

HAYES TOWNSHIP VOTERS:

It's urgent to vote in the NOVEMBER ELECTION

This is the slate of candidates who will protect our township's rural character, our shorelines, abide by the laws, do the finances right and improve Hayes Township for everyone.

All four of them need your vote on November 5!



**WILLIAM CONKLIN
FOR SUPERVISOR
ON THE BALLOT**



**LAURA FORD
FOR CLERK
ON THE BALLOT**



**KEVIN WILLIS
FOR TRUSTEE
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE**



**SHERRY BAKER-
McCARY FOR
TREASURER
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE**

Bill Conklin OUSTED Ron Van Zee, winning the August primary election

We are so thrilled that a competent legal professional is on the ballot who will lead our new Board, bring back professionalism, conduct township business openly, respect the residents, and who will prioritize the legalities and obligations of the Township.

But he needs competent board colleagues to do the job. In the general election, it is okay to cross party lines, and in fact, we want you to!

VOTE for Bill, Laura, Sherry and Kevin on NOV 5

WRITE-IN Sherry Baker-McCary's full name and fill in the oval next to it, in the township treasurer section.
WRITE-IN Kevin Willis' name and fill in the oval next to it, in the township trustee section.

See video interviews with the candidates, our previous newsletters, and more at:

**HayesVotersFor
Change.org**

The Township Treasurer is responsible for receiving, managing, and accounting for all funds belonging to the township in accordance with the directives of the township board or authorized officers. This includes overseeing financial tasks such as collecting taxes, managing funds, disbursing payments, appointing deputies, preparing financial reports, and managing banking services.

Maintaining accurate and up-to-date financial records is essential for effectively fulfilling a treasury position. As an accountant, I can confirm that proper management of financial records is critical to job security and compliance in my role. As it should be for our township as well.

Upon reviewing the financial records for the past year, it is apparent that certain expectations regarding Hayes Township's financial management have not been met. Specifically, there have been instances where in-office presence on designated days was not maintained, which hinders our community members' ability to address personal matters effectively. Additionally, there are discrepancies within the financial documentation, and bank reconciliations have not been completed in a timely manner. Financial statements should provide a clear and coherent narrative; however, the current state of Hayes Township's financials is disorganized, and I have concerns about achieving a successful resolution with the current Treasurer in office.

Kayla Pennington

Kayla Pennington is a Hayes Township resident and professional accountant.

Township Treasurer Collard Neglected Her Legal Duty to keep office hours from 9 am to 5 pm at the hall on September 16, the last day for collecting taxes. This is required by state law. (MCL 211.44) This treasurer has no idea what her obligation is to the taxpayers. There are only 3 days in the year when she must be there all day, for her \$32k+ salary. She does not do it. She only reports the balances in the bank accounts, and never, not even once in 6 years, has provided an account of how much money comes in during a month, and how much money goes out. **It's time we elect someone who knows what to do and will uphold the laws!** Write-in an experienced bookkeeper! **WRITE— IN Sherry Baker-McCary for Treasurer. Sherry knows how to do the accounting. After writing in her full name, darken the oval.**

Michigan's Constitution* requires local governments to allow the public to inspect the financial records. Clerk Baranski announced at a meeting this summer, after residents inquired and tried to inspect, that **NO, residents cannot see the financial records.** **It's time to VOTE OUT THIS CLERK** who does not know the basics of her job in keeping the books, and treats the Township finances as though they are not public records. This and other irresponsible, illegal actions (for example, cutting check for fire truck prior to Board approval) put the Township at legal risk. **VOTE FOR LAURA FORD FOR CLERK.** **Article IX §23*

Let's elect an experienced government enforcement professional, who is committed to protecting the land, lakes and streams of our community while considering the next 7 generations: **KEVIN WILLIS for Trustee.** Kevin will lead, listen, discuss, and represent the residents. **You must WRITE IN Kevin Willis in the Trustee section to get him elected. Darken the oval to indicate a write-in vote.**

Why vote out the current trustees? Trustee Matt Cunningham voted (as appointed Board rep on Planning Commission) to approve the Laws' proposed excavation of Lake Charlevoix shoreland, violating the zoning ordinance, and is still in favor of it. Trustee Kuebler voted the same, but reversed himself on the ZBA.

We are glad residents held Van Zee accountable and voted him out! In his double role as Zoning Administrator and Supervisor, he violated the zoning ordinance, getting the Township into a whole lot of costly legal trouble. The entire Board tolerates his malfeasance. A new Board who will ensure good zoning administration — with fairness to all—is what we need.

Have you seen our last 3 newsletters? See: HayesVotersForChange.org In them we describe how the Board, Zoning Administrator, and Planning Commission violated many state laws and township ordinances, and the audits of the township finances revealing numerous violations. See newsletter #3 for who we are.

