

What you should know about...

Gaines Charter Township

Putting all the pieces together...



Gaines Charter Township Hall-8555 Kalamazoo Ave., SE, Caledonia, MI 49316

Board Meetings...

All meetings are held at the **Gaines Charter Township** office located at 8555 Kalamazoo Ave., SE, Caledonia, MI 49316.

The **Township Board of Trustees** meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 7:00 PM

The **Planning Commission** meets the 4th Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM

The **Zoning Board of Appeals** meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM (as needed)

Board, Commission and Committee meetings are posted on our website calendar (www.gainestownship.org) and on the bulletin board just inside the main entrance to the Township Hall.

Township Government is Citizen Government!

Michigan's local government structure can be a bit bewildering. Michigan's 1,242 townships govern the vast majority of Michigan's land area, and serve over forty-five percent of Michigan's residents. Townships were the brainchild of Thomas Jefferson and were created before Michigan became a state. Andrew Jackson's philosophy of direct democracy further shaped the Township Government that serves and thrives today.

In Townships, citizens contribute their talents, skills and ideas to preserve the quality of life and to deliver important programs and services.

Township officials live in the communities they serve and stay in touch with ever changing needs. Limited by law in the amount of taxes they can levy, Township officials are creative in delivering quality services with the least possible burden to taxpayers.

Your township government ensures that the community's health and safety needs are adequately addressed. Whether through its own police, fire and emergency medical services departments, or in cooperation with other governmental and private organizations, townships have evolved as the primary provider for essential public safety services.

Balancing private property rights, and the impact on the community resulting from land use decisions, is a very important township responsibility. Township governments also make communities more pleasant places to live by providing leisure and recreational activities.

Townships do not have direct responsibility for roads and drains, but they cooperate with county agencies that have direct responsibility for these services and our court systems.

Townships embody the values of "grassroots government..."

What you should know about...

How are Townships Governed...

The Township Board consists of a Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and depending on the township's population, two or four trustees. Each of these officials have specific duties that contribute to effective township governance.

The elected members of the Township Board adopt an annual budget that determines the scope and character of township services. They also adopt ordinances to protect the community's health, safety and welfare. The Township Board oversees township programs and services.

Elected Township Board members also oversee administration of important township functions. For example, the Township Supervisor, besides moderating meetings, also ensures that assessments on taxable property conform to state laws; and the Township Clerk has custody of vital records, accounts for Township finances, and oversees elections conducted by the township. The Township Treasurer collects taxes for the township, schools, county and other levying entities. Trustees also perform other duties as directed by the Township Board.

How can you get involved...

Your township government welcomes citizen involvement, many township programs and services rely on volunteers. Citizens serve on appointed boards, commission and committees that decide important public issues. Some townships hold annual meetings where lectors directly participate in decisions allowed by law.

Democracy is Government by the people. While Township Boards are lawfully responsible for township governance, the Township Board needs to hear the perspective and views of residents on many issues. Keeping abreast of township issues and providing your viewpoint on issues is essential to township success.

If you are a resident of Gaines Charter Township, 18, and would like to serve on a board or committee, go to the Gaines Charter Township web page (www.gainestownship.org) under "I want to: (FAQ) click on "To serve on a Board or Committee" and complete the application.

GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP POPULATION

1980	10,364
1990	14,533
2000	20,112
2010	25,146



Gaines Charter Township Elected Officials 2016 – 2020

Supervisor

Robert DeWard

robert.deward@gainestownship.org

Clerk

Angela Burnside

angela.burnside@gainestownship.org

Treasurer

Laurie Lemke

laurie.lemke@gainestownship.org

Trustees:

Dan Fryling

dan.fryling@gainestownship.org

Tim Haagsma

tim.haagsma@gainestownship.org

Crystal Osterink

crystal.osterink@gainestownship.org

Kathy Vander Stel

kathy.vanderstel@gainestownship.org

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