



Home Builders Association of Western Michigan
5700 West Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

(269) 375-4225

Fax: (269) 375-6493

www.kalamazoohomepage.com

Home Builders Association of Western Michigan Government Relations Committee

Information Request Form

Candidate Name: Gary Tompkins

Street address: 29159 R Dr S

City / State / Zip: Homer/ MI/ 49245

Mailing address (if different): N/A

County: Calhoun Length of residence: 48 years, 2 months

Phone: 517-607-5202 E-mail: tompkinscc7@gmail.com

Website: N/A

Campaign committee name & address: Citizens for Gary Tompkins (Address same as above)

Occupation: Consultant

Candidate for which office: County Commissioner 7th District Incumbent? Yes

Please list endorsements received to date: ____ (As of July 17)

1.) Right to Life Michigan

2.) Michigan Republican Assembly

HBA of Western Michigan – local candidate informational questions

Mission Statement

The Home Builders Association of Western Michigan exists so that members of the residential construction industry can conduct their business ethically and efficiently to provide our communities with safe, quality, affordable housing, and to promote home ownership



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Have you ever run for elective office?

___Yes. I am a two term County Commissioner & I currently have served on the Homer Community Schools Board of Education for the past 20 years (last 17 as President)

What is your background (education, employment, other relevant experience)?

I spent 20 years in the Auto Industry for a tier 1 automotive supplier where I rose from a general assembly operator to Program Manager to Corporate Cost Manager.

I have additionally attached a bio which describes my educational attainment and other relevant experience.

What are your top priority issues if elected / re-elected?

I have 4 main priorities that I focus on; 1.) Ensure all residents have a voice, 2.) Ensure effective communication with everyone in my district, 3.) Ensure accountability and transparency, 4.) My constituent's priorities are always my focus.

I believe in a representative form of government where my constituents are heard, and their concerns are addressed and focused on. From roads/infrastructure to keeping taxes low my constituents never hesitate to contact me with issues as they know I will work hard to solve the issues or will find ways to assist in doing so.

Why should the residential construction and remodeling community support your candidacy?

_I am a firm believer in government getting out of the way so progress can be made. I believe in less regulations paving the way for a greater ability in residential construction and remodeling. There is too much red tape currently which diminishes the ability for many to either consider new home construction and the contractor to want to pursue in a particular area. I will work to encourage and pursue policies that promote residential construction and remodeling without burdensome regulations that only prohibit growth.

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Why should the residential construction and remodeling community NOT support your opponent's candidacy (if applicable)?

I have always run positive campaigns focusing on what I can do to help my constituents rather than focusing on my opponent and what she/he can or can't do. I would much rather continue to provide positive leadership which focuses on my constituents and promoting a positive path forward.

Today the home building and remodeling community is confronted with a wide array of complex issues. Who and/or what organization in your community do you use for advice and counsel?

First and foremost, I believe it is incumbent on me to seek information and knowledge by doing research so I know the complex issues and identify them when they come before me at the Commission. I rely also on organizations such as the HBA to not only inform me of any new issues but also counsel on what the impact would/could be on issues. Additionally, I also do a great deal of listening and interaction with constituents which include those in the home construction industry and they keep me abreast of the issues facing them. I am always looking for different ways/methods/individuals etc. so that I may continue to be informed of issues.

Government regulations, policies, ordinances and codes continue to be a top concern of the residential construction and remodeling industry. What would you recommend to reduce regulations to promote and support the need for additional housing in our area?

_I am a firm believer in less regulations and eliminating bureaucratic red tape will always produce better results for any industry and specifically the housing industry. With that being said, I support the National Association of Home Builders 8-point Growth Strategy. If we don't enact policies that support the housing industry or eliminate/reduce regulations that prohibit growth, the housing industry will suffer and impact communities.

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What is your philosophy on residential development, impact fees, property taxes, etc.?

The key to any community's long-term growth and prosperity is its ability to attract and build its residential development. As generations change, their tastes in housing stock changes and communities need to be aware and adapt to those changes. I am a firm believer that keeping property taxes low is a key component in either keeping people in the community and the potential to attract additional families into the community which in terms lends itself well to new home construction and residential remodeling as people look to remain in the community for a long time. As it relates to impact fees, I believe one has to look carefully at what the fees are being used for and if those fees drive up the price of home construction considerably thereby making it not worth the investment. Again, I am for less regulations and impact fees can be used in this manner which is counterproductive in either bringing new growth to the community.

