

**VOTE 411**  
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

The content of this Guide is derived from candidates' profiles and ballot proposals posted online at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters, [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) contains information about many races across the country, with content published as it was submitted by candidates. **VOTE411** allows voters to compare candidate responses to questions, as well as offering information on voter registration, ID requirements, and election processes such as absentee voting.

Spread the word about [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)!

This Service Provided

**FREE**

By Your Local **League of Women Voters**

# 2020 General Election Voter Guide

**Non-partisan Information about  
National, State and Local Elections  
November 3, 2020**

**This Voter Guide** was prepared by the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area as a service to the voters. The League of Women Voters is a national non-partisan organization which encourages active and informed citizen participation in government. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party. The League does support issues after careful study without regard to the stand of any party. League positions on issues are never indicated in Voter Guides.

**JOIN US!** Use our Voter Services, study issues, become a member.

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## What's in this Guide

President
U.S. Senator – Michigan
U.S. Representative in Congress, 6th District
State Representatives, 60th, 61st, 63rd and 66th Districts
State Board of Education
University of Michigan Board of Regents
Michigan State University Board of Trustees
Wayne State University Board of Governors
Kalamazoo County Officials
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State and Local Proposals
Polling Places

See [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for additional local races, including school boards



[www.facebook.com/lwvka](http://www.facebook.com/lwvka)

# Vote Tuesday, November 3, 2020

Polls Open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## Who May Vote?

In order to vote in Michigan, you must be registered with the Department of State. To register you must be a U.S. citizen, 18 years old by election day, a resident of the city or township where you register for at least 30 days, and not serving a sentence in jail or prison. Registration is permanent as long as the resident continues to live in the city or township where registered.

Due to passage of a 2018 statewide ballot proposal, a citizen may register to vote, up to and on election day, and is automatically registered to vote when applying for, renewing or updating a driver's license or state-issued personal identification card, unless the person declines. **Check the Michigan Voter Information Center – MVIC – ([www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote))** or contact your local clerk for details about how and where to register.

## How Do You Vote?

The procedure involves these steps:

1. Complete an application to vote.
2. An election inspector checks your name against the computerized list of registered voters for the precinct.
3. Show photo identification or sign an affidavit stating that you're eligible to vote.
4. Vote by using a pen to darken the oval to the right of the candidate's name or Yes / No in the case of a proposal.
5. Tabulate the ballot by inserting it into the optical scanner.

You may receive assistance when voting from anyone except an employer, union, or their representatives. Election officials may assist you, in which case two inspectors (one from each major political party), will give assistance. Instructions in using voting equipment are available online at the Michigan Voter Information Center ([www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote))

## About Voter Identification

A provision of Michigan election law **requires voters to either present picture identification or sign an affidavit if they do not have picture identification with them.**

The following are acceptable forms of photo identification (ID), assuming they are current and a picture is provided:

- Michigan driver's license or personal ID
- Non-Michigan driver's license or personal ID
- Federal or state government-issued ID
- U.S. passport
- Military ID
- Student ID—high school or accredited institution of higher education
- Tribal ID card

**A Kalamazoo County ID Card is NOT acceptable. If the voter does not have an acceptable photo ID in his or her possession when offering to vote, that voter may sign an affidavit attesting that he or she is not in possession of a photo ID. A voter who completes an affidavit will be allowed to vote a regular ballot.**

## Write-in Candidates

To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the name of that person in the blank space provided for that office and darken the oval.

Votes for write-in candidates are counted only for persons who have declared their intent, at the appropriate jurisdiction, to be write-in candidates by 4 p.m. on the second Friday preceding the election—October 23. Names of write-in candidates will be available after that date on the Michigan Voter Information Center website ([www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote)).

## Are You Registered & Who's on Your Ballot?

The Voter Information Center on the Michigan Secretary of State website allows voters to confirm their registration status, obtain information on the location of their polling place, view a sample ballot and obtain other election-related information. Go to [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote). Enter your name, birth month and year, and zip code.

## For Students

The State of Michigan allows students to register to vote at a permanent address (a parent's address, for example) or at a school address. It is important to know that the address on your voter registration must match the address on your driver's license. Registering to vote will change the address found on your driver's license, if you register at a different address. Likewise, if you change the address on your driver's license, the address of your voter registration will be changed to match. **You can vote only in the precinct where you are registered**, so take that into consideration when you complete a voter registration form or renew your license. Students who choose to register at their parents' address may request an absentee ballot to be sent to their campus address—and not have to change the address on their driver's license.

### Acknowledgment

Contributors to the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area Education Fund, the Fetzer Fund at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, and the A. Philip Randolph Institute generously provided financial support for LWV voter services, including this Voter Guide.

## Absent Voter Ballots

With passage of a 2018 ballot proposal, all eligible and registered Michigan voters may request an absent voter ballot without providing a reason.

### How do I receive the ballot?

An application for an absentee ballot was mailed to every registered voter in Michigan. If you did not receive one or cannot find it, you have three options. You can:

1. Call your city or township clerk and ask that an application be mailed to you. Complete the application, including your signature, and mail it, scan and email it, or deliver it in person to the clerk.
2. Download an application from the Michigan Voter Information Center – MVIC – ([www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote)), then complete and return it as for option 1.
3. Apply online at MVIC. You will need to submit information from your driver's license, as well as the last four digits of your social security number. Your digital signature kept on file for your driver's license or state ID must match the signature on your ballot when you return it.

Requests to have an absent voter ballot mailed to you must be received by your clerk no later than 5 p.m. the Friday before the election. If you are already registered at your current address, you can pick up an absent voter ballot in person at your clerk's office anytime up to 4 p.m. on the day prior to the election. If you are registering to vote or updating your address by appearing at your clerk's office on election day, you can request an absent voter ballot at the same time you register.

Once your request is received by the local clerk, your signature on the request will be checked against your voter registration record before a ballot is issued. Ballots are available 45 days before the election and requests for absent voter ballots are processed immediately.

### When must absent voter ballots be returned to the clerk?

At the time of publishing this Guide, the deadline for returning ballots to the clerk's office (8 p.m. on election day) is under court review in an effort to allow more time for ballots to be counted. See the MVIC for an update if the deadline has changed.

The League of Women Voters recommends that you use a ballot drop box or deliver your ballot to the clerk's office in person. If you use the postal service to deliver your ballot, place it in the mail no later than October 19 to allow adequate time.

Your ballot will not be counted unless your signature is on the return envelope and matches your signature on file.

There are instructions included with the ballot regarding who is eligible to return a ballot on behalf of a voter. For further information, contact your city or township clerk.

### Did my ballot arrive?

Registered voters can track their ballots by looking up their information on the MVIC website.

## Editors' Note

The League of Women Voters (LWV) contacted candidates for biographical information and answers to questions on issues. Those known to have filed a declaration of intent to be write-in candidates at the time of printing this Voter Guide were included. Responses were limited to a specific number of characters and were truncated after the limit was reached. Responses were printed as submitted; spelling, punctuation and grammar were not changed. If the candidate did not reply by the required date for publication, the words "Did not respond in time for publication" appear under the candidate's name.

The order of parties in the Voter Guide is the same as their order on the ballot, which is determined by Michigan Election Law. Non-partisan candidates are in alphabetical order.

The LWV of the Kalamazoo Area provided information about local candidates. The LWV of Michigan provided information about state candidates, and the LWV of the U.S. about national candidates.

Publication of these candidate statements and opinions is solely in the interest of public service. No one should construe this service as a League endorsement in any way. The League of Women Voters takes no responsibility for any of the views or facts stated by the candidates.

## About the Candidates' Responses

Responses were limited to a specific number of characters, including letters and spaces. They were truncated after the limit was reached.

Responses are printed as submitted by the candidate. Spelling, punctuation and grammar were not changed.

If the candidate did not reply by the required date for publication, the words "Did not respond in time for publication" appear under the candidate's name. Check [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org) for submissions after the publication deadline.

# United States President

## Four-year term; limit of two terms Vote for one

*Description: The President is: the head of state of the United States of America; the Chief Executive Officer; and, the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are prescribed in the Constitution and federal law. The President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices, and federal judges, subject to Senate approval. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.*

Base Salary: \$400,000 per year

**Note: All candidates who will appear on the Michigan ballot are listed below, but only those that meet the following criteria were invited to respond to the League's questions in this Guide.**

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President.
2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the Federal Elections Commission website.
3. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes.

Additional information on presidential candidates is available at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).

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## Questions

1. What actions would you take to balance public health and economic recovery in the US, both in light of COVID-19 and for the long term?
2. What is the most important issue facing our country and how do you plan to address it during your first 100 days in office?
3. How will you address racial injustice in our country on day one of your administration?
4. What aspects of our current immigration policy will your administration address first?
5. What will you do over the long term to ensure access to quality healthcare for all?

## Joe Biden

### Democrat

Website: <http://www.joebiden.com>

Email: [info@joebiden.com](mailto:info@joebiden.com)

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/joebiden>

Twitter: [twitter.com/joebiden](https://twitter.com/joebiden)

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/joebiden/>

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWNpXitY8eJ-ku6M-v25MKw>

1. It's a false choice to think we have to choose between our public health and economy; they're linked. On Day One, I'll implement the COVID strategy I've laid out since March – surging testing and protective gear; distributing vaccines safely and free of politics; helping schools and small businesses cover costs; and getting state and local governments resources to keep educators, cops, and firefighters on the job. I'll respect science and tell the truth, period. And I'll build our economy back better, creating millions of good-paying jobs. I'll revitalize manufacturing, build a clean energy economy, and boost caregiving – easing the squeeze on working families, providing paid leave, and getting caregivers the respect and pay they deserve.
2. Pandemic. Recession. Racial injustice. Climate change. We're facing historic crises; we have to tackle them all at once. Character and experience count. I'll listen to scientists, tell the truth, and make sure we're never so unprepared for a pandemic again. I'll expand the Affordable Care Act, lowering costs and making health care a right for all. I'll build our economy back better, and make racial equity central to recovery. In these crises, we have an enormous opportunity, if we come together. As President, I'll draw on the best of us, not the worst. I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as for those who do. That's a president's job: to represent us all. To take responsibility. To protect the nation. To unite and to heal.
3. America is at an inflection point. It's past time to end our inequities and deal with the denial of our nation's promise to too many for too long. I'll fight to end the health inequities that COVID-19 amplifies; and give every child the same strong start in life by offering universal Pre-K, tripling funding for Title I schools, and making public college debt-free for most families. I'll make racial equity central to our recovery, closing the racial wealth and income gaps, boosting home ownership, and investing in communities and entrepreneurs of color – building a stronger, more inclusive middle class for the future. And, I'll work for real police reform and invest in shifting our criminal justice focus from incarceration to prevention.
4. My immigration policy is built around keeping families together. It's past time to reform our broken system, restoring family unification and diversity as its core pillars. As President, I'll

reverse Trump's assault on our values on Day One, ending his cruel border policies that rip children from their mothers' arms. I'll act immediately to protect Dreamers and their families, and invest real political capital in finally delivering legislative immigration reform, with a roadmap to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented people who already do so much to make our communities strong. We have to enforce our laws, but in a way that's humane, respects due process, honors our values, and sees the big picture.

5. This pandemic makes clear: All Americans need access to quality, affordable health insurance. That's why I'll protect and build on the Affordable Care Act. I helped to secure the final key votes to pass that landmark law, protecting 100 million Americans who can no longer be turned away or denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, and bringing coverage to 20 million more. As President, I'll build on that progress with a public option and lower health care and prescription drug costs. I'll make all COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines free; double funding for community health centers that are so often on the frontlines of care; and much more.

## Donald J. Trump

### Republican

*Did not respond in time for publication.*

## Don Blankenship

### U.S. Taxpayers

*Candidate does not meet the criteria noted above.*

## Jo Jorgensen

### Libertarian

*Candidate does not meet the criteria noted above.*

## Howie Hawkins

### Green

*Candidate does not meet the criteria noted above.*

## Rocky De La Fuente

### Natural Law

*Candidate does not meet the criteria noted above.*

## About the Candidates' Responses

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# U.S. Senator – Michigan

## Six-year term **Vote for one**

*Description: U.S. Senators share the responsibility with U.S. Representatives for enactment of the nation's laws as provided in the U.S. Constitution. Senators ratify international treaties and confirm Presidential appointments of Cabinet members, federal judges, and foreign ambassadors. A Senator must be at least 30 years of age and a U.S. Citizen for at least 9 years. There are 100 Senators, two from each state.*

## Questions

- 1. Health Care:** What do you see as the federal government's role in health care? Given the COVID-19 pandemic, what are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. health coverage, policies and programs, including Medicare and Medicaid?
- 2. Economy:** What federal policies do you support for a healthy economy and to help the broader American public improve their economic positions?
- 3. Elections:** What federal policies do you advocate regarding elections, campaign funding and voting rights? Do you support mailing ballots to all eligible voters?
- 4. Social Injustice:** Do you believe there is systemic racism, economic disparity, and other social injustices which should be addressed by Congress? If so, what policies do you support?
- 5. Environment & Energy:** What policies do you support to meet U.S. energy needs while protecting our water, air and land for current and future generations?
- 6. Immigration:** What policies do you support relative to immigration into the U.S.?

## Gary Peters

### Democrat

*United States Senator. After Alma College, I put myself through night school, earning degrees from Michigan State University, Wayne State University Law School and an M.B.A. from the University of Detroit Mercy. Michigan native, 20+ years experience in business, served in the U.S. Navy Reserve rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, served in elected positions in local, state, and federal governments. Campaign Website: <http://petersformichigan.com/>. Facebook: <http://facebook.com/PetersForMichigan>. Twitter: [twitter.com/GaryPeters](https://twitter.com/GaryPeters).*

- As we continue to work through the pandemic, it's never been more critical that Michiganders have access to quality, affordable health care. I have worked to protect and strengthen the Affordable Care Act and oppose the GOP-led lawsuit to overturn it in the Supreme Court which would gut protections for pre-existing conditions for over 1.7 million Michiganders and raise health care costs. I've fought to ensure Medicare and Medicaid are fully funded, and worked to bring down the cost of prescription drugs by passing legislation to fight big pharmaceutical companies' from monopolizing the lower cost, generic drug market.
- My top priorities include rebuilding our economy and creating good-paying jobs in Michigan to strengthen our middle class. I've passed legislation to promote manufacturing in Michigan, support small businesses and expand opportunities in the skilled trades and am working to bring back manufacturing of critical medical supplies. Before entering public service, I worked in business for over 20 years, and understand the unique challenges that small businesses face and their critical role in our economy. That's why I helped pass the Small Business Jobs Act which provided tens of millions of dollars to Michigan.
- Voting is at the core of our democracy and every American has the right to make their voices heard at the ballot box. I support policies to curb the influence of money in elections and make it easier to vote. I'm a proud cosponsor of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to protect and expand voting rights. And as the President attempts to disenfranchise Americans from voting, I'm working to modernize our voter registration system, reduce long wait times to vote, prohibit deceptive practices that could discourage voting, and make sure that the people of the state of Michigan are able to vote absentee.
- From police violence to the impact of COVID-19 on minority communities, it's clear Black and Brown Americans face institutional racism. We must address inequities in our society including fixing economic, health and educational disparities in addition to reforming our criminal justice system. That's why I'm leading legislation to improve community policing, support commonsense policing reforms, and fought to increase access to capital for minority-owned businesses amid the pandemic. I will continue fighting so every Michigander can achieve our nation's promise of justice, prosperity and equality for all.
- We need to invest in clean energy job creation and support measures to tackle the threat of climate change, which will continue to harm the Great Lakes and threaten our way of life. I am committed to reducing carbon pollution, building a clean energy economy that supports both our economic needs and provides environmental justice. I've passed legislation to prevent catastrophic oil spills on the Great Lakes and curtail the use of toxic PFAS chemicals. I've also secured historic Great Lakes funding to clean up contaminated lakes, beaches and waterways, and prevent the spread of invasive species.
- As Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, securing our borders and upholding our laws is my top priority. Immigrants are essential to the fabric of our nation, strengthening our communities and economy. That's why I support comprehensive immigration reform, common sense laws to strengthen our borders, a tough but fair path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who are already working and paying taxes here, and keeping families together.

## John James

### Republican

*U.S. Senate Candidate, former Army Captain, President-James Group International. Bachelor of Science from the U.S. Military Academy, Master of Supply Chain Management and Information Systems from Penn State University, Masters of Business Administration from the University of MI. Ranger-qualified aviation officer, served in Operation Iraqi Freedom earning a Combat Action Badge (CAB) and two Air Medals while logging over 750 flight hours, leading 2 Apache Helicopter Platoons. Campaign Website: <http://www.johnjamesforsenate.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JohnJamesMI>. Twitter: [twitter.com/JohnJamesMI](https://twitter.com/JohnJamesMI).*

- We are facing a major crisis right now with COVID, which has stressed our nation's health-care systems. Any healthcare plan that I support must absolutely protect individuals with pre-existing conditions, lower drug prices, and protect seniors. We must also protect Medicare/Medicaid and work to ensure their long-term sustainability. We need a patient-centered, market-based approach that works for everyone. We need to keep the parts of the Affordable Care Act that work and replace the parts that don't, including those that increase prices. We must empower doctors & patients, not insurance companies and the federal gov.
- Michigan is home to the most innovative manufacturers, agricultural producers in the world. I support trade policies that bring back and protect US jobs. As a member of Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan's Workforce Development Council, I've worked to help make the American Dream possible for Michiganders. Politicians talk about bringing manufacturing back, but we need leaders to actually support policies that bring those jobs back. I also support opportunity zones to help revive areas hurt most by COVID. Americans aren't looking for free stuff, just a fair shot. I look forward to bringing my experience to the U.S. Senate.

- I served in the U.S. Army to defend and protect the rights and freedoms of this country. I support and encourage every American's right to vote. It is the cornerstone of our democracy. In Michigan, it is law of the land for every registered voter to be able to vote absentee with no reason.
- As a black man, as a father of three boys, I was heartbroken to see the video of George Floyd. And the others that have come before him. My father grew up in the Jim Crow South. I'm in the position to run for US Senate because somebody marched for me. My father moved to MI, started a family business and I'm looking forward to using my platform and opportunity to fight for anybody else who wants to work for an opportunity to achieve the American dream. We need to offer all in Michigan, who wish to achieve it, a path to prosperity. This path will tear down barriers, increase access, and provide economic opportunity.
- Here in Michigan, we have amazing national treasures, like the Great Lakes. We must protect the lakeshore and update infrastructure to ensure the economic impact of the lakes to our state is not interrupted. I support an all-of-the-above energy policy that will focus on affordable energy. I will champion policies and programs that protect environmental quality throughout the Great Lakes and protect them from invasive species. The same applies to the land we farm and live on and the air we breathe. We enjoy an incredible agricultural diversity in Michigan and need to guarantee it for future seasons.
- Our immigration system is broken, and I believe that both parties have failed. No one wants to see families separated. America is a nation of immigrants and we are also a nation of laws. I will work to support reform of the legal immigration system that provides security while supporting our economy. We need comprehensive immigration reform that will help our nation grow and retain talent and thrive while also protecting our national security. I am the only candidate in Michigan's US Senate race who has ever had to secure a border. I will work with anyone to work toward meaningful reform that ensures secure borders.

## Valerie L. Willis

### U.S. Taxpayers

*Licensed Insurance Agent-11 years; Wealth Advisor, IRA, Pensions, Annuities, Medical Care, more. AA-Associate degree in Fine Arts. BA-Bachelor degree, Liberal Arts/Minor English. MA-Masters degree in Educational Administration and Community Leadership. BS-(unf) Business/English Lang & Lit. 11 years Licensed Insurance Agent: Wealth Advisor: Medicare, Medical Coverage, Health Saving Accounts; Medicaid; Social Security Pensions; Annuities and IRA Rollovers: Farmer 19 years; Navy wife 16 yrs. Campaign Website: <http://willisforcongress.com>.*

- The government has a limited role in health care! This is the states right to create laws on medical coverage for all. Let the experts take care of this - the insurance carriers are the experts, for over 245 years! Obama tried to break the carriers and invade their income streams. We can cover all the people of this country by state, with pre-existing conditions and disabilities, we the people need to control our own policies. I have solved this problem and I urge my voters to come and meet me and listen to my solution, it is the only one that makes any sense. I am the expert in this area.
- A true free market in Michigan-less regulation of businesses; nothing that stops trade inside of Michigan, the USA and worldwide; government needs to stop interfering in business trade; the Michigan economy has been decimated by Gov. Whitmer's unconstitutional executive orders; our business economy has been decimated, yet no where in our Mich constitution or U.S. constitution says the govt can shut down our economy yet we allowed them to at great financial losses; we have the right to due process to sue the state of Michigan for our losses this is common in the insurance world to make up our losses.
- I, Valerie Willis, supports in person voting! Get rid of the machine voting where only a few companies own all the machines. Go back to paper ballots, with pens to vote with, with men and women counting by hand, locally in every voting precinct and township! Which will result in a real true count! Each county individually accountable! To the voters...show up and vote for every election, and vote in your township and county! This is how we the people remain free by exercising our right to vote! Assemble your counties Michigan general jural assembly...power resides in the republic.
- I Valerie Willis supports constitutional rights and Michigan constitutional rights, as originally intended. I support these constitutional rights for all men, women and children, elderly, disabled, veterans and more, of every race and nation that lives in our country and in my state. It is time we rise to our original constitutional sovereign status, as we the people and enact our unalienable rights. All should be treated the same, and equal under law.
- Energy: we are still in the era of coal and gas, this is a reality of living now. We need to get the lowest energy rates for our patriots in Michigan, while providing safe jobs to our workers in the energy industry. Gas heating is too expensive for most people and needs to be lowered. Environment: Michigan is a chemicalled septic tank, there is no other way to describe our beloved state. Anyone who denies this is a liar. We are at the top in cancer in the nation and in PFAS contamination in the United States. We have contaminated flouride water in water pipes in our homes.
- I, Valerie Willis supports the Willis plan for immigration and will take this plan with me when I win my race, and will fight for the right to finally get to true immigration reform. 1) close all borders of the USA until we have immigration reform and until we (House, Senate and President) agree. 2) close the Mich border until further notice until we the people of Mich have true immig. reform. No new immigrants in until true reform has been achieved by our House, Senate and Governor. 3) whomever is in the USA, or Michigan now, stays, and must immediately proceed to gain their citizenship.

# U.S. Senator – Michigan, continued

## Marcia Squier Green

Valet Supervisor for a local, Michigan-based company. Bachelor of Science Degree, Wayne State University, Class of 1997, Psychology Major. 2 terms on local park association (IGPA) Board of Directors- Chairman & 2nd Vice President; 1 term as secretary for local middle school parent-teacher committee. Campaign Website: <http://www.crowdpac.com/campaigns/395494/marcia-t-squier>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MarciaSquier4Senate/>. Twitter: [twitter.com/triple\\_marcia](https://twitter.com/triple_marcia).

1. We all deserve to have universal basic healthcare, especially with an ongoing global pandemic. We also need more healthcare providers, which is why my #HIRE jobs program focuses on Healthcare, Infrastructure, Renewables and Education. We would also need more educators in order to accomplish this goal. And we could absolutely afford this if we just simply ended the endless wars and enacted a GI Bill for All type legislation. People could do voluntary community service instead of military servitude. Working towards peace instead of more costly wars, death and destruction.
2. I believe that if we are our best, healthiest, most educated selves, not only would our economy be improved, but also the quality of life overall, in addition to a significant reduction in crimes of desperation. If we invest into ourselves, our healthcare and education, by expanding already existing legislation to include everyone, regardless of age or military status, we could ensure lifelong basic healthcare and higher education beyond high school. Skilled trades and STEM fields are very crucial in today's day and age, and we're only hurting ourselves if we fail to achieve this goal.
3. I advocate for hand-counted paper ballots with citizen oversight, as opposed to our current system of machine-counted with government oversight. Our central tabulators are extremely vulnerable to electioneering. I do not support the use of privately owned machinery, owned by companies that donate to campaigns and/or parties. I support taxpayer-funded recounts as

opposed to taxpayer-funded major party primaries (especially ones that use superdelegates- the single largest form of voter disenfranchisement in existence today). I support taxpayer-funded general elections with Ranked Choice Voting (and/or Approval Voting).

4. I do believe that there is systemic racism, economic disparity and social injustices that should be addressed by Congress. This includes breaking up corporate monopolies, increasing the minimum wage, stricter penalties for law enforcement and elected officials that abuse their positions, and ending the War on Drugs by retroactively legalizing cannabis and decriminalization of drugs in general. If we had universal healthcare and education, less people would self-medicate their problems away and seek proper treatment instead.
5. I support as part of my #HIRE jobs program, going 100% fossil fuel-free ASAP. I support strict penalties for polluters and poachers. We need to invest in renewable energy and infrastructure over the next decade if we are going to continue to evolve as a nation and civilization. Skilled trades investment for the betterment of all. Innovation will be key in the future, both near and distant.
6. I support giving a welcoming path to citizenship for all people without violent pasts. People with other types of criminal pasts should be eligible for citizenship after a probationary period. Our country was founded by immigrants and descendants of immigrants. It should always be the country people want to go to when they can't stand their own. If we end the endless war, the refugee crisis would be greatly diminished, and more people would stay in their homeland if it wasn't war-torn. Too many of us have no idea what it's like to live in a country that sees military bombings regularly.

