

2022

Voter Guide

VOTE 411

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

The content of this Guide is derived from candidates' profiles and ballot proposals posted online at www.VOTE411.org.

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

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By Your Local **League of Women Voters**

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See www.Vote411.org for other local races, including school boards & library trustees

See www.kalamazoocounty.com for complete list of candidates and proposals

2022 General Election Voter Guide

Non-partisan Information about State & Local Elections November 8, 2022

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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Vote Tuesday, November 8, 2022

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

Who May Vote?

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

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

How Do You Vote?

The procedure involves these steps:

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

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

About Voter Identification

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

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

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

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

Write-in Candidates

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

Votes for write-in candidates are counted only for persons who have declared their intent, at the appropriate jurisdiction, to be write-in candidates by 4 p.m. on the second Friday preceding the election—October 29. Names of write-in candidates will be available after that date on the Michigan Voter Information Center website (www.michigan.gov/vote).

Are You Registered & Who's on Your Ballot?

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

For Students

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

Acknowledgment

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

Absent Voter Ballots

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

How do I receive the ballot?

You can:

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

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

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

When must absent voter ballots be returned to the clerk?

At the time of publishing this Guide, the deadline for returning ballots to the clerk's office is 8 p.m. on election day.

The League of Women Voters recommends that you use a ballot drop box or deliver your ballot to the clerk's office in person. If you use the postal service to deliver your ballot, place it in the mail no later than October 25 to allow adequate time.

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

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

Did my ballot arrive?

Registered voters can track their ballots by looking up their information on the MVIC website. (www.michigan.gov/vote)

Editors' Note

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

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

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

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

About the Candidates' Responses

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

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

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

Governor & Lieutenant Governor

Four-year terms. Candidates run as a team; one vote elects both — Vote for One

Governor: The state's executive powers are vested in the Governor. A Governor must be at least 30 years of age and a registered voter in Michigan for at least four years.

Governors may serve a maximum of two full terms.

Lt Governor: The main duties assigned to the Lieutenant Governor are: (1) to serve as acting Governor while the Governor is out of state; (2) to become Governor in the event that the Governor is unable to serve due to death, illness or incapacitation; and (3) to preside over the Michigan Senate. A Lt. Governor must be at least 30 years of age and a registered voter in Michigan for at least four years. Lt. Governors may serve a maximum of two full terms.

Questions

- 1. Priorities:** What are your top 3 priorities for the State of Michigan and how would you address them?
- 2. Education:** What should Michigan do, if anything, to 1) provide an equitable, quality public education for all students and 2) address the shortage of teachers?
- 3. Economy:** What policies do you support to help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?

- 4. Environment & Energy:** Do you support Michigan's taking action on climate change? If so, what 3 climate-related policies would you support?
- 5. Social Justice:** What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in Michigan?
- 6. Justice:** What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?

Gretchen Whitmer

Democrat. Governor, State of Michigan. Bachelor's degree and law degree from Michigan State University. Michigan House of Representatives, Michigan State Senate, and Ingham County Prosecutor. Website: gretchenwhitmer.com. Facebook: facebook.com/GretchenWhitmer. Twitter: @gretchenwhitmer.

- 1. Economy & Jobs:** Cutting costs and keeping our economy moving forward by supporting small businesses, attracting historic manufacturing investments, and securing new auto jobs. **Infrastructure:** Securing multi-billion dollar investments to repair roads, bridges, and water infrastructure while supporting over 100,000 jobs. Continuing work to improve our state's infrastructure is a top priority. **Protecting the Right To Choose:** I will fight like hell to protect abortion rights in Michigan.
- I worked across the aisle to make the largest investment in K-12 education in state history, without raising taxes, to empower the educators and parents, and help our students thrive. We closed the school funding gap, tripled the number of reading coaches, reduced class sizes, and brought Republicans and Democrats together to recruit more teachers, and expand before and after-school programming. My administration has worked hard to address the teacher shortage and secured over \$500 million for teacher recruitment and training programs to hire and train 10,000 new teachers in our most recent budget.
- I've worked hard to cut costs for Michiganders delivering \$3 billion in auto refunds for drivers and I'm fighting to provide more relief. I've announced plans to provide \$500 rebate checks for every working family and called for the legislature to pass a sales tax holiday on school supplies. I am working to repeal Michigan's retirement tax that would save 500,000 households 1,000 per year and called for tripling Michigan's Earned Income Tax Credit to help over 700,000 working families. I signed two bipartisan tax cuts for small businesses and repealed the tampon tax, providing \$7 million in annual savings.
- By combating climate change, we can build safer communities, protect our natural resources, cut costs for families, create lasting jobs, and strengthen our economy. My MI Healthy Climate Plan would create resilient jobs and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, moving towards energy independence through renewable resources, building a charging network to support 2 million electric vehicles, and so much more. I have secured millions of investments in climate-resilient infrastructure and vehicle electrification. These measures are not just critical for our health, but they are strengthening our economy and creating long term opportunity right here at home.
- Protecting the right to choose:** I will continue to fight like hell to protect abortion rights. **Expanding education:** My administration secured the largest investment ever in Michigan's K-12 schools. **Protecting the right to vote:** I am committed to ensuring that the voice of every Michigander is protected at the ballot box. **Investments in communities of color:** I've worked tirelessly to open new pathways for Michiganders of all backgrounds to build wealth. **Most diverse administration:** I've built the most inclusive administration in Michigan's history.
- Response included in question #5 above.

Running Mate: Garlin Gilchrist II

Democrat

Tudor M. Dixon

Republican. Businesswoman. B.A., University of Kentucky. Tudor Dixon is a businesswoman, breast-cancer survivor, and working mom of four girls. She built a career in Michigan's steel industry throughout the early 2000s. Website: www.tudordixon.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/DixonforGovernor. Twitter: @TudorDixon.

- (a) Improve Michigan schools by empowering parents and expanding choices. (b) Rebuild and grow the economy, support energy and infrastructure projects throughout Michigan. (c) Restore law and order.
- I have a five step plan to improve Michigan schools. (a) Distribute Tutoring Certificates—Fund 25 hours of tutoring in reading and math for every student using some of the \$6 Billion in federal COVID relief funding. (b) Preserve Parent's Rights—Require school districts to put all curriculum and teaching materials online for parents to see. (c) Protect Girls' Sports—Protect young girls from being forced to compete against biological boys in school sports. (d) Improve Civic & Financial Literacy—Enact substantial civic and financial literacy requirements for grade school. (e) Create Education Savings Accounts—Empower parents to decide which education environment is best.
- I have a five step plan to improve put Michigan "back in business." (a) Reduce Personal Income Tax—Develop and enact a plan to phase out Michigan's personal income tax over time. (b) Upscale Workforce Training & Emphasize the Trades—Expand public-private partnerships between the education system and the private sector. (c) Slash 40% of Regulations in 4 Years—Cut, reduce, or streamline 40% of Michigan's enormous regulatory code in four years. (d) Cut Corporate Welfare—Analyze all Michigan incentive programs created and utilized over the last decade to determine their efficacy and efficiency. (e) Make Michigan Open for Business—Rapidly enact pro-growth policies.
- Michigan should have policies that benefit all businesses and create a strong environment for job growth. Market forces should determine success and failure, not the government. I support: (a) Utilizing Alternative Financing Opportunities—Using public-private partnerships and other innovative financing mechanisms where they make sense to ease taxpayer burdens. (b) Consolidating Agencies—Streamline the over 600 government agencies and departments that

handle road funding annually and improve the overall management. (c) Revising the Funding Formula & Making Funding More Flexible—Evaluate changes like revising funding formulas or giving local districts more flexibility.

- All families deserve the best educational opportunities for their children, regardless of their background or income level. A strong education leads to good jobs and strong outcomes for the future. I fully support the creation of Education Savings Accounts for families. ESAs will truly empower parents to decide which education environment is best for their child. Michigan should allow families to use the state's per-pupil funding amount on public, private, charter, virtual, or homeschooling options. All families deserve school options for their kids, not just the privileged and the few.
- We need to focus on creating safe communities and I have a five step plan. (a) Ban Sanctuary Cities—Implement a statewide ban on sanctuary cities to comply fully with federal immigration law. (b) Enact Constitutional Carry—Stop all efforts to restrict the 2nd Amendment and ensure that law-abiding citizens can protect themselves. (c) Fund De-escalation Training—Fully fund law enforcement agencies and block any budget cuts meant to reduce law enforcement budgets. (d) Keep Cash Bail for Violent Criminals & Repeat Offenders. (e) Zero-Tolerance for Riots—Enhance criminal penalties for crimes committed during riots or violent "protests."

Running Mate: Shane Hernandez

Republican

Mary Buzuma

Libertarian. U.S. Navy. Retired after 26 years in Naval Intelligence. Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Kalamazoo College. Leadership experience from 26 years in U.S. Navy and as a former State Chair of Libertarian Party of Michigan. Website: electmarybuzuma.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/lpmary4gov. Twitter: @LPMary4Gov.

- As the first Libertarian governor of Michigan I will work to roll back the state and restore the inalienable right to choose for all Michiganders. The right to choose how to educate their children, how to spend their hard earned money, how to best take care of their medical needs and most important how to live their lives.
- More laws, rules and taxpayer money will not improve government school education but competition will. Parents are best situated to decide what is in their own children's best interests, and I will support all measures that enhance all educational choices available: charter schools, tax credits for private school tuition, home schooling, etc. Our state gives tax breaks to corporations whose CEOs can afford to send their children to private schools, shouldn't it provide tax breaks to parents who want to improve their child's education? A limited supply of educators is the fault of the State. Eliminate unnecessary barriers to capable candidates who want to enter the education job market.
- Taxation is theft and the income tax should be repealed but until that time, a promise made is a promise kept. Keep the bipartisan promise made 15 years ago and return the income tax to 3.9%. The state can afford it and the people of Michigan deserve it. Enact a sustainable budget to prevent overspending and growing government. Economic circumstances have forced many hardworking taxpayers to cut back, there's no reason why our state government shouldn't follow their example. Keep the growth of the budget below the rates of growth of the state population plus the inflation rate. If the population grows by 1% and inflation grows by 2%, the state budget shouldn't grow by more than 3%.
- Michigan residents through the monopoly utility companies pay the highest rates in the region for some of the least reliable electricity in the country. All new electricity generation constructed in our state must be able to supply reliable electricity when it is needed. Human rights and individual liberty go hand-in-hand with environmental protection and improvement. The cleanest environments are in places where human rights are honored and protected. The demand to protect the environment proceeds from free people with adequate food, shelter and legal rights, not controlling governments. Expanding individual liberty is a key component of making our state and our world a cleaner place.
- Libertarians believe every person has the same inalienable rights that the State has a duty to protect. I oppose any form of discrimination by government based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or any other group or individual identification. End qualified immunity and other aspects of modern-day policing that lead to violence and harassment of people of color the LGBTQ community and sex workers. I will work to change laws and institutions of government so that those of modest means can experience greater upward mobility. All people need to live their daily lives without fear of unjustified harassment, arrest, or injury/death at the hands of the State.
- Libertarians believe every person has the same inalienable rights that the State has a duty to protect. I oppose any form of discrimination by government based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation or any other group or individual identification. End qualified immunity and other aspects of modern-day policing that lead to violence and harassment of people of color the LGBTQ community and sex workers. I will work to change laws and institutions of government so that those of modest means can experience greater upward mobility. All people need to live their daily lives without fear of unjustified harassment, arrest, or injury/death at the hands of the State.

Running Mate: Brian Ellison

Libertarian

Governor, continued

Donna Brandenburg

U.S. Taxpayers

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Kevin Hogan

Green. Retired Research Biochemist and Retired Substitute Public School Teacher. University of Michigan—Biochemistry, Psychology, ...Chemistry Teacher postponed. Scientist. In Particular, I'm a Biochemist published in the fields of Immunology, Aging, and Human Eye Disease. So, I have the knowledge and experience to end the COVID 19 Pandemic & fix the Economy! Website: gofund.me/2b335cbc. Facebook: www.facebook.com/your.KevinHogan. Twitter: @KevinHo84541553.

1. Women's Equality, LGBTQI(+) Equality, and the Economy (COVID 19 Ended). As Michigan Governor Kevin Hogan, I would address Women and LGBTQI(+)'s Equality by pressuring the state legislature using the media and concurrently, for leverage, openly supporting a ballot proposal to end wrongful discrimination and have Equality for Women's and LGBTQI(+) Community, and as a biochemist I would address the Economy by ending The Gretchen Whitmer COVID 19 Deadly (38,000+ Michigianians dead, including children) Pandemic, increasing minimum wage getting people back to work (creating jobs), and by ending inflation something Gretchen Whitmer in one of her many commercials says she cannot do. I can!
2. Michigan's Education ranks 40th that is there are only ten states that are worse than the state of Michigan in Education. Competition brings out the brightest and the best. So, I would drive public schools to compete for students. How? I would have the \$7,500 per student follow the student to whichever school his or her parents (and students) choose. I would downsize large-dilapidated schools making new smaller schoolhouses with air condition and other amenities, pay teacher better, establish a program for professionals like scientists (like myself), mathematicians, engineers, etc. to acquire faster (6 months) teaching certification.
3. As Kevin Hogan, The Next Michigan Governor—Green Party, I will support Michigianians' improved economic positions by having Water, Food, and Housing as basic human rights. I

will support an increase in minimum wage. I will support unions—every job should be unionized for a better standard of living (and happiness). I will support within a business disclosure of pay for workers with the same title, so minorities won't (like I was) be lowballed paid. I will support free education with day care.

