

## SCIO TOWNSHIP

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This year in Scio Township, all candidates for township office appear on the Democratic Party line. There are three slates. In races for the supervisor's position, there are three candidates. In races for the treasurer and clerk's positions, there are two candidates. There are 12 candidates for four seats on the township board of trustees. There is one candidate for trustee not associated with a slate. Each candidate's association with a slate is noted alongside party affiliation.

Supervisor

E. Spaulding Clark

Democrat

(Leadership for Scio)

Background:

\* Attorney/municipal consultant.

\* Bachelor's degree, Albion College; juris doctor, University of Michigan; master of laws, Wayne State University; admitted to practice law in Michigan; Colorado; U.S. District Court; U.S. Tax Court.

Previous elected office: Scio Township trustee, 1992-95, Scio Township supervisor, 2000-04.

Public and community service: Ann Arbor Rotary Club, First Presbyterian Church elder, Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Association of Township Attorneys, Michigan Association of Planning.

Key issues

\* Return to a transparent, effective, efficient, responsive and respected township administration: This is a basic prerequisite for governing which is not now being met. We need proven leaders and experienced across the entire range of township administrative and financial activities.

\* Restore and improve public-safety services with appropriate budgets and oversight: This requires board members who can plan for the financial needs of such services, given existing budget and financial resources.

\* Fiscal responsibility: New leadership is needed to re-evaluate the entire range of the township's finances to avoid the kind of unnecessary cuts that occurred with reductions in police and fire. In the same vein, township board members need to avoid increasing the township tax burden unnecessarily. The salaries of current full-time township officials need to be tied to performance, responsibilities, and work performed, or they need to serve only in a part-time capacity.

Personal: Married, two children.

Web site: [www.LeadershipForScio.com](http://www.LeadershipForScio.com)

Doug Fuller

Democrat

(Team For Scio)

Background: Not provided.

Previous elected office: None.

Public and community service: Dexter Rotary Club, Dexter Chamber of Commerce, Loch Alpine Improvement Association Board; planning commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, public safety and local roads committees; Loch Alpine Sanitary Authority operating committee; Democratic precinct delegate.

## Key issues

\* Efficiency in services: We need to ensure that we are providing for the long-term, cost-effective delivery of water and sewer services. Every service the township provides needs to be under constant scrutiny to ensure timely and cost-effective delivery.

\* Public-safety funding: We need to ensure public-safety officials have proper resources, and to search for opportunities and partners to provide these services.

\* Thoughtful control of growth: Our township has experienced exceptional growth and has a combination of wonderful areas to live and areas that are vibrant, exciting places to have a business. Experience, consideration for neighbors, a willingness to listen and a determination to follow the guidelines will contribute to making Scio a jewel.

Personal: 61, single.

Web site: [www.theteamforscio.org](http://www.theteamforscio.org)

Charles Nielsen

Democrat

(Preserve Scio slate)

Background:

\* Scio supervisor.

\* Small business owner.

Previous elected office: Current township supervisor.

Public and community service: chairman, Michigan Township Association Washtenaw Chapter; president of University Lowbrow Astronomers; numerous committees.

## Key issues

\* Adequate public safety protection: Educate residents about public safety needs and current status, solicit help in funding.

\* Defend against annexation: Hold firm on annexation requests, especially as Dexter goes through cityhood process.

\* Balance development and preservation: Develop Jackson Road development and encourage good mix of retail, industrial and housing, while preserving as much as possible off the boulevard, including development of an active recreation, township-owned park.

Personal: 54, one son, one grandson.

Web site: [www.Preservescio.org](http://www.Preservescio.org)

Treasurer

Gordon Darr

Democrat

(Leadership for Scio)

Background:

\* Educator, musician, consultant.

\* Master's degree, educational studies, University of Michigan; certification in K-8, master of business administration, Texas Christian University; bachelor's degree, University of Michigan.

Previous elected office: Township trustee, 2000-04; Dexter Village trustee, 1998-2000.

Public and community service: Active in various arts initiatives.

