

It's time to flip Michigan!

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Hard Work | Knowledge | Leadership

**The Julie
Brixie
BLUE WAVE FUND!**

MEDIA BIO

After earning my Master's degree in crop and soil sciences with a specialization in environmental toxicology, I ran a mobile laboratory, conducting investigations and cleanups of contaminated sites all over Michigan.

One still stands out – the 24-acre Motor Wheel, Inc. Superfund site in Lansing. Identified as one of the worst hazardous waste sites in our nation by the EPA, Motor Wheel used the land as a disposal site for industrial waste for decades – 1938 to 1971 – contaminating our soil, ground water, sediment and the Grand River with hazardous chemicals.

Then, in 1998, my neighbors urged me to get involved and help fight the commercial encroachment of our neighborhood. I filled out an application for public service with Meridian Township to help advocate for my neighborhood and the rest is history.

After serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission in 1998 and 1999, I was elected to the Meridian Township Board, where I served my community for 18 years – two terms as a Trustee and three terms as Treasurer.

Two Decades of Service to Meridian Township:

- As a member of the Meridian Township Board, I helped generate \$1.4 billion of sustainable investment and growth in property values. I did this while placing 954 acres of ecologically-valuable land, over 16% of our available land, into the public trust for permanent preservation. Meridian Township's Land Preservation Program was the first of its kind in Michigan.
- I invested Meridian Township in clean, smart renewable energy, brought curbside recycling to every home and helped pass Ingham County's farm preservation millage.
- While most communities and counties across our state are grappling with unfunded pension and retiree health care plans, I got to work and put Meridian Township in the strongest financial health of any community in Michigan. I developed and implemented a comprehensive plan to fully fund Meridian Township's retirement plans.

Together, we can realize a brighter future!

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Dan Opsommer - Treasurer | Printed In House - Labor Donated

- While many talk about fixing our roads, I've been leading the effort for two decades. In my first year on the Meridian Township Board, I invested an additional \$1 million to help repair our neighborhood roads, which had been neglected for years and were in really rough shape.

I also helped create our neighborhood road millage and continued investing hundreds of thousands of dollars from Meridian Township's General Fund every year to maintain our neighborhood roads and protect our property values as the state and county failed to do so.

- I helped raise over \$50,000 to support the relocation and expansion of the Haslett and Okemos Libraries to larger facilities that meet the needs of 21st-Century libraries without having to raise taxes.

After spending the last 20 years helping Meridian Township weather two recessions and chart a prosperous course for our future, I knew my hard work, knowledge and leadership was needed far more at our state Capitol.

Party: Democrat

Contact State Rep. Julie Brixie:

Cell: 517.648.0204

Email: julie@juliebrixie.com

Contact Dan Opsommer, Chief of Staff:

Cell: 517.281.6034

Email: danielopsommer@gmail.com

Julie Brixie for State Representative Treasurer:

Former State Rep. Mark Meadows and current Mayor of East Lansing Mark Meadows

Brixie Blue Wave Fund Treasurer

Meridian Township Trustee Dan Opsommer

Birth Place: Chicago, IL

Marital Status: Married

Children: Three girls: Madeline, Annika and Heidi

Religion: Catholic

EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Geography; University of Illinois; 1988
- Master's Degree in Crop and Soil Sciences with a specialization in Environmental Toxicology; Michigan State University; 1991

CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Michigan Municipal Treasurer
- Public Funds Investment Manager

AWARDS

- 2016 District Rotary Hero
- 2015 Meridian Township Environmental Stewardship Award

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

State Representative – 69th District, 2019-Present

- Representing the city of East Lansing, Michigan State University, and Meridian, Williamstown, and Locke Townships in Ingham County.

