The content of this Guide is derived from candidates’ profiles and ballot proposals posted online at 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.

Spread the word about www.vote411.org!
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 picture 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

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. Names of write-in candidates will be available after that date on the Secretary of State’s Voter Information Center website — www.michigan.gov/sos.

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. 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.

Editor’s Note

The League of Women Voters 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 to be included” 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 about state candidates, and the LWV of the U.S. about national candidates.

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.

Vote Tuesday, November 6, 2018

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. The close of registration for the election is Tuesday, October 9. Registration is permanent as long as the resident continues to live in the city or township where registered.

How?

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 near the candidate’s name or Yes / No in the case of a proposal. Straight-ticket voting is no longer permitted. You must select each candidate.
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 for using voting equipment are available online at the Michigan Voter Information Center (www.michigan.gov/sos).

Absentee Ballots

A voter may apply for an absentee ballot by 2:00 p.m. 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 or from the Michigan Voter Information Center online 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 have the opportunity to apply for and receive a ballot electronically through the Federal Voter Assistance Program (FVAP). An oath is no longer required on the Federal Post Card Application.

If you are a new Michigan voter, and you registered to vote other than at the office of a clerk or the Secretary of State, you can vote using an absentee ballot the first time you vote only if you personally apply for the ballot at your clerk’s office. This is because you are subject to the Federal first-time voter ID requirements.

When must absent voter ballots be returned to the clerk?

Voters may cast their absentee ballots in the clerk’s office until 4:00 p.m. 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.

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 to be included” appear under the candidate’s name. Check Vote411.org for submissions after the publication deadline.

2018 General Election Voter Guide

Acknowledgment

Contributors to the League of Women Voters of Kalamazoo Area Education Fund and the A. Phillip Randolph Institute generously provided financial support for LWV voter service efforts, including this Voter Guide.
Bill Schuette
Republican
Attorney General of Michigan. I am a graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and studied at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. I received my law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law. Before becoming Michigan’s 53rd Attorney General, I served as a judge on the Michigan Court of Appeals, a State Senator representing the 35th District, Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, and as a United States Congress man. My experience means I understand our state and know how to work with the legislature, local leaders and other partners on needed reforms to advance Michigan. Campaign Website: www.billschuette.com. Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/BillSchuette/. Twitter: twitter.com/SchuetteOnDuty.

1. My top priority can be summed up in one word: growth. Michigan needs a growing popula tion and growing paychecks to become one of the leading states in the country economically. I want to cut taxes and regulations at the state level. Additionally I will focus on cutting auto insurance rates and fixing our 3rd grade reading scores, which are some of the lowest in the nation. My “GROW” (Great Leaders On The Way) plan will prioritize literacy with a cabinet level literacy director and more. Together these things will make Michigan more attractive to job creators and people, allowing our state to grow again.

2. I support policies that give families more educational choices and make wise use of taxpayers’ $15 billion annual investment in our schools. My “GROW” plan will reverse Michi gan’s 15-year decline in reading scores with a cabinet level literacy director, reading coaches in every school and our summer reading “Pyberush Track Plan” will restore a balance between career and college preparation in our schools and faster apprenticeships in skilled trades and other fields. We should grade our schools A-F and reward growth that will allow us to invest in better roads and improved infrastructure.

3. Our Great Lakes are the crown jewels of Michigan and their safety and security is etched in every Michigander’s DNA. I support building a 4.5-mile-long utility tunnel in the Great Lakes to protect our valuable water resources.

4. We've got to level the playing field so the amount of money in your bank account does not determine the level of your education. That's why as Attorney General, I will fight for consumers and pay for disappointments with strong consumer protection laws.

5. I've always been in the front line fighting for women’s rights. As Senate Democratic Lead er, I shared my own story of surviving sexual assault to fight Republican efforts to erect more barriers for women in their health care. As Ingham County prosecutor, I established a new domestic violence unit, and I recently released a plan to combat sexual assault on campus. As Governor, I will fight to ensure that women are protected and pay for disparities for women of color, enact earners paid sick leave, and ensure quality, affordable childcare, because the average cost of infant care in Michigan is too high.

6. We've got to level the playing field so the amount of money in your bank account does not determine the level of your education. That's why as Attorney General, I will fight for consumers and pay for disappointments with strong consumer protection laws.

Bill Gelineau
Libertarian
CEO, Abrams Title Agency. Owner and Licensed Title Agent for a company in Rapid's real estate based title insurance company. Attended the University of Michigan and Wayne State University. Pre-law student majoring in English and Michigan History. Extensive professional certifications and currently holds a state license. Read personal biography at: https://liberty4gov.org/about/bill/ This profile was written by the Libertarian party of Michigan. My goals as Governor are to (a) eliminate the government, (b) reduce taxes and spending, (c) return control of the courts to the elected judges, (d) reduce the size of government, (e) decrease the size of government, (f) limit the size of government, (g) limit the size of government, (h) limit the size of government, (i) limit the size of government, (j) limit the size of government, (k) limit the size of government, (l) limit the size of government, (m) limit the size of government, (n) limit the size of government, (o) limit the size of government, (p) limit the size of government, (q) limit the size of government, (r) limit the size of government, (s) limit the size of government, (t) limit the size of government, (u) limit the size of government, (v) limit the size of government, (w) limit the size of government, (x) limit the size of government, (y) limit the size of government, (z) limit the size of government.

1. Is it so unusual that I tổn the campaign name: Come Together Michigan.org as my campaign website? As Governor, I would like to cut taxes and regulations at the state level. Additionally I will focus on cutting auto insurance rates and fixing our 3rd grade reading scores, which are some of the lowest in the nation. My “GROW” plan will prioritize literacy with a cabinet level literacy director and more. Together these things will make Michigan more attractive to job creators and people, allowing our state to grow again.

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Bill Gelineau
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CEO, Abrams Title Agency. Owner and Licensed Title Agent for a company in Rapid's real estate based title insurance company. Attended the University of Michigan and Wayne State University. Pre-law student majoring in English and Michigan History. Extensive professional certifications and currently holds a state license. Read personal biography at: https://liberty4gov.org/about/bill/ This profile was written by the Libertarian party of Michigan. My goals as Governor are to (a) eliminate the government, (b) reduce taxes and spending, (c) return control of the courts to the elected judges, (d) reduce the size of government, (e) decrease the size of government, (f) limit the size of government, (g) limit the size of government, (h) limit the size of government, (i) limit the size of government, (j) limit the size of government, (k) limit the size of government, (l) limit the size of government, (m) limit the size of government, (n) limit the size of government, (o) limit the size of government, (p) limit the size of government, (q) limit the size of government, (r) limit the size of government, (s) limit the size of government, (t) limit the size of government, (u) limit the size of government, (v) limit the size of government, (w) limit the size of government, (x) limit the size of government, (y) limit the size of government, (z) limit the size of government.

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toxic sites in Michigan. Nobody else in the race has proposed a plan such as the ITF expansion explained on my site. I am also the only candidate putting the “H OW” into a clean energy future. Again, with limited space, you should check out my website.

5. I do believe that the role of the government to provide special status or ensure anything other than equal opportunity to any group. However, as Governor, I will enforce the laws of the State to make sure discrimination or other systemic biases are eliminated. As a father with daughters and granddaughters, my efforts will always be to ensure a Full and Equal opportu- nity for them to compete in the ever Higher education system. In conclusion, I hope you will give the income tax issue on those under 25 and below $25,000/yr. Income to help lift women and children out of poverty.

6. (i) The legalization of marijuana – consequences of which have fallen hard on many minor- ity communities. The profits from the sale of illegal marijuana is now used to fund. (ii) I committed a violent crime. (iii) I will work to amend Elliot Larsen to include transender persons. Everyone has the right to enjoy the full benefits of citizenship. (iv) Investiga- tion and prosecution of abusive police practices - and the elimination of military-style SWAT teams and use of military force on American streets. (v) I will appoint a cabinet of qualified people that reflect all the faces and communities of Michigan.

Running mate: Angelique Chaiser Thomas

Libertarian

Todd Schleiger

US Taxpayers
Driver/ Fleet Manager. High School Online Business classes. I manage equipment under federal guidelines along with 23 drivers. I deal with customers on daily basis, whether good or bad I have to treat them with needed care and other sorts. As a refund credit towards their next load of product. Campaign Website: checktadd.com. Facebook: http:// facebook.com/toddschleiger. Twitter: twitter.com/toddschleiger.

1. I would have to say exactly what I have been saying for the last 3 years. Lowering Auto Insur- ance to keep up with the times. We have so many insurance companies that will help every bit as much as equals and create 500,000 new jobs in Michigan. Between infrastructure, legaliz- ed cannabis, solar and wind generation, roads, and environmental this all in 4 years.

2. I am the only candidate that comes to the table with a 20 billion dollar budget. Broken down as follows: 2 billion towards bringing 2 years of community college into the public school realm, this would include trade schools and vocational schools. 17.8 billion into pre k and 12 bringing a minimum pay to any teachers through the state of 60,000, putting more money to the classrooms as the administrations. That leaves 1 billion to bring our schools into a more efficient and safe standards, such as protecting our children by hardening our school buildings and more police on site.

3. Between my restructuring of our complete tax system, and the creation of 500,000 new jobs in my four years we will move Michigan forward as a leader in cyber and manufacturing along with efficient energy. By cutting and removing expensive taxes that overburden our businesses, creating a three tier income tax that will benefit 80% of the working people of Michigan putting more money back into their paychecks. We all know if we have more money, we spend more money.

4. The answer to Enbridge Pipeline 5 is simple and straight forward, it has to go. Know amount of insurance or promises can pay for a devastating leak if it were to occur. We are the stewards of the land on must do all that we can to support it, that is why I will mandata an increase in percentages to renewable energy 33% by 2025. By bringing back the Public Works and forgiving the utility companies with substantial rate increases, they have profited billions on the people and can afford to spend more of their profits. This field alone will create over 100,000 new jobs. Even more if we include infrastructure needs.

5. This is a hard question to answer, for the issues that are being seen are more towards where their salaries are negotiated than at a starting job sat as a factory. I would mandate that where a company is hiring a large number of their employees at the same rates per hour or salary, equal pay for equal work. If the employee has worked at a job equal as long as another employee whether male or female should be making the same wage as long as they have had the same training as the other. A simple trade trades person should make more than John Doe at the street if hired into the same job.

6. I will bring back the Common Law Grand Jury or also known as The Peoples Grand Jury, This will empower the people to literally remove an officer who has taken an oath of office to defend our Constitution. Judges, police enforcement, elected officials who abused their powers granted by the people will think before they act on violating the peoples rights. Judge Antonin Scalia wrote the Peoples Grand Jury is a fourth branch of government belonging only to the people, not to answer to the other three branches in 2005. This will promote social and racial justice in our state.

Running mate: Earl P. Lackie

US Taxpayers
Did not respond in time to be included.

Jennifer V. Kurland

Green

1. Flint, Public Education, and Prisons/Policing. Flint is the canary in the coalmine for our cru- mbling water and sewer infrastructure on top of our crumbling roads and bridges. We need to replace all lead water lines statewide. We must properly fund public education, earmark general fund money for Pre-k 12, and include funding for infrastructure, curriculum, and tech- nology. We must end the war on drugs and mass incarceration. Ending solitary confinement, raising the age for prosecution of minors, requiring community policing, and ending the cash bail system will help fix our broken criminal justice system.

2. We must bring technology to all classrooms around the state, and fund professional develop- ment for teachers. We need to properly fund our schools, to seize the opportunities. We can make public colleges and then public universities free for all Michiganders while expanding college and trade opportunities to high school students. We must end the for profit charter school system and school of choice, both of which has been increasing segregation in our schools. We must properly fund and state, and stop the school to prison pipeline.

3. We must increase the minimum wage to $15/hr immediately, and permanently fix the mini- mum wage to other indicators like inflation, housing, and food costs. Climate change is real and we need to move towards clean energy. By cutting and removing certain taxes that burden our businesses, creating a three tier income tax that will benefit 80% of the working people of Michigan putting more money back into their paychecks. We all know if we have more money, we spend more money.

4. We must completely transition over to clean, green, renewable energy. We can fully meet our energy needs with wind, solar, and hydropower. We must charge the full cost of pollution per- mits to include the health effects to the public, and require full disclosure of all chemi- cals and pollutants released. We must immediately shut down and decommision Enbridge Line 5, and halt all current pipeline projects for future, stringent environmental assessments before future approval or completion of any pipeline projects. We need to recombine the DEQ and DNR, and create legislation to allow for permit delays.

