

# LWW

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

*Kalamazoo Area*

2017



## Voter Guide



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By Your Local **League of Women Voters**

## 2017 General Election Voter Guide

### Non-partisan Information for Candidates of Kalamazoo & Portage City Elections

### November 7, 2017

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

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

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### What's in this Guide

Information About Voting

Kalamazoo City Commission

Mayor of Kalamazoo

Portage City Council

Mayer of Portage

Polling locations

### Also on the November ballot:

- Parchment City Commission
- Alamo Township Emergency Service Millage
- Pavilion Township Fire Department Millage Proposal
- Otsego Public Schools Bonding Proposal
- Vicksburg Community Schools Operating Millage Renewal Proposal

Information about candidates and proposals can be found on the Kalamazoo County website ([www.kalcounty.com](http://www.kalcounty.com))



**This Guide is online at: [www.lwvka.org](http://www.lwvka.org) and [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)**

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# Vote Tuesday, November 7, 2017

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 10. 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.
5. Tabulate the ballot by inserting it into the optical scanner.

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

## About Voter Identification

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

To implement this requirement, precinct election workers will ask voters for photo identification at the polls. The following are acceptable forms of photo identification (ID), assuming they are current and a picture is provided:

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

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

## Write-in Candidates

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

Votes for write-in candidates are counted only for persons who have declared their intent, at the appropriate jurisdiction, to be write-in candidates by 4 p.m. on the second Friday preceding the election—October 27. 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](http://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](http://www.michigan.gov/vote). Enter your name, birth month and year, and zip code.

## For Students

The State of Michigan allows students to register to vote at a permanent address (a parent's address, for example) or at a school address. It is important to know that the address on your voter registration must match the address on your driver's license. Registering to vote will change the address found on your driver's license, if you register at a different address. Likewise, if you change the address on your driver's license, the address of your voter registration will be changed to match. **You can vote only in the precinct where you are registered**, so take that into consideration when you complete a voter registration form or renew your license.

## 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 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.

## Absentee Ballots

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

**You are eligible to vote absentee if you:**

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

## How do I receive the ballot?

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

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

Blank absent voter ballot applications can be obtained through your city or township clerk. Members of the armed forces and their spouses and dependents, members of the Merchant Marine and their spouses and dependents, and U.S. citizens temporarily living or traveling outside the territorial limits of the United States 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 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.com](http://Vote411.com) for submissions after the publication deadline.

## 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.

# Mayor of Kalamazoo

## Two-year term Vote for one

**Description:** The Mayor is a member of the Commission with the same duties as other members and serves as the representative of the City. The Mayor is elected for a two-year term. Vote for one candidate.

### Questions

1. Why are you running for Mayor of Kalamazoo? What strengths or talents especially qualify you for that office?
2. What do you think will be two major issues confronting Kalamazoo in the next two years? How do you propose to address them?
3. What aspects of the Foundation for Excellence are most exciting to you? What aspects, if any, concern you?

## Bobby Hopewell

Age 53. 525 Stuart Ave. President and CEO, Mobile Health Resources. Western Michigan University, M.A. Organizational Learning and Performance. Siena Heights University, B.A., Public Service/EMS Administration. KVCC, A.S., Health Technology. KVCC Certified Paramedic. Mayor, City of Kalamazoo, since 2007. Vice Mayor, City of Kalamazoo, 2005-2007. Kalamazoo City Commissioner 2003-2005. Campaign Website: <http://www.bobbyhopewell.com>. Email: [bobbyhopewell2@gmail.com](mailto:bobbyhopewell2@gmail.com). Facebook Page: [Hope 4 Kalamazoo Re-elect Bobby Hopewell Mayor of Kalamazoo](https://www.facebook.com/Hope4Kalamazoo). Twitter Handle: [@hope4kzoo](https://twitter.com/hope4kzoo).

1. I am running for Mayor of Kalamazoo because I love this City! I want to see our city thrive and improve. To do so, we must continue to: (a) maintain fiscal stability of city government; (b) build strong neighborhoods; (c) ensure public safety; (d) support an environment of economic growth and innovation; and (e) consolidate government services. I believe my experience on the City Commission since 2003 and as Mayor since 2007, and my style of leadership, which is experienced, balanced, inclusive, and passionate, can best help address the challenges facing our community.
2. (a) Staying true to the city's Strategic Vision which was informed by over 3,500 residents through Imagine Kalamazoo 2025. This is the best guide we have to what our citizens want for their neighborhoods, their lives and our city. I will keep this vision in the forefront of the work that we do for Kalamazoo. (b) Success of the Foundation for Excellence will be key to our city's future. I will work with the Foundation's board to guide the best work possible. I will partner with the lead donors to raise the dollars needed to sustain the Foundation and the city.
3. The Foundation enables us to move our community forward not from a place of scarcity, but one of real possibility. This is truly amazing and exciting — especially given the blueprint set forth by our residents with Imagine Kalamazoo 2025. The challenge will be to raise the remaining dollars needed to fully fund the Foundation and then to manage those resources in a manner that honors our citizens' vision. It will be challenging work, but we are just the community to meet this challenge.