## Doug Dern Natural Law

Did not respond in time for publication.

# U.S. Congress – Michigan District 6

## Two-year term Vote for one

Description: Representatives share the responsibility with Senators for enactment of the nation's laws as provided in the U.S. Constitution. Laws that require payment of taxes are initiated in the House of Representatives. A Representative must be at least 25 years of age and a U.S. Citizen for at least 7 years. There are 435 Representatives based on Congressional districts reapportioned after each census. Michigan has 14 districts as of 2012.

## Questions

1. **Health Care:** What do you see as the federal government's role in health care? Given the Covid 19 pandemic, what are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. health coverage, policies and programs, including Medicare and Medicaid?
2. **Economy:** What federal policies do you support for a healthy economy and to help the broader American public improve their economic positions?
3. **Elections:** What federal policies do you advocate regarding elections, campaign funding and voting rights? Do you support mailing ballots to all eligible voters?
4. **Social Injustice:** Do you believe there is systemic racism, economic disparity, and other social injustices which should be addressed by Congress? If so, what policies do you support?
5. **Environment & Energy:** What policies do you support to meet U.S. energy needs while protecting our water, air and land for current and future generations?
6. **Immigration:** What policies do you support relative to immigration into the U.S.?

## Jon Hoadley Democrat

Michigan State Representative, District 60. Michigan State University. Minority Vice Chair, House Appropriations Committee. Member of the National LGBTQ Task Force, National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, the American State Legislators for Gun Violence Prevention. Campaign Website: <http://www.JonHoadley.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jon.hoadley>. Twitter: [twitter.com/JonHoadley](https://twitter.com/JonHoadley).

1. Our healthcare system is broken, and it's going to take a lot to fix it. I want to make sure every Michigander has access to high-quality affordable health care, regardless of where they live or what their personal financial situation is. While we work through important questions and details on any specific plan, it's clear that moving to a system where every American is covered will continue to bring the cost of healthcare down while helping more people live healthier lives. We need to ensure everyone can get access to the care they need, and lower prescription drug costs.
2. As our economy becomes more unpredictable, financial security and stability is out of reach for Michiganders from all walks of life. The middle class of yesterday feels like it has been replaced with side hustles, benefit cuts, and outsourcing. In order to truly reinvigorate the middle-class jobs, we must work to find new solutions to the questions of the twenty-first century. We must create an American economy that invests in American workers — through a living wage, new training programs, and reinvigorated unions. America has tried tax cuts and special giveaways to the biggest corporations, and they haven't worked.
3. Big money in our politics is standing in the way of progress being made on the issues that matter most to Michigan's working families. Whether it's skyrocketing prescription drug costs, addressing the impacts of climate change, or investing in our nation's crumbling infrastructure, our country is facing massive threats to our economic security and the future of our families. Instead of producing results, the politics and partisanship of Washington are making matters worse. We need to get big money out of politics, end the legislator-to-lobbyist pipeline, end partisan gerrymandering, & protect everyone's right to vote.
4. All people should have the guarantee of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It's past time to expand our nondiscrimination laws to ensure regardless of someone's religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, height, weight, familial status, or marital status, everyone has the same opportunity to work hard and succeed. We need to make sure we're looking at the ways people have access to justice. We need to fight for a free and open internet. We need to resist new forms of censorship and protect our rights as technology advances.
5. Climate change is already resulting in intense and unpredictable natural disasters, changes in the health of our food crops, drought and water problems, and more. We must take urgent and bold action to address the climate crisis and invest in sustainable infrastructure to meet the energy demands of the 21st century. We need to pass a Green New Deal, invest in renewable energy and transition our nation off fossil fuels, and ensure clean water for everyone.
6. It is past time to fix a broken immigration system. We need comprehensive immigration reform. DACA and other enforcement reprioritization efforts have provided a much-needed

safety net for children and young adults who were brought to the United States through no choice of their own. We must protect DREAMERS and grant them a pathway to citizenship. We can end warrantless ICE holds, stop separating families, and build strong communities.

## Fred Upton Republican

Congressman for Southwest Michigan. Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from University of Michigan. Proudly representing southwest Michigan since 1987. A vice chair of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus. Former chairman of the Energy & Commerce Committee. Ranking member on Energy Subcommittee. Campaign Website: <http://fredupton.com/>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/uptonforallfus>. Twitter: [@UptonForAllOfUs](https://twitter.com/UptonForAllOfUs).

1. Americans deserve access to high-quality, affordable health care. In 2016, we passed the 21st Century Cures Act to expedite the discovery and development of life-saving cures. Now I'm working on Cures 2 to modernize how we treat diseases and deliver more cures. Regarding reform efforts, we need to lower costs and expand access. One recent success was Michigan's expansion of Medicaid. In Congress, I fought to support states that expanded Medicaid eligibility. We also need to protect those with pre-existing conditions, let folks buy plans across state lines, and support telehealth services and community health centers.
2. Last year we had one of the strongest economies in history. We can get there again by working on solutions that once again put us toward strong economic growth. During COVID, we worked to secure billions for small businesses through the Paycheck Protection Program. This bipartisan program helped protect more than 1.5 million Michigan jobs. I've also introduced a bipartisan bill to expand broadband service in rural counties like here in SW Michigan. We need to ensure more Americans have access to reliable internet service. It's imperative both parties come together to work and focus on job creation and economic growth.
3. I've supported many commonsense, bipartisan campaign finance and voter access reforms. I supported the Motor Voter law so folks could register to vote when they go to the DMV, the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform, and the Help America Vote Act of 2002. I also support Michigan's No-Reason Absentee Ballot System. I support the Voting Rights Act and oppose all forms of voter discrimination. I have always been a vigorous defender of everyone's right to vote. With the COVID-19 crisis, we must ensure folks can vote safely, which is why I voted for more resources for the USPS.
4. Protests have demanded not to just dismiss racism but dismantle it. Systemic racism is too real for people of color in nearly every facet of society. I've marched in protests and I certainly believe Black lives matter. I cosponsored the JUSTICE Act and voted to advance the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. I'm working with my Problem Solvers Caucus colleagues on a bipartisan police reform bill. Defunding the police isn't the right answer. Law enforcement needs resources for better pay, training, and body cameras. We need to enhance community services like mental health, youth development, housing, and education.
5. I've always deeply appreciated our natural resources. I strongly supported the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and led the charge against storing nuclear waste near the Great Lakes. I helped pass the Great American Outdoors Act, a conservation bill that will protect and pre-

# U.S. Congress – Michigan District 6, continued

serve national parks. I was one of the first members of the Climate Caucus and opposed our withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord. I believe in an “all of the above” energy plan that focuses on emerging clean energy tech like renewables as well as traditional energy solutions that keep costs low, energy affordable, and our environment clean.

6. It's beyond time to fix our immigration system. I'm a strong supporter of legal immigration. I support Congressional action to help Dreamers. The number one issue for SW MI farmers is immigration reform. We need a reliable workforce for all farms. That's why in 2019 we passed the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, which provides ag workers an opportunity to earn legal status through continued ag employment, improve the H-2A visa program, and establish a mandatory E-Verify for the ag industry. I've been a supporter of border security funding and supported efforts to fight smuggling and human trafficking on our borders.

## Jeff Depoy Libertarian

CNC machine programmer. Combat veteran, father, leader. Campaign Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jefffor6th>. Twitter: [twitter.com/Jeff\\_for\\_6th](https://twitter.com/Jeff_for_6th).

1. The Government has no business being involved with healthcare. We need to turn 180° and remove the federal government from any decisions that are rightfully only made between you and your doctor.
2. I support ending federal income taxes on the American people. This in turn will immediately give every family a 12.5-25% raise on day one. You work hard for your money, keep all of it! With this additional “disposable” income, robust economic growth is sure to occur.
3. Every citizen has the right to vote, every citizen has the right to an absentee ballot if they request one. I do not support mailing unrequested ballots.
4. No, I believe that social injustice is an invention of the main stream media, in an attempt to sow division, and increase their profits at the expense of we the people. Americans by and large, are kind people. Turn off the tv and talk to your neighbor.
5. Nuclear, nuclear, nuclear. Safe, zero emissions, cost effective.
6. We must grant permanent legal status to the DACA recipients immediately, and provide a possible path to citizenship for them. Then we dismantle the welfare state that makes illegal immigration so attractive, and begin an increase of merit based immigration.

## John Lawrence Green

Medical Dispatcher – Logistics and Courier Transport. Kalamazoo Central High School graduating class of 2007. Western Michigan University Bachelor of Arts, graduate in Comparative Religion and Film/Media studies. No one's REALLY qualified for this type of position. But I listen, I empathize, and I've studied national and geopolitical affairs for over a decade at this point, inspired to improve the world. Campaign Website: Coming soon. Check my social media pages. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/RapsRantsRamblings/>. Twitter: [twitter.com/jlawrencekzoo](https://twitter.com/jlawrencekzoo).

1. Medicare and Medicaid should be expanded immediately. It's unfathomable that neither the Democratic or Republican parties will pledge to support a Medicare for All system, in the middle of one of the worst pandemics in the history of the modern world. A public option is better than nothing, but the time for this was 12 years ago during Obama's first term. We are now in a crisis. Don't believe the mainstream media; Medicare for All would actually SAVE the taxpayers \$Billions over the long-term. It is the fiscally conservative approach that actually works, and we should enact it immediately, before more people die
2. First of all, we have to accept as a society that the “glory days” of American economic exploitation of the world are not coming back. China is the world's new economic powerhouse, and it will remain that way for the near future. I fully support an expanded jobs program to train Americans and get them to work, but this alone is not enough. We need to look at systems of universal basic income, as well as the restructuring of our economic system to decentralize the power of mega-corporations in our society. We need renewed investment in local shops, farms, family businesses to give our future a fighting chance.
3. There's absolutely no reason why we can't mail ballots to every registered voter. And while we're at it, every American citizen should be automatically registered to vote at the age of 18, end of story. If the Republicans care so much about encouraging Americans to vote in person, then why don't they support a Federal holiday for election day? I support this. In terms of campaign funding, Citizens United really screwed the American people, but times were bad even before this decision. Corporations shouldn't be allowed to fund political candidates. It's that simple. And it shouldn't take \$Millions to run a campaign.
4. Clearly there are major economic and systematic injustices in this country, those arguing otherwise are burying their heads in the sand. Black and brown communities have suffered the worst from this, but in 2020 we're all starting to feel the effects. Raising the minimum wage will help, but what we really need to do is tax the billionaire class and the speculators on Wall St. Cultural racism is real, but economic inequality is the fuel which feeds it. Black and brown communities lack the wealth they need to effectively fight the ruling establishment. Multi-generational poverty must end if our society is to prosper.
5. The fact that Republicans (and Democrats, for that matter) are fighting to protect the fossil fuel industry is not only abhorrent, but also incredibly stupid. Even within the free market, solar and wind is making coal and natural-gas obsolete at an expedient rate. Why are we subsidizing fossil fuel industries with no long-term future? Wind and solar expansion is vital to our national security interests. The sooner we become long-term self-reliant the sooner we don't have to rely on China or the Middle East for our energy needs. And yeah, clean water, land, and air – how is that not vital to our national security?
6. The entire immigration discussion in the US is out of hand. Keeping people in cages and separating children from families is horrid and shameful. But beyond that, why is our discussion so focused on citizenship to begin with? Most refugees aren't interested in citizenship (in the short term), they merely want legal protection to allow them to live and work within the US. This is the strategy I support. Fund the ability to process people across the border expediently, and give them legal status to live and work without fear of deportation. Take them out of the shadows. Then we can discuss eventual future citizenship.

# Michigan State House of Representatives

## Two-year term Vote for one

Description: The Michigan House of Representatives shares responsibility with the Michigan Senate to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws. State Representatives may serve a maximum of three full terms. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 110 State House districts which are re-apportioned after each census.

## Questions

1. Education: What is your position on the role of public funding of education in Michigan? What measures do you support/propose to improve educational outcomes and accessibility for all Michigan students?
2. Economic Security: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions, in general and given the pandemic?
3. Elections: What state policies do you support regarding Michigan elections, voting and campaign funding? Do you support mailing ballots to all eligible voters?
4. Environment/Energy: What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations? What is your position on energy efficiency and renewable energy?
5. Social Justice: How would you address the racial, economic, health, education, etc. inequities, including Michigan's 20% of children and 17% of seniors living in poverty?
6. Guns: Do you believe that Michigan has a gun violence problem? If so, what measures would you support to alleviate this problem?

## District 60

City of Kalamazoo. Township of Kalamazoo

## Julie M. Rogers Democrat

Physical Therapist at Borgess Hospital and Kalamazoo County Commissioner. Bachelor's in Psychology and Masters of Physical Therapy from Marquette University, and graduate of Mat-tawan High School and Kalamazoo Area Math/Science Center. 4-term County Commissioner, lifetime member NAACP, National Assoc. of Counties Health Policy Steering Cmte., Michigan Assoc. of Counties Board of Directors, National Women in Government class of 2019. Campaign Website: <http://www.juliemrogers.com/>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/vote4rogers/>. Twitter: [twitter.com/vote4rogers](https://twitter.com/vote4rogers).

1. Michigan has been steering money away from K-12 schools to higher education for almost a decade. While I support funding higher education, doing so this way hurts our most vulnerable students. I would put that money back where it belongs so we can help schools raise teacher pay, reduce class sizes, and provide equitable access to technology. After COVID-19, schools won't just need help filling dramatic cuts in state funding, they'll also need money to help students make up for learning they've lost while home and to make sure schools are safe when kids return.
2. COVID-19 has shown that many of our essential jobs have unsafe working conditions and unfair practices. As we reopen our economy, it's not going to be enough to create jobs—we need to protect our workforce as well. Michigan employees need the right to collectively bargain for fair and safe workplaces if we want to reduce turnover and stabilize our economy. We need to incentivize businesses to maintain as much of their payroll as possible. One of the ways Michigan can do this is by expanding workshare eligibility, which brings in extra Federal dollars and helps avoid a larger unemployment insurance debt.

3. Fair, open, safe, equitable, and accessible elections are important to our democracy. I have always supported measures which enable and empower every citizen to vote. Every registered voter in Michigan should receive a ballot for every election. We have a significant voter information gap in Michigan which is why Michigan election funding should also include spending for increased education in areas with low turnout. When voters feel like voting is hard or confusing, they don't vote. We need to make the process as easy and clear as possible so our government can be truly representative.
4. I support investing in renewable energy. I introduced a Climate Emergency resolution that passed unanimously by the Kalamazoo County Board. Our County Government recently built our first solar array near the jail. We need to prioritize environmental protections in our State budget and hold polluters accountable. Access to safe, clean drinking water is non-negotiable. I will continue to support the choice for cleaner, more efficient energy sources in Michigan. Wind and solar energy are strong pillars in our energy infrastructure. Investing in sustainable infrastructure could boost our economy and save our planet.
5. I've served on Borgess' Diversity Council for 10 years working to improve access to healthcare and remove disparities. As an elected official, I collaborated with local leaders to procure a MacArthur Family Foundation grant to reduce the number of young adults in our County Jail. No one piece of legislation will cure discrimination that has been intentionally built into our systems. We need to move in the right direction and support policies that take a hard look at structural racism and oppression, such as those which require police officers to complete training on implicit bias and de-escalation.
6. Michigan has a gun violence problem. I have rehabilitated survivors of gun violence and witnessed the effects it has. Helping these patients recover has had a profound impact on me. I support responsible gun ownership; however, we need red flag laws which stop potentially violent people from acquiring guns and universal background checks which require all gun sales to be recorded in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. I am also proud to have the distinction of being a Moms Demand Action Gun Sense Candidate for 2020.

# Michigan State House of Representatives, continued

## Gary Mitchell Republican

*Helping find homes for Homeless people (and others). PhD Physical Chemistry, University of Texas Austin. BS Chemistry, Wayne State University Detroit, MI. 4 years GM Research Corp. Warren, MI. Materials Characterization Research at The Dow Chemical Company Midland, MI, 24 years. Real Estate Consultant, Kalamazoo, 4 years. Campaign Website: <http://GaryMitchell2020>. Facebook: Coming.*

1. Education is critical to maintain a viable constitutional republic. Schools need to teach American history as an important subset of world history. Citizens need to know about the horrors and the truth of Communism and socialism and they need to be properly taught about American Government, its pros as well as its vulnerabilities. Students are currently not taught that we fought a war where 700,000 or so Americans died (mostly white) to end slavery in the USA. And they do not seem to know that in other countries well over 100 million people were murdered in the name of socialism in the 20th century.
2. Smaller government and fewer regulations will help. We need to remove the law making ability from the hands of bureaucrats. The only law making body called out in the Michigan constitution is the legislature. If bureaucrats suggest a rule, it should only be made law after being considered and approved by the legislature.
3. I do not support mailing ballots to eligible voters. If people want to vote, then let them go to the polling place. We can require them to wear masks, gloves and social distance, show their ID and vote. Too much possibility for voter fraud with universal mail in ballots. Also it is for sure that many "eligible" voters on the voter lists are either dead, moved out of the district are voting at school or etc. There have been well documented evidence of these sorts of things. Even just last week a mailman was found guilty of harvesting mail in ballots.
4. I like clean water and air. We should not allow indiscriminate dumping in our rivers or into the air of toxic materials. Energy efficiency and sustainable energy are very good things if they do not cost more than the old ways, or use more energy or cause more pollution or kill birds and wildlife. Some actions sound wonderful at first blush, but the unexpected consequences are sometimes awful. I have read that windmills are killing birds at large rates. Some of the new varieties of solar cells use very toxic materials in their production. We must get an understanding of this, quickly before wide application.
5. The government should give everyone equal opportunity. People need the opportunity to migrate to the job that they love the most and thus do the best. Let us learn what are the reasons children and other people are poor. Since LBJ instigated the great society, the government has poured out trillions of dollars to bring people out of poverty. Generally it made no difference to the poverty rate. It was wasted money. In fact there is a lot of evidence that much of the problems have a lot to do with the absence of fathers in the home and this is largely caused by the welfare rules. It is time for racism to end here.
6. No Michigan does not have a gun violence problem. Guns are an inanimate object useful for self defense. Guns make us all equal. Guns make a woman equal to a man for instance. The second amendment to the US Constitution provides every citizen the right to own and bear arms for self defense from criminals or in the event of a tyrannical government. I want everyone to be trained with their gun, whether they keep it at home, use it for hunting or carry it for defense outside the home. This will especially be important if governments start eliminating police departments as they are planning in Minneapolis.

## Stephanie Moore (write in)

*Consultant, MOORE Consulting; Program Director, Mothers of Hope. Diploma, Kalamazoo Public Schools; Associates, Technical Studies, Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Chair, 60th District CSC Board; served 3 terms on County Board of Commission including board Chair and Vice Chair; 4 terms Kalamazoo City Commission; policy maker, change agent, & community advocate. Campaign Website: <http://www.Moore-2020.com>. Facebook: <http://@StephanieMoore> for Michigan State Representative, 60th District. Twitter: [twitter.com/RepMoore2020](https://twitter.com/RepMoore2020).*

1. As recently affirmed in Gary B. v. Whitmer, education is a fundamental right. Every child must have access to quality education from Pre-K and beyond. Strengthening our public education system is necessary for the future of Michigan and our Country. Today's students do not compete against other students in their classroom; their competition is global. The 60th District students are not performing at the level necessary to remain competitive. We, in Michigan, must make sure that good public schools are available in every county and advanced education whether its entrepreneurial, skills trade, or college.
2. The current economic crises, due to Covid-19, has set Michigan families behind economically. The hardest hit are the hardest workers. As the next State Representative, I will partner with our small businesses, municipalities, and the philanthropic community to create a bridge designed to get economic resources to those who need it, when they need it. Over the next two-four years, there will be a continued need for Small Business grants and access to ways to create jobs that are agile and green. Our State deserves our renewed focus upon the economy. The 60th District needs it and I will be a tireless champion.
3. I support mailing ballots to all eligible voters. The current state policies regarding Michigan elections, voting and campaign funding need to be reformed in order to address our current election needs. Michigan voters participated at the highest rate of absentee voting this past March than ever before. We need to listen to our constituents and increase their ability to freely and consistently exercise their right to vote when they want and however they want. I do not support any legislation action that would suppress, remove, or take away a person's Constitutional right to vote.
4. Our great State is surrounded by the Great Lakes, full of green spaces, and is a natural wonder to behold. Unfortunately, over the past decades, Michigan's natural environment has taken an onslaught of air and water pollutants and toxins that pose one of many threats to the overall welfare of those who live in this State. In particular, the State of Michigan needs to take decisive and immediate action to address these three critical issues: Clean water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs! I will continue to advocate for energy efficient and renewable energy legislation that will protect Michigan now and in the future.
5. As an African American, I am proud of the strides made in a Michigan that would elect an African American Lt. Governor. I am also personally acquainted with the ingrained racism in Michigan that continues to play out institutionally and structurally at every level in our State. It drains human resources from minority communities and takes a huge chunk out of the tax base that could go toward funding education, cleaning up the environment; and "fixing the damn roads." I have a proven track-record of public service that focuses on addressing structural and systemic inequities and will take that commitment to Lansing.

6. I received the gun sense candidate distinction from MOMS Demand Action. I believe in responsible gun laws that serve to protect the safety and well-being of all citizens. We need effective gun control legislation and passing common sense policy. The most recent display of guns in our State's Capital speaks to the level of advantage taken by individuals who hide behind the Second Amendment while terrorizing residents and legislatures. That is unacceptable. If policy isn't passed before I'm in Lansing, I will push to outlaw guns in the Capital buildings and for aggressive gun legislation to make Michigan safe.

## District 61

City of Portage. Townships of Oshtemo, Prairie Ronde, Schoolcraft, Texas

## Christine Morse Democrat

*Kalamazoo County Commissioner - District 9. B.A. Political Science - Michigan State University. JD - Wayne State University Law School. Christine is Michigan native, former attorney, Kalamazoo County Commissioner, public school parent of 3, breast cancer survivor, and spouse of a Navy Veteran. Campaign Website: <http://www.vote4morse.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/vote4morse>. Twitter: [twitter.com/vote4morse](https://twitter.com/vote4morse).*

1. As a public school graduate and parent, public education funding is my top issue. Teachers are vastly underpaid and class sizes are unreasonably high. In addition to rectifying the disinvestment we've seen over the last couple of decades, we are 50th in the country in reading growth. I believe we need to invest seriously in our public education - both through skilled trades programs, retraining, and higher education if we want our kids to be able to build a life here in Michigan. We also need to reevaluate our testing standards and make sure to involve educators in the process of rewriting.
2. We need to go back to being a state that fully supports the labor unions that helped build us. We need to restore Prevailing Wage, repeal Right to Work, and pass a bill equivalent to One Fair Wage. I support retraining programs like Michigan Reconnect and Going Pro, and believe we need to implement New Deal-like programs similar to the Conservation Corp and the Works Progress Administration to sustainably bring people back to work.
3. I support campaign finance reform including requiring public reporting for all campaign contributions. I do support mailing ballots to all eligible voters and adding ballot drop-off locations at grocery stores and libraries with the assistance of local clerks.
4. Kalamazoo County has been dealing with flooding issues for many years. As a member of the Texas Township Flooding Taskforce, I believe we need more collaboration between state and local governments to protect our water resources - especially in the face of climate change. We have also had three instances of PFAS contamination in our district. I support state action to address PFAS contamination including reinstating Polluter Pay and extending support to fire departments to change the kind of firefighting foam they use. I support increasing Michigan's Energy Efficiency Standard to 25% by 2025.
5. Increasing access to quality education, housing, and healthcare are the most important ways we can address poverty and move our community toward justice. As a breast cancer survivor I want to prioritize working to pass a bill guaranteeing healthcare for Michiganders with pre-existing conditions. No family should go bankrupt because of a medical diagnosis. I believe we can also do more to change state zoning laws so that municipalities can prioritize affordable housing development.
6. I am proud to have received the Moms Demand Action Gun Sense Candidate Distinction for 2020. I believe we need to pass universal background checks, close the "gun show" and "boyfriend" loopholes, and pass red flag laws to make sure that domestic abusers do not have access to a firearm.