4. As Kevin Hogan, The Next Michigan Governor—Green Party and Scientist, I will support taking action on climate change. I will support ending fracking. I will support alternative energy sources. I will support using glass instead of some petroleum base plastics.
5. As Kevin Hogan, The Next Michigan Governor—Green Party, I will promote social and racial justice in Michigan by signing into law a bill preventing bigots from holding government office. I will also mandate a police policy of one strike and your fired. I will eliminate Internal Affairs (police policing police) having police officers have their day in court facing a jury (not a judge). I will mandate by executive order the immediate release of police body camera video to the media for public view.
6. Oops, you errored. I won't punish you by sending you to a privately owned prison. Well, I will support action taken against holding non-violent people in jail because they can't raise bail. I will support action taken against prosecuting attorneys for their malicious prosecution. I will support action against police officers for brutality and general misconduct. I will support action for equal pay for the same job with the same experience across gender identity. I will have women's equality, and LGBTQI(+) equality!

Running Mate: Destiny Clayton

Green

Daryl M. Simpson

Natural Law

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information visit, www.Vote411.org

Running Mate: Doug Dern

Michigan Secretary of State

Four-year term—Vote for one

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/she may serve a maximum of two full terms.

Questions

1. Describe your qualifications and the skills and experience you bring to the position. Why do you want to be the Secretary of State?
2. What would be your top priorities as Secretary of State and what actions would you take to accomplish them?
3. What initiatives would you implement to provide support to county, city and local clerks?
4. What policies do you advocate regarding elections, campaign funding and voting rights?

Jocelyn Benson

Democrat. Secretary of State. Graduate of Wellesley College, Harvard and Oxford universities. Elected Secretary of State in 2018; Secretary of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS.); former Dean of Wayne State University Law School. Website: www.votebenson.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/sosjocelynbenson. Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JocelynBenson>.

1. I am running for reelection to keep partisanship out of the Secretary of State's Office while we work to make it serve everyone, whether they consider themselves a Republican, Democrat or Independent. Our work also includes making it easier to vote while ensuring that every election is secure, fair and free. I am pleased to have overseen the safest, most secure and successful election in Michigan history when 5.5 million voters cast ballots. I bring to the office a lifetime commitment to protect our democracy, whether investigating hate crimes or fighting misinformation campaigns designed to undermine it.
2. We want to build on the service improvements we've made. When I took office in 2019, customers had to 'take a number and wait,' which sometimes resulted in hours-long wait times. Today, branch office customers are in-and-out, on average, in 20 minutes. We've doubled the transactions that can be done online and have placed self-service stations in grocery stores. We've also made voting easier while ensuring our elections are secure, fair and free. Our plans include expanding our mobile branch office operation and locating mini-offices in key locations. We want to protect and expand options that make voting easier but secure.
3. In my first term, we worked with local clerks to give them the tools they need to conduct secure, fair and free elections. Our work included helping place ballot drop boxes in communities across the state, recruiting a new generation of poll workers, and made \$8 million dollars of federal funds available to clerks to bolster election security. I will continue to advocate that state and federal funds be provided directly to local jurisdictions and will continue partnering with all clerks to preempt election misinformation that seeks to deceive voters. Local clerks are often voters trusted source for accurate election information in their communities.
4. I believe election administration must be above partisanship. Campaign funding should be transparent. It should be easy to vote, while ensuring security and fairness. Among the policies we have implemented is Election Day registration to ensure that every eligible citizen can register and vote. I believe in educating voters about their new rights to vote from home, sending absentee ballot request forms to every registered voter in the state, and creating an online, downloadable application to request your absentee ballot online. We implemented several secure protocols to ensure every valid ballot and only valid ballots were counted and will continue to do so if reelected.

Kristina Elaine Karamo

Republican. College professor. Masters degree in Christian Apologetics, BS in Communication. Website: kristinakaramo.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/KristinaforSOS. Twitter: @kristinakaramo.

Did not respond to questions in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Gregory Scott Stempfle

Libertarian. Medical Technologist, Henry Ford Transplant Immunology. MS Molecular Biology, Wayne State 2014; BS Clinical Laboratory Science, Wayne State 2008. I have 25 years' experience as a political activist familiarizing myself with election law. I've been a candidate, campaign treasurer, state party chair, precinct delegate, and poll worker. Website: stempfle4sos.org/. Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100058124527285. Twitter: Stempfle4SoS.

1. I have 25 years' experience as a political activist familiarizing myself with election law. I've been a candidate, campaign treasurer, state party chair, precinct delegate, poll worker, and worked on several ballot initiatives. In my professional life, I am medical technologist in an organ transplant lab. This field requires me to deal with complex technical matters under short time constraints which is a valuable skill needed to manage state elections. My political and professional experience demonstrate that I would be capable of ensuring fair and transparent elections. Only someone from outside the two-party system can make this claim.
2. I plan to streamline and automate services when possible, without leaving those without access to technology behind. I support changes to the vehicle registration process so owners can permanently register their vehicle rather than every year or two. Vehicle registration amounts to a tax that disproportionately hurts the poor and leads to people getting trapped in the criminal justice system. Many voters' express concerns to me about the appointment program at the branch offices saying they often wait longer than expected. If this office plans to continue the appointment program, we need to look at ways of better honoring the scheduled times.
3. I would work with county clerks to help them publish more updated and accurate election information on their county government website. I would also work with local election officials to provide improved equipment to accommodate alternative voting methods and provide better training with regard to handling minor party paperwork.
4. I advocate requiring paper ballots for voting so that any recounts can be done using physical objects rather than voting by touch screen. I advocate for election reforms that level the playing field for independent and third-party candidates. These include using ranked choice voting, allowing counties, townships, and villages to conduct nonpartisan elections, and making the signature requirements for independent candidates the same as Democrats and Republicans. I support the current system of absentee voting for any reason, early voting, and same day voter registration and will push back against any efforts to make voting more difficult.

Christine C. Schwartz

U.S. Taxpayers

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Larry James Hutchinson Jr.

Green

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Michigan Attorney General

Four-year term — Vote for one

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/she may serve a maximum of two full terms.

Questions

1. Describe your qualifications and the skills and experience you bring to the position. Why do you want to be the Attorney General?
2. What would be your top priorities as Attorney General and what actions would you take to accomplish them?

Dana Nessel

Democrat. Michigan Attorney General. Bachelor's degree from University of Michigan, law degree from Wayne State University. Wayne County assistant prosecutor for 11 years; private practice in civil rights, criminal defense, and family law. Just finishing first term as AG and eager to continue that work in a second term. Website: www.dananessel.com. Twitter: @dananessel. Facebook: www.facebook.com/DanaNesselAG.

1. Before being elected Attorney General, I served as a Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor for 11 years and then maintained a private practice focused on criminal defense, civil rights, and family law. I also helped try the case that led to Americans having the right to marriage equality. I have almost completed my first term as AG and hope to have a second term to continue the work I've done during my first term, including protecting our elections and poll workers, and holding accountable those who seek to interfere with Michigan residents' ability to vote. I want to make sure every eligible voter is able to make their voice heard.
2. My top priority is to continue to serve as the People's Lawyer, using the resources of my office to aggressively advocate for crime victims as well as consumers, and help improve the lives of constituents whenever possible. My focus is on ensuring voters know how to vote, when to vote, and how to make sure their vote counts. I will fight in court to uphold the will of voters and protect the civil and reproductive rights of all Michigan residents. I will also continue to hold corporations accountable when they price-gouge or pollute our natural resources, and I'll take Big Pharma to court to lower the cost of prescription drugs.
3. I would recommend that they do everything in their power to enact consumer protection measures, and I would ask them to join me in creating tough but smart criminal justice policies. I'd urge the Legislature to take up the guardianship and conservator reform bills resulting from the ongoing work of my Elder Abuse Task Force, pass a package of human trafficking bills recommended by the Michigan Human Trafficking Commission, crack down on companies that misclassify workers to avoid paying full wages, overtime and taxes, and support common-sense gun safety legislation that would strengthen background checks and enact safe storage laws.

Matthew DePerno

Republican

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

3. What would you recommend to the Governor and State Legislature regarding the protection of consumers and addressing illegal activities in Michigan?

Joseph W. McHugh Jr.

Libertarian. Author & finance professional. MBA Babson College, BA International Relations & Political Economy Michigan State University. Former USMC Officer, 20-year finance pro, 2x author, former independent candidate for President of the US. Website: Libertystrikesback.com. Twitter: [Votejoemchugh](https://twitter.com/Votejoemchugh).

1. As a Marine Corps Officer, I swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States—and the rights of every individual, which have been gradually usurped by our government since 9/11. Our two party system is working against us—and the Biden-Bush-Trump coups of 9/11 and 1/6 are the evidence. As your AG, I will draw upon my leadership experience as a Marine officer, a business owner and financial professional to empower attorneys across the country to right the ship by suing government at the federal, state and local levels, including our own governor, to restore our rights and protect the rights of every individual.
2. Our Bill of Rights codifies our rights to free thought, speech, action, association, self defense, privacy, self sovereignty, the right to understand the law and penalty for breaking it, and a trial by jury of our peers. Freedom isn't free. We will fight to restore and maintain our Liberty. a) Sue for public review of code of social media and voting software to fight censorship and restore election integrity. b) Sue for easily understood laws, terms of service and privacy policies to restore due process. c) Sue to release non-violent prisoners, immediately expunge records to get back to work, and provide backpay for unjustly lost time.
3. Any action that does not harm any other should not be illegal. This includes possession of firearms, substance use and sex between consenting adults. With fewer, better laws to enforce, our police will be free to do their job—protect people. Consumer protection goes hand in hand with protecting the environment and individual rights, including a balanced approach to protecting women's rights and those of the unborn. Clean air, fresh water, healthy organic food, safe housing, fair pay, and money that retains value over time are our most basic rights. Use AG profits as a wealth fund to seed businesses that will serve our public interest.

Gerald T. Van Sickle

U.S. Taxpayers

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

State Senate

Four-year term — Vote for one

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-apportioned after each census.

Questions

1. Education: What should Michigan do, if anything, to 1) provide an equitable, quality public education for all students and 2) address the shortage of teachers?
2. Economic security: What policies do you support to help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?
3. Elections: What state policies do you support regarding Michigan elections, campaign funding and voting rights?
4. Environment/Energy: What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations? What is your position on energy efficiency and renewable energy?
5. Social justice: How would you address racial, economic, health and education inequities, including Michigan's 23% of children and 17% of seniors living in poverty?
6. Guns: What steps, if any, should be taken to curb gun violence in our communities?

District 18

Kai W. Degraaf

Democrat

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Thomas A. Albert

Republican. State Representative, 86th House District. University of Michigan, Bachelor's degree in political science and history; Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Michigan State University with a concentration in finance. Former Marine Corps Officer, Former Investor for the State of Michigan Retirement Systems, State Representative from 2016 to present. Website: www.votealbert.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/votealbert.

1. Michigan has made significant investments to ensure equitable funding for all students. Last year, my colleagues and I equalized the per student foundation allowance and this year, we increased it. Additionally, at-risk funding was increased by \$223 million and special education reimbursement funding by \$246 million. We also appropriated over \$1.5 billion to bring sustainability to our broken public school pension system. Michigan is facing a significant teaching shortage and when we lack quality educators, our children suffer. That's why I helped create and pass a teacher recruitment and retention plan totaling \$580 million.
2. I believe that the record-high inflation we are experiencing is significantly impacting the economic positions of Michigan residents, and families will continue to struggle until this is addressed. In the House, I have voted in support of substantial tax relief for all Michiganders which unfortunately, the Governor vetoed. Michigan residents cannot improve their economic positions if our state does not have a strong business environment and workforce. I have supported funding for skilled workforce training and across the board, I believe that the best way for someone to improve their position is through a good paying job.
3. Michigan voters need to be able to trust our voting system and, unfortunately, there are many voters right now that are lacking that trust. I am supportive of policies that ensure Michigan stays up to date as technology changes and that elections are safe and fair. This term, I have voted in favor of legislation to strengthen proof of identification requirements, expand polling place locations, train election challengers, and update our voter file. I believe Michigan does a fair job at ensuring that campaign funding is transparent and available for anyone to see by requiring detailed financial reports for elected positions.

4. Ensuring safe and sustainable usage of our natural resources is critical to Michigan's future. This year, I supported a historic infrastructure plan that focused heavily on clean drinking water, wastewater systems, dam safety, broadband, state and local parks, and low carbon energy expansion. I believe that the Biden administration and far-left agenda for a Green New Deal is irresponsible, and it is unrealistic to shift entirely to renewable energy so quickly. Families who are already struggling would be forced to bear the costs of this plan. We have an abundance of natural resources that we should be using responsibly to keep costs low.
5. We need to create an environment where people feel they have opportunities available to improve their lives. It's clear that we will not reduce disparities by furthering government dependency. Government assistance must include clear pathways to independence which is achieved through good paying jobs. Michigan children have been negatively impacted by school closures as they rely on the stability that comes with being in a classroom. That's why I was adamant that schools needed to be back in-person. Regarding seniors, they are especially vulnerable to increasing inflationary costs due to their fixed incomes and they need tax relief.
6. Violent criminals that are using guns should be placed behind bars instead of staying on the streets. We need to support local law enforcement and make sure they have the resources they need to keep our streets safe. That's why I advocated for additional resources for law enforcement in our most recent state budget. The budget included \$130 million to be used for recruitment and retention, training, new equipment and community policing efforts.

District 19

Sean McCann

Democrat

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org

Tamara Mitchell

Republican

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

League of Women Voters of Kalamazoo Area

Michigan State House of Representatives

Two-year term — Vote for one

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

Questions

- 1. Education:** What should Michigan do, if anything, to 1) provide an equitable, quality public education for all students and 2) address the shortage of teachers?
- 2. Economic security:** What policies do you support to help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?
- 3. Elections:** What state policies do you support regarding Michigan elections, campaign funding and voting rights?
- 4. Environment/Energy:** What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations? What is your position on energy efficiency and renewable energy?
- 5. Social justice:** How would you address racial, economic, health and education inequities, including Michigan's 23% of children and 17% of seniors living in poverty?
- 6. Guns:** What steps, if any, should be taken to curb gun violence in our communities?

