

**IONIA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING**

MARCH 17, 2026 – 3:00 P.M.
101 WEST MAIN STREET
IONIA, MICHIGAN

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AND ZOOM

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Invocation**
- IV. Approval of Agenda**
 - A. Consideration of additional items
- V. Public Comment** (Three-minute time limit per-speaker – please state name/organization)
- VI. New Business**
 - A. Rules for Appointment Process
 - B. Interviews for District 3 Commissioner
 - Tim Ross, Ionia Township
 - Carrie Bucholtz, Easton Township
 - Robert Simpson, Keene Township
- VII. Public Comment (3-minute time limit per speaker)**
- VIII. Board Voting**
- IX. Adjournment**

Board and/or Commission Vacancies

- **Community Corrections Advisory Board-Ionia Community Mental Health Representative**
- **Construction Board of Appeals**
- **Board of Public Works**
- **Land Bank Authority**
- **Midwest Michigan Trail Authority**
- **WMRPC Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee**

Appointments for consideration in the month of March 2025:

- **Community Mental Health Services**

Appointments for consideration in the month of April 2025:

- **Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan Advisory Council**
- **Economic Development Corporation/Brownfield Redevelopment Authority**
- **Jury Board**

Elliott, Jami

From: Tim Ross [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2026 9:56 AM
To: Shaw, Chad; Terence Frewen
Subject: Interest in County Commission position

You don't often get email from uofmtim@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Chad,

I hope you're doing well. I am writing to express my interest in being considered for appointment to the soon-to-be vacant Ionia County Commissioner position.

I care deeply about the future of Ionia County and would welcome the opportunity to serve our community in this capacity. My prior public service has given me a strong foundation for the responsibilities of this role. I served as a Village Council Member in North Branch, Michigan, and have also served on both a Village Planning Commission and a County Planning Commission, gaining experience in local governance, land use, budgeting, infrastructure planning, and constituent engagement. I also served as a County Commissioner in Lapeer County, where I chaired both the Budget Committee and the Personnel Committee, worked on county operations, intergovernmental coordination, policy development, and long-term strategic planning, and previously served as Vice Chair of the Michigan Association of Counties Taxation Committee.

In addition, I currently serve as Chair of the Ionia County Republican Party, a role I have held for the past 3.5 years. I have also served as a Michigan Republican State Committee member for the past three years, including chairing the Budget Committee during the most recent presidential election cycle when more than \$20 million flowed through the state committee.

I would be honored to bring this background and my commitment to thoughtful, responsible leadership to the Ionia County Board of Commissioners. Please let me know if there is a formal application process or any additional information you would like from me.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further at your convenience.

Sincerely,
Tim Ross

[REDACTED]

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT

District 3 – Keene Township, Easton Township, Ionia Township

Ionia County Board of Commissioners

Ionia County, Michigan

1. Applicant Information

Full Name: _____ Timothy Ross _____

Home Address: _____ [REDACTED] _____

City: _____ [REDACTED] _____ State: MI Zip: _____ [REDACTED] _____

Phone: _____ [REDACTED] _____

Email: _____ [REDACTED] _____

Township of Residence (check one):

☐ Keene Township

☐ Easton Township

☒ Ionia Township

Political Party Affiliation (check one):

☒ Republican

☐ Democrat

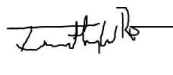
☐ Independent

☐ Other: _____

☐ Non-affiliated

2. Eligibility Statement

I affirm that I am a registered voter in Ionia County, reside within District 3 (Keene, Easton, or Ionia Township), and meet all eligibility requirements under Michigan law to serve as a County Commissioner.

Signature: _____  _____ Date: _____ 3/1/26 _____

3. Professional Background & Qualifications

Summarize professional experience and leadership relevant to county governance (finance, budgeting, infrastructure, public safety, economic development, human services, facilities oversight, etc.).

