



Hello,

I live three blocks from City Councilmember John Gawlas (who is running for re-election on the August 5th Democratic primary ballot). Last year my home was broken into twice in two days. Then, I was attacked and robbed in my yard, leaving me with \$3,000 in medical bills! **This is why I'm tired of hearing from John Gawlas and his friends on City Council how good our city is and how much our City Council is doing for us.**

Questionable Decision-Making

While we have the highest tax rates in Washtenaw County, the city rolled the dice on the Water Street real estate speculation and came up short! **It seems our elected officials like Mr. Gawlas were easy marks for the developers, who took our money and left us with the bills.** As a member of City Council, John Gawlas has been very good at:

1. Giving away tax abatements and property for questionable projects;
2. Looking the other way while police complaints are pulled to prevent investigation; and
3. Condoning the past Mayor's under-the-table policies of "encouraging" of city employees to be "team players" or lose their jobs (those who kept their integrity got fired).

Unreasonable Tax Giveaways

The 400 tax-free units at Peninsula Place Apts. were granted an unreasonable advantage by John Gawlas and City Council, which resulted in more foreclosures elsewhere around the EMU campus. The loss of city tax revenue elsewhere as a result of Mr. Gawlas' giveaways is like the unanticipated rise in food prices coming from government subsidies for ethanol production. However, we need to be charitable to Mr. Gawlas: People who could blow \$30 Million on Water Street can hardly be expected to foresee the consequences of his decisions!

No Credibility

For years the News has trumpeted the Water Street scheme without serious examination – they've been more interested in selling newspapers than publishing facts about the city's financial health! **When it comes to next Tuesday's election, what kind of credibility does the Ann Arbor News have to tell us to vote for Gawlas anyway?** Remember, it was the News that argued last year that a city income tax was good for Ypsilanti, but bad for Ann Arbor!

If we just keep electing the same out-of-touch people who have brought us the financial misery of Water Street, we can't expect things to change for the better. Mr. Gawlas may be a nice guy and he may mean well, but this election on August 5th is about our safety and our economic well-being. We need a positive change in Ward 2. **We don't need more of the same from Mr. Gawlas.**

We need someone representing Ward 2 who will exercise common sense and fiscal restraint, and who will always put neighborhood safety first. **Please vote on August 5th for Michael Bodary as our next City Council representative.**