District 40

Christine Morse

Democrat. Michigan State Representative for House District 61. Bachelor of Arts in Political Science/Pre-law, Michigan State University, 1995; Juris Doctor, Wayne State University Law School, 1998. Incumbent of Michigan House District 61 2021-present. Energy and Health Policy Committees. Assistant Whip for House Democratic Caucus. Former Kalamazoo County Commissioner of District 9, 2019-2020. Website: www.vote4morse.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/vote4morse. Twitter: @vote4morse.

1. The number one thing the State of Michigan can do to provide equitable quality public education as required by our state Constitution is through appropriation at levels necessary to support that. For three decades, Michigan failed to invest in education, resulting in a 2018 MSU study that showed Michigan was 50th in reading growth and revenue growth. In 2021, for the first time since Prop A was passed in Michigan, the budget provided equal per pupil funding statewide, at a historic level. We must continue this equitable level of funding, record revenues or not. Teachers must be valued both in terms of salary and respect for their expertise.
2. In the wake of the global pandemic, Gov. Whitmer proposed the Futures for Frontliners scholarship program. This successful program, with over 100,000 applicants, is providing our essential workforce with the opportunity of career advancement. Another option for our workforce is Michigan Reconnect, a community college scholarship program for those age 25 and over who have not obtained a college degree to further their education. Both programs are part of Governor Whitmer's goal to increase our college or certificate attainment percentage for working adults from 49% to 60% by 2030. Additional training is known to improve economic positions.
3. In 2018, Michigan voters approved a ballot initiative to amend the Michigan Constitution to include: straight ticket voting; automatic and same day voter registration and no reason absentee ballots. The increased accessibility for voters aligns with the Constitutional right to vote. I support these changes as well as those proposed that make the election administration process smoother and more efficient. I oppose any proposed election laws that reduce accessibility such as reducing the number of ballot boxes, or placing onerous identification mandates beyond what Michigan requires. I support campaign finance transparency and reduced limits.
4. Michigan's greatest resource is its clean water, we must be proactive in managing our water and protecting it from pollution. For years, Michigan has not invested in infrastructure leaving our municipalities with aging infrastructure they can't afford to upgrade. I fully support the long overdue investment of \$ 1.5 billion into our water infrastructure to upgrade systems. That large investment will not be enough, so I will continue to advocate for funding to ensure a safe water supply for generations to come. I support the state's efforts at working with energy companies to increase green energy investments and plan for a coal free system.
5. It is well established that there are racial health disparities in Michigan, whether you're considering maternal or infant mortality, chronic disease or even Covid, you can easily find available data to see the problem. The state has already begun the work of addressing these disparities. The work must continue with the needed appropriations to support them. Michigan has made some strides in recent years to start to address the fact that too many people in our state are imprisoned. There is much work to be done to ensure a fair system. People must also be given opportunities for a healthy return to society. We must feed kids at school.
6. There are numerous common sense changes we could make to our gun laws to reduce gun violence in our communities. The first, a Red Flag law that would restrict a person from possession of a firearm after a due process hearing if it is found that there is a risk of self-harm or harm to others. I also support safe storage gun laws that impose a criminal penalty for failure to properly secure a firearm resulting in injury or death to another, as well as increasing civil penalties for negligent storage in a vehicle or home. Mandatory gun locks sold with every firearm should be law. More mental health supports should be provided in schools.

Kelly Sackett

Republican. I am the current vice chair of the KGOP and am extremely involved in local politics. Bachelor of Science from Western Michigan University. Website: vote4sackett.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/Vote4Sackett/.

1. All children should be resourced and treated with dignity no matter what their background is. We need to celebrate and honor our differences. We need to respect teachers and provide them with the adequate tools to teach today's students. We are living in an ever changing climate and we need teachers equipped to deal with that.
2. Trade schools need to become more of the norm again. They will equip Michigan residents with new skills and thus higher paying jobs.
3. One day voting that we make a holiday so that the majority of the people will have it off and be able to easily vote.
4. If businesses are caught polluting and are repeat offenders, then there needs to be enforced repercussions. We should protect our waterways by not selling the rights to them. Our Great Lakes should remain Michigan's Great Lakes for our citizens to enjoy for generations to come.
5. We need to prioritize Michigan's children and seniors before spending on others who come from other countries. It's time to put Michigan's children and seniors first.
6. We need mental health resources available for our citizens. Violence begets violence and stems from impoverished homes a lot of time. We need equal educational opportunities available for all citizens. We need to promote families and the importance of a two parent family.

District 41

Julie M. Rogers

Democrat. State Representative and Physical Therapist. Master's Degree in Physical Therapy—Marquette University. Current State Rep, Assistant Democratic Floor Leader, Democratic VC for Military, Veterans & Homeland Security Com, Appropriations Com, EGLE Approps sub-com, Financial Services Com, House Dem DEI Com. Website: www.juliemrogers.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/vote4rogers.com. Twitter: @vote4rogers.

1. I was proud to vote for the 2023 state budget which had the largest per pupil funding increase for preK-12 schools in decades. However, I support funding formulas weighted more heavily toward our most vulnerable school districts. Areas with higher proportions of children qualifying for free/reduced lunch generally face more hardships and are not starting from the same level as students from wealthier families. To address the teacher shortage, we must support teachers by equipping them with the tools and resources they need and stop vilifying them. This means adequately funding schools to retain the hardworking staff who serve our students.
2. Working families are struggling to put food on the table, gas in their cars, and pay for child-care and rent. I support legislation to expand the Earned Income Tax Credit which would give a tax cut for many hard-working Michiganders and help them pay for basics. Medical bills continue to be the #1 cause of bankruptcy in the U.S. Access to affordable healthcare must be prioritized. Prior to COVID-19, we had a housing shortage, but now we have an extreme housing bubble with very few affordable units available. I support thinking creatively with public-private partnerships that can leverage grants and layer them with federal and state support.
3. I support legislation that makes voting easier and supports residents' freedom to vote. This term, I introduced HB 5945 which would provide an online option for absentee voting applications. I have also co-sponsored numerous bills to enhance voting. Your voice is your vote. Our democracy is under attack, and I will oppose any efforts to make voting more difficult for residents. Access to safe, secure elections which are free from intimidation tactics are critical to ensuring residents can choose their candidate.
4. Environmental protection is critical. Right here in Kalamazoo, a company operating the Morrow Dam lowered water levels to make repairs and discharged 400,000 cubic yards of sludge downstream, damaging our ecosystem and wildlife. I introduced HB 5661, which would amend the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to give the Michigan Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy emergency powers when inland lakes and streams are threatened. I also voted for SB 565, a large water infrastructure package for lead pipeline replacement; repairs for dams, roads and bridges; and PFAS clean-up. We need to invest in more renewables.
5. Everyone deserves access to affordable healthcare. I will continue to fight for reproductive freedom for all people. Residents of 49007 have been disproportionately affected by higher levels of lead exposure. Last year, my team and I knocked on 10,000 doors to speak to families about lead poisoning prevention. I've fought for additional funding in our state budget to address this critical issue that impacts health. Food deserts are another inequity. I introduced HB 5656, with bipartisan support. This bill extends the Michigan Strategic Fund Act and allows grants for neighborhood food initiatives to increase fresh produce in underserved areas.
6. I am very concerned about the recent increase in violence in Kalamazoo. I serve as a member of the Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention Legislative Caucus. We've introduced numerous bills, many of which I have co-sponsored, aimed at reducing firearm violence and increasing safety. One of the areas with significant bipartisan support has been "red flag" legislation which allows for temporary removal of firearms when an individual presents a danger to themselves or others. The majority of residents support common sense reforms. Unfortunately, none of the bills introduced this term on this topic have received a committee hearing.

Terry Haines

Republican. Retired. BS from Central Michigan University. I have thirty years of involvement in politics. I gave been to the vast majority of state conventions in that time. I seriously promote the Convention of States. Website: cterryhaines.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/484098160072233. Twitter: TCT_Pioneer.

1. The reason teachers are leaving is because they are micromanaged, usually at the federal level. They can't teach because they can't adapt to the needs or level of the students in their class. They are told what to teach, whether the students understand the teaching or not. Get rid of common core, which even Bill Gates says is a failure. Bring power for the curriculum back to the state and the localities. Allow the teachers to teach to the best of their abilities and according to the needs of the students. Many teachers are leaving because they feel the classroom has become an indoctrination center for philosophies to which they do not cling.
2. I believe in the "invisible hand" of free enterprise, from the book by Adam Smith called The Wealth of Nations. Except for maintaining safety and a healthy environment, the government has little need to be involved in a company's enterprise. More government almost always means a poorer economy. The government should not be involved in choosing winners and losers.
3. Machines should create two paper copies of every vote. Both copies should be inspected by the voter to make sure they both have correctly registered their vote. One copy goes home with the voter. One copy is kept at the voting polls and later permanently by local authorities. In the case of a voting dispute, the paper copies should be used for the counts. The "chain of custody" must be very strict, with provable record of who gives and receives the ballot at each point. The machines must not be able to accept the internet during voting hours.

State House, continued

4. I have Michigan's best plan to lower gas prices and enhance the environment in that specific issue. See the details at my web site, cteterryhaines.com. I will support conditions and policies that improve our environment. What is usually the least expensive can be made clean. Energy being expensive is not an indicator of our nobility and moral superiority. We can be green and still use abundant, available and inexpensive fuels and energy sources.
5. There will always be inequities in income. Inflation, caused by federal overspending, and inflation caused by the Federal Reserve making us pay interest to have access to our own money supply, are ruining our economy. At a state level, this can be dealt with by promoting the Convention of States referendum. At a state level, the goal should be equal access to economic opportunity, not the enforcement of equal results. I will promote policies that give equal access to all, such as charter school freedom and the elimination of federal control of our education. Advance the Convention of States!
6. Criminals do not follow the current laws. Why do we think that restricting the freedoms of the innocent will bring good results? I recommend guns being worn by the teachers and administrators of schools. Putting a "gun free zone" area anywhere promotes the violent to find and attack in these areas. I recommend universal concealed carry for Michigan.

Rafael Wolf

Libertarian

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

District 42

Justin Mendoza

Democrat. Advocacy Lead in U.S. Health Policy at Partners in Health. B.S., Biomedical Sciences ad Neuroscience, Central Michigan University; M.P.H., Health Policy and Regulator Affairs, Yale University. Over my career, I have worked on legislation in 7 states and the federal government. As a coalition leader, I worked on the bipartisan No Surprises Act and the American Rescue Plan Act. Website: www.justin4mi.com. Facebook: facebook.com/JustinMendozaForMichigan. Twitter: @JustinDMendoza.

1. I believe we should invest in our public schools and ensure that taxpayer funding is not invested in private schools. Additionally, we should make investments in the schools that have struggled to get the resources needed, especially in low income and rural communities. We should also invest in mental health professionals and school social workers in our school districts. To address our teacher shortage, we need to increase wages across the board, ensure our retirement benefits are a good investment and provide supplies for our teachers so they are not spending out of their own pockets to keep their classrooms stocked.
2. We need to raise the wage and ensure no wage gaps with Michigan employers. And we also have to block workplace discrimination that is still legal. That means codifying language under the Elliot Larson Civil Rights Act to protect sexual orientation and gender identity, that means ending our sub-minimum wage for tipped employees and people with disabilities, and that means ensuring our minimum wage gets to \$15 per hour as quickly as possible. We also must reinstate Michigan's prevailing wage laws, to set a level playing field for workers in the trades. We need to ensure people are protected from unexpected health care costs with coverage.
3. We need to follow the lead of the bipartisan election clerks who are already advocating for common sense reforms and issues around our elections. We have to make sure folks understand that they are already secure and fair, but emphasize that there are resources needed to keep them that way. These policies include: more time to process absentee ballots and more early voting. Campaign funding-wise, Michigan should have public campaign funds for more positions. If public funds could be allocated to all offices, and paired with some more limitations on other donor classes, we could see a more accessible and responsive set of candidates.
4. Clean water is essential for Michigan's future. We need to continue testing for PFAS, so we know the extent to which our communities are affected today. We need to support clean up efforts and require abatement by the companies who own any existing contamination sites. We also have to finish lead infrastructure. Many of our communities have proposed sites for aggregate mines, which have been linked to silicosis, asthma, and COPD among workers. I would support policies to limit aggregate mines in our communities. I support renewable energy infrastructure including more solar access in communities and private homes, and EV infrastructure.
5. All of our policies should be centered on offsetting disparities. That means our investments in health care should focus on community health workers and other community-based approaches, our tax policy should include expanding our earned income tax credit to help lift families out of poverty, our seniors should not be taxed on retirement income, and our educational system should be funded at a higher level, and not with public funds going to private schools that create a two-tiered educational system in our communities. I support rent control, automatic Medicaid enrollment, and ensuring no drug tests for benefits.

6. (a) Close loopholes in background check systems. (b) Oppose expanded concealed carry or automatic concealed carry policies (they should continue to require training and certification). (c) Make sure that Michigan maintains the ability to designate some areas as "gun free zones" including schools, places of worship, and government buildings. (d) Oppose stand your ground laws. (e) Amend or repeal Michigan's pre-emption laws to allow local control over gun ordinances. (f) Gun storage requirements, and liability for gun owners if weapons are used in a crime due to a lack of safe storage.

Matt Hall

Republican. State Representative. BBA, Business Management & Public Administration, Cum Laude, Western Michigan University; Juris Doctor, Advanced Constitutional Advocacy, Magna Cum Laude, WMU Cooley Law School. Constitutional Attorney; Chair of the House Tax Policy Committee; Michigan Manufacturing Association Legislator of the Year 2022. Website: www.electmatthall.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/electmatthall. Twitter: twitter.com/electmatthall.