I bring extensive experience in county governance through service as a former Lapeer County Commissioner, where I chaired the Budget and Personnel Committees and worked on taxation policy as Vice Chair of the Michigan Association of Counties Taxation Committee. I have also served on village and county planning commissions, gaining experience in land use, infrastructure planning, and economic development.

Professionally, I manage large-scale infrastructure and economic development projects, overseeing budgets, contracts, regulatory compliance, and stakeholder coordination. My leadership roles—including Chair of the Ionia County Republican Party and service on the state committee—have strengthened my skills in financial oversight, organizational leadership, and collaborative decision-making, all directly applicable to effective county governance.

4. Community Involvement & Public Service

List civic, nonprofit, governmental, or volunteer involvement:

Currently serving as Chair of the Ionia County Republican Party and a Michigan Republican State Committee member, with leadership responsibilities in budgeting, organization, and community engagement. Active in local church ministry and community service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Ionia County Habitat for Humanity, supporting civic events and volunteer initiatives throughout the county.

5. Experience with Public Finance & Budget Oversight

Describe experience overseeing budgets, audits, capital projects, or public funds:

I have extensive experience overseeing public budgets and financial operations through my service as a Lapeer County Commissioner, where I chaired the Budget Committee and participated in the review and approval of county budgets, audits, and departmental expenditures. I also chaired the Personnel Committee, helping manage staffing and compensation decisions within established fiscal limits.

In addition, as Chair of the Ionia County Republican Party, I have overseen organizational budgeting and financial reporting, including serving as chair of the state party budget committee during a major election cycle when more than \$20 million flowed through the organization.

Professionally, I manage large capital and infrastructure projects, including multi-million-dollar energy and transmission developments, where I oversee project budgets, contract

negotiations, cost controls, and regulatory compliance, providing strong experience in responsible stewardship of complex financial resources.

6. Statement of Interest (500–750 words recommended)

Explain why you are seeking appointment to represent District 3, key priorities for Keene, Easton, and Ionia Townships, your approach to fiscal responsibility, collaboration, and transparency.

I am seeking appointment to represent District 3—Keene, Easton, and Ionia Townships—because I believe county government works best when it is guided by practical experience, steady leadership, and a commitment to responsible stewardship of public resources. Having previously served as a Lapeer County Commissioner and as a Village Council Member in North Branch, I understand the responsibilities of local government and the importance of making decisions that reflect both sound judgment and community priorities. I am prepared to continue serving the public by helping ensure that county government remains fiscally responsible, responsive to residents, and focused on essential services.

One of my greatest strengths as a candidate for this appointment is my ability to step into the role immediately and contribute effectively. Because of my prior experience in county government—including service as Chair of the Budget Committee and Chair of the Personnel Committee—I am already familiar with the structure of county operations, the budgeting process, and the responsibilities of a county commissioner. I would not require a long learning period and could begin working productively on behalf of District 3 from the first day of service. During a time of transition, continuity and experience are especially important, and I believe I can provide both.

District 3 includes a diverse mix of agricultural land, rural neighborhoods, and growing residential areas, and each township has unique priorities. Residents of Keene Township value the preservation of farmland and rural character along with dependable road maintenance and drainage. Easton Township continues to see residential growth, increasing the need for thoughtful planning and coordination between township and county government. Ionia Township, located near the City of Ionia and major transportation routes, benefits from economic development opportunities while maintaining its rural identity. Across all three townships, residents share common expectations: well-maintained infrastructure, strong public safety services, and careful stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

My approach to fiscal responsibility is based on disciplined budgeting and long-term planning. As a county commissioner, I chaired the Budget Committee and worked closely with administrators and department heads to develop balanced budgets that protected essential services while maintaining financial stability. I believe county government must live within its means, evaluate spending carefully, and maintain adequate reserves for future needs. Responsible budgeting is not just about reducing costs—it is about making thoughtful decisions that protect both current services and long-term financial health.

