

## **DROP BOX NOT AVAILABLE**

Because of the State Supreme Court ruling, use of drop boxes for the depositing of ballots is not allowed. This means that if someone places a ballot in the slot at the front entrance to the Town Hall the ballot will NOT be counted. See the last page of this issue for methods of casting your vote.

## **CANDIDATE STATEMENTS**

Candidates for the Winnebago County Board races were invited to submit a statement. They are formatted only for type style and margins. Otherwise, they are as submitted.

### **DISTRICT 31**

#### **RALPH HARRISON**

My name is Ralph Harrison and I'm running for Winnebago County Board Supervisor for District 31 in this upcoming Spring Election on April 5th. I want to EARN your VOTE in this very important Election. I have lived in Oshkosh for 52 years. Married to my wife Vicki Rabe. I have 5 boys and 13 grandchildren with one more coming this summer. I was in the Automobile Business for most of those years in Sales, Marketing ,and Management at Bergstrom Automobile , King Clift Auto ,and Holiday Automotive in Fond du lac. I love Oshkosh, Winnebago County, and this Amazing State. I'm running because I felt it was time to give back. I love volunteering and promote doing it every day. People need to get involved. Taxpayer's money is hard earned money. It's being spent in huge amounts on a monthly basis. We need good listeners to make good wise decisions for the future of our County. With my management training and years of experience in finance, budgeting, and working with so many different issues I feel I offer that type of mind set. One to listen and work with the other Supervisors to get the job done . We really need to work together with the County Executive and all our agencies to serve better. Plus, living here 52 years should help me for sure to take on this challenge by knowing the County. Please reach out to me if you have questions or concerns at [ralphharrison44@gmail.com](mailto:ralphharrison44@gmail.com) or find me on Facebook at Ralph Harrison for Winnebago County Board Supervisor District 31.

Thank you for the privilege to serve you.

Ralph Harrison

#### **JOSEPH CONNELLY**

My name is Joseph Connelly and I am running for the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors in the 31st District. While I have never served as an elected official, I'm excited for the opportunity and honored that neighbors reached out to me about running for this position.

As a true independent who has never been affiliated with a political party, I've been alarmed at the amount of partisanship creeping into local politics. I'd like to be a member that is willing to listen to good ideas from wherever they originate while also being free to reject short-sighted, politically motivated actions that do more harm than good.

I am a longtime resident of the district, having moved here during third grade. Now almost 40, I've watched the Towns of Algoma and Omro develop, grow and change. We

need people on the board that will carefully consider zoning issues and the ways we support infrastructure projects and maintenance. We need to spend money where it makes sense to preserve our property values and make our commutes as pleasant as possible. We need to realize our community will continue to grow and find the smartest ways to support that growth.

We have a new County Executive who came in with some big ideas. It's certainly worth exploring ways to make government smaller and more efficient, but the board can't simply be a rubber stamp for the Executive's Office. I'm concerned that my opponent (who I admire for his honest outreach and communication) is a little too eager to be a proxy vote for the Executive. We need independent thinkers that will push back on half-formed ideas when needed, but who are willing to adopt plans that move us forward in responsible ways.

Finally, there has been a lot of anxiety about the balance between government overreach and an abdication of responsibility during difficult times, specifically concerning the response to covid. I think statements like being "opposed to all mandates," while capturing our shared appreciation of individual liberties, are really a refusal to make difficult decisions during difficult times. If a new variant with higher mortality comes along, and our state government once again decides to shirk its responsibility by pushing decisions to the local level, it may be appropriate to consider short-term measures to protect our community from disease. And we need people on the Board that are willing to listen to and consider expert opinion during those moments.

I do believe in freedom. I fought for it as a Soldier in the US Army in Iraq and Afghanistan. I believe in responsibility, from our elected officials and for ourselves. I believe our community is better served by people who listen to each other and appreciate good ideas from wherever they come. And I believe in pragmatic action that benefits the infrastructure, environment, economy, and the health and wellbeing of our community.

I'd be honored to have your vote. Thank you.

