PETER J MULLER

INDEPENDENT WARD 18 COUNCILLOR CANDIDATE

Morelig · Bergsig · Staffordshill · Farmers & Farming Communities
Dihlabeng Local Municipality (FS192) · Free State

CANDIDATE MANIFESTO

November 2026 Municipal Elections

Living here. Serving here. Fighting here.

A Message from the Candidate

Four years ago, I did not arrive in Ward 18 to serve. I was already here — living in Morelig, walking these streets, sitting in the same traffic, queuing at the same municipal offices, and watching the same promises go unfulfilled year after year.

I became a Ward Committee Member because the community needed someone willing to stand up. Someone who would push back on broken infrastructure, follow up on sewage and stormwater complaints, argue for park maintenance and street lighting, and refuse to go quiet when things got difficult.

For four years I have done exactly that — in the trenches, without a formal seat at the table. Not for recognition. Not for payment. Because this is my community, and its problems are my problems.

It was the residents of Ward 18 who approached me and said: ***Take it further. Step into the ring. Run for Councillor.*** As always, I listened to the community — and I answered that call.

I am not a career politician. I do not come with a party machine behind me, with national agendas to serve, or with a public relations budget designed to impress you for six weeks before disappearing for five years. I come with four years of honest work, a track record you can verify, and a commitment that this ward will always come first.

No empty promises. No grand illusions. Just honest, hard, daily work — for Ward 18, with Ward 18, by someone who lives in Ward 18.

Vision

A Ward 18 where residents wake up to running water, working streetlights, maintained roads, and a councillor who answers the phone. A ward where every person — regardless of income, race, or background — is treated with dignity and respect. A community that is proud of where it lives and confident that its voice matters.

> "Julle probleme is my probleme, is ONS probleme."
> — Peter J Muller, Ward 18

Mission

To represent every resident of Morelig, Bergsig, Staffordshill and the farming communities with fairness, transparency, and relentless dedication. Good representation starts by listening before leading. To hold the municipality and service providers accountable for what they are paid to deliver. To bridge the gap between what is promised and what is actually done — without fear or favour.

Four pillars of this mission:

- Honest, direct communication — no spin, no silence
- Ward-based budgeting — community needs drive spending priorities
- Dignity and respect for every single resident
- Results over rhetoric — verified, visible, real

What I Stand For

Honesty above all

I will not tell you what you want to hear to earn a vote. I will tell you the truth about what is achievable, what is being done, and what the blockages are. When something cannot be fixed immediately, I will say so and explain why — and I will keep pushing until it is.

Evidence before Opinion

Decisions should be based on facts rather than assumptions. Therefore, I believe in surveys, infrastructure audits, community participation, and measurable results before major decisions are made.

We are not all equal in circumstance — but every person deserves equal respect

We are not all equal in circumstance – but every person deserves respect. But every resident of Ward 18 deserves to be treated with dignity — by their councillor, by municipal staff, and by every service provider that provides services to this community. That is non-negotiable.

Ward-based budgets — power where it belongs

Decisions about Ward 18's priorities and budget allocations should be informed by the people who live in ward 18. I am a firm advocate for ward-based budgeting. Residents know their priorities best. Budget allocations must reflect ground-level reality — not boardroom assumptions.

Serving without fear or favour

I will represent every resident in Ward 18 – regardless of who they voted for. My accountability is to the entire community, not just to my supporters. I do not serve one group, one section, or one set of interests. The whole community is my constituency. Together, we will push for what is right, even when it is uncomfortable — and I will not be silenced by political pressure or personal convenience.

Minimum budget, maximum impact

I believe that money spent on a lavish campaign is money that belongs to this community. I am running this campaign on a minimum budget — not because I cannot raise funds, but because it reflects exactly how I intend to govern: no waste, no excess, no vanity spending.

Independent — but not alone

As an independent ward councillor, I answer to one constituency: Ward 18. I will engage constructively with all parties, all spheres of government, and all relevant departments — but I will never allow party instructions to override the expressed needs of this community.