## Bronwyn Haltom Republican

*My husband and I own a small marketing firm. Attended KVCC and transferred to the University of Michigan to earn Bachelor of Arts. I was born here, educated here, and own a small business here. I believe in our community and am committed to serving our neighbors to move Michigan forward. Campaign Website: <http://bronwynhaltom.com>. Facebook: [HaltomforMichigan](http://HaltomforMichigan). Twitter: [twitter.com/BronwynHaltom](https://twitter.com/BronwynHaltom).*

1. Public education is the most important investment the State of Michigan can make in our future, and I support robust education funding that prepares Michigan students for the jobs of tomorrow. The legislature must find long-term solutions to address Michigan's third grade reading levels that bring together parents, teachers, administrators and students. I support measures to expand opportunities that empower parents and guardians to make decisions that best fit their student's educational needs. We must also promote and invest in skilled trades and vocational learning as an additional path to career readiness.
2. Now more than ever, Michigan must have an economic climate that encourages growth and investment and brings families and good-paying jobs back to our state. I support policies that encourage companies to innovate, expand, and hire a Michigan workforce without burdensome regulations and high taxes. I believe the Governor should work with the legislature to produce a plan that allows our economy to re-open safely, while supporting small businesses that have been hit the hardest by this pandemic.
3. I support efforts to promote civic engagement and assist all who are eligible exercise their right to vote. Transparency is crucial in ensuring the integrity of Michigan's campaign finance system, and giving voters access to timely and accurate funding sources holds elected officials accountable to those they represent.
4. Protecting Michigan's precious natural resources is essential - I support current state laws that protect our lands, air and Great Lakes from pollution, and policies that promote environmental stewardship and energy innovation. Modernizing Michigan's energy infrastructure with sustainable solutions and allowing the renewable energy sector to thrive will create new jobs and reduce our environmental impact.
5. Addressing these will require meaningful bipartisan legislation specific to the issue at hand, though increased funding for early education, skilled trades programs and vocational learning will provide greater opportunity for communities impacted by generational poverty and institutional inequities. I would also oppose policies - such as a 45-cent gas tax - that disproportionately burden the poorest communities in our state.
6. Our community has felt the devastation of gun violence first-hand. I support common-sense measures to prevent criminals and those wishing to do us harm from acquiring deadly weapons. Increased funding for mental health programs and school security officers will help deter preventable tragedies and keep Kalamazoo safe.

# Michigan State House of Representatives, continued

## District 63

Kalamazoo County: City of Galesburg. Townships of Brady, Charleston, Climax, Comstock, Pavilion, Ross, Wakeshma.

Calhoun County: City of Marshall. Townships of Athens, Burlington, Clarendon, Eckford, Emmett, Fredonia, Homer, Leroy, Marengo, Marshall, Newton, Tekonsha.

### Luke Howell

#### Democrat

HVAC Tech and Plumber / Pipefitter with Dan Wood Company. Iowa State University, University of South Dakota, BS in Political Science. Helped Start Kalamazoo Dad's Facebook/Support Group Helped bring WatchDOGS to Galesburg Augusta Primary School. Active in the fight against a gravel pit in Richland. Active in Dozens of Campaigns. Campaign Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Luke-Howell-for-Michigans-63rd-103656391317635/>.

1. Smaller Class Sizes are critical. Better Teacher Pay as benefits have dwindled. The reality is politicians promise they will support education but never follow through. As a former educator, I will fight for schools.
2. Fair Wages. We have found out who really is "essential" and it's sad that many people used to scoff at the idea of fast food and grocery store workers earning a living wage, but it's time we reward ALL essential workers.
3. I'm running a zero dollar campaign. Citizen's United is the worst Supreme Court decision during my lifetime. I think politicians are already bought before they step foot in their office. I'm not going to be one of them. Frankly, people ignore the phone calls emails texts fliers and mail drops for candidates anyway. It's a huge waste of financial resources.
4. Climate change is real, we continue to follow the path of more and more costly natural disasters every year because of climate change. We need proactive policy the focuses on renewable energy again.
5. Acknowledging it is the first step. Black Lives Matter. No knock searches must end. Qualified immunity must change, mental health services and response must be a part of policing. Public Safety has to be our mindset. A living wage will help with some poverty issues, but Seniors services should not be local bond issues communities have to vote on just to reach adequate levels to support our seniors. Senior health initiatives that keep seniors active, exercising and engaged, while being affordable would do wonders for our Senior population.
6. My dad hunts, I've grown up around guns, in college I worked in Law Enforcement. We have a cultural problem of gun worship. Eventually that could lead to a severe gun violence issue, or responsible gun owners could continue to be responsible. I fear the rhetoric that all democrats want to take your guns away. We DON'T. But, we do need to move towards a culture of respecting the deadly consequences of gun violence. I speak to this because of the massive increase in firearm suicides in our communities. They are not victimless crimes. First responders should have the images of suicides permanently placed in their minds.

### Matt Hall

#### Republican

State Representative. Bachelor of Business Administration, Management & Public Administration, Western Michigan University. Juris Doctor, Advanced Constitutional Advocacy, Western Michigan University, Cooley Law School. Chairman of the Joint Select Committee on the Covid-19 Pandemic. Chairman of the House Oversight Committee. Attorney. Campaign Website: <http://www.electmatthall.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/electmatthall/>. Twitter: [twitter.com/electmatthall](https://twitter.com/electmatthall).

1. As a member of the Education Committee, I have worked to improve opportunities for Michigan's children. I voted to close the gap between Michigan's highest and lowest funded schools, because all students should have an equal opportunity for a quality education. I voted for greater investment in career education and expanded curriculum flexibility so students can satisfy graduation requirements with career and technical education; visual or performing arts; or computer coding courses. I voted to hire more literacy coaches to put more students on the path to success by learning to read at an early age.
2. In order to achieve healthy lives and a healthy economy we must seek input from Michigan's medical experts and community leaders to determine the safe and sure way to allow every Michigander to resume his or her life safely and sensibly. People in our state are hurting. Over 2 million people had their job taken away and the unemployment system failed to provide them with swift support. State government has not been there to answer the call and many questions remain unanswered. We must work together in a bipartisan way to find smarter solutions. Now is not the time for politics.
3. As Chairman of the House Oversight Committee, I have worked to hold the Department of Elections accountable and to help it operate more effectively, and efficiently. When state auditors discovered 230 registered voters over 122 years old, better controls needed to secure the state's voter file from unauthorized access, and many election officials not participating in required election training, I held hearings to get answers. I am now working on legislation to improve the accuracy of the state's voter list, incentivize training of election officials, and to better protect the voter list from unauthorized access.
4. I support science-based environmental & water withdrawal practices. I have a 96% rating with the Michigan Farm Bureau. I introduced HR 41 to oppose the job killing, \$93 Trillion Green New Deal. I voted to block the governor's attempt to eliminate citizen panels that gave farmers, local governments, and industry a voice before state regulators forced new environmental rules on them. I support all-of-the-above energy policies that provide households & businesses access to affordable, reliable energy. I voted to stop local governments from charging unfair and excessive property taxes on residential solar panels.
5. I voted for criminal justice reform bills that would allow hundreds of thousands of people to automatically expunge reasonable past non-violent offenses, including many traffic tickets and marijuana offenses. These convictions are keeping many people from earning a decent living and suitable housing. I also voted for the new law that allows 17-year-olds to go through the juvenile justice system instead of being prosecuted as an adult for most offenses. Prosecutors could still charge 17-year-olds as adults for violent crimes. Studies show that including 17-year-olds in the juvenile justice system has cut reoffenses 34%.
6. I introduced bipartisan legislation to prevent a concealed pistol holder from unfair prosecution in the event he simply forgets to renew his concealed pistol license within the first year. Under current law, a CPL holder found carrying even one day after his license expires is guilty of a felony. A felony conviction can destroy a person's life. CPL holders are among our most law abiding citizens and must pass a criminal background check and receive firearm training.

It is unfair for an otherwise law-abiding citizen to become a felon because of a paperwork oversight. My bill would change this to a civil infraction.

### Rafael Wolf

#### Libertarian

IT Consultant and owner at EITS, LLC (Express IT Solutions) in Kalamazoo, MI - CEO. BS CIS - Davenport University, BRE - Grace Bible Col. Many board positions, active in many local communities, analytical mind, not bought by corporate interests and never will be. Campaign Website: <http://wolfspeedahead.com>. Facebook: <http://fb.me/cterafaelwolf>.

1. Public funding is an acceptable solution for educating the masses in Michigan but current funding models don't educate the masses equally. The funding models lead to district inequity that result in "poor schools" and "rich schools", "good education" and "bad education". No school is all bad or all good. No elected official is working on these disparities or the mechanisms causing them. These inequities need to be addressed and the systems in place causing them. Teacher union leadership are typically fearful that Libertarians are anti-union but they are not and I am certainly not.
2. Most politicians think they can "create jobs", usually with tax breaks or subsidy. You will see many claiming they have or will create jobs. Businesses create jobs and government typically does not, government creates "sectors" (like the green energy sector). Increasing jobs if they are low skill low pay might be argued as not "quality" jobs. Focusing on jobs alone seems inherently flawed. We need to create sectors or markets free enough from government that they can work effectively (not totally deregulated but minimally regulated). The businesses in those sectors should create the jobs.
3. I support Ranked Choice Voting. I support getting rid of special interest money (dark money) and lobbying. On lobbying, if they'd like to lobby they can do so on the Internet, in print, radio or billboards. I support legislators writing legislation not special interest groups. I think we should allow individuals (not corporations) to donate a touch more than currently allowed. I support getting rid of MCL 169.265(1) allowing public funding of \$1.125 million dollars to major party gubernatorial winners. We need more voting opportunity. I support mail in ballots. I don't believe in stripping people of voting rights.
4. I support highly regulating pipelines. Most business unless forced will defer maintenance to maximize profit and with pollutants you can not allow this. Perhaps an increased tax on toxic chemicals dumped into a cleanup fund as Bill Gelineau stated "The ultimate goal of this fund is to ensure the necessary resources are available to clean up problems for which no company can be held liable.". I like subsidy to decentralize the power grid and rethinking energy consumption. Green can be good and make sense limiting environmental impact. Renewable is great but MI categorizes "trash" as a renewable so look at definitions.
5. 625 words to answer this question feels like I'm on stage in a beauty pageant. We must first define poverty as it is a relative term (go look up "relative poverty"). We can certainly help those in poverty but it would come out of the states general fund to do so. About 35% of the budget is spent on police, courts and prisons. I'd start there, it's not paperclips and pencils. We need to look at restructuring those institutions built up since the 50's and 60's by the duopoly through many administrations. These are all big discussions and we need historical context in understanding how to dig out of this hole.
6. The US has a gun violence problem and now we also have a "gun intimidation" problem. Because of the second amendment there is little a House Rep can do on this issue. I would protect the right to own and carry. Simply carrying a gun is not intimidation, pointing it...that is intimidation and a terror tactic. No law will prevent a criminal from getting a gun or using it. Using a gun to commit a crime is a violent act and there is already legislation on the books including life terms. With better education, opportunity, and a thriving economy gun violence is less likely. Another difficult matter needing more discussion.

### John Anthony La Pietra

#### Green

Attorney, solo practice: election law, Constitutional / civil rights, FOIA, Japanese document review. BA 1978, Macalester College; planning/public administration. JD 2008, Cooley Law School; administrative law, Constitutional law / civil rts "majors"; studied legislative process, law in plain English. 10 years in state/local government & 10 in the private sector, so I know government can be businesslike even if run for public good, not private profit. 10 yrs with non-profits. 12 yrs as a lawyer. Campaign Website: <http://jalp4thePeople.wordpress.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jalp4thePeople>.

1. We must prepare our citizens for the future - by providing good education for all students, meeting their needs and interests and not relying on cookie-cutter teach-to-the-test approaches. Public money needs to be spent educating local students as good learners and critical thinkers, with strong oversight of any public funds given to charters or privatization. Students and parents must control use of student data. State and Federal money can help overcome inequality in local ability to fund education. I'll also work to make college and vocational school tuition-free, and erase existing unpayable student debt.
2. We must escape the fossil-fuel economy and blunt the climate catastrophe, or there won't be an economy even after COVID crisis eases. A #RealDeal Green New Deal will CREATE jobs. Jobs for 100% renewable energy production and sustainable use. Jobs on public health, infrastructure, and other public works. Grassroots stimulus efforts with local control and accountability, a living wage, and equal pay for comparable work can support broad economic recovery. We can index corporate expensing of top compensation, tying it to average worker pay. And ending discrimination's waste of talent will boost justice and the economy.
3. Elections must be hand-countable and recountable, accountable, fair, and free (= NOT for sale). Empower all voters; count all votes. Enable Ranked Choice Voting at all levels. Protect powers of initiative, referendum, and recall. End referendum-proofing; put initiatives passed by Legislature to a referendum vote. Give candidates of any party (or none) fair access to public ballots, forums, and financing. Make officeholders face tougher conflict-of-interest laws, disclose personal and campaign finances. Mail ballots this year; make future Election Days at least half-holidays; put absent-voter applications in papers.
4. Protect public trusts from private greed. Michigan has a special duty to guard clean water from CAFOs/PFAS/lead, pipeline spills like Enbridge in the K'zoo River. Shut down Line 5; ban fracking, frack fluids; leave fossil fuels in the ground. Produce 100% sustainable energy by 2030. Set progressive utility rates to boost conservation/efficiency, reduce stress on infrastructure. As wider roads don't cure traffic congestion (see <http://wp.me/a4Avdc-1m>), always-on LCD TVs don't save energy. Curb consumption; build/maintain durable, sustainable transportation/utilities/infrastructure; align long-term costs and benefits.

# Michigan State House of Representatives, continued

5. We're all essential workers to each other. To get relief from tax/health/justice/food/etc. systems that put the 1%'s whims before the needs of the 99%, we must take back our power. Social Security tax and rent/mortgage "deferrals" won't help. What may be a Jubilee year, erasing personal non-commercial debts. Michael Hudson's "... and forgive them their debts" tells why Jesus kicked the moneylenders out of the temple. I'll open a discussion on the US justice system at campaign blog jalp4tP.wordpress.com soon. If the system's enforcers want to protect and serve us, they must give up their privileges – or share them.
6. Violence, with and without guns, is a problem in our society. We should all learn how to use non-violent tools to resolve conflicts. The Constitutional provision for a well-regulated militia suggests that we design limits on gun ownership and use to assure RESPONSIBLE ownership and use. People who behave irresponsibly with their guns should face more restrictions – up to losing the guns. And those our society arms with its police power (and guns) should be required to be MORE responsible, held by communities to higher standards of conduct. If they betray our trust, they should lose that power AND those guns.

## District 66

Kalamazoo County: City of Parchment. Townships of Alamo, Cooper.

Van Buren County: Cities of Bangor, Gobles, Hartford, South Haven. Townships of Almena, Antwerp, Arlington, Bloomingdale, Bangor, Columbia, Covert, Decatur, Geneva, Hamilton, Hartford, Keeler, Lawrence, Paw Paw, Pine Grove, Porter, South Haven, Waverly.

### Abigail Wheeler Democrat

Village Council Member of Mattawan. I am currently a senior at Western Michigan University majoring in Business Law and Finance. 4 years of experience in the fire service and 2 as an EMT. I have been a Council member for a year and a half. Campaign Website: <http://wheelerforthe66th.com/>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/AbigailWheelerForThe66th>. Twitter: [twitter.com/WheelerForHD66](https://twitter.com/WheelerForHD66).

1. I believe that everyone has the right to a quality and public education. This means that we need to have a prioritized budget that funds our schools and pay our teachers and support staff a fair wage. It is important to expand early childhood education opportunities and that can be

- done by creating the best teachers through proper funding. We need to provide schools with the ability to make schools and learning accessible to all students no matter their needs.
2. I support the idea that there needs to be safety nets for low wage workers such as earning sick pay and mandating increases in minimum wage to keep up with inflation. I also support repealing right to work so we no longer undermine the hard work of our unions. When it comes to the pandemic I believe we need to support our citizens with another stimulus check to help stimulate the economy and help people pay their bills. We should offer front line workers free college tuition for risking their lives during this hard time.
3. I support no reason absentee voting, same day voter registration, and automatic registration. These policies making voting easier, allow voters to make informed decisions, and makes voting easy for everyone. I support contribution limit rules and the requirement to itemize contributions and expenditures which helps keep campaigns grassroots.
4. I support passing a green new deal. The green new deal going around right now has a lot of uncertainty around it. Here's what I'm for. We need to invest in windmills and solar panels to bring back manufacturing to Michigan. Climate change is showing use that fossil fuels will soon no longer be an option. We also need to invest in water infrastructure to rid of materials like lead pipes and to clean up industrial pollutants that have been left behind. We also need to be doing more research on harmful chemicals in our water such as PFAS. There needs to be a transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy for our future.
5. The middle class is slowly fading and it needs to be rebuilt. We must invest in training programs, living wages, and unions. We also need to expand our nondiscrimination laws regardless of someone's age, sex, gender identity, familial status, marital status, national origin, color, race, sexual orientation, religion, height, or weight. It is essential to invest in senior programs as well as programs for children like meal programs and income based childcare.
6. Michigan as well as the rest of the United States has a gun violence problem. There needs to be gun reform so that all fire arms have to be registered, background checks for all firearm purchases even at gun shows and private sales, high capacity magazine bans, and automatic assault weapon by backs. We also need to address mental health and red flag laws will help identify a person who may be going through a crisis and shouldn't have a weapon.

### Beth Griffin Republican

Did not respond in time for publication.

# State Board of Education

## Eight-year term Vote for two

Description: The State Board of Education has eight members and has leadership and general supervision responsibility over all public education, including adult education and instructional programs in state institutions, except institutions of higher education granting baccalaureate degrees. It shall serve as the general planning and coordinating body for all public education, including higher education, and shall advise the legislature as to the financial requirements in connection therewith. It shall appoint a Superintendent of Public Instruction who shall be responsible for the execution of its policies.

### Questions

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for State Board of Education and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset to the Board?
2. What actions and policies would you recommend to improve our education system?
3. What are the most pressing issues facing the State Board of Education and what actions would you take regarding them?

### Ellen Cogen Lipton Democrat

Attorney in private practice; President of the Michigan Promise Zone Association. BS, Chemistry and BA, Art History from Williams College. JD from Harvard Law School. Campaign Website: <http://ELforED.org>. Facebook: <http://EllenCogenLipton>. Twitter: [twitter.com/replipton](https://twitter.com/replipton).

1. I believe my experience as a former legislator most qualifies me for this office. I served for six years in the State House, serving as the minority vice-chair of the Education Committee, as well as the minority vice-chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on K-12 Schools. As such, I have a deep understanding of the education policy as well as the funding landscape in this state. I passed legislation to require the state to undergo a comprehensive costing-out study to determine the cost of educating a child in our state. This law resulted in the determination that we are currently underfunding all our students.
2. Michigan has been consistently underfunding our K-12 schools since the early 1990's. Although Proposal A attempted to equalize funding among our hundreds of school districts, it did nothing to address the two critical components of sufficiently and equitably funding our schools. I would propose a "lock box" around the school-aid fund, and not allow it to be used to fund community colleges or public universities, which both have separate sources of funding. We also need to move toward a system that drives resources toward our most vulnerable students, our English language learners, and those with special needs.
3. We are in the midst a global pandemic, with no immediate end in sight. As such, the most pressing issue is the safe return to learning. I think the school board's role should be to assemble and analyze research from around the state and around the country in terms of what has worked and what has not worked during the pandemic. The school board can also be an important bridge between the local school districts, which are nearest to their communities, and the MDE which has access to the most relevant research regarding teaching and learning during a pandemic, best practices, and robust data analytical capabilities.

### Jason Strayhorn Democrat

Jason Strayhorn is a state of Michigan licensed Real Estate Broker with over 15 years of experience. Undergraduate degree from MSU. Campaign Website: <http://www.votestrayhorn.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JasonStrayhornforSBE>.

1. As the father of three children, I know the challenges that parents, teachers, support staff, and especially students are facing. Through my job I travel throughout Michigan and I see the disparity between school districts. There are children in Michigan who live on separate sides of a street, and depending on which side they live on will depend on whether they receive a quality education. If I'm on the Board I want to ensure that every child in Michigan receives a quality education.

2. We need to look at equitable funding, and when I say that I don't want to "steal from the rich and give to the poor," I want to help give struggling schools the resources they need to educate our children. I would also use the position on the Board to as a bully pulpit to advocate for children who need additional services, such as special education and English as a second language children.
3. Being on the State Board of Education isn't about being a Democrat or Republican. It's about doing your best so every kid in Michigan has an opportunity at a great education. I want to remove any partisanship from the Board and ensure that we have one voice advocating for every kid in Michigan, no matter their race, religion, gender identity, or zip code.

### Tami Carlone Republican

CPA and Process Improvement Expert. University of Michigan, Bachelor of Business Administration Accounting Major. Campaign Website: <http://www.tamicarlone.com/>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Tami4ED>. Twitter: [twitter.com/T2CPA](https://twitter.com/T2CPA).

1. Having 30 years of experience as a successful Corporate CPA & Process Improvement Expert, I am able to bring a professional level of fiscal responsibility, & problem solving to the Board. Skills that will be helpful to the Board given the role itself, as well as the status of education in MI. Being a national, state & local education advocate, activist, speaker & writer, for 20 years, I have built up an exceptionally unique set of skills to bring to the Board. I know education law, policy, funding, methods, standards, the players & more. I am running to give the students of MI Truth & Excellence in their education.
2. Teachers must deal with way too much these days, like jumping through one governmental hoop after another, excessive paperwork & data collection, meetings & more. We need them connecting with students & focused on teaching in their classrooms. We must make sure what teachers are learning in teacher college makes them ready to meet the demands of the job, like expertise in phonics. Excellent teachers can CHANGE LIVES. We must stop the teach to the test mentality that is killing our children's love of learning. We must get out of Common Core & the related testing & give our students the proven best standards & tests.
3. All one must do is look at the results to know MI is in trouble regarding education. MI education spending goes up each year despite declining enrollment & declining results. The Wall Street Journal summed it up perfectly 1/2018, "Few state school systems report worse achievement metrics than MI." We must focus on academic achievement and not political agendas. I am passionate about making MI a POWERHOUSE in education for ALL children. We should be the state others look to as the example. Every ed dollar must have a positive impact on classroom learning. Education policy makers must be held accountable for results.

# State Board of Education, continued

## Michelle Frederick

### Republican

College student and Michigan Parents Involved in Education, board member. BSN Student and Associates of Arts, Oakland Community College. Campaign Website: <http://www.michelle4sbe.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/michelle4sbe>.

1. I have been an education advocate for 17 years, founding board member at Michigan Parents Involved in Education, and a leadership team member at Stop Common Core in Michigan. I am running because I have witnessed and experienced the quality of my own children's public education deteriorate over the years. This is not an isolated incident. Michigan's current reading proficiency is at 44% and math proficiency is at 38% which demonstrates this is a systemic problem throughout our great state. Michigan's parents deserve a voice that represents them on the State Board of Education, not another politician.
2. The actions and policies I would recommend to improve our education system is a thorough examination of teacher training, professional development, standards, and all standardized tests at each grade level. There must be a deficiency somewhere along the chain from development to delivery when Michigan's children are testing below the national average. Parents and children should not be subjected to a broken system with life-long consequences when problems should be identified and rectified within a reasonable amount of time.
3. An immediate but temporary pressing issue is the mass exodus from public schools due to the virtual learning platform that was not designed for all students in mind. There are students that do not have reliable access to the internet and/or the equipment needed, some students are not developmentally capable to navigate a virtual learning format due to age and/or disability, while other students are just not able to learn through this type of platform. I would like to have all public schools opened for children with virtual learning as an option for parents who are not comfortable for their child to attend in person.

## Bill Hall

### Libertarian

Real estate/mining law attorney/Partner, Warner Norcross + Judd, Michigan's 2d largest law firm. Northwestern Univ. School of Law, Chicago, IL, J.D., cum laude & Order of the Coif, 1981, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN, A.B., magna cum laude & Phi Beta Kappa, 1978, Frankton High School, 1974. Campaign Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VoteBillHall>.

1. 39 years' experience advising on legal matters. Managed firm's Real Estate Group for 10 years. Listed in The Best Lawyers in America since 1995. Served on many nonprofit boards. Boy Scout leader since 1994. Honors graduate, Northwestern Univ. School of Law and Wabash College. Committed to improving education through freedom of choice and fiscal responsibility. Will be an independent voice on a Board riven by partisan politics.
2. Support freedom of choice in education. Competition from schools of choice, charter and private schools and home schooling pushes traditional public schools to innovate and better educate, and saves taxpayer dollars. Don't mandate a "common core" curriculum. Give parents more freedom to choose schools and schools more freedom to choose their own policies. Support fiscal responsibility. Replace underfunded defined benefit with defined contribution retirement plans, State funding should follow the student, let poorly performing schools fail rather than bailing them out, re-deploy funds to focus on academic achievement
3. The COVID pandemic, and the State's authoritarian response, have severely damaged the educational development of a generation of students. The SBE has abdicated its role, letting the Governor and legislature lead in mandating a response that ignores the wishes of parents and local school districts and rewards special interests. The SBE should pursue policies that respect parents' freedom to choose programs they feel are best, e.g., in-person or remote schooling, delivered at home, with tutors, or at private, charter or traditional schools. One size does not fit all, as pandemic effects vary widely across the State.