5. We must increase the minimum wage to $15/hr. We need to end abstinence-only education and begin teaching age-appropriate consent to all students. We have the ability to create leg- islation that will end the wage gap in Michigan, and we must enforce equal rights for all in our state constitution. We must fully protect abortion rights as part of women’s health care, and end the “women tax” on items like tampons and sanitary products. It is imperative that we treat the LGBTQIA community with equal protection, including housing rights, job protection, adoption rights, and health care.

6. We must give the Michigan Civil Rights Commission teeth. This includes expanding Elliot Larsen to include all LGBTQIA citizens, and the ability to have some level of enforcement capa- bilities. We must end the drug war and ban the war on marijuana. We can make public colleges and then public universities free for all Michigan- ers while expanding college and trade opportunities to high school students. We must end the for profit charter school system and school of choice, both of which has been increasing segregation in our schools. We must properly fund and state, and stop the school to prison pipeline.

Running mate: Charlin H. Davenport

Green
Did not respond in time to be included.

Keith Butkovich

Natural Law

1. Reduce auto insurance costs by eliminating no fault and other requirements. I would also make carrying insurance optional, as the government should not be able to force you to buy anything. Eliminate the income and property taxes, then the sales tax, and other charges. Taxation is theft. Legalize drugs, not just marijuana and alcohol, without taxation. Stop jailing people for minor traffic offenses.

2. Part of the problem is the federal Department of Education, which I would constantly lobby to remove their regulations forced upon the state. I would eliminate state regulations, allow- ing education to return to the local level and the people. Other options, such as online school, home school, etc would be encouraged instead of pushing a government school program. Post-secondary would not be subsidized by the taxpayers. This would force these institutions to cut costs and remove bloated administrations.

3. Let people keep the money they have earned. Taxation is theft. I would also remove burdensome regulations on businesses. The economy will explode because government will be out of the way.

4. Common sense. Don’t dump into streams and rivers. The government is one of if not the larg- est polluters, so reducing government would be a major key in this. The officials involved in Flint, both local and state, should be sued if the people choose to go that route. No immunity. Pipeline 5 needs to be repaired. I would not ban pipelines and drilling, provided they are safe and companies clean up any problems they may cause. The residents would be the ones who could sue. I would not ban nuclear energy.

5. People should have to stand on their own merits. Sex, race, religion, etc should not be a fac- tor in any hiring. I am against affirmative action. Smart employer realize this, and would not underpay someone just because they are a woman or otherwise, because they know good people are in demand by many companies.

6. Government should get out of marriage. Adults should be allowed to marry who they wish, and however many people they wish. A marriage license is just another tax. No one should be treated equally in court. Police officers should not be given special treatment just because they wear a uniform. Murder is wrong, no matter who commits it. Self defense must be thor- oughly proven in court.
Michigan Secretary of State

Four-year term  Vote for one

Description: Secretary of State serves as chief motor vehicle administrator and chief election officer for Michigan and also maintains the state’s official repository of records and certifies documents as Keeper of the Great Seal. Candidate for Secretary of State must be a registered voter in Michigan on the date he or she is nominated for the office. He or she may serve a maximum of two full terms.

Questions

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the office of Secretary of State and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?

2. What voting reforms do you support?

Mary Treder Lang

Republican  Did not respond in time to be included.

Jocelyn Benson


1. I have over a decade of experience as a national leader in election law and administration and have authored, “Secretaries of State: Guardians of the Democratic Process,” the first major book on the role of the Secretary of State in enforcing election and campaign finance laws. I have a proven track record running organizations including the Ross Initiative for Sports in Equality (RISE) and the Wayne State University Law School, where as dean I froze tuition for incoming students and increased scholarship funding that led to a 14 percent reduction in tuition for all students.

2. I believe it is easier to vote and harder to cheat. My plan includes online voter registration, automatic voter registration, no-reason absentee voting, early voting, and new laws to prohibit voter intimidation. My election security plan includes risk limiting post-election audits (RLA); improved poll worker training, recruitment, and accountability; the convening of an Election Security Commission; tough, new penalties for equipment tampering; and strengthening the accuracy of the Qualified Voter File by joining the Electronic Registration and Information Center (ERIC).

3. The people of Michigan deserve a Secretary of State who works as hard as they do. No one should have to spend more than 30 minutes to renew their driver’s license, register their vehicle or cast a ballot. As Secretary of State I will set a goal for a “30-minute guarantee” for services administered and overseen by the Secretary of State. Additionally, I will fight to ban fee increases that have hit families hard in recent years; we will implement a plan to secure our elections, protect our sacred right to vote, and take Michigan from worst to first in transparency and trustworthiness.

Gregory Scott Stempfle

Libertarian  Currently works as a Medical Technologist in the Henry Ford Hospital System and live in Farmington Hills. Stempfle has a BS in Clinical Laboratory Sciences and MS in Molecular Biology, both from Wayne State University.

Michigan Attorney General

Four-year term  Vote for one

Description: Attorney General is in charge of prosecuting the laws of the state of Michigan. Candidate for Attorney General must be a registered voter in Michigan on the date he or she is nominated for the office. He or she may serve a maximum of two full terms.

Questions

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the office of Attorney General and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?

2. What would be your top priorities as Attorney General and what actions would you take to implement them?

3. What recommendations would you make to the Governor and State Legislature regarding the administration of justice and safety in Michigan?

Tom Leonard


1. I have spent my entire career making Michigan safer and stronger, and I can think of no better place to continue that important work than the office of the attorney general. I served as an assistant prosecutor in Genesee County, putting murderers and drug dealers behind bars. I have also been an assistant attorney general, defending taxpayers from frivolous lawsuits filed by convicted felons. If elected, I will be the first attorney general Michigan has had with previous experience working in the office. That gives me the unique ability to hit the ground running and implement my plan for the office on day one.

2. I have a detailed plan for the office, including an increased focus on fighting violent crime, rooting out sexual predators, and continuing to reform Michigan’s broken mental health system. My experience working in the office and my experience working on those issues in Genesee County will allow me to reorganize the department, reallocate resources and manpower and get these new initiatives up and running sooner than anyone else can do it. I am prepared on day one to build new partnerships with local prosecutors and judges on these important issues and begin making a difference.

3. We have made important progress on issues like criminal justice reform and mental health reform over the past few years, but there is no such thing as good enough. In particular, many of the recommendations from the House CARES Task Force I created have been passed into law to reform our broken mental health system, but there are still many bills yet being written and reforms being worked out. That progress needs to continue in the next year to make sure we continue to implement the changes that our members heard about from parents, law enforcement and health officials at town halls and forums all across the state.

Dana Nessel


1. I began my career as an Assistant Prosecutor in the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office handling the county’s most difficult cases. In 2012 I initiated the precedent setting case DeBoer v. Snyder, which was recently determined in the United States Supreme Court. We won, legalizing same sex marriage nationwide. I am also the President & Founder of the Fair Foundation, a task force that investigates and prosecutes hate crimes. I am running to be the People’s Attorney in a state that has prioritized corporate interests over the needs of Michigan residents for too long. That ends if I am elected.

2. (a) I will protect our Great Lakes & provide clean water for all. I will close Line 5, fight for justice in Flint in criminal & civil cases, and hold chemical companies accountable for PFAS. (b) I will fight for consumers & seniors. I will prosecute Medicaid fraud, create an auto insurance fraud division, & protect students from aggressive debt collection. (c) I will protect workers and ensure safe workplaces free from discrimination, sexual harassment or environmental hazards. I will take on right to work laws so that all Michiganians have a good paying job with access to affordable health care & a retirement plan.

3. My recommendation would be simple, put people first. For the too long, the people of Michigan have gone without a champion in the Attorney General’s Office. It is my intent to return the office of the AG to one that works for the people of Michigan and protects working families, and I will do that by being the same fighter as Attorney General that I have been as an attorney for the last 25 years. Michigan needs an AG who fights for working families instead of corporations and special interests, and puts the paychecks of regular people ahead of corporate profits.
Michigan Attorney General, continued

Lisa Lane Gioia
Libertarian

1. Laws created in Lansing are often partisan, short-term solutions devoid of respect for individual rights and consideration of potential ramifications. The Office of the AG is the last line of defense against abuses of government and law enforcement. The Office must be seen as a direction of prioritizing thoroughness and objectivity — a goal achievable only by a leader who is not beholden to any level of government nor to any special interests, and who has business experience to eliminate inefficiency, complexity and incompetence rampant in government, and whose intent is to serve, not rule, the public.

2. Top priorities include legalization of cannabis, civil asset forfeiture, occupational licensing, and auto insurance. Further, given the increasing ineptitude of many bureaucrats and the increasing militarization of federal and state law enforcement, the Office must promote a culture of learning from complaints from citizens, but also reports from public servants brave enough to come forward with knowledge of malfeasance in their organizations. The “circle the wagons” approach of fellow officials can no longer be tolerated, and a policy of defending my office from legal scrutiny is not an option.

3. Policies/laws relating to prosecution, especially of cannabis with its proven medical benefits including those to opiate addicts and PTSD sufferers, are being applied in a horrifically disproportionate manner to minorities, and create incapable cycles of violence in our urban areas. All persons incarcerated for non-violent, marijuana-related crimes should be freed, their rights restored, and the records of previously convicted should be expunged. Legalization would end an untold number of crimes, result in savings in incarceration costs, free-up law enforcement resources, and provide an economic boon to our state.

Gerald T. VanSickle
US Taxpayers
Did not respond in time to be included.

Christopher Graveline
No party affiliation

1. For the last five years, I served as the Chief, Violent and Organized Crime Unit, US Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of Michigan. I concentrated our office’s efforts in reducing homicides and non-fatal shootings in Detroit. By working collaboratively with our local/state partners, we successfully dropped these crimes by over 30%. Prior to my work as a federal prosecutor, I was a prosecutor in Wayne County and a US Army lawyer. In the Army, I prosecuted the high profile and politically sensitive Abu Ghraib cases. I am running because partisanship should play no role in the work of the AG’s office.

2. My top priority is to remove partisan political considerations from the AG’s office. I would put an end to the practice of using this office to advance the political parties’ policy arguments through lawsuit. I would be vigilant in the hiring process to ensure that we build a strong and competent team with policies playing no role in that process. In terms of the work of the office, I would focus our resources on helping our cities and municipalities in curbing violent crime, the opioid trade, human trafficking, and identity theft. I would shift more resources to aggressively pursue consumer protection enforcement.

3. I believe that the AG should focus on enforcing laws that are already enacted as opposed to actively advocating for specific new policies. With that understanding, public safety demands joint action and the ability to communicate and share information. I would recommend to the Governor that we ensure that law enforcement on the local and state level have the necessary systems in place to help share information and resources. Also, I would encourage the legislature and Governor to consider additional programs and assistance to citizens returning to society from a period of incarceration to aid in that transition.

Michigan - Senator

John James
Republican

1. (a) Economic Opportunity. Putting in place a tax policy that helps create the environment where jobs can be created and where families keep more of what they earn to meet their needs. (b) National Security and Veterans. We need to protect our military. We need to have to take care of our veterans. The toughest fight our forces face should not be in a VA hospital. This in particular is a priority for me when I reach the Senate. (c) Infrastructure. Upgrading the Sault Locks and our roads must become a national priority.

2. We are a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws. Our economy and national identity depend on a workable legal immigration system. But it needs to be tough as well. I oppose sanctuary cities and would work to ensure sanctuary cities are defunded. Also I would work to ensure we have secure borders. I will work to reform the legal immigration system that provides us with a workable system and protects our security.

3. We need to look at everything that comes in between a patient and their doctor. We must ensure we have secure borders. I will work to support reform of the legal immigration system where jobs can be created and where families keep more of what they earn to meet their needs.

4. Michigan is one of the most innovative states in America. We are home to some of the most innovative manufacturing innovators in the world, and one of the most diverse agriculture sectors in the nation. It is critical the industry is supported by sensitive government regulation, tax and trade policy. The best thing the federal government can do in many cases is get out of the way. That means reducing regulation instead of increasing regulation. Putting in place a tax policy that helps create the environment where jobs can be created and where families keep more of what they earn to meet their needs.

5. Our Great Lakes are a national treasure. They support a robust fish and tourism industry here in Michigan. We must protect the lakeshore and update infrastructure such as the Sault Locks to ensure the economic impact of the lakes to our state is not interrupted. I will champion policies and programs that protects environmental quality throughout the Great Lakes and protects them from invasive species like Asian Carp. The same applies to the land we farm and live on and the air we breathe. We enjoy an incredible agricultural diversity in this state and need to guarantee it for future seasons.