## Key issues

\* Top-notch public safety without unnecessary new taxes: The funds are available for additional public-safety personnel. More can be done to economize our township operations, starting with a return to part-time officers. We can be a little more aggressive in investing township funds.

\* Smart, sustainable development: Adhere to the master plan already in place. Insist on win-win for our residents and builders/developers.

\* Jobs and housing for all income levels: creative recruitment of employers; decrease the number of vacant homes. I will propose a tax break for residents living in the same Scio primary residence for 25 continuous years, and a more aggressive incentive for 40-year residents.

Personal: 47, single, two daughters.

Web site: [www.leadershipforscio.com](http://www.leadershipforscio.com)

Donna Palmer

Democrat

(Team For Scio)

Background:

\* Current Scio Township treasurer.

\* Basic accounting courses at Washtenaw Community College; certified municipal treasurer courses; seminars offered by Michigan Township Association and the Michigan Municipal Treasurer's Association.

Previous elected office: Scio Township treasurer.

Public and community service: St. Joseph Catholic Church, Dexter District Library, Gordon Hall Administrative Committee, Dexter Area Service Association.

Key issues

\* Public safety: We are dangerously at "bare bones." I support the Public Safety Committee's recommendations.

\* Fiscal responsibility: I will continue to keep a healthy fund balance, protecting "the people, who pay the bills," and leaning always to spend necessarily and wisely.

\* Township character: It's important to keep our business area viable as we all enjoy more convenient services. I do not want to see every piece of land covered with blacktop and rooftops. Ultimately, we would see a diminishment in what we know and enjoy.

Personal: 69, married, six children, 16 grandchildren.

Clerk

Nancy Hedburg

Democrat

(Team For Scio)

Background:

\* Landscape architect.

\* Bachelor's degree, University of Illinois.

Previous elected office: None.

Public and community service: Board of Review; West Washtenaw Business Association; Adopt-a-Road; officer in Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild; past Planning Commission; officer in People for a Beautiful Scio.

Key issues

\* Public safety: A bipartisan committee of volunteers has studied the issues facing emergency responders. I support its recommendation

that voters will be asked to support in November. I want the township to have protection for our citizens with qualified, trained, responsible responders.

\* Preservation of open space and farmland: There is a delicate balance between the development demands and the preservation of our heritage and significant natural resources. I will protect open space, farmland, and provide recreational opportunities for citizens. I will also support a vibrant business community within the Jackson Road corridor and to ensure that the necessary infrastructure serves that corridor at the best cost.

\* Customer service: Our township office should be all about service. I support training for staff and officials and would examine our hours of operation so that we may best serve our public.

Personal: 58, married, three children and two grandchildren.

Web site: [www.theteamforscio.org](http://www.theteamforscio.org)

Mary Shindell

Democrat

(Preserve Scio)

Background:

\* Sales and marketing.

\* Master's degree in guidance and counseling in community agencies, University of Michigan; bachelor's degree, U-M, Flint.

Previous elected office: None.

Public and community service: Trustee, Huron River Heights Property Owners Association; member, American Business Womens Association; volunteer, Youth for Understanding, International Exchange program; Democratic precinct delegate.

Key issues

\* Fire and police protection: I would work to improve the services while maintaining low taxes.

\* Parks: I would like to establish a park for team sports, walking, bicycling and picnicking using money from the land-preservation millage. Park development and maintenance can be paid for through the cooperative effort with sports leagues.

\* Possible annexations: I would seek to understand what added services the residents of the Village of Dexter would gain by becoming a city and ensure they knew of the potential disadvantages as well as the value of remaining a part of Scio Township.

\* Development: I will defend the master plan and ensure that dense development is kept in the water and sewer service area along the Jackson Road corridor.

Personal: 56, married, one child.

Web site: [www.maryshindell4scio.com](http://www.maryshindell4scio.com)

Trustee

Deborah Bulley

Democrat

(Preserve Scio)

Background:

\* Homemaker.

\* Bachelor's and master's degrees, University of Michigan.