## Richard A. Hewer

### Libertarian

Retired Professor / Professor Emeritus. MBA - Grand Valley State University. BBA - University of Michigan, Dearborn. Diploma - Garden City High School. Campaign Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Richard-Hewer-for-Michagan-Board-of-Education-101421051707971>.

1. I just retired last week after teaching Computer Information Systems classes for Ferris State University at Big Rapids, on-line, and at various Community Colleges, Dual Enrollment High Schools and ISDs. Teaching these classes showed me students need more options and should not be locked into the school system for their residence. My background would bring a unique perspective on educational options some students have and ways those could be expanded to all students.
2. Allow ALL students in Michigan to have a choice on their type of education and have the State money go to the education choice they make. Increase Vocation Education, Industry Certification and Dual Enrollment education options and make those available to all students, not just a select few. Not require all public schools have the same programs and teaching method but allow them to specialize. Let the students choose the school with their specialty and the teaching method that fits their learning style, not just the ones that are available from their local public schools.
3. Making a quality customizable education available to everyone in Michigan. I would not require students to attend failing school systems but allow students to have an online education or do other creative education choices. Providing guidance to school systems on how to educate graduates that will fulfill the job requirements needed in Michigan. I would allow the students to pick their education options and not be required to go to a cookie cutter local class. I would have more industry certification, Vocational Education and dual enrollment options available.

## Mary Anne Hering

### Working Class

College teacher, Henry Ford College. Formal education from Michigan State University, M.A. Psychology and through life experience at factory gates and in working class communities. Campaign Website: <http://www.workingclassfight.com>.

1. As a long time teacher I have been a steadfast advocate for students, their families, teachers, and the support staff who make sure schools function. I have also organized in the working class for decades. I can speak for teachers and other employees who are deprived of the means they need to educate young people, and whose wages and benefits are reduced because the state cuts money from education. I can give voice to workers who see their chil-

dren deprived of a decent education because of those cuts. I will be saying a tidal wave of money is needed to guarantee quality education for all and safe in-person schooling.

2. Stop the cuts to school funds. Stop the policy of raiding one school budget to give to another. The money is there. All these attacks could grind to a halt by ending tax cuts, subsidies and outright gifts handed over by the state, to major corporations and real estate speculators. I think the educational system can be transformed when those most affected – school employees, parents and students – organize together to demand that the money the laboring population pays, disproportionately in taxes, be used for public education. And I would stand with them and assist in any way I could to help with that social fight.
3. COVID-19 and how to open up schools to safe, in-person learning. The glaring disparity in education in our school districts. Both can be resolved by guaranteeing high, high levels of funding for all school districts. How? Banish the idea that there isn't enough money. The money is there! But we have to stop the raiding of public funds by private interests in the form of tax breaks, and subsidies and to for-profit charter schools. I would use the resources of the SBE to assist teachers, parents, students and others in their communities to organize to stop this theft to ensure full, high funding for public schools.

## Hali McEachern

### Working Class

Henry Ford College, University of Michigan in Dearborn; restaurant worker for eight years.

1. I am a junior at the University of Michigan in Dearborn. I am getting my bachelor's in secondary education in history. As a teacher and board member I will use teaching best practices. I work as a server in a restaurant. I know the needs of workers and their children. I am running because I know the resources are there to give every student in the state the best quality education. I went through the public schools in Allen Park. I want better for teachers and school workers. My main focus will be to facilitate the most student learning and to improve the working conditions of teachers and school workers.
2. To enhance student learning students need smaller classroom sizes. Art, music, and gym are essential. Child and adolescent development determines a person's quality of life, so students need to be learning in enriched environments. Schools can have psychologists and nurses available for students, teachers, and parents. Conflict mediation and family counseling should be offered. A healthy breakfast and lunch must be provided. The resources are there for students to have updated technology; iPads, science experiments, calculators, supplies, instruments, and anything teachers tell us that students need to learn.
3. The most pressing issue is the profit-driven corporations draining money from education. Workers produce all of the wealth in society. There is an abundance of money in our communities that should provide schools with everything they need. Each school should be the best. Our tax money is given in the millions and billions to corporate welfare. GM, Chrysler, and Ford made billions of dollars in profits in 2018, then received billions from Michigan tax payers. If billion dollar corporations paid their taxes, and if workers taxes went to workers, Michigan schools could have the highest quality of education.

## Karen Adams

### U.S. Taxpayers

Did not respond in time for publication.

## Douglas Levesque

### U.S. Taxpayers

Did not respond in time for publication.

## Tom Mair

### Green

Manager - Personal Artist Manager. K-12 Southfield Public Schools; Western Michigan Univ - Major Business Administration, Minor Marketing; Grand Valley State Univ - International Business; Ferris State Univ - International Business. Twitter: [twitter.com/TraverseGreens](https://twitter.com/TraverseGreens).

1. I am drawn to public service in Education and to Health Care as immediate needs for Michigan's K-12 students so that the students get the excellent education they deserve. COVID-19 has become the 'new school' and to prosper we need to work within the existing system of education adding higher health care standards to be safe. Not just safe learning, but safe living in our Michigan communities. I am an experienced & qualified administrator. I was elected in 2016 to a seat on the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners. I understand how to work in & with government. I was a manager at a federal agency.
2. Currently, we in Michigan are under a State of Emergency and we have a pandemic. I believe that the Public School Districts should have the authority to decide how school will be delivered. From online to hybrid to face-to-face. When a case is discovered in a face-to-face classroom, then all the students should be in quarantine at home for 14 days. I will encourage special education students (students with disabilities) at Intermediate Schools to be in the classroom. Teaching can be done one-on-one if necessary. I believe Public Schools should be online - online is preferred for health safety reasons.
3. Two big issues facing public schools are the COVID-19 pandemic & school funding. We must ask (demand) our state & federal elected officials for more funding than we received in the last budget. Funding for added costs this year should be disbursed by the State Treasury from the CARES Act and more should be included in the next federal COVID-19 Stimulus Bill. I understand how to work with elected officials without political party getting in the way. On every board I have served on (20 years-on over 12 major boards) - I have worked as a team member for that organization. I'm a Green and I'm independent of the two parties.



# University of Michigan Board of Regents

## Eight-year term Vote for two

*Description: The University of Michigan Board of Regents has eight members and has general supervision of the university and the control and direction of all expenditures from the institution's funds. The board shall elect a university president who shall be the principal executive officer.*

### Questions

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the University Board and explain your reasons for running. What, specifically, makes you an asset to a University Board?
2. What are the two most pressing issues facing this university today, and what is your position on those issues?
3. What recommendations would you propose to make university education more accessible to all Michigan's residents?

## Mark Bernstein

### Democrat

*Regent of the University of Michigan. University of Michigan B.A., J.D., M.B.A. Campaign Website: <http://www.mgovernstein.com>.*

1. I am a proud product of Michigan's public education system. From kindergarten to earning three degrees from the University of Michigan. My long commitment to public service, work in government, business and the law makes me uniquely qualified to serve on the University of Michigan Board of Regents. As a regent, I have fought and won for Michigan families by successfully championing the Go Blue Guarantee - a promise of free tuition for families with incomes under \$65,000 dollars.
2. (1) Affordability. We need to continue fighting to keep the University accessible for families that struggle to pay tuition. Since I was elected, the net tuition for students from families with household incomes up to \$120,000 has gone down significantly (21% lower). The Go Blue Guarantee is our promise to provide free tuition for families with incomes under \$65,000 dollars and tuition support for families with incomes up to \$180,000 dollars. (2) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The University cannot be excellent without being diverse. We know that talent is distributed widely in our society, but opportunity is not.
3. I'm fighting to protect the promise of public education. That means making the University of Michigan accessible for Michigan residents who struggle to pay tuition. I am dedicated to promoting broader access to life-changing education through the expansion of the Go Blue Guarantee, continued investments in student scholarships, and significant investments in diversity, equity and inclusion priorities.

## Shauna Ryder Diggs

### Democrat

*Regent, University of Michigan. University of Michigan-Inteflex Program-combined 7-year undergraduate and medical school program; BS Biomedical Science and MD.*

1. I ask for your vote for re-election to the University of Michigan Board of Regents. As the daughter of two university professors, I learned the importance of higher education to our collective futures. As an alumna of the undergraduate and medical schools, I am committed to improving our institution so that it best serves its students, staff, faculty and our state. As the first physician to ever serve on the board, I was able to impact our large academic hospital system to improve the healthcare of Michigan residents. I will continue to bring my knowledge and experiences to the boardroom.
2. The two most pressing issues facing UofM are the COVID-19 pandemic and campus culture. The safety of our campus community members is paramount. I support investment into our health and research capabilities as we investigate the best treatments, vaccines, and effective public health strategies. Our COVID-19 responses must consider the welfare of the students, including physical and mental health and the financial impact during this economic instability. I want to ensure a campus culture that nurtures and protects members from discrimination and misconduct to create an exceptional learning environment for all.
3. During my first regental term, we established the Go Blue Guarantee which opened access by providing free tuition to Michigan families making \$65,000 or less. We expanded financial aid to Michigan families making up to \$180,000. Our challenge in this next term is to expand a guarantee to our Flint and Dearborn campuses, providing financial security to aspiring students. We also need to expand pipeline programs, assisting middle and high school students as well as older non-traditional students prepare for and see the college experience as an achievable, affordable goal, particularly if the pandemic impacts our economy

## Sarah Hubbard

### Republican

*Government Relations and Business Consultant. 1990-Bachelors of Political Science and Psychology (double major), University of Michigan. 2007-Masters of Business Administration, Ross School of Business, University of Michigan. Campaign Website: <http://www.hubbard4michigan.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Hubbard4Michigan>. Twitter: [twitter.com/Hubbard4Mich](https://twitter.com/Hubbard4Mich).*

1. As a life-long Michigander and having earned two degrees from U of M I care deeply about the impact and outcomes of the University. I'm running to provide a perspective currently missing from the Board - that of a conservative woman who understands education and the role U of M plays in MI. I'm a small business owner, advocate, sports enthusiast and I'm not afraid to share my opinions. Voices like mine are needed in elective office to represent people from throughout MI and ensure their tax dollars are being spent wisely. I grew up on a farm and I'll bring that down-to-earth sentiment to the Board.
2. The impact of COVID-19 on students and athletics is the most pressing issue facing U of M today. I believe strongly we should have students on campus and be playing athletics safely. Coach Harbaugh has shown he can keep his team safe and if others would follow his lead they would be safe too. Cancellation of U of M's football season is draining \$100 M from the athletic department - and that will have an oversized impact on all other sports. Additionally, the need to ensure free speech for all voices on campus - including conservative voices.
3. Higher education could be more accessible to Michigan residents if the State of Michigan would invest more - specifically focused on in-state residents. Lowering tuition for in-state residents could allow far more families to afford U of M. Keeping tuition increases limited and increasing scholarships for in-state residents will go far.

## Carl Meyers

### Republican

*Raymond James Financial. Senior Vice President of Investments. Financial Advisor, WMS. University of Michigan - Dearborn. School of Business, BSA. 1979. Campaign Website: <http://Meyers4Michigan.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/carl.meyers.10>.*

1. As a U of M Regent, I will propose an immediate freeze in tuition for Michigan resident undergraduate students. Michigan families are in financial crisis, trying to pay for college, especially with COVID-19. Higher education is out of reach for most without family sacrifice and crippling student debt. My 38 years of experience in finance, investment management and board

governance are an asset as U of M addresses budgetary and tuition challenges. My investment experience will assist in oversight of the University's 12 billion-dollar-plus endowment. Our daughters and sons should have access to a U of M Education!

2. The greatest challenges facing U of M today are: #1 - To provide a safe education and campus experience in a COVID-19 environment and #2 - To maintain academic and institutional excellence with a constrained budget. As public health and science permits, the entire University should return to pre-pandemic levels as soon and safely as possible. The Board must control growth of the budget for efficiency to assure continued excellence, affordability, diversity, and inclusion. While navigating Covid-19 and budget, the Board must be more transparent. All business should be conducted publicly, with digital access.
3. Freezing tuition will address the greatest barrier of entry for our resident applicants. U of M is now one of the highest cost public universities in the country. Unabashed, the Board increased tuition during the pandemic. Year after year, the Board has raised tuition at a rate exceeding inflation, thus perpetuating the student debt crisis that's financially crippled too many students. The Board has failed to address this issue. Admission is also a challenge to access where nearly 50% of the freshman class is admitted from out of state. I propose a cap on the number of foreign and out-of-state students admitted.

## James L. Hudler

### Libertarian

*Did not respond in time for publication.*

## Eric Larson

### Libertarian

*Clinical Assistant Professor in Anesthesiology, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. BSE - University of Michigan; MD - University of Iowa. Campaign Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Eric-Larson-237929759141/>. Twitter: [twitter.com/EricLLarson](https://twitter.com/EricLLarson).*

1. As an alumnus of the University of Michigan and life time Michigander, I have a good feel for the place that the University of Michigan plays in our state. It is a national leader in academics, research, and athletics and is an economic asset to the state. We need to preserve these attributes and I am uniquely qualified to handle these decisions. I have been in private medical practice for over 16 years and also served in leadership positions within the hospital system and our physician group. As president of our group for four years I gained experience in strategy, business, and HR that would be useful as Regent.
2. The most pressing issues facing the University of Michigan are dealing with COVID-19 while maintaining academic excellence and value for students. Also, we must always focus on keeping UM affordable and elite as a public university. This could be done by providing more online options and continuing the thoughtful consideration of the safety of faculty and students.
3. Clearly, COVID-19 has made it clear that the traditional ways of educating are shifting. Prior trends have simply been accelerated so that now we face the opportunity to expand the educational reach of UM in ways not before used through online learning. We can expand UM's academic reach virtually throughout the state while also offering in person options for students seeking a unique experience. This could make UM not only more accessible but also affordable as its 'customer' base could expand significantly.

## Ronald E. Graeser

### U.S. Taxpayers

*Did not respond in time for publication.*

## Crystal Van Sickle

### U.S. Taxpayers

*Did not respond in time for publication.*

## Michael Mawilaj

### Green

*Campaign Website: <http://migrainparty.org>.*

1. Asian Pacific Islanders are among the largest groups attending the University, but we haven't been represented among the Board of Regents. Neither has poverty. I've walked door to door in Detroit's poorest neighborhoods to save families from losing their home to tax foreclosure, and having been a four year student at U-M, I know what getting their kids to become graduates would do for their family. From Kim Wong Ark to Vincent Chin's murder, I've learned from history and see the future of what's possible, because if Princeton's Board brought down South African apartheid, some pure Michigan can change the world.
2. Covid requires an immediate, dynamic response, free from the partisan politics that have only worsened the situation. Health, jobs, the careers the students are studying for, must all be carefully balanced and without running a deficit. An economy has to be rebuilt, but it won't happen by trying to force it to happen. As much as I'd like free college to happen, it's not the situation. It's a marathon to 120 credits but U-M gives an affordable opportunity for in-state students. Sabermetric course advisement could help students get past obstacles like changing majors and dropping out to graduate into successful careers
3. I remember when just being in Ann Arbor meant you could slip into an auditorium to watch a film you could never catch anywhere else. We have the ability to share more of our classes with the general public through remote learning technology. That means incoming students can preview and review the classes and professors, and adults can continue learning... and this in no way cheapens a degree from the University of Michigan because it's all a learning curve, which means everything we do pushes learning forward, and those who stay will become champions: the leaders and the best.

## Keith Butkovich

### Natural Law

*Did not respond in time for publication.*

# Michigan State University Board of Trustees

## Eight-year term Vote for two

Description: The Michigan State Board of Trustees has eight members and has general supervision of the university and the control and direction of all expenditures from the institution's funds. The board shall elect a university president who shall be the principal executive officer.

### Questions

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the University Board and explain your reasons for running. What, specifically, makes you an asset to a University Board?
2. What are the two most pressing issues facing this university today, and what is your position on those issues?
3. What recommendations would you propose to make university education more accessible to all Michigan's residents?

### Brian Mosallam

#### Democrat

President, Spartan Wealth Management. B.S. Engineering arts, Michigan State University. Campaign Website: <http://VoteMosallam.com>. Facebook: <http://BrianMosallam/MSU>. Twitter: [twitter.com/BMosallam63](https://twitter.com/BMosallam63).

1. MSU has gone through one of the largest sex abuse scandals in the history of this country. In May of 2018 I issued a plan of reform ([https://docs.google.com/document/d/134E9le3kSUwXzCeNuETGJFA1cQeoUP7VnGLDoBln7j4/edit?ts=5f566bd8&skip\\_itp2\\_check=true&pli=1](https://docs.google.com/document/d/134E9le3kSUwXzCeNuETGJFA1cQeoUP7VnGLDoBln7j4/edit?ts=5f566bd8&skip_itp2_check=true&pli=1)) and many of my initiatives have been adopted, including an escalation policy of all Title IX reports to the Board, the creation of the Audit, Risk and Compliance (ARC) Committee and the hiring of a Chief Compliance Officer, who reports to the ARC. I know what it takes to fix MSU and that is why I have survivors and their parents supporting me.
2. (1) Student health and wellness. We have to become the national model of how to make sure a Nassar situation never happens again. Please visit my website to read more about my plan of reform "New Day MSU". (2) Transparency and accountability. We have to hold all of those responsible for what has transpired at MSU. That is why I have called on two General Counsels to resign and fired a third one. Once our legal claims are settled, and in order to gain the public's trust, I support releasing the 6000 privileged documents.
3. We need to realize that Michigan is 50th in the country in investing in higher education. For the past 18 years, the Michigan legislature has balanced the state's budget on the backs of higher education. That being said, I support the policy of families living below the poverty level having the ability to go to MSU for free. I would also like to see those who graduate and stay in Michigan having their income tax used as credit against their student loans.

### Rema Vassar

#### Democrat

Associate Professor, Michael G. Morris Endowed Chair, Eastern Michigan University. PhD, Urban Schooling, University of California, Los Angeles With Honors Distinction. Campaign Website: <http://www.DrRema.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/rema.vassar.7>. Twitter: [twitter.com/drrema4msu](https://twitter.com/drrema4msu).

1. As a student-centered educator, I have advocated for marginalized, ignored, and harmed students throughout my career. My focus on fairness and justice will help facilitate trust in MSU leadership, promote healing, and bring stability back to students, families, faculty, and staff. As a current faculty member, I have expert knowledge of universities structures, policies, and practices to bring to bear in this COVID 19 moment. As the parent of a Spartan entering her junior year, I have intimate knowledge of the unique needs of MSU families and students, and a keen imperative to improve campus life.
2. Frequent incidents of racism, misogyny, and sexism and racial and sexual violence threaten students' feelings of safety and belongingness. Inequity and injustice need to be addressed, head on, with boldness, urgency, and policy. Campus culture and climate need to change to facilitate inclusion that honors differences and protects every student. Additionally, MSU faces financial challenges due to COVID 19 and persistent funding cuts. Creative fiduciary leadership is necessary to make up for these losses while ensuring affordability and access to all Michiganders. Everyone deserves to be a Spartan.
3. Strengthen Transparency and Accountability. There is still work necessary to redress the Nassar tragedy wrongs survivors and their families experienced at MSU. Better Outreach to Marginalized Communities. Intentional recruitment efforts in rural areas, low-income, and to Indigenous families will diversify MSU. Diversification in Administration, Faculty, and Staff. Students need to see themselves reflected in those charged with their care and development. Affordability. MSU is a land grant institution and any Michigander should be able to afford room and board—including middle-class families.

### Pat O'Keefe

#### Republican

CEO of O'Keefe Consulting & CEO of Grow Michigan. Michigan State University - Bachelors in Accounting. Graduated Cum Laude Wayne State University - MBA in Finance. Campaign Website: <http://okeefeformsu.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/okeefeformsu>. Twitter: [twitter.com/okeefeformsu](https://twitter.com/okeefeformsu).

1. I am running for the MSU Board of Trustees because I believe higher education is in a significant national crisis. MSU in particular is a university that is in need of fiscally conservative leadership on its board. I have spent the last 30 years of my career as a crisis manager. My firm is recognized around the globe for our problem solving capabilities. I am familiar with dealing with troubled situations and producing better than expected outcomes when the stakes are high. I have served on advisory boards at multiple universities across the state. I understand the requirements of good governance and oversight.
2. The non-compliance with the Clery Act is only the latest example of the lack of oversight by the Board. The Clery Act was designed to ensure university reporting on crimes on campus. MSU failed to provide the proper level of governance and oversight. I would suggest MSU has not fixed the internal controls necessary to ensure a safe campus for students. This is a very basic requirement for parents who send their kids to MSU. Critical thinking is a basic ingredient for educational learning. An educational institution needs to expose students to a variety of opinions without fear of reprisal by school administrators.
3. Higher education is becoming financially unattainable for minorities and lower income students. MSU must focus on using their resources, including millions of taxpayer dollars, more efficiently and develop a larger outreach in the State of Michigan. I have specific financial plans and ideas to incentivise MSU to reach this objective. Programs like Income Sharing Agreements force universities to keep the cost of education down while developing students into productive members of society. No such program exists at MSU and it is one of many options that should be considered by the Board in order to remain competitive.

### Tonya Schuitmaker

#### Republican

Attorney. Detroit College of Law, Juris Doctor Cum Laude; Michigan State University, Bachelor of Arts, Business Administration. Campaign Website: <http://www.tonyaschuitmaker.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VoteTonya/?pageid=96535954561&ftentidentifier=10157423343574562&padding=0>. Twitter: [twitter.com/votetonya](https://twitter.com/votetonya).

1. I am running for MSU Trustee to ensure a healthy, strong future for Michigan State University graduates; protect students and free speech on campus; and make MSU fiscally responsible and accountable to students, families, and taxpayers. My husband, daughter, and I are MSU graduates, so we care about Michigan State. During my career in elected office, I focused on public safety, the importance of higher education, and expanding economic opportunities for everyone. Additionally, I work as an attorney helping people with business and family situations.
2. (1) Paving the way for graduates to have a healthy future, which includes ensuring higher education is affordable and that students are learning the skills and values to prepare them for success. (2) Public safety: The campus must be safe and freedom of speech needs to be protected. In elected office, I received the "Outstanding Contributions to Public Safety" award, helped lead the charge to protect women on campus, and was named both the Michigan Sheriff's Association Legislator of the Year and Victim Services Program Legislator of the Year.
3. (1) Holding tuition costs down is crucial so a Michigan State education is accessible. That requires being fiscally responsible, focusing resources on priorities, and practicing strong oversight and accountability. (2) Michigan State is a big campus, so students and their family need to feel comfortable with the safety and security. By empowering public safety officials, investigating and bringing criminals to justice, and defending free speech, Michigan State will be accessible and welcoming.

### Will Tyler White

#### Libertarian

Owner of White Bros. Music in Bath. Lifelong student, technically still an undergraduate at MSU. Campaign Website: <http://willtylerwhite.org/>.

1. As an MSU student, I learned that some degrees are worth more than others, but there was not much help to guide you on which degree to pursue. I ended up studying independently with the International Economic Development Council and learned that economic development affects all communities in profound ways. It is a cross-discipline field of study though, and not offered as a major. Eventually, I qualified as a Certified Economic Developer and encourage MSU to develop programs in that field. As an entrepreneur and community activist for forty years, my business and nonprofit experience is also an asset.
2. Student debt and better outcomes are the most pressing issues. Getting a degree that leads to a successful career is paramount. If you spend \$100,000 on a vehicle, it has a warranty and good trade-in value. Some universities guarantee tuition rates until graduation. What kind of guarantee comes with an MSU degree? There is an implied contract. If students spend \$100,000 to earn a degree but can't earn enough to repay the cost, they could be allowed free or reduced tuition for more education or placement services. Any student debt payments could be suspended with no additional interest for certain periods.
3. More online opportunities and out-state satellite locations are needed. That means investment in changes, especially the availability of internet to all students. Some great outreach has been ongoing since 1915 with MSU Extension service. They help grow the economy in nearly every county, educating at the community and individual level. In 2017 their programs reached 360,000 kids and adults, and their Product Center helped launch 91 new businesses. The MSU Extension program should be supported and expanded.

### Janet M. Sanger

#### U.S. Taxpayers

Did not respond in time for publication.

### John Paul Sanger

#### U.S. Taxpayers

Did not respond in time for publication.

### Brandon Hu

#### Green

Did not respond in time for publication.

### Robin Lea Laurain

#### Green

Management for adult foster care homes that care for adults experiencing mental health disorders. I graduated from Nursing school in 1981 and am currently attending the Nursing Home Administrator's Program at MSU. Campaign Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TrustRobinLaurain2020/>.

1. My experience in the education field is that I helped establish two proprietary schools in Lansing. I was a Program Director and Instructor so I understand funding sources for education. Many of my students were eligible for the WIA program which helped to get individuals receiving State aid into vocational fields so that they could be self sufficient. I found that many of my students lacked basic reading and math skills. They had very little understanding of government or history. I set up tutoring classes in reading and math skills outside of the program and recruited volunteers to help me. All my students passed!
2. Campus safety is a number one issue at MSU. Safety from exposure to covid, sexual predators, racism, discrimination, and failure to thrive as students. Safety is a huge umbrella. As a Trustee, I will work tirelessly to make sure that umbrella covers all our students. Students can

# Michigan State University Board of Trustees, continued

not learn if they do not feel safe. Faculty needs to feel safe in order to effectively teach. I will be that Trustee that walks the campus and reaches out to the Spartan community. I will use that old business model...managing by walking around which I learned at MSU. I would advocate for tuition being cut 30% for on-line classes.

