

## **Lori Coleman answers for Candidate Questionnaire**

### **What makes you stand out from the other candidates?**

I have been involved with the city over the past year and a half as a community leader through the White Lake Area Climate Action Council. I have attended council meetings, followed issues and provided education and support to the city council and community to help the climate emergency resolution pass for the city. From 2019 to 2020 I led recruitment efforts for the 2020 Census for four counties. I worked closely with cities and townships seeing how the government works close up. I had a successful career in business which included business research, sales, human resources and managing my own consulting firm.

### **What's the one issue you plan to address?**

I plan to support the Montague climate mobilization action plan which was developed as a result of the climate emergency declaration passed by the city, December 2021. In passing the declaration the city has demonstrated its vision and understanding of the immediate need to make positive changes, to protect the health and wellbeing of everyone, and make an investment in our future. The goal is: net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040.

### **What do you hope to accomplish as Mayor or City Council member?**

Listen to my fellow citizens' ideas and concerns, and be their voice at City Council. Support our unique community and beautiful environment, including all citizens in the process.

### **How have you already been volunteering or serving in the city?**

I am a member of the Montague City Planning Commission. I am a co-founder of the White Lake Area Climate Action Council. The organization has been recognized in West Michigan for its education and awareness efforts and helping Montague and Whitehall pass climate emergency declarations. I am a member of the Dirt Daubers Garden Club. I am a member and teacher at the Arts Council of White Lake.

### **If you are not elected, what would you do to try to help work on ideas or issues that are important to you?**

I will continue to work with the City of Montague on its climate mobilization action plan. I would attend city meetings to keep abreast of issues and volunteer where I could.

### **And if you are elected, how will you solicit input from community members?**

I am running on the platform that I am a voice for Montague residents. I invite them now and when I am elected to share their views, concerns and ideas for our city.

**When you hear about something that concerns you in the city, what steps would you take to see that this concern is resolved?**

I would do my research ahead of time. Knowing which city board has responsibility for the specific subject is where I would start. I would get to know the board members and attend their board meetings to work collaboratively with one another.

Bruce Froelich answers for Candidate Questionnaire

What makes you stand out from the other candidates?

More than any other candidate for Montague City Council, I have experience as member of 4 different public boards during past 8 years. Starting in 2012, I served on the county-wide library system (MADL) Board of Trustees, followed by Montague Fire District Board, and now as vice-chair of White Lake Ambulance Authority. In 2013, I was elected to Montague City Council, and re-elected in 2017. Eight years on four public boards informed me about Montague values, service, and governance issues. My close attention to budgets and financial audits produced results: we recently reduced taxes for WLAA and City of Montague.

What's the one issue you plan to address?

Quality of life here is high. Let's keep it that way. Recent street, water and sewer improvements have Montague poised to grow, based on sound low-cost long-term financing. The Buttermilk Creek Watershed/Montague Drain project will help control flooding downtown and erosion upstream. 2021 has seen the return of Cruzin, Pumpkinfest, Fourth of July fireworks and other beloved hometown events. Council members face multiple issues all year long. There is no single dominant issue.

What do you hope to accomplish as Mayor or City Council member?

My goals for our City: maintain Montague values and quality of life, serve all citizens without favoritism, protect this precious human and natural environment and continue sound finances.

How have you already been volunteering or serving in the city?

I am active in Dirt Dauber Garden Club, White Lake Chorale, White Lake Area Historical Society, Montague Friends of the Library, and serve as an elected trustee of the church that we attend. Previously I was church board secretary for 3 years and treasurer for 6 years.

If you are not elected, what would you do to try to help work on ideas or issues that are important to you?

There are various city boards which have citizens appointed to address many concerns, so I would probably volunteer for one of those boards.

And if you are elected, how will you solicit input from community members?

As a City Council member, I represent this community by listening to peoples' concerns and working closely with City staff to solve problems.

When you hear about something that concerns you in the city, what steps would you take to see that this concern is resolved?

Knowing which city board has responsibility for the specific subject is where I would start. Attending their board meetings, understanding current agenda issues and getting to know the board members would lay foundation for positive action regarding the concern. Public comment can be used to bring a concern to attention of the appropriate board. Start slow and build positive relationships to make lasting impact.