6. As a cadet in the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, I swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution. Voting and sharing our opinions and values is how we pass on our democracy to future generations. We must protect the integrity of our elections and protect against voter fraud. It is equally important that we maintain a campaign finance system that is honest, transparent and accountable to every American citizen. When you take away an American’s right to vote or their right to share their views, you hurt our democracy.

Debbie Stabenow
Democrat
U.S. Senator; Michigan State University, B.A, M.S. As the first woman elected to the United States Senate from Michigan, I have a strong record of getting things done for Michigan families. I will continue to be a champion for Michigan and I am proud to call Michigan my home. Campaign Website: debbiestabenow.com. Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/stabenow. Twitter: twitter.com/stabenow.

1. One of my top priorities is helping create jobs in Michigan. I am focused on growing a diverse economy that includes manufacturing and technology, small business creation and agriculture, education and career training. The first bill I passed into law as a U.S. Senator banned oil and gas drilling in the Great Lakes. I authored the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative that has been successful in cleaning up our waters and led the fight to restore funding after President Trump tried to zero it out. I have been a champion for Michigan agriculture and rural communities and authored the 2014 and 2018 bipartisan Farm Bills.

2. I have heard from thousands of Michigan citizens about their concerns with our broken immigration system and there is no question that we need comprehensive immigration reform that works for our families, workers, businesses, and farmers each and every day. I support the DREAM Act, the Keep Families Together Act, and comprehensive immigration reform.

3. Health care is a human right and everyone should have affordable, quality health care. I helped lead the fight to stop Republicans from dismantling our health care system and taking away health care from millions of Americans, and am focused on lowering health care costs. I helped fight for Michigan’s Medicaid expansion to make sure everyone who is eligible can access health care.

4. Everyone deserves a fair shot to work hard and be successful. And right now, that fair shot is not available to everyone in Michigan or our country. Work should be rewarded — in our tax code, in our wages, and in our quality of life. If you work full time, you should not be in poverty. I know that not every young person will pursue a four-year college degree. I am working with businesses, building and construction trades, parents, students, and educators to promote job opportunities in skilled trades and technical careers. If we make things and grow things in Michigan, our families will be able to stay in Michigan.
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 its primary function. U.S. Representatives have the responsibility to represent the people of the district as elected by the primary voters.

Fred Upton

Republican


Fred Upton is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives (MI-06). Campaign Website: www.fredupton.com.

1. My top 3 national legislative priorities are: (a) Education reform; (b) Sensible gun laws; (c) Immigration reform.

2. I support publicly funded health-care for All people, regardless of age, and education for All, regardless of income. We need a balanced, pragmatic, and comprehensive approach to immigration reform. I supported a discharge petition demanding debate and consideration of several immigration proposals, one of which can be made in Michigan.

3. Millions of people are not getting the health care they deserve because of cost. We need to shift away from fossil fuels and towards renewables, we would reduce our overdependence and unsustainable military-industrial complex. We should also see a positive shift in immigration patterns, as people from other countries might be more inclined to stay in their homeland, easing the refugee crisis. Drug cartels would see their power and influence diminish, reducing undocumented immigration and crime in general. For those who are migrating to the U.S. legally, they should have to pass background checks for violence. In addition, if we shift away from fossil fuels towards renewables, we would benefit the entire world.

4. I support publicly funded health care for All people, regardless of age, and education for All, from pre-k to PhD, plus skilled trades. I support a jobs program focusing on what I call #HIRE, designing our mental illness health care and combating the opioid addiction epidemic.

5. I want to shift away from fossil fuels and towards renewable off-grid energy, which would bring an end to all the leaky oil pipelines that criss cross our waterways and land, causing pollution and environmental damage. We need to offer incentives and tax breaks to small businesses that are in the environmental and energy industries. This would be very beneficial to the future of the Great Lakes, as well as the environment as a whole.

6. I support banning SuperPAC’s and Corporate donations, lowering the voting age to 16 or 17, and having automatic voter registration, up to and including election day. I also support hand-counted paper ballots to ensure citizen oversight, not machines, in determining who wins.

John Howard Wilhelm

Natural Law

Republican, economist, Ph.D, Economics University of Michigan. By training a Soviet-Russia specialist in addition to my training in economics. I have been working with third parties, most recently the Modern Whig and Modern Whig and Green Parties, on the issue of voting system reform to open up our political processes to third parties. Campaign Website: www.nationalanewrenewalparty.org and voting reform site www.nationalrenewal.org.

4. I support banning SuperPAC’s and Corporate donations, lowering the voting age to 16 or 17, and having automatic voter registration, up to and including election day. I also support hand-counted paper ballots to ensure citizen oversight, not machines, in determining who wins.

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Marcia Squier

Green

Instructor, Sales & Equipment Mgr for Tumblebunnies, a mobile, on-demand exercise company for kids, Bachelor of Science Degree from Wayne State University on a full academic scholarship, Majoring in Psychology. 2 Terms on the Board of Directors for Ingleside-Grossedale Park Association (2nd Vice President & former Chairman of the Board). 2016 U.S. House Candidate for Michigan’s 14th District. Lifelong Michigander who cares more about People than Megacorporations. Campaign Website: MarciaSquier.com. Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/MarciaSquierGreen. Twitter: twitter: @MarciaSquier.

1. My top 3 national legislative priorities are: (a) Education reform; (b) Sensible gun laws; (c) Immigration reform.

2. I want to shift away from fossil fuels and towards renewable off-grid energy, which would bring an end to all the leaky oil pipelines that criss cross our waterways and land, causing pollution and environmental damage. We need to offer incentives and tax breaks to small businesses that are in the environmental and energy industries. This would be very beneficial to the future of the Great Lakes, as well as the environment as a whole.

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1. (a) Voting reform at the federal level to open up our political processes to third parties. (b) Promoting a better discussion of the policy issues we face especially in a post peak-oil period. (c) Working to get better Russia and Middle East policies. Get Elected.

2. My concerns are that we have not had an honest discussion of this issue. Given the impending reality of peak oil we face some troubling issues concerning population sustainability on the issue of which the immigration laws large. On this issue I have been much informed by articles published in the Social Contract in Petoskey, Michigan by Dr. John Tanton. It is outrageous that groups like Southern Poverty Law Center have labeled John Tanton a racist for his efforts on immigration reform. Political correctness in this area has done a lot of damage to a much needed honest discussion of this issue.

3. My concerns is that we have done a very poor job of intelligently discuss this issue. If elect would support a bill putting a sunset on ObamaCare, if only if as part of that effort a hospital of Davenport, Iowa, DAV Medical, 2005, 7.6 billion in a cash flow to the American taxpayer. That would make it much more difficult for the two parties to peddle a lot of nonsense about this issue which is dumbing down our electorate and preventing us to get good health care for all of these categories.

4. None. There are certain strata whose economic position public policy ought to help. But besides all the evidence indicates that we are consuming beyond sustainable levels, especially giving impending peak oil. On this score, our compelling need is to develop stabilization policies for a sustainable economy. If elected, I would push for the Joint Economic Committee to initiate a discussion of economic issues. At the request of the British Sustainable Development Commission has pointed out we have virtually no economic scholarship on this vital issue.

5. A stiff carbon tax with the revenue going towards supporting good public transportation in central cities like Detroit, research on alternative sustainable energy sources and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

6. Our most important voting right in addition to the right to vote is to have a good voting system not our current plurality voting system which is the worst. I support approval voting (see my website www.nationalrenewal.org) to open up our political process to third parties. On campaign finance reform. We need to expel campaign finance laws and start over again. The current ones are very discriminatory against third parties and have done a lot of harm to the effectiveness of our political system. Our focus has been on the supply side, not on the demand side of the problem. I want to change that.
U.S. Congress — Michigan District 6, continued

and common sense policies to protect our environment. When it comes to the Great Lakes I helped deliver full funding of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative when it was on the chopping block. I also championed bipartisan pipeline safety legislation. We must continue to work together to protect our Great Lakes and environment.

6. Have a consistent, bipartisan record of supporting common-sense campaign finance laws to ensure transparency and accountability in our elections. I supported the landmark Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act, also known as McCaskill-Snowe, which capped campaign contributions and requires their public disclosure. I am also a longtime cosponsor of the bipartisan Voting Rights Amendment Act which would modernize the original Voting Rights Act to reflect today’s challenges. The bill would update part of the law struck down by the Supreme Court in 2013 to ensure that all Americans can exercise this fundamental right.

Matt Longjohn

Dei Ezero

Candidate for Congress in Michigan’s 6th district. Bachelor’s of Science-Kalamazoo College. M.D. MPH Tulane University. My qualifications for representing Michigan’s 6th Congressional District include a deep attachment to the area (6 generations of family in SW MI); experience in building mining communities that would promote and implement 38,000 community changes; and being recognized as one of the top healthcare innovators in the nation who created jobs and better health while saving Medicare billions. Campaign Website: mattlongjohnforcongress.com. Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/mattlongjohnforcongress/. Twitter: twitter.com/mattlongjohnforcongress/

1. Improving the health and quality of life for everyone in the country. As a healthcare innovator, I have created jobs, prevented illness, saved lives and saved money. Our environment, our education, housing, transportation and food systems must also promote health. Fighting to make our government truly representative. We must get dark money out of politics and increase the influence of everyday people. Reforming the tax code to help families and small business. Washington’s ‘trickle down’ policies haven’t worked, and too many people are left behind. Tax policy must prioritize working families and small business.

2. Immigrants have always been an important part of our society. We continue to need immigrants to help us grow. We need our sovereignty and national security, but building a wall is a waste of money. No human is merely ‘an illegal,’ and the rights of all immigrants need to be respected. I support DACA and a path to citizenship for Dreamers. I will protect and expand student and agricultural worker visa programs. Splitting up refugee families by placing adults in military detention while putting their kids in foster care is dangerously close to recreating the internment camps of WWII.

3. I’m running for Congress to improve people’s health and quality of life. Quality of life depends on affordable healthcare, a safe and healthy environment, and educational as well as economic opportunities. I believe in universal healthcare, keeping mental and reproductive health in all insurance plans, and expanding Medicare by offering it on the insurance exchanges as a public option. Medicare must also be able to negotiate lower drug prices. I believe it’s a woman’s right to make her own reproductive health care decisions. I will always protect funding for children’s health insurance and community health centers.

4. Too many hard working families are struggling to make ends meet. Washington’s approach to stimulating the economy through ‘Trickle Down’ tax breaks for corporations and the wealthiest among us has resulted in a larger income gap. We need more balanced economic policy prioritizing workers and small business. Liveable wages and well paying jobs need to be protected—not just created. I support ‘equal pay for equal work’ for women and other groups experiencing discriminatory wages, and believe trade agreements must not incentivize employers to leave the country or help them profit by devaluing American labor.

5. Clean air, water, and land is fundamental to our health and our economy. The Great Lakes and other natural resources in Michigan are treasures, fueling agriculture and tourism. Preserving them is a fundamental job of public leaders. We need to reduce Line 5 responsibly and invest in creating green energy jobs at the same time, so we can ensure the protection of Lake Michigan while helping transition workers to sustainable well paying jobs. We must continue to improve air quality by maintaining emission standards. I also support agricultural innovation to diversify our food system, improve yields, and limit soil loss.

6. We must reform campaign financing and other aspects of our political system to reduce the risk of corruption and protect voters’ rights. All political contributions must be transparent so we can hold policy makers accountable to voters, not just their mysterious corporate donors. We must limit ‘government in full’ job of public leaders. We need to remove Line 5 responsibly and invest in creating green energy jobs at the same time, so we can ensure the protection of Lake Michigan while helping transition workers to sustainable well paying jobs. We must continue to improve air quality by maintaining emission standards. I also support agricultural innovation to diversify our food system, improve yields, and limit soil loss.

Michigan State Legislature

Questions

1. Priorities: What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?

2. Education: What measures do you support/propose to achieve improved educational outcomes and accessibility for Michigan students from early childhood through post-secondary education?

3. Economy: What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?

4. Elections: What state policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?

5. Environment & Energy: What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan’s water, air and land for current and future generations, while meeting the state’s energy needs? Explain how these actions or policies would affect the future of Enbridge Pipeline 5.

