



2018 REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Attached is a questionnaire the RCNMC is inviting candidates in races that impact residents of Northern Macomb County to fill out to provide information about their campaign and message. This information will be used as consideration for endorsement during the primary election by the RCNMC and will be published online at www.rcnmc.com.

Note that completion of this questionnaire does not guarantee an endorsement. The RCNMC may endorse one, multiple or no candidates in any given race for the primary election.

Please complete the questions below and email to info@rcnmc.com. This form can also be mailed to RCNMC, 21754 Kendyl Ct., Macomb, MI 48044.

Deadline for submission is Thursday, May 31, 2018.

Section A: Candidate Information

Name:	Ralph N. Lambert
Other Names Used (Including Maiden Name): (will not be published -- for endorsement evaluation only)	
Office Running For:	Macomb County Clerk and Register of Deeds
Are You the Incumbent for This Office:	No
Municipality of Residence:	Clinton Township
Marital Status:	Divorced
Current Occupation:	Retired US Navy Officer
Contact Email:	ralph.lambert33@yahoo.com
Contact Phone:	757-777-8573
Contact Address:	34255 New Jersey, Clinton Township, MI 48035
Website	Not available at this time
Social Media Links (Facebook, Twitter, etc.):	Not available at this time



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Section B: Campaign Issues

Why are you running for this office?

I served in the US Army Reserves for over eight years and the US Navy for over 30 years. While the military may be done with me I am not done serving the American people. Specifically, I saw a need here in Macomb County and I can do it and do it well.

What skillsets and real life experience do you have that makes you the best candidate for the role?

I served nearly half of my time in the Navy very successfully doing administrative duties. I am more that qualified and can do this job well!

What are the top three issues you are concerned with for your district/municipality?

First and foremost, fix the problems created by the last Clerk. Second, do the job that the people of Macomb County expect and do it well. Finally, build a team with the existing workers in the office by streamlining processes and finding ways to cut costs without cutting services.

What are the solutions you will bring forward if elected?

Primarily, do what is expected from the Office. There is no magic solution, just dig in and do the job. See my comments to the previous question.

What specific measures will you take to maintain low taxes and less expensive, limited government?

As I stated above, streamline processes and find ways to cut costs without cutting services. A lesson I learned while in the Navy was that as a public official I am accountable to the taxpayer for all funds I am responsible for and that I am expected to be a good steward of the taxpayer's dollar.

If elected, how will you demonstrate accountability and transparency in government?

There are no "secret" deals or documents. Everything I do and the personnel in my office do will be available for all citizens to observe (except in the cases of law enforcement and court / legal issues). This is how I did it in the Navy and this is how I will do it as Macomb County Clerk and Register of Deeds.



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Section C: Party Involvement/Issues

Why are you a running as a Republican?

I am generally conservative in my views. I feel the Republican Party is the closest to my beliefs.

What is your position on the life/abortion debate?

I do not believe anyone has the right to infringe on what anyone does in private providing that it does not hurt anyone else. Basically, it's none of my business.

What is your position on the 2nd Amendment?

I did not choose to take the oath to only part of the Constitution decades ago but, to all of it. I swore an oath to the Constitution of the United States and have lived it all my adult life and I don't intend to make a change now. I support the Constitution as written.

What prior involvement have you had with the Republican Party or Conservative organizations/candidates?

None.

Have you ever publicly affiliated, donated or supported organizations or candidates of political parties other than the Republican Party?

No.



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Section D: State/County/Local Issues

(answer as appropriate for the position you are seeking)

What are the two biggest issues you feel Macomb County is facing today?

Public corruption and infrastructure disrepair.

What would you do to fix the problem of broken down roads in southeastern Michigan and the funding to fix them?

I would pressure both Lansing and Washington for additional funding. Secondly and locally, there needs to be more transparency in where our tax dollars are being spent. We have got to stop some of the special interest expenses and do more for the general population by fixing our roads.

Macomb County has been stained with public corruption arrests of elected officials. What steps will you take to prevent this from happening to you?

Transparency is the key to all government regardless of whether it is for money, people, or documentation. Everything has to be legal and free for public scrutiny especially, in cases of spending tax dollars.

What is your opinion on the legalization of marijuana? If it passes, what other considerations should you and your fellow office holders need to consider?

I think it should be legalized and used as a form of tax revenue. Initially, there will be growing pains but I am confident public officials and law enforcement will be able to handle the changes. One of the issues will be driving while under the influence of marijuana but, currently there are already laws that address this. Law makers will be required to pass laws taxing use and distribution of marijuana and where the generated tax dollars will go (maybe our roads and infrastructure?).

What should be done about the high rates of auto insurance in Michigan? If elected, what would you do to aid auto insurance consumers?

This should not be a problem but unfortunately it is. No fault auto insurance in Michigan is jokingly known as "my fault" insurance. Insurance companies in both Michigan and all of the United States have basically been given a pass by politicians, it's time both politicians and the electorate start getting tough with insurance companies. As for the no fault insurance we have now we must push Lansing to change the law, there are 49 other states that have better auto insurance laws than Michigan. Let's select the best insurance model from one of the other 49 states and have Lansing make that our model.



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Do you believe there should be accountability for those receiving government assistance? If so, how should this accountability be applied?

Absolutely. Every citizen needs to be accountable to every other citizen especially where tax dollars are concerned. We need to end the era of the free hand out. I agree that sometimes everyone may need some form of assistance but, it just can't be a lifestyle. Essentially there needs to be a form of term limit and or gradual reduction of benefits to encourage those that are receiving assistance to find alternative forms of income. Job and skills training should be required for those people receiving governmental assistance to help them work their way off financial assistance programs.