## Chris Wahmhoff (write-in)

Age 39. 1407 Bryant Street. Mental health services / Home health aide. I graduated from Plainwell high school, and attended the Art institute of Pittsburgh, and Kalamazoo valley community college. My field of work requires me to build relationships, overcome significant communication challenges, and consistent lack of resources to ensure the safety of the people I serve. I have worked on several state budget cases for decades. I also have been involved in multiple boards and associations in Kalamazoo including the Edison neighborhood association and Environmental concerns committee. Campaign Phone: (269) 599-3327. Website: <http://www.chriswahmhoff4kalamazoo.com>. Email: [Chriswahmhoff@gmail.com](mailto:Chriswahmhoff@gmail.com). Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/chris4kazoo/>. Twitter Handle: [@ChrisWahmhoff](https://twitter.com/ChrisWahmhoff). Video: <https://youtu.be/V8buXZZjvc>.

1. Why: I'm running because I am concerned about the lack of transparency around the foundation of excellence, and the continued disproportionate tax system locally. I want to use our resources to help the people who live in the city, not large companies. strength & talent: I let action dictate who I am here for, from skate boarding into the expansion of the pipeline that ruptured, to organizing an emergency response to fire's, or teaching kids in Edison about farming. I show up to help every way I can. I believe in action so my pay as mayor will go to help city families in tax foreclosure, to start offsetting our disproportionate taxes.
2. Good Governance, and Poverty. Good Governance, (transparency, accountability, and oversight), we need realistic citizen oversight of departments like The city managers office, Foundation for excellence and police department. They are not publicly appointed, and our working class is exploited by it. Poverty, we must first understand poverty is layered with issues like racism, and corruption playing large roles. It cannot be "fixed" with a glance, but individually. We need relationship building to address poverty, and then we need to provide relief from our disproportionate economic burdens and invest in opportunities that help people up.
3. My grandpa would say "If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is." We just privatized 1/3 of our General fund to Snyders PAC Chair and Wallstreet. It's never happened before. From the start it has been a changing story or no strings, when commissioners found strings and spoke up we were told "trust us" and then an amendment to remove them was voted down. This is the reason for a late decision to run for mayor. The people have to look at this more carefully. 1: we need to revisit the amendment to remove donor restricted funds. 2: we need the city resident board seats to be publicly electable. 3: we need to ensure transparency.

# Kalamazoo City Commission

## Four-year term Vote for up to three

**Description:** City Commissioners are elected representatives of the citizens of Kalamazoo. The Commission provides leadership and policy direction for the community and all municipal government activities with a focus on the long-term financial stability of the city and identification of community priorities. The Commission consists of seven members, including the Mayor. Commission members are elected to four-year terms staggered every two years. Three Commissioners are elected every two years. Vote for up to three candidates.

### Questions

1. Why are you running for Kalamazoo City Commission? What strengths or talents especially qualify you for that office?
2. What do you think will be two major issues confronting Kalamazoo in the next two years? How do you propose to address them?
3. What aspects of the Foundation for Excellence are most exciting to you? What aspects, if any, concern you?

## Leona R. Carter

Age 40. 608 Minor Ave. I help mothers successful in their profession translate that success to motherhood. Maric College, Vista CA, Nursing Certification 1997. Life Transformation Coaching Academy, Kalamazoo MI, Certified Life Coach 2017. As a former board member of various committees including, Vine Neighborhood Association, Kalamazoo Literacy Council, the Community Action Tripartite Advisory Board, and a mother of six, I can relate first-hand to communities that need a voice at the table. If elected, I am confident that I will be instrumental in helping to promote a solid foundation to build an even stronger, vibrant community. Campaign Phone: (269) 365-3385. Email: [toblikehim@live.com](mailto:toblikehim@live.com). Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/leonacarter4kzoo](https://www.facebook.com/leonacarter4kzoo).

1. As the largest Kalamazoo Promise family, I am committed to serving my community and running because I recognize issues such as, citizen engagement, understanding diversity and treating each other with dignity and respect, and community vitality continues to be ongoing concerns that need community voices. As a community advocate and former board member of various committees including, Vine Neighborhood Association, Kalamazoo Literacy Council, and Community Action Tripartite Advisory Board, I will be a voice in the community represented at the table. Communities not at the table, are usually on the menu.
2. One major issue is the operating budget deficit. As a City Commissioner, my role will be to advocate for a plan of action to improve fiscal health and problem solve practical ways to maintain core municipal services. I am confident that the city's priority-based budgeting will continue to create a shared vision towards the goal of economic efficiency as we work towards the five priorities recently adopted. Another major issue will be finding other ways municipalities can collaborate services to cut operating costs. As a mother of six, I would love to see more collaboration within schools and community services across municipalities.
3. Let's just ask a few questions: 1) Am I understanding that you would like to reduce the tax burden on residents and simultaneously ask residents to give to an endowment fund? 2) If two philanthropists are donating monetarily, who is donating a methodology, that doesn't involve the residents' pockets? 3) Of the 80% of respondents that were supportive of the Foundation

for Excellence, what was the total number of residents surveyed? Do they live in the city of Kalamazoo? 4) For the strategic partnerships with organizations whose mission and work aligns with the goals of the city, what financial contribution or plan have they donated?

