

Village of Ellenville - 2003 Election Questionnaire

(All the candidates were sent the following identical questionnaire. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order, by office sought. All replies have been edited for considerations of length and format consistency.)

- 1) Name
- 2) Office sought
- 3) Political party affiliation
- 4) Political/municipal/community offices held
- 5) Occupation(s)
- 6) Family
- 7) How long have you lived in the area?
- 8) Which local community/social organizations are you a member of?
- 9) Reason(s) for running now
- 10) What is the greatest strength/expertise/ability you would bring to the job?
- 11) What would you like to accomplish most while in office?
- 12) What is the most important short-term issue facing the Village?
- 13) What is the most important long-term issue facing the Village?
- 14) What can increase public attendance/ involvement regarding Village Board meetings?
- 15) Would you support televising Village Board meetings?
- 16) How can we attract and keep businesses in the Ellenville area?
- 17) What are some ways we can cut costs/taxes in the Village budget?
- 18) Do you favor/oppose dissolution of the Village? Why?
- 19) Additional comments



1. Jeffrey (Jeff) Kaplan
2. Mayor
3. Democrat
4. Served as Ellenville Village Justice, Town of Wawarsing Attorney, Village of Woodridge Attorney, Town of Wawarsing Zoning Attorney, Village of Ellenville Zoning Attorney, Napanoch Water District Attorney
5. Attorney
6. Married 26 years; wife, Marla, speech therapist,

Ellenville Central School; son, Joshua (18), freshman, Phillip Merrill College of Journalism at University of Maryland; daughter, Amanda (17), senior, Ellenville Central School; parents, Herb and Edythe Kaplan.

7. Life-long resident.

8. Local community/social organizations: Ellenville Noonday Club Citizen of Year Committee Chair; Shawangunk Country Club Vice President; Chamber of Commerce; NAACP; Ellenville Credit Union Board of Directors; Congregation Ezrath Israel Board of Directors; Town of Wawarsing Democratic Party Past Chair; Town/Village of Ellenville Fourth of July Committee Fireworks Coordinator; Ellenville Little League Boys Manager; Girls Softball All-Star Coach; Ed Jacobs Youth Soccer League Coach; Bicentennial Committee; B'nai Brith, local anti-defamation league delegate; Community School Building Committee Chair.

9. The region is experiencing unprecedented growth. Ellenville has not fully participated as a result of neglect of infrastructure and failure to maintain both commercial and residential structures. I want to focus on creating an environment in Ellenville to fully benefit from renewed interest in the upstate New York region.

10. Greatest strength/expertise/ability would bring to job: Thorough knowledge of local municipal law and what needs to be done to start turning around years of neglect.

11. Would like to accomplish most while in office: Improve quality of life in the Village of Ellenville.

12. AND 13. I believe the most important short-term and long-term problem is to clean up Ellenville in both the business and residential districts to create a positive environment for future growth.

14. The public has lost confidence in government's ability to find answers to the problems they face. We must win back the people's confidence. I believe we must reach out to the community rather than asking the community to come to us. Workshop sessions which precede village meetings will be replaced by neighborhood walks through rotating areas in our village, personally inviting residents and property owners to join on these walks with the board, the village building inspector, the village manager, and the public at large.

15. Yes, I support televising Village Board meetings.

16. To attract and keep businesses in the Ellenville area, create a clean, positive, and attractive environment that will encourage the traffic that passes through our community to stop; assist new businesses in finding locations in the community with the best likelihood to succeed, and assist in finding funding and available government programs for new businesses.

17. The best way to reduce taxes is by increasing our tax base and using municipal services to raise revenues.

18. Ellenville is a small urban community in a rural area. I believe the problems facing our Village can best and most expediently be corrected by focusing energies on these problems rather than consolidating government. It will clearly take the focus away from what must be done to make Ellenville a better place to live to attempt dissolution at this time.

19. Additional comments: I would like to create a community review board funded with both public and private monies to provide seed money for private groups interested in establishing projects for the betterment of the community.