1. I recently voted to make the largest investment in education in Michigan history. The \$20 billion school budget I supported included a record-high per-pupil foundation allowance of \$9,000 per student, up \$450 per student from the current year and more than \$2,000 from a decade ago. I recently voted for a \$500 Million House plan to help teacher recruitment and retention. I helped create Michigan Reconnect, the largest workforce education program in state history that has helped put over 100,000 Michigan workers, 25 and older, who do not have a college degree, on the path to earning an affordable associate degree or skilled trade certificate.
2. I served as an important check on two of the governor's more radical policies: her proposed 45 cent per gallon gas tax increase and her 40% tax hike on small businesses. Instead, I helped pass bipartisan legislation that made historic investments in education; expanded access to affordable childcare; created new career training programs that have put 100,000 Michigan workers on the path to higher paying careers; invested in roads, bridges, and clean water infrastructure; and funded our police Without Raising Taxes. I even found common ground with the governor to achieve multiple tax cuts for small businesses.
3. I voted for legislation to restore people's confidence in our state's elections. This included requiring Voter ID to vote; banning the mass mailing of unsolicited absentee ballot applications; removing dead people and people who moved from the voter rolls; prohibiting private individuals like Mark Zuckerberg from funding elections; strengthening signature verification requirements; and making it a felony to knowingly commit fraud on an absentee ballot application.
4. I voted to dedicate \$2 billion to upgrade Michigan's infrastructure including repairing our water and sewer infrastructure and replacing lead service lines; fixing local roads and bridges; and investing in rural broadband. I support building a tunnel around Line 5 in the Mackinac Straits to protect the pipeline from any future incident. Line 5 is important to supplying 55% of the propane needed across the state and is essential to heating many Michigan homes and businesses. I support an "all of the above" energy plan and support natural gas exploration in our state. We must continue to invest in our electrical grid to make it more reliable.
5. My \$2.5 Billion tax cut plan that passed the legislature raises the earned income tax credit to 20% of the federal credit, cuts the income tax to 4% and raises the amount of money you can earn tax free. I passed a plan that would eliminate most retirement income for seniors 62 and older. Unfortunately, more work needs to be done to get the governor to support these plans. I voted for a new law that will lower the cost of prescription drugs in our state by regulating pharmacy benefit managers that engage in practices that drive up costs. I voted for bipartisan auto insurance reforms that are starting to make auto insurance more affordable.
6. The Defund the Police movement is very dangerous and politicians who support this radical ideology threaten everyone's safety. I backed a plan to recruit and retain more high-quality police officers, fully fund local county road patrols, provide our police with state-of-the-art equipment, and invest more in strengthening relationships between communities and law enforcement. I voted to provide state funding for school safety officers for every school. I recently supported a bipartisan \$500M plan that expands mental health support in schools. I also voted for a \$300M plan to boost funding for our local law enforcement.

District 45

Ron Hawkins

Democrat

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Sarah Lightner

Republican

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

www.VOTE411.org Election Information You Need

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U. S. Congress — Michigan

Two-year term — Vote for one

Representatives share the responsibility with Senators for enactment of the nation's laws as provided in the U.S. Constitution. Laws that require payment of taxes are initiated in the House of Representatives. A Representative must be at least 25 years of age and a U.S. Citizen for at least 7 years. There are 435 Representatives based on Congressional districts reapportioned after each census. Michigan has 13 districts as of 2022.

Questions

1. Health Care: What do you see as the federal government's role in health care? Given the COVID-19 pandemic, what are your concerns and plans regarding public health in the U.S.?
2. Economy: What federal policies do you support for a healthy economy and to help Americans without financial security improve their economic positions?
3. Elections: What federal policies do you support regarding elections, campaign funding and voting rights?
4. Social Justice: How would you address racial, economic, health and education inequities, including our country's 16% of children and 10% of seniors living in poverty?
5. Environment & Energy: What policies do you support to meet U.S. energy needs while protecting our water, air and land for current and future generations?
6. Immigration: What policies do you support relative to immigration to the U.S.?

District 4

Joseph Alfonso

Democrat. Not working. B.A GST Environmental Essential Studies, Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt. Veteran U.S. Marine Corps - Developed base plans abroad, managed military spending on large oversea projects, deployed as support for a shock trauma unit (utility and security support of a Navy medics.) Website: www.josephalfonsoforcongress.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/Alfonso2022Mi. Twitter: [AlfonsoforMI4](https://twitter.com/AlfonsoforMI4).

1. Our first step in convincing the general public that medicare for all would work is to have them see it at work in their homes. Medicare for everyone under the age of 18 would educate every family on the financial freedom it would provide and afford medical care access to every child in the United states. If a Medicare for All bill comes across my desk I will sign it, but if we cannot get there, this step would push us closer to our goals and help millions of Americans.
- 2-5. Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.
6. The pathway to citizenship should be made accessible and fair. We need reform at the board on how we process asylum seekers and a more humane way in dealing with those coming to America to seek a better life. There is no us vs. them. This is an issue of values and the value is simple, do you value human life?

Bill Huizenga

Republican. I am a third-generation small business owner and current Congressman in Michigan's 2nd District. Bachelor's degree from Calvin College. As a small business owner, I firmly understand the challenges job creators face today. Understanding how taxes and regulations impact Southwest Michigan is critical to crafting sound policy. Website: www.huizengaforcongress.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/BillHuizenga. Twitter: [@BillHuizenga](https://twitter.com/BillHuizenga).

1. Access to affordable health care is out of reach for too many people. To reduce costs and increase access to health care, we must curb costly junk lawsuits, encourage the use of health savings accounts, increase portability, and empower both small businesses and states to be innovative in reducing costs for employees and their families. Any reforms Congress passes must include protections for patients with pre-existing conditions. Congress must make improving mental health care a priority. I continue to lead bipartisan efforts to modernize and improve mental healthcare at the federal level.
2. As a small business owner, I understand what Michigan job creators need: less red tape and lower taxes. My number one priority in Congress is to promote an atmosphere for job creation, economic growth, and higher wages for employees across Michigan. Washington's addiction to spending is having a negative impact on our economy, increasing inflation, and raising costs on families across Michigan. That is why I am a strong supporter of the Inflation Prevention Act and continue to support a balanced budget amendment to fully address Washington's out of control spending over the long term.
3. The idea that our election process should be open and free from illegal practices is the cornerstone of our democracy. While we should continue to bring more Americans into our democratic process, it should be done without the threat of fraud or abuse to the electoral system. That is why I am supporting the Save Democracy Act. The Save Democracy Act would institute common-sense reforms to address election integrity concerns and restore confidence in the principle of one-citizen, one-vote. Congress must continually work to ensure that each federal election is free, fair, and legitimate.
4. A federal policy is not going to address these inequities overnight. Students, regardless of their zip code, should have access to a quality education where teachers, administrators, and parents have greater input. Rampant inflation is causing soaring prices that hurt seniors, individuals, and families across all walks of life. Enacting pro-growth policies can reduce economic disparities, lower prices, and increase opportunity. Workforce development must be geared to equip those seeking work with job openings.
5. America is facing an energy crisis and our focus should be on unleashing domestic energy. The US must adopt an "all of the above" approach that responsibly develops our resources, utilizes alternatives, ends our reliance on foreign oil, and protects & preserves our environment. As co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Great Lakes Task Force, I have been on the forefront of the efforts to preserve the ecology and economy of the Great Lakes. As a member of the bipartisan PFAS Task Force, I have worked to protect communities from contamination, promote research, and support cleanup efforts.
6. Our immigration system is broken. A workable and effective immigration bill should recognize America's immigrant heritage and respect the enormous contributions of immigrants by encouraging and enforcing legal immigration. Immigration reform must prioritize border security and a legal identification process rather than providing amnesty. I will continue to work towards a rational and balanced immigration reform bill that opposes amnesty, ensures border integrity, respects the rule of law, and prioritizes hard working Americans.

Lorence Wenke

Libertarian

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Curtis Michael Clark

U.S. Taxpayers

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

District 5

Bart Goldberg

Democrat. Lawyer. University of Chicago Law School. Bart has served individuals and small businesses as a lawyer throughout his career. Lawyer. He has previously run for office in IL. He has held numerous posts on neighborhood and homeowner associations. Website: www.bart4mi.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/bart4mi. Twitter: [@bartgoldbergmi5](https://twitter.com/bartgoldbergmi5).

1. Health care should be a basic human right and as such the federal government's role has been and shall continue to be multi-faceted. The most obvious involvement is through the operation of the Medicare system which accounts for 20% of national medical spending. Another important function includes regulating medications and treatments through the FDA, as without this Agency people would be harmed by dangerous snake oil solutions that they could not possibly verify on their own. I am in agreement with the recent statements of Director Walensky who wants faster release of medical findings and guidance that is clearer from the CDC.
2. We must continue to work to get inflation under control, quickly. The Pandemic and the Ukraine War were big factors but there is still much to do. We need to provide incentives to Buy American with regards to strategically important goods that contributed to our supply chain bottlenecks. We need to crack down on the price gouging and profit taking that we have seen from Big Oil, Big Pharma and other major corporations. A key part of this is increased enforcement of our Antitrust laws and more money being allocated to the FTC to protect consumers. I am strongly pro-union, as such I support the Pro Act and will work to get it enacted.
3. Democracy depends on free and fair elections which allow participation by all US citizens (and I support it even for felons). However, we all saw the attempts in Congress on January 6th to deny the results of our presidential election. As a result, the highest priority is the reforming of the Electoral Count Act of 1887. While there was thought to be bi-partisan support it still has not passed and this is critical. As to voting rights, I support the John Lewis Act that has been denied a vote in the Senate so far. I am a huge proponent of campaign finance reform as I view the influence of money to be poisonous and debilitating.
4. As to our senior citizens, my central task will be to protect our Social Security system. Not only do we have a contract with our seniors stemming from their paying into the system, we have a moral obligation. I also support increasing the amount of benefits as they have not kept up with the times. All of this can be done by lifting the cap on FICA for incomes over \$400,000. We recently got a cap on drug prices such as insulin under Medicare, but this must be extended further. As to poverty for our children we must first of all insist that all children are entitled to a first class education that prepares them for the modern economy.
5. Climate change is certainly real and global warming is literally an existential threat to our children and life on earth. I support a comprehensive energy policy that will ensure America's energy independence while moving us towards clean, renewable, and affordable energy as quickly as possible. I support continued and expanded tax incentives for renewable energy, both for consumers and households as well as for American manufacturers of solar, wind, and other renewable technologies. As to water, Michigan is so spoiled with the abundant clean and free water we were gifted by our lakes. They must be stringently protected.
6. It is imperative that we finally enact a comprehensive immigration reform package. The new laws must be humane, but once enacted they must be strictly enforced. I believe that a large part of our present problems with immigration stem from decades of intentionally "looking the other way". Accordingly, I support the Dreamers as I believe that we now owe a chance for eventually attaining citizenship to those that have worked here, paid taxes and avoided violent crimes. I also advocate for major modifications to the H-2A visa system given that it is currently too expensive and burdened by red-tape to be useful.

Tim Walberg

Republican

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Norman M. Peterson

Libertarian

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Ezra Scott

U.S. Taxpayers

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

**Check www.vote411.org
for responses submitted after
this Guide was published.**

Michigan Supreme Court Justice

Eight-year term — Vote for up to two

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

Questions

1. Why are you running for the Michigan Supreme Court and how do your educational, occupational, civic and community experiences qualify you to serve on this court?
2. Describe, in lay terms, what the Michigan Supreme Court does and the challenges it faces. How would you address these challenges?

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?

Richard Bernstein

Nonpartisan. Michigan Supreme Court Justice. Phi Beta Kappa Graduate of the University of Michigan and earned my Juris Doctor from Northwestern University Law School. Website: TheBlindJustice.com. Facebook: [facebook.com/reelectbernsteinforjustice](https://www.facebook.com/reelectbernsteinforjustice). Twitter: @TheBlindJustice.

1. I was born legally blind and my unique life challenge has helped fuel my passion for fairness and driven my professional, legal, and public service work. I believe in justice that is blind to ideology, blind to special interests, and blind to partisan politics. As a Justice on the Michigan Supreme Court, I listen, make sure all sides are heard, and that the rule of law is always served. A good judge knows what it means to struggle. As former head of the public service division of The Sam Bernstein Law Firm, I spent my career fighting to ensure justice is served for all people, including those with disabilities.
2. The Michigan Supreme Court has two keys functions. The first is to serve as the court of "last resort" in which it decides some of the most significant judicial cases in the State of Michigan. The second is to oversee the administration of all other courts in the state which includes establishing rules for practices and procedures in all Michigan courts. A key issue facing Michigan courts right now is the backlog due to the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in lengthy waits for cases to be adjudicated. I believe all courts should safely return to in-person court, move through the backlog, and use virtual court when necessary.
3. Greater access to justice in both criminal and civil justice systems are the biggest needs. For example, in order for public defenders to fairly represent their clients in criminal proceedings they need the tools and resources to conduct a proper investigation of the facts. In civil proceedings, the question is how can we ensure all people have an opportunity to participate and navigate the justice system without getting left behind. The Court's Justice For All Task Force is committed to working towards 100% access to justice in the civil system and I applaud the effort to make Michigan courts more accessible to all people statewide.

Kyra Harris Bolden

Nonpartisan. State Representative. Grand Valley State University, 2006-2010, Bachelor's degree; University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, 2011-2014, Juris Doctorate degree. Website: boldenforjustice.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/boldenforjustice. Twitter: [khbforjustice](https://twitter.com/khbforjustice).

1. I am an attorney, currently serving my second term, representing the 35th District in the Michigan State House. I have gotten 5 bi-partisan bills passed and signed into law. I am a graduate of Southfield Public Schools and received my bachelor's degree from Grand Valley State University and Juris Doctor from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. I decided to run for Michigan Supreme Court because I love Michigan, have practiced law and participated in making state law, and I want to ensure equal justice under the law for generations.
2. The Michigan Supreme Court serves as an equal and impartial third branch of government and does not make policy or law. The Court is responsible for ruling on cases brought before it based upon the evidence presented and to make independent, reasoned judgment based upon the law. As a non-partisan judicial candidate, the Michigan Judicial Canons prohibit answering questions regarding issues, or taking positions on matters that could be presented to the court. I believe that we have an opportunity to protect justice for generations. We have the opportunity to ensure access to justice and equal justice under the law.
3. As a non-partisan judicial candidate, the Michigan Judicial Canons prohibit answering questions regarding issues, or taking positions on matters that could be presented to the court.

