

MUSKEGON COUNTY CONSERVATIVE WOMEN'S CAUCUS CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE:

I'm Debra Hillebrand, seeking the office of Mayor, City of Whitehall in the November 2, 2021 election.

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

As a Whitehall City Council Member since 2015 and Mayor since 2017, I continue to invest time and energy to the betterment of Whitehall on behalf of our residents. I have developed a respected working relationship with city staff, fellow council and community members and have worked to hone my leadership, project management and organizational skills. I bring a calm voice of reason to city council and conduct orderly and effective meetings. I'm a patient, respectful listener. I think strategically first, tactically second. I do my homework before each meeting, give careful consideration to the issues at hand and think with foresight about lasting ramifications. In the 6 years I've served on council, I've only missed 2 meetings, both excused/approved by council, and have never been late. I seek input and weigh all information to make decisions that focus on the greater good while also focusing on the longer-term goals for the city. I will always work to make decisions and changes that enhance and improve the lives of Whitehall residents.

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

I have three primary areas of focus. They are:

-Increase Whitehall's vibrancy by identifying strategic ways to assist and encourage business development, especially retail and food establishments. We also need to ensure that accessibility and green infrastructure considerations are part of any street, sidewalk, or parking area improvement.

-Enhance Whitehall's charm and beauty with a focus on addressing blight and identifying practical and fiscally responsible ways to efficiently support grounds maintenance, such as making sure the bike paths and parks are well groomed. We need to focus on maintaining what we already have before considering adding more 'nice to haves'.

-Improve city council transparency and public awareness by publicizing more of what we're working on as a city. We need to seek and encourage more public input and community involvement in setting priorities. Website rework, town hall meetings, live view council and board meetings, additional social media activity and a return of 'Donuts with Debi' (regular open office with the mayor) will all help to achieve this goal.

3) What do you hope to accomplish as Mayor?

As Mayor, I hope to accomplish the three primary goals as shared in my answer to question 2.

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

I have been volunteering and serving in the City since Whitehall became my home in 2012. I'm involved with the City and am an active member of several groups:

City Council Member, City of Whitehall, 2015-present.

Mayor, City of Whitehall, 2017-2019, 2019-present.

Member, City of Whitehall Planning Commission, 2017-present.

Member, City of Whitehall Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, 2015-2017, 2018-present.

Member, City of Whitehall Tax Increment Finance Authority, 2015-2017, 2018-present.

Member, City of Whitehall Land Development Finance Authority, 2015-2017, 2018-present.

Member, White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, 2015-present.

Member, Montague-Whitehall Rotary, 2017-present.

Member, White Lake Area Women, 2019-present.

Member, Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, 2019-present.

Member, White Lake Association, 2021-present.

In addition, I opened The Lewis House Bed & Breakfast in 2015 and provide accommodations and hospitality to hundreds of tourists and local family friends and relatives who visit our beautiful White Lake area each year. In this capacity, I serve as an ambassador to the area and refer guests to our local shops, restaurants and attractions.

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?

a) Should I not be elected, I would continue to remain active in many of the organizations that I'm already a part of. My interest in contributing and giving back to the community will not change. I'll continue to run The Lewis House Bed & Breakfast and be an ambassador to the area.

b) If I am elected, I would seek to encourage more public input and community involvement in setting priorities. As mentioned earlier, website rework, town hall meetings, live view council and board meetings, additional social media activity and a return of 'Donuts with Debi' (regular open office with the mayor) will all help to encourage and solicit input from community members.

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

Whenever concerns are expressed to me, regardless of the delivery, I first try to listen for the message. Once I have a clear view of the concern, I seek information surrounding the situation, weigh the input, take needed action and follow-up.

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 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.

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)?

Answers to questionair.

Candidate: Scott Brown

1: I ask questions and challenge city staff on expenditures.

2: My only issue is making sure the taxpayers money is being spent in there best interests.

3: Making sure the city is being fiscally responsible spending the residents money.