Previous elected office: None

Public and community service: Involved with property owners in Scio Township faced with threatened annexation by Dexter.

## Key issues

- \* Oppose annexation.

- \* Keep township green and rural: Defend the master land-use plan, which balances residential, commercial, and industrial development, and upholds the rural character of Scio Township.

- \* Ensure that township officials honor existing agreements with the voters to keep Scio green and rural.

Personal: 61, married.

Web site: [www.preservescio.org](http://www.preservescio.org)

Richard A. DeLong

Democrat

(Leadership for Scio)

Background:

- \* Retired consultant, executive director of the Scio Township Downtown Development Authority.

- \* Bachelor's and master of business administration, University of Michigan.

Previous elected office: Township supervisor, two terms; Washtenaw County Commission, five terms.

## Key issues

- \* Public safety: Fire and police protection are inadequate.

- \* Fiscal responsibility: Township expenses are too high.

- \* Balance of urban and rural in Scio Township: Need to encourage high-quality commercial and industrial businesses in the Jackson Road corridor while preserving the low-density, rural atmosphere in the balance of the township.

Personal: 81, married, adult children.

Web site: [www.leadershipforscio.com](http://www.leadershipforscio.com)

Leslie K. Douglas

Democrat

(Preserve Scio)

Background:

- \* Retired from the University of Michigan's office of financial aid; currently working part-time at U-M.

- \* Bachelor's degree, Adrian College; teaching certificate, Eastern Michigan University.

Previous elected office: Putnam Township trustee.

Public and community service: Putnam Township Board of Zoning Appeals, Planning Commission, volunteer Furry Friends Rescue.

## Key issues

- \* Maintain the master plan: The master plan leaves areas for office, commercial, and industrial zoning mainly on the Jackson Road corridor while offering conservation or open spaces and various residential zoning in other areas of the township. It should be looked at very carefully before awarding any variances.

- \* Develop parks and recreation facilities: Proposal J of 2004 raises funds to be used for parks and recreation. This should include parks with walking trails and recreation parks, which may be used for sports. The township should also apply for additional state funding for parks and recreation.

\* Ensure adequate police and fire protection: The township needs additional police and fire protection, and there is a request for funding in order to meet these needs on the November ballot.

Personal: 64, single.

Web site: [www.PreserveScio.org](http://www.PreserveScio.org)

Jim Dries

Democrat

(Team For Scio)

Background:

\* Chief Deputy Clerk and Register of Deeds, Washtenaw County.

\* President, West Liberty Information LLC.

\* Bachelor's degree, Michigan State University; graduate study in urban and regional planning, University of Michigan.

Previous elected office: Township trustee, elected in 2004.

Public and community service: County Board of Public Works; Saginaw Hills Homeowners' Association board; township Sewer Service Advisory Committee; Loch Alpine Sanitary Authority; past co-chairman, Ann Arbor Art Center WineFest; board of directors, Michigan Aerospace Foundation; Democratic precinct delegate.

Key issues

\* Build our Board of Trustees into a working team: The board has fractured over legal counsel, support for police and fire services, the use of land-preservation revenues, planning for Scio's town center and other issues. Local government serves the public when elected leaders work together, reach consensus about issues and then take action.

\* Provide excellence in police and fire protection: Our best and most economical opportunities lie in regional authorities. But we must convince neighbors of our commitment. The board must provide police and fire departments with the financial support they need.

\* Build a vital, valuable and sustainable community: Preserve critical farmland, open space and historical features; establish and operate local parks that serve growing neighborhoods; and direct commercial and industrial growth into the Jackson Road corridor. The latter requires providing sufficient, Scio-owned, public sewer service.

Personal: Not provided.

Web site: [www.theteamforscio.org](http://www.theteamforscio.org)

Christine Green

Democrat

(Team For Scio)

Background:

\* Attorney.

\* Bachelor's degree, juris doctor, University of Michigan.

Previous elected office: None.

Public and community service: Township Planning Commission; chairwoman zoning ordinance amendment committee; member Michigan Environmental Council; SOS Community Center resource development committee.