Professionally, I manage large-scale infrastructure and capital projects, overseeing budgets, contracts, regulatory requirements, and timelines. This experience provides practical insight into evaluating county capital projects, facility needs, and long-term investments. Counties must make careful decisions about buildings, equipment, and infrastructure, and my background has prepared me to evaluate these projects with a focus on both cost-effectiveness and long-term value.

Collaboration is essential to effective county leadership. County commissioners must work constructively with township officials, county departments, and community partners to solve problems and provide services efficiently. Throughout my public service, I have built strong working relationships with local leaders and residents. I believe in listening carefully, respecting different viewpoints, and focusing on practical solutions rather than partisanship. Good government depends on cooperation and mutual respect.

Transparency and accessibility are equally important. Residents deserve clear information about how decisions are made and how public funds are spent. I believe commissioners should be visible and approachable, willing to answer questions and explain decisions openly. Consistent communication and open meetings help build public trust, and I will make it a priority to remain accessible to residents throughout District 3.

I am seeking this appointment because I care deeply about the future of Keene, Easton, and Ionia Townships and Ionia County as a whole. My background in public service, budgeting, and infrastructure management allows me to contribute immediately and effectively. I offer experienced, steady leadership and a proven commitment to responsible governance, and I am ready to serve from day one without the need for an extended learning curve.

7. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Do you hold any position or financial interest that could create a conflict of interest?

☒ No

☐ Yes (please explain):

8. References (Optional)

Name | Title | Phone | Email

Gian Johnsen, Michigan House of Representatives, [REDACTED]

Andrew Sebolt, Chair, 2nd Congressional District, [REDACTED]

Vance Patrick, Chair, Oakland County Republican Party, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

9. Certification

I certify that the information provided in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If appointed to represent District 3 – Keene, Easton, and Ionia Townships, I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office in accordance with Michigan law and county policies.

Signature:  _____

Printed Name: Timothy W. Ross

Date: 3/1/26

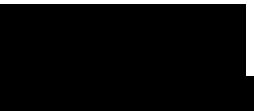
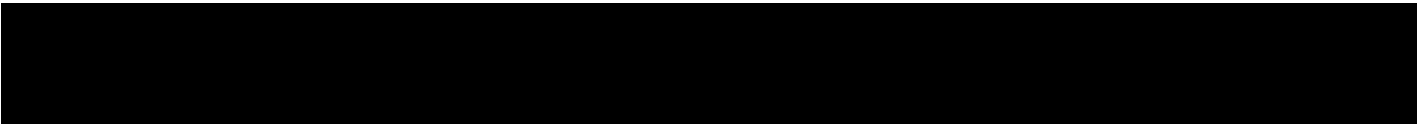
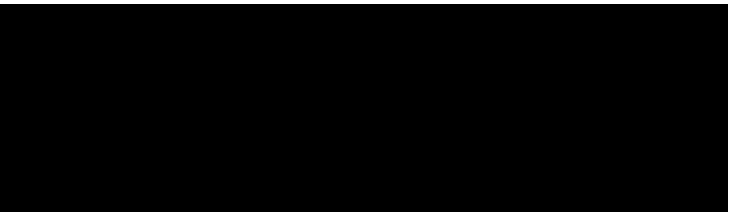
Elliott, Jami

From: Terry Frewen <Tfrewen.IoniaCountyCommissioner@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 7:51 PM
To: Shaw, Chad; Elliott, Jami
Subject: Fwd: Letter of support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Here is a letter of support ro include in the packet or Tuesday

Terry Frewen,
517-256-4321



----- Forwarded message -----

From: desenojanet@yahoo.com <desenojanet@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 12, 2026 at 7:44 PM
Subject: Re: Letter of support
To: Tim Ross <uofmtim@gmail.com>

Dear Board of commissioners,
I support Tim Ross as county commissioner.
I am from Easton Township

Sincerely ,

CARRIE L. BUCHOLTZ



16 February 2026

Mr. Chair- Terry Frewen
County Administrator-Chad Shaw
101 W. Main St.
Ionia, MI 48846

Mr. Chair and County Administrator,

I am writing to share my interest in serving the Ionia County community, where I live. I am interested in attaining the open District Three Ionia County Commissioner position. I live within the district boundary and am an active participant in the community. I volunteer regularly, have children who are also active in the community, and am an Ionia County business owner.

