**Bill Albert**

Education: Brighton High School Alumni

Hillsdale College B.A. in Financial Management, Minor in Politics

My wife and I were born and raised in Brighton and are graduates of Brighton High School. After graduating from college and getting married, we decided to move back to our hometown and we currently enjoy living a few blocks from Main Street. Since moving back to Brighton, I became engaged with city government and in 2019 I was appointed to the Downtown Development Authority. As the resident appointee on the DDA, it is my job to be the voice of residents in the city and make sure their voice is heard. I will continue this approach if elected to Brighton City Council.

I am running to bring a fresh perspective to City Council. One that is youthful, energetic and provides new insights to problems facing the city. I am not someone who has an extensive background in politics or city government, and I do not have a personal agenda to advance. I am simply a resident who was born and raised in Brighton and wants to see our town continue to thrive. My number one goal: do what is best for Brighton’s residents and businesses.

I will operate under the premise of fiscal restraint while continuing to provide excellent services to our residents and a friendly environment for our businesses. It will be my goal to approach each council meeting with an open mind and commit to listening to all viewpoints of an issue before voting. I will provide levelheaded and clear minded insight on any issue that comes before council.

I look forward to serving the residents of the City of Brighton on Council and I ask for your vote on August 3rd and November 2nd.

**Susan Bakhaus**

-age: 66

-spouse Mark Bakhaus

-family: blended family of 12 children, but empty nesters

- employment: retired legal assistant

-education: college for nursing and business/marketing. Currently taking on line classes in International property rights

-Moved to city of Brighton in 1976 via a job transfer for Kmart.

-Started attending city meetings in 2003 (17 years ago) to get the cable tv discount for seniors.

-Whether it's 7:15am or 7:30pm, I'm in  attendance at all city meetings.

-Also attend retreat, budget, tax Board of Review meetings, along with the Brighton Fire Authority and city bid openings.

-Volunteer- United Way, American Red Cross, Rotary, Optimists, Brighton Chamber, Taste of Brighton, Balloonfest. Along with raising puppies for Leader Dog for the blind.

-Elected: been a city precinct #2 delegate for over 20 years.

City needs a council member that is in full knowledge of the past, present and future of the city. Being a member shouldn't be an on the job training one.

City has an 17.4 million dollar bond debt to pay off. Utilities debt without enough income to cover. Future projects that should not fall to the pockets of tax payers. I believe the city should be on the pay-as-you-go for projects and not continually borrower money from general fund, take out bonds, or pass on costs to property owners.

-Sitting on city council is NOT a two meetings a month job. There are liaison positions, subcommittees, calls and emails from public, documents to review, etc.

Getting elected to city of Brighton city council, I will still continue to attend any and all meetings because attending all, allows the council member to be 100% informed prior to council meetings.

**Jon Emaus**

How long have you been a resident in the area?

15 years

Education

B.A. Political Science and Economics - U of M Juris Doctor - Wayne State

*What in your education and experience make you the best qualified candidate for this position?*
I have served 5 years on the City Council, have degrees in Political Science and Economics, and Law, and have served at the executive policy level of corporations for 15 years. When it comes to making difficult policy decisions for our community of citizens and businesses, I have a distinct skill set to contribute. I believe the best qualified candidates are those that have either an education or experience that achieves an understanding of the complex economic and fiscal issues, coupled with the understanding that no matter what policy decisions are made, there will always be happy and unhappy people. I strive to draw upon both my education and my experience to make informed decisions that impact the lives of both my family and my community now and for the future.

*What are your specific goals for the office and how will you work to accomplish them?*
I have worked very hard over the past five years on the following and would like to continue to improve these particular areas: 1. a secure, balanced budget now and into the future; 2. restoring our infrastructure and capital including our streets, sidewalks, and equipment; and 3. continuing to improve our neighborhoods and offerings to provide our children a place that they want to stay and raise a family in.

*What do you see as the biggest challenges facing Brighton in the next five years?*
Revenue. While the costs of everything has continued to rise over the last ten years, and more specifically during the pandemic, our ability to collect revenue to keep up and improve our community continues to be challenging. Since most people, including me, do not want their taxes to increase, we have to be more innovative and entrepreneurial, finding outside-of-the-box thinkers to solve an economic problem that has high demand for a quality community but a constrained supply of funds to achieve it. You cannot solve modern problems with outdated thinking.

*What changes would you like to see in the direction of Brighton City Council?*
We need more innovative and progressive initiatives to solve our budget constraints. There is no doubt that every Councilperson and candidate wants nice things for the community, but wanting nice things and developing a fiscally responsible path to achieve them are two very different things. Since there is not much left to cut from the budget without harming important stakeholders or services, we need to work to find new ways to improve our community while continuing to take care of our retirees, our streets, our police, and our city services. While I can appreciate that there are some community stakeholders that do not want to see the community change at all, the problem is that the costs, regulations, and compliance challenges facing the city are constantly increasing. We have to find new ways to address these challenges other than raising taxes, which will require some change.