## Charley Coss

Age 57. 2506 Angling Rd. Business Owner/Operator for over 30 years. Vice Chair City Planning Commission. Bachelor of Arts - Communications; Master of Public Administration - State Gov. Concentration. Business Owner over 30 years. City CDAAC / Planning Commission - 15 Yr. Special Olympics Volunteer - Asst. Coach 10 Yr. Ski Patrol Volunteer 10 Yr. Oakwood Neighborhood Assn. - Board 5 yr. Campaign Phone: (269) 290-1237. Website: <http://www.voteccoss.com>. Email: [ElectCharley@voteccoss.com](mailto:ElectCharley@voteccoss.com). Facebook Page: [facebook.com/votecoss](https://www.facebook.com/votecoss). Twitter Handle: [@votecoss](https://twitter.com/votecoss).

1. We need to GET THE LEAD OUT of our Water System. Lets Support and Speed Up the Water System Repairs. Lets not be the Next Flint. We are blessed with a 70 Million Dollar windfall to lower property taxes, lets make our tax dollars work for a better Infrastructure. This is a Great Opportunity to Make Kalamazoo - The Model City. My experience in both the Private & Public Sector, making me uniquely qualified to bring a needed perspective to the City Commission. With a Communication background and understanding of budgeting, as well as project management skills, I look forward to working with the Mayor to map out a great future for Kalamazoo.
2. (a) We need to address out failing Infrastructure, especially our Water System. - We need to Get THE LEAD OUT of the remain areas First. Get the Hot Zones Removed. - We need to use State of the Art Techniques to Move Faster. - Support Ours workers with better tools and training. (b) We need to improve our Budget and Planning, utilizing the New Consolidated/Five Year Plan as our guideline. - The City has done great work with Imagine Kalamazoo. - We should leverage this work and create a long term budget, through a Clear Vision and Mission Statement - Put that Vision into a long term Budget and partner with our great citizen organizations.

# Kalamazoo City Commission, continued

3. We applaud our community philanthropists in helping our great city. What a great opportunity to relieve the burden on our city's taxpayers and address some key issues facing the city like infrastructure. In the short term this new financing model works, but we must focus on long term financial sustainability. The current group of philanthropists are well known for their support of Kalamazoo, and the city wholeheartedly appreciates their investment in our future. But we need to be cautious of the concentration of funding by a few donors, who may not have the city's best interest in mind. We all need to participate in Kalamazoo's future.

## Eric Cunningham

Age 35. 1621 E. Michigan Ave. State of Michigan / Case Manager. Masters Of Public Administration: Healthcare Administration Western Michigan University; Bachelor Of Business Administration: Business Management Western Michigan University. Kalamazoo City Commissioner January 2015 - November 2015; Kalamazoo County Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Council (KCAN) 2016 - Present Executive Board Member; Black Arts and Cultural Center 2015 - Present Executive Board Member; Kalamazoo Champion Child Welfare Executive Steering Committee 2013 - 2015 Community/Communications Vice Chairman; Northside Rocket Football, Ages 4-6 Head Coach. Campaign Phone: (269) 615-1947. Website: <http://www.EricCunningham.net>. Email: [KzooCommissioner@gmail.com](mailto:KzooCommissioner@gmail.com). Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/Eric4Kalamazoo/](http://www.facebook.com/Eric4Kalamazoo/)

1. As a life-long resident, I love my community and I'm eager to develop innovative, sustainable pro-growth solutions to our present challenges. I am motivated to return to the Commission to promote fiscal responsibility, increased revenue through business/job development, and guide opportunities offered by the Foundation for Excellence. My passion lies in people, young and old alike, and strengths include seeking and considering a wide variety of opinions from multiple sources and perspectives. I am proud of my ability to understand complex issues and work with diverse interests in developing policy solutions reflective of our community values.
2. (a) City Budget: While the Foundation for Excellence will plug some short term gaps and provide funding for new programs, work is needed to solve structural deficiencies and plan for the longer term. Ensuring efficient operations, effective programs, and continuous improvement through measurement will be key and an area in which I have experience/interest. (b) Intergovernmental Collaboration: Our community is unique, but our competition is global. Jurisdictional boundaries cannot become barriers to development/growth. The city can lead the broader community in surveying area needs and assets to create and pursue a long term regional vision.
3. In addition to making our city more economically competitive through reduced property taxes, the gift transforms us from a mode of cuts to one of investment in our people and infrastructure. It affords the pursuit of aspirational goals and environmental, economic, and social programs to enhance the well-being of older adults, youth, and the impoverished. My greatest concern is that Foundation be viewed as an exit versus a bridge for city government to become self-sustaining. We cannot squander this opportunity; we must demand excellence and solid outcomes on our quest for a vibrant, thriving, growing city with a sound and sustainable budget.

