

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

KALAMAZOO AREA

P.O. Box 2106

Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2106



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2010 Primary Voter Guide

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By Your Local

League of Women Voters



2010 Primary Election Voter Guide

**Non-Partisan Information for
Contested State & County Elections
August 3, 2010**

What's in this Guide?

Information About Voting

Governor

U.S. Representative in Congress, 6th District

State Senator, 20th District

State Representative, 60th & 61st Districts

Kalamazoo County Commissioners,
Districts 3, 6, 11, 12, 16

Polling Places

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 informed and active citizen participation in government. It never supports or opposes any political party or any candidate. 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.

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Vote Tuesday, August 3, 2010

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

Who May Vote?

All U.S. citizens at least 18 years of age by election day, who are registered at least 30 days before the election.

How?

The procedure involves four steps:

1. Complete an application to vote.
2. An election inspector checks your name against the list of registered voters for the precinct.
3. Show photo identification or sign an affidavit stating that you're eligible to vote.
4. Vote.

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.

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.**

To implement this requirement, precinct election workers will ask voters for photo identification at the polls. 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

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.

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. <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote/>

Editors' Note

The League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area (LWVKA) contacted the county clerk to identify candidates who will be on the ballot. Included were those known to have filed a declaration of intent to be write-in candidates at the time of printing this Voter Guide. For County Commission candidates, we sought biographical information and answers to issue questions from each candidate. The word number limit for biographical information is 75 words; limits for other answers accompany the questions for each office. The League of Women Voters of Michigan provided information about state candidates, asking each of them the same three questions with a 100-word limit. An ellipsis and ending period (...) closes candidates' statements where their submitted responses exceeded those set limits. "Did not respond in time for publication" or "Did not respond to question" follows the candidate's name when the League did not receive a requested reply.

This Guide includes only candidates in contested partisan races. They are listed according to the order in which their parties registered in Michigan.

LWVKA 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.

Acknowledgments

The League of Women Voters of Kalamazoo Area Education Fund generously provided financial support for LWV voter service efforts, including this Voter Guide.

Absentee Ballots

A voter may apply for an absentee ballot by 2:00 pm the Saturday before the election, either by letter or in person at the appropriate city or township clerk's office. In case of emergency after that day, contact the clerk's office.

You are eligible to vote absentee if you:

- are 60 years of age or more.
- expect to be absent from the community in which you are registered to vote for the entire time the polls are open on election day.
- are unable to go to the polls and vote without the assistance of another person.
- cannot attend the polls because of your religious beliefs.
- are an election inspector in a precinct other than the one in which you reside.
- are confined in jail or prison awaiting arraignment or trial.

How do I receive the ballot?

You can obtain an absent voter ballot by writing to the clerk of the city or township in which you are registered to vote. Ballots cannot be supplied through telephone requests. Your written request must include:

- Your name
- The date of the election
- The address where you are registered to vote.
- The reason why you are requesting an absent voter ballot.
- The address where you wish to receive your ballot. (This must be your registration address, an address outside of your jurisdiction of registration, a hospital, or some other type of residential institution.)
- Your signature and the date of your request.

Blank absent voter ballot applications can be obtained through your city or township clerk. Members of the armed forces and their spouses and dependents, members of the Merchant Marine and their spouses and dependents, and U.S. citizens temporarily living or traveling outside the territorial limits of the United States must sign the Federal Post Card Application under oath to obtain an absent voter ballot.

When must absent voter ballots be returned to the clerk?

Voters may cast their absentee ballots in the clerk's office until 4:00 pm on Monday before the election. Ballots must be received in the clerk's office by 8:00 p.m. on election day. 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.

 LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
Making Democracy Work!

***The stakes are too high
for government to be a
spectator sport.***

Barbara Jordan

The Primary Election

A primary election is held by the political parties to select their nominees for the offices to be elected at the upcoming general election. In a primary, Republicans run against Republicans and Democrats run against other Democrats. If other parties qualify to appear on the primary ballot, their candidates run against each other as well. In a primary, you may vote on only one party's candidates. You cannot split your ballot between the various political parties. A primary election may also be held for nonpartisan races in order to narrow the number of candidates for the general election.

A general election is between party nominees and any candidates without political party affiliation. The general election determines which candidates will occupy the office that is up for election. Statewide ballot proposals also appear on the general election ballot.

Elections included in this Guide are ones in which:

There is more than one candidate for a political party in a state or county race. For example, if there are two or more Republicans running against each other, we included information about those candidates, as well as any Democrats in that race, even if there is a single unopposed Democrat. The races that meet this criterion for the August primary are:

- Governor
- U. S. Representative in Congress, 6th District
- State Senator, 20th District
- State Representative, 60th & 61st Districts
- Kalamazoo County Commissioners, Districts 3, 6, 11, 12, 16

Note: There may be additional contested races on the ballot that are not included in this Guide. They will occur if a qualified write-in candidate files for a race in a party in which there is at least one other candidate on the ballot. The League of Women Voters included all qualified write-in candidates who had filed with the Kalamazoo County Clerk by the time the Voter Guide was ready to be published.

For information about candidates 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. <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote/>

Governor of Michigan

Four-year term **Vote for one.**

1. Provide biographical information, including your qualifications for this office and the reasons you are running. [100 words]
2. What are your state budget spending priorities and how would you adjust revenue and expenses to support those priorities? [100 words]
3. What are your top two other priority issues, why did you select them, and what actions would you take regarding them? [100 words]

Republican

Mike Bouchard

Website: www.bouchardforgovernor.com

1. In my conversations with families all across our state, people are worried and families are struggling. We all know someone—a family member, neighbor or friend who have lost their job. I believe the next Governor needs the knowledge, experience and backbone to make the tough choices and just as important to see them through. The bottom line is if we cannot create a Michigan where our children can find a job and compete globally, then we have failed as leaders, which is unacceptable. Consequently, I am running for Governor for the next generation, not the next election.
2. Reducing government spending and lessening the tax burden on job creators and families is key to our economic security. We must deliver services better, faster and cheaper. Lansing must learn how to deliver services so each dollar is stretched further. As a state Senator I sponsored a resolution requiring a two-thirds majority of the Legislature to pass tax increases because I understand their negative impact. Under my leadership, every agency will be scrutinized with the purpose of eliminating wasteful spending with the ultimate goal of getting a larger percentage of funds to the critical impact point of the core mission.
3. Jobs will be my number one priority. I would institute critical reforms to cut government red tape and break down other barriers stifling job creation. Government should aid, rather than work against, job creators by making it easier for them to grow and invest here. As governor, I won't sign any regulatory bills into law until a cost-benefit analysis is performed and will freeze all pending regulations until a review is completed. I recognize the top two creators of jobs are business startups and businesses expansions. Therefore, I would focus government efforts and incentives more on growing businesses in Michigan.

Mike Cox

Website www.mikecox2010.com

1. Michigan's next governor must have only one goal—Jobs. Michigan suffers from a jobs deficit but just as importantly, Michigan suffers from a leadership deficit. As a marine, a homicide prosecutor and the state's Attorney General, I have made the tough decisions and know how to lead. I am running for Governor because I have the vision, drive, and commitment to turn Michigan around. Sixty years ago, my parents came to Michigan because our state offered promise, opportunity, and, most importantly, jobs. I want those same opportunities for my four children.
2. Lansing is broken, and families are being torn apart as our kids leave for other states. Though state government must do a better job of getting tax dollars directly into our schools, police, fire protection and infrastructure, Lansing's problem is too much spending, not too little. That's why I've laid out a plan for \$4 billion in specific state government spending cuts to get Lansing off the

backs of families and job makers. Pension reform, state employee health care reform, renegotiating state contracts and rolling back a recent 3 percent raise for state workers will help finally right-size Lansing's budget.

3. My first priority is to reinvigorate Michigan's economy. That's why in addition to cutting wasteful spending by \$4 billion I will implement a \$2 billion tax cut, cutting the Michigan Business Tax by 50 percent (and eventually phasing it out) and repealing the 2007 personal income tax increase. Making these changes, Michigan will go from having the 3rd worst business tax to the 7th best. I will also focus on putting more dollars into the classroom to improve Michigan's K-12 education system so our next generation has the tools and the know-how to succeed in the 21st century economy.

