

**League of Women Voters Candidate Forum**  
**October 21 – Traverse City**  
**Opening Statement**

Hello. I'm Ellis Boal. I'm with the Green Party. I live in Charlevoix.

Climate change is the defining issue of our times. We need a climate activist in Congress. I hope we will have several questions about climate tonight.

About me: I'm an attorney. I practiced labor law from the labor side for 25 years in Detroit. I moved to Charlevoix 14 years ago to be with my family, which has been there over 100 years. I practice part-time now, mostly in environmental law.

I'm also a runner/cross-country skier with 76,000 lifetime miles. And I sing in a men's choir.

My cases have set major precedents for workers in the federal courts. When you go home tonight please visit the biography page of my website – [www.ellisboal.org](http://www.ellisboal.org). Also on the site are discussions of a variety of issues, from ISIS, to Social Security, to global warming, to torture, to militarization of the police, to Israel, to single-payer healthcare and Ebola, and more.

Last year I got an 8-month injunction against 13 huge horizontal frack wells in Kalkaska County, three of which would have been the biggest in the United States in terms of water usage. I also have a pipeline case in the court of appeals. I'm also working on a ballot initiative for 2016 to ban horizontal fracking.

My cases have raised state issues, but federal law can be brought to bear. After all, climate affects everyone.

Another important issue is human rights. Congress enacted a criminal statute on torture and conspiracy to commit it in 1994, and has re-enacted it two times since. Torture will come before the Congress again.

A witnessed and to-date unrefuted event at Guantánamo Bay in 2004 make the subject relevant to this particular campaign. I explain the details at length on my website. I hope we'll have a question about that too.

I look forward to tonight's discussion.