

***League of Women Voters of Alpena County Voter Guide:
General Election November 8, 2011***

About the Voter Guide: The League of Women Voters of Alpena County compiled the information on candidates. The League is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. Candidates were contacted for answers to questions on their reason for seeking office and issues. Certified candidates for offices *with primary opposition* were contacted. Responses are in the candidates' own words and were edited for spelling, punctuation and adherence to the proscribed word limit. The League does not endorse or oppose candidates or parties, but it does obtain and distribute to the public, information about candidates and their views.

FOR INFORMATION ON U.S. AND STATE CANDIDATES: See the voter guide on the LWV Mi website: www.lwvmi.org/2011GeneralVoterGuideIndex.htm (Select U.S. District 1, State House District 106, and State Senate District 36) Or go to www.publius.org/ and type in your name - will bring up your ballot and information links.

The candidates answered these questions.

- 1. Tell us about yourself. Include the qualifications and experience you bring to this office.**
- 2. What would you like to accomplish if elected?**

City of Alpena-Mayor

Matt Waligora

- 1.** My wife and I have always been very active in the community. I've mainly focused my time toward youth sports and the Junior Achievement program, but have been involved with many other groups and events. I bring leadership and diplomatic experience, coupled with fresh, independent ideas for Alpena's future.
- 2.** As Mayor, I will support strong intergovernmental relationships throughout Alpena and beyond. This is imperative to attracting a balance of business, industry and guests to our community to keep people working. I expect transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsibility in our local government. I look forward to representing our great community.

Calvin Howard-Did not respond in time for inclusion

Mark John Hunter

- 1.** My parents are Frank and Evelyn Hunter. Experience includes serving on city, county, and private boards; business management at concrete block plants, and our family's funeral home; and volunteering for Kiwanis and Knights of Columbus, ACC concrete technology graduate-practicing attorney-presently Alpena County Older Person Committee Chair.
- 2.** All issues are of interest to me, but budget and finance are stronger interests of mine. Improving the budget wherever possible, through careful study and discussions with Planning Commission and staff. Continue intergovernmental co-operation. Find new businesses and help existing businesses, better planning, and promoting Alpena.

City Council for Alpena

David R. Karschnick

1. I've been married to Gayle for over 51 years; we have 3 children, 2 grandsons, and 2 great grandsons. I've served 7 years on the Chamber of Commerce (last year as president), 3 years on the Alpena Planning Commission. I'm now finishing up my 20th year on the Alpena City Council, 12 years as Mayor Pro-Tem.

2. I would like to lower property taxes for our home and business owners by streamlining administrative staff and combining services with our county and townships. As well as, to help keep existing small businesses running, while allowing them to keep their employees and add new employees when needed.

Michael W. Nunneley

1. A life-long Alpena resident, Alpena High and CMU graduate, I married Marcy (Tremain)-we have 3 children. I owned an Alpena business, taught at ACC, coach softball, hockey, golf, and am an Alpena Booster member. I've served six years as a County Commissioner and four years as a City Councilman.

2. I will continue to strive to remove government barriers through intergovernmental consolidations, restructuring City Government and while pursuing new markets by promoting ease when working in Alpena. Further, we need to promote and expand our local businesses, amenities, and natural resources to attract visitors and businesses to Alpena through superior service.

James W. Kierst-Did not respond in time for inclusion

Proposals for the City of Alpena

Dial-A-Ride n/k/a Thunder Bay Transportation Authority Millage Renewal Proposal

Shall the Charter limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in the City of Alpena, Michigan be increased as provided by section 10.5 of the Alpena City Charter by 0.65 mill on each dollar (.65 cents on each \$1,000.00) of the taxable valuation for four (4) years, the years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, for the purpose of continuing the operation of the Dial-A-Ride transportation System, by the Thunder Bay Transportation Authority System in the existing Dial-A-Ride service area; the estimate of the revenue the City will receive in 2012 if the millage is approved and levied in the 2012 calendar is approximately \$161,463.35 from local property taxes? (This is a renewal of the current .65 mill levy for public transportation purposes.)

