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**HEATHER WILLIAMS ANNOUNCES LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CAMPAIGN**

Republican Heather Williams announced her candidacy for the Livingston County Board of Commissioners Fifth District. Williams, a Maranatha Baptist University graduate and farmer in Marion Township, has been an active community volunteer for many years. Favorite causes include her church, Right to Life, 4-H, the Michigan Dairy Goat Society and the United States Eventing Association.

This will be Williams first political race. Years ago, she was encouraged to run for County Commissioner but chose to focus on her young child and farm instead. The need for someone with her background and experience on the Livingston County Board of Commissioners makes running now imperative. Williams points out: “There is a gaping knowledge hole on the Board of Commissioners right now. We haven’t had a mother on this Board for two years and if someone doesn’t step up now, we won’t have one for another four years. Talk about taxation without representation!”

Williams feels that county services are extremely important to Livingston County families. Unfortunately, rather than recognize the talent and dedication of county employees, her opponent uses his position on the Board to attack them.

Public safety is very important to Livingston County residents and the current Board is combative rather than supportive of county public safety employees.

Williams believes that commissioners should focus on performing their constitutionally defined duties, not on using their Board tenure as a steppingstone to run for higher office.

Williams believes that her background and experience will benefit the Board decision making process in many ways. Having worked as a licensed Certified Nursing Assistant throughout her college years, Williams was troubled by the Board response to the Covid epidemic and thinks that having a commissioner with actual medical experience would have helped reduce the drama and excessively long meetings. “So much of the debate at Board meetings seemed focused on scoring a political win instead of trying to achieve the best results for county residents,” she says.

Williams’ father was an Army Special Forces sergeant in Vietnam and her husband served as an Army officer for 28 years. She knows how much the Clinton era base closures reduced the availability of veteran services in Michigan and that counties are key to supporting those who served. However, her opponent seems more focused on criticizing County Department of Veterans Services staff rather than supporting their mission.

Williams has been farming all her life and understands agriculture is Michigan’s second largest industry and contributes an outsized portion of property tax dollars to the county. She thinks commissioners have forgotten how important agriculture still is to the Livingston County economy and quality of life. “Our County Commissioners need to support all varieties of small businesses and recognize the diversity of our county economy,” she argues.