## Response for the Muskegon County Conservative Women's Caucus

1. What makes you stand out from the other candidate(s)?

*As I am just getting to know the other candidates, I cannot speak of their strengths and weaknesses, but I can tell you about mine. I have traditional values and feel that everyone should be allowed to make decisions that are right for themselves and/or their family.*

*I feel I am a strong candidate for several reasons. Throughout my career I have had to work with people on different sides of an issue, bringing them together to come up with a solution. This takes many skills such as being a good listener, being able to problem solve, and being a good communicator. I have lived in Montague for most of life. I love the West Michigan area and our town.*

*It is with the skills of listening, problem solving, and communication, along with the love of my hometown that I will work to continue to make Montague a great place to live, raise a family, have a business, and retire.*

2. What's the one issue you plan to address?

*The first issue that needs to be addressed is the lease for the Senior Center in downtown Montague. A lease agreement needs to be put in place so that our local seniors have the security that their Center will be there for them long term. Going hand in hand with that is the Senior Millage Tax Money. It needs to be used to support our seniors the way they want it used.*

3. What do you hope to accomplish as a Mayor or City Council Member?

*I am going to work towards better communication and transparency between the City Government and the residence. We are sent to office by the people to work for the people. It is important that our community is aware of what decisions the City Council is making on their behalf and how their money is being spent.*

4. How have you already been volunteering or serving in the City?

*I have volunteered mostly working within activities surrounding the Montague Public Schools. While my daughter was in school, I worked with fundraisers, concession stand, and planning activities. More recently, I have been helping to support our local Senior Center.*

5. If you are not elected, what would you do to try to help work on ideas or issues that are important to you? And if you are elected, how will you solicit input from the community members?

*If I am not elected, I will continue to volunteer more with our Senior Center and get more involved with activities within our area. A lot of the time communities do not know there is an issue until it is too late to do anything about it. Being involved will help me to keep in touch with what is happening in our community.*

*Social media is a good way to help solicit input from our community but not as good as getting out and talking with people. If elected, I will ensure that I am out in the community talking with people and listening to people on how they feel about our community and what can be done to make it better. We can always do better to be better.*

6. When you hear about something that concerns you in the city, what steps would you take to see that this concern is resolved?

*The first step is to verify the concern. It is one thing to "hear" about a concern and another one to verify what the issue really is. This would be contacting the person or parties involved to find out the facts of the issue. What is the basis for the concern? Listen to what is being said. Then, see if it can be resolved with some further communication. It may be pulling together several different parties to discuss the matter and come up with a resolution. The key steps to problem resolution are listening and communication.*

*Thank you for time in getting to know me,*

*Laura LaGuire*

*Running for Montague City Council*

October 1, 2021

Muskegon County Conservative Women's Caucus  
PO BOX 266  
Montague, MI 49437



# Muskegon County Conservative Women's Caucus

Dear Candidate

I serve on the Muskegon County Conservative Women's Caucus and we are asking that you complete the questions below and return at your earliest convenience. We will be placing the questions and your answers on our website: [www.muskegonconservativewomen.org](http://www.muskegonconservativewomen.org) for the public to review before the November 2, 2021 Election.

We would appreciate your cooperation in completing these questions by either sending them to the PO BOX listed above or email to [karolynr@muskegonconservativewomen.org](mailto:karolynr@muskegonconservativewomen.org).

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Karolyn Rillema, Vice President  
Elections Committee- MCCWC

1. What makes you stand out from the other candidate (s)?

I have been on the city council for 10 years and City of Montague mayor for past 4 years. I am willing to listen to ALL sides and get information before making a decision. I try to weigh all the possible solutions and hear all sides of the issue before making a decision. I tend to work for a solution that is good for all and not one special group.

The other day I was coming into town and the police were on the side of the road watching traffic. I thought about the situation, and I could make one of three choices. I could speed and break the law. I could obey the law because the police are watching. Or I could obey the law because I care for others. I think of myself as someone who cares for others.

I am more of a negotiator than a person who looks at a situation and says it has to be their way or our way and that is the only two choices.

2. What's the one issue you plan to address?

Unfortunately, one action group has turned the Senior Center issue into a big political battle. I personally have had several meetings with council members, community members, the city attorney, senior citizens, city staff and many others. We have reviewed several options from renewing the current lease to a quit claim deed of the building. I realize that change is not comfortable but sometimes we may be forced to make changes. I will continue to find a balanced solution to satisfy the seniors of our area and



the citizens of the city of Montague.

However there are other issues that need to be addressed.

3. What do you hope to accomplish as a Mayor or City Council Member?

Continue to serve ALL the citizens of Montague and not cater to one certain group.

There are ongoing concerns that need to be addressed. These include the city budget, financing the retirement fund, continuing city services etc.

