

Darian Bird

Candidate Information

Candidacy for:	Trustee
Campaign page:	www.votedarianbird.com
Email address:	Bird4Trustee@gmail.com
Occupation/Vocation:	Redford Township Deputy Clerk
Party	Democrat
Resident of Redford	20 years

All answers below are verbatim from the candidate's responses to the questionnaire. Edits were made to correct minor errors (e.g. misplaced apostrophe). Bracketed words are edits where words were inadvertently left out by the candidate. Unanswered questions are left blank.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Why are you running for office? I feel the representation on the board should resemble what our community looks like. We need young and fresh ideas. Not only that, but I am offering transparency to every voter. Every resident deserves to be "in-the-know" and not after the fact or with anything to hide.

What experience do you bring to the role for which you are running? I hold my bachelor degree in Political Science from Central Michigan University. While I do not hold much experience in relation to the Board of Trustees, but it is important that we all start somewhere and I wouldn't want to begin my journey anywhere else.

AFFORDABLE LIVING IN REDFORD

Do you consider Redford an affordable community for its current and prospective residents? Yes

Please explain your answer to the question above. How is it proving affordable? Or if unaffordable, what changes would you advocate to make it more so? Yes, I would consider Redford affordable in comparison to nearby communities. Redford also offers to the community, through the SNAP program, affordable housing for those who are in need.

REDFORD BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Is Redford's vision to be a business-friendly community succeeding? Undecided

How is Redford succeeding or not succeeding to be a business-friendly community? What specifically could the Board of Trustees do, if anything, to bring more businesses into Redford? I believe that Redford has a vision to be a business-friendly community, because we have been a revolving door in allowing businesses into the township. The board of trustees can advise and recommend businesses, but that is up to the Site Committee to allow the business in. Now, if the township decided to be strategic in purchasing land around downtown to allow certain businesses in...that is something the board can do.

CRIME/POLICE

With the current challenge to recruit new officers into the police department, do you believe safety and security in Redford are at risk? Yes

Please share your thoughts on police officer recruitment and its impact on the safety and security of the community. Having done research on surrounding communities, the better incentives given, the easier it is to recruit police officers. We need to be diligent in our recruitment efforts to ensure the safety of the community. The more officers, the quicker the response times and the ability to keep all officers at their posts and not taking someone away to fill a need.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

In light of today's divisive cultural climate, there is debate on whether the current restriction of speech which threatens or incites direct physical violence should be expanded to include speech perceived as emotionally or spiritually harmful (or "hate speech" as it is often called).

Do you support modifying the free speech standard to disallow speech that is perceived as emotionally or spiritually harmful? No

Please explain your position regarding speech that is perceived as emotionally/spiritually harmful and how it relates to the First Amendment. The First Amendment broadly protects the rights to free speech. Free speech means the free and public expression of opinions without censorship, interference, or restraint by the government. Speeches that are "perceived" as emotionally or spiritually harmful can be just that...opinionated. Hate speech is in no way okay, however, limiting speech based on what someone perceives can muddy the waters and allow for technicalities, something not needed within government.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES

Do you believe the promotion of DEI initiatives in Redford Township's government and community activities is beneficial or not beneficial?

Beneficial

Please share the pros and cons that you see related to DEI either in principle or implementation. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion provide advantages related to those who do not or feel they do not belong. Specifically for me, as a young black man, it is important to me that I feel represented.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Do you believe humanity's impact on climate change poses an immediate threat to the Redford community? No

Please share how Redford should respond to this issue. While climate change is real, I am not seeing a direct impact on the residents of Redford Twp. just yet.

PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

Who do you consider the most vulnerable and in need of protection in Redford? Young people

Please share how you would like to see these vulnerable persons ensured greater protection in the Redford community. In my opinion, the most vulnerable and most in need of protection are the generation of today. We need to protect our young people, primarily from themselves. It's tempting to get into things that you shouldn't. Sometimes, it's easy because it could be happening in their everyday lives. We need to have resources available to involve young folks in the community and not only that, but give them a sense of community. Young people don't get involved in politics because they feel it doesn't benefit them (yet)...let's change that mindset first.

ENGAGING WITH THE FAITH COMMUNITY

Redford has a diverse faith community, many of whom are practicing some form of Christianity and attending one of the local churches. This questionnaire has been developed for these practicing Christians.

Are you regularly engaged with a local church either in Redford or in a nearby city? Yes

ENDORSEMENTS

Please list any organizations or public figures who have given you their endorsement. Linda Jackson, Garth Christie, Redford Cemetery

CONCLUDING WORDS

In 10 words or less, what do you consider the most pressing need for Redford Township? This brief answer will be included in the printed voter guide. Seeking funding to invest in new and future businesses.

Feel free to share additional comments to the question above. With these funds, we can continue to grow local businesses and develop a way to bring in additional businesses. Redford Township is simply a "crossover" town, many ride through to get to the next city over. Seeking grants and funding is a priority. The more revenue, the faster we can grow this place to where we desire it to be.