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1. Have you ever been appointed or elected to public office? No
If yes, which office?

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

Yes, I was a Partner in a Muskegon law firm until I became employed at the Community Foundation as its CEO in 1999. My husband is also a long time part owner of McCroskey Law firm.

3. Briefly describe the qualifications and experience you possess that make you the best candidate for this office. 17 years working as a lawyer representing the largest businesses in Muskegon in commercial and employment related deals. Throughout my legal career I was very active in leading civic and non-profit organizations whose work was/is important in the life of our County, including the Muskegon Bar. Assn., Hackley Community Care Center, First Congregational Church and Planned Parenthood of Muskegon. Then, as the head of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, I gained deep knowledge of every part of our County, geographically, demographically, economically, and culturally. My job required responsibility for oversight and management of hundreds of millions of dollars in philanthropic endowed and non-endowed funds. And, as the leader of Muskegon's largest philanthropy and the institution looked to for leadership in addressing community-wide issues, I have significant experience in executing projects and addressing issues that affect the quality of life throughout our County.

4. What do you believe should be the role of the office you are seeking?

To assure our efficient and effective execution of our County government responsibilities, especially fiscal management. So, a primary role of a County Commissioner is to assure we hire and support a great county administrator, make decisions on the proper allocation of resources that maximize beneficial impact for our citizens and our County. I believe a County Commissioner should provide County staff with encouragement and inspiration to stretch; to work to create ever increasing economic opportunities and quality of life for everyone in our

County. I believe the Commission should lead, together, to maximize the County's assets toward creating a more hopeful and enjoyable everyday life, especially for our children and their parents.

5. What do you consider to be the top three (3) issues facing Muskegon County businesses today and, if elected, how can you address them?

1. Attracting and retaining talent that can innovate and implement technological improvements; 2. Hiring enough qualified staff to meet demand; 3. Affordability and availability of housing, childcare, and transportation in Muskegon for service industry workers. I will work to assure the assets the County owns which impact all of these issues are managed and expanded to make Muskegon an ever more attractive place for a vibrant talented workforce to pursue their careers and enjoy their lives, make it easier for employees to get to work, find affordable conveniently located housing, and make interacting with the regulatory functions of the County clear, prompt and smooth. Beyond managing our own resources to impact these issues positively, there is much the County can do if it chooses to lead and collaborate with other municipalities and community institutions to pursue and achieve focused County-wide goals of increasing training resources, expanding workforce readiness programs, repairing and improving our infrastructure, upgrading existing housing stock and bringing more online. Let's be creative, bold, and willing to do things differently to achieve the highest vision we have for ourselves.

6. How do you balance personal values and beliefs with problem solving for the public's issues? I know my life is better when my neighbor's life is good. And my neighbor, from the perspective of a County Commissioner post, is all of Muskegon County. I am confident my personal beliefs and values are aligned with the beliefs, values, decisions and actions that can achieve solutions and improvements the community desires. I know also working across parties, or any form of line, toward a common goal is HARD. I am committed to NOT getting angry, staying in it, keeping a sense of humor and a feeling of absolute respect for everyone working with me toward a solution and improvement..

7. In what areas do you feel you can make the most difference as a local elected official? I think I can make the most difference in these areas: 1) increasing County's focus on strategic goals set with the input of many leaders; 2) efforts to increase a sense across County governmental departments and functions that we are all pulling on the same oars, moving the County forward together; and 3) hopefully, increasing the County's vision for itself as a leader with the seven cities in establishing a way to work more effectively together toward a stronger more prosperous County.

8. How will you leverage and utilize the Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce as a resource should you be elected? Its important the County Commission and our County Administrator view the Chamber as a key community partner. Participation in Chamber events, on Chamber Committees, and communicating informally and regularly between County leaders and Chamber leaders would benefit both entities and the community. In particular, I would like to see the County join the City of Muskegon and the Chamber in the work to lift up,

fill in, beautify and increase the development of our County's historic and economically critical downtown.

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

Maximizing access and enjoyability of the County's parks, improving the quality and usefulness of our public transportation system, including air service, and support of mental health and public health services to assure Muskegon County's citizens have the care they need. In addressing these needs, other critical issues of educational attainment, affordable housing, and meaningful employment are also impacted.

10. Is there anything else that you would like to share? No, I need to go to sleep!

Send completed questionnaires to:
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