Yes

No

**Resolution to place amendment of certain portions of the
City Charter on the November 8, 2011 General Election Ballot**

Charter Amendment Proposal No. 1

The Amendment would repeal Chapter 8 of the Charter of the City of Alpena adopted on March 13, 1944. That Chapter established a Municipal Court including a Judge and the attendant responsibilities thereto. Said Court has been abolished by state law and replaced by the District Court system for the State of Michigan.

Shall Chapter 8 of the Charter of the City of Alpena adopted March 13, 1944 be repealed?

Yes No

Charter Amendment Proposal No. 2

The Amendment would revise Chapter 3, Section 3.1 of the Charter of the City of Alpena adopted on March 13, 1944 in that officers to be elected at large would no longer include a Municipal Judge and a Constable.

Shall Chapter 3, Section 3.1 of the Charter of the City of Alpena adopted March 13, 1944 be revised to eliminate the Office of Municipal Judge and Constable?

Yes No

Charter Amendment Proposal No. 3

This Amendment would revise Chapter 3, Section 3.3 -Elective Officers to provide that the elected officers would take office on the first Monday following January 1st consistent with state election laws,

Shall Chapter 3, Section 3.3-Elective Officers be amended to provide consistency with state election laws?

Yes No

Charter Amendment Proposal No. 4

This Amendment would revise Chapter 3, Section 3.10- Oath and Bond of Office-Failure to Take Vacates Office to provide that the elected officers file their oath of office and any required bond by the first Council Meeting in January following the General election.

Shall Chapter 3 Section 3.10 of the Charter of the City of Alpena adopted March 13, 1944 be so amended?

Yes No

Charter Amendment Proposal No. 5

The Amendment would revise Chapter 4, Section 4.2-Salaries of Council Members to provide that remuneration for services of Council Members and the compensation for the Mayor be determined by the Local Officers Compensation Commission.

Shall Chapter 4, Section 4.2 of the Charter of the City of Alpena adopted March 13, 1944 be so amended?

Yes No

Charter Amendment Proposal No. 6

The Amendment would revise Chapter 4, Section 4.7-Special Meetings of the Council to reduce the notice time for special meetings to 18 hours and provide that notice may also be served by e-mail or facsimile which coincides with existing state law.

Shall Chapter 4, Section 4.7 of the Charter of the City of Alpena adopted March 13, 1944 be so amended? Yes No

Charter Amendment Proposal No. 7

The Amendment would repeal Chapter 7, Section 7.9-Health Officer which provides that the city employ a qualified physician or a Doctor of Public Health as the Health Officer for the city. A Health Officer is no longer required pursuant to the formation of the District Health Department of the State of Michigan and other enforcing agencies that carry out the same intent and powers of those listed in Section 7.9.

Shall Chapter 7, Section 7.9 of the Charter of the City of Alpena adopted March 13, 1944 be repealed? Yes No

Charter Amendment Proposal No. 8

The Amendment would revise Chapter 7, Section 7.11-Purchasing Agent, subparagraph (b)-to increase the minimum amount required before the opportunity for competition be given for purchases and sales from \$500 to \$1,500.

Shall Chapter 7, Section 7.11 subparagraph (b) of the Charter of the City of Alpena adopted March 13, 1944 be so amended? Yes No

Charter Amendment Proposal No. 9

The Amendment would provide that Chapter 14-Elections, and Sections 14.1 through 14.15 shall be read in conjunction with existing state election laws and if any of the said provisions conflict with state election law, current state election law at the time of the dispute shall prevail.

Shall Chapter 14 of the Charter of the City of Alpena adopted March 13, 1944 be so amended? Yes No

Charter Amendment Proposal No. 10

The Amendment would repeal Chapter 17-Alpena General Hospital, Section 17.1 through 17.8 which provide for a Hospital Commission, Organization of Board, Powers and duties of Board, Construction and Improvements, Disbursements for Hospital Purposes, Hospital Budgets, Hospital Receipts to City Treasurer and Hospital Rates. Chapter 17 should be entirely deleted as Alpena General Hospital was transferred to the County of Alpena in 1973 and this provision is now obsolete.

Shall Chapter 17 of the Charter of the City of Alpena adopted March 13, 1944 be repealed? Yes No