

Running for Office 2022-2024

Are you considering running for office in 2022 or 2024? OCDP members are ready to help! If you have questions on any of the following information, please email or phone Chris Kostamo at cekosti52@gmail.com , 616.402.1271, or Kim Nagy at kimnagy58@gmail.com , 616.443.8992.

Your starting point for any race is the Ottawa County website: miottawa.org.

On the homepage, select the “Divisions” tab, then “Elections”. The elections menu has all the information you need to file paperwork, access campaign finance information, find which positions are available in your precinct/district, length of terms, current officeholders. The election information will be updated for 2022 after redistricting is complete, hopefully by end of November 2021. There is a particularly useful “find my elected representative” interactive map – simply click your jurisdiction and find all elected representatives including township trustees, city councils, commissioners.

<https://gis.miottawa.org/ottawa/wab/findmyelectedofficials/>

What County offices are up for election in 2022?

OCDP Screenings and Recommendations Committee is currently recruiting for the following positions that are **vital** to fill with great candidates:

State Representative seats: We currently have three seats in Ottawa, the 88th (Coopersville south to Hudsonville including Allendale and Georgetown) held by Luke Meerman (R), in his second term; the 89th (Grand Haven, Spring Lake, south to Park Twp) held by Jim Lilly (R) in his final term; the 90th (Holland, Zeeland, city of Hudsonville, Holland Twp) held by Bradley Slagh (R) in his second term.

State Representative seats are two-year terms based on a population of 91,000 constituents. Given the county population, it is unlikely we will continue to have three seats, we will probably have some portion of the county moved into a seat that will cross county lines. State Representatives write laws, pass budgets, manage constituent services. The position is a full-time job, \$71,685 yearly salary with an expense account, and standard benefit package excluding medical insurance in retirement and excluding pension, legislators have a 401(k). In general, the legislative calendar is very similar to school calendar, with sessions held Tuesdays-Thursdays and Mondays and Fridays usually considered in-district office days. Sessions may extend late into the evening, may be called during regularly scheduled vacations. The legislature meets in Lansing, all Representatives have offices and staff in Lansing.

State Senate seat: Currently, all of Ottawa is part of the 30th Senate district, a seat currently held by Roger Victory (R) in his first term. Senate terms are four years. Victory would be allowed to run for Senate for one more term. Responsibilities of the position are the same as State Representative, full-time, same salary, and benefits. The seat will be based on a population of 275,000, which again means that it is likely some portion of the county will be pushed into another seat.

County Commission: Currently, there are eleven Commission seats. Given population growth, we believe we will add at least one seat, and hope to add three. County Commission meets on Tuesday afternoons, with additional committee meetings scheduled throughout the week. Commissioners oversee all county services including roads, parks, healthcare services, etc. The position is paid, currently \$19,000 per year. Redistricting

for Commission is handled by a committee of five including County Chairs of Democratic and Republican Parties, County Clerk, County Treasurer, and Prosecuting Attorney.

School Boards: All school boards will have seats up for election, school board positions rotate cycles. School boards are on the front lines of “culture wars” and are vital positions. From protecting the rights of LGBTQ students, to Critical Race Theory, School Boards deal with major issues. Some school board members are paid per meeting, it varies from district to district. In general, assume it is voluntary.

What County Offices are up for election in 2024?

State Representative seats, Township Trustees, Township Supervisors, Township Clerks, Township Treasurers, County Clerk, County Treasurer, County Sheriff, Drain Commission, County Commission and School Boards.

Township positions are responsible for township master plans, zoning and development, parks, libraries, traffic control, etc.

In general, township trustee positions are paid a per diem for meetings (in Georgetown Twp, \$85.00 per meeting attended) plus a small salary (Georgetown Twp \$3,769.00 for Trustees, Supervisor and Clerk paid more). Check your specific Township information for salaries in your jurisdiction.