

Recd. 8/22/2024



Name: Tony Houser
(Please print)

Home Address: 209 Main St Buchanan Mi 49107
Street Address City State Zip

Telephone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

- 1. Office sought: City Commissioner- Appointed – Term ending December 2026
- 2. Are you a City of Buchanan resident?
(MCL 168.342) YES NO
- 3. Are you a registered voter in the City of Buchanan?
(MCL 168.342) YES NO
- 4. Are you presently delinquent or default on property taxes and/or
special assessments or city owned utility owed to the city?
(City Charter Section 5.1) YES NO
- 5. Have you been convicted of a felony?
(MCL 168.342) YES NO
- 6. Have you been a Resident of the City of Buchanan
for 2 years or more?
(City Charter Section 5.1) YES NO
- 7. Do you agree to abide by the City's Code of Conduct and
Ethics Ordinance
(City Ordinance Article V. Section 2-131) YES NO


Signature

8/21/2024
Date

- 1) Please describe why you are interested in becoming a City Commissioner.

See attached Document

- 2) Please list any community service and/or prior board service, including the name of the board and term of service.

See attached Document

- 3) What is special about your personality or communication style that makes you a good fit to serve as a 'voice of the people,' representing the citizens living within the City of Buchanan?

See attached Document

- 4) What are some of the qualities you possess that demonstrate you are capable of successfully leading a team towards success?

See attached Document

- 5) What is your personal philosophy on the role local government should have in our everyday lives, and how would you enact that philosophy if you were to be appointed as a City Commission for the City of Buchanan?

See attached Document

- 6) Help us understand the type of leader you will be by describing your highest priorities for the City of Buchanan--both in the short term and in the long term.

See attached Document

- 7) Please provide a list of previous leadership positions you have held and the role you played in each.

See attached Document

- 8) Optional: Please feel free to share additional information such as a resume or any other pertinent information.
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1) Please describe why you are interested in becoming a City Commissioner.

I am interested in becoming a City Commissioner because I am deeply committed to the well-being and future of our community. Buchanan is a place I care about deeply, and I want to contribute to its continued growth and success. I believe that by serving as a City Commissioner, I can help ensure that our local government remains responsive to the needs of its citizens, prioritizes fiscal responsibility, and fosters an environment where businesses can thrive.

Moreover, I see this role as an opportunity to bring people together, especially during times of division. I am passionate about working collaboratively with fellow commissioners and residents to create solutions that benefit everyone in our community. I aim to help Buchanan move forward in a way that preserves our shared values while embracing positive change.

Ultimately, I am motivated by a desire to serve Buchanan with integrity, transparency, and dedication, ensuring that our city remains a wonderful place to live, work, and visit.

2) Please list any community service and/or prior board service, including the name of the board and term of service.

- Vice Chair Buchanan Planning Commission (Current)
- Vice Chair Buchanan Preservation Society (Current)
- 2nd Vice President Buchanan-Galien Lion Club (Current)
- Member of the Board of Directors Buchanan Area Senior Center (Current)
- Former Chair and Charter Member Live Buchanan (2022-2023)

3) What is special about your personality or communication style that makes you a good fit to serve as a 'voice of the people,' representing the citizens living within the City of Buchanan?

I pride myself on being approachable and easy to talk to, qualities that are essential for fostering open, civil conversations, regardless of the topic or differing opinions. My communication style is rooted in the principle of treating others as I wish to be treated, with respect and professionalism. This approach ensures that every discussion is constructive and that all perspectives are valued.

In addition to my commitment to respectful communication, I am dedicated to making well-informed decisions. I believe that the people of Buchanan deserve a representative who is level-headed, research-driven, and hard-working. I will do my utmost to thoroughly research every topic, consider all available information, and make decisions that are in the best interests of our community.

4) What are some of the qualities you possess that demonstrate you are capable of successfully leading a team towards success?

With over 20 years of experience as a chef, I understand that strong leadership is vital for ensuring smooth and effective service over the long term.

Wherewithal: I dedicate time to getting to know my team, identifying their strengths and weaknesses. By recognizing where our strengths align, we can build a cohesive core team while addressing weaknesses to enhance our overall effectiveness.

Integrity: I am committed to speaking only about what I know to be true, relying on credible sources for confirmation. This dedication to truth fosters trust and credibility within the team.

Self-awareness: Being aware of my limitations is essential for knowing when to seek help. This self-awareness ensures that I remain accountable to the high standards I set for myself and my team, fostering continuous improvement.

Empowerment: I focus on empowering my team by delegating decision-making responsibilities and giving them a sense of ownership. When team members feel valued and their contributions are recognized, it not only boosts morale but also unlocks limitless potential for success.

Adaptability: The ability to adapt to changing circumstances is crucial in the fast-paced culinary environment. My experience has honed my skill in navigating challenges and guiding my team through both routine operations and unexpected situations with agility and resilience.

Mentorship: I am dedicated to mentoring and developing my team members, helping them to grow professionally and personally. By investing in their development, I ensure that we build a team that is not only skilled but also motivated and capable of achieving our collective goals.

5) What is your personal philosophy on the role local government should have in our everyday lives, and how would you enact that philosophy if you were to be appointed as a City Commission for the City of Buchanan?

I believe the fundamental role of local government is to act as responsible stewards of the citizens and their tax dollars. Our primary responsibility is to ensure that essential services such as clean water, road maintenance, waste and snow removal, and public safety are provided efficiently and effectively. These services are the backbone of our community, ensuring that our daily lives run smoothly and safely.

Beyond these basic services, local government also plays a crucial role in fostering economic growth and community engagement. A vibrant Downtown and Business district are essential for attracting new businesses and keeping both locals and tourists engaged. By maintaining and enhancing our public spaces, we create an environment where businesses can thrive, and residents can enjoy a high quality of life.

This philosophy of governance is not new; it is already in place and has served our community well. However, if appointed, I am committed to working with my fellow members to ensure that we continue this path of success.

6) Help us understand the type of leader you will be by describing your highest priorities for the City of Buchanan--both in the short term and in the long term.

Short-Term Priority: Building Solidarity and Trust

One of the most pressing short-term priorities is to demonstrate to the citizens that the commission can work together effectively as a team for the greater good. Recent divisions within our community have hindered progress, and it's time to move forward in solidarity. By working collaboratively, we can rebuild trust and focus on the common good of Buchanan, ensuring that all voices are heard and respected.

Long-Term Priority: Strengthening Infrastructure and Fiscal Health

In the long term, our focus must be on advancing infrastructure projects that are essential for the community's growth and well-being. Alongside this, we must find ways to pay down existing debt to relieve the taxpayers' burden. We can achieve this through strategic capital planning and exploring new avenues for income generation, such as business licensing, contractor permitting, or introducing a city cannabis tax. These initiatives can help offset costs and secure a more stable financial future for Buchanan

7) Please provide a list of previous leadership positions you have held and the role you played in each.

As a seasoned leader in my industry, I bring over 20 years of experience as a chef and a decade of successfully managing various restaurants and hotels. I have overseen teams of 20 or more employees, and expertly handled budgeting, profit and loss, inventory, capital planning, and all aspects of business operations. I played a key role in the startup of Live Buchanan, where I served as Chair of the board. Currently, I am the Vice Chair of both the Buchanan Preservation Society and the Buchanan-Galien Lions Club, and I also serve on the board of directors for the Buchanan Senior Center.