



Dear Friends, Supporters, and Voters,

Citizens deserve to know where candidates stand on issues so that they can make an informed decision on election day. Importantly, citizens deserve *factual* information. Having been in the public arena, both as a Commissioner and a grassroots volunteer, there is plenty of public information available for you to independently verify that I will vigorously advocate for your traditional values and views and your pocketbook.

In contrast, there is little independent information regarding my opponent's priorities and accomplishments in the public policy arena. What is available at this point comes from publicly available voter registration and campaign finance data, her own words as presented in her press release¹ announcing her campaign, and her initial interview with local left-wing media. Shortly after she declared her candidacy I reviewed these information sources so that you can compare her record versus mine. Here is what you should know.

I Understand Our Community

Having lived in our community for the last 28 years, I understand the priorities and concerns of our residents. In 1996 my wife and I purchased our home in this community and established our residence in this community. That same year we became registered voters in Hartland Township. In comparison my opponent is a newcomer to County Commission District 4. Using the address of a home owned by her sister, she became a registered voter in Hartland Township. Voter records show she registered to vote here in February 2024, just ahead of the April 2024 deadline to run for office.

My Opponent Embraces Left-Wing Identity Politics

Though she is running as a Republican, there is little if any objectively verifiable evidence that my opponent is a conservative Republican who has supported our traditional values. An examination of publicly available state² and federal³ campaign finance records show she has never contributed to Republican candidates or Republican committees.⁴ However, these same records show that I have made 50 contributions to Republican candidates and committees and conservative political action committees. I have never contributed to a Democrat candidate or committee.

County Republican Precinct Delegates form the core base of volunteers working to elect Republican candidates. An examination of Livingston County candidate and election records shows that my opponent has never run for the position of Republican Precinct Delegate. These same records show that I was first elected as a Republican Precinct Delegate in 2010. Additionally, my volunteer efforts have been recognized numerous times by my peers who have repeatedly elected me as a State Delegate and a National Delegate. **I am the only Livingston County Republican to be chosen by fellow Republicans to serve President Trump as a National Delegate at two**

¹ <https://www.whmi.com/dbfiles/download/newsarticles/attachment1/45355>

² Federal Campaign Finance: https://mibocfr.nictusa.com/cgi-bin/cfr/contrib_anls.cgi

³ Michigan Campaign Finance:

https://www.fec.gov/data/receipts/individual-contributions/?contributor_name=meghan+williams

⁴ Examinations were conducted in April 2024, after the filing deadline.

Republican National Conventions. I look forward to voting for Donald J. Trump to be our 2024 Republican Nominee for President and showing the Democrats their lawfare strategy has backfired on them.

While I was not able to find any objectively verifiable evidence that she is a conservative Republican, I did observe that my opponent relied upon left-wing campaign tactics and rhetoric as she introduced herself to the public. When interviewed by the local far-left media⁵ she said, "Her election to the Board of Commissioners would address both problems." What are those problems? My opponent views my age as a problem. I am 65 years old. She also views my gender as a problem. I am male and do not partake in the left-wing practice of listing my pronouns. In contrast my opponent lists her preferred pronouns⁶ as She/Her. **As she launched her first campaign as a Republican, my opponent played both the age-card and the gender-card like a seasoned left-wing operative.** In contrast, I do not believe in the identity politics of the left. I always have and always will represent my constituents without consideration of age, gender, or any other personal characteristic.

A recent graduate, my opponent has embraced one of the many left-wing ideologies infecting today's public universities, identity politics. Campus peer pressure can have a tremendous influence upon a young person who is uncomfortable standing up against politically correct indoctrination by university professors.

Candidates who believe that only young people can represent young people, or only women can represent women may find support in Ann Arbor or other college communities, but they will not find support in our community. I firmly reject the leftist ideologies of identity politics and its companion racial politics. Allow me to elaborate on this a bit further.