## Erin Knott

Age 42. 1416 Forbes St. Field Manager, Equality Michigan and Political Consultant, Brass Tactics. B.S., Criminal Justice and Social Psychology, Western Michigan University, and M.A., Administration and Philanthropy, Central Michigan University. Over 20 years of neighborhood community development and political advocacy experience. Ability to develop, coordinate and implement strategies. In-depth knowledge of the political process, local and statewide organizations. Familiarity with grassroots organizing and policy work. Ability to mobilize individuals and organizations to build consensus. Understanding of budgets and financial reports. Campaign Phone: (269) 910-6909. Website: <http://erin4kzo.ruck.us>. Email: [erin4kzo@gmail.com](mailto:erin4kzo@gmail.com). Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/erin4kzo>.

1. I am running for re-election because this is a time of tremendous opportunity, and trusted leadership, experience and vision is needed. As an active community member for over 20 years, I appreciate the important role that committed local leaders can play in delivering core services to the entire community. I have a long history of civic involvement and deep community roots.

My pragmatic leadership abilities have been recognized through my relationships with residents, neighborhood leaders, business owners, and other stakeholders. I believe my reputation for consensus building and problem solving will help sustain and move Kalamazoo forward.

2. The city has an obligation to all residents, from students to seniors, regardless of their economic standing. We must increase prosperity and address the challenges faced by too many within our community related to affordable housing, individual and family wealth, and economic development. Quality, affordable housing must be available for all residents, throughout the city. We must expand workforce training and skilled trades opportunities, leveraging partnerships with businesses and educational institutions. Finally, we must encourage entrepreneurship by matching innovation with investors and exploring new venture capital partnerships.
3. I have been a staunch supporter of the Foundation for Excellence and I have strived for transparency while actively representing constituents' interests as the founding documents were prepared and adopted. The Commission has lowered property taxes from 19 mills to 12 mills. We have also begun funding aspirational projects, including expanding our youth programs to serve over 600 children and teenagers, park enhancements and trimming 625 trees, repairing 5,500 feet of sidewalks and constructing 1,000 feet of curbs, improving 33 streets, and removing 400 lead pipes from our neighborhoods. Thoughtful stewardship of this money is my top priority.

## Jack C. Urban

Age 76. 2125 Glenwood Dr. Chemical Engineer / Kalamazoo City Commissioner. Ph.D. Ch.E (U of Md, 1967). Kalamazoo County Commissioner 3 terms. President, Kal. River Cleanup Coalition. Member, Parks Foundation of K. County. Founding member, Kalamazoo County Public Transit Authority. Chair, Zoning Board of Appeals, CoK. Chair, Divided Region Task Force, ISAAC. Associate Director, Fermentation Products at Pharmacia & Upjohn. Campaign Phone: (269) 381-2285. Website: <http://urbanforkzoo.com>. Email: [jackurb@me.com](mailto:jackurb@me.com). Facebook Page: [urbanforkzoo.com](http://urbanforkzoo.com).

1. The city has so much potential as a vibrant center of our metro area. I want to build public support for building a prosperous, sustainable community for the 21st Century, with higher population density and more intense economic activity within our limited jurisdictional boundaries. I also want to stay on the Commission to see that the Priority Based Budgeting process is transparent and understandable to non-accountants, including myself, and readily accessible by our citizens. I have experience as a manager, an ISAAC leader and as an elected official at the County as well as the City level.
2. (a) The transparent implementation of the Foundation for Excellence, and putting into place the policies, practices and norms of relationships that will maximize its effectiveness in helping the city achieve its priorities. (b) The other issue is dealing with poverty and its effects on individuals and its impact on how we see ourselves as a city. As the urban core of our metropolitan area, we cannot move away from our demographic makeup. We are America, too. We need jobs that lead to careers, safe housing that is affordable and ways get around safely and conveniently without a car.
3. The chief one is the opportunity to build trust and unity of purpose across the divide between rich and poor. Our common purpose is the sustainable prosperity of our community. We may have the means to achieve that, if we invest wisely and thoughtfully. Mutual trust must be built, tested and thereby strengthened. So far, so good, but there is much more to do. I have concern that the investments we make in infrastructure will not grow our tax base at a rate sufficient to lessen our dependence on philanthropy. Our city is still landlocked with insufficient taxable property, since we can't build out, we must build up.

# MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!

## Voting Information Links

**League of Women Voters:** [www.lwvka.org](http://www.lwvka.org) • [www.lwvmi.org](http://www.lwvmi.org) • [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
Voter information is available on these sites year-round from the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area, Michigan and the United States. The Kalamazoo area Voter Guide is available on the lwvka site and at Vote411.org.

**Michigan Secretary of State Voter Information Center:**  
[www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos)

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

**Kalamazoo County Government:** [www.kalcounty.com/clerk](http://www.kalcounty.com/clerk)  
This website of the Kalamazoo County Clerk provides additional local information.

**Rock the Vote:** [www.rockthevote.com](http://www.rockthevote.com)

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

## VOTE NOVEMBER 7, 2017

# Mayor of Portage

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

**Description:** The Mayor is the presiding officer and member of the Council with all the powers and duties of that office, including the right and duty to vote on questions before the Council. The Mayor also advises the Council and makes recommendations concerning the legislative and policy-making affairs of the City. The Mayor is elected every two years. Vote for one candidate.

