



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 Mitchell

Street address: 2977 Hickory Nut Lane

City / State / Zip: Kalamazoo, MI 49004

Mailing address (if different):

County: Kalamazoo Length of residence: ~ 5 years

Phone: (989)859-7209 E-mail: Gary@GaryMitchell2020.com

Website: GaryMitchell2020.com

Campaign committee name & address: Committee to Elect Gary Mitchell to 60th District MI Legislature

Occupation: Realtor / RE Investor

Candidate for which office: MI State House of Representatives Incumbent? No

Please list endorsements received to date:

Four horizontal lines for listing endorsements.

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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HBA of Western Michigan – local candidate informational questions

Have you ever run for elective office?

No

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

PhD Physical Chemistry, University of Texas at Austin. 24 years at the Dow Chemical Company where I lead a global team that provided special materials analysis of products in development and existing. I also interfaced with teams of researchers from National labs and academics to provide advanced technology to Dow.

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

1. Fix the budget hole left by the pandemic. 2. Find and implement a plan to fix the roads and keep them fixed. Both of these need to be done without raising taxes. They are part of the responsibility of the legislature. It will help to have a veto proof majority in the legislature, as the governor seems intent on raising taxes or doing nothing to the roads. 3. Fix the schools. Get rid of the rest of common core and make sure the students are taught about the good history of America and how our system is better than any other in the world and why.

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

I have done a bit of house flipping. House flippers are good for neighborhoods generally. They save houses, enhance neighborhoods and I think far from being a negative influence. I am a small government person. I believe in only enough regulations to make the marketplace fair and safe for everyone and not a single extra. Excess regulations increase the cost to everyone and often favor the bigger businesses. Similarly excess taxes help noone. Generally the citizen does a better job of spending his money productively than does government.

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

My opponent will be a Democrat who will want to raise taxes and increase regulations. I can not get more specific

until after the primary in which one of the two Democrat contenders will be a loser.

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?

Well, I have some grasp of the subject myself, but where the issue is indeed complicated, I am not too proud to ask other qualified professionals I know, or perhaps your organization may be able to offer advice.

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 think this is an important question. I would ask your organization (and others) to survey your members about what regulations they see as unfair or unneeded. I would then propose to write legislation to repeal them. I may not agree with everything suggested, but if you can make a good argument, then I will listen, and if you make me a believer, then, I would champion legislation. If you help me get elected, this will be a goal.

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

Keep them (fees and taxes) as small as possible. Do not add extra burdens to construction.

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

We need to keep the economy working as it was before the pandemic. A rising tide floats all ships. When people have money and feel secure in their jobs, they will look for better housing and be able to afford better housing.

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

Another important issue. There are some who do not like private property (Democrats socialists and the like). I am not one of these. I realize that property rights are of high importance and make the difference between a poor country and a thriving one. Yes we need some rules (I kind of feel like most of these should be considered guidance rather than rules), and I feel most decisions should be left to the property owner.

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

The inventory of houses for sale in my market (~greater Kzoo) has been very meager for several years. Many home purchasers spend months finding a house they like. If this were to change -- return to 3-4 months inventory or more, I might define that as positive growth in housing.

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

See above. Help me define rules and regulations that should be eliminated.

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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