With my master's degree in mental health counseling and extensive vocational experience, I have gained the skills necessary to provide effective service for the constituents of Ionia County.

I am available to further discuss my interests and qualifications. I look forward to exploring how my skills align with the future of Ionia County.

Sincerely,



Carrie L. Bucholtz MA LPC

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT

District 3 – Keene Township, Easton Township, Ionia Township

Ionia County Board of Commissioners

Ionia County, Michigan

1. Applicant Information

Full Name: Carrie Lynn Bucholtz

Home Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED] State: MI Zip: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Township of Residence (check one):

☐ Keene Township

☒ Easton Township

☐ Ionia Township

Political Party Affiliation (check one):

☒ Republican

☐ Democrat

☐ Independent

☐ Other: _____

☐ Non-affiliated

2. Eligibility Statement

I affirm that I am a registered voter in Ionia County, reside within District 3 (Keene, Easton, or Ionia Township), and meet all eligibility requirements under Michigan law to serve as a County Commissioner.

Signature: Carrie Lynn Bucholtz Date: 3/4/2026

3. Professional Background & Qualifications

Summarize professional experience and leadership relevant to county governance (finance, budgeting, infrastructure, public safety, economic development, human services, facilities oversight, etc.).

I have held a variety of professional positions which have provided leadership, organization, budgeting, public safety, economic development, human services, and facility oversight experience.

As an adjunct instructor for Lansing Community College, I was responsible for curriculum arrangement, creation, and presentation that met the outcome of educational standards and student needs. Within this position, I have had much experience helping others develop direction, overcome personal barriers, and working for coordination of higher education provision, administration, and student goal attainment to meet various objectives.

Within the MDOC, I worked as a Qualified Mental Health Professional within the level V incarcerated population of individuals diagnosed with significant mental health impairments. Within this vocational environment, I was responsible for assisting convicted individuals with development of prosocial behaviors, the outcome of which will aid in improving public safety. My position within the MDOC assisted with economic development of the community as well. My role was to support inmates with goal development and focus, leading to community re-entry as contributing citizens. I would assist these individuals with creating goal focus, gaining motivation for contribution to the work force upon release, and reducing both poverty rates and recidivism. One of my roles was to coordinate with Parole and/or transfer services to place inmates within educational, developmental, and vocational resources that will aid them with successful community re-entry. Leadership experience was utilized within this professional role as I was responsible for maintaining my caseload of individual, outpatient mental health client sessions, organizing and instructing Cognitive Behavioral Therapy groups, and maintaining the safety of both inmates and personnel through court documentation maintenance, testimony, and referral for involuntary mental health treatment when needed to promote inmate success and active participation within the mental health treatment provided.

I am currently a Licensed Mental Health Therapist, and I own a private practice: Inspired Mental Health & Wellness. For the past six years of owning this practice, I have learned and demonstrated knowledge of responsible finance, budgeting, and facility oversight. My practice is currently growing and expanding based on continued success. As a business owner, I manage client scheduling, fees application and collection, client retention, court testimony, contractor orchestration, office maintenance, advertisement, communication, and planning. I continue to thrive within the human services field of mental health, supporting my clients with development of change and goal attainment by teaching psychoeducation skills for healthy coping, distress tolerance, and for perspective analysis.

4. Community Involvement & Public Service

List civic, nonprofit, governmental, or volunteer involvement:

- Various Volunteer Appointments for Saints Peter & Paul Catholic School- Ionia MI
2023-2025: 36 hours total
- Belding High School Mentorship Program-Belding MI
2025-2026

5. Experience with Public Finance & Budget Oversight

Describe experience overseeing budgets, audits, capital projects, or public funds:

I have attended development meetings and planning workshops for the city of Ionia (related to my residency) and for the city of Belding (related to my business). I have attended and have participated in the city council meetings for the city of Belding.