4: I have been on the city council since appointment in Mar. of 2019 to Nov 2019, and then elected in 2019 to present. Also, presently serving as a member of the Marina Board.

5: I am constantly telling members of the community to become more involved and attend council meetings and voice there opinions, so city staff knows there concerns

6: Weigh the facts of a concern and determine if it is something appropriate for the council to discuss/address at a work session or meeting or possibly just something that can be worked out communicating those needs to city staff.

Thanks for the opportunity to present my views.

Scott Brown

October 1, 2021

Chris Cross

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Thank you in advance for your participation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karolyn Rillema".

Karolyn Rillema, Vice President
Elections Committee - MCCWC

1. What makes you stand out from the other candidate (s)?
I believe the biggest thing that makes me stand out is that I am not only a extremely strong conservative but I am able to push past the anger and noise to actually find ways to agree on important issues to find common ground when able.
2. What's the one issue you plan to address?
Fiscal responsibility and anti climate change. I love Whitehall and I love watching it grow but I want to ensure this is being done without an undue burden on business and home owners. This includes a recent climate change resolution that I fear will entail fines on businesses.
3. What do you hope to accomplish as a Mayor or City Council Member?
I want to not only effect positive change but as well, to shine a light for the younger generation how city government effects our daily lives and it is not only for the older generation.
4. How have you already been volunteering or serving in the city?
I am the director of Men and Ladies of Honor for Muskegon County and personally ran the Whitehall club. I also am the director of Living Word Senior Services, providing lawn mowing and snow removal to seniors in the county, including Whitehall.
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 I am not elected I will still show interest and provide public input with public comment during meetings and contacting council members. I already am a part of multiple concerned citizen social media groups where I can bring things to light and receive input. I play to expand on this.
6. When you hear about something that concerns you in the city, what steps would you take to see that this concern is resolved?
First, I would need to explore what the legal standing on the issue and make sure I understand the entire picture before reacting. Once I have found morally and legally where I stand, I will reach out to the community and fellow council members to provide their opinion and stance to ensure I have those that I can align with on the council to get things done.

Jeff Holmstrom

October 1, 2021

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PO BOX 266
Montague, MI 49437



**Muskegon
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Dear Candidate

What makes you stand out from the other candidates?

I have been a public servant for decades through my previous employment as a Paramedic with The White Lake Ambulance Authority, as a Captain with The White Lake Fire Authority and as a former member of The Whitehall City Council. I have been a resident of The White Lake Area for almost my entire life and graduated from Whitehall Schools.

My life has been about service to my community and its citizens. I base my decisions on what's best for the community as a whole, not the whim of a few. I get involved, listen well, participate in discussions and don't sit back and let the world pass me by. I am a good steward of and for The City of Whitehall.

What's the one issue you plan to address?

One of the many issues I plan to address is to make The City of Whitehall a destination. A destination for people to visit, a place for people to live and raise a family, a place for people to recreate/gather and a place for people to work and make a living. There are multiple components needed to make this a success. Whitehall has many assets already in place with a good school system, parks and recreation, a new gathering place and various manufacturing and businesses.

What do you hope to accomplish as a City Council Member?

My hope is that I am able to accomplish my goals, meet the needs of the citizens, business owners and visitors and make the city a better place for all physically and financially.

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

I have been an appointed member of The Marina Advisory Committee and The City of Whitehall representative to The White Lake Fire Authority Board.

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 I am not elected, I will still be able to make my opinions and ideas known through the community connections I have made throughout my life as a resident, past elected official and my past professions.

If I am elected, I will continue to listen to the needs, goals, thoughts and ideas of the citizens, business owners and visitors as I have in the past. As I stated above, I am a good listener,

participate in discussions and get involved. I also encourage others to do the same.

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

If it is an immediate concern of a life/safety nature I would make contact with the appropriate department head and also contact the city manager. If it is of a lesser concern, I would research the issue or concern, involve others if needed, come up with a possible solution(s) and then contact the city manager to discuss it and find resolution.

If you need any other information feel free to email me. Thanks for the opportunity.

Jeff