*Which areas of the city budget would you fight to retain or increase? Which areas would you be willing to cut?*
I will absolutely continue to fight to fund our infrastructure, capital, retiree healthcare, and pensions. All of these need to be increased in significant amounts. While no one enjoys construction or gets very excited about asphalt and concrete, Council will continue to hear about it as it degrades. We are facing a hundred million dollar need with a total general fund budget of less than ten million, much of which is used in daily operations. In a very simplistic sense, it is similar to running our own household:. We have to keep food on the table and a roof over our heads, find a way to put money away for college and retirement, all while considering whether cable TV and eating out as a family can fit into that budget. It comes down to the wants versus the needs of a City. While I have been in favor of cutting most of our wants to fund our needs, there still needs to be a balance so that we can enjoy the hard work everyone is putting in.

**Jordan Genso**

I've spent over a decade doing what I could to be a 'servant' to the community. From official roles, like serving as Board President at FlexTech High School, or my current position as treasurer for the Brighton District Library Board of Trustees, to some more informal efforts such as coaching my kindergartener's soccer team or being a mentor in the 'Big Brothers Big Sisters' program -- I have tried to volunteer my time to serve the community whenever possible.

As a Realtor by profession, one thing I've noticed however is that the city of Brighton could benefit from having a more distinct community, to separate itself a little from the townships. When potential homebuyers are deciding between living in the city or a surrounding township, I believe there are some things the city could do to be an even more-attractive option. Once elected, I plan to focus my efforts on building that distinct 'Brighton community'. An idea I have is to collaborate with nearby cities and villages such as Howell, South Lyon, Milford & Pinckney to plan events together, just for the residents in our respective municipalities. Possibly a 'small town league' of friendly competitions, from pie baking contests, to blood donation drives, or a kids' punt-pass-kick competition -- anything that could help foster a sense of "team spirit", where you need to be a resident in the actual municipality to be part of the team. It would be a little-to-no-cost way for people to see a greater difference between buying in the city vs somewhere else.

When I informed the current city council of my intended candidacy several months ago, I wanted to make it clear that I am not running in opposition to the incumbents. I admire the discussions that take place on our city council, where even if I disagree with one of the members' positions on an issue, I recognize the validity of their points and respect that they are serving with honorable sincerity. It's a place for intelligent discourse, and I believe I can contribute to it.

**Paul Gipson**

My wife and I moved to the City seven years ago to start our family. The decision was easy and has yet to disappoint. Nothing came close to matching the location, community, and schools.

We enjoy our weekend walks to the Mill Pond, attending mass at St. Patrick’s, and going to sleep each night in a safe neighborhood. That is “Our Brighton.” “Your Brighton” is likely different. Yet, we all live in the “Same Brighton” because it offers so much. That is what I want to ensure for the next generation.

I am a civil defense trial attorney, which is more about honesty, common sense, and bringing people together than hearing yourself talk in a courtroom. Simply put, my job is to incur as few costs as possible while paying a little as possible. It requires listening, anticipating, and, most importantly, being open to being wrong.

I would not be very good at what I do if I was not open to opposing opinions and the evolving opportunities to connect them. It is about being interested in results and not recognition. It is **always** **practical** and **never political**. That is what I have to offer to the City of Brighton.

I have a B.S. in Biochemistry/Biotechnology from Michigan State University and a J.D. from Ave Maria School of Law.

My wife is a dentist at V.A. Ann Arbor.

We have two children, ages three & five.

**Daniel Huth**

Daniel Huth fielded nominating petitions to be a candidate for 1 of the 4 open Brighton City Council seats. As a relative newcomer, he is excited to bring his fresh insight to this race.

He has been a Brighton resident for 6 years, where he and his wife are raising their beautiful 2 year old daughter. Daniel is proud to be a stay-at-home dad, and considers himself blessed to spend each day with his little girl. “Everything I do is for my family, including this run for City Council. I am excited to raise my family in this great city, and I am deeply invested in our shared future.”

Previously, Daniel has served in churches as a Minister of Youth. In this role he has had to work with both pastoral and volunteer leaders to achieve the goals of the congregation. “I have often been called upon to come up with some creative suggestions to tough problems, and each time, I proudly worked with my fellow staff members, parents, and students to get where we needed. I am confident I can bring this skill to Brighton City Council.”

Additionally, he has almost 10 years experience in the service industry. Having Worked in both restaurant and retail environments, Daniel has had to work hard to gain the trust of his customers. “I love the satisfaction that comes with connecting my customers with a great product. I want to build that trust with people so that a first-time customer turns into a regular. I will bring this same attitude to the City Council. I want to be a part of a local government that provides quality services for all residents, and ensure everyone has a chance to live their best life in our beautiful city.”

Daniel’s priorities for his time in City Council include continuing upgrades to Brighton’s infrastructure, supporting our robust public services, and most importantly to advocate for measures to ensure a safe, inclusive community for all of our citizens.