4. How have you already been volunteering or serving in the city?

Bible class teacher

Past church treasurer and secretary

Board member of the White Lake Area Historical Society

Chairman of the White Lake Area Solid Waste Authority.

Involved with Prison Ministry until West Shore Correctional Facility closed (28 years)

Involved with ham radio (RACES) KD8YWO - help report weather situations

5. If you are not elected, what would you do to try to help work on ideas or issues that are important to you? And if you are elected, how will you solicit input from community members?

If not elected

I will do whatever I am asked to do

Currently I am on the several committees that include the Planning Commission, the Downtown Development Authority, Chairman of the White Lake Solid Waste Authority, Muskegon County Roads, Industrial Park committee. I will continue to serve as needed.

If am elected

In a recent city council meeting I asked each council member to be observant as they take vacations. What do they observe in other municipalities that might be good for the City of Montague? I would like to see if Montague could implement some of the same ideas that other cities have done.

It will be my honor to continue to serve as City of Montague Mayor and to represent the interests and concerns of this community and area.

I will continue to lead the city in a calm manner and continue treating others in a way I would like to be treated.

I would like to continue to help ensure that Montague remains a great and safe place to live, work and raise a family.

Together we need to make sure your tax dollars are spent wisely.

I am willing to sit down with anyone and listen to their ideas, then forward them to the appropriate city staff.

6. When you hear about something that concerns you in the city, what steps would you take to see that this concern is resolved?

Over the last couple of years some situations have come up. I gather as much information as I can and then meet with the individuals and city staff as needed to try to solve the issue.

I read this recently - when you are trying to accomplish a task or facing a challenge, what is more important - the situation or the people involved. I believe people are important.



1. What makes me stand out from other candidates is that I was born and raised in Montague. My kids were born and will be raised in Montague too. I am and will always be rooted here and therefore I want Montague to thrive! I make my decisions based on morals, if something doesn't feel right down inside me, then its not. I'm a good listener and I can empathize with other people.
2. The one issue I plan to address would be that I want to remind people that the power lies with them. If there is something that they want to see happen in Montague I will listen to them and take the issues to the board members. When the people have something to say, I will listen and do my very best to make sure we reach a solution.
3. I hope to accomplish a lot when I get on the city council. I hope to bring issues to the board that people in our community want addressed. My job will be to work for the people of Montague. So, we should be asking them what they want to be accomplished. There is no I in team.
4. I serve the city by using local business for my needs as much as possible. I have two young children and we love to spend time downtown. Whether its eating at Lipka's Soda Fountain, buying new books from The Book Nook, using the Local library or getting animal supplies from the feed store. When we spend money in our own city, we are helping local shop owners and the people they employ, therefore nourishing the growth of everyone who lives here.
5. I will continue to go to the city council meetings so I can stay on top of the issues that are being brought forth by members of the community, or members on the council. When I'm elected, I will make sure that I ask the people of this town what they hope to see happen. I will also ask local business if there is anything I can bring up to the board that they have concerns about.
6. The reason I began my run for city council was because I heard about issues going on within the city that people were not happy about and they did not feel they were being heard. So, my hope was to run so that I could be the person who makes the difference, instead of the one hoping for the difference. Be the change you want to see in the world!

October 1, 2021

Muskegon County Conservative Women's Caucus  
PO BOX 266  
Montague, MI 49437



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Dear Candidate :

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Thank you in advance for your participation.

Karolyn Rillema, Vice President

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate with your organization.  
Paul Schultz

- 1 Lived in area for sixty three years. I understand what representing the taxpayer means. I believe that it does not mean pushing my personal opinion, any preconceived idea or hidden agenda. Decisions should be based on facts not emotions.
2. Lack of appropriate communication seems to be at the root of various problems or controversy in the city. Improvement of communication with city hall, the council and taxpayers will lead to appropriate resolution of issues such as the Senior Center, condition of Cullen Park . Council members need to listen before they make up there mind when voting on a issue.
3. Truly be the "eyes, ears and voice" of the taxpayer.
4. Currently serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals.
5. I would communicate with the elected members of the council.  
Listening by visiting with members of the community at various locations and social events. Attempt to guarantee that the members of the community have been given adequate opportunity to communicate with the council and city hall on issues.
6. Investigate issues thoroughly, listen to all sides of the issue, present the opinion and feelings of those involved at appropriate time and place. Again, represent the citizens of city by being their eyes, ears and voice.

Thanks again,  
Paul Schultz