Tom George

Website: www.georgeforgovernor.com

1. I was born and raised in Flint, and am the oldest of seven children. I graduated from the U of M Medical School (1982) and settled in Kalamazoo, which I now represent in the state senate. While serving in the senate, I have also maintained my medical practice. I have a record of bipartisan accomplishment and have voted to create balanced budgets during times of ongoing revenue decline. Moreover, my private sector experience is in health care, the area that has become our state's single biggest expense. Read more about me and my plan to fix Michigan at www.georgeforgovernor.com.
2. Health care spending has become the single biggest expense within our budget. To avoid the fate of GM, Chrysler, and Greece, the state must reduce health care spending by reforming Medicaid and other health programs. Requiring recipients to take personal responsibility for the maintenance of their health is the key to having a healthier, more competitive workforce and freeing resources for other priorities. Bringing jobs back to Michigan requires repairing our infrastructure, investing in education, and cutting business taxes. If we are to maintain a balanced budget, these are affordable only by controlling state health care spending.
3. Major structural reforms to government itself are overdue. A part-time legislature, tighter budgeting rules, and a review of the role of local governments cannot be effectuated by a governor alone but may best be accommodated by a constitutional convention. I am the only candidate who supports this fall's ballot proposal calling for a constitutional convention. Michigan needs a face-lift! This can be achieved through new legislative tools giving local leaders the ability to convert abandoned and tax-reverted properties to new, productive uses. Reforming state health programs, constitutional change, and an image makeover will give Michigan a bright future.

Governor of Michigan, continued

Pete Hoekstra

Website: www.hoekstraforgovernor.com

1. I have a passion for this state and the proven leadership skills needed to unleash Michigan's greatest resource: its people. After graduating (B.A., Hope '75/ M.B.A., U of M '77), I launched a successful 15 year career at Herman Miller, rising to VP of Marketing. In 1992, implementing a grassroots strategy, I defeated a twenty-six year incumbent in the primary despite being outspent 15 to 1. In Congress, I worked to develop the Contract with America, served on committees pertaining to Education, Labor, Transportation and the Budget, and was chosen as Chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.
2. My first state budget priority is to provide the leadership to work across party lines and implement actual reforms that streamline government. There are countless spending reform ideas that Michigan taxpayers across all sectors have been proposing for years. They have gone nowhere because of the gridlock in Lansing. In Congress, I have always sought to improve the education system for our children. Education reform will remain a priority of mine as governor. With the state budget being propped up by \$1.6 billion of federal stimulus, we will need structural reforms and make difficult choices to ensure sustainable funding, but
3. Beyond streamlining government, my top two priorities are to get the bureaucracy out of the way and overhaul the worst tax code in America to create jobs. My administration will embrace economic growth from top to bottom. We will cut red tape and serve the public by working to get to "Yes" instead of turning away entrepreneurs and stunting growth with "No." By fostering a business-friendly climate, eliminating the MBT and lowering property taxes, we will become a magnet for investment. Creating a level playing field that attracts entrepreneurs and businesses will bring economic growth and job creation.

Rick Snyder

Website: www.rickformichigan.com

1. After growing up in Battle Creek, I earned three degrees from U of M. Following a successful career as a tax partner I left Michigan to manage Gateway, growing it to over 10,000 employees and a Fortune 500 company. I have guided the growth of startups and created Ann Arbor SPARK, a successful economic development program. I've been on the receiving end of government and know what it takes to create jobs. I'm running for governor because career politicians have failed us and I have a vision and concrete 10-point plan to reinvent Michigan.
2. Michigan's budget system and bureaucratic model is flawed. Special interests and lobbyists control the dialogue in Lansing, resulting in a broken budget system that doesn't improve how we deliver services through schools, roads, public safety and other essential programs. I've proposed a system that ties spending to results, puts power back in the hands of citizens, brings multi-year stability, and reports measurable, transparent outcomes to citizens. Value For Money budgeting was used successfully in the state of Washington to reduce a \$2.4 billion deficit without raising taxes and I believe we can do it here.
3. My priority is to cultivate a thriving, competitive economy with a diverse business base, enabling job growth and prosperity. My entrepreneurial and job creating experience make me uniquely qualified to lead Michigan out of today's economic disaster. Just some of the ways my plan accomplishes this include: elimination of the Michigan Business tax, reducing the regulatory burden, innovative spending and government management helping small businesses grow and thrive through economic development efforts. We have to deal with difficult fiscal realities across Michigan, which is why I'm the only candidate who is not seeking special interest money or endorsements.

Democrat

Virg Bernero

Website: www.votevirg.com

1. Ingham County Commissioner, 1991-1999. Michigan House of Representatives, 2000-2002. Michigan Senate, 2003-2006. Lansing Mayor, 2006-present. As mayor of Lansing, I balanced five straight budgets on time, without raising taxes, and without laying off a single employee. I brought business and labor leaders together to create 6,000 jobs and attract more than \$500 million in new investment for Lansing. This is why I had the support of almost every labor organization in Lansing, as well as the support of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, when I ran for re-election last year in Lansing. We need a governor with a proven record
2. Over the long term we cannot hope to bring structural balance to Michigan's budget without realizing significant growth in tax revenues derived from new economic activity and new jobs. My growth strategy includes breaking the credit crunch so small businesses can access the capital they need to expand and hire new employees, as well as the aggressive use of economic incentives to attract new job-creating investments to Michigan. We can and will make government more efficient across the board. I will overhaul state business taxes to make Michigan the most competitive state in the nation for new job-creating investments.
3. We need initiatives that will help create jobs in Michigan right away. People across Michigan are hurting. Below are two other things we can do immediately to bring jobs back to Michigan. I will create Michigan International Business Investment Zones (MIBIZ) to take advantage of the federal EB-5 program. Also known as an International Business Investment Zone (IBIZ), the EB-5 Regional Center designation creates a powerful magnet for new foreign investment in Lansing by offering permanent U.S. residency to foreign nationals who invest at least \$500,000 in a new venture that creates at least 10 Michigan jobs. I will also

Andy Dillon

Website: www.andydillon.com

1. I was born and raised in Redford, where I still reside with my wife, Carol, and our four children. I earned accounting and law degrees at Notre Dame, specializing in business law and focusing on turning struggling companies around. I worked in the private sector reviving businesses and preserving Michigan manufacturing jobs. I'm serving my third term in the Michigan House of Representatives and second term as House Speaker. I'm running for Governor because it is going to take a new kind of leader to turn Michigan around. I am the only candidate with both business turnaround and government experience.
2. We must consider creative solutions to balancing Michigan's budget. Vital programs like education and public safety should be the last budget items cut. I have led the legislature in passing reforms to the teacher retirement system that will save up to \$680 million this year and I continue to work to modernize state health care plans to improve efficiency while preserving choice and quality. We can simplify and reform Michigan's tax system to allow us to utilize revenue more efficiently while encouraging growth and success for our businesses and we can start with the elimination of the Michigan Business Tax.
3. The future growth of the state of Michigan depends on a commitment to build on our unique strengths: Research and Development, Advanced Manufacturing, and our thriving Agricultural and Tourism Industries. We must commit to the revitalization of our urban centers. I have a comprehensive 12-point urban agenda plan that aims to fight for access to jobs, access to transportation, access to health care, and public safety in neighborhoods. Supporting a good education for our children is essential to success for our cities. My administration will have a cabinet-level position solely responsible for the implementation and oversight of the urban agenda.

Campaign Information at the Polls

You may take campaign literature or election information, such as this Voter Guide, into the polling place as long as the articles are for your personal use and you not distribute or display them to other voters there. In addition, you may not leave any materials in the polling place.

Individuals who wish to campaign, distribute or display election information must conduct their activities at least 100 feet away from any entrance to the polling place. Election officials may ask voters entering the polls to remove campaign buttons, or to cover clothing bearing a candidate's name or election-related images or slogans.

Representative in Congress, 6th District

Two-year term Vote for one.

