

Aspire North REALTORS® 2025 Traverse City Candidate Questionnaire

Full name: Mary Mills

Office running for: City commission

Current position/occupation: Retired

List previous campaigns, elected office(s), boards, commissions, etc.:

Master plan, leadership team citizen, representative, commissioner on the board zoning appeals

Why are you running for office?

Traverse City deserves thoughtful development that fits the community. I believe in growth that doesn't sacrifice what makes Traverse City special.

Briefly describe your campaign strategy

When you have healthy neighborhoods, you have a healthy city

Why do you think you will win?

I believe I represent the majority of residents of Traverse City

How many votes do you need to win? Enough to be in the top three

Are REALTORS® actively helping with your campaign?

No

Traverse City goes through an annual budgeting process. What do you think budget priorities should be?

Two of my top priorities would be our infrastructure and the protection of our environment.

The shortage of housing inventory is a big topic among our Aspire North membership and the community at large across our area. Does local government have a role to play in this realm? If so, what do you think a local government can reasonably do to address housing supply concerns?

I believe we need to take a look at how our housing stock is being used. How many STR's do we have, how many non-Homestead housing stock do we have?

Land use continues to be a highly debated issue, including those elements centered around planning and zoning. Are there specific policies or zoning restrictions you support or oppose?

Absolutely.

Should local governments use zoning to prohibit the rental of a residential property on a short-term basis?

Yes

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) has been described as a regional taxation tool used by the Traverse City Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to fund infrastructure repairs and improvements required by intense regional use of our downtown core. Do you support renewal of TIF? If not, who would/should ultimately pay for those required costs/repairs?

I support the right of every Traverse City resident to decide by their vote for any new or renewal of TIFs

How and on what issues would you utilize Aspire North's input?

Housing data for our area.