What else can be done to encourage and support new housing development?

Seeing firsthand the struggles that my communities have encountered in attracting new housing developments, we must engage with not only our local govt. entities (townships/municipalities) but also our state govt. to promote policies that encourage deregulation and/or revised ordinances that will encourage and promote housing development or remodeling. Keeping informed on the emerging issues within the industry is key and utilizing organizations such as the HBA will prove pivotal moving forward.

What is your position on the rights of property owners with regard to development, redevelopment and remodeling?

I believe that the property owner has the right to make improvements to their property, such as erecting buildings etc. without overburdensome limitations regarding the size, configuration and use of real property ("zoning laws"), and ordinances which control both the way the construction is to be performed and the minimum standards the buildings must comply with ("building codes"). Many local units of government have made it very difficult to pursue development etc. without "jumping through hoops" with regulations and fees. In many cases this deters many from pursuing due to the long lead times and excessive fees/regulations.

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How would you define positive growth in housing for our area?

Positive growth can be defined in many ways. If new home sales are up 10% and buyers are purchasing before they are even built are good strong signs of positive growth. This trend obviously points out that interest rates are low, solid employment in the area in conjunction with good schools and safety of the area. These promising numbers will not only lead to additional housing starts but also will benefit the remodeling industry if new home construction isn't producing fast enough, new customers may resort to existing housing stock in the area with an eye on improvement.

How can the HBA of Western Michigan assist you if you are elected?

If I am elected to a third term on the County Commission, I would engage with and encourage the HBA to keep in contact with me on emerging issues and trends including concerns that may affect the industry. Additionally I would gladly accept and appreciate your endorsement if I meet your criteria so I can proudly carry your message.

The Government Relations Committee thanks you for taking the time help the HBA membership to make an informed decision on election day. Please return your form to the address above or email to JeffT@hbawmi.com or fax to 269-375-6493.

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Gary Tompkins Bio

Calhoun County Commissioner

7th District

Commissioner Tompkins is a 6th generation 7th district resident whose family settled in Albion in 1860. After spending 20 years in the Automotive industry working for a Tier 1 automotive supplier and rising to Corporate Cost Manager, Commissioner Tompkins decided to step away to pursue his passion which is to serve the public and make a difference. During his tenure as County Commissioner, Tompkins has made a priority of engaging with the communities he serves by being visible at meetings and events throughout the 7th district to ensure his constituents voice is heard. Tompkins currently serves as the Parliamentarian on the County Commission. Commissioner Tompkins continues to advocate for fair policies that address roads in the county and keeping the taxpayer burden minimized, ensuring seniors in the 7th district have access to services they need, working for veterans causes and ensuring municipalities in the 7th district have a seat at the table. Additionally Commissioner Tompkins serves on the Homer Community Schools Board of Education for the past 20 years (past 17 as President) and is a Certified Board Member in the State of Michigan through the Michigan Association of School Boards.

Commissioner Tompkins received an Associate Degree in Business Management from Davenport University and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Warren National University. Tompkins is also a 2016 graduate of the distinguished Michigan Political Leadership Program through the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University. MPLP is the only bi-partisan public policy and leadership training program in Michigan, MPLP is distinguished as one of only a handful of such successful programs in the nation.

In addition to being an active political member, Commissioner Tompkins is also an active volunteer and member of many community boards/organizations. Among many, Commissioner Tompkins is a member of the VFW Auxiliary Post 9411 in Homer and serves as the Scholarship Chair, Albion/Homer United Way board member where he serves as President, Calhoun County Senior Millage Committee where he serves as Chair, Calhoun County Trailway Alliance, Homer Lake Board where he serves as Chair/Secretary/Administrator, Forks Senior Center board member where he serves as Policy Chair, Albion/Homer Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition where he serves as Co-Chair, Calhoun County Planning Commission, Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health Substance Abuse Oversight Board, Homer Downtown Development Authority, member of the Albion Branch of the NAACP, member of the Albion Suicide Prevention Coalition and Drug Free Community Grant Co-Chair.