1. Provide biographical information including your qualifications for the office of U.S. Representative and the reasons you are running. [100 words]
2. In this time of high unemployment, what are the most important things that should be done to improve the nation's economy? [100 words]
3. What are your top two other priorities, why did you select them, and what actions would you take regarding them? [100 words]

Republican

Jack W. Hoogendyk

Website: www.HoogendykForCongress.com

1. Jack Hoogendyk has been a long-time leader for core conservative principles in Michigan. He served as a crisis pregnancy center director in the 1990s and was subsequently elected to the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners and then to the Michigan House of Representatives for three terms. His record is solidly conservative: he has never voted for a tax increase, has been repeatedly honored with Right to Life of Michigan's endorsement, and has continually supported and sponsored legislation to limit government and promote liberty. It's time for Jack to take that record to Washington, where principled leadership is so desperately needed.
2. The economy rests on the backs of businesses and entrepreneurs. Jack believes that government must be limited to allow the private sector to flourish. Although the government should enforce standards of ethics in order to prevent abuse, it must allow the free market to function without government hindrance so that the American spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship may thrive and businesses may grow. It is only then that jobs can be created and the economy can be restored. Therefore, the tax and regulatory burdens on businesses must be reduced.
3. One of Jack's first priorities is to reduce the size of government by refusing to vote for measures which expand government control beyond its rightful domain. Jack strongly opposes bailouts and federal infringements on the authority of the states and the private sector. Jack also believes that we must reduce the national debt by cutting wasteful spending and keeping the national budget restrained to its constitutionally authorized functions. Jack will not support pork barrel projects or inefficient uses of taxpayer dollars.

Fred Upton

Website: www.uptonforallofus.com

1. Following graduation from college, I served as a special assistant to Congressman David Stockman and worked for President Reagan in the White House Office of Management and Budget. I am currently the Ranking Republican on the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment. My senior position on the Committee and proven track record of getting things

done for Southwest Michigan makes me the best person to promote common-sense legislation that will help create jobs, remove roadblocks for business, and allow Michigan's economy to thrive once again.

2. We must find ways to expand economic growth, enhance innovation, and provide education and training for the jobs of the future. There are actions that we could take immediately to help spur Michigan's economy; such as allowing a tax deduction for interest on car payments, renewing and expanding the home-buyer tax credit, expanding tax deductions on income for small businesses, and fast-tracking applications for nuclear power plants so they can create jobs. Also, we must not implement costly new taxes and mandates on business, such as a new "cap and trade" scheme or an employer health insurance mandate.
3. We must also rein in government spending. America is \$13 trillion in debt, and on a path that is unsustainable. I have voted against trillions of dollars in new spending over the last two years alone and was an early supporter of the GOP earmark ban. I have cosponsored constitutional amendments to require a balanced federal budget and cap government spending at 20% of GDP except during wartime. I also support decreasing our reliance on foreign oil, which is why I support an "all of the above" energy plan that includes renewable energy, nuclear power, and clean coal technologies.

Democrat

Don Cooney

Did not respond in time for publication

Voting Information Links

League of Women Voters

www.lwvka.org

www.lwvmi.org

www.lwv.org

Voter information is available on these sites year-round from the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area, Michigan and the United States. The Kalamazoo area Voter Guide is available on the lwvka site approximately two weeks before the election.

Michigan Secretary of State Voter Information Center

www.michigan.gov/sos

This is the website of the Secretary of State which also has information about election laws, voter registration, election results and other voter information. Check this site to find out if you are registered to vote, find your polling location, view your ballot and learn how to use your voting equipment. Click on "Voter Information."

Publius

www.lwv.publius.org

This site provides information about voter registration, statewide candidates and ballot proposals, and election results, with links to the Michigan Secretary of State website.

Kalamazoo County Government

www.kalcounty.com/clerk

This website of the Kalamazoo County Clerk provides additional local information.

Rock the Vote

www.rockthevote.com

Find information oriented to young people, including political issues, elected officials and candidates.

State Senate, 20th District

Four-year term Vote for one.

1. Provide biographical information, including your qualifications for this office and the reasons you are running. [100 words]

2. What are your state budget spending priorities and how would you adjust revenue and expenses to support those priorities? [100 words]

3. What are your top two other priority issues, why did you select them, and what actions would you take regarding them? [100 words]

Republican

Larry DeShazor

Website: www.votedeshazor.com

1. I have served on a wide variety of boards in Kalamazoo and Portage and know how to bring people together to get the job done. I was a team manager at State Farm Insurance for 17 years and a Portage City Councilman for 6 years. Through these roles I established myself as a community leader who is focused on improving the quality of life for the residents of Kalamazoo County. I am currently the state Representative for the 61st District, where I have set myself apart by giving citizens straight talk about real issues. During my time in the legislature.....
2. My priorities for the budget are jobs, economic development and education. These priorities can be achieved in a wide variety of ways. Most importantly, the legislature must look at reforming our government and ensuring the taxpayer's dollars are being spent in the most effective manner for our current economic situation. I do not believe that Michigan has a budget problem; we have a Jobs problem. With a leaner state government, savings from efficiencies can go towards job creation and retention. At the same time, we need to move education up on the order of priorities to ensure our young people
3. My top two priorities are budget reform and lowering taxes for Michigan families. Over the past 3 years, Michigan's government has been shut down because a budget has not been passed on time. In response to this, I have proposed solutions that include the implementation of monthly revenue estimating conferences which are presently held twice a year. I believe that during the ups and downs in the current economy, we must get a better grasp on how much revenue the state can expect. I have also proposed an amendment to the constitution that would withhold legislator and select state officials

Tonya Schuitmaker

Website: www.votetonya.com

1. I was raised on a family farm in Antwerp Township and have been a lifelong resident of Southwest Michigan. My husband, Steve, and I are raising our two children on the same family farm. Professionally, I started practicing law in 1993. In 2004, I ran for the state House and was re-elected in 2006 and 2008. I'm running for the state Senate because what Lansing is doing with its spending is not right. It's why people are so frustrated with state government. We need to reduce wasteful spending, reform state government, and turn Michigan around.
2. First of all, we need to reduce wasteful spending and reform state government before we can talk about new spending. Just last year, Lansing approved the building of brand new state police headquarters. This year, all state employees got a 3 percent raise. We couldn't afford these things, and I voted against. There is state spending we can cut and reforms we must put in place. Then, I have a plan to put every saved dollar into Michigan's Rainy Day Fund, or savings account, to be directed toward the priorities we share like our public schools and public safety.
3. Jobs and reform; those are my priorities. Lansing can't create the jobs we need in our community; instead, it's actually taxing those jobs. We need to get rid of the Michigan Business Tax surcharge and fix the MBT so it doesn't punish job creators. Then, we need to reduce state spending. Lansing spends too much on things we can't afford and too much on things we don't need. Every dollar Lansing spends on extras and perks is a dollar that cannot go to taxpayers, our schools, our roads and our universities—the priorities we all share as a Kalamazoo community.

Lorence R. Wenke

Website: www.votewenke.com

1. I am qualified to run for state senate because I served six years in the House of Representatives with considerable success in leadership positions and passing legislation. I was a Kalamazoo County Commissioner for 8 years (3 years as chairman) so I have local government experience. For 38 years, I have been a small business owner of an agricultural company with locations in Michigan and Georgia. I employ 200 people. I want to be a senator so that I can influence the direction of Michigan's economy and government toward business friendly reforms that will create jobs and reduce the cost.....
2. I will reduce spending in all departments of the State of Michigan until our

economy improves. I will reform government employee compensation to save 1 Billion dollars per year and use those dollars to reduce business taxes and fund higher education. I will save tax dollars through better management of state government by privatizing where we can for efficiency.

3. My second priority is to reduce the cost of government by requiring government employees to pay more of their benefits. Government employees' compensation is too high compared to the private sector and difficult changes need to be made. My third priority is to stop wasteful spending of tax dollars on citizens who make irresponsible decisions and expect others to pay. I will apply the same conservative principles to government that I used to grow Wenke Greenhouses into the 30th largest greenhouse in the nation with 200 employees.

Democrat

Robert B. Jones

Website: www.robertbjonesforsenate.com

Did not respond in time for publication.

