

Valley Home Builders Association
“Builders’ Ballot” – Responses to Candidate Questionnaires
Pre-Primary, September 2010

Office: Michelle Litjens
Candidate: 56th Assembly
Website: www.votelitjens.com

In order of importance, please list three factors that motivate you to run for this office:

1. Out of touch legislators
2. Excessive taxation and regulation forcing residents and industry out of our state
3. Opportunity to change direction of state with 23 Legislators resigning.

What leadership qualities and experience do you bring to the office you're seeking?

I am a small business owner with my husband for more than 15 years. I have led our business through many projects, lenders, partnerships, customers and investors. A few of these experiences proved to be negative financially but we learned and moved on. I've physically assisted my husband in countless building projects, I'm not afraid to get my hands dirty and work hard. I have held leadership positions in over a dozen private organizations ranging from Winnebago Apartment Association, Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, Winnebago Republican Party, Wisconsin Republican Party, Oshkosh Catholic School committees and other organizations ranging the spectrum from fundraising, hiring, convention planning, building expansions and organizational consolidation. I search out people who know more about a specific issue that I do when I don't know an answer. I work well with others.

Please list the three most important things you would like to accomplish during your term of office:

1. Balance the budget and stop the train from Milwaukee to Madison.
2. End "Binding Arbitration"
3. Make Wisconsin a part-time legislature like 40 other states

Please list your understandings of three challenges currently facing the housing industry and small business:

1. The economy: people need secure jobs and we need people to move to WI to encourage housing growth
2. Regulation - local and state government
3. Smart Growth/Working Lands Initiative/Farmland Preservation Program

What can the state legislature do to affect meaningful, positive change for the housing industry?

I am hopeful that after the election there will be a serious paradigm shift politically in Madison. We must cut unnecessary regulation and reduce the excessive tax burden that drives up property taxes which is a disincentive to build new real-estate in Wisconsin.

What is your position on a moratorium on new regulations on housing until the industry recovers? Strongly oppose

What is your position on statewide legislation requiring fire sprinklers in all new one- and two-family homes?
Strongly oppose

What is your position on separating the Department of Natural Resources into two agencies, one pertaining to outdoorsmen issues and one pertaining to environmental/development issues? Support

What is your position on the potential roll-back of changes to prevailing wage laws that were passed in the last state budget? Strongly support

What is your position on a potential roll-back of the conversion fee on agricultural land that was passed into the last state budget? Strongly support

What is your position on the potential of changing the appointment of the DNR Secretary from an appointment by the Governor to an appointment by the Natural Resources Board? Strongly oppose

In order of importance, please list three areas you would pursue to lead to a balanced state budget:

1. Do not increase any taxes to balance the budget
2. Stop the train! Find fat in numerous state agencies (reward public employees for cost saving ideas)
3. Reduce policies that cause businesses to lay off employees or even leave Wisconsin

What do you know about Valley Home Builders Association, and what are your impressions of the organization and its members? I am a member of Winnebago Home Builders. I know WHBA and VHBA members to be very active members of the Fox Valley community. They are small business owners from every area of the building industry - the back bone of our country.

What can VHBA do to assist you, if elected, in your role as a policy maker? In order to be a good representative, I would need to be able to talk with people on the ground who are affected by state regulations, etc. so that I can be fully informed about the issues. I also know that people who work in a highly regulated industry often have ideas of how to make their industry more user friendly and I would encourage suggestions of ideas to make Wisconsin a more competitive state to do business.

If elected, will you meet with association leaders to discuss issues of importance to homeowners and the housing industry?

Yes