

** Applications must be received by **5:00 p.m. on December 16, 2025** via:

- (1) Email to the City of Champaign Town Clerk, at cityclerk@champaignil.gov with the subject line of "Application for Township Supervisor"; or
- (2) Physically delivered to the City Clerk at 102 N. Neil, Champaign, IL 61820.

**APPLICATION FOR
CITY OF CHAMPAIGN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR**

(Note: Information provided by the applicant on this form may be disclosed pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, subject to applicable exemptions.)

Name: Mike Ingram

Home Address: 1120 Mayfair Rd Business Address: _____
Champaign, IL 61821

Home Telephone: _____ Business Telephone: _____

Cell Phone: 7(1)(b) - Personal

Email Address: 7(1)(b) - Personal Email Address

How long have you lived in the City of Champaign Township? 21 years

Please list addresses at which you have established residency within the City of Champaign Township during the past three (3) years and the dates of residency at that address:

<u>Address</u> (Most recent first)	<u>Dates</u>
1. <u>1120 Mayfair Rd, 61821</u>	<u>Nov 2023-current</u>
2. <u>7(1)(b) - Home Address</u>	
3. _____	_____

Present Occupation

Teacher, Music Instructor, Small Business Investor, Talent Buyer, Musician

Voter Registration

Attach a copy of proof of voter registration.

Voter Information

INGRAM, MICHAEL ROBERT
1120 MAYFAIR RD
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61821 [Update Registration](#)
Precinct: City of Champaign 27
[Voting Districts](#)

Registration Status

✓ Current

Education and Training

Please list the formal education or training you have received. Be sure to include all training which is related in some way to preparation for serving as Township Supervisor.

<u>Dates of Study</u>	<u>Name, Type of School or Instructor</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Degree/Certificate</u>
2021, 2025	National Notary Association		Illinois Notary Commission
2000-2001	Parkland College	Honors LAS	unfinished

Experience

Beginning with your most recent employment, volunteer work, or life experience, please state your previous experience. Be sure to include all experiences which are related to preparation for serving as Township Supervisor.

1. Company/Employer and Type of Business or Area of Experience: Generally, there has not been a time in my adult life where I was not engaged in volunteer efforts, the most relevant being via the Cunningham Township Supervisor's Office, where I've spent years soliciting coats and warm clothes donations, picking up, delivering, etc. And helping clients move to/from transitional housing, bucket brigade work, and more.

Position: Volunteer/Board Member

Dates of Employment/Experiences: From: 2005 To: present

2. Company/Employer and Type of Business or Area of Experience: Champaign County
Ran a government office, prepared a countywide office's budget, managed staff, prepared and ran a successful countywide referendum, worked closely with AFSCME to add staff to bargaining unit and correct pay inequity, attended conferences and trainings, addressed vendor inconsistencies

Position: Champaign County Recorder of Deeds

Dates of Employment/Experiences: From: 2020 To: 2021

3. Company/Employer and Type of Business or Area of Experience: Austin's Place
Worked directly with homeless/unhoused/struggling community members as an overnight volunteer at women's shelter, prepping sleeping areas, making snacks and hot food, providing toiletries and clothing and other items as needed, until program was absorbed by CU at Home.

Position: Overnight volunteer

Dates of Employment/Experiences: From: 2017 To: 2019

Boards and Commissions

Please list any boards, commissions or task forces on which you currently serve by appointment of the Mayor or City Council of the City of Champaign.
 City of Champaign Citizen Review Subcommittee, Vice Chair (2018, 2023-present)

Public Office

Please list any public offices currently held by appointment or election of the governing body of a unit of local government, school district, State constitutional officer or Illinois General Assembly.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Appointed by/Elected</u>	<u>Term</u>
current- Precinct Committeeperson	Elected	Apr 2024-Apr 2026
former- Recorder of Deeds, Champaign County	Elected	Dec 2020-Dec 2021
former- County Board Member, District 6	Elected	2018-2020, 2022-2023

Community Involvement

Please list volunteer organizations that you are involved with locally:

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Dates</u>
C-U 1-to-1 Mentoring	Exec Board Member, Mentor (x2)	2015-present
40 North	Board Member, Volunteer	2012-present
Austin's Place	Overnight volunteer	2017-2019
Cunningham Township Supervisor's Office, Heartstrong Meals, Girls Rock C-U, Courage Connection, A Woman's Place, R.A.C.E.S., Jettie Rhodes	Volunteer, fundraiser	various
County Board of Health	County board liaison	2022-2023

Honors, Awards, Recognition

Please list any honors, awards or recognition which you have received:

<u>Honor, Award, Recognition</u>	<u>Received From</u>	<u>Dates</u>
40 Under 40	Central IL Business Magazine	2016
Advocate ACE Award	40 North	2016
LEAP (Leaders In Employing All People) Certificate	Community Choices	2021

Potential Conflict of Interest

Can you think of any relationship or other reason which might possibly constitute a conflict of interest if you are selected to serve as Township Supervisor? (This question is not meant to disqualify you; it is only intended to provide information.)