Meridian Township Treasurer, 2008 – 2018

- As Treasurer of Meridian Township, I served in both executive and legislative roles as a voting member of the Meridian Township Board and the director of the Treasurer's office.
- Administered the collection of \$115 million in annual property taxes and receipts (daily collection up to \$17 million). Meridian Township has a \$1.7 billion taxable value, the eighth largest Township in Michigan.
- Worked closely with 25 credit unions and banks to manage the Township's assets, cash flow, and investment portfolios to protect the principal with safe, diversified investments.

Meridian Township Trustee, 2000 – 2008

- During my 18 years serving on the Meridian Township Board, I worked on many issues and developed a wide array of ordinances and policies, including: regulation of small cell (5G) technology, environmental and wetlands protections that go well beyond federal and state standards, developed the state's first-ever local land preservation program (placed 954 acres into the public trust for permanent preservation), a medical marijuana ordinance crafted to adapt to recreational marijuana, implementation of a plan to fully fund Meridian Township's pension and OPEB plans, business incubators and incentives, agricultural preservation, etc.

Environmental Consultant, Michigan State University, 1996 – 1998

- Conducted research regarding the human health impact of the cattle-related PBB outbreak.
- Conducted research regarding the human health and fertility impact of PCB exposure from soil and sediments at the EPA's Kalamazoo River Superfund Site. A group of chemicals called polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) contaminated 80 miles of the Kalamazoo River, resulting in the human exposure I was tasked with conducting research on.

Environmental Consultant, Michigan Biotechnology Institute (MBI), 1994 – 1996

- As an environmental consultant, I automated MBI's gas sampling technique for testing air samples for volatile contaminants to ensure the most reliable, accurate and precise data for air quality monitoring.

Environmental Chemist, Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber (FTC&H), 1991 – 1994

- I ran a mobile laboratory and conducted investigations and cleanups of contaminated sites all across Michigan – but one stands out – the 24-acre Motor Wheel, Inc. Superfund site in Lansing. Identified as one of the worst hazardous waste sites in our nation by the EPA, Motor Wheel used the land as a disposal site for industrial waste for decades – 1938 to 1971 – contaminating our soil, ground water, sediment and the Grand River with hazardous chemicals.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 1988-1989

- Conducted soil mapping in Calhoun County, which our agriculture industry relies upon heavily for soil erosion control, soil fertility, crop yield, forestry, wetland identification, etc.
- Mapping wetlands and waters for the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.

OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Treasurer, Meridian Township Economic Development Corporation, 2008 – 2018
- Co-founder & Chair, Capital Area Treasurers Association, 2008 – 2018
- Board Member, Meridian Township Pension Board, 2008 – 2018
- Board Member, Meridian Township Land Preservation Board, 2012 – 2018
- Commissioner, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, 2015 – 2018
- Board Member, Capital Area Transportation Authority, 2013 – 2016
- Commissioner, Meridian Township Election Commission, 2000 – 2008
- Board Member, Tri-County Regional Groundwater Management Board, 2000 – 2008
- Commissioner, Meridian Township Planning Commission, 1999
- Board Member, Meridian Township Zoning Board of Appeals, 1998

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Member, Committee to Support the Ingham County Farmland Preservation Millage
- Co-Chair, Okemos Public Schools Reconfiguration Steering Committee
- Former President & Current Member, Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club
- Volunteer, Meridian Cares
- Volunteer, Weekend Survival Kit Backpack Program
- Volunteer, Michigan Recycling Coalition
- Member, Meridian Area Business Association
- Former Member, Chippewa Parent Group for Okemos Public Schools
- Former Vice President, Okemos Public Schools Parent Council
- Invasive Species Removal with Mid-Michigan Stewardship Network
- Tree Planting in the Towar Woods Land Preserve
- Adopt-A-Park Volunteer, Harris Nature Center
- Member, Okemos Public Schools Task Force
- Classroom Volunteer, Wardcliff Elementary and Central Elementary
- Job Interview Coach, Meridian Alternative High School
- Volunteer, St. Casimir Corn Roast Children's Games