6. Justice: What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?

Michigan State Senate

State Senate, District 20 — Kalamazoo County

Four-year term Vote for one

Description: The Michigan Senate shares responsibility with the Michigan House of Representatives to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws. State Senators may serve a maximum of two full terms. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 38 State Senate districts which are re-appointed after each election.

Margaret E. O’Brien

Republican


1. My three priorities are roads, education and continued job growth. (a) Roads: We have invested billions of dollars the last couple years into our roads, and are putting in over $200 million more using unanticipated revenues. Each year since the Roads Package was passed, we have increased funding to repair our highways and bridges which will increase economic funds. (b) Education: We are investing in a record $147.1 billion into K-12 education. We must invest more into the art education to improve proficiency in reading, math and science. (c) Job Growth: We must continue to attract high wage jobs and emerging sectors.

2. I would ensure readiness proficiency by 3rd grade, this can be accomplished through investment in children who start school behind which includes at risk children & ESL. (b) Advocate CTE & college prep. Career & Technical Education has been an area that was neglected in the 2000’s. We must ensure our students can see the opportunities offered through CTE & college prep. Many students are choosing high school options which come with increased general funds.

3. (a) I educate the best way for students to be able to have many options. (b) Re-training programs many community colleges offer certificate programs with jobs waiting at the end of their program. Additionally, a local organization in my community focuses on re-hiring employees who lack a HS diploma. (c) Criminal record, transportation barriers, single parent, poor work history. This program partners with employers to teach 3-6 week programs with a job at the end. The short class time allows for better chance of success. (d) Ensuring MI has a competitive regulatory & tax climate. We have done that in the last 8 years.

4. (a) Transparency in campaign financing I would support more frequent reporting. I voted for more frequent reporting requirements. (b) Fair elections—ensure every citizen has the opportunity I have supported expanded use of absentee voting and cosponsored legislation to do this.

5. Michigan has the benefit of amazing resources—water, land. We must ensure are policies are scientifically driven. Also, we must look to creative ideas. A group of Michigan Tech students recently analyzed where rivers/pipes lines go under the streets & have offered some ways to improve safety. We must ensure that Pipeline 5 never leaks. I supported a bill that would have closed it down. If it is not closed down, we need to be vigilant in watching the line as we look at energy resources, it is important to have affordable and sustainable energy options. Too often, the poorest pay the highest bills.

6. (a) I sponsored bipartisan legislation with Senators Gregory & Knollenberg to educate young people about traffic stops & to ensure officers give their name and how to file complaint information to anyone they stop. We need to reduce the risk of violence in what is already a tense interaction. (b) More attention to education African American students are more likely to struggle than others. We need to ensure we have support services available that will work for them. (c) We need to ensure that our sentencing policies are fair. Over the last 8 years, we have opened more alternative courts which is a win for everyone.

2018 General Election Voter Guide
State House of Representatives See questions on page 8 for Michigan State Legislature

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 reapportioned after each census.

District 60

City of Kalamazoo, Township of Kalamazoo (all except precinct 12)

William Baker Republican

On leave from the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital’s Environmental Services Department. BS in Mathematics from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Campaign Website: https://www.politicalbank.com/find-candidates/williambaker-eade/tve1-1125-4238-4837-5d199f8ed5f493. Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/bakerforhouse.

1. My top priority would be to scale back State spending to focus on the most important areas. I would start by cutting pay of Legislators. Second, and concurrently, I would seek to roll back taxes for everybody. I will propose cutting State income taxes to 3% and ending excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol products (only 3.7% of State revenue). Lastly, to improve education in Michigan, we need to create an environment conductive to the expansion of educational opportunities that are available for everyone. Michigan needs to expand school choice and to allow vouchers to be provided directly to parents so that educational funds can be saved for future years or spent as they see fit. Additionally, all educational spending should be tax deductible on the State income tax each year, this would include all tuition and fees for all levels of education as well as full student loan payments for those currently burdened with college debt.

2. We need more required hours in school. We need parents, teachers, administrators and state officials to work harder at education and make it more difficult to get a 4.0. We must also find a way to pay for more teachers. This would mean that we need to pass a financial cost to their family if they choose not to get involved in their children’s education. We must not let the serious students be held back by students who do not care. The State needs to encourage and provide financial support for skilled jobs training similar to what we provide college students. I strongly believe the basis of a strong economy is a well-educated and well-trained workforce.

3. I support reasonable minimum wage increases adjusted for inflation. I support tax payer subsidies for private business development when the project is not profitable but performs a public service such as Dan Gilbert is doing in Detroit. The state needs to encourage and provide financial support for skilled jobs training similar to what we provide college students. We need to stop paying people who will not work and make those dollars available to people who will work. Schools providing childcare at school regular school hours at a cost to working parents would be helpful.

4. I support the constitutional amendment which will change how and who draws the lines for voting districts. I support the transparent public accounting of all dollars used to influence elections in support of issues or people. I do not think corporations should be able to contribute money towards elections. I support no reason absentee voting if we can implement safe-guarding against fraud.

5. We must reduce the amount of chemicals that move from farmland, housing and manufacturing into our ground water, rivers and lakes. I voted in support of the first renewable energy bill in Lansing that required energy producers to produce 10% renewable energy. The Enbridge Pipeline needs to be replaced with a more secure pipeline. All lead water pipes used in Michigan for municipal water systems should be replaced. Vehicle emissions need to be reduced and the use of driveless electric vehicles encouraged.

6. I am very active in supporting LGBT issues and have been an activist or 15 years. I am a member of a church which recognizes women equal to men. I want my daughter and grand-daughters protected at all costs from predators, and I want predators locked up and treated for a long time. I have long been a member of the NAACP and support its goals with contributions. I vote for people who agree with me that the way most churches treat women, people of color and LGBTQ people, is wrong. The gap between rich and poor in our state is growing in favor of the rich and adjustments must be made.
Michigan State Legislature, continued

4. Our democracy needs to be more responsive to voters. While in the State House, I've intro-duced legislation to end gerrymandering and protect voting rights through a Voter Bill of Rights. To make government more responsive, we need to reduce the amount of money in politics, reduce the influence of lobbyists, and increase the public's role in the decision-making process. I've also sponsored measures to increase transparency in government and protect voting rights.

5. Environmental regulations should be based on scientific evidence and not politics. I support science-based, reasonable environmental regulations. The pipeline needs maintenance, waiting any longer could be dire. The long term environmental implications need to be reviewed. As a member of the House, I will review these items and work to build plans where everyone can benefit and our assets are protected.

Jennifer Aniano

Democrat


Candidate Website: Jenanianiformi.org. Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/jenanianiformi. Twitter: twitter.com/electmatthall.}

Matt Hall

Republican


2018 General Election Voter Guide

2018 General Election Voter Guide
Eight-year term

Vote for up to 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 institutions of higher education. The Board also establishes academic standards for grades kindergarten through grade 12. The Board appoints seven members and the Governor appoints one member. The Board appoints seven members and the Governor appoints one member.

Questions

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for State Board of Education and explain your reasoning for running. How would you be an asset?

2. What actions 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?
1. I currently serve on the Board, elected Co-President by Democrat & Republican members, of the State Board of Education, 2017-2018. Pastor, St. John’s Lutheran, Taylor, since 2007. D.Min. Ecumenical Seminary; Ed.S. Spec. Greek; Wayne State University; More than 25 years of experience as a Board Member. The State Board of Education has become an octopus, with tentacles reaching in areas that have nothing to do with education. Return to the basics. The same for parents who wish to use these funds for home schooling purposes. This is a common-sense approach that will save more than $1 billion annually.

2. Over-specialization is the primary cause of extinction. We need to diversify and move away from specialization. We need to encourage our children to explore many different areas of life so that students can choose their own pathway for their future. Return to the basics. The same for parents who wish to use these funds for home schooling purposes. This is a common-sense approach that will save more than $1 billion annually.

3. As a retired educator with more than 25 years of experience – most recently, as Chief Academic Officer of Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) – and as a concerned grandparent of children educated in Michigan’s public schools, I am confident my passion for and academic grounding in public education, practical experience as a teacher and administrator, and commitment to building collaborative relationships with local and state leaders will make a valuable contributor to the Board.

We have an obligation to the children in the state of Michigan to find solutions to our financial and achievement issues. The State Board of Education has become an octopus, with tentacles reaching in areas that have nothing to do with education. (a) Focus on ends (student achievement), not means (compliance issues). (b) Focus on competence rather than credentials for students. (c) Avoid mission creep: adding to a school’s tasks/responsibilities so that the school’s mission (literacy & numeracy) becomes成败. (d) Beware of policy programming that supplants rather than supplements parental involvement and responsibility. (e) Develop clear policy that enables local schools to take initiative and responsibility for student achievement. (f) Maximize choices for parents and students in enrollment, program, and philosophy of education. (g) Encourage character values.

1. I am currently the Director of the Southfield Community Anti-Drug Coalition. I have experience working in city and county government. I have also experience teaching K-12 in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. I was an instructor at Wayne State University in the K-12 SEMA Program which was sponsored by NASA. Project Management experience in Real Estate Development led to 9.9 MM going towards renovating low income communities in Oakland County. I also have experience in Contract Negotiations, Financial Analysis and Recommendations and Min Million Dollars Entitles.

2. As a retired educator with more than 25 years of experience – most recently, as Chief Academic Officer of Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) – and as a concerned grandparent of children educated in Michigan’s public schools, I am confident my passion for and academic grounding in public education, practical experience as a teacher and administrator, and commitment to building collaborative relationships with local and state leaders will make a valuable contributor to the Board.

We have an obligation to the children in the state of Michigan to find solutions to our financial and achievement issues. The State Board of Education has become an octopus, with tentacles reaching in areas that have nothing to do with education. (a) Focus on ends (student achievement), not means (compliance issues). (b) Focus on competence rather than credentials for students. (c) Avoid mission creep: adding to a school’s tasks/responsibilities so that the school’s mission (literacy & numeracy) becomes成败. (d) Beware of policy programming that supplants rather than supplements parental involvement and responsibility. (e) Develop clear policy that enables local schools to take initiative and responsibility for student achievement. (f) Maximize choices for parents and students in enrollment, program, and philosophy of education. (g) Encourage character values.

1. I have spent many years in a classroom and on a construction site where the students built a house. The Home Construction class built 15 homes in Livonia. I also taught Command & General Staff College to officers in the army. I experienced why students learn and have put in place successful teaching training for 31 years. I believe that education has fallen off the rails, and is time to return to the basics. The same for parents who wish to use these funds for home schooling purposes. This is a common-sense approach that will save more than $1 billion annually.

1. OK, ready to get radical? Greatly reduce the teacher/student ratio! Teachers are put at an extreme disadvantage when asked to actually impart information to 25 or more students at one time. But this is not "new" radical, this is "old, tried and true" radical. We used to be the most literate nation in the world. Small schools and good student/teacher ratio worked, and it can work again, What is more important–buildings or true learning? Let’s put aside the false security of bigness and get back to really teaching Michigan’s precious souls with personal attention and care that teachers want. Give them the basics.

3. As a retired educator with more than 25 years of experience – most recently, as Chief Academic Officer of Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) – and as a concerned grandparent of children educated in Michigan’s public schools, I am confident my passion for and academic grounding in public education, practical experience as a teacher and administrator, and commitment to building collaborative relationships with local and state leaders will make a valuable contributor to the Board.

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3. Increasingly, corporations control education across the USA— that pressure must be resisted. The Green Party is a progressive party, not a caucus; a stronger, not corporate-bought voice.

Mary Anne Haring
Working Class

1. As a long-time teacher, I have been a steadfast advocate for students and their families, the support staff of the college, as well as part-time teachers who are the backbone of the teaching staff, with lower pay and no benefits. I have also organized in the working class for decades and can give voice to workers who see their children and grandchildren deprived of quality education because the state cuts money from public education. I can speak up to teachers and other workers who are deprived of the means they need to educate young people and whose wages and benefits are reduced because of those cuts.

2. Take a page from history, including recent history, where teachers, students, school employees and people from their communities organized to fight for their right to have better wages, working conditions, and more resources in the schools. I think the educational system would be strengthened when workers are organized to demand that working people go for public education. And I would stand with those people and assist in any way I could to help with that social fight. Because that is what it took for the working class to ever have the right to public education in the first place and it's what it will take again.

Logan Smith
Working Class

1. I've lived in Detroit all my life. I was a student in the Detroit Public Schools where I saw firsthand the problems that children of working people had to deal with. I feel that as a person who has actually had to deal with our education system here in Michigan myself, I am very qualified for this position.

