

Name: Bob Scolnik
Office Sought: County Commission Dist. #4
Website: www.scolnik.com

Phone: (231) 206-4873
Party: Republican
Email: bob@scolnik.com

1. Have you ever been appointed or elected to public office?
If yes, what office? Yes. Elected Norton Shores City Council 1991-2001 and Muskegon County Commission 2001-2020
2. Have you ever owned a business or has someone in your family owned a business? If yes, please describe.
Yes...business owner/Entrepreneur for entire career. Started in 1971 as the Muskegon franchised Distributor for Snap-On Tools. Then bought Muskegon Brake & Distributing. Started or bought others: Precision Brake Rebuilders, Auto-Truck Spring & Alignment, Prestige Limousine Service, Romer Land Co., Auto-Brake Sales in Manistee, Tuffy Muffler of Manistee, Plow Parts Warehouse. President/Producer of Mona Lake Productions. Named Muskegon Entrepreneur of the Year in 1990.
3. Briefly describe the qualifications and experience you possess that make you the best candidate for this office.
I believe that my education: B.A. Economics plus my successful completion of Army Officer Candidate School and proven leadership in the military. Service in Vietnam and Korea plus served as a Captain as Senior Advisor to the Army Reserve in West Michigan. Plus, a 28-year career as a successful Entrepreneur/business owner, starting with just me and ultimately employing about 100, retiring at age 53. Extensive, long list of non-profit board leadership including Chairman of United Way, Campaign Chair, Chair of Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, President of Visiting Nurses & Hospice, President of Michigan Pine & Dunes Girl Scout Council, Chaired Hackley Hospital Development Committee, Chaired Mercy Hospital Development Committee, Muskegon Civic Theatre Board and numerous others. Chaired Capital campaign for new Hines Chamber Building, The new United Way Community Service Center and many other campaigns. Long service to community as a City Council Member in Norton Shores 1991-2001 and successfully elected as a County Commissioner representing much of Norton Shores from 2002 to present.
4. What do you believe should be the role of government in today's world? The role of Government continues to primarily be to provide those necessary services that cannot be provided by private business. The operation of the courts, the jail, the police, keeping accurate public records in perpetuity and so on. These types of services are essential and mandated in our constitution. But government can also be a creative partner with helping business start here and grow here but it takes creative leadership and the ability to assume some type of risk. Government should partner with local businesses...in a smaller way...to help get them started or to help them expand. Great examples of government/private partnerships are part of what has driven the huge growth in our downtown. Creative loans to kick-start projects, grant funding applications, brownfields, TIFA programs and more. Government should not be just a completely passive bystander to our businesses. But we cannot legislate/over regulate them either.
5. What do you consider to be the top three (3) issues facing Muskegon County businesses today and how can county government address them? (1) Working their way through the turmoil/disruptions caused by the current pandemic. (2) Assuring that Muskegon County offers adequate training/education facilities to graduate the needed workforce as well as seeing that businesses can find and retain good employees. (3) Assuring that infrastructure needs, tax rates and the cost of doing business in Muskegon County are as competitive as possible.
6. Name one thing that you think is going right in Muskegon County and one thing that you think could be changed right away.
I think the campaign started some years ago to change the communities image throughout the state is going very well and it is plainly visible in the huge changes that are taking place in over very downtown. Changes in Government plans and new initiatives take time. It is just the way the system was designed...it can help prevent

huge mistakes by requiring slower movement and help insure that the correct decisions are being made. But it takes time.

7. In what areas do you feel you can make the most difference as a local elected official? I think the biggest differences I can make as a local elected official is to use my "Bully-Pulpit" to continue to talk about Entrepreneurism and the Entrepreneur career track to young people and those interested in careers in Muskegon County. Locally owned businesses are our foundation for growth and employment and every large business here started as a small, sometimes one-man, company. Plus, because of my Entrepreneur experience, I look at everything through my Entrepreneur glasses and that is a very different from most elected officials. I bring a valuable set of skills if I am elected.

8. How will you leverage and utilize the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce as a resource should you be elected?

I believe the Chamber has made a huge difference in moving this County into the 21st Century. I would utilize the Chamber, partner with the Chamber and support the Chamber as much as possible to enable them to continue their very important work.

9. If elected, what are your top 3 priorities?

- Try to reduce the polarization currently that exists between a few commissioners and move the county forward.
- Continue to try and strengthen the County's financial position and improve its fund balance.
- Continue to work on improving our statewide image, attract new younger people to our workforce, promote entrepreneurship and position Muskegon as a place for Startups.
- Work on sensitizing County employees and the community to issues of Racism while doing all we can do to create equal opportunities for everyone.

10. This election is particularly important. My style of leadership includes working together with everyone, understanding the meaning of compromise, and not looking for issues that divide our County, but rather issues that bring us together. I believe I am needed more than ever at this difficult period in American history.