Mark A. Totten

Website: www.marktotten.com

1. I am blessed to raise my kids in the same community where I was born and raised. Growing up I saved every penny for college delivering the Kalamazoo Gazette, and by stocking groceries at Meijer. After earning my law degree and a PhD in ethics at Yale University, Kristin and I returned home to raise our family. Today I teach law and ethics at MSU. I am running for State Senate because Lansing is broken. Our politicians serve special interests and not people. We need a new generation of leadership with the conviction to deliver real results.
2. We absolutely must make education a priority in Michigan. For me, this issue is a moral priority. Education is the way we give our kids a set of tools so they can reach their God-given potential. At the same time, education is an economic imperative. A trained and skilled workforce is critical to attract the jobs of the 21st century. We must find ways to save in other areas of the budget. I'd start by eliminating lifetime healthcare benefits for our legislators.
3. Education is key to rebuilding Michigan's economy and there is no higher calling than to help our kids succeed. We must protect our schools and universities from cuts, make college more affordable, and work to recruit and retain good teachers. I also believe that government should serve the common good, not personal ambition or special interests. I will work to limit the amount of money special interests can give to politicians, and end the revolving door between the legislature and lobbyists by requiring legislators to wait two years before they can lobby their former colleagues.

Learn About State Government

Citizen's Guide to State Government

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/publications/citizensguide.pdf>

Legislature Website

www.legislature.mi.gov

(Bills, resolutions, calendars, committees, legislators and more)

Office of the Governor

www.michigan.gov/gov

House of Representatives

<http://www.house.mi.gov>

(Click on Citizen's Guide tab for additional information about how the legislature works)

Senate

www.senate.michigan.gov

State House of Representatives

Two-year term. Vote for one.

1. Provide biographical information, including your qualifications for this office and the reasons you are running. [100 words]
2. What are your state budget spending priorities and how would you adjust revenue and expenses to support those priorities? [100 words]

3. What are your top two other priority issues, why did you select them, and what actions would you take regarding them? [100 words]

60th District

Townships: Cooper, Kalamazoo [precincts 1, 10–14]. City: Kalamazoo.

Republican

Jeff Fernandez

Website: www.electfernandez.com

1. My name is Jeff Fernandez and I am running for State Rep because I remember a time when MI was the Best, and we can be the Best again! I have been married to my wife Teresa for 14 years and have two kids. My son Riley is 10 and my daughter Clara is 8 and I want them to know remember what a great state this is too! I'm a pastor, not a politician, but MI has been down far too long, and I have real concrete ideas to help MI be the Best again!
2. Our state budget is in a shortfall again. I will balance the budget by reforming areas of state labor expenses, and adding enhancements to some of our social benefit programs to eliminate fraud. This will help us focus on those who really need help to get back on their feet. I also support reforms in the cost structure of our state corrections system. We spend 4 times more on prisoners than on students. That is an unacceptable ratio! Education is too important for that! These reforms will help make MI the Best again!
3. Top 2 other priorities are jobs and the economy. MI has the worst unemployment in the nation for 4 years! I will end the MI Business Tax that has been crippling our businesses and has forced them to leave our state and take our jobs with them. MI will be open for business again! MI economy can be fixed with a Fair Tax system. This efficient family friendly, business friendly form of taxation will help MI to get back on its feet and be the Best again!

Democrat

Dustin Harback

1. I was born and raised in Kalamazoo. I am the father of two amazing children, a girl and a boy. I love this community and this state and I want to serve them both as a true representative of the 60th district. I will serve as a dedicated conduit that will bring the values, the ideas, and the ingenuity of the 60th district to Lansing every day. I will work to make the 60th district the most well informed district in the state, because I believe that the solutions to our problems are in our neighborhoods, not sitting in Lansing.
2. As a state, we must strike a balance between paying for the sins of our past (corrections, poverty, etc...) and building a strong foundation for our future (education, infrastructure, sustainability). I believe that our balance should list toward the future, with education being the bedrock upon which we build. No honest person can guarantee that current education funding levels can be maintained for our public schools and universities without fixing the structural problems regarding state school aid revenues, but I will promise you that I will make every effort to ensure that education funding is cut last and cut least.
3. "If we build it they will come." We must, I believe reform our business, income and sales tax structures. I am interested in expanding the sales tax to most services and dropping the rate down to 5%, turning the MBT into a flat, fair, and inviting business tax structure, and building the political capital needed to shift toward a graduated personal income tax with rates around 2%, 4%, and 6%. The future is now when it comes to sustainable and alternative energy production, as a state we can and we must lead the way. Together, we can reinvent Michigan.

Sean McCann

Website: www.seanamccann.com

1. Kalamazoo City Commissioner, five two-year terms, 1999–2009. Fund Raising Consultant, 2009–present. Financial Development Director, Greater Kalamazoo American Red Cross, 2002–2009. Executive Director, Vine Neighborhood Association, 1995–2002. Bachelor of Arts, WMU, 1993. Member, League of Women Voters Kalamazoo Area. Member, Vine and Milwood Neighborhood Associations. Resident of Kalamazoo since 1989. Married to Priscilla Lambert. Father of Alexander (5 months old). Michigan must return to being the state people seek out for education, prosperity and happiness. I have the experience, commitment, and motivation to work for the people of Michigan and help lead us to recovery.
2. Invest in education and ensure that we have a skilled, dedicated work force

motivating employers to seek out and retain Michigan workers for decades to come. Lead in the development of clean energy and alternative energy technologies to create good-paying jobs and improve America's security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil. Support Life-Sciences development, enabling Michigan to continue diversifying its economy, attract cutting-edge companies and bring new investment in smart-growth industries. Take advantage of Michigan's strong manufacturing heritage by re-training workers to build our new economy and reduce our reliance on any one industry.

3. (1) Education. The future of Michigan, as well as its quality of life, depends on an educated, skilled workforce. Funding cuts to education, pre-K through college, must be restored and future cuts prevented. Higher education must be affordable and accessible to all who want to attend and improve themselves. (2) Constituent Service. I will maintain and improve the 60th District Service Office, a non-partisan resource to help citizens with local and state issues. This office is a tradition going back decades and is called for now more than ever.

Chris Praedel

Website: www.ChrisForKzoo.com

1. Chris Praedel, elementary teacher, was born, raised, and educated in Kalamazoo. A graduate of both K-Central and WMU, he earned a B.A. in Management and currently holds a M.A. in Teaching. Chris spent two years of national service as an educator in south Chicago, while maintaining residency in Kalamazoo. In 2007, Chris led a march at the capitol to demand and restore proposed cuts to education and created a state advocacy group. Chris is running to serve as an advocate for education, jobs, equity for all, and to restore serving the everyday people he grew up beside.
2. My first priority is to restore the funding of education at all levels. Educating our citizenry from birth is a worthwhile investment for the future social and economic welfare of our state. Second, our well-educated workforce will need jobs. Michigan needs to focus on incubating and supporting small business through partnerships with universities, reducing the fluctuating and unstable nature of business tax code, and providing incentives for relocation or expansion. The state tax code needs to reflect the societal trends with tax revenue lost to on-line stores and the heavy shift in recent years to a service economy.
3. My other top priorities would be to insure that health and public safety measures take on more proactive and innovative approaches that pay for things on the front-end rather than pay for something vastly more expensive and ineffective as an end result. We could use the funds we spend to incarcerate prisoners on reducing rates or recidivism, reducing class size, enhancing family after school programs, improving mental health and making college more affordable. We could guarantee every citizen an annual health screening and consultation or we could pay for weeks of hospitalization after disease has overcome a patient.

61st District

Townships: Alamo, Kalamazoo [precincts 2–9, 15], Oshtemo, Prairie Ronde, Texas.

Cities: Parchment, Portage

Republican

Margaret E. O'Brien

Website: www.margaretobrien.com

1. I have a passion to serve my community. For 7 years, I have served as a Portage City Councilwoman where we've balanced the budget, kept taxes low, worked with job creators and provided quality services. I will take this experience to Lansing, where it is sorely needed. I have a proven track record, am known for innovative solutions, and have a strong work ethic. As a businesswoman, I understand the challenges businesses face. As a mom, I deal with the daily struggles all families deal with. I am ready to take my community experience to fight for you in Lansing.
2. My budget priorities are public safety, infrastructure and education. We must reform government. Corrections- reduce-per-prisoner cost; Education- Bid out health care for savings. Wages/Benefits- move employees to defined contribution system. Welfare- stop providing services that exceed federal requirements. Evaluate Departments- prioritize core services. Job Creation can solve the majority of Michigan's problems. Implement these key policies: Create a level playing field for businesses by eliminating the Michigan Business Tax & surcharge, eliminate the Personal Property Tax, repeal PA 198 tax breaks,

State House of Representatives, continued

create a simple and predictable business tax that everyone can understand; Eliminate burdensome regulations; Eliminate Unfunded Mandates.