### Questions

1. Why are you running for Mayor of Portage? What strengths or talents especially qualify you for that office?
2. What are the most significant challenges facing Portage in providing services to its citizens? How do you propose to address them?
3. What would be your top priority toward balancing economic growth with the needs of the community in Portage?

## Nasim Ansari

Age 70. 3015 Kalarama. Retired /Mayor Pro Tem. Masters in Chemistry and Masters in Business Administration. WMU Alumnus. Seventeen (17) years of public service. Mayor Pro Tem, Kalamazoo County Commissioner, Councilman. Member, many Boards and Commissions. Retired City of Kalamazoo employee. Small Business Owner. Adjunct Professor; numerous colleges. Strong leadership technical and administrative skills. Good listener/communicator. Man of principle and integrity. Masters in Chemistry and Business Administration. Campaign Phone: (269) 327-0016. Website: <http://www.nasimansari.com>. Email: [nasimhansari@yahoo.com](mailto:nasimhansari@yahoo.com). Facebook Page: [Facebook.com/AnsariForMayor.com](https://www.facebook.com/AnsariForMayor.com).

1. Nothing gives me more pleasure than to be able to serve my community. The Portage City Council has elected me to a leadership role as Mayor Pro Tem. I am motivated to continue my leadership as Mayor. My 17 years of experience representing Portage as Mayor Pro Tem, Councilman as well as County Commissioner and on various county and city boards will be an asset. The distinct pleasure I've had working in both the private and public sectors has allowed me to gain valuable leadership, administration and personal relationship skills. I am proud to serve my community with the integrity and leadership it deserves.
2. The single biggest challenge is continuing the successes achieved and maintaining the pace of growth. I have been involved in creating a new open and transparent budget process that has led to a budget with no increase in millage. I have eliminated duplicate departments and enhanced automation to save money, helped bring back previously eliminated programs for entertainment and recreation and implemented a single stream recycling program. I will work hard to continue on the same path while finding efficiencies to strike a balance between economic growth and a high quality of life for all citizens of Portage.
3. I will promote policies that will retain existing businesses while seeking to attract new businesses to the city. I also pledge to combine resources of the public and private sectors to effectively promote economic diversification and create job opportunities while enhancing the quality of life in the region. I plan to work towards keeping taxes low while promoting investment to build a strong tax base. My goal is to reduce debt and lower the cost of water bills for city of Portage citizens. I am committed to quality economic growth, lower taxes, clean environment, public safety and a transparent line of communication with citizens.

## Patricia M. Randall

Age 54. 6702 Oleander Lane. Portage City Council Member since 2009. BBA in Finance from WMU. I have been a Portage City Council member from 2009 to the present. I have worked in both banking and the mortgage industries, raised and launched three successful sons and have passionately and tirelessly donated my time, treasures and talents to many organizations; Discover Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission, Catholic Charities, CHUM Food Bank Gardener, etc. Campaign Phone: (269) 324-7779. Website: <http://patriciamrandall.com>. Email: [patricia.randall@portage.mi.gov](mailto:patricia.randall@portage.mi.gov). Facebook Page: [Patricia4Mayor](https://www.facebook.com/Patricia4Mayor). Twitter Handle: [Twitter@Patricia4Mayor](https://twitter.com/Patricia4Mayor).

1. I am running for mayor to have a greater impact on the direction of Portage. I have worked hard over the past 8 years to make significant changes within City Hall, and I want to ensure those changes become part of the permanent culture. Today property taxes are fair & equitable. Citizen services have been expanded to include single stream recycling, more leaf pick ups & concerts. Additional police and fire protect our community. All this was done without raising taxes! I am a fact-based, independent leader who is unafraid to ask the tough questions. I follow my moral compass as I strive to build consensus. I believe in CITIZENS FIRST. ALWAYS
2. Portage's tax base is very stable and growing. Providing strong leadership, continuously looking at better ways of delivering services and being fiscally responsible is Council's greatest service to its citizens today and in the future. New challenges will arise as our community ages and open land becomes scarce. Council must be proactive in addressing aging infrastructure and maintain our assets thru proactive planning and zoning. Supporting our housing stock and neighborhoods will be critical to grow values and attract new home buyers. Portage is a wonderful community and "A Natural Place to Move." That needs to ring true.
3. Economic growth is a positive thing and supports our tax base. With good planning and zoning, most negative impacts can be avoided. Portage has 27% of our tax base comprised in retail, mostly along the Westnedge corridor. As buying trends change, Portage must be proactive in zoning to help make the transition as smooth as possible. More mixed use housing, retail and restaurants connected by walking and biking trails appeal to the placemaking priorities that attract both millennials and seniors. As banking and grocery shopping trends change, Portage needs to stay aggressive and open to the new trends, and be proactive versus reactive to it.

# Portage City Council

## Four-year term **Vote for up to three**

**Description:** The City Council is responsible for adopting and amending city laws and ordinances, determining city policies and standards, and authorizing the annual city budget. The Council also determines city tax millage rates and utility rates, approves contracts and agreements for the city, and directs the City Manager. The City Council consists of seven members including the Mayor and the Mayor Pro-Tempore. Council members are elected to four-year terms staggered every two years. Three Council members are elected every two years. Vote for up to three candidates.