“I am running this campaign for our families. I want to look my daughter in the eyes and know that what we accomplished has made a difference. All Brighton residents deserve to live in a city that is not just growing numerically, but also in empathy and love for all of our neighbors. If our decisions on City Council can make even small progress in these aims, it will all be worth it!

**Renee Pettengill – (Information from City of Brighton website)**

Renee Pettengill is a hard-working member of Brighton's City Council, focused on preserving our quality-of-life and delivering good city services.  She plans to continue to work diligently with the City Council and staff to create a strategy that will support growth and culture in the City of Brighton without jeopardizing the small town feel and sense of community that so many of us love. " My goal is to ensure that Brighton continues to improve and remains an outstanding place to live and conduct business."

Councilmember Pettengill is a very active member of the community. She divides her time volunteering with various organizations around town such as Bountiful Harvest, The Imagination Station, Boy Scouts, Optimist Club, Chamber of Commerce and city events. She also coaches the Scranton Middle school tennis team and serves two positions on the committee for Troop 350.

Renee started working in community engagement in 2012, for Cornerstone Schools in Detroit. She is currently the Cornerstone For Life Manager where she is dedicated to changing the lives of inner city youth by working with them to build careers in skilled trades.

Renee is highly respected by our downtown merchants because of her continued "boots on the ground" communication. She listens and delivers. Strong relationships with the downtown merchants began to form in 2011 while she fought for the restoration of the beloved Imagination Station located in the heart of our downtown.

Renee and her husband Stuart will celebrate their 19th year of marriage this year. They have two children enrolled in BAS. The Pettengill family is proud to call downtown Brighton their home where they are often found strolling the tridges, dining, shopping, playing tennis, and enjoying the Imagination Station.

Currently serving on the City Council, Zoning Board of Appeals, Traffic Safety Advisory Board, Recession Recovery Committee and served as Vice-Chair of the Brighton 150th Committee and the Environmental Council.

**Kristoffer Tobbe – (Information from City of Brighton website)**

With over 10 years spent in governmental services, Kristoffer has established an in-depth knowledge base of the mechanisms that move private and public organizations throughout Michigan. Kristoffer hopes these observations can be used to aid in the process of creating more efficient and effective methodologies that move the business of government forward through the use of technology as well as direct management and the reduction of bureaucracy.

Mr. Tobbe has managed numerous large technology projects, implementing technological and operational solutions that create improved communication and effective operational systems. Additionally, he has consulted on numerous ventures, both private and public, covering a variety of disciplines including strategy, development, managerial, technology, planning and marketing. Kristoffer believes in finding sustainable and viable options for challenges, both long and short term. Kristoffer has a Master's degree in Business Management from Walsh College complimented by a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration from Eastern Michigan University. Kristoffer has been very active in the community since completing graduate school and moving back home to the City of Brighton, where he grew up. He has served as a Trustee on the Brighton District Library since 2009 and served as President of the Board of Trustees in 2010. Kristoffer has also served as sub-committee Chairperson for the Advantage Livingston countywide strategic planning initiative. In 2010 Mr. Tobbe was appointed to sit on the City of Brighton Arts and Cultural Committee and has assisted in initiatives such as regular sculpture replacement, City of Brighton World Café planning and strategy sessions, the planning of the Brighton's newest park - the Brighton Arts and Cultural Committee Sculpture Garden, the Brighton Veterans Memorial, and the newly revised Mill Pond area master plan. As a member of our great community, Kristoffer strongly believes that integrity and actions speak volumes about a person. Humility and a strong desire to be a steward of, and for the people have led Kristoffer to public service and elected office. Kristoffer and his wife, Courtney, own and reside in one of downtown Brighton's Main Street homes, which the couple purchased in 2008. Their family has spent many long hours investing in the property, happily call the old house their permanent family residence. Kristoffer and Courtney have three young daughters who they are very proud of. They absolutely love living in the downtown Brighton community and walk to town to enjoy dining, shopping, and cultural events.

**Jennifer Winningham**

My platform is quite simple: God, Family, Country, Community. Standing together as one, for the good of all. Although the last line might be a bit of a pipedream as it seems someone is always dissatisfied, offended, or irate.  Nonetheless, I feel for too long politicians, lawmakers, and leaders have forgotten that government is of the people, by the people, for the people and not to control or diminish the people. From the basest levels of office to the highest it seems leaders are touting their own beliefs, benefits, and opinions and ignoring the will, thoughts, and voice of the people. As a mother of three school age children, working professional, and concerned citizen, it is my hope and desire to be involved at the community level to understand the concerns and issues of our residents and address them in a positive, constructive manner that ensures the best possible outcome for the Brighton community as well as those surrounding it. Furthermore, I have a special concern for our local businesses and families that have been negatively impacted by the Covid shutdowns and hope to focus efforts on assisting those most in need at this time if elected.