3. My other priorities include creating a long term vision for Michigan, where Michigan businesses and families can be successful. We must keep government small and lean; maintain low tax rates; provide quality services; and avoid unnecessary regulation. Additionally, Michigan must stop the practice of unfunded mandates, which drives up the cost of local government. If we stay focused on our budget priorities and job creation friendly policies, we can turn Michigan around together.

Democrat

Thomas A. Batten

Website: www.votebatten.com

1. Thomas Batten is an entrepreneur who owns a tutoring business in Kalamazoo County. He has been a volunteer at Habitat for Humanity, Little League Baseball, and at various soup kitchens. Batten previously worked for the federal government and as a contractor in the defense industry. He has held the highest levels of a top secret clearance, including for special access programs. Thomas earned an MBA from IESE Business School (Barcelona, Spain) and a BS Engineering degree from Kettering University. He graduated from Portage Central HS and KAMSC. Thomas is working to bring change to a broken Lansing.
2. We need to make sure that we invest in the future. The era of highly paid, low wage jobs is over in Michigan and we need to focus on educating our young people. The future jobs in Michigan will be functionally diverse and high tech in nature. Furthermore, we need to improve our infrastructure in Michigan. Counties are pulverizing roads back into dirt due to a complete lack of funds. Commerce needs a good backbone of quality roads, and we ought to find a way to pay for this.
3. Michigan has a jobs problem, and we need to work to diversify our economy and create jobs. We need to make sure that our tax policy provides the revenue to fund our public investments without penalizing business. Additionally, Michigan ought to continue to invest in education and our future. Michigan led the world for the last 100 years in manufacturing, and we can lead the world in the next century by making a state-wide decision to make education a top priority.

Democrat Write-in

Grant Taylor

Website: www.friendsofgranttaylor.com

1. I am a life long resident of Southwest Michigan and grew up in Edwardsburg where I attended public schools. My parents instilled in me a strong foundation of core democratic values and a commitment to public service. My father and brother are both county commissioners, and my great uncle was a former President of Rotary International. I want to continue the family tradition of service and leadership as your next State Representative. I reside in Oshtemo, and I serve as the Treasurer of MAC House charities, a non-profit foundation that provides temporary housing to women in destructive domestic situations.
2. We need to look at budgets not just on a yearly basis. Too often Lansing has used short-term fixes which have led to long-term problems. One-time monies should not be used to fund ongoing operational expenses, this only creates even larger structural deficits. We also need more accountability to taxpayers. A results-oriented approach with bench marks and desired goals needs to be declared before taxpayer dollars are spent. This will make government more effective and responsive to our citizens.
3. Education and Jobs. It's no secret Michigan's economic climate is in shambles. If we are to rebound from this financial mess we need to invest in our state. We need a talented, well-educated workforce that can move us into a 21st Century economy and get Michigan working again. Cuts in our public schools and universities are counterproductive towards that goal. We must be fiscally responsible, when investing in our state's future. I also support Hire Michigan First legislation to give tax incentives to businesses that hire Michigan citizens, rather than contracting outside of our state.

Kalamazoo County Commission

Two-year term Vote for one.

Candidates were asked to summarize their backgrounds and answer these questions:

1. Why are you running for office? [75 word limit]
2. What are the characteristics of a constructive relationship between

county commissioners and county officials? [100 word limit]

3. What are your top three priorities for the office you seek? What do you hope to accomplish? [125 words]

District 3

Kalamazoo City [precincts 1, 3, 13, 14, 23]; Kalamazoo Township [precinct 11]

Democrat

Robert M. Barnard

Age 44. Self employed, DBA Barnard Building and Construction, 6 yrs.; licensed in the State of Michigan with Federal EPA/HUD Certifications in Lead Abatement, Specific Asbestos Abatement and NAHB Certified Green Professional. School of Engineering, Aviation major, Business minor, WMU. Board of Commissioners. Public Housing Commission. Parks and Recreation Committee. Appointments Committee. Community Resources Committee. Economic Development Corporation. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

1. Running for a 5th term is directly aligned with the committees to which I serve: Economic Development, Brownfield Redevelopment, Parks and Recreation, Appointments Committee and the Public Housing Commission. I want to see Kalamazoo become the regional leader in successful economic development activities. Maintain a premier parks and recreation system, enhance the public housing program and ensure that the correct applicants get on the most appropriate boards and committees.
2. A constructive relationship exists when neither group has to ask the honest intentions or commitment of the other, and a transparent path of successful actions can be seen by all. Our Strategic Plan, created by all department administrators and elected officials, outlines our direction to accomplish further success. It must be understood and exemplified that truthful and honest information be given to all, whether specifically asked for or not. At no time should one group feel that a negative comment is a personal attack, but merely an opinion.
3. (1) First, is the responsible and appropriate disposition of the county's annual

budget. All budgets must meet our statutory responsibilities and should fully allow for other quality of life issues to be funded at a level that will generate impact. (2) Second, is to encourage a vision with goals and objectives for the Kalamazoo Economic Development Corporation. The plan needs to view Kalamazoo from a regional standpoint not just a component to SWMF. (3) Third, is the continued success of the Local Housing Assistance Fund. This program needs to be discussed with the recipients, funders and potential partners to develop defined expectations, program faults and improvements as to gear up for additional funding requests.

Eric Sweet

Age 26. Employed at Target DC. Senior yr, international politics major, economics minor, WMU; A.A., KVCC; graduate, Gull Lake H.S. Helped organize Edison Possibility Block Party, Edison Youth Violence Summit, Tree of Life Block Party. Campaigned for Barack Obama, One Kalamazoo, WMU Sustainability Fund. Great Lakes Peace Jam, Mentor and Workshop Instructor; member, Edison Neighborhood Association Board of Trustees; ESL volunteer, Hispanic American Council.

1. To provide a new passion and accountability that will ensure strategic goals effectively address the struggles residents and businesses face. To do this by enacting policies that reflect the values of my community while adhering to the integrity and professional excellence of Kalamazoo County's incredible staff.
2. County Commissioners must provide the trust, respect and freedom for county staff to share their skilled experience and knowledge in order to provide the most accurate unbiased information for Commissioners to make responsible and thorough decisions. Most importantly, the personal relationships and opinions of all County officials must never undermine the purpose of providing the best services and economic opportunities that reflect the values of such a rich and deeply connected community.

Kalamazoo County Commission, continued

3. (1) My top priority is to advocate and support the awareness, healing and sustainable redevelopment of our greatest natural resource—the Kalamazoo River. With the recent influx of corporate and federal dollars we are approaching our greatest opportunity to comprehensively take back one of the most vital characteristics for sustainable economic and environmental development. One that affects all our future families, business and wildlife in Kalamazoo, i.e., water. (2) To explore opportunities for greater efficiencies of all County expenditures as well as identify the vital investments for Kalamazoo's strong continued rebound from our recent recession. (3) To build this current economic strength off the existing responsible development of Kalamazoo's medical corridor, and to create effective incentives for renewable energy industries and innovations to create a family here in Kalamazoo.

District 6

Kalamazoo City [precinct 10]; Kalamazoo Township [precincts 1, 2, 9, 10, 13, 14]

Democrat

Michael Seals

Age 49. Veteran's Support Coordinator, Disability Network of Southwest Michigan. Associate degree, Business Management, Davenport College. Graduate, Kalamazoo Central H.S. Family moved to Parchment in 1967, to Kalamazoo Westside in 1969. Served in U.S. Navy, 1981–89. Two children. Line worker, Consumers Energy, 1990–2005. Graduate, Kalamazoo Chamber Leadership Class, 2010. President, local Chapter of A. Phillip Randolph Institute; United Way Board of Directors, 9 yrs, representing labor; Eastside Neighborhood Association Board of Directors, Treasurer; President, Kalamazoo River Clean Up Coalition....