Paul Hudson

Nonpartisan. Lawyer. Cornell University and Georgetown University Law Center. Website: www.hudsonforjustice.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/hudsonforjustice. Twitter: twitter.com/Hudson4justice.

1. I'm often asked why I would run for elected office in a political environment as nasty and divisive as ours. My answer is always the same: We need good people of good character to step up for these positions. Now, more than ever, we need our most qualified and experienced candidates to step up to the plate to run for office. I lead the appeals group at one of Michigan's top law firms, clerked for a top federal judge, graduated from Cornell and Georgetown Law, and have served as lead counsel in more than 150 cases in the Michigan Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.
2. The Michigan Supreme Court sits atop the justice system in the state, and serves as the ultimate umpire for all legal disputes in Michigan, especially those involving the most important and complex issues of constitutional interpretation. The biggest challenge the Michigan Supreme Court faces is the politicization of our courts. Simply put, we need to keep the politics

and politicians out of our courts. The Michigan Supreme Court is a nonpartisan institution—it's on the nonpartisan section of the ballot for a reason—and I take this very seriously. People need to be able to trust that their judges are not just politicians in robes.

3. In addition to the politicization issue I discussed above, our justice system as a whole needs to be far more efficient. It can take years to process cases, and in many courtrooms across the state the system is set up for the convenience of the individual judge, rather than the public at large. There is no excuse for this, and it needs to change. One way to change this is through the smart use of technology. Through Zoom and other technology platforms, we can make the justice system more accessible, less expensive, and more efficient.

Kerry Lee Morgan

Nonpartisan. Attorney. Counsel to the law firm of Pentiuik, Couvreur, & Kobiljak, P.C. Regent University, M.A. Public Policy, magna cum laude, 1985; Detroit College of Law, J.D., 1981; Michigan State University, B.A. Political Science and Criminal Justice, with honors, 1977. Website: www.martindale.com/attorney/kerry-lee-morgan-2161158/. Facebook: [lawyers.findlaw.com/profile/view/2750666_1](https://www.facebook.com/lawyers.findlaw.com/profile/view/2750666_1).

1. The Supreme Court needs Justices who will apply the law as written, not as it ought to be written in the mind of the Judge. My background in the law for over forty years has taught me the importance of this purpose. My experience in the practice of law before judges has taught me that judges are sometimes reluctant to simply apply the law as written. I can bring a balanced respect for the written law and the Constitution in particular to the bench, so that Justice may be done.
2. Article VI of the Michigan Constitution provides the Court exercise only judicial power, including superintending control, adopting rule of practice and procedure, and to issue written decisions in cases and controversies that come before it. In so doing it must secure the rights of the people by confining the government's power strictly within its Constitutional boundaries. It does not enjoy any power to make law or carry the law into execution. It does not enjoy any power to substitute its own political matrix for that of the parties, the legislature or Governor. It has no power to insert new rights into the Constitution.
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.

Brian Zahra

Nonpartisan. Justice, Michigan Supreme Court. Wayne State University (B.A.); University of Detroit Mercy School of Law (J.D.). Website: www.zahra4justice.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/JusticeBrianZahra/. Twitter: [@zahra4justice](https://twitter.com/zahra4justice).

1. I am the only member of the Court to bring prior trial court and appellate court experience to the job. Having tried hundreds of cases and reviewed on appeal thousands more, I possess a wealth of experience and knowledge relating to the proper application of statutes and court rules to cases. My passion for the rule of law and equal justice under law has also led me to Chair the Justice for All Commission (discussed below), to ensure access to our civil justice system to those in need of legal assistance. This unparalleled blend of experience and dedication to our justice system makes me uniquely qualified to serve another term on the Court.
2. The primary function of the Court is to interpret Michigan law. Courts do not make law. Elected legislative representatives make our laws. The greatest challenge for the Court is to state what the law is and not what we think the law ought to be. Judicial restraint accomplishes this challenge while acknowledging that equal justice under law is the foundational promise of our legal system. Equal justice under law can only be achieved when litigants can be confident that judges will restrain themselves to the proper interpretation of the law.
3. Too many people are denied meaningful access to the civil justice system because they cannot afford a lawyer. These cases involve very important issues, like housing, domestic disputes and debt collection. I chair a commission that is developing strategies to narrow this justice gap by rethinking the delivery of legal assistance. Another significant challenge to our court system is catching up on the backlog of cases that developed as a result of the pandemic. This is best addressed by utilizing retired judges to help resolve old cases, and encouraging litigants to use alternative dispute resolution in the civil context.



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

—Barbara Jordan

Kalamazoo County Courts

Questions

1. How have your education, professional experience and interests prepared you to serve on this court?
2. What have been the most effective methods for improving court procedures? What other methods would you suggest to improve efficiency or make the courts less intimidating to the public?
3. What role should the court play in promoting racial justice?

9th Judicial Circuit Court

Six-year term — Vote for one

The Ninth Circuit Court is the court of highest jurisdiction in Kalamazoo County. The Circuit Court consists of a Family Division and a Trial Division, supported by Technology Services, Finance Services, Drug Treatment Courts and Planning, Friend of the Court and Juvenile Home.

Ken Barnard

Nonpartisan. Age 52. Senior Assistant Prosecutor for Kalamazoo County. Law Degree from the University of Detroit Mercy; Master of Business Administration from Western Michigan University. Experienced prosecutor, protecting the rights of victims for nearly 25 years; Led Kalamazoo County Child Abuse Multi-Disciplinary Team. Campaign Address: 6166 Horizon Heights Drive, Kalamazoo 49009. Campaign Phone: (269)532-4255. Email: barnard4judge@gmail.com. Website: barnard4judge.com. Facebook: facebook.com/barnard4judge.

1. I have unmatched experience handling major cases in court and will be prepared to run a courtroom on the first day of my term. My experience spans all courts: Family, Probate, Circuit and District Court. I have won jury guilty verdicts for some of the worst crimes we face, with particular focus on criminals who target our children. Becoming a judge is a calling; a calling to serve. Instead of pursuing private interests, as most lawyers and candidates do, I have chosen to serve the public exclusively. For over two decades it has been an honor to open each and every one of my cases by introducing myself: "Ken Barnard, for the People."
2. (a) Technology: Missing wages and paying for gas/babysitting is a hardship many working people cannot afford. Return to using Zoom and Youtube as much as possible. Adopt an overdue automated system for filing court documents. (b) Streamline Services: There are many areas where the courts can cooperate to save money and time. For example, one judge instead of two should set bond for persons with cases before District and Circuit Courts. (c) Expand Specialty Courts: Drug Court allows participants to receive treatment and overcome addictions. This model should be expanded to address other social problems that we know jail alone will not fix.
3. It is the duty of every judge to promote racial justice. Learning about the differing experiences of people is part of a judge's necessary homework for the job. As a judge, I will ensure that bail does not disproportionately affect people of color. That commitment is why I held a forum on bail reform in 2019. Also, young children must not be dragged to court for discipline that should occur in the home or schools. For cases the court needs to handle, it must address the causes and trauma underlying behavior. Finally, diversity training should be mandatory. And I will do my part by hiring a diverse staff and appointed legal counsel.

Rebecca D'Angelo

Nonpartisan. Age 44. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, III. JD Roger Williams School of Law. Thorough knowledge of law based on 20 years of experience in the Family, Criminal, and Civil Courts. Senior Trial Prosecutor assigned to cases involving major felony crimes in Kalamazoo County. Campaign Phone: 781-454-6053. Email: rebecca@judgeforkalamazoo.com. Website: www.judgeforkalamazoo.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/JudgeForKalamazoo/. Twitter: Judge4Kalamazoo.

1. I am actively working in Kalamazoo County as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. I work closely with Local and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies, Community Resources; Urban Alliance, the YWCA; DHHS/CPS; Family and Children Services, Bethany Christian Services; and the Gospel Mission. I am committed to bringing justice to victims and fashioning dispositions to best curb the violence and repeat offenders. By working and living in Kalamazoo for the last 16 years, I believe the long term key to reducing recidivism rates within Kalamazoo is to facilitate expectations of excellence within the community by utilizing our local resources.
2. The most effective method for improving the court is to listen to the people of the community. Their voice needs to be heard. I often hear frustration with repeat offenders and rehabilitation. The court needs to listen and put into place a plan to address this need. On the bench, I will facilitate a monthly round table inviting 3 community resources to come and present their program. This will inform Judges, Defense Attorneys, Prosecutors, MDOC and Probation of resources that are right here in Kalamazoo. Knowing what is available to assist people in rehabilitation will reduce recidivism, and bring support to our community.
3. In a system that is often known for being out of touch, the people of Kalamazoo deserve a judge who is passionate about creating lasting change. I am committed to providing knowledgeable, impartial rulings, and building lasting relationships of trust with every resident of Kalamazoo. I believe that everyone deserves the utmost respect, professionalism, clear communication, and ethics. In my courtroom: You will be safe. Your voice will be heard and your case will be efficiently resolved.

Josh Hilgart

Nonpartisan. Age 52. Executive Director of Kalamazoo Defender (Kalamazoo County's Public Defender Office). JD Michigan State College of Law; BA Shimer College. Over 12 years in Washington, DC, conducting political communications and project management. Former Law Clerk in the 9th Circuit Court, helping research and draft the Court's opinions and orders. Former Legal Aid Attorney based in Kalamazoo, representing hundreds of impoverished clients in various areas of law. I designed, founded and now run Kalamazoo County's first Public Defender Office. Campaign Address: 2606 Frederick Avenue, Kalamazoo 49008. Phone: 269-365-9237. Email: jhilgart@hilgart4judge.com. Website: Hilgart4Judge.com. Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/Josh-Hilgart-for-Judge-108674588536148.

1. My formal education focused on philosophy, social science and the law—the human experience. My professional career continued that education as I fought to reduce barriers for those who need it most. Specifically: I offered direct legal services to the poor and neglected in Kalamazoo and created systemic legal support to the same populations as the founder of Kalamazoo's holistic public defender office. As judge, I will balance the dignity of individuals

before the court with the laws and legal precedents that often fail to take into account the lived human experiences of those individuals.

2. (a) Make Court processes transparent to the public; (b) respect litigants with clear guidelines, thoughtful scheduling, and courtroom procedures that reduce friction or confusion; and (c) identify and implement alternative means of holding parties accountable to produce better outcomes than traditional approaches like incarceration. A courtroom should be a safe environment that does not impose trauma or fear until legally necessary. And even then, when a court must hold people accountable, it can do so in a manner that fosters learning and growth. (See Kalamazoo's groundbreaking specialty courts, upon which we can expand.)
3. A court can take into account where racial justice is absent. For example, did systemic racism influence interaction between a defendant and law enforcement? A black youth experiencing over-policing and videos of young unarmed black being killed will probably respond to law enforcement—even responsible law enforcement—differently than a white person. Other areas abound: denial to generational wealth due to federal housing policy, denial to fathers due to mass incarceration, denial to education due to local funding practices. A court that notes these factors can incorporate them into more effective and appropriate decisions.

Julie Jensen

Nonpartisan. Age 53. Attorney/Administrative Law Specialist at the Michigan Department of Treasury. Bachelor of Arts from the Univ of Michigan and Juris Doctor from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. 1.5 years at the MI Ct of Appeals, 9 years as a civil litigation lawyer, 10 years with the MI Attorney General handling unemployment law matters and other labor cases, 9 years as an administrative law specialist at Treasury. Campaign address: 5947 Leon Dr., Scotts 49088. Phone: 269-377-2489. Email: juliejensen4judge@gmail.com. Website: juliejensen4judge.com.

1. At Thomas M. Cooley Law School, I graduated 5th in my 1992 class. My 30 years of practice since then, litigating in courtrooms all over the state, has taught me court procedure, how to manage large volumes of cases efficiently, how to treat others with civility and respect, how to interpret and apply legal principles to evidence, how to reach a conclusion promptly and how to communicate it concisely and clearly, both in written and oral speech. My public service experience has taught me to be even-tempered, but firm, open-minded, but decisive. It has taught me how to be compassionate and understanding while being objective and impartial.
2. Studying similar courts with efficient procedures and implementing those best practices has been effective at improving court procedures. Focusing on another court's successes can be a valuable resource. However, focusing on one's own failures is also a critical step toward improvement. Implementation of court satisfaction surveys are an excellent tool for gathering feedback from the court's users and engaging them in the process. Responding to concerns and committing to improve the process builds trust with the community. Central to a non-threatening system are: voice, respect, neutrality, understanding, and helpfulness.
3. Courts have a direct and fundamental responsibility to dispense justice with impartiality, and must critically consider racial equality in doing so. Courts must embrace diversity and inclusion training as well as implicit bias training and seek to increase diversity on the bench and bar. It must strive not just for equal or same treatment of all, but to build an equity framework, which seeks to level the playing field for those facing race, social, or economic challenges by forging strategic community partnerships, by promoting early resolution services, by improving remote court access, and by removing barriers to participation.

Probate Court

Six-year term — Vote for one

Probate Court handles guardianships, conservatorships, deceased estates, trusts and mental health proceedings. Circuit Court/Family Division matters currently handled by Probate Court include name changes, adoptions and emancipations.

Scott Pierangeli

Nonpartisan

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

8th District Court

Six-year term — Vote for one

The Kalamazoo County Eighth District Court has Countywide jurisdiction over traffic matters, criminal misdemeanors, original jurisdictions over felony cases, civil cases up to \$25,000, small claims cases, landlord/tenant and land contract cases that arise in Kalamazoo County.