2. The solutions for the problems that our school system faces are not difficult to figure out— fund poor schools. Provide supplies, fix the broken buildings, hire more teachers, and raise teachers’ pay. Make public colleges and universities free for anyone who wants to attend, so that people can get a degree without going into crushing debt. To pay for this, take the wealth back from corporations that were bailed out with money taken from our schools.

3. Schools need all the money that's been stolen back, and much more. Not enough textbooks, underpaid teachers, and huge class sizes are just some of the issues that students of working people face thanks to a vastly underfunded educational system. The State Board of Education does not have the power to fix that; in fact, no politicians have that power. The only way these things are going to stop is if ordinary people, teachers, students, parents, organize together and disrupt business as usual to stand for what’s right.

University of Michigan Board of Regents

Eight-year term Vote for up to 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. How would you be an asset?

2. What recommendations would you propose to make university attendance more affordable and reduce the burden of student financial debt?

Andrea Fischer Newman
Republican

1. I care deeply about public education. Through service, I have gained the perspective and the experience to know what it takes to ensure that the University of Michigan continues to be the greatest public university in the country and that it is affordable and available to all Michigan families. Michigan families have given every opportunity to me to manage the University at Delta Air Lines, Northwest Airlines and as a partner at a leading law firm and I am currently serving on two corporate boards. My service on the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics and NACIQ has further prepared me to serve the University.

2. It is critical that we make Michigan affordable for all Michigan families. The University can improve processes for managing existing resources. It can and should be aggressive about fiscal stewardship— in procurement, public private partnerships, eliminating overlapping functions, and centralizing functions wherever sensible and efficient. The University should also focus on growing the endowment, reviewing its management for best practices and continuously developing new sources of revenue. There are growing opportunities in support tech transfer, research and campus startups and other innovative work on campus.

3. The first is making the University affordable for all Michigan families and students. The University believes that educational opportunities must be available to everyone. Let’s get the operating budget and managing resources efficiently are key to succeeding in making sure everyone who wants a Michigan education can afford one. The second is supporting and preparing University of Michigan graduates to lead in this economy. The economy is changing rapidly; the University must embrace it, harness our broad and deep talent to grow the entrepreneurial curriculum and projects at the university which will help graduates succeed.

Andrew Richner
Republican
Did not respond in time to be included.

Jordan Acker
Democrat

1. I’m proud to have a range of experiences in the public and private sector: having worked at Homeland Security, in the Personnel Office of the White House, and now in a small business, where I’m responsible for a multi-million dollar marketing budget. But these experiences and people from their communities organized to fight for their right to have better wages, working conditions, and more resources in the schools. I think the educational system would be strengthened when workers are organized to demand that working people go for public education. And I would stand with those people and assist in any way I could to help with that social fight. Because that is what it took for the working class to ever have the right to public education in the first place and it’s what it will take again.

2. There are many things we can quickly to make UoM more affordable. UoM could increase scholarships by over $30M per year it went back to taking 5.5% a year out of the endowment. UoM has run an average annual budget surplus of over $300M the last ten years. The University could refinance graduate student loans at below market terms. These “investments” would be comparable in return and risk to others in the endowment’s portfolio. UoM must roll back administrative cost increases to $150M. Congress needs to step up in helping to reduce the effort to convince the electorate and the administration to increase spending on education.

3. Public universities like UoM were created to be affordable and accessible to students of Michigan, no matter what community they came from or the wealth of their families. We must hold down tuition, increase the availability of scholarships and we must construct admissions policies that grant students admission based on their ability and performance...
University of Michigan Board of Regents, continued

regardless of their opportunity. Lastly, UoM must focus on extending its positive economic impact throughout the state both through its educational and healthcare systems.

James Lewis Hudler
Liberarian
Did not respond in time to be included.

John Jascom
Liberarian
Associate Managing Editor, Securites, Wolters Kluwer Legal and Regulatory U.S. A.B., University of Michigan (1987); M.A.T., University of Massachusetts-Amherst (1990); J.D., Concord University of Law (2003); LL.M. University of Alabama School of Law (2015).
1. I am running because I am deeply committed to the value of a liberal arts education and the institutions’ funds. The board shall elect a university president who shall be the principal executive officer.
2. The cost of university attendance has skyrocketed over the past generation, forcing many students to take on substantial debt. As a law professor, I have seen the impact this debt has on students’ ability to thrive in the classroom and beyond. Taxpayers also have a stake in this issue. The high cost of college is that the high cost of college

Michigan State University Board of Trustees

Eight-year term Vote for no more than two

1. Describe your qualifications and experience for the University Board and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset?
2. What recommendations would you propose to make university attendance more affordable and able to reduce the burden of student financial debt?
3. What are the most pressing issues facing this university today and what is your position on those issues?

Joe Sanger
US Taxpayers
Did not respond in time to be included.

Crystal VanSickle
US Taxpayers
Did not respond in time to be included.

Kevin A. Graves
Green
Teacher, University of Michigan Biochemistry and Psychology
1. I graduated with a double major (Biochemistry and Psychology) from the University of Michigan. Then, I went to work at the University of Michigan and Wayne State University in research laboratories and earned 5 biochemical research publications. Through the years, I’ve had my share of problems with administration and have heard complaints from other students and teachers. So, because I personally faced discrimination at the University of Michigan I would be an “asset” to protect the rights of students.
2. I would propose college tuition for students with family gross income of $50,000 or less for the previous year before entering college and have student loan forgiveness for graduates with gross income of $35,000 or less per year. So, for most so poorly paid teachers they would receive student loan forgiveness.
3. On the most pressing issues facing the University of Michigan is the high cost of going to the University of Michigan and the other most pressing issue is discrimination. My “position” on the high cost of going to the University of Michigan, to college is that the high cost of college is a deterrent to even the thought of going to college; parents know that they can’t afford it, so they may not encourage academic excellence as readily. As such, we must lower the cost of college! As a minority, my “position” on wrongful discrimination (sexism, homophobia, and racism) is obvious: I’m against it! I’m for Equal Rights!

Marge Katchmark Sallows
Natural Law
Did not respond in time to be included.

1. I am a passionate MSU alumnus who is not far removed from my time on campus. I feel the pain that students are facing today and share the frustration with the university’s handling of its cultural problems. As a survivor of sexual assault that I experienced at MSU, I understand this pain that many students have gone through. I have 10 years of professional fundraising experience. I currently cannot connect private sector organizations with those in need at the United Way for SE Michigan. I help those who don’t have opportunity gain access to it, and I see how hard life is when you don’t have economic privilege or education.
2. We start by streamlining financial aid to ensure that every in-state student who comes from a household with income of less than $45,000 is guaranteed free tuition. For students who come from households with income of less than $20,000, but above $45,000, we must target grants and scholarships to ensure that their tuition remains proportionately priced. Combined, these two ideas form the basis for my Go Green Guarantee. But we can and must do more than just focus on tuition. We must address housing and meal affordability and access, and also streamline credit transfer from other colleges.
3. I cannot summarize this in 2 reasons, so I have narrowed it to 3. I have listed 10 of them at kelleyforMSU.com (a) To rebuild the public’s trust that has been broken through holding the board accountable and transparent with decision making, and by making them be as accessible as every elected official should be. (b) To change the culture on campus, from the way the university handles sexual assault to the way it deals with diversity and diversity issues. (c) Make MSU more affordable and accessible to all Michiganians, focusing on reducing financial hurdles, increasing credit transfer and improving campus diversity.

1. As a MSU alum who struggled to pay tuition, former Asst. Prosecutor and attorney with 18 years experience, woman of color and parent of a current MSU student, my experiences have allowed me to be able to relate to and understand the struggles of many college students. My unique legal background will be an asset to the Board in dealing with the legal issues at hand. Additionally, my credentials and professional experiences on Boards, as President of the Museum Rotary Club and extensive community activist have prepared me to be an extremely knowledgeable and experienced individual.
Brianna T. Scott
Democrat
Attorney in Private Practice and Business Owner: Michigan State University, B.A. Marketing: Wayne State University Law School; Juris Doctorate. Campaign Website: www.Brianna4MSU.com. Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/Brianna4MSU. Twitter: twitter.com/Brianna4MSU. com. I am a MSU alumnus who is not far removed from my time on campus. I feel the pain that students are facing today and share the frustration with the university’s handling of its cultural problems. As a survivor of sexual assault that I experienced at MSU, I understand this pain that many students have gone through. I have 10 years of professional fundraising experience. I currently cannot connect private sector organizations with those in need at the United Way for SE Michigan. I help those who don’t have opportunity gain access to it, and I see how hard life is when you don’t have economic privilege or education.
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Dave Dutch
Republican
Did not respond in time to be included.

Mike Miller
Republican
1. I founded a company twenty-nine years ago. We started with four employees and grew that company to its current size employing two thousand people with thirteen manufacturing plants around the world. We have 900 Michigan employees. Similar to building and succeeding with a large commercial enterprise, leadership of a big university requires exceptional skill and experience in the areas of critical thinking, financial acumen, team building, human resources and corporate governance. These are experiences and skills I can bring to MSU.
2. Tuition hikes in excess of inflation are not sustainable. World class businesses and universities face the same cost challenges: salaries, supplies, healthcare, capital, etc. Yet every day world class industries do more for customers without charging more, often by seeking out superior technology. A world class university must do the same or it will cease to be world class. Productivity improvements must become the norm at MSU, not an exception. In the years to come, working class Michigan families must find the price of an elite education at MSU to be more affordable, not less.
3. (a) Hiring an exceptional new president for the next decade to guide MSU. (b) Healing the wounds caused by the Nassar crisis and creating an environment of safety for all students. Stakeholders deserve a more open and transparent board. As a result of recent events (Nassar) it is imperative that the board more closely comply with the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act. Past compliance has too often meant obeying the letter of these laws. We must do better and adhere to the SPIRIT of these laws, erring always on the side of openness rather than easiness.

Kelly Charron Tebay
Democrat
Relationship Manager, United Way for Southeastern Michigan. MSU Board of Trustees. BA International Relations with Muslim Studies Specialization. MS Law Enforcement Intelligence and Analysis with Certification in Homeland Security and Critical Thinking. Campaign Website: www.kellytebayformsu.com. Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/KellyTebayforMSL/. twitter.com/KellyForMSU.
1. As a MSU alum who is not far removed from my time on campus. I feel the pain that students are facing today and share the frustration with the university’s handling of its cultural problems. As a survivor of sexual assault that I experienced at MSU, I understand this pain that many students have gone through. I have 10 years of professional fundraising experience. I currently cannot connect private sector organizations with those in need at the United Way for SE Michigan. I help those who don’t have opportunity gain access to it, and I see how hard life is when you don’t have economic privilege or education.
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Michigan State University Board of Trustees, continued

Bruce Campbell
Liberation
Retired; advocate for the poor, leadership in community. BA from MSU, post grad work, Paris, FR and Louanne, Switzerland. Charter member Justin Morrill College. Campaign Website: http://michigan.org

1. Teacher social worker postal clerk; Master 30 yrs.; union tres. & steward 2 yrs.; curriculum adviser 6 yrs.; Downtown Development, chaired subcommittee 1 yr; advocate for poor (took homeless in); lifetime; fund raiser for charity 15 yrs.; leadership in civic and religious organiza-
tions; local and state connections from work to assembly, bus driver to illegitimacy - man-
aged city pool, reading tutor, working with gifted and talented. With a vast field of experience, being able to listen to all sides, do research and find viable solutions are major reasons for running for Trustee and are valuable assets to this work.

2. Some ideas that would help make the university cheaper would include: (a) cut the budget 10% over all, eliminate, duplicate, eliminate, So, study work, program create, with business community apprenticeships, or internships; and (c) allow more credit approval for classes taken at community colleges, AP classes and the 13th high school year (even vocational tech) towards undergraduate courses. 3. MSU Trustees are in the process of hiring a new university president. This person should have varied experience in business and education. This person should be thoroughly vetted and not political. A person who loves to work with students and is available to all with an open door. How to complete student drug and alcohol education is a major issue that still plagues our school. Policies should be in place and enforced to provide a safe environment for all persons, i.e. zero tolerance for sexual harassment, bullying and hazing. We need to be fiscal responsible, accepting and pro peace.

Tim Orzechowski
Liberation
Did not respond in time to be included.

Janet M. Sanger
US Taxpayers
Technical Service Specialist. Campaign Website: votesangerg.com. I have worked in the Michigan power industry for over 30 years. I take a common sense approach in all that I do. My wife and I have home educated our children for 18 years, and I am familiar with a variety of educational options.