## Christopher Burns

Age 30. Address: 5706 Briarhill Ct. Fixed Income Analyst, Greenleaf Trust. Master of Accounting, High Distinction, Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan; Bachelor of Arts, Economics, High Distinction, University of Michigan. Certified Public Accountant (CPA); Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA®) charterholder; Instructor, Student Investment Fund - Western Michigan University; Board of Directors - Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes; Vice Chair of Membership - Michigan Association of CPAs (MICPA); Financial Advisor - United Way of Battle Creek & Kalamazoo; Investment Committee - City of Portage; Jury Board - Kalamazoo County. Campaign Phone: (708) 710-3102. Website: <http://www.chrisburns.org>. Email: [chris@chrisburns.org](mailto:chris@chrisburns.org). Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/burnsforportage](https://www.facebook.com/burnsforportage). Twitter Handle: [@burnsforportage](https://twitter.com/burnsforportage).

1. I was born and raised in Portage. I love this community and want to help lead it into the future. I am a hard worker, a trait I learned from my mom who worked two jobs while raising two boys. Hard work led me to becoming a CPA, to my employment at Greenleaf Trust, to teaching at Western Michigan University, and to volunteerism. This level of involvement gives me a view of the needs of Portage residents, whether it is caring for an aging parent, dealing with college tuition for a child, or seeking a job that maximizes someone's talents. I also work in municipal finance and hope to use that background to solve problems for Portage citizens.
2. As a CPA, I know it all comes down to budgets. Portage, like many Michigan cities, is dealing with structural financial headwinds. Cities in Michigan cope with limits on local property taxes and with declining revenue sharing from the State of Michigan. The Michigan Municipal League estimates that Portage has lost \$15.8 million in revenue sharing since 2002. Portage is in sound fiscal shape today, but I am concerned, 9 years into the third longest economic expansion in history, we may soon face a recession and questions of whether to cut services. The City needs advocates for better policies from Lansing and for prudent policies locally.
3. I would like to encourage some placemaking in the Portage City Centre area. The Planning Commission has noted this as an area where Portage could promote walkable, mixed-use development, but we have been challenged to execute that vision. The City's 'walk score' is currently 18 out of 100. As a younger resident, I am tired of seeing young families leave Portage for Grand Rapids, or for other states where they perceive a higher quality of life. We have a chance here to both address the needs of the community and to encourage economic growth in the City Centre area.

## Tim Earl

Age 43. 6862 Shallowford Way. Fire safety and building code consultant. Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Chairman of Portage Park Board. Member of several committees which write standards and building codes, which requires compromise and working with people who have opposing viewpoints. Former Navy Lieutenant Commander with 3 years as a Chief Engineer, responsible for 80 personnel during a wartime deployment. Managed a large budget for operation and maintenance of the ship's engineering plant. Campaign Phone: (269) 762-8220. Website: <http://www.timearlforportage.com>. Email: [timearl@aol.com](mailto:timearl@aol.com). Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/timearlforportage>.

1. I have been on the Park Board for four years and actively following council activities for much longer. I want to be part of the solutions as Portage learns to adapt to what the future brings. My experience working on building codes has helped me learn how to ask the right questions about a proposal and identify potential hidden agendas or unintended consequences. I have a professional reputation as someone who is able to work with people I disagree with to find common ground and work together for the public good.
2. Empty commercial real estate is a nationwide problem as businesses struggle to compete with online retailers. We must work with developers and businesses to ensure these spaces are put to good use and don't remain vacant. This helps the image of the City but also the City's ability to serve its citizens by increasing the tax base. Local government serves many important functions, but we must ensure we are assisting businesses and citizens and not serving as impediments to better service or community growth.
3. We never want to say no to projects that will contribute to our economic growth, but we must also scrutinize them to ensure they are handled in an appropriate fashion so as to contribute to our community and not detract from the image Portage enjoys as a desirable place to move. For instance, retail medical marijuana dispensaries are going to be permitted by state law soon, but we must ensure they are integrated into Portage in a way that fits our community. Sometimes that means projects take a little longer, but it is better for everyone involved to make sure we get it right the first time.

# Portage City Council, continued

## Lori Knapp

Age 56. 3131 Woodhams Ave. Retired attorney; active community board member. 1986: LL.B. (Bachelor of Laws) Queen's University, Kingston, Canada. 1983: B.A. University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada. My professional career as an attorney and my expertise in real estate law. My years of service on the City of Portage Board of Review. My leadership roles in many local nonprofit organizations, including Portage Community Center. My volunteer work in our schools, and with seniors and people in need. My commitment to our community and understanding of the important local issues facing us today. Campaign Phone: (269) 324-0178. Website: <http://loriknappforportage.com>. Email: [loriknapp4@gmail.com](mailto:loriknapp4@gmail.com). Facebook Page: [lori knapp for portage](https://www.facebook.com/loriknappforportage).