3. I believe that any student who desires to go to University should be allowed to do so. I would work to bring the New Green Deal to MSU which calls for free college tuition. Until this could be implemented, I would advocate for a tuition freeze. I would also work towards a 30% tuition reduction and free net for all students who are not attending classes on campus due to

the pandemic. Under my watch MSU would create a University Corps of advanced students to work with at risk youth to prepare them for University in exchange for tuition reduction. I would be there with the students helping them prepare future Spartans.

## Bridgette Abraham Guzman

### Natural Law

*Did not respond in time for publication.*

# Wayne State University Board of Governors

## Eight-year term Vote for two

*Description: The Wayne State University Board of Governors has eight members and has general supervision of the university and the control and direction of all expenditures from the institution's funds. The board shall elect a university president who shall be the principal executive officer.*

### Questions

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the University Board and explain your reasons for running. What, specifically, makes you an asset to a University Board?
2. What are the two most pressing issues facing this university today, and what is your position on those issues?
3. What recommendations would you propose to make university education more accessible to all Michigan's residents?

## Eva Garza Dewaelsche

### Democrat

*President and CEO of SER Metro-Detroit, a Detroit nonprofit workforce development organization. Bachelors of Sociology '79 and Masters of Education '91, Wayne State University; Fellow of Michigan State Political Leadership Program; Community Exec. Leadership Program, Harvard University. Campaign Facebook: <http://facebook.com/eva4wsu>.*

1. I'm a life-long Detroit and CEO of SER Metro-Detroit, a nonprofit workforce agency. I received my bachelor's degree and Master's in Education from WSU and have been involved with WSU since the '70's. I was a WSU Alumni Board member (12 yrs.) and was on several president's advisory councils from Dr. Adamany to Dr. Wilson. I'm running because I'm worried about WSU's future in this pandemic, the turmoil on the board, and recent loss of affiliation with DMC Children's Hospital. I've sat on many boards and commissions, and I bring commitment and 40+ years of administrative, education and workforce experience.
2. Dissension on the board negatively impacts WSU's reputation and progress. The Board's priority should be to support and guide WSU on surviving this global pandemic, developing virtual learning that works for all students, improving student retention, and ensuring a solid financial position. WSU's lost affiliation with DMC Children's hurts the medical school and services to Detroit children. Since the WSU Board could not agree on a partnership with Henry Ford Hospital, they need to pursue another hospital to maintain its leadership role within the medical community, city and state, and for our children.
3. Affordable tuition will improve access among low income families. Stronger partnerships with workforce and nonprofit agencies will reach underserved communities i.e., long-term unemployed, returning citizens. Entrance exams do not measure student success and should be eliminated. WSU needs to address student retention and other barriers through enhanced wrap-around social and mental health services, housing, daycare, transportation, and remedial resources. Faculty and staff need adequate tools, ongoing training and support to ensure they meet students where they are in this new virtual learning environment.

## Shirley Stancato

### Democrat

*Principal, SRS Advisory Services, LLC. BA, Wayne State University; MA, Wayne State University; Honorary Doctorate, University of Michigan. Campaign Website: <http://www.stancato4wsu.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/ShirleyStancato4WSU>.*

1. After being appointed by Governor Whitmer to Wayne State's Board of Governors, I am now running to retain my seat. I led a long career in civic, corporate and community leadership, both as CEO of a major civic organization and as a high-ranking corporate officer in the banking industry. For almost 20 years, I served as the president and CEO of New Detroit, where I worked across the proverbial "aisle" in the private and public sectors to create a more equitable and just community. I am passionate about improving public education in Michigan, particularly at Wayne State, where I am a proud, first-generation alumna.
2. I am deeply concerned about the skyrocketing costs of a college education. We must be proactive and think creatively about how to address tuition affordability at Wayne State, particularly in this age of COVID-19, where state resources are strained and higher education support is more uncertain. Similarly, we must also be hyper-vigilant about addressing the health and safety of students, faculty and staff at Wayne State, both in the short term and long term. We must ensure the value of a Wayne State education and degree continues to grow, whether students are learning in the classroom, remotely or a mix of the two.
3. More than ever before, students and parents are questioning the cost of a higher education. While affordability is not the only factor affecting students' accessibility to higher education, I think it is the most significant one. In addition, I support the review of the heavy value placed on the ACT and SAT as an effective measure of scholastic aptitude for college admission and success. I also believe new recruiting strategies should be developed to attract the best minds from all geographies and socio-economic backgrounds.

## Don Gates

### Republican

*Consultant and Operational Architect for InSight Global with JANUS Research Group. Masters Certificate, NDU 2019; Masters, Army War College 2015; MBA, Wayne State University 1997; B.S.B.A., University of Nebraska 1990; B.G.S.D., University of Nebraska 1990. Campaign Website: <http://www.gatesforwsu.com>. Facebook: <http://fb.com/gatesforwsu>. Twitter: [twitter.com/GatesForWSU](https://twitter.com/GatesForWSU).*

1. My campaign is based on leadership, professionalism, and innovation. From the boardroom to the battlefield, I have led Soldiers in combat and commanded units with hundreds of Soldiers. I have presented and sold million-dollar projects to Corporate 500 companies. As a retired Colonel in the Army Reserve, I know how to lead effective teams and treat people with dignity and respect. I am trained to solve complex problems and develop innovative solutions. I know how to work with all stakeholders, present recommendations, make compromises, and implement winning solutions. I am running to give back and serve my alma mater.

2. The two issues are keeping student and faculty safe from COVID-19 and providing a quality education using a hybrid teaching format. Providing safe instruction means students and faculty must follow all the protective measures outlined by the CDC during and after classes. It is very critical they follow the rules, so they don't cause a flair up. I am in favor of stiff penalties for rule breakers. WSU has adopted a hybrid teaching method which includes 100% on-line and some classes a mix of on-line and resident classes. The classes must be challenging and teach the same content, so students receive a quality education.
3. The two issues are high tuition and admission policies. First, tuition rates are too high. Second, admission policies are stringent for students that don't test well on standardized tests. For tuition, I will NOT vote for a tuition increase in my eight years, reduce the administrative staff and increase the faculty, and scrutinize the exorbitant salaries and vote for reductions. Under president Wilson, administrators increased 22% and faculty decreased 12%. For WSU, MI students comprise 90%. For admissions, I will allow different admission criteria for a percentage of incoming students to increase Michigan students.

## Terri Lynn Land

### Republican

*Did not respond in time for publication.*

## Jon Elgas

### Libertarian

*Did not respond in time for publication.*

## Christine C. Schwartz

### U.S. Taxpayers

*Did not respond in time for publication.*

## Susan Odgers

### Green

*Professor, Northwestern MI College; Columnist, Traverse City Record Eagle. BA Oakland Univ.; MA Wayne State Univ.; PhD all coursework/exams, Wayne State Univ. Campaign Twitter: [twitter.com/TraverseGreens](https://twitter.com/TraverseGreens).*

1. migreenparty.org bio Gratitude to all my relations. Born in Det. WSU grad. Very connected to WSU & Metro-Det. Identify as she/her/hers. LWV member. To give back. Knows needs of students / their families. Lifelong higher ed. employee. First elected Adjunct Faculty rep. at NMC. Works w/ everyone. 17 yrs. state board; MPAS, 2 years as chair. In Det., served on New Horizons & Det. Rec. Univ. Hosp. PAC Bds. Currently, VP of Traverse Area Dist. Library Board, Chair Traverse City Human Rights Commission, etc. Taxpayer voice beyond Metro area. Inspires hope. Hardworking. Speaks truth to power. Working class. Progressive.
2. Students: Restore hope/opportunities, mental health needs, school re-imagined via Covid, affordability, personal safety, alumni outside Det. more connected to WSU, Jubilee on debt, provide free internet & address other barriers, vets/disabled/BIPOC/LGBTQ & international students beget greater support. Leadership: Wider participation/decision-making by all, challenging enrollment & funding issues more fully addressed, teacher needs higher priority. As the 2010 Sara Hardy Humanitarian of the Year, I witnessed the value of civility. Without students=no WSU. Problems & answers lie w/ the univ's most marginalized people.
3. Ask students what they want to create, not just do for a living. Students MUST be a larger part of WSU's creative process & decision making. Students question higher ed. cost to benefit ratio with good reason. Increased flexibility in the when, way & what they learn. Listen to students & their families...they have the answers Increase WSU connection to the community & entire state; needs & resources. Take \$ out of politics (including at the university level), no greed, no privatization, no union busting, no forgotten employees or students. Period. Common sense governance. My WSU education prepared me well for BOG.

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The content of this Guide is available online at [www.lwvka.org](http://www.lwvka.org) and [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).

*Sponsored by the League of Women Voters, VOTE411.org contains information about many races across the country, with content published as it was submitted by candidates. VOTE411 allows voters to compare candidate responses to questions, as well as offering information on voter registration, ID requirements, and election processes such as absentee voting.*

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# Kalamazoo County Officials

## Questions

1. What are your top three priorities for the office you seek? What do you hope to accomplish?
2. The current pandemic illustrates the importance of preparing for unexpected events. Describe one type of unexpected event that would seriously disrupt Kalamazoo County government services. How would you prepare for it?
3. Describe an example of how someone in the office you seek should work effectively with other governmental departments and officials. What skills and talents qualify you to be the best person to play such a role?

## Kalamazoo County Prosecuting Attorney

### Four-year term Vote for one

*Description: The office is created by the Michigan Constitution and is the Chief Law Enforcement Official of the county. The Prosecutor and staff are responsible for the prosecution of all adult and juvenile violations of state criminal law within Kalamazoo County. They represent the community in the local District, Circuit, Family, Probate and State appellate courts.*

### Jeffrey S. Getting

#### Democrat

*Did not respond in time for publication.*

## Kalamazoo County Sheriff

### Four-year term Vote for one

*Description: The Sheriff is responsible for the operation of the County Jail, accepting and processing reports of crime occurring in the County, providing court security, marine law enforcement, service of court orders and process, and numerous other statutorily mandated functions.*

### Richard C. Fuller

#### Democrat

*Age 56. Sheriff of Kalamazoo County. Graduated from Marshall High School. Associates Degree in Law Enforcement from Kellogg Community College. BS of Organizational Management from Spring Arbor University. National Sheriff's Inst. Grad. I was elected to serve as Sheriff of Kalamazoo County in 2008. Over 31 years serving Kalamazoo County. In the first 20 years of serving The Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office I was a Detective, Sergeant in the Jail and the road patrol. I started as a Deputy working in the Jail, Road, and Dispatch. Author FTO program. Homer Michigan Police Dept. Officer Marshall Michigan Fire Fighter / EMT. Campaign Phone: (269) 377-6007. Email: kzoosheriff@gmail.com. Website: <http://richardfuller.com>. Facebook: <http://m.facebook.com/kzooSheriff>. Twitter: [twitter.com/KzooSheriff](https://twitter.com/KzooSheriff).*

1. The Sheriff's Office top priorities will require partnerships and community involvement. (1) To continue developing community trust through increased transparency and technology by adding all policies online, adding new body cameras for deputies, and working with citizen advisory boards to develop service models. (2) Increase staff diversity. I have been successful and will continue to recruit in our community so staff reflect those we serve. (3) Develop leaders. When hiring and promoting, I prioritize women and men who lead with integrity, honesty, and compassion. I offer staff opportunities to develop and enhance leadership skills.
2. The Coronavirus Pandemic has taught us two things. First, we can perform our governmental duties remotely through computers allowing us to flatten the curve regarding the virus. Essential government services continued. Second, we need to prepare for the possibility that we could lose the internet due to a natural disaster or malicious intent. Daily business is conducted electronically, eliminating the need for paper copies and data is stored on external hard drives. Staff are developing methods to allow us to work without computers should the internet fail. The system designed will allow all of our partners to interact with one another.
3. As sheriff I have worked with multiple offices and agencies to solve problems. I have established relationships with FEMA and the EPA working on the Enbridge Oil Spill; the City of Kalamazoo Water Dept. on Parchment's PFAS issue; the Kalamazoo County HCS during the Oil Spill, EEE, and current Pandemic; the County Road Commission on traffic issues; the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek Airport for security; and the county courts to develop plans for security and operations during the pandemic. I facilitate monthly meetings with local law enforcement and bi-monthly with local fire agencies. I've assigned liaison officers to every township we serve.

### Shannon D. Bagley

#### Republican

*Age 50. Kalamazoo Valley Community College Police Officer. Spring Arbor University Bachelors of Science: Organization and Resource Management. Kalamazoo Valley Community College Associates's Degree: Criminal Justice. Division Commander, Captain of the Criminal Investigation Division & Crime Lab Division Commander, Captain of the Office of Professional Standards Lieutenant, Inspector, Office of Professional Standards Sergeant, Kalamazoo Valley Enforcement Team Sergeant, Operations Division Detective, Criminal Investigation Division Investigator, Kalamazoo Valley Enforcement Public Safety Officer, Operation Div. Campaign Phone: (269) 547-0061. Email: [electshannonbagley.kzoosheriff@gmail.com](mailto:electshannonbagley.kzoosheriff@gmail.com). Website: <http://www.electbagleykzoosheriff.com>. Facebook: <http://BagleyforKzooSheriff>.*

1. #1 Build strong partnership/relationship with communities. #2 Embrace Technology to improve service. #3 Reduce recidivism. #4 School safety & youth initiatives. #5 Fiscal responsibility The Kalamazoo community deserves leadership from the Sheriff's Office focused on service not politics. Law enforcement's foundation is its relationship with the community. As your Sheriff I will work tirelessly to create, maintain and strengthen this bond. As we serve you can expect the organization to be professional, transparent and accountable.
2. We are seeing a number of unexpected events impacting our community right now. First, the Covid-19 crisis. Second, another preventable/avoidable budget overrun by the Sheriff's Office. This time nearly \$450,000. Third, the horrific and tragic death of Mr. George Floyd. All of these events were preventable. All require leadership that identifies best practices, implements them and tests them regularly to ensure they are achieving desired outcomes. Leaders anticipate challenges and adjust their operations accordingly. Leaders think strategically, plan accordingly and hold people accountable. Leaders care about people!
3. To have meaningful impact in our community a leader must emphasize communication, collaboration and cooperation. The success of an organization in achieving goals and objectives

while partnering with outside entities is determined through relationships. Relationships are successful (both internal and external) when the three C's are the agency's priority. I served in many different capacities during my 28 years as a peace officer for the Kalamazoo community. My experience, leadership and proven performance have prepared me to become your next Sheriff. Kalamazoo, It's Time to Expect Better!

## Kalamazoo County Clerk & Register of Deeds

### Four-year term Vote for one

*Description: The duties of the County Clerk include Clerk of the Circuit Court, Board of Commissioners, County Board of Canvassers, Jury Board and Gun Board; Registrar of all Vital Records; and Chief Election Officer for the County. The duties of the Register of Deeds include official recording of all legal documents affecting real property.*

### Meredith Place

#### Democrat

*Age 31. Kalamazoo County Commissioner, District 11. Contract Administrator, Clerical-Technical Union of MSU. Bachelor of Arts, University of Iowa (2007-2012). As the only elected official in this race, I have experience in local government and being accountable to the voters. I have intimate knowledge of the Clerk/Register office and budget. I am a proven leader committed to building trust and partnerships; I bring valuable insight to this position with solutions to problems having stayed active in my community serving on multiple boards. Campaign phone: (269) 350-3067. Email: [vote4meredith@gmail.com](mailto:vote4meredith@gmail.com). Website: <http://www.meredithplace.com>. Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/vote4meredith>. Twitter: [twitter.com/vote4meredith](https://twitter.com/vote4meredith).*

1. (1) Improve access to and participation in our democracy- As Clerk I'll implement Prop 3 and will work to establish satellite offices in densely populated areas where we see voter suppression giving new registrants another place to register-in person and make voting more convenient. (2) Expand voter outreach and engagement- I'll work with already established groups, neighborhood associations, and local clerks to coordinate voter education efforts and innovative ways to make voting easier. (3) Modernize the Clerk/Register's office- I will prioritize the security and integrity of our elections while utilizing technology to improve other services.
2. Participation in our democracy, secure and safe elections, accessing vital records and recording of deeds should not be compromised even during unexpected events. The Clerk has a responsibility to provide services to county residents and should be prepared at all times, which starts by creating an emergency preparedness plan that includes standard operating procedures in times of crisis. By modernizing and utilizing resources already afforded to us at Kalamazoo County, no one should be left wondering if their request for a marriage license or birth certificate was received and no one should have to choose between their health and their vote.
3. Within 60 days of the US census figures, the County Apportionment Committee comprised of the Clerk, Prosecutor, Treasurer, and chairperson of the 2 political parties, convenes to apportion the county into county commission districts. As Clerk, I will work collaboratively to ensure our new county commission districts are fair and accurately represent the population and diversity of our county. I am an experienced negotiator and mediator, as it has been my responsibility for the last 5 years to negotiate and administer union contracts. My background, deeply rooted in organizing, has led me to become a skilled listener with intellectual empathy.

### Mona Lisa Watson

#### Republican

*Age 46. Equity & Diversity Consultant. Diploma, Kalamazoo Christian High School ('91). Bachelor, Business Administration, Davenport University. Over 20 years of progressive leadership experience, navigating complex systems, & delivering optimum results in government, healthcare, and community services. High level experience in legal/regulatory compliance, customer service, back office support, & organizational management. Kalamazoo County lifetime resident. Stage 3 Breast Cancer over-comer. Blessed wife & mom of a pretty awesome daughter. Campaign Phone: (269) 760-7917. Email: [watson4kcalcounty@gmail.com](mailto:watson4kcalcounty@gmail.com). Website: <http://MonaLisaWatson.com>. Twitter: [twitter.com/AnomLisa1](https://twitter.com/AnomLisa1).*

1. As the next Kalamazoo County Clerk/Register, goals under my top three priorities of Integrity, Efficiency, and Accessibility include creating a community advisory council of "Idea Champions," election and campaign finance oversight, addressing partisan gerrymandering concerns, and providing premium customer service in this Covid-19 era. I am qualified, ready, and prepared to enforce policies and procedures, leverage innovation and technology, and maintain the integrity of voting and vital records to ensure that state statutes are followed and laws are adhered to.
2. It is critical for the Kalamazoo County Government to possess a high level of agility which means being prepared at all times. One type of unexpected event that would seriously disrupt Kalamazoo County Services is a malware virus that would target computer systems within the County. Under my "Efficiency" priority, one area of focus is "Identifying cyber-security challenges, opportunities, and threats in a generation where 5G and wireless networking are a way of doing life" which would include hosting cyber simulations with the County's technology department to harness cost-effective and savvy strategies that can be implemented expeditiously.
3. The Kalamazoo County Clerk/Register's Office is the conduit to all major departments in the County. In order to effectively work with other governmental departments and officials, the Clerk/Register must have the acumen, maturity, and ability to navigate human personalities and complex governmental systems. I have a proven record of leading with respect and impartiality. My ability to transcend seemingly political barriers to cooperation is a trait I've developed over years of working with dynamic individuals as an Equity and Diversity practitioner. I look forward to bringing this much needed to skill as the next County Clerk/Register.

# Kalamazoo County Officials, continued

## Doreen Gardner (Write-In)

Age 67. Communication Coordinator. Attended Moody Bible Institute, Cornerstone University, International Theological Institute. 25 Years Management Experience at AT&T; Licensed and Ordained Minister; John Maxwell Certified Leadership Trainer and Life Coach; Member of Southwest Michigan First Leadership Kalamazoo Class of 2020; Asst Director of Northside Ministerial Alliance Training Institute; Northside Ministerial Alliance Leadership Team. My strengths: Futuristic, Strategic, Command and Maximizer, Election Chairperson. Campaign Phone: (269) 998-7181. Email: doreen@doreengardner.com. Website: <http://doreengardner.com>. Facebook: <http://Doreen Gardner for County Clerk>.

- (1) Convenient hours / Customer service: Implementing some exception hours that will accommodate those working normal business hours. (2) Opportunities: Technological improvements, review the integrity of our voting processes and vital records. (3) Partnerships with other community groups to help communication and growth in our community. Most people don't have any idea what the County Clerks office does other than vital records. In addition to providing exceptional service, I will explore ways to connect and collaborate with key organizations to impact economics, communication and discrimination of information in our community.
- The thing that first came to my mind was a fire. Safe guarding vital records would be my first consideration. I would make sure that in the event any catastrophic event that ALL systems are securely backed up, so in case of a fire or any other catastrophic event, we would not suffer any loss. With technology today and cloud storage I would have dual backup systems for all platforms. I would establish regular and unscheduled random checks to ensure all systems are updating properly. Additionally I would establish office protocol for all documents to be scanned each day to ensure there is absolutely no loss, even documents in progress.
- This office by nature has to work in coordination and cooperation with many offices. Voting is one example of how this office must communicate and coordinate with multiple other offices. I believe in value of relationships, valuing other people and the gifts/talents they bring to the table. My strengths are connectedness and I am relational. I have the ability to build relationships, collaborate, while seeing opportunities for improvement. I embrace change and I love looking for ways for continued growth and opportunities to improve. My love for people and the fact that I value people are key assets to work with and for the people.

## Kalamazoo County Treasurer

### Four-year term Vote for one

Description: The Treasurer is the custodian of County monies, collector of all county revenue and the agent for the delinquent tax revolving funds.

## Thomas Whitener Democrat

Age 34. Realtor, Keller Williams Kalamazoo. BFA Interactive Design, Savannah College of Art and Design. Licensed Real Estate Agent with Keller Williams. Realtor. Multiple Time Entrepreneur. Former Interactive Systems and Balance Designer. Campaign Phone: (269) 254-2811. Email: [Thomas@Thomas4KzooTreasurer.com](mailto:Thomas@Thomas4KzooTreasurer.com). Website: <http://Thomas4KzooTreasurer.com>. Facebook: <http://fb.me/Thomas4KzooTreasurer>.

- We are likely to see waves of tax defaults and foreclosures as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and a priority of mine will be to work with people to ensure that our communities stay strong and diverse. I'd also like to explore using a portion of any surplus funds from the county to invest directly in our communities (as opposed to traditional investment vehicles), to both grow the investments and support small, diverse businesses in Kalamazoo County in this time of crisis. Third, I will enact an audit of the seized property auctions, and ensure that the citizens of Kalamazoo County know that they are fair, accountable, and transparent.
- A different, but similar type of disruption could be caused by more and more extreme flooding caused by climate change. It is important that the office of the Treasurer is able to function at all times, especially during a crisis. By ensuring that our government officials and employees can work securely from home and that our records are stored digitally and securely backed up off-site, we can ensure a continuity of service for the people of Kalamazoo County.
- In my work as a Realtor, there is nothing more important than working with people on the other side of the table, as well as the various contractors and specialists in adjacent fields. My skills in communication and negotiation, along with my natural talent in problem solving have allowed me to flourish as a Realtor. The office of the Treasurer has a very specific, but very important, set of powers. It is critical that the Treasurer work with other officials and civil servants to ensure that the resources available to the County are handled in a responsible and transparent manner, and I am confident that I can bring that to Kalamazoo County.

## Mary Balkema Republican

Age 53. Kalamazoo County Treasurer. BBA Western Michigan University Major: Accounting. County Treasurer 2007 - 2020. City Commissioner 2001 - 2007. First of America Securities Inc. Financial and Operations Manager 1985 - 1999. Community Involvement: Kalamazoo County Land Bank Board Chair, LISC Local Advisory Board Chair, Prevention Works former board member and fundraising participant, KNHS former board member and property subcommittee. Campaign Phone: (269) 720-3246. Email: [marybalkema@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marybalkema@sbcglobal.net). Website: <http://marybalkema.com>. Facebook: <http://Re-elect Mary Balkema for County Treasurer>.

- (1) Steady Financial Management: My accounting and finance background uniquely qualify me for the position of County Treasurer. I have worked hard to maintain our strong bond rating. I maintain the responsible and effective use of taxpayer money. (2) Foreclosure prevention: We had zero owner occupied tax foreclosures in the city of Kalamazoo for the first time ever last year under my leadership, continue community outreach/fundraising to prevent foreclosure. (3) Revitalizing Kalamazoo/recovery from COVID pandemic: Strengthen tax base, return blighted properties to productive use, stabilize property values.
- We see it in COVID 19 and natural emergencies like flooding in Texas Township. Being an effective leader, means being able to constantly adapt to what's happening around you. We have a strong legacy of fiscally responsible County Board leadership. We maintain healthy fund balances, plan for our expenses in advance, and don't "kick the can" down the road for future leaders to have to solve. With COVID 19 specifically, as soon as it began impacting our community, I took swift action to reassure taxpayers that no homeowners would lose their home to tax foreclosure because of it.