1. As graduate of Wayne State I ran for the Board of Governors because of my desire to give back to the institution's funds. The board shall elect a university president who shall be the principal executive officer.

2. What recommendations would you propose to make university attendance more affordable and reduce the burden of student financial debt?

3. What are the two most pressing issues facing this university today and what is your posi-
tion on these issues?

Diane Dunaskis
Republican
Wayne State University Board of Governors. Public School Educator. Retired Small Business Owner. BA Elementary Education · Wayne State University. MA Reading & Special Education · Oakland University. Educational Administration · Wayne State University. Campaign Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/DunaskisForWOU. I as a graduate of Wayne State I ran for the Board of Governors because of my desire to give back to the institution's funds. The board shall elect a university president who shall be the principal executive officer.

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2. What are the two most pressing issues facing this university today and what is your posi-
tion on these issues?

3. I see the board's most pressing issues as providing affordable, quality education, and ensur-
ing student safety. I believe we need to expand our educational delivery options to reach more students, and at the same time reduce tuition costs. As for ensuring student safety, I would like to see all assault allegations turned over to an impartial law enforcement agency.

John Paul Sanger
US Taxpayers
Technical Service Specialist. Campaign Website: votesangerg.com. I have worked in the Michigan power industry for over 30 years. I take a common sense approach in all that I do. My wife and I have home educated our children for 18 years, and I am familiar with a variety of educational options.

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3. What are the two most pressing issues facing this university today and what is your posi-
tion on these issues?

Aaron Mariassy
Green
Did not respond in time to be included.

Bridgegate Abraham-Guzman
Natural Law
Did not respond in time to be included.

Wayne University Board of Governors
Eight-year term Vote for no more than 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 rea-
sons for running. How would you be an asset?

2. What recommendations would you propose to make university attendance more affordable and reduce the burden of student financial debt?

3. What are the two most pressing issues facing this university today and what is your posi-
tion on these issues?

Diane Dunaskis
Republican
Wayne State University Board of Governors. Public School Educator. Retired Small Business Owner. BA Elementary Education · Wayne State University. MA Reading & Special Education · Oakland University. Educational Administration · Wayne State University. Campaign Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/DunaskisForWOU. I as a graduate of Wayne State I ran for the Board of Governors because of my desire to give back to the institution's funds. The board shall elect a university president who shall be the principal executive officer.

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ing student safety. I believe we need to expand our educational delivery options to reach more students, and at the same time reduce tuition costs. As for ensuring student safety, I would like to see all assault allegations turned over to an impartial law enforcement agency.

Bryan C. Barnhill
Democrat
Did not respond in time to be included.

Amil Kumar
Democrat

1. Academically, I have been a lifelong teacher. I am a clinical assistant professor for Michigan State University residency program. I have been chief of staff North Oakland Medical Center, Chairman of the Board of Doctor’s Hospital, Chief of Surgery at Cottentron Hospital, and Board Member of Oakland County Medical Society. Politically, I have been a candidate for the 11th district US Congress position and I am active in the Michigan Democrat party. As a busi-
nessman, I am president of Michigan United Physicians and CEO of a surgical center. My wife, both children and I are all Wayne State Graduates.

2. This approach is 3 pronged. My first recommendation is to politically maneuver better funding from the state. Currently, WSU is the least financially supported amongst the 3 main universi-
ties. We have a promising future with great programs in place. My second recommendation is to increase the endowments and alumni donations which could be used to offset financial diffic-
ty of students by increasing scholarships and student financial aid. Thirdly, holding admin-
istrative accountable to expenses toward administrative costs. Thereby, decreasing expense which can be translated to lower tuition fees.

3. One of the most pressing issues is promotion of programs. This can be achieved through bet-
ter funding. With this funding, we would have an opportunity to provide for our local commu-
nity and attract students across the state who are seeking higher education. The second issue is retention of students to complete their graduation. I believe that we need to have our stu-
dents actively involved in their education and pursuing opportunities that offer them chances to apply classroom curriculum. I would encourage participation by our local community. Local businesses can offer internships to help keep students engaged.
Wayne State University Board of Governors, continued

Jon Elgas
Libertarian
1. I have 5 children so far that have attained Masters or PhD level education. I have written articles, including one for the Center for Michigan Studies on the School Aid Fund. I am keenly aware of the Endowment means used by Universities for long term fiscal stability.
2. The Endowment for Wayne State must be drawn upon in a manner similar to personal IRA’s. The total fund must have economic entropy, that assures the funds are used for the good of the Campus community over a reasonable period of time. The concept of Endowments being managed to live in perpetuity defeats the purpose of charity. Endowments must not become so large that fiscal preservation of Endowment Assets takes precedent over the current and near term mission of the University. Endowments should be used to lower tuition specifically, and to maintain the highest level of academic excellence.
3. (a) Campus Security, in the face of the economic condition of the surrounding Detroit community is a key to a positive Campus Life. The Drug and Alcohol culture on college campuses can not be allowed to interfere with the ability of serious academics. Wayne State must be a place where students of integrity are drawn to, meets goals of personal excellence. (b) As one of three Research Institutes seated within the Michigan Constitution, and taxpayer funded, Wayne State has an obligation to Michigan taxpayers to maintain diversity, with priority on admissions given to Michigan Residents.

Christine C. Schwartz
US Taxpayers
Did not respond in time to be included.

Marc Joseph Sosnowski
US Taxpayers
Did not respond in time to be included.

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. How will your talents, experience and skills enable you to succeed in your work as a Commissioner? How would you improve the quality of life for residents of Kalamazoo County?
2. What are the two most critical issues facing your District in the next ten years? What actions will you take as a member of the Commission to address them in the next two years?

District 1

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

Ronald Olson
Republican
1. As a lifelong resident of Kalamazoo, I know the history of this community and what issues are important to the citizens of our district. In my career at Graphic Packaging, I learned the value of hard work and commitment can bring that to the community, I will represent the perspective of the working class taxpayer, but will represent all the citizens of this district and the county.
2. Lowering crime in the District and trying to fix the flooding problems.
3. Affordable housing is quickly becoming a major issue in the Kalamazoo inner city and throughout the county. I have a plan to help control the flooding we’ve seen all around the County. I tend to look at things from a different angle.
4. Although running as a Republican, I have to represent everyone not only in my district but everyone in Kalamazoo County.

Stephanie Moore
Democrat
Age 46. Elected, serving second term on the Kalamazoo County Commission. Served as Vice Chair and now Chair. Associate Degree from Kalamazoo Valley Community College. (Re)Elected, serving second term on the Kalamazoo County Commission. Associate Degree from Kalamazoo Valley Community College. BA - Communications (WMU). Self Employed Property Developer.
1. I have experience with campus life, residence halls, tuition costs, and financial planning for college.
2. I have 11 years of political experience has prepared me to continue success in serving the community and now Chair. Associate Degree from Kalamazoo Valley Community College. (Re)Elected, serving second term on the Kalamazoo County Commission. Associates Degree from the county department implement
deploy.
3. I plan to continue to work in a bipartisan manner to engage all commissioners to best serve all of Kalamazoo county.

District 2

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

Paul Haag
Democrat
1. Strong team building Collaborative skills coupled with my sincerity and commitment to representing all, especially the most marginalized members of our community, will translate into meaningful accomplishments.
2. I will spend all of my available time focused on learning about the evolving needs of my community and plan accordingly.
3. County ID. End Gerrymandering. End school to prison pipeline. Refocus on the physical environment. Commit to strong public schools.
4. My political philosophy is based on equity and justice for all, regardless of race, color, country of origin, religion, ability, orientation, etc. I will serve all with a desire of being inclusive.

District 3

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

Charley Coss
Republican
1. I’m a 30 Years Corporate Communications - Small & Large Businesses, Local and County Government, Non Profits. BA in Communications and MPA in State Government from WMU. City of Kalamazoo - 9 years CDAC & 5 years Planning Commission, Chair Imagine Kalamazoo Advisory Committee. Special Olympics of Kalamazoo (Area 16) for 10 years & currently a Ski Instructor for 9 years. Campaign Website: http://www.votecoss.com. Email: charley@votecoss.com. Facebook: http://facebook.com/votecoss. Phone: (269) 290-1237.
1. The Kalamazoo County Commission is dysfunctional. The lack of communication and partisan fighting has caused projects to fall behind schedule, and long term planning is practically nonexistent. This is costing the County residents future money. My background in managing large projects and understanding budgetary processes is greatly needed. We need to have clear goals and find agreement with all commissioners; we need to put our residents and local issues first. Simply put – Clear Vision, Being on Time and Under Budget these are what the Commissioners needs now. These are my strengths that I have. Keep It Local & Deliver for Kalamazoo.
2. Jobs and Housing. These are the most critical issues for everyone in the county. We need to encourage more businesses to expand and locate in Kalamazoo. Our Water quality, Afford able housing, and a reasonable tax base are all elements to bringing good paying jobs and enriching careers to our County. Our water quality should be a “non-issue” not in the news, we
3. A citizen-centric government is most effective, but people are busy and time is precious. We need to accommodate county residents by providing services when & where they need them. We need more time shifting services, such as 24 hour service self portals and remote offices. We need to have our offices throughout the county and visit various local towns. This will encourage more participation from the general and bring in more residents. I am going to various communities and I need to educate all offices.

4. Keep it Local! I believe in supporting our local public safety who risk their lives for us every day. We need to remember what these officers have done for us and be there for them through their lives!! And also importantly – respect our Seniors! Let’s put our Seniors First! We need respect for others. We should not prioritize local issues, and not chase every irrelevant national issue for personal gain. This way we will keep our hard earned tax dollars and doesn’t help anyone in our community. These personal political projects may sound good but they don’t create better jobs or affordable housing. Deliver for all of Kalamazoo!!!

Tracy Hall
Democrat
Age 46. Instructor, KVCC, Political Science & Sociology. Instructor, WMU, Gender & Women’s Studies. Master of Arts, Political Science, WMU. Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, WMU. I am currently serving my first term on the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners. I have been teaching political science courses for 15 years and have a strong intellectual understanding of how local governments work. I also serve on various boards and committees. As a teacher and an activist I have a proven track record of communicating well with individuals from all walks of life. Campaign Website: http://hallelect.org. Email: tracy.hall39@gmail.com. Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/tracyhall42420?ref=aymt_homepage_panel. Phone: (269) 720-7742.

1. One of the main reasons I ran for public office was to help improve the quality of life for all residents. My professional experiences as a college educator provides important guidance and knowledge that directly aids my understanding and my commitment to improve the quality of life for all residents. I bring to the county commission a strong intellectual understanding of the many social problems people face on a daily basis. I also have personal experience, being grow up in a family that is deeply impacted by addiction, that allows me to better understand the many issues people are facing on a more personal level.

2. The two most critical issues facing our County, not just in my district, are homelessness and poverty. We have many great organizations and programs throughout the county that directly work with residents. I am the only Commissioner that is impacted by a family whose lives are so far too high. The Commission can help address these issues by directing the County to serve as the convener to bring the different local units of government and organizations together to receive the most information about our citizens so we can work together to create action plans that will address and reduce the number of individuals that are impacted by these two critical issues.

3. Enhancing citizen engagement is crucial. For too long many have felt unheard, their vote doesn’t matter, or have felt an overall skepticism toward all levels of government. Things are changing though. People are more engaged than ever. It’s not uncommon for us to hear from many citizens during “citizen time.” I would love to see even more during our meetings. I believe strongly that we need to update and improve many aspects of the democratic process. We should be making it easier for people to vote not harder, allow for “no reason” absentee voting, and early voting. I also strongly support the “voters not politicians” ballot initiative.

4. My philosophy has been guiding my actions on the Commission and will continue to do so if I am fortunate to get re-elected. I am working to make Kalamazoo an even better place to live, work, and go to school. While I strongly stand for progressive values, I believe it works across partisan lines, listening to all citizens, and engaging citizens as well. I have the privilege of working with the citizens and the County to accomplish goals.

5. I will continue to work hard on issues that directly impact residents of Kalamazoo County.

District 4

Kalamazoo City precincts 5, 6, 10, Kalamazoo Township precincts 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 12
City of Portage

Michael A. Seals
Democrat
Age 57. Kalamazoo County Commissioner District 4. Davenport College Associates Degree in Business Management/Communication/Marketing. 8 years U.S. Navy. 15 Years at Consumers Energy, and 18 years on the United Way Board of Directors. 18 years as Kalamazoo East Side Neighborhood Association, 6 years As President. Labor Council since 1994 and current 2nd Vice President; and many more community events. Campaign Email: Michael.20324366@gmail.com.