I am responsible for maintaining and balancing the budget for my private practice. Since 2020, I have independently overseen all aspects of financial management for my business, including budgeting, conducting audits, and developing projects. Through these efforts, I have successfully grown my practice and ensured its ongoing financial health. My business has continued to thrive under my leadership and is now transitioning to a larger facility. As part of this expansion, I am also in the process of hiring two contractual employees to meet the needs of my increasing client base and to support the needs of the local community.

6. Statement of Interest (500–750 words recommended)

Explain why you are seeking appointment to represent District 3, key priorities for Keene, Easton, and Ionia Townships, your approach to fiscal responsibility, collaboration, and transparency.

I am seeking the appointment to represent Ionia County's District 3. As a current resident of Easton Township and someone who has long been personally invested in the well-being of our community, I believe I can make a meaningful and positive contribution to the work of the district. My decision to seek this appointment comes from both a desire to serve and a recognition that the goals and day-to-day realities of the families who live here—including my own—are directly shaped by the decisions made at the commissioner level. Because of this, I feel a strong sense of responsibility and commitment to step forward and participate more actively in the work that supports our residents.

District 3 is home to a diverse group of individuals and families, each with unique needs, priorities, and concerns. Having lived within Easton Township for many years, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges our community faces, as well as the strengths that make this district such a supportive and resilient place to live. My professional and personal experiences have consistently reinforced the importance of accessible services, transparent communication, and thoughtful decision-making qualities I would work to uphold if given the opportunity to serve.

In my career as a mental health professional, I have developed a deep appreciation for the role that effective systems, community engagement, and responsible resource management play in supporting personal and collective well-being. Through my work, I am accustomed to listening carefully, collaborating with individuals and organizations, evaluating needs, and pursuing solutions that balance compassion with practicality. These are skills I would bring to my service on behalf of District 3. I am comfortable navigating complex issues, communicating clearly with stakeholders, and maintaining professionalism even in challenging circumstances.

What motivates me most to pursue this appointment is the chance to take part in maintaining and improving the programs and services that make our district function effectively. Whether the work involves long-term planning, reviewing policies, supporting essential community services, or helping ensure that district operations remain accessible and aligned with resident needs, I am eager to contribute. I believe that informed, engaged community members strengthen local governance, and I am ready to play a more active role in shaping the future of the district I call home.

Thank you for considering my request for appointment. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss my interest further, learn more about the expectations of the role, and answer any questions you may have regarding my qualifications or experience. I appreciate your time and look forward to the possibility of serving District 3 with dedication and integrity.

7. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Do you hold any position or financial interest that could create a conflict of interest?

☒ No

☐ Yes (please explain):

8. References (Optional)

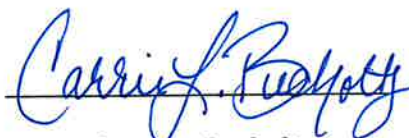
Name | Title | Phone | Email

- John Milewski | Mayor- Ionia | [REDACTED]
- Dale Bonn | Warden- Ionia Correctional Facility | [REDACTED]

9. Certification

I certify that the information provided in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If appointed to represent District 3 – Keene, Easton, and Ionia Townships, I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office in accordance with Michigan law and county policies.

Signature: _____



Printed Name: Carrie L. Bucholtz

Date: 3/04/2026

Robert Simpson



FEBURARY 20,2026

Ionia County Board of Commissioners
Ionia County Administration Building
Ionia Michigan, 48846

Dear Ionia County Commissioners,

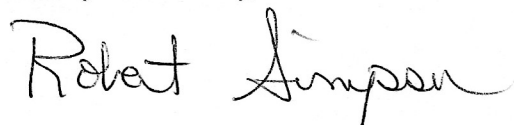
I'm interested in filing the County Commissioner spot open by the resignation of District 3's Commissioner Larry Tiejema.