1. Through my experience in community service can and will be a great asset to Kalamazoo County Commission. I have been attending Kalamazoo County Commission meetings for the past 2.5 years. I have worked hard with many other people to help build a better quality of life in Kalamazoo County.
2. I believe listening is important to making good decisions. We have to be responsible with the taxpayer's money but need to remember that we also have to help them when they are in need. It is important to work together with other commissioners, we have to remember we serve the People and we are elected to serve on their behalf.
3. (1) Making sure we start putting our residents back to work. (2) Working with community leaders to improve the quality of life for our residents. (3) Make sure the cleanup of the Kalamazoo River continues.

Franklin Carl Thompson

Did not respond in time for publication.

District 11

Portage City [precinct 10]; Texas Township

Republican

John R. Cross

Age 63. Retired Kalamazoo County Sheriff Deputy; owner, Ideal Auto Sales, Portage. Graduate, Comstock H.S., 1965. Various schools and seminars, law-enforcement related during my career. Worked for County government for nearly 40 yrs. Born and raised in Kalamazoo.

1. I feel that the current administration is not transparent enough. The commission is too insulated by the administration, not informing them on the real issues and telling them only what they want them to know. The fact that it took the 2 years that it did to settle a contract with the Deputy Sheriff's union to the tune of \$300,000.00 is ridiculous and fiscally irresponsible. The arena issue and the new jail expansion.
2. To know all the facts on any requests and budget issues before making any decisions. Find out information on your own by talking to and listening to county employees about their issues and concerns. Sometimes you don't get the whole true picture of the issue from the administration.
3. (1) Jail expansion. (2) Arena issue. (3) Making sure all county employees are treated with respect and fairness.

Tim Rogowski

Age 54. Financial Consultant; owner, Wings Financial Group; establish, manage and consult with business owners, employees and investors to maximize their confidence in achieving stated financial goals. B.S., WMU, 1981. Member and past president, Rotary and Paul Harris Fellow. Member: Kalamazoo County Chamber of Commerce; Aircraft Owners and Pilot Association, instrument-rated private pilot; NRA; Kalamazoo County Republican Party, 20+ yrs. Board member, Friends of WMU. Past board member, Kalamazoo County Airport Advisory Board. Board member, volunteer of numerous non-profit organizations....

1. I hope to offer residents of the county and of my district (Texas Township, and

wedge of Portage—10th Precinct) the benefit of my financial and managerial experiences. The County government has largely managed its fiscal responsibilities in an appropriate, conservative manner; I hope to extend this achievement. The position may provide me with opportunities to see job-growth and retention efforts succeed via collaborative efforts with private industry groups such as the Chamber of Commerce....

2. Communication and collaboration are key principles of such a relationship. Administration officials must carry out the orders from elected officials, whose ambitions may be dissimilar. Listening to county departmental leaders, or the Administrator, has value unto itself. These leaders have training and experience that has gotten them to this point in the first place. Blending the will of the people, to whom Commissioners must answer, and possibilities with the County, based on budgets or existing policy takes listening skills and collaborative efforts.

3. While Republicans are unfairly depicted as the party of cold-hearted business owners, I hope to blend solutions for our residents who really need our help. The elderly and their care-givers are and will be in a difficult bind inasmuch as funding support-sources are shrinking, while their own numbers are dramatically increasing. I hope to provide stability to these folks in need. Law enforcement personnel need every opportunity to thwart the bad-guy and allow them to safely conduct and grow in their careers to protect the citizenry. Finally, both tradesmen and business-owners need ways to conduct and grow in our professions. I hope to represent both interests by listening and guiding growth here in our County.

Democrat

Barbara Hammon

Age 58. R.N., Neuro Care Unit, Borgess Medical Center, 14 yrs; small business co-owner, vineyard. Previously worked in Housekeeping at Borgess, 20 yrs. Associate's degree, Nursing, KVCC, 1994; B.S., Nursing, Ferris State U, 2010. Lived in southwest Michigan all my life, in Kalamazoo County since 1972, more than 20 yrs in Texas Township. Homeowner, taxpayer. Three adult children, one granddaughter, who all live in the area.

1. I have been involved in politics for eight years and believe this is the time to increase my involvement by running for office. If elected I will be the fourth woman on a board of seventeen members. There should be more women involved in making the decisions for this community. I live in a rural area and own a small vineyard so I will be a voice for the rural and agricultural community.
2. As the County Commission allocates the money for county departments, the commissioners must actively listen to the officials responsible for these departments. We will make many difficult decisions in the coming years as tax monies are decreasing even as the county needs are increasing. It is important for the commissioners to be well versed in the needs of the county and the obligations of the commission.
3. I hope to be a part of making Kalamazoo County an attractive place for investments and jobs. The beauty and recreational opportunities of a community are influential in investment decisions so an important part of that goal is the protection and preservation of the lakes, streams and wetlands of the county. Quality education and human services, including our public safety services, are vital for future investment in the county as employers look to these as indicators for a well-educated, safe and healthy employee population. I do not favor the downtown arena at this time. I feel we do not need an additional and unnecessary tax for a luxury when too many are doing without necessities.

District 12

Oshtemo Township [precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9]

Republican

Brandt Iden

Age 27. C.F.O, Baron Properties, a real estate management and development company. Graduate, Kalamazoo College. As C.F.O of Baron Properties, I have significantly grown the multi-family housing development department and I am helping to transition the company into affordable housing and veterans assisted living facilities. Member, board of directors for numerous local non-profits and politically active. For more information, please visit us at www.voteiden.com.

1. Local government's role is to create the best environment for citizens to succeed. We need responsible leadership to produce tangible results. As a business entrepreneur and non-profit board member I can offer a results oriented leadership style. I do not agree with government taxing citizens over and over for the same programs without holding those programs responsible for tangible results.
2. A commissioner is the citizen's representative and is responsible for setting direction. County officials execute the direction established by the commission. The basis for a constructive relationship is trust and communication. It

Kalamazoo County Commission, continued

is imperative that a high level of trust be established, which will allow officials to be autonomous in their decisions, while creating a working relationship with the commission. Furthermore, trust cannot be achieved without communication. All commissioners, regardless of political party, must work in concert to create a high standard of communication, which will allow for both officials and commissioners to fulfill their role in the government process.

- (1) Create Jobs. As a job creator, I will utilize my extensive community and business leadership experience to drive economic development and create more quality jobs. (2) Oppose New Taxes. As a business leader, I understand that you and your employer have to work on a fixed budget and so should government. I will not support tax or assessment increases. (3) Support Public Safety. I believe that a critical component to local government is a strong public safety program. Therefore, I will continue to support efficient public safety programs, which ensure that our homes and property remain safe and secure.

Democrat

Scott McCormick

Age 38. Oshtemo Township Trustee; Field Director, Thomas Batten State House campaign. Started college at KVCC, then transferred to WMU. Union Steward, UFCW Local 951. Born in Kalamazoo; parents are democrats; father taught for the Kalamazoo Public Schools for 31 yrs. I am pro-choice, pro-labor and liberal. Elected official; volunteer for the Democratic Party in many ways.

- Oshtemo Township deserves a full-time county commissioner. The county commission position will be my top priority. I will attend every county commission meeting and every township board meeting. I will be involved in my district.
- I helped the current drain commissioner and sheriff with their campaigns in 2008. They have helped my district since then. There is no substitute for friendship.
- (1) Job creation must be our top priority. Our youth need good jobs. Young people are leaving Kalamazoo County for employment opportunities in other states. I will promote the re-development of brownfields to create jobs. (2) I will promote Sunday bus service for the poor, the elderly and the disabled. (3) I will actively oppose the arena.

John A. Nieuwenhuis

Did not respond in time for publication.

Scott Spicer

Age 27. Consultant/Nonprofit Professional. B.S., Anthropology, U of California, Riverside; M.P.H., Global Health, Loma Linda U. Over 9 yrs of experience in the Nonprofit Sector; student leader in college; graduate fieldwork emphasized cultural and linguistic competency in private healthcare. Expertise in community organizing, public policy, public health and safety and evidence-based research. Volunteer experience, 15 yrs. Currently active with United Way, Disability Network Southwest Michigan, Substance Abuse Prevention Task Force, Young Nonprofit Professionals Network. Working for Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes....