- When serving, you don't get to pick the people you serve with but the people that elect you deserve leaders who work with everyone else at the table. o I have a strong financial background and understand governmental accounting and municipal finance. I have been asked by several local units to help them navigate their financial house through tight times. o I have a proven track record in blight removal and community development. o I have worked with both political parties to have impact in the county. o I have solid problem solving & collaborating skills.

## Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner

### Four-year term Vote for one

Description: The Drain Commissioner is responsible for enforcing the Michigan Drain Code which includes the construction and maintenance of drains, determining drainage districts and assessing necessary costs, authority over drainage in most new construction sites, and member of lake boards established for the purpose of maintaining lake levels, and inspecting dams.

## Jason L. Wiersma Democrat

Age 48. Kalamazoo County Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Agent (SESC). US Air Force, MI Carpenters Joint Apprentice Training Center, MSU Extension 2020, Intro to Hydrology; SESC Plan Review & Design, Industrial & Construction Stormwater Mgmt. Operator Certifications. I have worked for over 3 years directly under Pat Crowley, KCDC, as the county's Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Agent. I work directly with homeowners, builders, local municipalities, other agencies such as the Road Commission, and MI Dept. of Environmental and Great Lakes Energy (EGLE) in efforts to protect the waters of the state and adjacent properties during construction activities. Campaign Phone: (269) 217-7844. Email: [jasonwiersma2020@gmail.com](mailto:jasonwiersma2020@gmail.com). Facebook: [http://m.facebook.com/pg/jasonwiersma/about/?ref=page\\_internal](http://m.facebook.com/pg/jasonwiersma/about/?ref=page_internal).

- I hope to accomplish the following three priorities: (1) I will provide responsible stewardship for all of Kalamazoo County drainage districts and will position the office towards proactive management instead of reactive. (2) I will partner with local and state agencies to combat flooding for the health and safety of all Kalamazoo County residents. (3) I will encourage the implementation of modern storm water techniques. I will work to develop a program which provides systematic preventative maintenance and rapid response to drain issues.
- Any number of catastrophic weather events can incapacitate access to government services. I would prepare for these events by having strong procedural guidelines in place, and by having long-standing partnerships with other agencies and local units. By utilizing, communicating, and cooperating with County Emergency Management we can respond to any challenges as they arise. The Emergency Preparedness Group will serve to review past unexpected event's successes and failures in preparation to mitigate future loss and improve outcomes.
- The KCDC works in conjunction with the Kal Co. Road Comm. on projects and permits, and works in tandem with EGLE at the state level in efforts to protect our state's national resources. I will work with Township Officials and Kal Co. residents providing guidance and addressing public concerns. I will manage this department with integrity and resourcefulness. In my current role as the SESC Agent for Kalamazoo County, with the KCDC, I have improved inspection and safety protocols, implemented updated technology to promote efficiency, and fostered open dialogue to develop long term relationships with officials and Kalamazoo County residents.

## Joanna Croes Republican

Age 28. I was an engineer at Parker Aerospace Hydraulic Systems Division until recently due to COVID. I graduated from Western Michigan University with a degree in Industrial Engineering. I also minored in Mathematics and Integrated Supply Chain Management. Previous to studying industrial engineering, I had been pursuing a chemical engineering degree where I took classes in environmental engineering and biochemical process engineering. I also have worked with fluid flow and thermodynamics in the industrial process chiller industry. My experienced coupled with my degree is a great pair. We are trained in process improvement and risk assessment. Campaign Phone: (248) 914-6120. Email: [JoannaLCroes@gmail.com](mailto:JoannaLCroes@gmail.com). Website: <http://www.JoannaCroes.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JCforDC/>.

- I have so many aspirations for this office but the top three would be fighting flooding in Kalamazoo county, cleaning our natural water ways, and being proactive in problem solving approaches. If chosen by our people, I tend to perform thorough analysis of all drains, wetlands, and natural water to understand our current capacity. I also tend to look into new emerging technology to remove PFOS from industrial run offs to keep toxic chemicals out of our lakes and rivers. Additionally, preventing a problem is of course better than solving one. I also plan to implement engineering failure analysis tools to stop problems before they start.
- I'm sure many remember the flooding in downtown where people were kayaking and riding jet skis through streets. This caused devastating damage to homes in the area. I am invested in making sure Kalamazoo's days of critical flooding are behind us. To prevent further disasters, I would like to bring FMEA(Failure Modes and Effects Analysis) from the engineering world and to the office. This is a tool used to evaluate ALL failure(or disaster) scenarios and prioritize them by severity, likelihood, and ease of detection. With this systematic approach we can prevent disasters to the best of our ability by putting in place secure mitigation plans.
- The drain commissioner office works closely with The Road Commissioners and The County Treasurer. I would consider these offices and all others I work with to be part of my team. My philosophy on working in teams is that active listening, concisely communicating, and having mutually beneficial negotiations is the only way to be effective. In my career I have led many teams, communicated information to higher up management in my organization, and negotiated multi-million dollar cost savings. I am confident in my ability to listen, communicate, and negotiate with other government offices based on this experience.

## Kalamazoo County Surveyor

### Four-year term Vote for one

Description: The County Surveyor is the County Representative for the State Survey and Remonumentation Program, whose primary objective is to locate, monument, and maintain the County's roughly 3,300 section corners. The Surveyor must be licensed as a Professional Surveyor by the Michigan State Board of Professional Surveyors.

## Gary Hahn Republican

Did not respond in time for publication.

# Kalamazoo County Commission

## Two-year term **Vote for one**

Description: The Board of Commissioners is the legislative policy-making branch of Kalamazoo County Government. The Board is responsible to the citizens for development and administration of policies and the annual budget. The Board has 11 members who are elected from districts according to population.

### Questions

1. What are your top three priorities for the office you seek? What do you hope to accomplish?
2. The current pandemic illustrates the importance of preparing for unexpected events. Describe one type of unexpected event that would seriously disrupt Kalamazoo County government services. How would you ensure that the County is prepared?
3. Describe an example of how someone in the office you seek should work effectively with other governmental departments and officials. What skills and talents qualify you to be the best person to play such a role?

## District 1

Kalamazoo City precincts 1, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 27  
Kalamazoo Township precinct 10

### Tami Rey Democrat

Age 33. Community Engagement Program Coordinator CRADLE Kalamazoo. Associates Degree. Chair of City of Kalamazoo CDAAC committee. Voted to recommend funding to organizations for critical home repairs, minor home repairs for seniors, down payment assistance, lease purchase programs, and rental rehabilitation. Voted to recommend funding for Covid-19 response for senior meal programs and rental assistance to assist low income households. ISAAC Gun Violence Task Force. NAACP Branch Sec. Campaign Phone: (269) 716-9459. Email: friendsoftamirey@gmail.com. Website: <http://electtamirey.com>. Facebook: <http://electtamirey.kalamazoo.com>.

1. I have lived in Kalamazoo my entire life and have spent the last 8 years working with my neighbors and friends to elevate their issues. My campaign is about inclusive, transparent, and equitable actions. It is my goal to restore the trust between the County Commission and its residents. If elected my top priorities will be the expansion of affordable housing, addressing the flooding, and working to create a more diverse and inclusive workforce for county employees. A diverse community is a smart community and thus each of my policy points has an inclusive component.
2. In normal times it might be more difficult for me to imagine an unexpected disruption in county business. However, in the past two years, there has been a polar vortex, a global pandemic and a state of emergency. These unexpected events have illuminated the need for our Commission to develop a concrete plan of action, one that includes the most vulnerable people. These plans should be easy to access & should be reviewed annually in order to remain current. Under my leadership, I would call for the creation of an action plan that included direct and clear steps. This plan would provide residents with a reference point to hold us accountable.
3. The most pressing issues that plague our community require a bipartisan & multi layered government approach. For example, in order to fix the housing shortage & provide more affordable options, the county will need to work in tandem with other government officials. Interagency collaboration is not only vital to our success, it also demonstrates our commitment to the people we serve. For the past 8 years, I have worked with both local & national organizations to build coalitions. It is done by first listening, drafting policy, and then seeking responses to the proposed solutions. My drive & dedication to transparent communication is unmatched.

### Benjamin Hayden Stanley No Party Affiliation

Age 32. Dog trainer/ Petsmart. Campaign Phone: (269) 501-1818. Email: [Benjaminhaydenstanley@gmail.com](mailto:Benjaminhaydenstanley@gmail.com)

1. If someone wants access to mental health. They should be able to get it
2. Toxic waste in the Kalamazoo river infecting four turtles who grow to be human size and get into fights... I'd push to open more pizza shops. And then dream of a clean river. Maybe we can learn a thing or two about housing from a turtle, I mean they do carry one around everywhere they go.
3. Be true to yourself, treat others the way you would want them to treat you, and be respectful as long as you're allowed to be. I actually want change, but only for the better, being worse off is not something I want, and I don't think many others do too.

## District 2

Kalamazoo City precincts 3, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24  
Kalamazoo Township precinct 1

### Zac Bauer Democrat

Age 39. Program Officer, LISC-Kalamazoo. Juris Doctorate, Wayne State Law School. Campaign Phone: (269) 547-8397. Email: [friendsofzacbauer@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofzacbauer@gmail.com). Website: <http://www.friendsofzacbauer.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/District2Kalamazoo>. Twitter: [twitter.com/zac\\_d\\_bauer](https://twitter.com/zac_d_bauer).

1. Stabilizing Tax Base. The Kalamazoo County Government has experienced a precipitous drop in tax revenue. Without a growing tax base, we can't sustain county services. We need to: (1) Keep families in their homes and increase homeownership. (2) Leverage Federal and State funds with local philanthropy to maintain our small businesses. Affordable Housing. We need to improve access to affordable single-family housing and multiple family rental. We must reauthorization and increase the Homelessness Millage. Water. With an increase of 30% in annual rainfall, we need better water management.
2. If we don't find a way to get people back to work, prevent homelessness, and stop the shuttering of businesses in Kalamazoo County, we will have a drastic disruption in Kalamazoo County government services. Without stabilizing the tax base, we cannot provide for the most vulnerable in our community, let alone essential services. For now, this must be our priority.
3. The county commission has two employees: the County Administrator & Corporation Counsel. For Kalamazoo County to have an effective government, the County Commission must hire, support, and develop these key roles. It is through these individuals that the county commission exercises its policymaking function. I have held management roles in several different organizations. As a county commissioner, I have worked closely with our administrator to provide oversight and improve the quality of life for county residents

## District 3

Kalamazoo City precincts 2, 4, 12, 19, 22, 25, 26

### Tracy Hall Democrat

Age 48. Vice Chair of the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners. MA Political Science. Currently serving in my 4th year on the County board. College educator, community activist, and serve on several local non-profit boards. Campaign Phone: (269) 720-7747. Email: [tracy.hall19@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.hall19@gmail.com).

1. (a) Reducing homelessness and increasing affordable housing. (b) Furthering equity and inclusion within the county. (c) Moving forward on the justice complex.
2. Considering that we are in the current pandemic, I do appreciate this question. I am not comfortable with speaking on a "what if" scenario. Perhaps I am just being superstitious. We've been in situations in which we've seen the County government services disrupted. Just in the last two years we have faced crisis like COVID-19, PFAS, Triple E, and the terrible snowstorms in early 2019 which shut down our offices. Under COVID we will have things to be proud of like continuing many of our services and of course lessons learned, which will be important the next time we are faced with a pandemic.
3. It starts with a place that people are coming with good intent, and then communication. These are my starting points. I would also add that being compassionate and having the ability to empathize are both incredibly important skills when working with others. I have taught almost 2000 students in my almost 17 years as a college educator. Every student comes from their own unique background and foundation. I'm an impactful educator and public servant because of my ability to connect, relate, and communicate. I listen with authenticity and speak from the heart. Most that know me, know that even if we disagree, I am communicating from the heart.

## District 4

Kalamazoo City precincts 5, 6, 10  
Kalamazoo Township precincts 2, 4, 5, 7, 8  
City of Parchment

### Jen Strebs Democrat

Age 43. Program Coordinator at Residential Opportunities Inc. Bachelor of Science from Western Michigan University - majoring in both Political Science (concentrated in American Public Policy) and Psychology, summa cum laude. I have 3 years elected experience as Kalamazoo Township Trustee and serve on our Election Commission, Regional Water and Wastewater Commission, and the Board of Directors of PMN. I have also served Kalamazoo County on the ID Advisory Board and Health Equity Task Force. I am on the Public Transit Human Services Committee and was past chair of Bronson Hospital Patient and Family Advisory Council. Campaign Phone: (269) 903-6429. Email: [jenstrebs@gmail.com](mailto:jenstrebs@gmail.com). Website: <http://www.jenstrebs.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jenstrebs/>. Twitter: [twitter.com/jenstrebs](https://twitter.com/jenstrebs).

1. Creating a County Equity Advisory Board to improve county policies and practices affording everyone an equal opportunity in our community; through this process we can address housing issues, police and justice reforms, and economic opportunity for all. Strengthening and fully funding our public health system to ensure that we improve disparate health outcomes and are prepared to deal with ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and other emerging health issues. Preparing for the climate crisis by focusing our infrastructure projects to deal with ongoing issues of excessive water infiltration and promoting green solutions across our region.
2. Due to climate crisis, we will face increased weather-related emergencies such as flooding and extreme weather. These events can create life threatening conditions, reducing access to critical government services and placing a strain on our first responders. It is important that we prepare, respond, and recover from such events as efficiently as possible. Coordination of the County Emergency Management Plan must be refined along with local governments to identify the risks, resources, and partners that will be needed to deal with these life-threatening and disruptive events. County Board leaders must develop clear channels of communication.
3. All work that we do in life is based on building strong relationships with others. Our County Board must work as a cohesive body in order to be able to effectively accomplish the business of the people and to hold their trust. Strong board relationships across demographics and ideologies can help inform the best public policy. As a human service professional, my life's work has been focused in relationship building, understanding, and conflict resolution. I am excited to bring these skills to the County Board and to help bring forth a new era of collaboration, transparency, and healthy communication with my colleagues and our administration.

### Andrew Smith Republican

Age 27. Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Western Michigan University; A+ Certification from CompTIA. Resident of Kalamazoo County 10 years; lifelong resident of SW Michigan. - Participation in local and state politics 7 years, including leadership summits and initiatives, and campaign volunteerism. Paid position Indiana Republican State Committee 2018 election cycle. - Strong desire to promote consensus-building and cooperation in government Experience in a variety of industries. Campaign Email: [smithforcommission@protonmail.com](mailto:smithforcommission@protonmail.com). Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Andrew-Smith-For-Kalamazoo-County-Commission-113893940328479/>.

1. The economic downturn has adversely affected county revenue. I will exercise fiscal responsibility to eliminate wasteful spending, prioritize services to those of most benefit to taxpayers, and promote business recovery. Raising already high taxes should be a last resort, not a first.

# Kalamazoo County Commission, continued

I will create a favorable climate for new business development, working to turn abandoned properties into economic assets. This will result in more local jobs and attractive communities. I will make it a priority to ensure that all citizens are offered a good quality of life, clean water, sound public health policies, and a first class local airport.

2. As a result of the unexpected pandemic and its economic consequences, the County can expect between two and ten million dollars in revenue from Lansing to disappear from its budget. It can also expect fewer tax receipts than it planned on. To prepare for the coming financial shortfall, I will advocate for a more priority-based budget. This will promote responsible identification of what will have to be set aside so that critical services can continue unimpeded and the County can remain financially solvent.
3. Kalamazoo County has a diverse population representing many viewpoints and experiences. When competing interests vie for limited financial resources, I will work to build consensus. I am able to listen carefully and ask relevant clarifying questions. Decisions need to be based on sound information, weighing costs and benefits, and on potential for true effectiveness rather than appearances. I am approachable, and understand that I am a servant of the people, not the other way around.

## District 5

Alamo Township

Kalamazoo Township precincts 3, 6, 9

Oshtemo Township precincts 1, 2, 3, 6, 9, 10

### Veronica McKissack

**Democrat**

Age 43. Clinical Social Worker at the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital. Master's Social Work, Bachelor's of Science (Psychology) - Western Michigan University. \*Integrity \*Commitment \*Collaboration. Campaign Phone: (269) 359-0771. Email: mckissack4commissioner@gmail.com. Facebook: <http://fb.me/vote4mckissack>.

1. Reduce Division/Divide within the commission: I will bring collaborative decision making by utilizing my skills and abilities to operate as a peace keeper while working within the Commission. Promote Diversity and Equity: I will bring transparency to reduce the culture of distrust within the county in order to bring forth equitable policies, putting county welfare over political agendas. Keep the county funds/property safe: I will advocate for accountability by complying with laws and regulations and impartially applying them to everyone.
2. Kalamazoo County is at risk of events such as flooding, access to clean water and other natural disasters. I will promote procedures that include effective communication to all departments, when any emergency disrupting the normal day to day operations within the county occurs. This will ensure equitable allocation of available resources mitigating the impact of disruption in the community at-large. I will promote a culture of preparedness, advocating for remote and virtual service delivery, to ensure our community gets all necessary supports available.
3. A commissioner should maintain a level of professionalism and treat all whom they encounter with dignity and respect. A commissioner should work effectively and collaboratively with governmental agencies and organizations by adhering to laws that advance the interest of the county. As a Kalamazoo County Commissioner, I will use my interpersonal savvy to relate with the diverse population with tact. Through effective communication, I will skillfully negotiate tough situations, utilizing sound logic, to advance interests of all constituents of the county. This will be done by promoting a culture that is welcoming and inclusive.

### Valarie Cunningham

**Republican**

Age 52. Founder and CEO of The Synergy Health Center. Masters to Degree in Social Work. Bachelor's Degree in Business. 23 years of being a Public Servant. 17 years as Founder and CEO. Also served as Interim Director at the Douglass Community Association 2006, and Director of Foster Care, Licensing and Adoptions at Family and Children Services 2008-9. 10 years as a Realtor for Michigan Association Of Realtors. 7 years as Adjunct Instructor at Western Michigan University. Campaign Phone: (269) 599-0830. Email: valarie4commissioner@gmail.com. Website: <http://valariecunningham.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Valarie4countycommissioner/>.

1. My top three priorities are families, fiscal responsibility, and the future state of unity for Kalamazoo County residents. Vibrant communities have healthy families who have support and stability which are key to their overall well being, this includes educational equity, access to needed mental health services, and healing community trauma. Having 17 years of experience managing limited budgets, fundraising, and prioritizing necessities will position me to support the integrity of the current fiscal structure. Lastly, but equally important is the future of our county, where I see people taking ownership of the dream of a unified community.
2. The death of George Floyd in Minnesota is an unexpected event that took the nation by storm. The impact was far-reaching evening impacting and disrupting Kalamazoo County government services including public safety, businesses, and homeowners. It is hard to anticipate how a COVID 19 or George Floyd will tip the economy or damage the soul, however, I believe as a County we should always prepared for the worst and expect the best. This leaves us positioned for a high alert situation, so if it is necessary a plan can be implemented immediately without a major impact on the services being provided to residents.
3. I believe serving as a liaison between residents and the government is the most effective way to ensure the needs of both are met. For over 20 years I have been a bridge builder and I am a bridge between cultures, businesses, and religious institutes. So in my role as a liaison, I know how to bring clarity to residents surrounding existing and arising policies, expectations, and solutions. It is important to foster an environment of unity and peace, which is a role I am comfortable with. I anticipate providing support where needed by helping to decrease tensions between the residents and the government department and official.

## District 6

Townships of Cooper, Richland, Ross

### Jennifer Aniano

**Democrat**

Age 34. Kalamazoo County Commissioner. High School Teacher. ABD, Ed.D Doctor of Educational Leadership (City University of Seattle). M.Ed with teaching certification in History and English (University of MI - Ann Arbor). B.S. History (Eastern MI University). I have been teaching in Michigan public schools for ten years. I have alternative education experience and diverse

teaching experience. I have served in various leadership roles in the Michigan Education Association and the Kalamazoo Education Association. Those positions include vice president of the local organization and delegate to the MEA and NEA. Campaign Phone: (586) 864-7305. Email: missaniano@gmail.com. Website: <http://jenanianoformi.org/endorse/>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jenanianoformi/?ref=bookmarks>.

1. I would like to fight to place a millage on the ballot to support our veterans. This Pandemic has proven that we must do better for the men and women who have sacrificed and served our country. I would like to continue to build partnerships between mental health services and health services in general and the public schools within our county. We need to do more to support our children in all of our communities. The only way to do so is to bridge the gap for our public schools. I want to continue the diligent budgeting of the commission and continue to ensure transparency in our budgeting policies and practices.
2. I do not need to imagine an event. We have experienced events in real-time. I would like to keep working to clean up our water and see an end to PFAS in our water systems. This disrupts the government and disrupts the lives of our citizens. We must hold businesses, corporations, the healthcare system, and any other entity accountable for protecting our most precious resource in this county and in this state.
3. I believe, if you asked anyone that is involved in or follows the county government if Commissioner Aniano can bridge gaps, have tough conversations, displays leadership qualities and skills, and seeks the truth for transparency's sake, most people would tell you that is my strong suit. I have studied leadership extensively over the past six years. I understand organizational culture, restructuring, and budgeting. I understand the importance of the climate and culture of the entire organization and how leaders directly positively or negatively impact that environment.

### Jeff Heppler

**Republican**

Age 67. Police Chief/Village Manager/Fireman/Business Owner. Graduated High School, Kellogg Community College. Police Chief 38 years, Fireman 38 years, Business Owner 32 years. Kalamazoo County Commissioner 14 years. Augusta Village Manager 6 years. Campaign Phone: (269) 629-5124.

1. I have had 32 years of running a successfully running multiple Business. I am able to multi task doing different jobs and activities. I have been involved in the emergence management team for 38 years in Kalamazoo County. I have also worked on the KATS (Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study) working to improve our roads with in Kalamazoo County. Provide good services to Kalamazoo County and Keep Taxes low.
2. A major weather event have disrupted the county several time. We need to work all of our county departments to prepare with our emergence management department to work with all of our Local, State, and Federal government to provide services in the event of a major event.
3. As A Police Chief, Village manager, Fireman and Business Owner, as well as 14 years as a Kalamazoo County Commissioner. I have developed contacts with Local, State, and Federal government officials as well as my work in the public for more then 40 years give me the skills to be a Kalamazoo County Commissioner.

## District 7

Townships of Charleston, Climax, Comstock, Wakeshma

City of Galesburg

### Anthony M. Bates

**Democrat**

Age 48. Adjunct Teacher/Substitute Teacher. Western Michigan University, B.S. in General Studies with a minor in English, MA in Sports Management. I have no political experience at this time, this would be my first time getting into politics. Campaign Phone: (269) 205-3785. Email: [info@batesforkzoocounty.com](mailto:info@batesforkzoocounty.com). Website: <http://batesforkzoocounty.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/KzooCounty7th>.

1. The top three out of the six priorities that I have listed would be, livelihood, infrastructure, and environment. Working to improve each of these three categories will help to improve the lives of thousands of residents in Kalamazoo County. These three policies are connected because one will not survive without the other. Our livelihood, how we live and what opportunities that are given to us to reach higher goals is affected by our health. Our health is affected by the environment and having access to clean drinking water and fresh air to breath, which is supplies by our infrastructure. I look to help improve how we live.
2. The current situation has put a financial strain on county services. Any time an event occurs that can repeat the current financial situation it puts the county government in a tough spot. Cutting jobs should never be an option, cutting the budget should be a last resort. As a Commissioner I would look to create a way that we can increase the county reserves so our government could last a minimum of six months without any incoming revenue. We need to look into future planning and projects and find ways that we can continue to improve our county while also setting money aside for an emergency.
3. As a representative of a district in Kalamazoo County, I feel that it is important that people in the community know that they will have a voice and that I will represent their needs at the county level. It is also important to have continued contact with leaders of the local municipalities in order to work with them should they have any concerns that can be addressed at the county level. It is also important to work with state level officials in cases where the county may not be able to assist but the state may. My ability to communicate and create a strong bond with those I work with is why I feel I am qualified for this position.

### Roger Edward Tunier

**Republican**

Age 68. Kalamazoo County Commissioner- District 7. High School graduate, KVCC. 48 years business experience of owning and operating a successful Greenhouse. Served in the Army National Guard for 6 years. Past President of Kalamazoo Valley Plant Growers. Served on the Greenstone Farm Credit Board, Kalamazoo Christian School Board and served many years on the Church Council. Campaign Phone: (269) 381-2811. Email: [rtunier@gmail.com](mailto:rtunier@gmail.com).

1. Priority based budgeting. Restore fiscal responsibility. Improve quality of life in Kalamazoo County. Work to instill more unity within the County Board. Make decisions that are best for the whole community.
2. Federal and State funding cuts because of the Pandemic or another disaster could have a real impact on County services. A decrease in State revenue sharing and grant funding

# Kalamazoo County Commission, continued

would directly affect programs that rely on these revenue sources. Through careful watch on our current budget and preparation of the 2021 budget we can protect some of these essential services.