Lana Maria Escamilla

Nonpartisan. Age 43. Attorney/Escamilla & Salisbury, PLLC. 2007 Michigan State University College of Law, J.D. 2003 Lee Honors College, Western Michigan University, B.S. in Psychology. 2001 KVCC, A.A. in Pre-Communications. 2014, Current, Private practice. 2014 Corporate Counsel at Talmer West Bank. 2011-2013 Corporate Counsel at Capitol Bancorp Ltd. 2007-2011 Associate Attorney at Stephen L. Langeland P.C. 2004-2007 Legal Assistant/Paralegal at Stephen L. Langeland, P.C. 2006- Extern at Ingham County Probate Court. 2020 Election Worker City of Portage. Campaign Address: 2327 Lorraine Ave., Kalamazoo 49008. Phone: 269-303-5601. Email: ctelanamariaescamilla@gmail.com. Website: votelanaescamilla.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100080208257842.

1. My life has been devoted to service of others, from volunteering & serving on boards for various organizations to many decades working with people as a server, bartender & manager at a restaurant. My law practice is dedicated to serving others and has allowed me to litigate in courts across the state. This coupled with my undergraduate education in psychology, with an emphasis in communications, my law degree & post legal education have provided me the necessary tools and skills to serve on this court. I am eager to serve the citizens of Kalamazoo County in a role where I can continue to enhance & promote integrity in the judicial system.

Kalamazoo County Courts, continued

2. Effective case management by judges tailored to each case. Each court in Michigan has different policies and procedures. Attorneys and parties must familiarize themselves with the local court rules and judge's procedures to improve efficiency and prevent unpleasant surprises. A way to accomplish this is by making local court customs & each judge's policies & procedures available on the court's website, such as communications with the court and scheduling procedures such as status conferences, ADR, motions, trials & evidentiary hearings. Education & viewing the courts as a manner of resolution can help make the courts less intimidating.
3. The democracy of our country is built upon the application of law in a fair and just manner. Courts must ensure that all parties to a dispute, regardless of race, have the opportunity to meaningfully participate in court processes and be heard by a neutral, unbiased, third party who will provide a speedy and fair decision in both criminal and civil cases. Courts should continually evaluate their policies, procedures, education, training and hiring as a means to promote racial equality, recognize and eliminate any bias and discrimination in the courts, so that all citizens are provided liberty and justice as required by our laws.

Becket Jones

Nonpartisan. Age 39. Senior Trial Attorney—Hills at Law, P.C. Juris Doctorate—Thomas M. Cooley Law School; Bachelor of Arts—Business Administration; Pre-Law—Michigan State University. Licensed Attorney in Michigan since July 1, 2011. Have represented well over 1,000 individual cases / clients in both State and Federal Courts in Michigan. I practice frequently in the 8th District Court on both misdemeanor and felony matters—I have represented cases in the 8th District Court as minor as misdemeanor trespassing, and as serious as First Degree / Open Murder. Campaign Address: 4725 Tiffany Avenue, Portage 49002. Phone: 269-330-2150. Email: becket-jonesforjudge@gmail.com. Website: www.becketforthebench.com.

1. I am a criminal defense attorney. Whether it is a case involving obvious guilt on video, or innocence buried in the fog, every day I counsel people through some of the worst moments of their lives, with varied expectations on what comes next. My experience has taught me to listen intently to everyone that I meet. To understand internal struggles of my clients, and to thoughtfully map a plan out. And not just plans for the case. But plans to help improve the lives of my clients beyond the case, so they don't enter the system again. A Judge does these same things, but on a larger scale.
2. This gets back to my prior response. I think a listening and compassionate ear is the primary skill of the Judge that runs an efficient and effective Court. Additionally, a clear understanding that every voice must have equality in the courtroom is necessary. The courtroom is intimidating in part because there are historical assumptions about what is likely to take place inside of it from each of the parties that walk in to it. A Judge, who through her or his character, practices with a listening / compassionate ear, and gives each party to the process an equal voice, makes the Court, and the process itself, less intimidating.
3. The court is intentionally (and correctly) an apolitical body. Because of our current political climate, I believe that this type of question gets viewed as a political one. However, this is not a political question. It is a constitutional question and frankly a question of our collective

morality. The Court, constitutionally and morally is required to look internally to ensure that it is practicing the way that both the United States and Michigan Constitutions envision it to. This means that the rights of the people before the Court shall not be abridged / denied on account of race. The Court must live this example daily. Period.

8th District Court (Partial Term 2 years)

Two-year partial term ending 01/01/2025 — Vote for one

Alisa Parker-Lagrone

Nonpartisan

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

8th District Court (Partial Term 4 years)

Four-year partial term ending 01/01/2027 — Vote for one

Namita Sharma

Nonpartisan. Age 59. Judge. University of Michigan, Bachelor of Science 1986; Detroit College of Law, Juris Doctorate 1990. Incumbent judge in the Family Division of the 9th Circuit Court. Campaign Address: PO BOX 103, Lansing 49074. Phone: 517-927-5179.

1. I was in private practice for 30 years prior to being appointed to the bench by Governor Whitmer on October 7, 2021. I was a Judicial Attorney for former Justice Kurtis T. Wilder for three years soon after graduating from law school. I understand how the courts work and I have hit the ground running after taking the bench. I have represented thousands of people from all walks of life and I have handled a wide variety of cases while in private practice. I grew up in Kalamazoo and I understand the needs of this community. As a judge in the family division, my work from my private practice has prepared me for this role.
2. The role of the judge is to hear cases impartially and to treat litigants and attorneys with dignity and courtesy. I have done that as a judge and I also have worked to manage my docket so that hearings are held in a timely manner while allowing litigants and attorneys the ability to present their case. I am patient and attentive and I also fit matters into my docket with the flexibility to get contested matters resolved rather than linger. I also study the law and apply it fairly to all who appear before me. Being heard is one of the most critical things that a judge can do to make the court less intimidating for litigants.
3. Judges have to apply the law fairly and impartially without preconceived notions about individuals that appear in court. However, compassion and empathy for the circumstances that bring individuals into contact with the courts is needed for justice to be applied. Cases must be viewed with an eye towards mercy and rehabilitation when appropriate and by treating each person as an individual. Being more inclusive of the public through racial equity training for staff is a method that can aid in racial justice.

Kalamazoo County Commission

Two-year term — Vote for 1

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 9 members who are elected from districts according to population.

Questions

1. What specifically will you do as a Commissioner to improve the quality of life for residents of your District? How will your talents and skills enable you to succeed in these efforts?
2. What policies and programs will you promote to enhance citizen equity and engagement in the wellbeing of our communities and the democratic process?
3. What are the two most significant environmental concerns in the County? What should the County do to address each of them?
4. Are you satisfied with the County's progress in assuring affordable housing for residents? Why or why not? What more needs to be done?

District 1

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

Kalamazoo Township precincts 2, 8, 9, 10

Tami Rey

Democrat. Age 35. Kalamazoo County Commissioner & Community Engagement Coordinator for CRADLE Kalamazoo. Associates Degree. Current Kalamazoo County Commissioner; Former vice Chair; Chaired the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director Hiring Committee; Chair of the City of Kalamazoo's CDAAC committee; Co-Chair ISAAC Gun Violence Prevention Task Force; Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission; Appointed by Gov Whitmer to Michigan Community Service Commission. Campaign Address: 1012 W. North St., Kalamazoo 49007. Phone: 269-329-8512. Email: friendsoftamirey@gmail.com. Website: elect-tamirey.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/CommissionerTamiRey.

1. I'm proud of my work on the county commission during my first term. While having the opportunity to serve as the Vice Chair of the County Commission, advocating for an improved quality of life for the residents of my district stayed at the forefront. I've prioritized launching the historic Kalamazoo City and County collaboration to reduce gun violence, prioritized affordable housing, advocated for increased wage increases and will continue to do that work. My previous roles and positions have prepared me to build strong coalitions by first listening, drafting policy, and then seeking responses to the proposed solutions.
2. During my first term I was intentional about creating processes to hear from the community before making major decisions that would ultimately impact them. This was done through various community listening sessions for example the full commission hosted a community listening session on affordable housing and community violence prior to making decisions on how the money allocated to these issues would be spent. Prioritizing community voice and promoting equity and community engagement will remain important to me.
3. Two of the most significant environmental concerns in the county are air quality concerns and exposure to lead. In District 1 residents have lived with poor air quality and noxious gas odors from water treatment and industrial sites located near residential homes. County environmental health must continue to work to resolve this quality of life issue in collaboration with industry and the city water system. Older homes are often filled with lead paint that impacts the development of kids in our community. Families need support to ensure lead exposure is reduced and this will be a budget priority for me.

4. In 2020 voters in Kalamazoo County passed the historic "homes for all millage", while serving on the commission, I have worked tirelessly to evaluate proposals to increase the affordable housing stock in Kalamazoo and to get the funding out into in the community. There are still many areas of need as it relates to safe, decent, and affordable housing in the county and we are working to find solutions daily. I strongly believe that the county could work harder to prioritize and find solutions for our houseless folks living in encampments and out on the streets.

District 2

Kalamazoo City precincts 2, 4, 5, 6

Kalamazoo Township precincts 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

Jen Strebs

Democrat. Age 45. Clinical Quality Specialist at Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health. Western Michigan University – Bachelor of Science (summa cum laude) – double majors of Psychology and Political Science with a concentration in American Public Policy. 5+ years in elected office in Kalamazoo Township and County governments. Board of Directors of the Continuum of Care, County Board Appointments Committee Chair, County Environmental Health Advisory Council, County ID Advisory Board, Metropolitan County Planning Commission, County Fair Council, County DEI Council. Additional service experience listed at www.jenstrebs.com. Campaign Address: 2006 Alamo Ave., Kalamazoo 49006. Phone: 269-903-6429. Email: jen@jenstrebs.com. Website: www.jenstrebs.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/jenstrebs. Twitter: jenstrebs.

1. Serving is an honor and I work hard to improve the quality of life for all residents of my district and Kalamazoo County as a whole. I am responsive to every community member – both those who agree or disagree with me – to keep lines of communication open and productive. I will continue to use my experience as an elected public servant, advocate and mental health professional to fight for a better future for our community. I am focused on Standing up for Workers, Supporting Stable and Affordable Housing, Improving Public Health, and Combating the Climate Crisis. I am ready to implement creative solutions to tackle these complex problems.
2. As a member of the County Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Council and the Chair of the Board Appointments Committee I have been deep in this work during my time on the Commission. With the historic hiring of our first DEI Director and the seating of our community DEI Advisory Board I have helped to launch the process of reviewing and refining policies and pro-

Kalamazoo County Commission, continued

grams across county government to ensure meaningful access and outcomes for all. We are improving the process to recruit highly qualified candidates from diverse perspectives to serve on our county advisory boards which informs all of our public policies and processes as well.

3. We have many, and top concerns are exposure to environmental contaminants (lead, PFAS, etc.) and flooding. I serve on the Environmental Health Advisory Council working with EGLE to monitor and respond the PFAS in the community, monitoring contaminated sites and ground water and revising ground water restriction zones when needed. Lead exposure prevention and mitigation from paint in older homes needs increased funding restored in our county budget. It must be used to improve community education and access to lead remediation programs. Flooding requires regional collaboration and investments from ARPA and federal infrastructure funds.
4. I am very pleased with progress underway for housing even with much more work to be done. It has been a highlight of my time in office to allocate resources to create a number of new affordable housing developments for seniors, survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, people recovering from substance use, people in need of supporting housing, and at risk youth. I was able to ensure \$600,000 of funding for Kalamazoo Township residents to support critical home repairs to strengthen our neighborhoods and keep people in their homes. I am excited to continue to implement more housing solutions to keep us moving forward.

District 3

Kalamazoo City precincts 1, 3, 12, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26

Kalamazoo Township precinct 1

Monteze Morales

Democrat. Director of Kalamazoo Promise Services at Kalamazoo Valley. B.A. Secondary Education/ M.A. Socio-Cultural Studies (ABT). Over 20 years in education. Appointed to Kalamazoo County Commission in July 2021. Selected as Vice Chair of the Board in February 2022. Recently appointed by Governor Whitmer to serve on the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan. Former Vice-Chair of the Public Housing Commission. Campaign Address: 1515 Vassar Dr., Kalamazoo 49001. Phone: 269-808-3189. Email: montezemorales5@gmail.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/montezemoralesd3. Twitter: @montezemorales.

Did not respond to questions in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Nicole Sabel

Republican. Age 43. Small business owner. Classical Liberal Arts education. Past committee member at GKAR; Former member of the Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission; Previous member of church council at my parish; community volunteer; Assistant Director of a non-profit. Campaign Address: 1403 Reycraft Dr., Kalamazoo 49001. Phone: 269-666-3552. Email: Sabel4Commissioner3@pm.me.

1. Creating safer communities, affordable housing and medical care, lowering property taxes, ensuring fiscal responsibility and transparency, and helping provide services to Veterans of our County are a few of my top priorities. Having worked on various boards and committees, owning a small business, and volunteering in the community has afforded me a unique perspective on the diverse needs of our County citizens.
2. Informed citizens are the greatest asset to any community. I will work to provide ease of access to allow for public comment and participation in decisions that effect our community.
3. PFAS in groundwater and the general pollution of the Kalamazoo River are concerns of mine. As an avid kayaker, I am well acquainted with the condition of the river within our County boarders. I will work with EGLE (formerly MDEQ) to access federal funds from the EPA, as well as other programs, to help make our groundwater and waterways are safe today and in the future.
4. No, I am not satisfied. For example, the County should have worked with the City and the Sisters of St. Joseph to convert the buildings at Nazareth into a public services building with short-term and transitional housing, with the end goal of permanent housing. This would have greatly reduced the number of homeless in our community by assisting those facing eviction as well as other housing issues. I would like to see the taxable value of primary residences capped or adjusted to benefit the homeowner. When purchasing a home, buyers factor taxes into their monthly payments. I want to ensure that people are not taxed out of their homes.