- I am running because I feel that I have the experience, leadership qualities and motivation to be accountable to voters and successful at working to fulfill the mission of Kalamazoo County Government. I feel that being elected to office should be about making yourself accessible to voters, supporting the local community and reaching out to bring innovation and sustainability while promoting and reinforcing ideals which build safe and healthy communities. It's about people first, politics later.
- County Commissioners are the advisory board to County Officials and the voice of community members within their jurisdiction. To be constructive, county commissioners need to provide the necessary oversight for officials to effectively do their jobs while allowing these officials the ability to perform their duty to the community within the context of their own experience and expertise. It must be a collaborative, trusting and supportive relationship that is established and maintained by open communication, dialogue and information sharing. Putting the right resources into place and providing necessary oversight is key to this process. Commissioners are citizens supporting government.
- Top priorities: (1) Help to sustain what is working in our district and work collaboratively with my colleagues on the Board of Commissioners. (2) Identify areas of improvement by thoroughly understanding the dynamics of our community, the priorities within our county and the duties and obligation to fulfill the mission of Kalamazoo County Government. (3) Relying on citizen feedback to identify what they want to see happen in terms of maintaining, building upon and improving the livelihood of their community. In doing so I will apply my experience, passion and interest in the areas of local policy, education, public health, small business and community development. I want to help develop a safe, healthy and productive community environment with strong economic and social capacity.

District 16

Climax Township; Comstock Township [precinct 5]; Pavilion Township; Wakeshma Township; Portage City [precinct 2]

Republican

John Gisler

Age 66. Retired Pharmaceutical Marketing Manager. A.B., Biology/Chemistry, Wabash College; M.B.A., Finance, Syracuse U. Extensive business experience in the pharmaceutical industry, including 14 yrs as a manager with budget responsibility.

- I want to pay back the Kalamazoo community for benefits my family and I have received since 1971 when we moved here. Our children were raised and educated here. Our family prospered here. Decisions made by county government impact the daily lives and future opportunities of Kalamazoo citizens. I want to have an active role in making those decisions and extending the benefits I've enjoyed to others.
- Open communication, mutual respect, an understanding that we are all working for common goals that benefit Kalamazoo County citizens.
- (1) Maintain fiscally sound county government without increasing taxes. (2) Encourage economic development by broadening citizen participation. (3) Encourage transparency at all levels of government.

John O'Keefe

Age 54. Publisher, Welcome Home Magazine. High school education; some college. Established and operated local printing company from 1984 until we sold in 1999. Member, Home Builders Association of Greater Kalamazoo since 1990. Parade of Homes Committee since 1995. Past President, Lakewood Community Association. www.voteokeefe.com

- Kalamazoo County is a great place to work, live and raise a family. Operating a successful business gave me experience in job creation as well as understanding the need to be fiscally responsible. As the past President of a local neighborhood association, I have the experience of working toward common goals with citizens and community officials. This experience gave me the desire to serve Kalamazoo County as a Commissioner.
- County commissioners are elected to represent their district and county officials have specific tasks to perform for the benefit of the county. In order for the relationship to be effective both groups must work together in a respectful and productive manner focusing on the good of the citizens and the county. Everyone must work together with the goal of doing what is beneficial for the entire county, not just their district, department or political party.
- (1) We need economic growth and we must be creative and focused on attracting and maintaining jobs. (2) We must evaluate what programs are a poor use of the taxpayers' money and correct the situation. (3) Public safety and the jail are important issues to the county and its citizens, and I would like to see both move in a direction that makes financial sense while providing the county and townships with the best protection possible.

Democrat

Thomas Post

Age 62. Expediting Manager, Sales Department, Clausing Industrial. B.S., Eastern Illinois U. Have worked for multi-national corporations since graduating from college. Currently involved in purchasing international transportation services; also responsible for purchasing and selling some of our metalworking machine tool products.

- I am running for office to represent the people in a district which has been under represented for years.
- County officials work for the county commissioners who work for the people who elect them. A good commissioner is available, on a regular basis, to hear their constituents' views on matters which the commissioner may assist them with.
- (1) I would like to work with S.W. Michigan First to help develop an intermodal freight hub in the Kalamazoo area. This would help our local economy by creating good jobs in the product distribution field. (2) I would like to continue my work to help improve our quality of life by developing and improving our county park system. (3) Set up a service office to help residents of the district more easily solve problems they may have when dealing with various government agencies.

Since 1920, the League has earned a reputation as a highly respected citizens organization that researches issues from many points of view and educates the public and decision makers. Our members are men and women who want to make a difference in our communities, our country and our world.



Winner of the
Kalamazoo YWCA 2010 Women's Group
Achievement Award

Building on 90 Years of Service

Anniversary Financial Campaign 2010

1920 July 20 — Just five months after LWVUS was established in Chicago, Kalamazoo County formed a local unit. • **1925** — We completed a survey of food sanitation ordinances and waste disposal in all Michigan counties. • **1963** — City passed open-housing ordinance and building code enforcement, prompted by a League-led study. • **1973** — The League was an amicus curiae in a successful suit taken to the Supreme Court supporting school desegregation in the Kalamazoo Public Schools. • **1997** — As proposed by our members, LWVMI published the first biennial Citizen Access to Government Report Card. • **2004** — Members voted to re-establish service area to all of Kalamazoo County. • **2008** — We focused our get-out-the-vote efforts in a Kalamazoo city precinct with historically low participation; general election turnout more than doubled. • **2010** — Our flyers, posters and door hangers to encourage Census participation received national recognition. • *The League is nonpartisan; we do not support or oppose candidates. • We do support issues and legislation, after member study and agreement. • We mobilize people to vote and to have a say in the complex decisions that affect us all. • Membership is open to all citizens of voting age. • Associate membership is available for young people and non-citizens.*

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on democracy leads to civic improvement.

Examples of What We Do

Advocate for Issues & Causes in Support of Our Positions at the Local, State and National Levels

- Ballot proposals
- Legislation
- Community concerns

Educate Voters & Support Election Process

- Publish Voter Guides with non-partisan information, including polling places, candidate statements, voting requirement and election websites
- Ballot issue forums
- Candidate forums for local elections
- Absentee voter and voter identification requirements
- Voter turnout in the City of Kalamazoo, precinct 23
- Voter education and mock elections in Kalamazoo public high schools
- Recruit poll workers
- Register voters

Study and Provide Public Forums on Issues

- Economic stimulus spending
- Fair and impartial courts
- Global climate change
- Immigration policies
- Local governance
- Presidential election process
- Prisons and criminal justice

Partner with Others to Promote our Mission, Including:

- Kalamazoo Complete Count Committee
- Kalamazoo Environmental Council
- Offices of election clerks
- Poverty Reduction Initiative
- YWCA of Kalamazoo

We Could Do More

We rely heavily on contributions to do our important work.

Member dues support LWV activities at three levels: 15% local, 85% state and national.

An additional \$35,000 to our fund balances in the next three years will enable the LWV of Kalamazoo to:

- Incur reasonable expenses for routine activities, without increasing member dues;
- Make payments to LWVUS and LWVMI without using education funds;
- Build the endowment closer to a level at which it can provide revenue for education activities;
- Offer member scholarships to students and others; and
- Implement significant projects, without reliance on grant funding.

How You Can Help

- Give a one-time donation
- Make a pledge for 3 years
- Consider the League in your estate planning

Our Funds

General Fund is for expenses related to advocacy on issues, but primarily for basic operating, such as the monthly Bulletin, program flyers, office supplies, telephone and postage. Contributions are not tax-exempt.

Education Fund supports our Voter Guide, candidate and issue forums, voter registration and educational programs. Contributions are tax-exempt.

Endowment Fund, also tax-exempt, assures continued LWVKA educational programs. This fund currently invests in companies that are developing and manufacturing products for clean energy and conservation.

Board members have raised nearly \$7,000 that's already been matched by other members.

