems. We must come to grips regarding the significant reduction in state and local revenues by re-thinking the role of government and accordingly reduce the size and scope of each level of government appropriately.

Michigan citizens have endured a public-policy roller coaster of reckless fiscal decisions long enough. County Commissioners need to utilize their sphere of influence and impact the state’s decisions by actively participating in the discussion stage in partnership with The Michigan Association of Counties (MAC). As a member of the MAC Agriculture and Tourism committee, I have had first-hand experience to see the difference a Commissioner’s involvement can make in the state’s decision making process.

I pledge to stay informed on upcoming issues and be a voice for our citizens in the decision - making process to protect our community from further fiscal damage.

My top priority will be to actively protect Kalamazoo County from additional reckless state budget decisions. The State of Michigan is in desperate fiscal shape and with less state and Federal money available, our legislators have huge budget holes to fill. Many of their fiscal decisions are based on dilapidated and economically stagnant areas of our state and can have serious negative consequences for our community.

For example, local governments face a serious financial threat due to state unfunded mandates. The State can no longer decree adding prescribed regulations to local government without supplying adequate funding for implementation and enforcement. This fiscal demand is unconstitutional and the economic burden is intolerable. Together we need to join forces and speak with one voice regarding the fiscal and social damage of state enforced unfunded mandates to local governmental entities.

I am eager to continue as the County Commissioner representing District 15 and implement *Common Sense Solutions* to build an even better Kalamazoo County.

I would appreciate your vote on Tuesday November 2nd .

Ann Nieuwenhuis, County Commissioner, District 15