3. Communication is the key to effective county government. The more informed we are as a board, the easier it is to make the best decisions for all in our county. Over the past almost 8 years on the board and my experience of owning and operating a business has helped to give me the tools to be an effective leader. Also building trust with those you are working with is of utmost importance in working together.

## District 8

Townships of Brady, Pavilion, Prairie Ronde, Schoolcraft  
City of Portage precinct 2

### John Gisler Republican

Age 76. County Commissioner - South County. AB Wabash College - Zoology/Chemistry. MBA Syracuse University - Finance. County Commissioner - first elected in 2010. Extensive business experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Campaign Phone: (269) 323-0259. Email: jgisler5@comcast.net.

1. We must learn to prioritize our annual budget. We cannot continue to provide all services to all people all the time. Some services may have to be reduced or even eliminated. Taxes should not be increased.
2. Our county is dealing with extensive flooding. Water seems to be at record levels everywhere. PFAS will be an ongoing challenge as well. Our current Emergency Management operation is strong and we need to keep it that way.
3. I will scrutinize every expenditure of taxpayer dollars. I will seek to limit government intrusion into our daily lives and encourage policies that promote personal responsibility and individual liberty. Kalamazoo is one of the most financially sound of Michigan's 83 counties. We must keep it that way.

## District 9

Texas Township. Oshtemo Township precincts 4, 5, 7, 8

### Keshia Dickason Democrat

Age 45. District Manager for the office of Senator Sean McCann. Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 2004, B.S., Business Management. Strayer University Online, 2004-2007, M.H.S.A., Master of Health Care Administration. Northcentral University. Currently I serve as the District Manager for the office of Senator Sean McCann. In the past I have served as Executive Director for Partners in Housing Transition and Peas in a Pod Family Development Center. I have always been self-motivated, A team Player and always find positive outcomes in every job that I have held. I love helping others and make sure staff members utilizes their potential. Campaign Phone: (269) 929-6168. Email: vote4dickason@gmail.com. Facebook: <http://DickasonForCountyCommissioner>.

1. My top three priorities for seeking the office of county commissioner for District 9 Texas township and Oshtemo are 1 Marinating a Healthy Community. 2 Protecting Our Environment. 3 Ensuring Responsible Redevelopment. If I am selected as County Commissioner I hope to accomplish unity and positive communication between all county board members as well as the community.
2. An event that would seriously disrupt Kalamazoo County government would be a major flood. Commissioners need to place flood preparedness plans to make sure we know what measures to take to make sure families, businesses and homes are able to recover quickly and safe. In the Texas Township Task Force meetings I listen to the things that EGLE is trying to do to reduce flooding and it is working, but if these plans had been in place ahead of time they would have been more effective and less harsh on the homeowners in the area with cost of utility bills and other expenses that they have had trying to make their homes livable during the flooding.
3. In my role as District Manager for the Michigan Senate in the office of Senator McCann I have learned how to work and assist other offices to make sure that our constituents are well represented, given the correct information they need. and that we help each one regardless of what government office they are seeking help from. Our Senate and government offices work together daily to help constituents, and these are the same skills and talents that I will bring as County Commissioner. I am a leader in the community who stands for the people and will continue to be the voice of the people to make our community safe, healthy and prosperous.

### Dale Shugars Republican

Age 67. Self Employed. Graduate of WMU - BBA, Majors Accountancy and Political Science, Graduate of Portage Northern High School, CPA-Registered, CAE-Retired. Former State Senator- 8 years, Former State Representative- 4 years, Former City of Portage Council- 7 years, Former Kalamazoo County Commission- 4 year. Campaign Phone: (269) 207-5275. Email: dalelshugars@gmail.com.

1. (1) Restore Fiscal Responsibility- a. eliminate paying volunteers \$25 stipend per meeting, Budgeted \$45,000, b. eliminate paying part time employees health insurance including County Commissioners, Budgeted \$106,000, c. eliminate excessive commissioner out of state travel, Budgeted \$30,000, d. eliminate County ID program, Budgeted \$50,000, e. demand and hold accountable the Sheriff's department- discovered fraud- cost \$30,000. (2) Support efforts of managing and/or preventing floods though out the County. (3) Prioritize, the Board is responsible for policy and the staff for daily operations and together establish the Annual Budget.
2. Since there will always be unexpected events at some time in the future, being prepared fiscally and with the right people in the right positions on staff is the best way to be prepared. Further, the County needs to be the most effective and efficient it can be in all it's operations and the Board must not "micro manage" the staff! We cannot have what an independent consultant hired by the County stated in their report, "Decisions appear to be made, as well as avoided, for political reasons as opposed to overall County welfare or effective Board leadership practice."

3. Developing a consensus of governance of the County is the first step towards maximizing the resources of the County for all the citizens and residents of the County. For example, the staff has the daily operational functions and the Board has the policy and Annual Budget (working with the Administrator) responsibilities. Working as a team is so important. To be the best team possible everyone needs to be heard! We all need to practice when we listen to others, "listen to understand, rather than to respond"!

## District 10

City of Portage precincts 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18

### Mike Quinn Democrat

Age 73. Co-owner with wife, Shamrock Montessori Center. Master of Science, Statistics, WMU 1998. Bachelor of Arts, Applied Mathematics, WMU 1991. High School Diploma, Loy Norrix, 1965. Enlisted in Marine Corps in 1966, promoted to Sergeant in Viet Nam. Volunteered for Peace Corps in 1975, served in Nicaragua until 1977. Portage resident and small business owner since 1985. Member of Portage Board of Review for Property Taxes 2011-2015. Employed by Summit Polymers 1985-2009 in Engineering, Process Improvement, and R&D. Kalamazoo County Commissioner 2009-10, 2017-present. Campaign Phone: (269) 267-2880. Email: mikedquinn@sbcglobal.net. Facebook: <http://MikeQuinnforCounty>.

1. My top priorities are first, to take care of the people who need help the most, second, to protect the county's financial stability and infrastructure, and third, to build resilience in our community. Resilience is all about being able to overcome the unexpected. We build it by measures to improve public health, by connecting people, as in volunteer and recreational activities, and by investing in prevention and preparation.
2. One possibility would be a widespread and prolonged electrical power outage in cold weather. Our county has both a Public Health Emergency Preparedness team, and an Emergency Management division within the Sheriff's Office. Both teams have assessed hazards, generated plans, and offer information and trainings to help each of us prepare for a variety of emergency situations. Both have successfully deployed recently for the Parchment PFAS contamination, for flooding, and for the Covid-19 pandemic. In a long winter outage we'd strive to get vulnerable people into warm shelters, and have water, food, and medical care for those who need it.
3. County government has roles in a very broad range of activities that impact us all: public health, safety & justice, roads and airport, public records, economic development, environmental protection, and taxation, to name just a few! These roles entail cooperation with departments and officials in other units at local, state, and federal levels. Commissioners must build trusting relationships with them and understand the reciprocal responsibilities to fulfill our missions. In my three terms of service in office I have gained valuable experience, but there is always more to learn, and more people to meet and come to know.

### Charley Coss Republican

Age 61. Home Rebuilding / Information Management. Bachelor of Arts - Communications WMU. Masters of Public Administration - Local Government WMU. Business Owner - over 35 years. Independent Producer and Media Consultant - 15 years. Vice Chair Kalamazoo City Planning Commission - 6 Years. Chair Community Development Act Advisory Committee - 9 years. National Ski Patrolter & Instructor - 10 years. Special Olympics Volunteer & Asst Coach - 8 years. Contracted & Worked with Local Government Public Safety (Chicago PD). Campaign Phone: (269) 290-1237. Email: charley@votecoss.com. Website: <http://votecoss.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/votecoss>. Twitter: [twitter.com/votecoss](https://twitter.com/votecoss).

1. Law & Order is paramount for all our communities. We need better training and support for our most important Community Liaisons. I support Law Enforcement. Transparency - Our Current County Commission is dysfunctional and they are mismanaging money and have lost in their focus. Fix the Sheriff's office - monies missing and mismanaged needs to stop. We've had audits, they need to be implemented & enforced. We can do better! Seniors First - I have always put our Special Needs & Senior population first. We are overtaxing and undeserving our Seniors. I will work to bring resources and services to our Senior residents - We must do be Better.
2. Our local businesses employ many Kalamazoo residents. The current extremely high unemployment, and surge in bankruptcies are signs we need to rethink our budgets and services. We expect a drop in State Revenue Sharing and an increase in community services. We need to take a hard look at costs and services, and re-prioritize future spending in the near term. Cost sharing within our Region is a must, such as working with Calhoun County on regional resources, such as consolidating our underutilized jail facilities.
3. Grounded Experience is necessary to Lead our County through of our current challenges. I have been serving Kalamazoo County since 2003 & have been a Business Leader for over 35 years. I would be honored to help lead Kalamazoo County through these challenging times, and I welcome your Vote for Charley Coss for County Commissioner.

## District 11

City of Portage precincts 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 15, 17, 20

### Fran Bruder Melgar Democrat

Age 59. Pediatrician and Internist at Intercare Community Health Network, Pullman, MI. Bachelor of Arts from Kalamazoo College-1983. Medical Doctor From Michigan State University-College of Human Medicine-1988. Med-Peds Residency-Detroit Medical Center-1989-1993. Med-Peds faculty member at Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies 1994-2000. Primary care physician with Intercare Community Health Network- Bangor and Pullman 2003-2005, 2012-present. Campaign Phone: (269) 599-1174. Email: vote4fran@gmail.com. Website: <http://www.vote4fran.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Vote4Fran>.

1. My priorities include: 1)The health and safety of all members of our community in the midst of this Covid 19 pandemic and beyond. We need to assure access to medical and mental health services, addressing development of a variety of new ways to deliver healthcare services. Businesses will need support and guidance to ensure safety for their employees and patrons. 2) Technical support and creative engagement will be critical to address the educational needs

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- of our children while they are unable to receive in person instruction. 3) I hope to address community concerns about the safety of our water supply, free from PFAS and lead contamination
2. Demonstrations stemming from the unjust, tragic murder of George Floyd have the potential to escalate, as anger and frustration build, from centuries of oppression and systemic racism. Outsiders who seek to create chaos could mobilize to Kalamazoo to disrupt the peaceful demonstrations of those who demand change. As these issues play out around our country, we have an opportunity to prevent escalation into violence by engaging leaders within communities of color, community organizations, faith leaders, social service agencies and the sheriff's department. Identifying those leaders within our communities and our county government are critical
  3. As a doctor, I have to rely upon medical assistants, nurses, and administrative staff, and I coordinate care with social workers, psychologists, and medical specialists to address the needs of my patients. I have to take into account multiple external forces that interfere with a patient's ability to follow therapy recommendations, and I have to constantly modify my approach to meet people where they are. Developing a trusting personal relationship with all of these team members is essential to my effectiveness. I am a team player, and an educator, and constantly seek to inform and guide my patients in management of their own health.

## Lisa Brayton Republican

Age 49. Dental Hygienist. Bachelors in Science from the University of Detroit Mercy, Registered Dental Hygienist. As a small business owner for 23 years, I have decades of experience managing employees, following a budget, and serving members of this community. I started a charity

in 2002 to help feed students in Portage schools and have served with many Parent Teacher Organizations. I've always been an advocate for our community and will utilize my experience to serve Kalamazoo County's 11th District. Campaign Phone: (269) 762-0636. Email: [friendsoflisabrayton@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoflisabrayton@gmail.com). Website: <http://lisabrayton.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Lisabrayton4kalamazoo/>.

1. My top three priorities are ensuring Kalamazoo's economy bounces back strongly after re-opening, protecting seniors from tax foreclosure, and giving power back to people of Portage - representing our community with dedication, passion and conviction. I hope to restore fiscal responsibility, common sense leadership, and accountability to the County Commission, while working to ensure Kalamazoo County is a safe and prosperous community for all of its residents.
2. An event that could seriously disrupt Kalamazoo County government services is a budget shortfall as a result of mismanaging county tax dollars. Proper budgeting that ensures our county lives within our means and prioritizes public safety and health services is an essential role of the County Commission and responsible leadership is needed more than ever. The COVID pandemic has illustrated structural flaws in county government that the commission must work together to solve, and I will work to better prepare Kalamazoo for future crises by collecting and utilizing the best data available, allocating funds wisely, and avoiding employee layoffs.
3. I understand the importance of effective team building, and will use the skills I have developed for decades in business, the healthcare sector, and local non-profits to best serve the Portage and Kalamazoo Community. I will always put the people of Portage before partisan politics and will work with anyone in good faith to address the real issues impacting our county. I love this community with all of my heart and want a government as hard-working as its people. Serving my neighbors is my passion, and I will give 110% to representing my constituents if elected.

# Michigan Supreme Court Justice

## Eight-year term Vote for two

Description: The Michigan Supreme Court is the state's highest court and makes the final determination and interpretation of Michigan's laws. It supervises all other state courts. Although the election is nonpartisan, candidates (other than incumbents) are nominated by political parties.

## Questions

1. Why are you running for the Michigan Supreme Court, and what educational, occupational, civic and community experiences have you had that particularly qualify you for this office?
2. Do you believe the current process for selecting Supreme Court Justices is the best path to fair and impartial representation - including how candidates are nominated for election or appointed for vacancies and how campaigns are funded and regulated? Please explain.
3. What, in your opinion, are the two greatest areas of need in the Michigan justice system, and how should the Supreme Court respond to them?

## Susan L. Hubbard

Nonpartisan. This candidate was nominated by the Green Party.

Did not respond in time for publication.

## Mary Kelly

Nonpartisan. This candidate was nominated by the Republican Party. Senior Assistant Prosecutor, St. Clair County. Michigan State University, Bachelor of Science. Detroit College of Law, J.D. Campaign Website: <http://marykellyforjustice.com/>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MaryKellyforJustice/>.

1. I'm running for the Michigan Supreme Court to serve as a defender of the rule of law and a protector of the vulnerable in our society. During 30 years as a prosecutor I have been a steadfast champion for the rights of victims. As Senior Assistant Prosecutor I was the lead attorney for the Criminal Sexual Conduct Unit which handled all sexual and physical abuse cases against children. Not only did I vigorously prosecute crimes like drunk driving resulting in injury and death, but also set up treatment programs to stop repeat offenses. I will always be a strong voice for victims and for safe communities.
2. As a Prosecutor 'I'm given the responsibility to enforce the law and as a Justice on the Michigan Supreme Court my role would be to make certain we adhere to the rule of law. I will not be an advocate for any political cause, but instead abide the law. Our system gives the authority to make new law and our Constitutional system to the legislative and executive branches and to the people. I will work within the system the other branches of government and the people put in place and will not put my judgement ahead of theirs.
3. In 2015, I was honored to receive the James T. Corden Civility Award from my peers in the St. Clair County Bar Association. This award is given to attorneys who place a premium on integrity, honesty, ethics and fairness. In short, those who practice law with dignity and respect. The Michigan Supreme Court is the ultimate authority in our state legal system and must set the example for decorum and enforce the rules throughout the system. Some judges put themselves in the role as super legislators. It is incumbent upon our state's highest court to enforce and not make the law. That is exactly what I will do.

## Bridget Mary McCormack

Nonpartisan. This candidate was nominated by the Democratic Party. Chief Justice of Michigan Supreme Court. New York University Law School, New York, NY, J.D., 1991 Trinity College, Hartford, CT B.A., with Honors in Political Science and Philosophy, 1988. Campaign Website: <http://bridgetmarymccormack.com>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/reelectchiefjusticemccormack>. Twitter: [twitter.com/bridgetmarymc](https://twitter.com/bridgetmarymc).

1. I am seeking re-election to the Michigan Supreme Court to continue advocating for the principle that everyone, regardless of their ability to afford a lawyer, deserves equal access to justice and a fair opportunity to have their case heard. Since joining the court in 2013, I have worked each day to ensure that our courts are accessible, independent, efficient, and engaged with their communities. I spent my career as a lawyer working for individuals who were disenfranchised from our justice system and prior to being elected was the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs at the U of M law school, where I still teach today.
2. Every process can be improved, including the one we use to elect justices in Michigan. It is important that the court is nonpartisan and therefore, in my view, the party nomination process along with some of the independent expenditures can send the wrong message to the public. Judges and justices have to be willing to lose friends and elections when making decisions-that's what their oath requires and in my experience they are, which makes some of the cost to public confidence regrettable. However, this is the process the People of Michigan have selected and I welcome their assessment of my work at the ballot box.

3. The most critical challenge is access to justice. Eight of 10 people in Michigan can't afford a lawyer when they have a civil legal problem and they have to either navigate the courts without one or they simply don't even try. We announced a Justice For All Taskforce last year which aims to achieve 100 percent access to the civil justice system in Michigan. There is also an absence of innovation and technology in courts, which costs them transparency, efficiency and access. We have made great progress recently, but we need to make processes more user-friendly and efficient to improve our service to the public.

## Kerry Lee Morgan

Nonpartisan. This candidate was nominated by the Libertarian Party. Attorney. Kerry Lee Morgan is Of Counsel to the law firm of Pentiuik, Couvreur, & Kobiljak, P.C. Regent University, M.A. Public Policy, magna cum laude, 1985. Detroit College of Law, J.D., 1981. Michigan State University, B.A. Political Science and Criminal Justice, with honors, 1977. Campaign website: <http://www.pck-law.com/attorney/kerry-l-morgan/>. Facebook: <http://www.martindale.com/attorney/kerry-lee-morgan-2161158/>.

1. The Supreme Court needs Justices who will apply the law as written, not as it ought to be written in the mind of the Judge. My background in the law for over forty years has taught me the importance of this purpose. My experience in the practice of law before judges has taught me that judges are sometimes reluctant to simply apply the law as written. I can bring a balanced respect for the written law and the Constitution in particular to the bench, so that Justice may be done.
2. The nomination and election process for Supreme Court Justices is adequate. Campaigns will always be funded in part by special interest and those who propose schemes to limit the effect of those interests, have an interest of their own in influencing the outcome of elections. The People are the best check on those interests and funding abuses through the ballot box. Government "solutions" and the snake oil of "bipartisan" support are designed to simply increase major party control of the Supreme Court and should be avoided.
3. The future of the judicial system is for the People to decide, but that future must recover a solid commitment to the rule of law, not the law of judges. Michigan Lawyers must also be freed from the politicized State Bar of Michigan by elimination of compulsory membership. The Supreme Court should be leading this fight. Instead, it sides with the Bar. It compels lawyers to pay money to the Bar for the propagation of ideas with which they disagree. The Court also tramples down the natural rights of conscience in the process. Securing natural rights is the states only compelling interest.

## Katherine Mary Nepton

Nonpartisan. This candidate was nominated by the Libertarian party. Lawyer at The Nepton Law Firm, PLLC. University of Connecticut Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Campaign website: <http://votenepton.com>.

1. As an unexpected candidate in almost every way; I am running for the ability to affect positive change across Michigan for generations. Bringing my unique world view to the Courts. My secondary goal in running is to bring awareness to the fact that in Michigan's 183 years as a state we are only beginning to bring Indigenous people into the fold. I wonder how many Indigenous clerks there are across Michigan. I wonder how many Indigenous lawyers have the opportunity to take a job offering various opportunities instead of working blue collar jobs through school like I did. These aims are why I am running.
2. Although I believe money and politics should not intertwine, my only comment on Campaign Finance is that current Michigan law makes things appear as if those in power never considered that an Indigenous person would ever get as far as being on the ballot. And, justifiably, it has taken 183 years for Michigan to have their first ever Indigenous person Candidate for Supreme Court Justice. There are specific barriers to me, as a candidate, because of my race

# Michigan Supreme Court Justice, continued

that are built into Michigan Law. Neighbors & sister tribes are restricted, for reference please see MCL 169.252, and MCL 169.254.

3. First, Michigan needs to reduce archaic laws. Just because the constitution overrules certain laws does not mean that Michigan should have these laws on the books. Next, Michigan has gotten too close to the “debtor’s prisons” of time long past. Our Founding Fathers set up a system so that we would never need to put people in jail for not being able to pay a bill. In Michigan numerous people are in jail for this very reason. This systemic problem influences society in many ways. The less able you are to pay a fine, the more likely that you have a criminal record because of debt owed to the state. This is unacceptable.

## Brock Swartzle

*Nonpartisan. This candidate was nominated by the Republican Party. Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals. B.S., University of Michigan; J.D., George Mason University Law School. Campaign website: <http://BrockForJustice.com>. Facebook: <http://Brock Swartzle For Justice>.*

1. The Rule of Law is a bedrock of our society, and we must be vigilant in protecting it. Justice, due process, equity, and fairness all flow from the Rule of Law. As a Michigan Court of Appeals Judge, I am committed to upholding these principles. Before becoming a judge, I worked in the Legislature as House General Counsel, in 3 federal courts as a law clerk, and as a lawyer in private practice (e.g., antitrust, employment, healthcare, criminal law, etc). I’ve given back to my community through my church and alumni association, as well as teaching at the MSU Law School and serving on a national judicial education board.
2. The people should decide who their judges are. There are many ways this can be done, and Michigan’s system strikes a reasonable balance. It is absolutely essential that judges run as nonpartisans, because our judicial canons require us to “be unswayed by partisan interests.” Canon 3(A)(1). We need more outlets to inform the public about each candidate’s judicial philosophy and experience, so that judicial elections are focused on the issues, not catchy slogans or memorable phrases. And, most importantly, candidates must be transparent—that is why I have posted my opinions to my website, BrockForJustice.com.
3. We have the greatest legal system in the world—if you can afford it. Simply put, justice that is too expensive is not justice. We must make access to justice cheaper for everyone, from the single mom to the corner storekeeper to the adoptive parents to the low-income juvenile to

our biggest employers. So, (1) the Michigan Supreme Court needs to reform its court rules to make pretrial matters (e.g., fact discovery, motion practice) quicker and cheaper, and (2) the Court needs to work with the Legislature and other groups to provide juveniles who enter the justice system with early and effective intervention.

## Elizabeth M. Welch

*Nonpartisan. This candidate was nominated by the Democratic Party. Attorney. Penn State University, BA with honors; Ohio State University, JD. Campaign Website: <http://www.welchforjustice.com/>. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/welchforjustice>. Twitter: [twitter.com/welchforjustice](https://twitter.com/welchforjustice).*

1. My experience with employment law (representing small businesses, nonprofits, and individuals); bi-partisan advocacy for public schools, voting rights, and conservation; criminal law and abuse/neglect cases; and community mediation will add value to the Court. I have served in leadership roles on my local school board, in nonprofit organizations, and on foundations working to solve deep challenges in our communities. We need justices with broad backgrounds and exposure to different viewpoints to make important decisions and ensure the Judicial Branch functions fairly and transparently to assure public trust.
2. Our partisan nomination process is confusing. An alternative is a non-partisan commission/appointment by Governor/retention election process. Importantly all judges should face voters in elections to ensure they stay connected to those served. Voter guides with candidate information could be sent to all voters with absentee ballots and be placed in polling places. Finally, we must have full, timely disclosure of all money spent in judicial races. Candidates already have robust campaign finance disclosure requirements, but the law should also require full disclosure of money spent by everyone else.
3. The lack of complete data makes it impossible to fully study and understand outcomes in our criminal justice system. The Court should work to modernize technology platforms in order to gather data in a usable format across the State so that outcomes are examined to ensure justice is delivered fairly across all demographics and programs are implemented that ensure safer communities. Additionally, we have a crisis in our court system; the vast majority of litigants lack access to counsel. We must utilize technology and new pathways to ensure everyone can access justice fairly (even if unrepresented).

# Kalamazoo Valley Community College Board of Trustees

## Six-year term Vote for two

*Description: There are seven members of the Board of Trustees. Each serves a six-year term.*

## Questions

1. Why are you running for a board seat? What strengths or talents especially qualify you for that role?
2. What specific steps should the board take to ensure that students have a safe and successful academic year in view of Covid-19?
3. Are you satisfied with how well KVCC is supporting local economic vitality and stability through development of a skilled workforce? Explain why or what more should be done.

## Mary T. Gustas

*Age 67. Executive Director Comstock community center. ABD, Applied Sociology, WMU. Education Specialist, WMU. BA, Behavioral Science, Nazareth College. AA, KVCC. Trustee, KVCC since 1989. I have served as board chair, vice chair, and on the finance committee for 32 years. Campaign Phone: (269) 207-2243. Email: [mtgustas@aol.com](mailto:mtgustas@aol.com).*

1. I have served on the board of KVCC for 32 years. During that period I have served as board chair, vice chair and on the Finance Committee and the presidents evaluation committee. I believe that my historical knowledge and previous experience in Higher Education Administration at Kalamazoo College and Grand Valley State University are a benefit in understanding many of the issues presented to the board of trustees at KVCC. In addition to working in an administrative capacity, I have also taught at Western Michigan University
2. The college has already undertaken the necessary safety protocols to insure the safety of students, faculty and staff/. In the event of a potential outbreak, the college is prepared to pivot back to a completely virtual status. I am confident that all necessary protocols that have been recommended by the State of Michigan and the CDC are in place and are available for inspection.
3. KVCC has consistently provided programming to support the local economy. This is evident in both their academic programs, (Wind Turbine, Police Academy) and their continuing education programs. Local companies are able to secure re-certification in various safety requirements and receive assistance in developing new programs for their employees. The introduction of the Healthy living campus has major connections with Bronson Health Services, WMU Medical School and Integrated Community Services (previously know as Community Mental Health) has introduced new and innovative programs to the community.