I / We Want to Help Support the League in Making Democracy Work

Amount this year \$ _____

Each of the next two years: Semi-annually \$ _____ Annually \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Please send me reminders

Make checks payable to one or more:

- LWVKA General Fund
- LWVKA Education Fund
- LWVKA Endowment Fund

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____ Phone number: _____

Send me membership information too



Send this pledge card and your checks to:

Paula Aldridge
LWVKA Treasurer
8035 Glenwynd Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Thank you for your Support!

Kalamazoo County Polling Places

Polls Open Tuesday, August 3, 2010 — 7:00am to 8:00pm

ALAMO TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 7901 North 6th St.
Precinct 2 Township Hall, 7901 North 6th St.

BRADY TOWNSHIP

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

CHARLESTON TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 1499 South 38th St.

CLIMAX TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 151 S. Main St.

COMSTOCK TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Comstock Community Center, 6330 King Highway
Precinct 2 Township Hall, 6138 King Highway
Precinct 3 Comstock Christian Reformed Church, 5300 Comstock Ave.
Precinct 4 Northeastern Baptist Church, 6536 East G Ave.
Precinct 5 New Life Victory Church, 2775 South 26th St.
Precinct 6 Kalamazoo Community Church, 2435 North 26th St.
Precinct 7 Northeastern Baptist Church, 6536 East G Ave.
Precinct 8 Church of God Family Worship Center, 5841 East H Ave.

COOPER TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 1590 West D Ave.
Precinct 2 Fire Station #2, 3160 McKinley St.
Precinct 3 Spring Valley Wesleyan Church, 5240 Mt. Olivet Rd.
Precinct 4 North Bridge Church, 8824 Douglas Ave.
Precinct 5 Cooper's Landing Apartments Community Room, 5001 Cooper's Landing

KALAMAZOO TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 1720 Riverview Dr.
Precinct 2 Northwood Fire Station, 2617 N. Burdick St.
Precinct 3 Martin Luther King, Jr. in Westwood School, 1100 Nichols Rd.
Precinct 4 West Main School Professional Development Center, 1627 West Main St.
Precinct 5 Westwood Fire Station, 1310 Nichols Rd.
Precinct 6 Indian Prairie Elementary School, 3546 Grand Prairie Rd.
Precinct 7 Hillside Middle School, 1941 Alamo Ave.
Precinct 8 Martin Luther King, Jr. in Westwood School, 1100 Nichols Rd.
Precinct 9 Second Christian Reformed Church, 3015 Nichols Rd.
Precinct 10 Eastwood Fire Station, 2703 East Main St
Precinct 11 Lakewood Fire Station, 3100 Lake St.
Precinct 13 Northeastern Elementary School, 2433 Gertrude St.
Precinct 14 Sunnyside United Methodist Church, 2800 Gull Road
Precinct 15 Westland Meadows Community Room, 4300 Leisure Lane

OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 7275 West Main St.
Precinct 2 Fire House #2, 3500 South 6th St.
Precinct 3 Immanuel Fellowship Church, 6015 West H Ave.
Precinct 4 Fourth Reformed Church Fellowship Hall, 6339 Atlantic Ave.
Precinct 5 West Kalamazoo Christian Church, 454 South Drake Rd.
Precinct 6 Summer Ridge Clubhouse, 5545 Summer Ridge Blvd.
Precinct 7 Fourth Reformed Church Gymnasium, 6339 Atlantic Ave.
Precinct 8 Oshtemo Community Center, 6407 Parkview Ave.
Precinct 9 The Point Community Center, 2595 North 10th St.

PAVILION TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Lakeland Reformed Church, 10442 S. Sprinkle Rd.
Precinct 2 Country Christian Church, 9286 South 36th St.
Precinct 3 Township Hall, 7510 East Q Ave.

PRAIRIE RONDE TWP.

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 8140 West W Ave.

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Gull Lake United Methodist Church, 8640 Gull Road
Precinct 2 Township Hall, 7401 North 32nd St.
Precinct 3 Haven Church, 5350 N. Sprinkle Rd.

ROSS TOWNSHIP

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

SCHOOLCRAFT TWP.

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 50 East VW Ave.
Precinct 2 Ken Krum Recreational Center, 519 East Clay St.
Precinct 3 Vicksburg United Methodist Church, 217 South Main St.
Precinct 4 Ken Krum Recreational Center, 519 East Clay St.

TEXAS TOWNSHIP

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

WAKESHMA TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 13988 South 42nd St.

CITY OF GALESBURG

Precinct 1 City Hall, 200 E. Michigan Ave.

CITY OF KALAMAZOO

Precinct 1 Carver Center, 405 W. Lovell St.
Precinct 2 Bernhard Student Center, Western Michigan University
Precinct 3 Carver Center, 405 W. Lovell St.
Precinct 4 Bernhard Student Center, Western Michigan University
Precinct 5 Arcadia Elementary School, 932 Boswell Lane
Precinct 6 Friendship Village Community Room, 1400 N. Drake Rd.
Precinct 7 Douglass Community Center, 1000 W. Paterson St.
Precinct 8 Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 120 Roberson St.
Precinct 9 Douglass Community Center, 1000 W. Paterson St.
Precinct 10 Spring Valley Elementary School, 3530 Mt. Olivet Rd.
Precinct 11 Parks & Recreation Office at Mayor's Riverfront Park, 251 Mills St.
Precinct 12 Oakwood Elementary School, 3410 Laird Ave.
Precinct 13 St. Joseph Catholic Church-Bennett Building, 930 Lake St.
Precinct 14 St. Joseph Catholic Church-Bennett Building, 930 Lake St.
Precinct 15 Washington Writers' Academy, 1919 Portage St.
Precinct 16 Milwood Christian Reformed Church, 3306 Lovers Lane
Precinct 17 Milwood United Methodist Church, 3919 Portage St.
Precinct 18 Milwood Christian Reformed Church, 3306 Lovers Lane
Precinct 19 Southern Heights Christian Reformed Church, 4141 East Hillandale Dr.
Precinct 20 Trinity Reformed Church, 326 W. Cork St.
Precinct 21 Girl Scouts Glowing Embers Building, 601 W. Maple St.
Precinct 22 Winchell Elementary School, 2316 Winchell Ave.
Precinct 23 Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School, 2321 S. Park St.
Precinct 24 Girl Scouts Glowing Embers Building, 601 W. Maple St.
Precinct 25 Southern Heights Christian Reformed Church, 4141 East Hillandale Dr.
Precinct 26 Parkview Hills Clubhouse, 3707 Greenleaf Circle
Precinct 27 Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 120 Roberson St.

CITY OF PARCHMENT

Precinct 1 City Hall, 650 S. Riverview Dr.

CITY OF PORTAGE

Precinct 1 Portage Community Education Building, 1010 W. Milham Ave.
Precinct 2 Goldentree Apartments Community Room, 4795 E. Milham Rd.
Precinct 3 Portage Senior Center, 320 Library Lane
Precinct 4 Lake Center Elementary School, 10011 Portage Rd.
Precinct 5 Waylee Elementary School, 8106 Waylee St.
Precinct 6 Lake Center Elementary School, 10011 Portage Rd.
Precinct 7 Victory Baptist Church, 308 W. Milham Ave.
Precinct 8 Amberly Elementary School, 6637 Amberly St.
Precinct 9 Haverhill Elementary School, 1710 Haverhill Ave.
Precinct 10 Central Elementary School, 8422 S. Westnedge Ave.
Precinct 11 Angling Road Elementary School, 5340 Angling Rd.
Precinct 12 Central Middle School, 8305 S. Westnedge Ave.
Precinct 13 K-RESA Service Center, 1819 E. Milham Rd.
Precinct 14 Woodland Elementary School, 1401 Woodland Ave.
Precinct 15 North Middle School, 5808 Oregon Ave.
Precinct 16 Portage United Church of Christ, 2731 W. Milham Ave.
Precinct 17 Portage United Methodist Church, 8740 S. Westnedge Ave.
Precinct 18 Moorsbridge Elementary School, 7361 Moorsbridge Rd.
Precinct 19 Woodland Elementary School, 1401 Woodland Ave.
Precinct 20 Milham Meadows Community Room, 6103 Mallard Circle
Precinct 21 St. Catherine's Catholic Church, 1150 W. Centre Ave.

Source: Kalamazoo County Clerk/Register Office