



2020 MUSKEGON COUNTY – LOCAL OFFICIALS  
CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Michael Poulin  
Office Sought: Office of Sheriff  
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**1. Have you ever been appointed or elected to public office?  
If yes, what office?**

*In 2002 I was elected to the North Muskegon Board of Education. I served on that board for 14 years, serving as Board President for 10 of those years. In 2016 I was elected to the Office of Sheriff. The Michigan Constitution required that I resign from the school board position.*

**2. Have you ever owned a business or has someone in your family owned a business? If yes, please describe.**

*Yes, my wife Susan Sanborn-Poulin is the current owner of Sanborn's Jewelers. Susan is a third generation jeweler. Her business is located at 821 W. Broadway Ave. Muskegon, MI 49441. Sanborn's Jewelers has been operating in the greater Muskegon area since 1938.*

*In 2019 Sanborn's received the "Retail - Business Excellence Award" from the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce.*

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

*I have been serving as a professional law enforcement officer in Muskegon County for 33 years. During this time I have established relationships with all sectors of public safety, and have come to know our community. I have successfully managed all aspects of the Muskegon County Sheriff's Office, including implementing policy; selecting, managing and training staff; developing and managing departmental budgets and leading cross-functional units. I have proven leadership skills gained from developing and managing multi-jurisdictional programs as well as the coordination of award winning state and federal grant programs.*

*I am a graduate of Grand Valley State University where I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. I have also graduate from Northwestern University Center for Public*

*Safety; Police Staff and Command and Executive Management Programs, where I earned the "Public Safety Executive Leadership Award". In 2012 I graduated from the FBI National Academy, Quantico VA.*

*As your elected Sheriff, I am the only candidate with management experience in both law enforcement and corrections. In 2019 I was appointed by Governor Whitmer to the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission, and selected to serve on the State of Michigan's, School Safety Grant Committee.*

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

*Our government's role should be to ensure the proper defense of our nation, establish a legal system, and manage economic conditions that allow for growth and prosperity.*

**5. What do you consider to be the top three (3) issues facing Muskegon County business today and how can the county government address them?**

- 1. Assisting in getting business back open as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Local government can assist by providing resources to local business that may help them expand their work space (restaurants) to help support social distancing.*
- 2. Continued growth of the downtown development. Both municipality and county leaders must continue to work together, combining ideas and vision as well as needed financial support when possible.*
- 3. Continue to bring manufacturing companies to our industrial park areas which will help create a greater work force for Muskegon County.*

**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 believe our communities ability to work collaboratively within all sectors of government, public health and local business drives our success. The branding associated with the downtown development and tourism continually highlights the positives that Muskegon County has to offer. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated people that are willing to take on new challenges and create such a positive environment.*

*The overall downtown area of the City of Muskegon Heights is steeped in history and offers many beautiful buildings. The "Watch Muskegon" campaign is designed as an inclusive initiative focused on promoting our county as a great place to live, work, play,*

*and learn. By promoting and updating this downtown location, we can share all the positives that come with it.*

*“Beautification, Education, Marketing.”*

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

*As Sheriff I am able to work towards effective strategies that ensure the safety and security of our community. The Sheriff’s Office has the ability to engage in the many diverse communities that Muskegon County has to offer. Through continued community outreach and programming the Office of Sheriff is able to connect with those we serve and protect. There is no other law enforcement entity or law enforcement position that is more trusted, that is more imbedded, and that has built a relationship with a community then the Office of Sheriff.*

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

*As Sheriff I will maintain our partnership with the Silent Observer program. Continue to participate in chamber events, and work as an advocate to help bring new residence (and business) to Muskegon County.*

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

**1. Integrity and accountability:**

*My number one priority in 2016 was to bring integrity and accountability back to the Office of Sheriff. Though we were able to achieve this goal, the maintenance of this as a professional law enforcement agency will continue as a priority.*

**2. Continue to improve service to our community:**

*During my first term, staff numbers were improved for both the Law Enforcement and the Corrections Division. Our goal was to see that our community was served professionally, with a focus on community needs and customer service. Even with an increase (7.44%) of calls for service handled by deputies and investigators of the Muskegon County Sheriff’s Office, we were able to directly impact our community in a positive way.*

*20.51% reduction in residential breaking and entering complaints.*

*15.40% reduction in larcenies.*

*66.67% reduction in Negligent Homicide.*

*68.73% increase in residential property checks.*

*Though we experienced no change in the percentage of Aggravated/Felonious Assaults, we did see a 6.99% increase in the solve-ability rate of those investigations as well as a 6.56% increase in the solve-ability rate for Sexual Assaults. This increase (solve-ability rate) speaks volumes of the professional work and direct focus of assisting our community and obtaining results for the victims of crime.*

**3. Fiscal responsibility of general fund dollars while seeking new funding sources.**

*During my first term, the Sheriff's Office operated annually within our approved budget. Additional funding sources were sought then, and we will continue to look for more.*

*From 2017-2020 the Sheriff's Office received just over \$1,400,146.00 in grants and projects. These additional dollars made it possible for us to purchase body worn cameras for all uniformed staff, which will help increase the safety of the public and staff, while improving accountability for all.*

**10. Is there anything else that you would like to share?**

*As a community member I have been engaged in many important roles. Please take a moment and look over the various organizations I am currently involved with:*

*Michigan Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission, Commissioner*

*State of Michigan, School Safety Grant Committee, Member*

*Muskegon County Veterans Treatment Court, Member*

*Muskegon Rotary Club, Member*

*Child Abuse Council, Board of Directors*

*Kid's Food Basket, Board of Directors*

*Pioneer Resources, Board of Directors*

*Muskegon Community Health Project, Board of Directors*

*Muskegon Area Medication Disposal Program, Member*

*Muskegon County Alcohol Liability Initiative, Member/Past Chair*

*Lakeshore Traffic Safety Committee, Member/Past Chair*

*Fraternal Order of Police #99, Member/Past Executive Trustee*