## Lucinda M. Stinson

*Age 62. Executive Director of Lending Hands of Michigan. Part Time Professor @ Western Michigan University. Masters In Public Administration. I have been a healthcare professional and administrator in Kalamazoo County for over forty years. I have over twenty years of non-profit leadership, along with involvement on several non-profit boards. I am currently Vice-Chair and member on the KVCC Audit committee, my recent experience as an active Trustee make me well qualified to continue my service to the Board of Trustees. Campaign Phone: (269) 348-1528. Email: [59psalms@charter.net](mailto:59psalms@charter.net).*

1. I have served on the Board of Trustees for the past six years and currently I am the Vice Chair and member of the Audit Committee. I have served with distinction and commitment to ensure the college is providing a quality educational opportunity to all members of our vast County community. I am a successful graduate of Kalamazoo Valley Community College Respiratory Therapy program and I had a successful career in the field that also allowed me with amazing opportunities to assume leadership roles within the hospital organization and outside leading several healthcare non-profit organizations.
2. The Board of Trustees has a capable leader in Dr. Marshal Washington, he and the Leadership team in conjunction with the Board of Trustees have implemented several initiatives that will ensure the health and safety of our students and faculty. More classes being offered online, workstations have been dispersed throughout the 9th Street an Arcadia campuses that have hand

sanitizers, gloves and masks. Cafeteria services on the main campus have implemented a “Subway” model ensuring that students are receiving fresh food with safety precautions to ensure cleanliness. Classrooms have desks spaced 6 feet apart and each class has cleaning supplies.

3. KVCC has been a leader in workforce development and community sustainability. We have partnered with Bronson with the Healthy Living campus, where we train, Nurses, EMT and Respiratory Therapists in a state of the art facility that mimics a hospital setting. KVCC has a sustainable community garden that provides farm to table food to Bronson Hospital and the community. Partnered with ISK to ensure a clinical support site for Mental Health professionals. A culinary program in the Schlack facility that trains medical professionals in the area of medical nutrition. KVCC is positioned to create employment opportunities that are sustainable.

## Scott Zondervan

*Adjunct Instructor at KVCC and Controller/Chief Financial Officer at Kalamazoo Christian Schools. Master of Arts in Applied Economics and Finance at Western Michigan University. Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration at Calvin University. 20 years experience teaching Business and Economics at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and over 30 years experience as a Chief Financial Officer/Controller for the Kalamazoo Christian Schools, The United Way of the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region, Park Village Pines Long-Term Care Facilities, and the Kalamazoo Credit Bureau. Campaign Email: [scottzondervan@yahoo.com](mailto:scottzondervan@yahoo.com).*

1. I’m running for KVCC Board of Trustees because education, especially at the Community College level is a vital key to improving peoples lives and standard of living. Education is of paramount importance in helping people develop to their fullest potential. KVCC gives people the unique opportunity to further their education at an affordable price. My 20 years of teaching at KVCC has encouraged me that people of all ages in our community have a desire to learn, to understand, and improve not only their future, but their family legacy. My goal is to ensure that this excellent opportunity stays affordable to all people.
2. First and foremost we need to follow the law as directed by our governor. Within these guidelines we need to ensure that students remain safe, comfortable, and valued, taking care to give adequate breaks and ensuring them that their frustrations on either side of the issue are heard and valid. While online classes solve a lot of the issues with Covid-19, they are not the full answer for students who struggle with online learning and don’t have computer or internet connections to access the classes. Every effort should be made to accommodate these students by using the proper CDC and state guidelines for face to face classes.
3. A skilled and educated workforce is of paramount importance, as it is one of the primary ingredients for improving peoples lives, by giving them the skills needed for today’s demanding workforce. This leads to a stable and growing community that benefits everyone. KVCC needs to be a leader in this area by creating better partnerships with local schools, businesses and industries. This means being at the forefront of our changing workforce by offering the classes and training needed to improve our community’s economic vitality and stability. My experience in both business and the classroom will be an asset for KVCC to assist in these goals.

## Ballot Proposals

### Michigan Proposal 20-1: Use of State and Local Park Funds Amendment

A proposed constitutional amendment to allow money from oil and gas mining on state-owned lands to continue to be collected in state funds for land protection and creation and maintenance of parks, nature areas, and public recreation facilities; and to describe how money in those state funds can be spent. [Referred to the Ballot by the Legislature]

#### This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Allow the State Parks Endowment Fund to continue receiving money from sales of oil and gas from state-owned lands to improve, maintain and purchase land for State parks, and for Fund administration, until its balance reaches \$800,000,000.
- Require subsequent oil and gas revenue from state-owned lands to go into the Natural Resources Trust Fund.
- Require at least 20% of Endowment Fund annual spending go toward State park improvement.
- Require at least 25% of Trust Fund annual spending go toward parks and public recreation areas and at least 25% toward land conservation.

Should this proposal be adopted?  Yes  No

(Source: Michigan Secretary of State's Office)

#### Yes — For the Measure

##### What This Vote Means

A “yes” vote supports making changes to how revenue in the state’s park-related funds can be spent, including (a) making projects to renovate recreational facilities eligible for grants and (b) allowing the parks endowment fund to be spent on park operations and maintenance, and (c) removing the cap on the size of the natural resources trust fund. (Source: Ballotpedia)

##### Support

Vote Yes for MI Water Wildlife & Parks is leading the campaign in support of the ballot measure. Website:

<http://www.miwaterwildlifeparks.com/> (Source: Ballotpedia)

#### No — Against the Measure

##### What This Vote Means

A “no” vote opposes making changes to how revenue in the state’s park-related funds can be spent, thus (a) continuing to prohibit projects to renovate recreational facilities from receiving grants, and (b) continuing to prohibit the parks endowment fund from being spent on park operations and maintenance, and (c) keeping the cap on the size of the natural resources trust fund. (Source: Ballotpedia)

##### Opposition

No organized group has been formed as of September 3, 2020.

(Source: Ballotpedia)

### Michigan Proposal 20-2: Search Warrant for Electronic Data Amendment

A proposed constitutional amendment to require a search warrant in order to access a person’s electronic data or electronic communications. [Referred to the Ballot by the Legislature]

#### This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Prohibit unreasonable searches or seizures of a person’s electronic data and electronic communications.
- Require a search warrant to access a person’s electronic data or electronic communications, under the same conditions currently required for the government to obtain a search warrant to search a person’s house or seize a person’s things.

Should this proposal be adopted?  Yes  No

(Source: Michigan Board of Canvassers)

#### Yes — For the Measure

##### What This Vote Means

A “yes” vote supports this constitutional amendment to require a search warrant to access a person’s electronic data and electronic communications. (Source: Ballotpedia)

##### Support and Opposition

No organized groups for this proposal have been formed as of September 3, 2020. (Source: Ballotpedia)

#### No — Against the Measure

##### What This Vote Means

A “no” vote opposes this constitutional amendment to require a search warrant to access a person’s electronic data and electronic communications. (Source: Ballotpedia)

##### Support and Opposition

No organized groups for this proposal have been formed as of September 3, 2020. (Source: Ballotpedia)

### Kalamazoo County Housing Millage Proposal

For the purpose of funding housing programs in Kalamazoo County, shall the constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Kalamazoo, Michigan, be increased in an amount up to but not to exceed 0.75 mills (\$0.75 on each \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of eight (8) years (2021-2028 inclusive), to provide rental subsidies, permanent housing and related supportive services for residents of Kalamazoo County? If approved and levied in full, this millage would raise an estimated \$6,375,000.00 in the first calendar year of its levy based on taxable value.

Should this proposal be adopted?  Yes  No

(Source: Kalamazoo County Clerk)

See [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org) for Comstock Law Enforcement and Oshtemo Sewer Bond proposals.

## Michigan House of Representatives Candidate Forums

### Districts 60 & 61

Candidates who accepted the invitation to participate in the September 17 forum:

District 60 — Gary Mitchell, Julie Rogers, Stephanie Moore

District 61 — Christine Morse

Find the recording online at <https://www.publicmedianet.org/episode/michigan-house-representatives-districts-60-and-61>

### District 63

Candidates who accepted the invitation to participate in the September 30 forum:

Luke Howell, John LaPietra, Rafael Wolf, Ron Hawkins

Look for the link to the recording on the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area website: <https://lwvka.org>

These programs are broadcast periodically by Public Media Network. Find the schedule on <https://publicmedianet.org>.

# There's More on Your Ballot!

In addition to the races and proposals covered in this Guide, others may be on your November ballot.

Prepare to vote by reviewing a sample of your ballot at the Michigan Secretary of State website.

- Go to: [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote)
- Enter your name, birth month and year, and zip code
- Click on View My Sample Ballot

**Help prevent delays on election day by studying the candidates and issues and by using your sample ballot to record your choices before going to the polls.**

## Absent Voter Ballot Reminders

✦ If you decide to use a secure **drop box**, find the location of one near you at:

[www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote)

1. Click on "Who is My Clerk"
2. Enter information to search by your name, license or address.

✦ If you mail your ballot, do that no later than **October 19** to allow adequate time for delivery.

✦ You can track your ballot on the MVIC website ([www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote)).

✦ See page 2 of this guide for more information.

## CAMPAIGNING AT THE POLLS

Michigan election law stipulates that "a person shall not post, display, or distribute in a polling place, in any hallway used by voters to enter or exit a polling place, or within 100 feet of an entrance to a building in which a polling place is located any material that directly or indirectly makes reference to an election, a candidate, or a ballot question."

**The following activities are included under this restriction:**

- Displaying "pro and con" information on the proposals appearing on the ballot.
- Approaching voters to encourage them to vote for or against a candidate or ballot question.
- Distributing any type of campaign literature or write-in stickers.
- Displaying signs, posters, or bumper stickers.
- Attempting to collect petition signatures.
- Requesting donations, selling tickets or engaging in similar activities.

Election inspectors will request that voters entering the polls remove campaign buttons or cover up clothing which bears any reference to a political party or interest group, campaign slogan or a candidate(s) name if associated with a ballot question or candidate whose name is appearing on the ballot for that specific election. In addition, voters will be told to conceal campaign literature or other campaign materials brought into the polls. While there is nothing to prohibit a voter from referring to campaign literature, "slate cards" or election information such as the LWV Voter Guide when voting, the materials may not be left behind in the voting station. Election inspectors periodically check each voting station for campaign literature left by voters and discard any that is found.

A voter may park a car or other vehicle bearing campaign signs or bumper stickers within 100 feet of the polling place during the time he or she is voting. Under any other circumstances, vehicles bearing campaign signs or bumper stickers must be parked at least 100 feet from any entrance to the building in which the polling place is located.

*Based on Election Officials' Manual, Michigan Bureau of Elections, Chapter 11, pp 26-27, Updated July 2019.*

**Check [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) for responses submitted after this Guide was published.**

# How to Judge a Candidate

Source: League of Women Voters Education Fund

**E**lections present voters with important choices. Whether it is a local race that will affect your community or a national race that could change the direction of the country it is a time to consider the issues which you care about and decide which candidate you support.

How do voters go about comparing and then judging candidates?

The seven steps outlined below are designed to help you judge a candidate.

## Step 1: Decide what you are looking for in a candidate.

Candidates can be judged in two ways: the positions they take on issues and the leadership qualities and experience they would bring to office. Both are important. Your first step in picking a candidate is to decide the issues you care about and the qualities you want in a leader.

When you consider issues, think about community or national problems that you want people in government to address. For example, you may be interested in the threat of nuclear war, government funding for student loans or teenage unemployment. Those are issues.

When you consider leadership qualities, think about the characteristics you want in an effective leader. Do you look for intelligence, honesty, and ability to communicate?

## Step 2: Find out about the candidates.

First, find out which candidates are running in the race you are following by using the League's online election resource [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) ([www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)). You can find the number for your local elections office and data on the candidates. A Voters Guide, published by your local League of Women Voters, is another source of information. Use the Secretary of State website – [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote) – to find out all the eligible candidates that will appear on your ballot. Be sure to notice minor party and/or independent candidates.

## Step 3: Gather materials about the candidates.

Put together a “library” of information about the candidates. Call campaign headquarters and watch the press. Sources of information from which you may choose include:

- [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org) or League Voter Guide
- Campaign literature, including campaign websites
- Nonpartisan online voter information websites
- Direct mail letters
- Press reports (newspapers, television, and radio)
- Radio and television ads
- Candidates' speeches
- Candidate debates (information on League hosted debates is available on [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org))

In a local race, interviews with the candidates can be helpful. For incumbents, a look at their voting records on issues that you have listed as important can tell you the candidates' positions on those issues.

## Step 4: Evaluate candidates' stands on issues.

As you read the materials you collect, keep a record. Do the materials give you an overall impression of the candidates? What specific conclusions can you draw about the candidates' stand on issues?

## Step 5: Learn about the candidates' leadership abilities.

Deciding if a candidate will be a good leader is difficult. How can you know if someone will be honest, open or able to act under pressure if elected to office? Here are some ways to read between the lines as you evaluate the candidates' leadership qualities.

- Look at the candidates' background and their experience. How well prepared are they for the job?
- Observe the candidates' campaigns. Do they accept speaking engagements before different groups - even those groups that might not be sympathetic? Do they accept invitations to debate? Do the campaigns emphasize media events where the candidates can be seen but not heard?
- Review the campaign materials. As you read the materials and watch the campaign develop, add to your journal information that provides insights into candidates' personalities and leadership qualities. For example, do campaign materials emphasize issues or just images? Are they accurate?

## Step 6: Learn how other people view the candidate.

Now that you have accumulated information from campaigns and other sources, you will want to learn what other people think about the candidates. Their opinions can help to clarify your own views, but do not discount your own informed judgments. You may be the most careful observer of all!

- Seek the opinions of others in your community who keep track of political campaigns. Interview three people (not family members) such as shopkeeper, neighbor, or politically active volunteer, to find out which candidate they support and why. Learn what has shaped their political opinions. Was it an event? An idea or program proposed by a candidate? A particular issue about which they feel strongly? A long-standing party loyalty?
- Learn about endorsements. This is a way for interest groups and organizations to give a “stamp of approval” to a candidate. Endorsements provide clues to the issues a candidate supports. Get a list of endorsements from each candidates' headquarters. Find out what these groups stand for and find out why they are endorsing this candidate.
- Look into campaign contributions. Where do the candidates get the funds to finance their campaigns? Do they use their own money or raise funds from a few wealthy donors, from many small contributors, or from Political Action Committees? Many types of information about campaign contributions must be reported to the government and are watched by the press. Check the newspaper for stories on campaign finance. How might these campaign contributions affect the candidates' conduct in office? You might also want to analyze an incumbent's voting record on issues important to PACs and other campaign contributors.
- Throughout the campaign, opinion polls will be taken by a variety of groups to evaluate public support for the different candidates. Polls reveal who is leading at a certain point in the race. As you read the polls, ask these questions: Who sponsored the poll? Were all the figures released? What kinds of questions were asked? Were they slanted or unbiased? How were respondents selected - randomly or such a way to include all segments of the population? How many people were included in the poll sample?

## Step 7: Sorting it all out.

Review the information in your notes and compare all the candidates. Ask yourself these final questions:

- Which candidate's view on the issues do you agree with the most?
- Who ran the fairest campaign?
- Which candidate demonstrated the most knowledge on the issues?
- Which candidate has the leadership qualities you are looking for?

Is the choice clear? If so, pick a candidate.

### Seeing through distortion techniques.

All candidates are trying to sell themselves to voters. Sometimes their language is so skillfully crafted that they distort the truth in a way that is difficult for even the most careful observer to detect. Here are some examples of distortion techniques that you should watch for as you review candidates' campaign materials.

### Common Distortion Techniques

*Name calling/Appeals to prejudice:*

- These are attacks on an opponent based on characteristics that will not affect performance in office. References to race, ethnicity or marital status can be subtly used to instill prejudice.

*Rumor mongering:*

- These include statements such as, “Everyone says my opponent is a crook, but I have no personal knowledge of any wrongdoing,” which imply (but do not state) that the opponent is guilty.

*Guilt by association:*

- These are statements such as, “We all know Candidate B is backed by big money interest,” that attack candidates because of their support rather than because of their stands on the issues.

*Catchwords:*

- These are phrases such as “Law and Order” or “un-American” that are designed to trigger a knee-jerk emotional reaction rather than to inform.

*Passing the blame:*

- These are instances in which a candidate denies responsibility for an action or blames an opponent for things over which he or she had no control.

*Promising the sky:*

- These are unrealistic promises that no one elected official could fulfill.

*Evading real issues:*

- These include instances in which candidates may avoid answering direct questions, offer only vague solutions, or talk about the benefits of proposed programs but never get specific about possible problems or costs.

*Prepare a Candidate Report Card*

- List your priority issues.
- List your positions and rank the candidates on how they stand on the issues and your positions.
- List the leadership qualities you want and rank the candidates on those qualities.

*Now that you have thought through your choices, DO SOMETHING!*

- Back the candidates you believe in.
- Talk to your friends and family about “your” candidate.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions at candidate meetings, debates, or rallies or when a campaign worker rings your doorbell.
- Call television and radio stations to praise or criticize campaign spots.
- Be a letter writer. Tell candidates, newspapers and party leaders how you feel about the issues.
- Volunteer to work on a campaign or make a donation.
- **If you're 18, register to vote. Then, go to the poll on Election Day or mail your ballot — Vote!**

# KALAMAZOO COUNTY PRECINCT LOCATIONS

Polls Open Tuesday, November 3, 2020 —7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## Alamo Township

- #1 Township Hall ..... 7901 North 6th St.
- #2 Alamo Community Church ..... 7925 North 6th St.

## Brady Township

- #1 Township Hall ..... 13123 South 24th St.
- #2 Chapman Memorial Church ..... 7520 East U Ave.

## Charleston Township

- #1 Township Hall ..... 1499 South 38th St.

## Climax Township

- #1 Township Hall ..... 110 North Main St.

## Comstock Charter Township

- #1 Galesburg Baptist Church ..... 10100 Shadowlane Dr.
- #2 Comstock Community Center ..... 6330 King Highway
- #3 Comstock Christian Reformed Church ..... 5300 Comstock Ave.
- #4 Northeastern Baptist Church ..... 6536 East G Ave.
- #5 Church of God Family Worship Center ..... 5841 East H. Ave.
- #6 Kalamazoo Community Church ..... 2435 North 26th St.
- #7 Northeastern Baptist Church ..... 6536 East G Ave.

## Cooper Charter Township

- #1 Township Hall ..... 1590 West D Ave.
- #2 Fire Station #2 ..... 3160 McKinley St.
- #3 Bethel Baptist Church ..... 5701 Mt. Olivet Rd.
- #4 North Bridge Church ..... 8824 Douglas Ave.
- #5 Cooper's Landing Apartments Community Room ..... 5001 Cooper's Landing

## Kalamazoo Charter Township

- #1 Lakewood Fire Station ..... 3100 Lake St.
- #2 Northwood Fire Station ..... 2617 N. Burdick St.
- #3 Grace Harbor Church ..... 811 Gorham La.
- #4 Westwood United Methodist Church ..... 538 Nichols Rd.
- #5 Westwood Fire Station ..... 1310 Nichols Rd.
- #6 Agape Christian Church ..... 609 Cherokee St.
- #7 Second Christian Reformed Church ..... 3015 Nichols Rd.
- #8 Eastwood Library ..... 1112 Gayle Ave
- #9 Eastwood Fire Station ..... 2703 East Main St.
- #10 Eastwood Fire Station ..... 2703 East Main St.

## Oshtemo Charter Township

- #1 Grange Hall ..... 3234 N. 3rd St.
- #2 Fire Station #2 ..... 3500 South 6th St.
- #3 Oshtemo Branch Library ..... 7265 W. Main St.
- #4 Voyage Church – Fellowship Hall ..... 6339 Atlantic Ave.
- #5 Skyridge Church ..... 394 S Drake Rd.
- #6 Centerpoint Church ..... 2345 N. 10th St.
- #7 Voyage Church - Fellowship Hall ..... 6339 Atlantic Ave.
- #8 Oshtemo Community Center ..... 6407 Parkview Ave.
- #9 Township Hall ..... 7275 W. Main St.
- #10 Oshtemo United Methodist Church ..... 6574 Stadium Drive

## Pavilion Township

- #1 Lakeland Reformed Church ..... 10442 South Sprinkle Rd.
- #2 Christian Evangelical Church ..... 9286 South 36th S.
- #3 Township Hall ..... 7510 East Q Ave.

## Prairie Ronde Township

- #1 Township Hall ..... 8140 West W Ave.

## Richland Township

- #1 Gracespring Bible Church ..... 8643 Gull Rd.
- #2 Living Hope Community Church ..... 9292 East CD Ave.
- #3 Haven Church ..... 5350 North Sprinkle Rd.

## Ross Township

- #1 Augusta Village Hall ..... 109 W. Clinton St.
- #2 Yorkville Community Church ..... 11523 East D Ave.

## Schoolcraft Township

- #1 Township Hall ..... 50 East VW Ave.
- #2 & 4 Schoolcraft Fire Dept. .... 103 N. Grand St.
- #3 Vicksburg United Methodist Church ..... 217 South Main St.

## Texas Charter Township

- #1 Calvary Reformed Church ..... 7829 South 5th St.
- #2 Township Hall ..... 7110 West Q Ave.
- #3 M-Tec Center ..... 7107 Elm Valley Dr.
- #4 & 5 Southridge Reformed Church ..... 6726 Texas Drive
- #6 Calvary Reformed Church ..... 7829 South 5th St.

## Wakeshma Township

- #1 Township Hall ..... 13988 South 42nd St.

## Galesburg City

- #1 City Hall ..... 200 E. Michigan Ave.

## Kalamazoo City

- #1 & 3 Faith Temple Church of God ..... 402 S. Westnedge Ave.
- #2 & 4 Bernhard Student Center ..... Western Michigan University
- #5 Arcadia Elementary School ..... 932 Boswell Lane
- #6 Kalamazoo RESA West Campus ..... 4606 Croyden Ave.
- #7 & 9 Douglass Community Association ..... 1000 W. Paterson St.
- #8 & 27 Mt. Zion Baptist Church ..... 120 Roberson St.
- #10 Spring Valley Elementary School ..... 3530 Mt. Olivet Rd.
- #11 Eastside Community Center ..... 1301 East Main St.
- #12 Oakwood Bible Church ..... 4100 Oakland Dr.
- #13 & 14 St. Joseph's Catholic School – Bennett Building ..... 930 Lake St.
- #15 Washington Writer's Academy ..... 1919 Portage St.
- #16 & 18 Milwood Community Church ..... 3306 Lovers Lane
- #17 Milwood United Methodist Church ..... 3919 Portage St.
- #19 & 25 Southern Heights Christian Reformed Church ..... 4141 E. Hillandale Dr.
- #20 Centerpoint City Church ..... 326 W. Cork St.
- #21 & 24 Girl Scouts Building ..... 601 W. Maple St.
- #22 Winchell Elementary School ..... 2316 Winchell Ave.
- #23 Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School ..... 2321 S. Park St.
- #26 Parkview Hills Clubhouse ..... 3707 Greenleaf Circle

## Parchment City

- #1 Parchment United Methodist Church ..... 225 Glendale Blvd.

## Portage City

- #1 & 15 Portage Public Schools "Dog House" Multipurpose Gym ... 1000 Idaho Ave.
- #2 Goldentree Apartments Community Room ..... 4795 E. Milham Rd.
- #3 Portage Senior Center ..... 320 Library Lane
- #4 & 6 Lord of Life Lutheran Church ..... 9420 Portage Road
- #5, 10 & 12 Portage Schools "Stable" Multipurpose Gym ... 8305 S. Westnedge Ave.
- #7 K-RESA Service Center ..... 1819 E. Milham Rd.
- #8 & 14 Chapel Hill United Methodist Church ..... 7028 Oakland Drive
- #9 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church ..... 1747 W. Milham Ave.
- #11 & 19 Kalamazoo First Assembly of God ..... 5550 Oakland Drive
- #13 St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church ..... 1150 W. Centre Ave.
- #16 & 18 The Bridge Church ..... 7200 Angling Road
- #17 Pathfinder Church ..... 8740 S. Westnedge Ave
- #20 Westminster Presbyterian Church ..... 1515 Helen Ave.

Source: Kalamazoo County Clerk / Register Office

These polling locations were current as of the publication of this Guide, but may be subject to change due to Covid-19 considerations. Polling locations are available at [www.Michigan.gov/Vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/Vote). Choose "Who is my clerk?" to find the specifics for your area.