It is disappointing that my opponent thinks because I am male, I cannot advocate on behalf of issues of importance to women and girls. Yet I have been on the frontlines of one of the most important women's/girl's issues of our time. I have been front and center in the battle to prevent males who claim to be female from competing in sports against women and girls. I have circulated petitions to keep boys out of girls' sports, have campaigned on behalf of common-sense school board candidates who believe in separate bathrooms and locker rooms for boys and girls, and I was the top sponsor contributing financial support to have NCAA Women's Swimming Champion Riley Gaines as the keynote speaker at a local Republican event. Where has my opponent been in the biggest attack on women and girls in recent times?

As an elected official who is an American of Japanese-descent, **I am living proof that our county rejects identity politics.** If our citizens believed in identity politics, I would not have been elected once, much less re-elected twice in a county that, according to the 2020 Census is 96% White and 1% Asian American. Indeed, Livingston County is a welcoming community. My personal experience flies in the face of Democrat race-baiting and Democrat identity politics. Whether it is age, gender, race, or otherwise, identity politics insidiously works against unifying our community and country into "One Nation, Under God." This Democrat-Marxist ideology has no place in our society, let alone a Republican primary election.

It should be a red-flag for all conservatives whenever a Republican candidate adopts leftist campaign rhetoric to attack another Republican. During this same interview with the left-wing media, my opponent chose another left-wing talking point to promote her candidacy. The left-wing media reported my opponent said, "that instead of waging culture wars, she will focus on serving her constituents." Her reference to culture wars is eerily like past

⁵ <https://thelivingstonpost.com/hartland-woman-sets-sights-on-nakagiri-says-she-wants-focus-on-results-not-political-gamesmanship/>

⁶ LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/meghan-williams-2a323793/> (Note: you must login to LinkedIn to view her preferred pronouns (She/Her)).

statements made by Judy Daubenmier, Chair of the Livingston County Democrat Party. In one of her many leftist media statements⁷ Daubenmier said, "There will be no focus on culture wars or symbolic gestures that don't make our lives better."

Local leftists have used the slogan "culture wars" when criticizing my common-sense conservative policy initiatives. These so-called "culture war" initiatives that I have led, and which Democrats have railed against, include the elimination of abortions funded by your county property taxes, preventing the local LGBTQ lobby from commandeering a county newsletter to promote their Pride Month sexual ideology to our youth, ousting a Republican appointee⁸ who voted in favor of the racially divisive ideologies of DEI and CRT (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Critical Race Theory), and protecting our 2nd Amendment rights.

According to her campaign press release, my opponent has no interest in pushing back against the divisive left-wing rot that is propagandizing our youth and permeating our society. The inevitable result of her refusal to engage in the "culture war" would be our conservative county fading from red to purple and then to blue. This will NOT happen on my watch. Especially at a state and national level, there are far too many examples of weak/fake Republican leaders choosing not to push back against the left. We cannot let this happen at a local level if we are to keep Livingston County a family-friendly community.

While my opponent will not battle the cultural corruption of the far-left, I will. In fact, I have expanded the battlefield. I have leveraged my role as Commissioner to help win the "culture war" in our local school district. In 2022 I was part of the volunteer effort to recruit and elect family-friendly citizens to represent you as Trustees on the Hartland Consolidated Schools Board of Education. I am doing the same in 2024. I am committed to protecting the children of our community from the far-left sexual ideology that is infecting our schools. I am the only Commissioner candidate who has and is actively engaged in this critically important endeavor.

Visit www.hartlandschoolboard.com and www.cromainelibraryboard.com if you would like to know who the conservative family-friendly school board and library board candidates are.

What Are Her Priorities?

Because it is a legislative body, the Board of Commissioners is responsible for oversight of the budget. Surprisingly, my opponent's initial campaign statements provide few specifics about her budget priorities. While they are not budget priorities, she does list issues she is passionate about on her LinkedIn social media page. She lists her "Causes" as: Animal Welfare, Children, Civil Rights and Social Action, Economic Empowerment, Environment, Health, Human Rights, Politics, and Science and Technology.

