

Michael J. Fournier  
Malone, New York 12953

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

**My name is Mike Fournier and I am running for one of the two vacant seats for Malone Town Council.**

I hold an M.S. in Childhood Education and have completed an additional year Post Graduate studies with an emphasis on working with children with learning disabilities. I hold current N.Y. State teaching certifications in Childhood Education grades 1-6, Students with Disabilities grades 1-6 and Physical Education grades 1-12. I'm also a certified N.Y.S. teaching assistant and am a Professional member of "The American College of Sports Medicine" (with voting privileges).

I'm employed by N.Y. State in the Substance Abuse field and own a semi-private fitness club. (limited memberships available)

Over the past decades, I've volunteered thousands of hours working with our youth, primarily offering Strength and Conditioning programs during both the summer months and on an individual basis year-round. (I B.S. in Exercise Science and Health). Regardless of participant family income, at no time have I ever charged any child for my time, facility or services when doing formal training sessions.

Being nothing worthwhile in life is truly free, in as much as I do not charge for my time, I required all my kids this summer (and in the past) to go to the Malone P.D., NYS Troopers and/or Volunteer Fire Department to see what they have to do to join when old enough. Or they had the option to volunteer four hours in a food pantry of their choice. I believe giving back to the community helps build character. (Doing the right thing when nobody is looking)

I've also trained many adults getting ready for Law Enforcement Academies and the military. This includes members of D.O.C.C.S., Customs, Border Patrol, The N.Y. State Police, N.Y.S. Court System and others. I've never charged a penny for my time or services for these hero's. It's a tough job when you kiss your spouse good by every morning, but are really never 100% sure that you'll make it back home at the end of the day. I've become friends with some top-notch people over the years.

In past years, I've put on multiple fund raisers for our hero Volunteer Fire and Rescue squad. (Remember our motorcycle rides!) These men and woman are available at a moment's notice every day, hour and minute of the year. I'm a very strong supporter of them and their mission. Volunteer first responders should NEVER have to rely upon donations for purchasing new and modern equipment just so they can take time away from their families to help us. I will listen and work very closely with that organization; making sure they're always properly funded and properly equipped. This will be one of my priorities.

I've invested thousands of hours in our community volunteering and helping families and individuals who have active addictions; be it taking them to in-patient facilities or helping with "interventions". This is a very personal and painful process and doesn't discriminate based on age, income, education or religion.

I have some unique ideas to help combat the drug crisis our community now faces. (My formal education includes in part a degree in Chemical Dependency Studies / Mater Dei College.) My education combined with my life experiences and occupation, will bring a very unique perspective to the Board.

***Unlike my opponents***, I've actively been on the tip of the spear for more than a decade, fighting the big wind companies and solar companies and fighting to keep Albany County's Garbage from coming through our town and surrounding areas and destroying the natural beauty we've been so blessed to enjoy for generations. (It's not hard to see what Malone would like if these projects were allowed to ruin our area. Just look East) **I will ALWAYS be a NO VOTE against Big Wind, BIG SOLAR and the importation of out of county trash. Period!**

***I've never seen any of my opponents attend any of those meetings and/or protest, be it wind, solar or Franklin County landfill meetings.***

I founded a formidable group called "Friends Against Rural Mismanagement". (F.A.R.M.) Besides fighting big wind and solar, we're actively involved in making sure Albany county and its neighbors keeps its garbage out of our county landfill. *I've never seen any of my opponents attend any of those meeting and/or protest.*

If successful in my campaign bid, I'll hand over the reins to my organization to avoid even the appearance of conflict of interest.

Back in the earlier 2000's, (time gets away) I sat virtually alone in Town Council meetings fighting to convince the Town Council to keep a "strip joint" out of Malone. To their credit, they agreed. And yes, I was mocked by many for this. I proudly stand by that decision.

I fought years ago to keep the Race Track in Malone. I believed (and still do) this was an excellent event for me and my children to attend each weekend. It was affordable family fun where we could enjoy our Friday nights. I lost that bid, but I never stopped trying until it was over.

I'm the founder of the Blue Lives Matter movement in Malone. If you drive on Main street and see Blue Lives Matter signs posted, it is me who places them. I also organized the Blue Lives Matter rally in the Arsenal Green a couple summers ago.

All future March's in the Village and Town of Malone have been declared "Law Enforcement Appreciation Month", after I approached both Town Counselors and Village Board members urging them to do so.

Besides the daily business of the Town (I am a fiscal and Constitutional Conservative), I want my legacy to be noted by bringing back Snowmobile-ATV roads into our area. We, (including me and my family) spend thousands of dollars each year on our snow-sleds and 4-wheelers only to have to trailer them out of town or risk being pulled over while driving them to friendlier townships.

We spend money in surrounding communities, because we're welcomed with signs that read "Snowmobile-ATV road, 25mph". Why aren't there hundreds of sleds and ATVs at Malones local establishments rather than all of our neighboring towns? Because at the moment, Malone government doesn't invite or encourage ATV and Snowmobile enthusiast to come. Each trip we take to the next town typically costs us \$50-\$75, when factoring in gas and our lunch wherever we end up. Let's bring some of that money home!

We can find the money for insurance. We can work together with ATV and Snowmobile clubs and our local dealerships. Franklin County Government should be helping us with insurance as they take in many thousands of dollars each year resulting directly from ATV and Snowmobile sales. Each year St. Lawrence County adds miles to their trail system while we get seemingly zero return for our money spent.

What I hope I've shown is, in contrast to my honorable opponents, I have proven track record even as a non-elected official. You know where I stand. I am not a push over. I'm well informed. I'm strong and I'm decisive.

In closing, I ask that you vote for me on election day. I offer a new perspective with a balance of growing Malone economically while maintaining the character and quality that we've been so blessed with, which is the reason we choose to live and raise our families in this community. Our heritage matters and we need to protect that for our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

I remain very truly yours,

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Michael J. Fournier