District 4

Portage City precincts 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19

Abigail Wheeler

Democrat. Age 23. Firefighter/EMT. Bachelor's of Business Administration - WMU. Village Council Member - 3 years. State House Candidate in 2020. Campaign Address: 3235 Stonebridge Court, Apt 2, Portage 49024. Phone: 269-303-6830. Email: info@abigailformichigan.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/abigailformichigan.

1. I will ensure that the approximately \$245 million budget is spent in the way the people would like and in the best interest of the people. It is so important to listen to the needs of the people in my district. My previous knowledge of municipal budgeting and education in finance will enable me to succeed.
2. I intend to promote the new housing plan that the County recently released as well as the County's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion strategic plan. I will also support our Clerk's office with education on voting and absentee voting so that everyone has a vote in each election. I will also promote our Health and Community Services programs that help aging adults, mothers and their children, and so many more members of our community. I believe this program can help level the playing field for all residents.
3. The two most significant environmental concerns in the county are safe drinking water and proper waste water disposal. The county must have the proper infrastructure to provide safe drinking water to residents and in the case that the water is not safe to drink, provide resources for residents to gain access to safe water. E. Coli is an issue all around the state of Michigan. The county can maintain high-quality waste water treatment and regulations on septic tanks to keep homeowners responsible and water ways uncontaminated.
4. The County just recently released a new housing plan that addresses some of the major housing issues in Kalamazoo. I don't think enough has been done yet to ensure affordable housing. However, the plan the County provided, if implemented will ensure sustainable, safe, and affordable housing. I intend to help implement this strategy so that we can reduce homelessness and provide safe housing for everyone in Kalamazoo.

Charley Coss

Republican. Self Employed. Masters of Public Administration - WMU. Worked in both the Private and Public Sector, Served as Vice Chair on Kalamazoo City Planning Commission. Campaign Address: 9208 Vanderbilt Ave., Portage 49024. Phone: 269-290-1237. Email: charley.coss@coss-comm.com. Website: voteccoss.com. Facebook: fb.com/votecoss Twitter: @votecoss.

1. Many residents are facing financial challenges and we are heading into turbulent future. I will keep taxes down and find ways to improve the quality of services for all residents. These can goals can be achieved through implementing good governance (best practices) and transparent processes. We will have many challenges in the next several years and I will work with all the members of the Commission and Community to implement the best outcomes for our residents.
2. I will work tirelessly to create opportunities where ever and when ever the County government is involved.
3. The Kalamazoo River and the aquifer are the most important long term environmental assets we must be vigilant to manage properly. Short term or immediate problems like lead pipes and cleaning up the PFAS require attentive and proper remediation to protect the resident of the County.
4. I applaud the County in addressing this challenging problem. We should continue to improve the contributing issues, such as streamlining regulations, and working with local developers. We have many talented partners but housing is half of the problem, we need good paying jobs and I intend to work every day to bring new and better jobs to Kalamazoo County, the true source of better and affordable housing.

District 5

Kalamazoo City precincts 17, 18, 19

Portage City precincts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 17, 20

John Patrick Taylor

Democrat. Age 43. Regional Director, MI AFL-CIO. Edwardsburg High School (1996), Andrews University Math and Science Center (1992-1996), Northern Michigan University (1997-1998), Western Michigan University (1998-2002). I have previously served 14 years on the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioner, the last two years serving as Chair. In addition to political and board experience, I am a successful entrepreneur having created and built a profitable company with over 64 employees in two different locations. Campaign Address: 2522 E. Shore Dr., Portage 49002. Phone: 269-389-0063. Email: johnpatricktaylor91@gmail.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/ElectJohnTaylor.

1. The current County Board is dysfunctional. The County is on its 4th Administrator in the last two years. The Board has been unable to hire a corporate counsel and there are hundreds of vacant positions throughout the County. The Board needs to get back to basics and start governing. The quality of life in my district and throughout the county will improve if we elect Commissioners who fundamentally understand their role in county government and who have the ability to collaborate with their colleagues to pass policy. Having previously served 14 years on the County Board, I am eager to help get our District and County back on track.
2. First and foremost, the Board needs to adequately fund current county programs. Departments have faced budget reductions for several years while our population and need for service has increased. Local Government encouraging residents to be a part of their community is essential to a healthy democracy. Public engagement and advertisement of our advisory board openings, appropriately compensating the advisory board members will increase participation on our many advisory boards. In 2020, a DE&I committee was established, but it has yet to meet. As Commissioners, we need to do more than use buzz words, we need to do the work.
3. In Michigan, County Government is more associated with community health than environmental policy. While we need to continue doing energy audits and lowering our carbon footprint, we can have a much bigger impact on community health. I would like to focus on infant mortality rates in the county and the racial disparity in those rates. By Increasing attention to our nurse family partnership program and collaborating with our new medical school we can dramatically reduce our infant mortality rates in the most vulnerable places in our community.
4. As Chair of the County Commission, I helped shepherd and implement a first in the nation millage to provide housing to families with school age children. In the past two years, I am proud to see the County vote overwhelming for a large housing millage; however, the Board needs to adequately fund the Department, which only has one dedicated staff member responsible for distributing over 8 million dollars a year. In order to properly address affordable housing than we need to put resources into ensuring available funds are leveraged to create more opportunities and that the funds are getting to those that need it the most.

Peter Strazdas

Republican. Age 64. Associate Vice President Facilities Management—Western Michigan University. Bachelor Degree, 1979—Fitchburg State College. Masters Degree, 1980—Western Michigan University. Certified Education Facilities Professional—APPA. Public servant serving the Citizens of the City of Portage and our region for 40 years. Planning Commissioner and Chair, City Council member, Mayor for 6 terms, Founding member and President of the Portage Parks Foundation. Public Servant of the Year—2007 by the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce. Eagle Scout and recipient of the North Star Award in 2016 by the Boy Scouts of America. Campaign Address: 2016 Ames Drive, Portage 49002. Phone: 269-207-7705. Email: peterstrazdas@gmail.com.

1. I have decades of proven experience improving the quality of life for the residents in Portage. I would like to continue with job creation, public safety, water quality, and all things that contribute to a community where citizens want to live, work, and enjoy the environment. It takes a lot of effort and team work to create an environment where quality of life thrives in a community. My experience and dedication to public service will enable the County to succeed in these efforts.
2. Creating policies and programs begins with listening to citizens in the community. Respecting and working with Commissioners to craft policies is critical to move the County forward in a positive manner. Citizens must be engaged and respected through the process. Commissioners must be professional, act in a civil manner, and be an example of how elected officials are respected by the community.
3. Quality water is a basic life necessity and the County should work with other units of government to support good water. Citizens across our County have been negatively impacted by flooding. Storm water best management practices need to be supported by the County and work with other units of government to control flooding that impacts our quality of life.

Kalamazoo County Commission, continued

4. Housing is another necessity of life and citizens in our County must have different housing choices. Government, education, and businesses need to collaborate to offer more affordable housing. Zoning, building regulations, and volunteers are tools to more affordable housing. There are labor shortages with the building trades in our region. We need to engage more students in the trades and what a wonderful opportunity to provide them learning experiences with building affordable housing and partner with local builders.

District 6

Brady Township precincts 1, 2
Comstock Township precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Pavilion Township precincts 1, 2, 3
Townships of Climax, Wakeshma
Village of Climax

Anthony Bates

Democrat. Age 50. Business Owner. B.S., MA. I have run for Country Commissioner before. I currently am the President of the Lawrence Memorial Library Board, Chair of the Climax Township Board of Appeals, and sit on the Climax Township Road Committee. Campaign Address: 7145 S. 40th St., Climax 49034. Phone: 269-366-6564. Email: anthony.m.bates22@gmail.com.

1. In District 6 I have been working to expand rural broadband, a much needed infrastructure. The pandemic showed the weakness created from a lack of internet to the rural school districts. Seeing kids in cars parked outside schools or libraries to use the WiFi to do schoolwork is hard to watch. Internet is important, not only for school, but for businesses, farmers, and the elderly. I will continue to work in the district to get broadband expanded.
2. As a former educator, and the child of two educators, I will always promote education. Education is the foundation needed to create an equitable and engaged community. Getting information out to the public and sharing knowledge is important. The opportunities are there, we just need to make sure everyone knows how to find it.
3. Everyone has heard about PFAS, that is the biggest issue in Kalamazoo County at the moment. The county needs to continue with testing water and working on more ways to prevent PFAS from getting into our drinking water.
4. This has been an issue for far too long in Kalamazoo County. The county and the cities are far behind in what can be considered affordable housing. The county is 7,000 units behind and are not catching up fast enough. To put it briefly, the county needs to reach out to members of the community to begin building homes and apartments through charity work and donations. Work with the state and federal government on retaining grants to offset costs for renters and first time home buyers. If the county can catch up to the demand then prices will begin to drop.

John Gisler

Republican. Age 78. Commissioner—South County. AB Wabash College—Zoology/Chemistry. MBA Syracuse University—Finance. County Commissioner—first elected in 2010. Extensive business experience in the pharmaceutical industry. Campaign Address: 9145 Arrowhead Drive West, Scotts 49088. Campaign Phone: 269-323-0259. Email: jgisler5@comcast.net.

1. I will scrutinize every expenditure of taxpayer dollars. I will seek to limit government intrusion into our daily lives and encourage policies that promote personal responsibility and individual liberty. My years as a manager with budget responsibility and my MBA in Finance will enable me to keep Kalamazoo one of the most fiscally sound counties in the state.
2. I will promote policies and programs that encourage each citizen to succeed in whatever endeavors they undertake based on their own initiatives rather than dependence on government. If each of us prospers, our entire community will prosper.
3. Our county continues to deal with extensive flooding. While lessened in the last year, water will continue to be a challenge to many of our neighborhoods. PFAs will continue to be an environmental issue for our county. As PFAs continues to be better understood, we need to be prepared to respond appropriately to protect our citizens.
4. The United States is the wealthiest and most prosperous country in history. Every citizen should have a decent roof over their head. We're not there yet, but as a county, Kalamazoo is moving in the right direction. The passage of the Housing Millage is a step forward. Funding is now available to meet this challenge. The county commission is currently evaluating proposed projects that will yield more affordable housing in the coming years.

District 7

Cooper Township precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Richland Township precincts 1, 2, 3
Ross Township precincts 1, 2
Township of Charleston
City of Galesburg
Villages of Augusta, Richland

Luke Howell

Democrat. Age 43. College Instructor—HVAC. Bachelors of Science. Active in Not for Profit, Community activism and Local Political Campaigns. Campaign Address: 8855 Geiser Grove, Richland 49083. Phone: 269-547-7223. Email: howellfamily2005@gmail.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057982002946.

1. Active listening. Sometimes it's as simple as being a good listener for your constituents and your community. I can bring my personal politics to this position but I'd much rather bring your politics and interests to the commission. Our county can improve its vibrancy, economy, safety, comfort and quality with effective leadership and carefully listening to the interests of the people of Kalamazoo County.
2. I'm a tradesman and college graduate. I teach young men and women to be prepared to enter our workforce. I believe in the quality of organized labor and I want to continue to improve the integration, support, and growth of our trades programs from High School to College to University to the Professional Trades. If we are a hub community of experts and hard workers, we can export our talents to statewide and national projects instead of looking to other communities for the skilled engineering and labor to complete our building and construction projects.
3. The Morrow Dam, and Kalamazoo River Cleanup and the threat of aggregate projects altering the landscapes of our communities.
4. No. It's sad that some members of our community own and poorly maintain dozens of properties while hard working middle class families are struggling to own their first home. We need to return focus to home ownership not landlord/slumlord ownership.

Jeff Hepler

Republican. Police Chief and Village Manager for Augusta. Business owner for over 40 years. Associate degree Business Management from KCC. Criminal justice degree KVCC. Kalamazoo county commissioner for 17 years. Campaign Address: PO Box 281, Richland 49083. Phone: 269-629-5124. Email: hmsjmh@aol.com.

1. I will work to keep taxes low. I will use my skills and knowledge I have acquired during my 47 in law enforcement and fire fighting to promote safety in our community. I have run 3 businesses for over 40 years. I will use the knowledge I have to make Kalamazoo county fiscally responsible
2. I would encourage all citizens to call up their commissioner or Email with any concerns they may have about issues in the county.
3. Pollution and contamination from POFS. It is currently being addressed by the state and the county with clean up and containment.
4. We just embarked on using the monies that were voted in by the public. They are being utilized to create more affordable housing. Working with our housing director to maximize the dollars.

District 8

Schoolcraft Township precincts 1, 4
Texas Township precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Township of Prairie Ronde
Villages of Schoolcraft, Vicksburg

Stephanie Willoughby

Democrat. Age 46. Youth Services Librarian. BA History/Religion from Greensboro College, Greensboro, NC. I currently am a Board Trustee for the Vicksburg Community Schools. I have also served and led numerous committees while a Director of Children's Ministries. Currently as a librarian much of my time is spent doing outreach and strengthening relationships with our community. Campaign Address: 1212 Ellery Grove Court, Vicksburg 49097. Phone: 269-547-8939. Email: vote4willo@gmail.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/vote4willo. Twitter: vote4willo.