⁷ <https://www.livingstondaily.com/story/news/local/community/livingston-county/2024/02/25/whos-running-for-livingston-county-board-so-far/72670182007/>

⁸ Steve Williams (father of my opponent and a former Commissioner) was ousted from his position on the Metroparks Board of Trustees after I uncovered his votes in favor of DEI and CRT. After a review of Metroparks Board meeting minutes, the Board of Commissioners voted against his reappointment. It should also be noted that Williams' wife is also running for a seat on the Board, challenging another conservative Commissioner who voted against his Metroparks reappointment.

Are Her Statements Factual?

My opponent has alleged that I constantly attack county employees. She has explicitly stated, "Unfortunately my opponent's constant attacks have resulted in many of them retiring early or leaving for other jobs. That brain drain is a significant loss to county taxpayers, especially in this tight labor market." Her allegation does not align with the facts. As a Commissioner I have voted in favor of hiring an outside consultant to improve employee engagement so that citizens of our county have the most efficient and effective government. This investment has proven extraordinarily successful. **For the last two years Livingston County government has been rated as one of Michigan's Top Workplaces by the Detroit Free Press and Energage, an employee research and culture technology firm.** The rankings are based solely on employee survey feedback. **Most recently (2023) Livingston County was the highest-ranking employer in the Local Government sector.**

My opponent has also stated that "The Livingston County Board of Commissioners has degraded from a functional government body to one that fights among themselves and their constituents." This assertion merits some critical analysis. **During my time on the Board Livingston County has continued to have the lowest county property tax rate in Michigan.** In fact, the property tax rate millage rate has *decreased* from 3.7354 mills to 3.5695 mills during my tenure. (And by the way, I am the first and currently the only County Commissioner out of over 600 in the entire State of Michigan to sign the Taxpayer Protection Pledge.)⁹ **Furthermore, our county has achieved an A+ public safety rating, the highest available rating. And, to top it off, our county is in the top 5% in the nation for Healthy Community Score.** These stellar metrics belie my opponent's assertion that the Board of Commissioners, the top policy-making body in our county, is dysfunctional.

Even with these stellar metrics, I am always striving to do better on behalf of our citizens. I am not content with maintaining the status quo. I will always fight for your values and your pocketbook. I expect continuous improvement from all departments in county government. I expect us to be best in class when compared to other Michigan counties. It should not be a surprise that such elevated expectations sometimes ruffle the feathers of long-time officials and bureaucrats.

I do not necessarily accept bureaucratic recommendations at face value. I am willing to dig in and do my own independent investigation. I am an ardent follower of President Reagan's "trust but verify" policy. The "trust but verify" approach does not sit well with some county leaders who have been accustomed to having the Board of Commissioners rubber-stamp their recommendations. **Rubber-stamp is not my style. I was not elected to go-along-to-get-along. It is the go-along-to-get-along attitude that has contributed to our state and national decline. I will not let this decline happen here on my watch. Livingston is a premier county, and I will work tirelessly to keep it a premier county. I was not elected to befriend the bureaucracy; I was elected to represent you.**

My opponent also misrepresents the truth when she asserts that I fight with my constituents. A truthful statement would be that I disagree with constituents holding far-left views. As is the case with most leftists, local leftists are not used to a Republican officeholder who has the courage to challenge their world view. The best example of my ability to civilly disagree with a local left-winger is when I conducted an independent investigation into an allegation that citizens of my county commission district are racist. As we know, leftists frequently use identity politics, playing the race card to intimidate Republicans into silence. Having never been intimidated by radical leftists, I fact-checked the allegations of local racism and published my own independent findings. My report¹⁰ showed the allegations of the left-wing accuser to be completely without merit. Supported by police body camera footage and police reports,

⁹ Americans for Tax Reform: <https://www.atr.org/pledge-database/?name-filter=&office-filter=4683&state-filter=mi&district-filter=&incumbent-filter=>

¹⁰ CommissionerWes.com: <https://commissionerwes.com/made-for-news-media-hate-crime/>

my report exposed the accuser's many falsehoods. Among her most egregious falsehoods were, she did not even live in our county, she falsely told police her husband is African-American, and she falsely told police she was a teacher in the Hartland School District.