1. I am running to bring a new voice, a fresh perspective, and forward-thinking leadership to Portage. We need to look toward the future and manage it now. Specifically: (a) pro-actively manage our growth and development, rather than let growth manage Portage (b) plan and adapt resources for an increasing and changing senior population (c) have City Hall build and support our sense of community and identity through more active, direct engagement with residents. Through my professional and volunteer experiences, I have focused my strengths as: a problem-solver, facilitator, negotiator, communicator, listener, and results-oriented team player.
2. Portage must be pro-active in not only planning but implementing innovative policies and projects to be ready for future community needs, without additional tax burden. We face a variety of challenges, from providing attractive and sustainable resources for seniors, including an adaptable Senior Center, to updating public works; from supporting people in need to addressing a changing retail landscape - a significant contributor to our tax base. Public/private collaboration and more dialogue with County members and stakeholders to better utilize resources and economic strategies are central to addressing these issues.
3. I would develop, communicate and seek alignment on the clear sense of priorities to be addressed in the community. At this stage, I would: (a) Immediately develop and implement a timetable to execute identified priorities, consistent with the 2014 Comprehensive Plan and Portage 2025 Visioning Project (b) Gain alignment on funding (c) Implement identified growth and land management expectations, community engagement tools, and a sustainable senior resources plan.

## Claudette Reid

Age 63. 5419 Woodmont. Current City Council Member; also Occupational Therapist for Michigan Rehabilitation Services. Wayne State University, 1975, Bachelors of Science in Occupational Therapy. Extensive continuing education in OT field, specializing in assistive technology and vocational rehabilitation. 3 terms on Portage City Council. Boards include: Kal. Co. Consolidated Dispatch Authority (member, finance committee); Public Media Network (member/chair); Community Action Agency on poverty issues (board member/chair); KCTA/CCTA on public transit (campaign co-chair); Kal. Area Transportation Study on Federal plans/funding (Rep./Alternate); Kal. Co. Council of Governments (member/officer). Campaign Phone: (269) 491-9725. Website: <http://reid4portage.com>. Email: [reid.clauds@gmail.com](mailto:reid.clauds@gmail.com). Facebook Page: [Claudette Reid for Portage](https://www.facebook.com/ClaudetteReidforPortage).

1. City Council is a team of citizens who provide policy direction for the City as well as manage our one employee, the City Manager. Having a diverse group of thinkers who can collaborate well is the best way to generate creative and fiscally sound policy to steer the City into the future. This is how I have approached my role over the past 12 years serving on the City Council. I am a critical thinker, work well in a team, and have demonstrated leadership on Council as well as in county-wide boards representing the City. I look forward to continuing to serve the City with the new members on Council.
2. Specific issues that will be addressed include determining how Portage will manage the five new Medical Marijuana licenses available through the State beginning Dec. 15, managing our open spaces more intentionally and supporting a range of housing options to help attract and retain young adults and families. For the first two issues I want a high level of citizen engagement, including public meetings to provide information and gather input for setting these important policies. We also need to be more deliberate about managing our existing older housing stock as an option for affordable, entry level housing.
3. Portage does a very good job of providing the core City services (public safety, roads, water/sewer) at a millage rate that is in the lower 25% of cities our size state wide. Investments the City has made in infrastructure and services have resulted in economic and residential growth. My top priority is to avoid undercutting our growth by reducing our emergency funds to provide a one-time financial boost or tax cut. Connected to this is thorough consideration of new programs or initiatives; developing public/private partnerships for expanded services is one way to assure that they are going to be both supported and sustainable

## Jim Stephanak

Age 60. 10725 Cora Drive. President/CEO - Venture Advisory Group, llc & also Owner - Paint Recycling Services, llc. US Navy Veteran. As the final publisher of the Kalamazoo Gazette, owning two small businesses and having served in the military, I know what it takes to get things done. I'm a firm believer in the power of teamwork and clear communication. I have had to build consensus with my teams in every role to make sure we were rowing in the same direction. These talents will serve the residents and Portage City Council well. Campaign Website: <http://www.jimstephanak.com>. Email: [jim@jimstephanak.com](mailto:jim@jimstephanak.com). Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/ElectJimStephanak/](https://www.facebook.com/ElectJimStephanak/). Phone (269) 760-4745.

1. I care about the future of Portage. Let's be smart in our growth. Why not stretch our imaginations and build an even more vibrant, exciting Portage? We've made good strides in the last 5 years; opening ourselves up to new possibilities and exhibiting higher levels of cooperation. We can't rest on our laurels. We need to challenge the status quo and be proactive, not reactive. As publisher of the Kalamazoo Gazette I asked the tough questions to fully understand the issues. My business and military experience taught me to be pragmatic and analytical. These attributes will serve Portage well. I will be the residents eyes and ears in city hall
2. Staffing and money can be pointed to as a culprit for not delivering services to its citizens. While these help, if the culture of City Hall is not fully aligned to serve, receiving the full value of these resources can not be realized. Money and staffing: Continue to watch the budget with a very sharp pencil. Challenge the status quo. Use the data we collect to better leverage technology to ensure we maximize energy use, staff as efficiently as possible and deliver services in the most timely manner. Culture: Ensure employees are passionate about their jobs, inquisitive and focus on what the residents really need; then surprise them.