Key issues

\* Protecting natural areas: Preserve open space and maintain the "wildness" of the woods and waterways through master plan and zoning ordinance. Explore regional cooperation and partnerships with nongovernmental organizations to protect natural areas.

\* Providing access to natural features: Implement existing plans for bikeways and walkways, and seek advice from local environmental experts on the location of wildlife corridors and the necessity of habitat protection. Raise money for the purchase and maintenance of active and passive recreation parks through public funding, private funding and developer investment.

\* Creating an attractive Jackson Road corridor: Improve the look of Jackson Road by enacting design standards and offering incentives for energy efficiency and green design. Create a more pedestrian-oriented atmosphere to help new and existing business prosper and create a "sense of place." Make development decisions that are predictable and fair, and balance preservation with sensible growth.

Personal: 56, married, two step-daughters and one step-grandson.

Web site: [www.theteamforscio.org](http://www.theteamforscio.org)

Tom Hanson

Democrat

(Team For Scio)

Background:

\* Attorney, Dykema Gossett, Ann Arbor.

\* Juris doctorate, University of California, San Francisco; bachelor's degree, University of Michigan.

Previous elected office: None.

Public and community service: Township Planning Commission; Haisley Pack 123 Cub Scouts; youth sports coach.

Key issues

\* Strengthening the business community: Scio must attract and retaining viable businesses that can employ and serve residents. The board should work to foster a collaborative spirit with the business community, provide utilities, public-safety and other required services in the Jackson Road corridor and reach out to the business community.

\* Stopping sprawl: Growth does not have to be synonymous with sprawl. Rather than adopting an anti-development stance, the board needs to utilize Scio's land-preservation funds to preserve open space. It should also plan for and encourage higher-density development in the area already served by public utilities.

\* Professionalism and openness: No matter the issue, board members need to listen to one another's opinions, act with respect and work as a team. This is true for the board's dealings with other agencies and neighboring communities, as well.

Personal: 38, married, three sons.

Web site: [www.theteamforscio.org](http://www.theteamforscio.org)

Jean Ledwith King

Democrat

(Leadership for Scio)

Background:

\* Attorney.

\* Bachelor's, master's and law degrees, University of Michigan.

Previous elected office: Township trustee, elected 2004.

Public and community service: Washtenaw County Historic District Commission; past board member Ann Arbor District Library; officer, Women Progressive Activists; representative on Washtenaw Area Transit Study; Huron River Watershed Council executive board member; Veteran Feminists of America; Democratic precinct delegate.

Key issues

\* Keep taxes in Scio Township low: I don't favor an additional special assessment when there is more than \$1.45 million that can be used for public service needs. I favor reducing the salaries of the three township officers from \$50,000 to \$20,000 per year.

\* Reorganize Scio Fire Department and its administration: The Scio Fire department has had numerous MIOSHA violations. The administration of the fire department needs to be reviewed and the physical health of all full-time members of the fire department assessed after an agreement with the union is reached in this regard. New fire equipment is needed and we have the money for it.

\* Replace two deputies lost under the present township manager: Despite having \$1.45 million, the board laid off two deputies this year. This is inadequate police protection.

Personal: 84, married, three children, four grandchildren.

Web site: [www.leadeshipforscio.com](http://www.leadeshipforscio.com)

Jack Knowles

Democrat

(Running without a ticket)

Background:

\* Landscape architect/land planner; Dietrich, Bailey and Associates, P.C. Civil Engineers, Landscape Architects, Surveyors, vice president and partner.

\* Bachelor's degree, University of Michigan.

Previous elected office: None

Public and community service: Township Building Committee; previously township planning commission and zoning board of appeals.

Key issues

\* Keep township government small: Maintain low tax base; provide basic services; be fiscally efficient and economical; review entire township operation to eliminate duplicity of effort and wasted tax dollars.

\* Provide appropriate police and fire services: I support the findings of the Study Committee and do not agree with board members who appear to think the only way to achieve this level of service is through a new millage for the entire amount suggested in the report. The rest of the township operation should be studied to determine what expenses could be reduced.