Yes, I will speak the truth and advocate for you even if I must upset a citizen or a county employee. In my opinion, we need more Republican leaders with the courage to do the same.

My Full-Time Commitment to Our Community

My opponent has stated publicly that "I'm not a career politician and I won't use this position to check a box to run for higher office." It is encouraging that she agrees with my viewpoint on public service. After my first election to office in 2018 I decided to retire early from my job as an Engineering Manager at a Fortune 200 company so that I could focus 100% of my time on serving the citizens of Livingston County. While this entailed financial sacrifice, I concluded that it would take more than a part-time effort to deliver robust results for my constituents.

Though the office of County Commissioner is a part-time position, I could not in good conscience deliver less than a full-time effort to serve my community. In my nearly six years as your Commissioner, I have missed only one meeting (due to illness). It is questionable that a recent college graduate who is single and trying to build a career could devote the time and effort required to deliver more than just a rubber-stamp level of community service.

Regarding running for higher office, since being elected as your Commissioner I have declined many requests to run for higher office. I am truly blessed to be able to serve our conservative community. With the support of the voters of this county, I will continue to work unceasingly to build our county into a pinnacle of hope for those holding the traditional family values that have made our country great. Much like the free-state of Florida is seen as a model for state governments, it is my goal to have Livingston County to be seen as a model for conservative county governments.

Discussion and Debate Is a Commissioner's Duty

My political opponent complains that the Board of Commissioners "fights among themselves." Again, she misrepresents the truth. Serving her own naïve political narrative, she characterizes discussion and debate about public policy as Commissioners "fighting" among themselves. Perhaps because of her youth and university indoctrination she may not fully understand the role of the legislature in our republican form of government. Commissioners are supposed to vigorously discuss and debate issues in public. While leveling her criticism, she fails to recognize that after discussion and debate, the Board of Commissioners votes unanimously over 90% of the time. Is it her desire that Commissioners should agree 100% of the time to avoid "fighting?"

That she refers to discussion and debate as "fighting" suggests that my opponent is not comfortable vigorously advocating for your values and views. The only way she can avoid "fighting" is to suppress your voice and accept at face value whatever the bureaucracy tells her. While my opponent is uncomfortable vigorously advocating for your traditional values and views, I am not. While my opponent would rubber-stamp recommendations of the bureaucracy to avoid public discussion and debate, I will not. For the appearance of peace and harmony my opponent would cave in to the demands of the Executive and Judicial branches of county government, I will not. Our founding fathers envisioned a government with three *co-equal* branches of government, Legislative, Executive, and Judicial. Being the Legislative Branch of county government, the Board of Commissioners has a duty to function

as a check and balance to the other two branches. When my opponent suggests that we should all get along, she essentially advocates that the Legislative Branch cede its constitutional authority to the Executive Branch and Judicial Branch. Worse yet, in order that we all get along, she would have the Legislative Branch give up its oversight authority to unelected county bureaucrats.

I strive to maintain the balance of power as envisioned by our founders. For it is this balance that provides "WE THE PEOPLE" with the most responsive government that is respectful of both your rights and your pocketbook. As has been demonstrated in Washington, D.C., and Lansing, Michigan, when the Legislative Branch cedes its authority to the other branches or to the unelected bureaucracy, citizens are left with bloated, ineffective, and non-responsive government.

