

Election 2007: Parma supervisor

Rick Lemcke Parma supervisor

Office sought: Parma Town Supervisor. Republican, Conservative, Independent endorsement. Town supervisor since 1992, 16 years.



Pertinent information: Rick Lemcke, 293 Peck Rd., 53. Hilton High School 1972, MCC 1975, degree in Business Administration. Wife, Lona, three children, Brett, Erin and Shannon. Offices held: Former Zoning Board Member 1990, Town Board 1991, Hilton Parma Chamber of Commerce, Apheresis Donor American Red Cross. Self-employed, R.M. Landscape Inc, 35 years.

Issues of primary importance:

I will continue to do whatever possible to keep our town tax rate as low as possible. Since I have been supervisor, our town tax rate is lower today than it was in 1992. I believe that town government should be and can be run like a business and if that requires bucking the system, so be it. Government should only offer those needed services and the lowest cost possible. If it means making changes it has to be done.

Taxes -- Our town is debt free; we pay cash for those needed purchases. I don't believe we should burden the next generation with today's cost of government. We have the 5th lowest town tax rate in the county. Our great working relationship with our Recreation Dept. and Hilton Central School is one way we can keep taxes low.

Open space -- Probably the most important issue we are facing today. We have created a "Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee" and they are working towards the creation of our Open Space Plan. I believe that in order to maintain our rural characteristics, it's important to support our farmers and this plan will help us reach this goal. A recent survey showed that 94% of those who responded favor the purchasing of development rights. This plan we provide a guideline for future generations to enjoy tomorrow what we enjoy today.

Why are you seeking election?

I'm seeking re-election in order to continue to help our community maintain our rural character. I want to make sure that town taxes are never a burden on our families or business owners. I aspire to continue to do what is expected of the Town Supervisor. We have a "Team" of employees that all share a common cause, serving the residents of the Town of Parma and I want to continue to be part of that team.

Another reason I would like to seek re-election is because our town will be celebrating our bicentennial (200 years) this coming year and I would like to part of the milestone for our community.

What I wish you had asked

What do you like most about being supervisor?

I enjoy helping solve problems a resident might have and listening to all of the different point of views before making a decision. My goal is to continue to govern in a manner that all of our residents are represented.

Ignatius LaDelfa Parma supervisor

Office sought: Parma supervisor. Endorsements: Democratic Party.



Pertinent information: Ignatius LaDelfa. Education: Graduate of Webster High School. Family: Wife, Sonya LaDelfa; children Jamie, Cindy and Nick, a candidate this year for the council. Three grandchildren.

Issues of importance to Parma

The two most important issues to me in the race for town supervisor are the importance of open space, and that the residents of Parma are being taken care of and thought of as important, special people, because they're what make Parma, the best place to live, raise a family and call home. I'm for keeping Parma rural, a "small town" feel. I'm not for fast over-development. I am for slow, steady growth that will lend itself to seamless coexistence with the residents of Parma. I will encourage new businesses to occupy existing buildings rather than building new, preserving our land and our heritage. I will work to make sure that Parma continues to draw senior citizens here to live and share their wisdom and philosophy with us in affordable peaceful housing.

During the campaign I've met a lot of people who are concerned about if the basic necessities of daily life are going to be taken care of. I've heard complaints that after a snow storm the roads are unsafe because the plows haven't been out yet. I promise to be proactive making sure that our highway department is sufficiently staffed and has the right equipment to make our roads safe. What could be more important than the roads that carry our families. I have also heard that a lot of houses have drainage issues. Where two back yards meet each other, a ditch is necessary to ensure proper drainage but if an obstruction uphill of that is made, it raises havoc with the properties below. Many residents have complained to the town board with no results. I will make sure to be more proactive, researching each change to the landscape to ensure that all of our residents are protected when problems do come up.

Why are you seeking election?

We are elected to serve the people that voted us in. All that they ask for is for us to do exactly that. I'm seeking election because I live in Parma, I've raised my family in Parma, I truly care about the community and its people and I feel that I can make a more positive difference in keeping Parma one of the best places to live, raise a family and come home to.

What I wish you had asked

Would you encourage residents of Parma to attend Town Board meetings?

Absolutely, I would welcome that scenario. I'd like the community to get involved in their town government. They should come to share ideas on how to solve our issues and also to see that if I am elected they will see true transparency in our policies. Myself and my fellow Democrats will put our people first and politics last. I believe that government should be run not as a business but as a service to the community. I further believe that this can be achieved without being fiscally irresponsible.