No.

Have you been convicted of any infamous crime, bribery, perjury, or other felony? If so, please list the offense, date and court of conviction. 60 ILCS 1/55-6.

No.

Personal Statement

Please write a brief statement concerning why you are interested in serving Township Supervisor.

The Township Supervisor position (and the township office) is one of the most important in helping people in our community who need it the most. Having spent a sizable portion of my adult life intertwined in various roles of public service and public good, I've worked with several township supervisors and staffers and have witnessed how life changing (and life saving) the office can be--especially with a staff-supporting and collaborative leader, which I am. I have a deep desire to do the most for our neighbors who need the most help, but there is also a broader issue of rebuilding broken relationships and giving staff the support that they need so that they can do that necessary work of helping those neighbors. This office has some of the largest potential for creative solutions to combat systemic problems and I relish the idea of using my background of consensus building and public engagement to continue to push the City of Champaign Township into the future. Federal funding cuts and an uncaring federal government are about to create a lot more need in our community and we need to be prepared to face that, and I want to lead the fight.

Supplemental Questions

1. What do you see as the most pressing need in the City of Champaign Township? Why? As Township Supervisor, what steps would you take to address this need?

Lack of affordable housing will continue to be one of the biggest issues facing local governmental bodies all across the country, pushing the need for more general assistance to try to keep up, and in many cases leading to the need for more shelter space. Rent and housing costs are exploding throughout the U.S. while wages have stayed stagnant, so while this is not a uniquely Champaign or Champaign-Urbana issue, we have mitigating factors like the University of Illinois and tech sector which keep housing demand high. Unsolved, this will continue to push poor and working class people either out of the metro area into surrounding communities, or out of housing completely.

Township's role in this situation is more reactive than proactive, and we have to be prepared to help the increasing number of residents dealing with it, but we can also continue to push for discussion of solutions via state and local entities.

2. What in your qualifications or background make you the right person for this appointment?

I bring experience from the governmental world, the social services volunteer world, and the political world--all of which are beneficial in this position.

As elected Champaign County Recorder of Deeds, I managed an office staff and worked to improve their quality of life, I prepared a budget, I worked to correct office inefficiencies and inconsistencies, I attended conferences and appeared at county board meetings and local events to update constituents, I navigated a successful ballot referendum to eliminate my own position, and left the office and its staff in a better place than when I took office.

Having spent over a decade working in the volunteer world, often with a social service and safety net focus, I've seen the inner workings of not only governmental agencies but also non-profits, and have interacted with and served many of the people who find themselves needing the various services provided by Township.

And while this office is not as inherently political as many others, it does require a partisan election for which I am well equipped to run and win, having previously won multiple elections, including a countywide race. City of Champaign Township voters have sent me to the county board twice on their behalf.

3. What are some of your long-range objectives for the City of Champaign Township?

As we look ahead to at least three more years of top-down funding cuts at the federal level while at the same time wealth inequality expands via rising costs of nearly everything (healthcare and housing leading the way), Township will need to seek additional funding sources to meet the rising need. Some of this can be done with better community engagement and awareness, as there are community members and entities that are willing to match engagement and effort. Better grant searching and writing can also be a boost. Township voters have frequently rejected the idea of a tax increase (not just recently), but at the same time we've seen Cunningham Township residents vote for their own increases. A proper campaign with a publicly engaged supervisor could potentially turn that tide in City of Champaign Township, but that will require a longer effort and a demonstration to voters that their dollars will produce results.

As Recorder of Deeds I utilized office space for a warm clothes/coat rack, a mini food pantry, and a mask tree, which led to more community engagement and requests for assistance that continue even now. I wanted to follow in the footsteps of some friends in Virginia and install a community fridge, which expands the kinds of foods that can be donated and offered. Unable to complete that effort, I've continued to long for that to become a reality and would look to do so via Township. being able to offer fresh foods and produce can provide so many more options to struggling people, as CUPHD can attest!

In a perfectly funded world, we would have a stronger street team/outreach presence and be able to better handle off-hours needs, because people don't only find themselves in need during business hours, and township and shelter staffs find themselves doing off-hours work simply because if they don't, no one will.

4. What is the role of a Township Supervisor? What do you see as successful qualities of a Township Supervisor?

As the executive of the township, there is the regular minutia of any governmental executive position, including budget preparation and staff management. (Though, the coterminous nature of City of Champaign Township changes things compared to our rural township supervisors.) Being able to work with staff on preparation of necessary reports is obviously beneficial (I was proud to have excellent relationships with the finance team at the county) as is the ability to hire, manage, and respect staff (very proud to still have good relationships with former recording staff).