1. During my last 8 years on the board I have worked on all infrastructure projects, Brought to Energy as a Line Worker. 10 years on the United Way Board of Directors. 28 years at Kalamazoo Public Schools as an Administrative Assistant. I am currently serving as a board member of the Kalamazoo County Commission under the Board of Directors of Kalamazoo County. I have been teaching political science courses for 15 years and have a strong intellectual understanding of how local governments work. I also serve on various boards and committees. As a teacher and an activist I have a proven track record of communicating well with individuals from all walks of life. Campaign Website: http://www.hallelect.org. Email: tracy.hall39@gmail.com. Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/tracyhall42420?ref=aymt_homepage_panel. Phone: (269) 720-7742.

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5. I will continue to work hard on issues that directly impact residents of Kalamazoo County.

District 5

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

Chad Dillon
Republican

1. Everyday I assist veterans and members of our military navigate the government to access the help they need. I will leverage my experience to improve programs and effectively reach those in our community that need assistance.

2. The increased tax burden is a problem that will continue if we do not act. Our local taxes continue to rise hurting the most vulnerable in our community. I will fight to relieve this burden on our seniors and every hard working person in Kalamazoo. Kalamazoo county has a large population of veterans and military families. Not enough is being done to assist them. We have to find policy solutions and support that those need the counties help. I will work to make Kalamazoo the most veteran friendly county in Michigan.

3. (No response from candidate)

4. I am committed to putting the citizens of Kalamazoo county first. The county commission should be focused on serving the people here on the water quality status, as well as assist with actions to proactively address any future water challenges. Advocating for business growth and development ensures opportunities for expanded tax revenue while also providing employment opportunities for area residents. I will work with local business associations and support organizations to identify additional resources to support business growth as well as explore opportunities for linkages with small business programs for the area.

Julie M. Rogers
Democrat

1. I’ve served 3 terms on the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners and many county advisory boards. I’m the only Commissioner with a health care background, practicing as a full time physical therapist. A significant part of the county budget is spent on our community health department. I’ve held a variety of roles in the County Commission’s Health Steering Committee, crafting America’s public health policy. I’ve advocated for Federal work- force development training grants including skilled trades apprenticeship programs. Over 1,500 jobs have been created while I’ve served on the Kalamazoo County Brownfield Redev- elopment Authority.

2. (a) Jobs for Kalamazoo are my top priority. I’ve been working to retain employers and attract new ones. My service on Workforce Development Board and Kalamazoo County Economic Development demonstrates my commitment to job growth. (b) Protect- ing Essential County Services (public health, road patrol / public safety, infrastructure, veterans
services and parks) is critical to Kalamazoo’s health and wellbeing. With shrinking Federal dollars for these mandated services, I’ll advocate for public-private partnerships, work for sound budget practices, and support cost-effective services to stretch our resources as far as possible.

3. For 6 years, I’ve held quarterly community coffees to interact with residents. I also publish newsletters, maintain a Commissioner Facebook page and website, and make my personal phone and email publicly available for input. In 2017, my budget amendment put the annual County budget online (a first) for citizens’ input. I co-authored a grant awarded to Kalamazoo County & City of Kalamazoo by the MacArthur Foundation aimed at reducing the number of young adults in our jail. I plan to work with law enforcement, judges, prosecutor and community groups to develop goals and benchmarks toward improving this critical area. Our youth are our future.

4. Collaboration and compromise are critical to building consensus. While we may not all agree on policy, respecting differences and moving Kalamazoo County forward to solve difficult issues is key. I have introduced several resolutions and policies that have passed either unani-
ously or with bipartisan support. This year I was one of 23 County leaders chosen nationwide for County Leadership Institute training in Washington, DC. I will share lessons learned with my colleagues while trying to solve key issues. Collaboration with other local governments is also important to the success of our region. I seek local input prior to decision making.

District 6

Townships of Cooper, Richland, Ross

Ron Kendall

Republic

Age 32. Legislative Director; Michigan House of Representatives. B.A. Public Policy; Western Michigan University. First term County Commissioner. Six years in the Michigan Legislature. Campaign Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/rendalledorforkalamazoo. Phone: (269) 760-0322.

1. I will continue to advocate for the voters of the out country areas. I will work with my colleagues to pursue the best available options for our citizens. 

2. Continuing to address the long term debt obligations of the county. Fostering a stronger rela-
tionship with all municipalities to continue to draw in investment in jobs and housing through the out area.

3. I support people attending our meetings and reaching out directly to their commissioner to advocate their position. I will also encourage people to participate in the Citizen Budget Survey located on the county’s website at www.kalamazoo.com. 

4. I will continue to advocate for fiscal responsibility and living within our means. Being prudent with the resources we have best positions the county now and for years to come.

District 7

Townships of Charleston, Climax, Comstock, Wakeshma, City of Galesburg

Roger Tuinier

Republic

Did not respond in time to be included.

John Gisler

Republican

Age 74. County Commissioner - South County. All Wabash College - Zoology/Chemistry; MBA; Supervisory Management degree. Kalamazoo County Commissioner 2011-2012 and 2015-2018. Extensive business experience in the pharmaceutical industry, including 14 years as a manager with responsibility for multi-million dollar budgets. Campaign Email: gisler@siliconcast.net. Phone: (269) 233-0259.

1. My years as a manager with budget responsibility, coupled with my MBA in Finance, will enable me to help keep Kalamazoo one of the most fiscally sound counties in Michigan. 

2. We must learn to prioritize our annual budget. We cannot continue to provide all services to all municipalities to continue to draw in investment in jobs and housing through the out area.

3. I support people attending our meetings and reaching out directly to their commissioner to advocate their position. I will also encourage people to participate in the Citizen Budget Survey located on the county’s website at www.kalamazoo.com. 

4. I will continue to advocate for fiscal responsibility and living within our means. Being prudent with the resources we have best positions the county now and for years to come.

District 9

Texas Township Oshkosh Township precincts 4, 5, 7, 8

Dale Shugars

Republican

sentative, 4 years. Parent of County Council Member; Mayor Pro Tem, 7 years. Former Small Business Owner, Treasurer and Secretary of the Michigan Fitness Foundation. Member of MIPA-C, Kalamazoo Area Runners. Former Board Member of Urban Alliance, MRC, Boys Scouts. Two-
time Recipient of MSAS Key Award for Leadership. Campaign Email: daleshugars@gmail.com. Phone: (269) 207-5027.

1. With nearly twenty-three years experience serving the Kalamazoo Area (as a Portage City Council Member, State Representative, State Senator, County Commissioner) I have gained valuable experience and understanding of the laws, politics and dynamics of the town-
ships, cities, villages and the County governments. This experience is extremely important as we work to improve governmental services while increasing their efficiencies. Having the knowledge and a trusted relationship with all levels of government is important as the region continues to grow.

2. (a) There is a growing demand for a County Park on the west side of the County to service the citizens that area. The Parks Director and the Parks Commission have been working to make it happen, but the goal and the Commission needs to continue to help and support their efforts. (b) The financing of the 911 Consolidated Dispatch Authority will run out in four years from the PSAPs. We need to work with all townships, cities, and citizens to develop a sustainable funding model after the PSAPs are no longer contributing total approximately $5.5 million a year? 

3. I will promote respect of all people through kindness and engagement (listening and interact-
ing through constructive dialogue). We may not all agree on everything but we can agree to listen and be respectful of all residents. Commissioner John Gisler suggested a Citizens Budget Survey a couple of years ago and this year the County has begun the first such survey. As elected offi-
cials being accessible and approachable is a high priority of mine.

4. My servant leadership is conducive for bringing people together in solving problems facing the County through listening to everyone. I have a seasoned perspective of governance, the Commission (the only Board of Directors the Administrator (irreplaceable for daily operations) and we both work as a team leading the County government within the laws of the State and Federal governments and with all citizen input. We need individuals with leadership expe-
rience and the desire to listen to all citizens in developing policy and budget for local issues priorities n-speaking. I have the experience and skills to accomplish these objectives.

Christine Morse

Democrat

Age 45. Attorney (retired). Student in KVCC’s Culinary Arts Program. Community activist. J.D. Wayne State University Law School. B.A. in Political Science Michigan State University. Current student of KVCC’s Culinary Arts Program. My background is in politics, law, charitable organiza-
tions and more recently community activism. I have a husband with a small business and three children in Portage Public Schools. I have lived on both coasts, Japan, Chicago, and the east side of Michigan. I want to help make my chosen home town the absolute best it can be for its citizens now and in the future. Campaign Email: morsecristine@hotmail.com. Facebook: http://www. 
facebook.com/vote4Morse. Phone: (269) 207-5027.

1. To me, the most important aspects of being a County Commissioner include: educating our constituents on what the Board of Commissioners provides to the community; learning from our constituents what is important to them in terms of county management, and putting those ideas into action. Educating and learning require communication skills. I am a people person first and foremost. I truly enjoy getting to know new people from all walks of life. 

2. This skill will serve to provide District 9’s constituents with a responsive Commissioner who respects their opinions.

2. For District 9, I believe the critical issues include continued business growth and development as well as promotion of all of the wonderful assets our District already offers. In recent years, Texas Corners and Oshtemo have been experiencing growth in both large and small busi-
nesses that create a sense of community and convenience that our residents enjoy. People generally value having more local options and shorter travel times. As a County Commissioner, I will work to promote District 9 as an attractive location for businesses big and small to provide options for our residents for both work and play.

3. If elected, I will hold monthly meetings in District 9 with the intent of informing the constitu-
ents of the Board’s activities. This will also give constituents an opportunity to raise issues relevant to the County as well as any concerns they may have. Through my Facebook site, I will continue to promote County activities as well as encourage any ques-
tions or comments the constituents have regarding County activities. I would also like to
highlight the incredibly diverse programs and entities that the County provides and supports through Facebook postings to raise awareness as to all that the County does.

4. My goal for serving on the the Board of Commissioners is to provide a responsive, listening ear for the people of this community. Reliable information and our decisions will benefit the most the majority of the people we serve. What the people want is more important than my personal stake in any particular issue or for any future political aspirations I may have. I also think that the Board should avoid becoming so partisan on every issue. We are all neighbors and concerned about major issues, we can find common ground. The principles of cooperation and collaboration will inform my actions as a Commissioner if I am elected.

District 10

City of Portage

Kalamazoo County Commission, continued

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District 10

City of Portage

Steve Carra
Republican
Age 29. Legislative Aide for State Representative Steve Johnson. Graduated from Portage Northern High School in 2007 and WMU in 2011 with degrees in economics and political science. I did research assistance at Acton Institute in Grand Rapids. My time there organized my analytical skills, education in economics and political science, and work experience at Acton Institute and as a legislative aide in the state legislature equipped me with the tools

3. I believe in Freedom of Speech and support the county’s policies regarding that. I encourage citizens to express their opinions, but it isn’t for every citizen to attend the BOC meetings. I meet daily with people in my district and throughout the county to gather their input and know the pulse within the community. That is a burden the commissioners should bear. I participate on many board and committees to help the county connect with its citizenry. As a commissioner, we need to engage with our citizenry and be their voice in county government. I have taken on a commitment of duties and services to ensure those values.

4. I believe strongly in something that former President Ronald Reagan once said, “Government’s first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives.” Too often, our government (at all levels) is trying to control the lives of its citizens through regulations, laws and taxes. I believe in lower taxes, less government regulation and personal freedom. As a commissioner at the county level, but can still be relevant. Our focus should be on the people of the county and what affects them. As commissioners, we need to make sure we have the best and brightest people employed and engaged at the county and we need to support administration to lead them.

Meredith Place
Democrat

2. As a Commissioner, I will focus on issues related to revenue distribution and economic develop-

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Campaigning at the Polls

Michigan election law stipulates that individuals who wish to campaign or distribute election information must conduct their activities at least 100 feet away from a building entrance in which a polling place is located. The “100 feet rule” applies to the following activities:

- Approaching voters to influence their vote.
- Distributing campaign literature or write-in stickers
- Displaying signs, posters, or bumper stickers related to election issues
- Displaying information regarding ballot proposals (this includes the “pro” and “cons” of ballot proposals)
- Circulating petitions
- Soliciting donations

These activities and materials are also prohibited in hallways used by voters to enter or exit a polling place.

