



For immediate release

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Current, Former Ottawa County Republican Commissioners Endorse Democrat Marcia Mansaray for State Representative

Marcia Mansaray, Democrat running for State House District 85, is honored to announce the endorsements of her campaign by four current and former Republican Ottawa County Commissioners. Current commissioner Roger Bergman, and former Commissioners Al Dannenberg, Greg De Jong, and Matt Fenske, all agree in prioritizing the person over political party — and that Mansaray is the best candidate in the race for the 85th House District.

A far-right, extremist political action committee called Ottawa Impact (OI) was formed in 2021 to finance and run their aligned candidates for local elected office in Ottawa County under the Republican banner. One objective of OI was to oust Republican then-members of the county’s Board of Commissioners, many of whom had served for years, honorably and in the best interests of county residents. However, OI promoted that these members were responsible for COVID-19 decisions, despite two separate legal opinions agreeing that the Board lacked authority to intervene in the pandemic orders.

Eight candidates signed a [contract with OI](#) and filed to run for County Commissioner as Republicans. By July 2022, the primary elections became highly contentious and OI candidates participated in several public attacks on Ottawa County Department of Public Health programs. Mansaray and her colleagues repeatedly fended off false narratives and pushed through to provide the public with accurate information. Ottawa Impact also succeeded in convincing the Right to Life organization to switch endorsements of the current Republican commissioners to the well-financed OI candidates.

Just weeks before the 2022 primary, the leadership of the Ottawa County GOP took the unprecedented step of voting to censure six incumbent commissioners for accepting invitations to speak to voters at events put on by local nonpartisan groups. The Ottawa County GOP Executive Committee claimed the incumbents were “publicly embracing Democrat interference in the Republican primary.” Michigan has open primaries and doesn’t require voters to affiliate with any party. Michigan voters have a right to vote in any primary they choose.

Less than three weeks later, five of the six censured incumbents lost their races in the Republican primary to OI opponents.

One Ottawa GOP Executive Committee member who voted to censure his fellow members was Bradley Slagh. His vote surprised the commissioners, as they had worked well with Slagh for years when he was the County Treasurer and as a fellow Republican. Slagh doubled down on his public association with OI when he invited Joe Moss, leader of OI, to be his guest of honor at the Governor's State of the State event on January 25, 2023. Slagh continued to affirm his association, bringing OI-aligned Georgetown Township Clerk Ryan Kidd as his guest to this year's event on January 24, 2024.

Slagh is the Republican incumbent running for Representative in the Michigan State Legislature against Democratic candidate Marcia Mansaray.

Mansaray is known as the former Deputy Health Officer for the Ottawa County Department of Public Health, who was sued by OI's supporters, including Moss' private school, during the pandemic in federal and state lawsuits, which the County won. In 2023, she emerged as a resident with a courageous voice for the community in the fight against OI assaults on good governance, responsible spending, public health, and public transparency. Her professional and grassroots work has drawn the attention of ABC News, The Washington Post, and scores of regional news outlets as Ottawa County continues to struggle with decreased health services, multiple lawsuits, and a lack of transparency in government decision-making under Moss and his extremist Ottawa Impact commissioners.

Mansaray, now retired, intends to carry her experience – and the fortitude she gained from it – to the Michigan legislature as a much-needed voice for strengthening state laws on government transparency and responsible spending, clarifying the public health code, and protecting the quality of water in Michigan.

“I am honored and proud to be endorsed by people I worked closely with at the county,” Mansaray said. “These men have been exceptional mentors during a historic, contentious, and difficult time. They exhibited what it means to be a servant leader, putting their community first even when it cost them personally. They showed me what it means to count the cost and then do the right thing.”

A few commissioners attended the July 2022 meeting where the motion for censure was discussed and voted on. They tried to counter false and meaningless accusations without success. Shocked and frustrated, most of them left the meeting. GOP Executive Committee member and county commissioner Greg De Jong was the only one who stayed until the meeting's end.

“How do I know that Brad Slagh voted to censure us and help extremists get elected? I was there, he was there, no one abstained, and when they called for the vote, I was the only ‘No’,” said De Jong. “I felt betrayed by that false and sneaky vote. He used to be at the county, too. That's not how good people work.”

All four now say that Mansaray is the candidate in this race who is independent of the influence of OI. “She's proven herself. We believe in her. We stand with those who are honest and keep their word.”

Al Dannenberg is excited that Mansaray is willing to run against Slagh and go to Lansing to get things done, “She's been through a lot. I'm encouraging Marcia to stand strong and not give up. She has a tough district, but I believe she can win this race. What she wants to do will help to protect the good of all in Michigan.”

Roger Bergman and Matt Fenske agree that there are already those in the Michigan Legislature that align with OI. “The choice here is not Republican or Democrat, but Ottawa Impact or someone who is clearly not in the

palm of Ottawa Impact. We don't want the nonsense happening in Ottawa County brought to Lansing. Marcia Mansaray is a fresh and independent voice - and the right candidate for State Representative.”

To learn more about Mansaray and to find out how you can support her campaign, please visit marciaformichigan.com and follow her on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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Photographs included below

Paid for with regulated funds from the Committee to Elect Marcia Mansaray, PO Box 1003, Holland, MI 49422



The four commissioners censured by the OC GOP Executive Committee in 2022 meet with Marcia (holding her campaign sign) as they formally endorse her for State Representative – 85th District. (L to R: Al Dannenberg, Matt Fenske, Marcia Mansaray, Roger Bergman, Greg De Jong)



Mansaray and the four current and former commissioners celebrate. August 2024.
(L to R: Matt Fenske, Greg De Jong, Al Dannenberg, Marcia Mansaray, Roger Bergman)



Commissioner Roger Bergman stands in support of candidate Marcia Mansaray. August 2024.



Former commissioner Al Dannenberg stands in support of candidate Marcia Mansaray. August 2024.



Former commissioner Greg De Jong stands in support of candidate Marcia Mansaray. August 2024.



Former commissioner and Chairperson Matt Fenske stands in support of candidate Marcia Mansaray. August 2024.



Representative Bradley Slagh (right) stands with his guest Joe Moss, leader of Ottawa Impact and Chairperson of the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners (left), at the Governor's State of the State event on January 25, 2023.



At the Governor's State of the State event on January 24, 2024, State Representative Bradley Slagh (right) stands with his guest, Ryan Kidd (left). As Georgetown Township Clerk and Parade Chairperson, Kidd promoted the Ottawa Impact PAC to the Georgetown Township Board as an organization desiring to take over full sponsorship of the 2021 Jenison Memorial Day Parade after Kenowa AMBUCS canceled the parade that year as a part of COVID-19 mitigation efforts.