### **DISTRICT 33**

#### **TOM EGAN**

Town of Omro Residents,

My name is Thomas Egan and I am running for county board seat of District 33 which is Ward 1, Town of Omro, and was elected in 2008. During my tenure I have served on many committees including the Board of Health, Committee on Committees, County Board (Vice Chairman), Facilities and Property Management (Vice Chairman), Highway Committee, Legislative Committee (Chairman) and Planning and Zoning (Chairman). Ward 1 consists from Highway 91 mostly up to Highway 21 and most of the north side of the Fox River. Under the new districting I will also be representing the Town of Nepeuskun, Rushford, Poygan and part of the Town of Utica.

It has been my pleasure representing you throughout the years. I hope I can continue to offer open communication between my constituents and the County Board. I always feel like I listen with an open mind and vote what is best for my district that I represent.

Living in the Omro area the majority of my life and interacting at various functions it enables me to get a good feel from the community what they want from my position on the County Board, and I am always willing to explain my position as to why I voted the way I did on issues facing the County. My phone line is always open to discuss any

concerns or questions you have at 920-379-8479 or I can be reached at [Tom.Egan@co.winnebago.wi.us](mailto:Tom.Egan@co.winnebago.wi.us). Thank you for your continued support.

## **DISTRICT 34**

### **JEFFREY BEEM**

I am running for the Winnebago County Executive for district 34, which encompasses the city of Omro and a good portion of the Town of Omro for one large simple reason. With the fears surrounding the covid issue, the government at all levels sought to take our rights away. Sadly, this was also at the county level here. This led to businesses being shut down, businesses being labeled as non-essential, mask mandates, as well as the approval of this board to vote yes on 11.08. This was done even though the significant majority of the people who “attended” the remote meetings voiced their disapproval. These actions are all contrary to our basic Bill of Rights as stated in the U.S. Constitution. I hope to reverse these policies. I definitely will consider the opinions of my constituents as I vote and provide transparency. The Winnebago County Board has also been talking about redistricting which could eliminate the voice of smaller communities, such as ours. Thank you for putting your trust in me.

### **ED JEZIORNY**

Ed has been a resident of the Town of Omro for over 30 years. His strong belief in the American dream is what continues to drive him in running for the district 34 Supervisor position.

He is running because he wants to govern from basic principles that are critical to a free society:

\* Truth

\* Freedom. Government exists to protect our freedom. I don't believe government is the answer to most questions.

\* Self-sufficiency. Dependence and entitlement are destroying people.

\* Personal Accountability. With a dream and determination, the possibilities are endless for all of us.

Over the course of his 68 years, Ed has been involved with Law Enforcement, EMS, DHFS, Business Owner, Corporate Food & Beverage Controller, Licensed Insurance Agent with a FICF designation, Pilot, involved in youth programs and has sat on several board of directors involved with managing not for profits and heading up several fund-raising organizations.

Vote for Ed on April 5<sup>th</sup> because “WE ARE THE PEOPLE” and we should be governed by people from the grass roots of our society. The laborers, farmers and everyday business people.

## **BALLOT CONTENT**

Even though ballots in the Town of Omro differ from ward to ward for the Winnebago County Board races, all of the other contests will be the same for all four wards.

The first Race is COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE DISTRICT 2: The candidates are Lori Kornblum and Maria S. Lazar.

The second race is WINNEBAGO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 3: The candidates are Bryan D. Keberlein and Lisa Krueger.

The third race is WINNEBAGO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 5: There is one candidate, John A. Jorgensen.

The final race is OMRO SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER: There are three candidates and you can vote for up to three. They are Brian Loos, Thomas Egan and Shane J. Carter.

This editor apologizes for not providing candidate statements in these races. Early research did not reveal candidate names nor contact information. The Winnebago County Clerk was very helpful in providing that information for the County Board races.

A screen shot of the Clerk's posting for absentee voting processes and times is included as the last page of this issue.

A map of Town of Omro wards may be found at [Election Information \(townofomro.us\)](http://ElectionInformation(townofomro.us))

## **PLAN COMMISSION OPERATIONS**

This issue will focus on conditional use permits.

