

Dear Absentee voter,

In a few days you will likely be completing your 2021 absentee voter ballot. Even though our village is small, there is a limited number of people we know personally. That makes it hard to make voting decisions at election time. I am your mayor for a second term. I'm not running in this election, but there are three others, **non-partisan**, I would like you to consider for the next two-year term.

I am endorsing these candidates because they understand the importance of protecting our city zoning. I have watched other communities relinquish these protections, specifically historic district ordinances, leading to the demise of their core villages. Clarkson's "brand" is very strong and we want to protect it.

From our humble beginnings in the 1830s until today, 190 years, we have been able to remain an icon of Americana, on the National Register of Historic Places, allowing building alterations but within national standards. Each structure is critical to sustaining the integrity of the entire collection. Consistency of street scapes, building heights and architectural features are all critical to maintaining authenticity.

Forward-looking citizens of Clarkston in the late 1970's perceived both the village's value and its vulnerability. In 1980 they formed the historic district to prevent MDOT from expanding M-15 to four lanes, which would have ruined our commercial and residential Main Street. Our local historic district is governed by Interior Department standards. Our Historic District Commission (HDC) reports to the State Historic Preservation Organization (SHPO) in Lansing. Its purpose is to help residents make informed decisions about how to keep their properties authentic and their property values high, like a home owners association (HOA) at no cost to the homeowner.

Given the importance of protecting our historic district, and the vigilance to keep it free of commercial intrusion, I am endorsing three candidates for city council who hold these values. The candidates are Gary Casey, Bruce Fuller and Laura Rodgers.

Gary Casey lives in the historic district and already on city council. His name is on the ballot because he is running for his first full term after being nominated last year to fill a vacancy.

Bruce Fuller is a resident of 35 years in Clarkston, a retired educator who has been involved with the public for his career, very competent and able to make sound decisions affecting our village.

Laura Rodgers is a three-year resident of Clarkston, living in the historic district, a career anesthetist, wife and mom, passionate about preserving her family's historic home.

Bruce Fuller and Laura Rodgers are write-in candidates, therefore, *please clearly print their names on your ballot. Correct spelling is essential for your vote to be counted.* (A sample ballot is enclosed.) Included, also, are short biographical and purpose statements for Bruce and Laura. I think you will appreciate their competencies and qualifications. Please join me in voting for Gary Casey, Bruce Fuller and Laura Rodgers for city council terms 2021-2023.

Sincerely,

Eric Haven

Mayor,

City of the Village of Clarkston*

Michigan

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*We became a City to remain a Village