\* Limit sewer expansion: The township should meet the needs of the properties that it is legally obligated to service. Any further sewer expansion must be studied on an individual case basis, and reviewed to determine what if any benefit it would bring the township.

\* Preserve rural character and open space: I support the collaboration with landowners and other land preservation/conservancy organizations to maximize the amount of open space and passive, low-intensity use parklands within the township."

Personal: 59, married.

Marty Mayo

Democrat

(Team For Scio)

Background:

\* Retired; formerly market researcher and owner of StarWorks Inc.

\* Bachelor's degree, Harvard; master's and doctorate, University of California at Berkeley.

Previous elected office: None.

Public and community service: Township Planning Commission, Downtown Development Authority, Sewer Services Advisory Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals, directed Scio Resident Survey in 2007.



## Key issues

\* Adequate fire and police protection: Residents may not know how inadequate current provisions for public safety are. A public information campaign is needed to ensure that residents understand the reason to support the additional property taxes recommended by the bipartisan Public Safety Committee.

\* Adequate sewer capacity for master-planned, high-density commercial district: It is essential to have adequate sewer capacity for the Jackson Road corridor. I support the township's Sewer Service Advisory Committee's cost-effective approach for future sewer services.

\* Balancing low-density, rural areas and higher-density business and residential areas: I support the new master plan and the Land Preservation Commission in its efforts to leverage Proposal J funds to preserve more of Scio's farmlands, natural features and parkland. Working with the DDA and local businesses, I will encourage a flourishing business environment along Jackson.

Personal: 71, married, three children, two grandchildren.

Web site: [www.TheTeamForScio.org](http://www.TheTeamForScio.org)

Lynn Phillips

Democrat

(Leadership for Scio)

Background:

\* Child psychologist.

\* Bachelor's degree, Michigan State University; master's, Eastern Michigan University; doctorate, University of Detroit.

Previous elected office: None

Public and community service: Fallen Soldiers Fund, Camp Fire co-leader, Emerson ESPO, literacy volunteer.

## Key issues

\* A township board should function as a cohesive, effective, professional group wherein decision making is guided by community and resident needs: Attention can then be turned to the critical issues of establishing adequate fire and police protection, not raising taxes prematurely or without adequate cause.

\* Administrative costs can be cut through a reduction in township officer's salaries. The money will be returned to the general fund and reallocated toward the provision of services. It is my intention to donate my net salary to the Dexter Senior Center.

\* Aggressive defense of the master plan will help to ensure that development does not negatively impact on the quality of water or amount of green space residents have to enjoy.

Personal: 52, engaged, two children.

Web site: [www.LeadershipForScio.com](http://www.LeadershipForScio.com)

Chuck Ream

Democrat

(Preserve Scio)

Background:

\* Retired schoolteacher.

\* Bachelor's degree, Western Michigan University; master's, University of Michigan.

Previous elected office: Township board since 1988.

Public and community service: Zoning Board of Appeals, parks, budget and solid-waste committees; recycling volunteer; Red Cross certified lifeguard.

## Key issues

\* Preserving the semi-rural character of Scio Township: I will make sure that Scio remains a low-density township outside of the Jackson Road corridor, by defending our zoning and master plan. We also need to preserve land (farms, natural areas and parks) by getting the maximum leverage out of the dollars provided for land preservation by voters.

\* Resolving public-safety funding: It is unacceptable that the township does not have the cash to secure adequate police and fire protection. We must pass a small millage so that we can continue to have police and fire protection for the citizens who experience a serious emergency.

\* Purchasing land for parks and recreation: Scio's sports teams are desperate for fields to play on. Money to buy park land is already in the bank (from Proposal. J). Our "Preserve Scio" slate has pledged create a park adequate for team sports, walking, bicycling and picnicking.

Personal: Engaged, three children.

Web site: [www.preservescio.org](http://www.preservescio.org)

Josh Warner

Democrat

(Preserve Scio)

Candidate did not respond to requests for information.

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