3. A smart economic growth plan takes the long term goals of the community into consideration. The three key areas that comprise this growth plan should be a combination of our economy, social well-being and the environment. Growth for growth sake, without putting all three of these factors into the equation will result in a less than ideal future. My top priority is to ensure that the decision making process for the City takes all of these factors into account as we make important choices regarding future economic growth plans. We are vigilant now. Keeping this in mind is very important to maximize our resources and our future quality of life

## Phil Stinchcomb

Age 55. 1607 Bellaire Ave. Sales. Bachelor of Science in Marketing Indiana University. I served two terms as a Kalamazoo County Commissioner for the 10th District, Portage, 2010-2104. During my tenure, the county had a balanced budget, we collaborated with KRESA to move Head Start to the professional educators, and we reduced county retiree health care and pension legacy costs, as well as reduced law enforcement compensation costs. Campaign Phone: (269) 207-2778. Website: <http://philstinchcomb.com>. Email: [phil@philstinchcomb.com](mailto:phil@philstinchcomb.com). Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Phil4UMichigan>. Twitter Handle: [Phil4UMichigan](https://twitter.com/Phil4UMichigan).

1. I have lived in Portage since 1997 with my wife, Pam. We chose to raise our three children in Portage because of the schools and the high quality of life it offers. I love Portage and want to see our city and people grow and prosper. That is why I am running for Portage City Council. Having experience serving on the County Board, I believe I have a unique set of experiences and knowledge that would allow me to work within the system to always do that which is in the best interest of Portage, while still doing what is best for the region.
2. Most significant challenge facing Portage is the looming retail ice age. Commercial businesses and commercial property taxes will be under pressure because of internet sales. My two term experience on the county board will assist in leading Portage to plan for the future. I will work with council and the city manager to work with our businesses to see what the city can do to assist. We need to be in front of this issue before there is an announcement of a big retailer closing its doors like State Farm did earlier this year in Kalamazoo.
3. My top priority is to keep the city of Portage government lean. Low taxes, improved services and great customer satisfaction is the key to community success. I will push council to invest in infrastructure so our roads, sewer and water are accessible and in excellent condition city wide. Another priority will be to collaborate with Portage Public Schools on cross bridges for student walkers and bike riders. Opportunities for community investment are on the table as well, maybe an improved sports complex to host softball and/or baseball tournaments. Portage is the best price for your dollar. There is no place like home!

## Wayne Stoffer

Campaign has been suspended.

## Terry Urban

Age 58. 211 Cherryview Drive. Research Chemist (hiatus), Full time parent and caregiver. B.S. in Chemistry, University of Illinois, 1980. Portage resident since 1980. Portage Park Board, 8 yrs. Portage Zoning Board of Appeals, 8 yrs. Portage City Council, 5 terms. Past or Present: Long Lake Governmental Lake Board, Past Chair. Gourdneck Lake Governmental Lake Board, Chair. Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study. Convention and Visitors Bureau. Central County Transit Authority. FAA Designated Parachute Rigger Examiner. Campaign Phone: (269) 323-8160. Email: [terryurbanforportage@gmail.com](mailto:terryurbanforportage@gmail.com). Facebook Page: [@terryurbanforportage](https://www.facebook.com/terryurbanforportage).

1. I considered retiring from Council this year. But when Mayor Strazdas announced he wasn't seeking reelection due to health issues and 2 Council members filed to run for Mayor it meant that there would be at least 2 new Council members and an inexperienced Mayor. If I didn't seek reelection that would have meant 3 new council members. While new members on the Council are good I believe 3 new members be too much change for Portage. Based on City Manager's statements when hired he may retire during this term. Experienced Council members will be important to hiring the next City Manager. Other major issues will require experienced counsel.
2. Portage is fortunate to be in a strong financial position. The major challenge is to ensure we maintain the infrastructure in a manner and on a schedule acceptable to the high expectations of the citizens of Portage. With the recovery continuing from the 2008 recession and continued investment in both industrial and residential sectors we have the ability to accelerate road repair, decrease debt, and expand services cut during the recession within our current millage rate. Proposed changes in Federal CDBG funding may require Portage to examine continuing programs with a portion of the increasing tax revenue.
3. Economic growth is only partly within the control of the City Council. We ensure that Portage is a place where people want to do business and encourage investment in our community. A significant challenge will be to ensure the continued strength of our retail sector in the face of internet sales pressure. Assisting the redevelopment and repurposing of business that may be impacted by the changing purchasing habits of America will be important to maintaining our vitality. Facilitating retail businesses that concentrate on customer service, custom products and immediate needs will be important in maintaining our retail vitality.

**VOTE411.ORG**  
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED  
**Election Information You Need**

The content of this Guide is available online at [www.lwvka.org](http://www.lwvka.org) and [VOTE411.org](http://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](http://www.vote411.org)!**

# 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 & PORTAGE PRECINCT LOCATIONS

Polls Open Tuesday, November 7, 2017 —7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## 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 .....	930 Lake St.
#15 Washington Writer's Academy.....	1919 Portage St.
#16 & 18 Milwood Christian Reformed 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 Bldg. ....	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

## Portage City

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

Source: Kalamazoo County Clerk / Register Office

## 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.

*Based on Election Officials' Manual, Michigan Bureau of Elections, pg. 24, updated August 2017.*