> "A community that works — for everyone who calls Ward 18 home."
>
> — Peter J Muller, Ward 18

The Issues I Have Lived with You

For four years I have personally engaged on every major issue affecting our ward. These are not talking points — they are battles I have already been in:

Infrastructure and service delivery

- Sewage and stormwater failures — persistent, recurring, and unacceptable
- Water supply disruptions caused by ageing, failing or poorly maintained infrastructure
- Potholes, road surfaces, and stormwater drainage
- Streetlighting failures, particularly in high-risk areas
- Refuse collection, park maintenance and crown lifting of trees
- Substation failures and electricity supply reliability

Safety and security

- Crime hotspots that have been flagged repeatedly without adequate response
- Community policing forums that need genuine support
- Areas where lighting, surveillance, and police visibility can make a direct difference
- The need to address drug dealing and antisocial behaviour in specific locations

Community facilities and spaces

- Underutilised municipal assets that could serve the community — including the Bethlehem Show Grounds
- Early childhood development and elderly care facilities that are desperately needed
- Parks, sports areas, and shared community spaces

Social services

- Access to SASSA, Home Affairs, and municipal services for residents who struggle to travel
- Support for the Elderly Luncheon Club and similar community-driven initiatives
- Youth facilities and structured programmes

My Commitments to Ward 18

These are not promises made for election day. They are commitments I am already working on — and that I will pursue with the full mandate of a ward councillor:

- Regular, open ward feedback sessions — so residents always know what is happening and what I am doing about it, even when there are problems or delays.
- A clear, accessible communication channel — I will be reachable, not invisible
- Persistent follow-up on every logged infrastructure complaint until resolved
- Advocacy for ward-based budgeting in every budget cycle
- Visible, consistent engagement with service departments on behalf of residents
- Full support for community-led initiatives like the Light Up a Child's Christmas project
- Ongoing engagement with law enforcement and the safety sector on crime in Ward 18
- Championing the revitalisation of the Bethlehem Show Grounds as a community and economic hub

> "Be the architect of your own future.
> Be the guardian of your town, your life,
> and the destiny of your children."
> — Peter J Muller, Ward 18

On Democracy and Your Vote

So many brave South Africans gave everything for the right to vote freely. That right is sacred — and it is yours alone. Not your neighbour's. Not your party's. Not your employer's. Yours!

This election is a local election. It is about water, roads, electricity, safety, and the quality of daily life. Vote with your head — for the candidate who lives your reality, who knows your street, who has already shown up.

To those who say nothing will ever change: I hear you. But if good people stay home, the future is decided only by those who show up. Your absence does not punish the system — it hands power to it.

Do not surrender your power. Vote freely. Vote honestly. Vote as you truly believe.

The Proportional Representation Vote — My Recommendation

As an independent ward councillor candidate, I can contest the ward seat but cannot receive votes cast for the proportional representation party lists. PR votes are cast for registered political parties.

After careful consideration of the values and public track record demonstrated through the actions of senior members holding public office — accountability, constitutional rule of law, protection of property rights, merit-based governance, fiscal discipline, and a commitment to honest service delivery — I previously recommended a political party.

Unfortunately, however, it has become evident that these values do not extend to the local level.

Accordingly, I recommend that every voter vote according to their own conscience, whether that means voting for a political party, choosing not to vote, or casting a spoilt ballot.

In Closing

I did not enter this race for power, for prestige, or for a salary. I entered it because this is my community. Because I have sat with the same frustration you have. Because I know that things can be better — and I know how to fight for that. I do not promise perfection. I promise honest work, continuous improvement, and the willingness to learn when we discover better solutions.

For four years I have served this ward from the ground up. With your support on election day, I will take that fight to the next level — with a seat at the table, a clear mandate, and an unshakeable commitment to Ward 18.

> *"Genoeg is genoeg. Ons staan saam.*
> *Die Wyk 18 gemeenskap het al bewys*
> *dat ons as 'n gemeenskap saam sterker is."*
> — Peter J Muller, Ward 18

VOTE PETER J MULLER — WARD 18 COUNCILLOR

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31 October 2026
Peter J Muller