A Message from Tim Boyko Former Hayes Township Supervisor

Many people have asked me why I am supporting Bill Conklin for Supervisor, Laura Ford for Clerk, Sherry Baker-McCary for Treasurer and Kevin Willis for Trustee for the Hayes Township Board.

A few years back I became deeply concerned when I found out that our current Supervisor Ron VanZee would be hired as the Township Zoning Administrator. Because we have a small population this is legal, but it is uncommon and ill advised especially with the complexities due to the large number of waterfront dwellings. The law was drafted with the remote rural townships one would find in certain areas like the Upper Peninsula in mind, not a township with miles of lakefront properties with multimillion-dollar second homes.

I first talked privately to Mr. VanZee as a former planning commissioner and fellow Supervisor advising him that I thought he lacked the education and depth of knowledge to correctly handle the zoning and stressing that this dual role can easily create the appearance of impropriety. Unfortunately both turned out to be true. A major cost to Hayes Township in the past few years has been due to lawsuits over VanZee's zoning permit approval of the Law's boat house. Vast expense and efforts by the community to uphold our zoning prevailed and the project has been ruled to not be in compliance with our current ordinance.

I believe Mr. VanZee is now leading the effort to rewrite and weaken our best-in-class lakefront ordinance to allow projects like the illegally permitted boat house to be perfectly legal. However what he wants is not what the community wants, and shoreland protection is required by the Master Plan.

His dual role as an elected official and an enforcement employee has created the appearance of impropriety that I warned him about, and disqualifies him from our trust as an elected official and zoning administrator.

Why did Scott Law donate \$3000.00 to the committee to re-elect VanZee and his board? This may not raise eyebrows in Chicago or L.A. but it doesn't pass unnoticed in this neck of the woods.

Along with Mr. VanZee all members of this current board do not deserve our support this November. In addition to the Law boat house zoning fiasco, the board has ignored deadlines for audits, made an improper purchase of an unnecessary fire truck and generally operated as an ill-informed rubber stamp for the Supervisor instead of holding each other accountable.

Instead of insisting on a diverse planning commission the board rubber stamped the pro development members chosen by VanZee. This echo chamber includes a real estate agent that lives in the adjacent township and the chairman who was caught on a hot mike saying a property owner could do whatever he wanted because he was a multimillionaire! Five of the seven are lakefront property owners totally negating the balanced representation that the enabling legislation intended. Not one member of the board questioned these appointments.

Instead of informing the public of construction schedules and updates, lawsuits and important financial decisions, the board uses the costly monthly newsletter for self promotion, attacking their critics and sharing trivial, non-governmental "news." The board has spent too much time and resources on this newsletter, picnics and book clubs and not enough studying the requirements of lawfully running our Township.

We deserve better and have the opportunity to vote in a talented and experienced new board that will follow the letter of the law, do the Township business with transparency, hold each other accountable and treat all equally.

Please join me and vote for:

William Conklin for Supervisor

Laura Ford for Clerk

Write-in Sherry Baker-McCary for Treasurer

Write-in Kevin Willis for Trustee

Tim provided leadership as Hayes Township Supervisor from 1996 to 2005. This was the period of the Big Rock decommissioning, the rural density lawsuit with Dunmaglas and the development of the Recreation Authority. He has served on the Hayes Township Planning Commission and the Charlevoix County Road Commission. He was also appointed interim Supervisor in Norwood Township during a contentious mining lawsuit.

ELECT FOUR TO HAYES BOARD

ON THE BALLOT

CONKLIN
for *supervisor*

FORD
for *clerk*

WRITE-IN
AND FILL IN THE OVAL

Sherry Baker-McCary
for *treasurer*

Kevin Willis
for *trustee*

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Resident Files ACLU Complaint Against Hayes Township Public Comment Policies

Hayes Township uses an unconstitutional policy to restrict public comments to keep residents from speaking freely, and harasses and accuses residents of “personal attacks” (when none were made) when they are speaking to the various boards. The policies are similar to City of Warren’s which the ACLU recently warned are unconstitutional, violating the First Amendment.

In a 9/16/24 ***Detroit News*** article, the Michigan ACLU legal director said: "And really the whole idea behind public comment periods and public participation is that it should be as wide open and robust and uninhibited an environment as possible, so that citizens, everyday people can get up and talk about what they're happy about and what they're unhappy about."

Donate to HAYES VOTERS FOR CHANGE for more SIGNS

Write check and mail to: Hayes Voters For Change

09799 Townline Road, Petoskey, MI 49770-9106

Please provide the required information: your name, home address, occupation (or retired), employer name and employer address.

*Donations NOT tax deductible.

HayesVotersForChange.org

Youtube videos of the candidates:

[Youtube.com/@HayesVotersForChange](https://www.youtube.com/@HayesVotersForChange)

See our Facebook page for updates

facebook.com/Hayes_Voters_For_Change

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