

Good morning, my name is Jay Johnson. I have lived in Empire Township since 2005 and spent Summers at Glen Lake since 1965. The following comments concern the March 25 forum between the two candidates in the recall election scheduled for May 3. The public can watch the forum on YouTube.com.

During the forum, Will Bunek made several false assertions and allegations.

1. Mr. Bunek blamed his recall on "Democrats" who wanted to overturn the results of his November 2020 election. In fact, the recall petition was submitted by Jackie Anderson, one of his constituents, who is not and has not been a member of the Leelanau County Democratic Party.

In fact, the Leelanau Democrats never contested the results of the 2020 election or sought to overturn that election. The process for recalling a County Commissioner is specified in Michigan law, does not overturn the prior election, but calls for an entirely new election.

2. Mr. Bunek said the County Clerk had initially proposed the creation of two new departments of county government that would cost taxpayers upwards of \$250 thousand annually. The County Clerk has vociferously denied it was her idea. See Leelanau Enterprise, front page, March 31, 2022.

3. Mr. Bunek said he voted against supporting federal legislation that would allow the Grand Traverse Band to sue the federal government for violation of the tribe's 1855 treaty because it would allow the Grand Traverse Band to sue Leelanau County or current taxpayers. In fact, Mr. Bunek is on record opposing the tribes request because it sounded like "reparations".

4. Mr. Bunek said he opposed a millage for the early childhood "Parenting Communities" program because the program did not require additional funding. He denied that he wanted to "zero out" the millage but said the County Commission could overturn the voters if most Commissions thought the voters had made a mistake. This assertion is proven false by the video of the Commission meeting on September 14, 2021, which is available on YouTube.com. In that video, Mr. Bunek said that he had consistently opposed any millage for early childhood and that the millage had been approved by only the small number of voters who turned out for the millage election.

In the forum, however, Mr. Bunek said that all members of the Commission agreed with his decision to reduce, rather than zero out, the voter approved millage. In fact, none of the Democrats on the County Commission supported any reduction in the early childhood millage, but reluctantly voted for a slightly smaller millage as a compromise solution.

5. At the forum, Mr. Bunek said that he had made the motion to provide \$125,000 for a workforce housing project. In fact, the motion was first made by Commissioner Gwenne Allgaier to provide \$150,000 for a workforce housing project. Mr. Bunek amended her motion to reduce the amount. Although the amended motion passed, Mr. Bunek falsely claimed credit for Commissioner Allgaier's initiative.

6. Mr. Bunek said there was no need for more rigorous inspection of septic systems because the invasive Zebra and Quagga mussels had "cleaned up the lakes". As someone whose family has spent more than seventy years on Little Glen Lake, I can agree that the lake water is "clearer" because of the mussels, but that does not mean the lakes are healthy. The native freshwater clam and snail populations have almost disappeared because they can no longer find nutrients because the mussels have eaten most of them. And, as studies by several lake associations document, human fecal matter DNA has been found in many of our lakes, almost certainly the result of failing septic systems or septic systems not designed to handle the increased usage caused by the upward trend in short-term rentals.

In sum, Mr. Bunek lied, misled, or misconstrued at least a half dozen issues raised in the March 25 forum. The proof of his misconduct is readily available in the video and printed record of Board of Commissioners meetings as well as the video of the forum itself.

Thank you for allowing me to address the Board of Commissioners.