Setting the Record Straight

In her initial campaign press release, my opponent said, "County Commissioners should not be constantly fighting with township, city and village officials." Her statement was referring to a dispute between the Hartland Township Board of Trustees and the Livingston County Board of Public Works (LCBPW) regarding the LCBPW-owned Septage Receiving Station (SRS). The SRS is in Hartland Township.

My opponent describes my involvement in this dispute as "fighting with township officials." Her campaign narrative is simply a fabrication meant to serve her political ambitions. The truth is the opposite of her allegation. Township officials have welcomed my help in resolving the dispute. In fact, Hartland Township Trustee Denise O'Connell said, "I greatly appreciate Commissioner Nakagiri's help in resolving the dispute with the Livingston County Board of Public Works. He conducted his own independent investigation and was not afraid to challenge the county bureaucracy to do what is right by the citizens of our community."

Looking Forward – Beyond the Elections

If provided with the privilege of serving for another term, I will continue to provide you with efficient and effective government that is respectful to your wallet and your rights. I will continue my full-time efforts to keep your taxes low while maintaining our best-in-class public safety rating and enhancing our highly ranked Community Health score.

As I have done in the past, I will also continue advocating on your behalf regarding important state-level issues that impact our county. You may recall that during COVID I led the way in uncovering and stopping Governor Whitmer's scheme to use your private health records for political purposes.¹¹ And I led the local petition drive to repeal Whitmer's COVID lockdown authority, restarting Livingston lives and businesses.

Whether on a county-level, a state-level, or a federal level I will always fight on your behalf.

¹¹ <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/columnists/ingrid-jacques/2020/04/24/jacques-state-must-come-clean-partisan-contracts-hires/3011146001/>

I Humbly Ask for Your Votes on August 6th and November 5th.

For three two-year terms you have allowed me the privilege to vigorously advocate for your values and views. I humbly ask you to continue this privilege and re-elect me to a new four-year term. I ask for your vote during the August 6th primary election and the November 5th general election.

I am the only candidate in the race with *proven* conservative credentials:

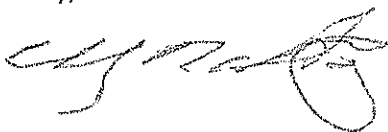
- I am the only citizen in Livingston County to twice serve President Trump as a Delegate to the Republican National Convention.
- I have provided Livingston County citizens with the lowest property tax rate, the highest public safety rating, and a Healthy Community score that places us in the top 5% in the nation.
- I am the first and currently the only County Commissioner in the entire State of Michigan to sign the Taxpayer Protection Pledge.
- I have and will continue to work full-time on your behalf.
- I am a Life Member of the NRA.
- I am endorsed by Right to Life of Michigan.

If you would like more information about these and my other accomplishments, I encourage you to visit my website at www.commissionerwes.com. You can also contact me via cell phone at 810-207-1060 or email me at contactwes@commissionerwes.com.

In closing, if consistent with your spiritual beliefs I would appreciate your prayers on behalf of myself and all officeholders and candidates. Your prayers will help all to discern His will and to faithfully follow His teachings. Through my elected experience it has become abundantly clear that participants in the public policy arena would greatly benefit from a more widespread application of the principles of truth, kindness, forgiveness, and humility.

Lastly, if you are financially able, I would appreciate any contribution in any amount to help me reach as many voters as possible during my campaign. Make your checks payable to Friends of Wes Nakagiri and mail them to 3093 N Tipsico Lake Road, Hartland, MI 48353. (Campaign finance regulations prohibit the acceptance of cash contributions and require me to ask you for your name and address. Additional regulations require me to ask you for the name and address of your employer for any contribution over \$100.) You may also contribute online at <https://commissionerwes.com/contributions/>. Thank you and God Bless.

Sincerely,



Wes Nakagiri (R)
Livingston County Commissioner, District 4
District 4 serves all of Hartland Township and Oceola Township east of Latson Road

P.S. One last request . . . Please email me at contactwes@commissionerwes.com if you are willing to put up one of my yard signs!