There are times when a property owner wants to erect a building or use their property in a way that is allowed but for which the County has some potential restrictions. Such a use calls for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Unless one knows how to read the County zoning code very well it is always wise to contact the County Zoning Office before starting any project. Their phone number is 920-232-3344. The following link takes the user to the County Zoning Code. [17 \(winnebago.wi.us\)](http://17(winnebago.wi.us)) The user can click on the magnifying glass to begin a search using "conditional use" as the search term. The down arrows near the search box will move the user to the next occurrence of that term in the code. An interesting twist is that there is a multipage table of land use restrictions that show conditional uses throughout but the search doesn't highlight them because they only show up with the code "C".

The process is very much similar to the variance process described in the last issue except that no CUP's originate at the town level. Application is made at the County Zoning office. They will take all the application details and ask the applicant to contact town officials. The appropriate officials would be Town Clerk and/or Plan Commission Chair. A review fee is charged by both County and Town. The sooner contact is made with town officials the sooner notice can be sent to neighbors within three hundred feet.

The Plan Commission hears input very much like the variance process. The Commissioners discuss the request and create a set of conditions under which the requested use can be executed. They will adopt a formal list of conditions along with the findings that support that list and pass this along to the Town Board as a recommendation. The Town Board may take further input, if offered and then adopt a final set of conditions and findings which are sent to County for its review and final adoption. The County may add conditions and, rarely, consider some condition as unreasonable and remove it from the list.

There is some argument amongst officials as to whether a CUP can be refused. County officials argue that the use is listed in the table and therefore is allowed and that the only option is to set reasonable conditions. Others argue that there are some uses that are so deleterious to the community that they must be disallowed.

A CUP usually lasts for the duration of the use but may be conditioned with a termination date, a set review date in the future or termination upon change of use or ownership.

Within the past two decades CUP's have been issued for creating ponds, residential business, creating a runway, sheltering animals on reduced acreages, sheltering dogs, art lessons, cell tower erection, ravine fill, vehicle maintenance, storage facilities and refurbishing a shooting

range. Today some of those uses would not require a CUP. It is always best to contact County before starting a project.

### **MARCH 28 TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Because of the need to get voter information into the hands of subscribers and because the Board meeting has been scheduled one week later than normal, information from the March 28 Board meeting will be included in Issue 4 of the *OMRO TOWN CRIER*.

### **DELIVERY TROUBLES**

Distribution problems remain and seem to be focused on charter.net addresses. It is very helpful if you do not receive an issue to contact the editor. Occasionally there are mistakes in the data base that are the editor's fault and are easily corrected. Please remember to check your junk email folder regularly.

### **SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

This is issue 3 of volume 3 of the free on-line newsletter devoted to things in the Town of Omro. Previous issues can be found on the Town of Omro website: [Town Newsletter \(townofomro.gov\)](http://TownNewsletter(townofomro.gov))

If this editor does not know of an event it won't be included in the newsletter. Please share your thoughts for additional articles or questions.

Reader contributions (ideas, not money) will be appreciated and can be sent to

[NewsLetter@townofomro.gov](mailto:NewsLetter@townofomro.gov) as can requests to be included in the mailing list.

Please share this with friends and encourage them to add their e-mail address to the distribution list.

The editor is Tom Tuschl.

**VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT  
FOR THE APRIL 5, 2022 SPRING ELECTION**

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot. Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued.

**YOU MUST MAKE A REQUEST FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IN WRITING**

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the April 5, 2022 election. You may also submit a written request in the form of a letter. Your written request must list your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, and your signature. You may make application for an absentee ballot by mail, email or in person.

**MAKING APPLICATION TO RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL**

**The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail is:  
5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, 2022.**

**Note:** Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined to home or a care facility, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

**VOTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IN PERSON**

You may also request and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person.

**The first day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is Tuesday, March 22, 2022.**

**The last day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is Friday, April 1, 2022.**

**No in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election.**

In-person absentee voting may take place at the Clerk's office on  
Mondays, Noon - 4 pm  
Wednesdays, 9 am - Noon  
Or by Special Appointment (must be scheduled 48 hours in advance)

For questions, or to schedule a special appointment outside of posted hours, contact:

Dana Woods 920-685-2111  
clerk@townofomro.gov  
4205 Rivermoor Road  
Omro, WI

The municipal clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted.

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