According to Michigan law, election officials may ask voters entering the polls to remove campaign buttons, or to cover clothing bearing a candidate’s name or slogan pertinent to election issues. Although voters may bring campaign literature or election information like the LWV Voter Guide with them into the polling place for their own use, election officials may ask them to conceal the materials so that they do not influence other voters. Election officials periodically check voting stations to make sure they are free of campaign literature.


Eight-year term  Vote for no more than two

What educational, occupational, civic and community experiences have you had that particularly qualify you for this judicial office? Why are you running?

I have over fifteen years of experience as an appellate attorney, representing people in all aspects of their legal lives. I have held leadership positions with the Appellate Practice and Negligence Sections of the State Bar of Michigan. I am a member of the Michigan Bar Foundation, and serve as Secretary of its Appellate Section during the mid-1990s, then returning as Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under President Obama and Attorney General Holder. I have argued four cases in the Supreme Court of the United States. I have lobbied for voting rights, disability rights, women’s rights, and accountability for the Flint Water Crisis. The Court needs justices who have fought for people’s rights.

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.

Questions

1. What educational, occupational, civic and community experiences have you had that particularly qualify you for this judicial office? Why are you running?

2. Do you believe the current process for electing Supreme Court Justices should be altered in any way—including how candidates are nominated for election or appointed for vacancies?

and how campaigns are funded and regulated?

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?

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.

Samuel Bagenstos


1. Early in my career, I was a law clerk to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the U.S. Supreme Court. I served two stints in the U.S. Department of Justice, first as an attorney in the Civil Rights Divi- sion’s Appellate Section during the mid-1990s, then returning as Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under President Obama and Attorney General Holder. I have argued four cases in the Supreme Court of the United States. I have lobbied for voting rights, disability rights, women’s rights, and accountability for the Flint Water Crisis. The Court needs justices who have fought for people’s rights.

2. There is no perfect system of selecting judges. Our current system is suboptimal, however, in two respects. First, in our current process, candidates are nominated by political parties, but they appear on a “nonpartisan” ballot that hides that information from voters. Either a purely nonpartisan system or an honest partisan system would be preferable. Second, campaigns for the Michigan Supreme Court are expensive, and they are largely funded by attorneys and others who might have business before the Court. That corrodes public confidence in the impartiality of the Court. Campaign finance reform would improve things.

3. First, the Michigan Supreme Court must be prepared to perform the state courts’ historic function of serving as the last line of defense for basic rights, such as the rights to liberty, equality, and a clean environment. As the federal courts pull back from protecting these rights, the role of the Michigan courts will grow in importance. Second, the Michigan Supreme Court should use its administrative authority to maintain public confidence in the courts (by address- ing such issues as jury diversity) and to promote alternatives to the criminal justice system as appropriate (for example, through problem-solving courts).

Megan Kathleen Cavanagh


1. I graduated from the U of M College of Engineering and Wayne State University Law School. I have over fifteen years of experience as an appellate attorney, representing people in all levels of state court and handling over 150 appeals. I have held leadership positions with the Appellate Practice and Negligence Sections of the State Bar of Michigan. I am a member of the Attorney Grievance Commission. My experience reflects a commitment to improving the fairness of Michigan’s justice system. I believe that each person should stand on equal footing before the Court and receive fair consideration of the issues.

2. I am comfortable with the people of the state of Michigan judging my experience and tem- perament and determining whether I am the best candidate for this important office. Spend- ing by interest groups on issue ads (dark money) undermines public confidence in the judiciary because it makes the public believe that Justice is bought and paid for when this branch of government does not operate that way. The job of a Justice is to make decisions according to the law, no matter who likes that decision. Public funding would eliminate the influence of dark money on judicial elections.

Catherine Cramer


1. The Supreme Court needs Justices who will apply the law as written, not as it ought to be writ- ten in the mind of the Judge. My background in the law for over thirty-five 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 sand 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 “fairness” 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 function of serving as the last line of defense for basic rights, such as the rights to liberty, equality, and a clean environment. As the federal courts pull back from protecting these rights, the role of the Michigan courts will grow in importance. Second, the Michigan Supreme Court should use its administrative authority to maintain public confidence in the courts (by addressing such issues as jury diversity) and to promote alternatives to the criminal justice system as appropriate (for example, through problem-solving courts).

Elizabeth T. Clement


1. I have been a lawyer working in the trenches helping everyday people. I have a deep understanding of how rule rulings effect the common Jane. My opinion is that the current jus- tices have lost site of that.

2. No

3. Police corruption is always a concern. The Flint water situation should be a concern. I think the cur- rent is a light on reviewing criminal appeals. The Flint water crisis is the result of corporate greed.

Kerry Lee Morgan


1. The Supreme Court needs Justices who will apply the law as written, not as it ought to be writ- ten in the mind of the Judge. My background in the law for over thirty-five 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 sand 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 “fairness” 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.

Kurtis T. Wilder


1. Life. I have been a lawyer working in the trenches helping everyday people. I have a deep understanding of how rule rulings effect the common Jane. My opinion is that the current jus- tices have lost site of that.

2. No

3. Police corruption is always a concern. The Flint water situation should be a concern. I think the cur- rent is a light on reviewing criminal appeals. The Flint water crisis is the result of corporate greed.

Questions

1. What educational, occupational, civic and community experiences have you had that par- ticularly qualify you for this judicial office? Why are you running?

2. Do you believe the current process for electing Supreme Court Justices should be altered in any way—including how candidates are nominated for election or appointed for vacancies?

and how campaigns are funded and regulated?

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?

The two greatest areas of need are reform of the juvenile justice system and improving access to justice. The Supreme Court should be actively engaged with other stakeholders in consider- ing solutions such as diversion programs, community based detention, and specialty courts. Our current justice system doesn’t provide equal access to justice for those most vulnerable among us. Everyone has the right to effective counsel and I will fight to fulfill that promise for all regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, dis- ability status, geography or income level.
Statewide Proposal 18-1

A proposed initiated law to authorize and legalize possession, use and cultivation of marijuana products by individuals who are at least 21 years of age and older, and commercial sales of marijuana through state-licensed retailers.

This proposal would:
- Allow individuals 21 and older to purchase, possess and use marijuana and marijuana-infused edibles, and grow up to 12 marijuana plants for personal consumption.
- Impose a 10-ounce limit for marijuana kept at residences and require amounts over 2.5 ounces be secured in locked containers.
- Create a state licensing system for marijuana businesses and allow municipalities to ban or restrict them.
- Permit retail sales of marijuana and edibles subject to a 10% tax, dedicated to implementation costs, clinical trials, schools, roads, and municipalities where marijuana businesses are located.
- Change several current violations from crimes to civil infractions.

Should this proposal be adopted? [ ] YES [ ] NO

Statewide Proposal 18-2

A proposed constitutional amendment to establish a commission of citizens with exclusive authority to adopt district boundaries for the Michigan Senate, Michigan House of Representatives and U.S. Congress, every 10 years.

This proposed constitutional amendment would:
- Create a commission of 13 registered voters randomly selected by the Secretary of State:
  - 4 each who self-identify as affiliated with the 2 major political parties; and
  - 5 who self-identify as unaffiliated with major political parties.
- Prohibit partisan officeholders and candidates, their employees, certain relatives, and lobbyists from serving as commissioners.
- Establish new redistricting criteria including geographically compact and contiguous districts of equal population, reflecting Michigan’s diverse population and communities of interest. Districts shall not provide disproportionate advantage to political parties or candidates.
- Require an appropriation of funds for commission operations and commissioner compensation.

Should this proposal be adopted? [ ] YES [ ] NO

Statewide Proposal 18-3

A proposal to authorize automatic and Election Day voter registration, no-reason absentee voting, and straight ticket voting; and add current legal requirements for military and overseas voting and postelection audits to the Michigan Constitution

This proposed constitutional amendment would allow a United States citizen who is qualified to vote in Michigan to:
- Become automatically registered to vote when applying for, updating or renewing a driver’s license or state-issued personal identification card, unless the person declines.
- Simultaneously register to vote with proof of residency and obtain a ballot during the 2-week period prior to an election, up to and including Election Day.
- Obtain an absent voter ballot without providing a reason.
- Cast a straight-ticket vote for all candidates of a particular political party when voting in a partisan general election.

Should this proposal be adopted? [ ] YES [ ] NO

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
- 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.
Elections 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 (www.VOTE411.org). You can find the number for your local elections office and data on the candidates. The 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 - 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 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
- Campaign debates (information on League-hosted debates is available on VOTE411.org)

In a local race, interviews with the candidates can be helpful. For incumbents, a look at their voting records can 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 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’ stands on issues?

**Step 5: Learn about the candidates’ leadership abilities.**

Decide 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 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 candidate’s 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? Who 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 way that are 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.

Guilty 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.

Evaading 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
- 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, on Election Day, go to the polls and vote!
10 Reasons to Vote

1. Your vote does count.
2. Democracy only works if we vote.
3. If you don’t vote, others decide your future.
4. You cannot change a situation by ignoring it.
5. Voting is power.
6. Elections determine leaders and politics.
7. Without your vote, your voice will not be heard.
8. When you don’t vote, special interests take control.
9. If you don’t vote, don’t complain.
10. People have died for the freedom to vote.
## Kalamazoo County Precinct Locations

**Polls Open Tuesday, November 6, 2018 — 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 Gainesburg Baptist Church ...................................... 10100 Shadowland 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 Lakewood 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 J #2 ..................................................... 3160 McKnelly St.
- #3 Bethel Baptist Church ............................................. 5701 Mt. Olivet Rd.
- #4 North Bridge Church .............................................. 8824 Douglas Drive.
- #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 Ln.
- #4 West Main School Professional Development Center ........ 1625 West Main St.
- #5 Westwood Fire Station ............................................ 1310 Nichols Rd.
- #7 Hillside Middle School ........................................... 1941 Alano Ave.
- #8 Westland Meadows Community Room ......................... 4300 Leisure Ln.
- #9 Second Christian Reformed Church ............................ 3015 Nichols Rd.
- #10 Eastwood Fire Station .......................................... 2703 East St.
- #11 Northeastern Elementary School ............................... 2433 Gertrude Rd.
- #12 Sunnyside United Methodist Church ......................... 2800 Gull Road

### Oshtemo Charter Township
- #1 Township Hall .................................................... 7275 West Main St.
- #2 Fire Station J #2 ..................................................... 3500 South 6th St.
- #3 People’s Church .................................................... 1758 North 10th St.
- #4 Voyage Church – Fellowship Hall ............................. 6339 Atlantic Ave.
- #5 West Kalamazoo Christian Church (Lobby) .................... 454 S. Drake Rd.
- #6 West Kalamazoo Christian Church (Auditorium) ............. 454 S. Drake Rd.
- #7 Voyage Church – Gymnasium ................................... 6339 Atlantic Ave.
- #8 Oshtemo Community Center ..................................... 6407 Parkview Ave.
- #9 Oshtemo Branch Library ......................................... 7265 West St.
- #10 Oshtemo United Methodist Church ......................... 6574 Stadium Drive

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

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

### Richland Township
- #1 Gull Lake United Methodist Church ......................... 8640 Gull Road
- #2 Township Hall ..................................................... 7401 North 32nd St.
- #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 W Ave.
- #2 & 4 Ken Krum Recreational Center ............................. 519 East Clay St.
- #3 Vicksburg United Methodist Church ......................... 217 South Main St.

### Texas Charter Township
- #1 Calvary Reformed Church ....................................... 7829 South 5th St.
- #2 Township Hall – Lower Meeting Room ......................... 7110 West Q Ave.
- #3 KVCC Groves Campus .............................................. 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 First United Methodist Church ............................ 212 S. Park St.
- #2 & 4 Bernhard Student Center .................................. Western Michigan University
- #5 Arcadia Elementary School ....................................... 932 Boswell Lane
- #6 Friendship Village Kiva .......................................... 1400 N. Drake Rd.
- #7 & 9 Douglass Community Association ......................... 1000 W. Paterson St.
- #8 & 27 Mt. Zion Baptist Church .................................. 120 Roberson St.
- #10 Spring Valley Center for Exploration ......................... 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 Kalamazoo Public Schools Building ........................... 3333 S. Westnedge Ave.
- #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 City Hall ............................................................ 650 S. Riverview Dr.

### Portage City
- #1 & 15 Portage Public Schools “Dog House” Multipurpose Gym .... 1000 Idaho Ave.
- #2 Golderentree 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 KRESA 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.

Source: Kalamazoo County Clerk / Register Office

**League of Women Voters Kalamazoo Area • P.O. Box 2106 • Kalamazoo, MI 49003-2106

VOTE
11.6.18**