Beyond the office functions, I think it is important for a township supervisor to be boots-on-the-ground, working in the trenches alongside staff and hearing their perspective (and the perspectives of those who are being served). Our responsibility is to meet people where they are to the best of our ability, and having an engaged supervisor boosts that ability greatly. If you're being paid to be a public servant, you should be engaged with the public as much as possible.

5. Do you have experience managing employees? Describe your leadership style? How would go about supervising the work of Township employees?

Yes; from managing the staff of the Champaign County Recorder of Deeds office to my role as a director at the University of Illinois Summer Youth Music program to positions managing teams of volunteers, and even as a manager at bar/venues like the Canopy Club, my leadership style has consistently been collaborative at the forefront. I do not like bosses who assume that they know everything, or that their achieving said leadership position means that they are suddenly infallible. I've seen bad management styles play out far too many times. I believe in listening to staff to better understand where strengths and weaknesses lie in order to better execute the objective--especially in government.

Being well informed about all aspects of the department and being able to step into any role if needed is crucial both for staffing coverage but also so the department head can better handle constituent concerns and even anger.

6. Give an example of a time you solved a difficult problem or issue.

I inherited a Recorder's office with multiple issues, including an underpaid deputy, frustrated union staff operating on different pay scales because of previous wage freezes, and nonunion temporary staff members. As a believer in taking care of the employees who are doing the work, I quickly contacted AFSCME to sign our remaining part-time employee into the bargaining unit, bumping his pay and giving him paid days off. I then worked with AFSCME to craft a Memorandum of Understanding to fix the wage discrepancy within the clerks in the office, ahead of making my lone hire as Recorder, a new clerk with a Congolese background who spoke multiple languages and brightened the office with her presence.

I was also able to fix the unfortunate circumstance of the longtime deputy being extremely underpaid for her work.

I was planning to eliminate the salary of Recorder via ballot referendum, but had that not worked, I also wanted to offset any additional salary monies if possible.

It was discovered via some data crunching that our online records searches were being exploited by big data-mining companies and that could be fixed by changing our vendor terms, but that required having tough discussions with our local vendors about what the big problem was and how we were working to solve it without impacting their own bottom line. This tweak generated thousands of dollars from the national corporations without gouging locals.

7. Give us your thoughts on the Strides Shelter.

Strides exists to provide a service that no other entity was equipped (or willing) to provide. I think it's important to remember that when navigating forward. I've explored multiple options and spoken with many stakeholders about the best way forward, and there *are* ways forward. But we're starting from a place where it was created to fill a desperate need relatively quickly, in a building that needs much repair. The staff is doing incredible work on minimal resources and without the ability to stop much of what the public focuses negatively on--which a publicly engaged township supervisor could at least better inform the public about.

Going forward there needs to be a collaborative discussion amongst local entities about how to best serve those among us who need the kind of help that Strides provides. There are so many layers of government and various entities involved in the continuum of care that exists here, and frequently they are stuck doing triage with whatever resources they can cobble together. But they all agree that we need bed space and we need programming.

We cannot kick people out in the middle of winter and say "sorry, funding ran out." So whatever comes after, whether it's a non-profit model or a gender-separated space or a rebuild, we need to make sure we get our people through the winter.

We need to find a way to bring stakeholders together and find a sustainable way to make sure that we have the resources to care for people when they need it, and not feel as if it is in danger of being taken away from them. (This is also important for staff.) I look forward to helping make this a reality.

References

* Current City of Champaign Town Board/City Council Members should not be included below.

Name: DeShawn Williams

Name: Toni Ceaser

Occupation: Mayor, City of Urbana

Occupation: Director of Recording (former Deputy Recorder)

Phone: 7(1)(b) - Personal Telephone Number

Phone: 7(1)(b) - Personal Telephone Number

Name: Jennifer Straub

Name: Leah Taylor

Occupation: Cunningham Township Supervisor's Office

Occupation: Champaign Township Supervisor

Phone: 7(1)(b) - Personal Telephone Number

Phone: 7(1)(b) - Personal Telephone Number

Name: Shaya Robinson

Name: Carolyn Farren / Kayla Brown

Occupation: STRIDES

Occupation: Farren's / Fire Doll

Phone: 7(1)(b) - Personal Telephone Number

Phone: 7(1)(b) - Personal Telephone Number

Submitted by:

Mike Ingram

Printed Name

7(1)(b) - Signature

Signature

12/16/2025

Date

Public Records Exemptions

The following information explains the factual basis for the redactions applied to the responsive records provided to you, pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, 5 ILCS 140/7 *et al.*

Reason	Description	Pages
7(1)(b) - Home Address	7(1)(b) Private information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law or a court order	1
7(1)(b) - Personal Email Address	7(1)(b) Private information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law or a court order	1
7(1)(b) - Personal Telephone Number	7(1)(b) Private information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law or a court order	1, 8
7(1)(b) - Signature	7(1)(b) Private information, unless disclosure is required by another provision of this Act, a State or federal law or a court order	8