I am a life long Ionia County resident residing in Keene Township just north of Saranac. After graduating from Saranac High School, I attended MSU and graduated with a degree in Dairy Science and returned to our family farm. My wife Monty and I have been farming since 1985, first with my parents, and now our son Lucas.

Growing up I was taught to be involved in the community. In 1994, I was elected to the Saranac School Board and serviced 12 years, holding the positions of Trustee, Treasurer and Vice President. In 2008, I was elected as a Trustee for Keene Township. 4 years later my township supervisor decided to retire and I was elected Supervisor. I held that position for 10 years. During that time, I interacted with many other Ionia County township officials. I learned about township budgets, working with the road department on behalf of the township, and even was a member of the county's tax allocation board.

These experiences have given me a well-rounded perspective and I feel that they can make me a successful County Commissioner for my district and Ionia County.

Thank you sincerely,



Robert Simpson

APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT

District 3 – Keene Township, Easton Township, Ionia Township

Ionia County Board of Commissioners

Ionia County, Michigan

1. Applicant Information

Full Name: Robert W Simpson

Home Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED] State: MI Zip: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Township of Residence (check one):

☒ Keene Township

☐ Easton Township

☐ Ionia Township

Political Party Affiliation (check one):

☒ Republican

☐ Democrat

☐ Independent

☐ Other: _____

☐ Non-affiliated

2. Eligibility Statement

I affirm that I am a registered voter in Ionia County, reside within District 3 (Keene, Easton, or Ionia Township), and meet all eligibility requirements under Michigan law to serve as a County Commissioner.

Signature: Robert W Simpson Date: 3/04/2026

3. Professional Background & Qualifications

Summarize professional experience and leadership relevant to county governance (finance, budgeting, infrastructure, public safety, economic development, human services, facilities oversight, etc.).

I graduated from Saranac High School before attending MSU and graduating with a degree in Dairy Science. In 1985, my wife Monty and I entered into a partnership with my parents growing crops, raising heifers and milking cows. We took over the business in 2000 and have been farming on our own since. Running a farm requires budgeting, planning for the upcoming year's crops, record keeping, and accounting. Planning ahead is important, but situations can change quickly, making adaptability key in farming. Being on the Saranac School Board, I learned what it takes to run a school. Budgets, bond issues, following state guidelines, and negotiations with the teachers and support staff were all part of my experiences. Working as an elected township official, I put those experiences to work building our budget to cover expenses like road maintenance, fire coverage, elections, and cemetery upkeep. I am currently Vice President of the Caledonia Farmers Elevator Co-op Board of Directors which is a cooperative for farmers. As part of the Board of Directors duties, we review the company financials and set direction for the company.

4. Community Involvement & Public Service

List civic, nonprofit, governmental, or volunteer involvement:

1994-2006 Saranac Community School Board member: Offices of Trustee, Treasurer, Vice President
2008-2012 Keene Township Trustee
2013-2023 Keene Township Supervisor

5. Experience with Public Finance & Budget Oversight

Describe experience overseeing budgets, audits, capital projects, or public funds:

In each of my public service experiences, yearly budgets were an important part. A large amount of time every year was spent building a budget. It was always a challenge guessing what the state revenue sharing would be and then building a budget to match, only to have it change last minute. As Supervisor for the township, we completed an audit every year. Getting ready for the auditor requires a lot of work, but I felt it was important to prove to our residents we were fiscally responsible. During my time on the school board, we did a couple of bond renewals to generate revenue for capital purchases. We spent a lot of time listening to our community to update the buildings and technology. We met with different school committees taking their ideas and helping to incorporate them into the final proposal.

6. Statement of Interest (500–750 words recommended)

Explain why you are seeking appointment to represent District 3, key priorities for Keene, Easton, and Ionia Townships, your approach to fiscal responsibility, collaboration, and transparency.

