

Kenneth Mahoney
County Commissioner, District 9

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Democrat

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1. Have you ever been appointed or elected to public office?

I was on the Montague School Board from 1982 to 1986 and I have been a county commissioner from March 2007 to the present time.

2. Have you ever owned a business or has someone in your family owned a business?

No

3. Briefly describe the qualifications and experience you possess that make you the best candidate for this office..

I graduated from Montague Public Schools and the University of Chicago with 30 graduate hours at the University of California at Santa Barbara. My years as a commissioner have made me very aware of issues in Muskegon County and some possible solutions. I am currently the chairperson of the governing board of West Michigan Works in addition to my being a member of the Lakeshore Museum Board, Senior Activities Committee, the Airport Advisory Committee, and several other local groups.

4. What do you believe should be the role of government in today's world?

The role of county government is to do for the people that which they cannot do for themselves. This includes, but is not limited to, record keeping, regulations regarding public safety and health, and some encouragement of economic development.

5. What do you consider to be the top three issues facing Muskegon County businesses today and how can county government address them?

- A. The recruitment and retention of qualified employees requires the County to encourage training and work to make the county an inviting place to live and work.
- B. Businesses need modern and up-to-date infrastructure systems. This means not only a good road system but air, rail and marine systems as well. In addition a county wide broadband infrastructure needs to be in place to encourage modern enterprises to locate in Muskegon County.

- C. With sixteen townships, seven cities, and three villages, businesses have a hard time navigating all of the various regulations. The county needs to develop a one stop shopping place to answer questions about rules necessary for development.

6. Name one thing that you think is going right in Muskegon County and one thing that you think could be changed right away.

The development of increased tourism and rebuilding of downtown Muskegon seem to be the most obvious of positive developments.

Muskegon County government should develop a much better way of communicating with the public.

7. In what areas do you feel you can make the most difference as a local elected official?

Since I represent the citizens of five townships, two cities, and one village I can communicate with those people regularly and coordinate their efforts by staying in touch with all of the local officials.

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

I will engage with local officials and convince them that your projects will help them advance their own communities.