See Attached

Growing up, public service was a way of life in our family. My parents instilled in us the importance of getting involved in the community. They led by example; both were active in our church and local community. After my wife Monty and I had children old enough to be in school, I was elected to the Saranac School Board. I wanted to make a difference, not only in our children's education, but to make the whole Saranac School district better. That same desire led me to get involved at the township level. Townships have 3 main purposes, assess property, collect taxes, and hold elections. The rest of the services townships provide like fire coverage, cemeteries, road maintenance, and ambulance coverage are services we provide to help our residents. The toughest part of being an elected official, whether at the township or the county level, is prioritizing what services to offer with the limited funds and resources available. The desire to make Ionia County a better place led me to seek this County Commissioner seat. I know I can make a difference using my past experiences; I understand budgeting, I have the ability to listen to people with different ideas and opinions, and am able to work together to do what is best for all.

Priorities in District 3 start with our roads, poor condition of our primary and secondary roads affect everyone. Added cost for repairs or extra miles driven to avoid bad or closed roads directly impacts our residents. I know that road maintenance is expensive and the county is working with limited funds. Secondly, the way elections are held have changed recently, placing a lot more pressure on not only the township clerks, but the county clerk as well. I understand changes have been made to help with the new laws, but holding elections in a way that people can vote while not breaking the bank for local government is a priority. In addition, taking care of our aging and low-income residents is a must for everyone in Ionia County. My Christian beliefs include care for the elderly, widows, and children. I want to help support the county's work in this area through the many services we provide. My last priority is helping to expand the fiber optic infrastructure, especially in the rural parts of District 3. Technology is changing and to support our county's growth we need to make sure every part has access to high-speed internet. I know that one of the first things prospective residents ask when they are looking to move into the county is about the type of broadband available. We need to have a strong and reliable network to attract new residents and business.

In summary, my experiences have provided a great foundation of knowledge and skills to build upon as I learn the responsibilities of this position. I know that I will be a successful County Commissioner for District 3 and Ionia County.

7. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Do you hold any position or financial interest that could create a conflict of interest?

☒ No

☐ Yes (please explain):

8. References (Optional)

Name | Title | Phone | Email

Larry Tiejema, past County Commissioner, [REDACTED]
John Dinehart, Easton Township Supervisor, [REDACTED]
Joel Stoeper, CEO Caledonia Farmers Elevator, [REDACTED]

9. Certification

I certify that the information provided in this application is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. If appointed to represent District 3 – Keene, Easton, and Ionia Townships, I will faithfully discharge the duties of the office in accordance with Michigan law and county policies.

Signature: Robert Simpson

Printed Name: Robert Simpson

Date: 3/04/2026

To: Ionia County Board of Commissioners

Replacement recommendation for District 3 Commissioner

Due to my recent health challenges, I have resigned from the office of county commissioner for District 3 as of February 28, 2026. While there are several citizens in District 3 who could effectively assume the office, I am recommending the appointment of Robert Simpson for the balance of the commissioner term.

Robert Simpson is an ideal candidate based on his experience and leadership in the agricultural community and his elective positions in Keene Township. Starting out with the office of Trustee in Keene Township, Mr. Simpson was later elected as Supervisor. While supervisor, Robert Simpson took a very active role in managing the yearly township budget and spearheaded the approval of a ½ mill township fire millage so that emergency and fire protection could be provided to Keene Township through the two fire/emergency departments of Belding and Saranac. While serving as the Keene Township auditor during Robert's terms as supervisor, I observed how carefully and effectively Robert guided the financial affairs of the township including road and traffic improvements that increased the road safety of drivers and of students boarding buses at key intersections.

In addition, Robert Simpson was elected to the office of Chairman of the county's Township Officers Committee which meets 4 times a year. Robert always brought in speakers who helped township officers understand current affairs that affect all townships within the County.

If anyone would like to discuss my endorsement of Robert Simpson as the replacement commissioner, please contact me at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Tiejema".

Larry Tiejema