1. I have a heart for service and always want to support those that are struggling. My campaign motto is "listen, learn, advocate." Throughout my career whether it was in children's ministry or now as a librarian I have always worked hard to support those in need and try to find real solutions. I look forward to connecting with leadership and the residents in Kalamazoo County to discover how we can make life better, safer and healthier in our community.
2. It can be especially challenging to transform systems that have been in place for a very long time. But we know change is necessary because many people still face discrimination, live in poverty and do not have the basics they need to be healthy. We need to engage community members who are the most affected. Real conversations will help develop trust between the commission and residents. Programs through the KCHCS, Talking is Teaching and OutFront are great examples of institutions that are listening to their stakeholders as well as those experts in the field to provide the best resources to the community.
3. I believe our two greatest concerns are water and air quality. Reading a variety of articles and reports it sounds to me we need to listen to our residents' concerns as well as utilize testing from outside organizations to make sure they are fair and balanced. Investments must be made for clean water and clean air. Every resident from infancy through adulthood should have access to clean water in their home.
4. Affordable housing and homelessness isn't just a problem in the city of Kalamazoo; it's a county issue. I look forward to seeing what the preliminary housing survey results show and what a draft of the County Housing plan looks like. I am saddened by the treatment of those living in the homeless camps. For many who are struggling with mental and addiction issues, a shelter is not an option for them and we still need to find a dignified solution. I hope that we can build more affordable housing. We also need to make sure that more public transportation is available so that those living in the rural areas have access to resources.

Wendy Mazer

Republican. Age 64. Freelance Musician and Oboe Teacher. Masters Degree, Oboe Performance, University of Michigan. Bachelors Degree, Oboe Performance, Western Michigan University. Trustee, Texas Township Board, 3rd term (10 years). Trustee, Board of Education, Portage Public Schools. Campaign Address: 5124 Shepherds Glen, Kalamazoo 49009. Phone: 269-372-7198. Email: wendy@wendymazer.org. Website: wendymazer.org.

1. Support our law enforcement and juvenile home in the fight against violent crime. Stay focused on local issues that we have influence over. Support operations of our county parks. The experience I have as an elected trustee on the Texas Township Board where I worked cooperatively with others on common goals to improve the quality of life in our community.
2. We need to be accessible to citizens. Communicate with the public the issues that commission is dealing with and listen to the citizens.
3. Flooding and Crime. The County can support the Federal and State laws on environmental issues and work together with the Townships on solutions. Support our law enforcement.
4. Yes, our Housing Director is doing a great job. We need more affordable housing, lower taxes and fewer regulations.

District 9

Alamo Township precincts 1, 2
Oshtemo Township precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Dale Deleeuw

Democrat. Age 67. Police Officer. Associates Degree in Law Enforcement from KVCC, Bachelors Degree in Business Administration with a Finance Major from WMU. Masters of Science in Accounting Degree from WMU. 38 Years in Law Enforcement, Treasurer for the Greater Kalamazoo Fraternal Order of Police, previous small business owner in Oshtemo. Campaign Address: 7077 Northstar, Kalamazoo 49009. Phone: 269-720-6885. Email: deleeuwd1935@gmail.com. Website: www.daledeleeuw.net. Facebook: www.facebook.com/Elect-Dale-DeLeeuw-for-County-Commissioner-101895552551070/?ref=pages_you_.

1. With over thirty-eight years of law enforcement experience, I will continue to support adequate funding of the criminal justice system. As Oshtemo Township continues to grow, the need for deputies assigned to the counties will also rise. I will actively fight this staffing challenge as to ensure appropriate numbers of police personals are present to continue to keep the citizens safe. Using my background as an accountant and small business owner, I will work to fund the criminal justice system, including corrections, the prosecutor's office, and the courts, as these

Kalamazoo County Commission, continued

areas directly impact the quality of life experienced by the citizenry.

2. I strongly support the practice of absentee ballots and mail-in voting. I am passionate about ensuring every citizen feels their participation in the community matters. A big obstacle to ensuring this democracy is the lack of access to Public transportation. Many of our residents cannot make it to the polls, causing a malpresentation of the community's desires. As county commissioner, I would strongly support the Kalamazoo County Metro Transit Authority. This initiative helps to expand access to public transportation. Proposals like dial-a-ride need to be explored as an option for citizens that are not currently served by a Metro bus line.
3. Having spent my entire life in Kalamazoo County, I understand the need for safe groundwater. I will campaign to have the Kalamazoo river brought back to a level of cleanliness for all to enjoy its natural beauty. The education of citizens is essential in stopping the flow of nitrates into the water system as I know there are elevated nitrate levels in some areas of the county now. Proper handling of waste, appropriate use of lawn maintenance products, and the concern of agricultural runoff are some of the issues with which the public could assist. I desire a healthier, toxin free county for us all to grow for generations to come.
4. I do believe the County has been doing an adequate job of addressing the housing needs in Kalamazoo county. It appears that the commission has been taking their time and putting thought into the needs of the citizens and where the funds should be allocated for the housing crises currently in place. Working as a police officer, I frequently meet individuals who have no housing or inadequate housing and realize the lack of housing is not the only issue. The big picture of the housing issue involves both mental health and drug abuse as these societal problems are not being met sufficiently

Tom Graham

Republican. Age 55. IT Systems Development Manager. School of hard knocks education, I'm a self made business owner, computer programmer, filmmaker, and in my spare time I farm and work on an antique tractor. As a business owner, IT department manager, project leader, father of five and grandfather of three, I know how to listen to stakeholders and come up with solutions

Kalamazoo Valley Community College Board of Trustees

Six-year term — Vote for two

The role of the board is to create, sustain, and fulfill the vision of the College, while setting broad parameters for the chief executive officer under which to operate. There are seven members.

Questions

1. Why are you running for a board seat? What strengths or talents especially qualify you for that role?
2. If elected, what are your top two priorities for the coming year? How will you strive to address them?
3. Are you satisfied with how well KVCC is supporting local economic vitality and stability through development of a skilled workforce? Explain why or what more should be done.
4. Are you satisfied with the College's graduation rate and ethnicity distribution? Explain your rationale.

Patrick Alan Farmer

Nonpartisan. Age 39. Senior Accounts Clerk. Bachelors Business Administration. Email: patrick.a.farmer@gmail.com

1. I have been a resident of Kalamazoo County for 20 years, moving here to attend WMU where I obtained my bachelor's in business management. I worked in higher education for 12 years, bringing best practices to the Board. In my first 6 years on the Board, the Bronson Healthy Living Campus opened, hired a new President, and watched thousands of students graduate moving their educational and professional goals forward. With the voter's support, I will keep education costs affordable for all, continue to improve graduation rates, and work to see an expansion of the community college charter to include all residents of Kalamazoo.
2. My top priority is to make sure a KVCC education is affordable and accessible for all. Secondly, making sure students have the resources they need to receive a top-quality education by supporting programs like Kalamazoo Valley Accelerated Associate Program.
3. I think KVCC does an excellent job in supporting our local economy with a skilled workforce. Our programs through industrial trades, Bronson Health Living Campus and The Grove Campus are extremely impressive. However, I would like to see more collaboration with our local unions to provide more training in the building trades, it's an area that we can do more.
4. The graduation rates and diversity for KVCC has seen improvement in the past few years and has always been a concern for the Board. In the past 5 years KVCC implemented a program called Kalamazoo Valley Accelerated Associate Program, which was modeled from similar successful programs. KVAAP eliminate hurdles and provides support so students can focus on their degree. Work in these areas is never done, however diversity and graduation rates are always a top priority for the Board.

Paul Foust

Nonpartisan. Age 33. Technology Coordinator at National Heritage Academy. AA and AS degrees from KVCC. MA and BS degrees from WMU. Township Trustee (11 Years). Planning Commissioner (12 Years). Phone: 269-370-2185. Email: warpfactor23@gmail.com. Website: www.KGOP.org. Facebook: www.facebook.com/paul.foust/.

1. As a two-time KVCC graduate, I genuinely care about what happens to the school. I have 12 years of previously political experience that will allow me to "hit the ground running." I am knowledgeable about the strengths and weaknesses of the services that KVCC offers.
2. a) Reduce KVCC's Footprint Within the Community: The ongoing decline in enrollment does not support the continual buildup of additional campuses. Satellite campuses need to close or drastically reduce operations in order to ensure that proper facilities management can occur at the main campus in Texas Township. b) Redefine the Relationship between WMU and KVCC: Too many students are being recruited as WMU transfers, with many leaving before completing their program at KVCC. This is hurting KVCC's retention and graduation numbers. Nearly all KVCC programs are immediately employable upon graduation, and that fact needs to be stressed more.
3. No. Too many local college graduates are leaving Michigan after completing their programs of study. I believe that Michigan is experiencing what is known as the "brain-drain" phenomenon. Transfer-outs to four-year institutions should be discouraged.
4. KVCC is not doing enough to retain and graduate the current student population; its partnership with four-year institutions is partly to blame. I am not going to comment on the current ethnic makeup of the student body, as it doesn't pertain to the electoral process.

that are workable for everyone. My record of putting citizens' needs above government wants indicates how I will govern. Campaign Address: 3330 S. 4th St., Kalamazoo 49009. Phone: 269-352-4548. Email: tom@return2integrity.com. Website: return2integrity.com.

1. I am against government mandates. It is not okay to treat people differently based on COVID vaccination status considering the vaccinated spread the disease too. It will be my pleasure to do everything the office can do to eliminate mandated mask wearing in public schools. I will ensure government projects are supported by the people, not imposed by the government, and that every project is paid for in an equitable manner.
2. Every government needs to be transparent. Back room deals and closed sessions are antithetical to the public trust. I will promote a more open and transparent board. Aside from conversations about active lawsuits, the public should be aware of everything immediately. I'm also against governments exercising eminent domain without necessity. The recent prairie view park private home condemnation was an unnecessary application of government authority and a poor use of up to \$500,000 of tax payer money to gain one third of an acre of land to be turned into a walking trail. The county needs to be more fiscally responsible for everyone's sake.
3. The West KL Avenue Landfill Superfund Site is the most serious environmental concern, unfortunately all we can do is monitor the plum of contamination and inform residents. A city water pipe has already been installed looping KL to 4th to Stadium to 6th. I happen to live on 4th within that loop. The other is the contamination of the Kalamazoo River. Recently a damn was opened sending not only sediment downriver, but PCB contamination as well. As commissioner I will ensure the remediation and restoration work in the watershed will be implemented through the AOC program, Superfund Program, and Natural Resource Damages program.
4. The county, through Housing Director Mary Balkema, is currently supporting 11 projects related to affordable housing, they even have an "Opportunistic Creative projects" category to allow anyone with a good idea to pitch their idea and get funding. I think it's a great idea to support community initiatives and would continue asking constituents for their input.

Jeff Patton

Nonpartisan. Age 74. Chief Executive Officer, Integrated Services of Kalamazoo. Master's in social work from Western Michigan University. From October 2001 to the present, serves as Chief Executive Officer of Integrated Services of Kalamazoo and over thirty years serves as a trustee at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. Also serves on the federal Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration National Advisory Council. Campaign Phone: 269-203-7388. Email: jeffpatton55@att.net.

1. To provide and expand higher education and vocational training opportunities to students to prepare them for not only high paying jobs, but to realize their dreams for the future.
2. a) Increase and maintain higher enrollments of students at KVCC. b) Decrease drop-out rates among students that are struggling academically and economically by better preparing them for career opportunities
3. KVCC has a strong and remarkable history for supporting local economic vitality and stability through its various academies, business and community neighborhood partnerships. Continuous improvements in these areas are welcomed and actively pursued. I continue to be impressed with the KVCC apprenticeship programs that are increasingly reaching out to students that have been traditionally marginalized in concentrated poverty areas in the college's geographic areas. More should and will be done to reach those students and offer them future career opportunities.
4. KVCC has made remarkable changes in its operations and strategic planning to advance and improve its Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies, procedures and hiring practices. I look forward to seeing higher enrollments and graduation rates among racial and ethnic minority populations. My satisfaction is connected with the college's continuous improvements to advance Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in all of its current operations, hiring practices and future academic and economic development planning.

Gary Sigman

Nonpartisan. Age 71. Owner sem[c]. BFA University of Michigan. A variety of jobs found Sigman working for the University of Michigan in television and, then, computer programming. Sigman moved to Chicago to build his professional photography career with award-winning photography and marketing. Along the way, the Internet caught up to Sigman. Campaign Phone: 2693590747. Email: gsigman@umich.edu. Facebook: www.facebook.com/SigmanKVCC/.

1. One of my motivations for seeking election as KVCC Trustee is the benefit graduation from KVCC has been in the life of my stepson Mike Lucking. Mike recently received his culinary certificate from KVCC and it has made a world of difference in his life. As a serial entrepreneur I've learned a lot about strategic planning in a number of businesses. I've taught as an instructor at the Graham School of the University of Chicago and was heavily involved in the development of a new curriculum. I've also served on the board of a number of organizations.
2. While KVCC has a terrific reputation for serving the community well I feel that some of the areas of concentration have never been more important that they are today. Our community needs more people pursuing health careers and industrial trades. My background in corporate communications with a focus on online promotion offers the KVCC Board of Trustees a distinct point of view that can be instrumental in raising awareness of the school's ability to help build careers.
3. My experience with KVCC is largely through the experience of my stepson. He has learning disabilities but received excellent support from KVCC that got him through the program. I look forward to having a more detailed view of how KVCC is operating with an eye to making sure that other students have the same access to the programs at KVCC that Mike enjoyed. People who need help should be given access to the help that they need.
4. Graduation rates overall at KVCC appear to be slightly below other nearby institutions and needs attention. However, the nature of community colleges leads to students taking a longer period of time to graduate. When comparing KVCC graduate's ethnic makeup as reported on collegefactual.com it appears that it fairly closely aligns with the 2021 US Census estimates of the county's ethnicity. I look forward to the opportunity to see the internal statistics to see if these numbers are factual.

State Board of Education

Eight-year term — Vote for up to two

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

Questions

1. Describe your qualifications and the skills and experience you bring to the position. Why do you want to serve on the State Board of Education?
2. What actions and policies would you recommend to improve our education system?

Pamela Pugh

Democrat

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org

Mitchell Robinson

Democrat. Associate Professor of Music Education, Michigan State University. PhD, Eastman School of Music; CAS in Educational Administration, SUC at Oswego; MMEd, Hartt School of Music; BFA in Music Ed & Trumpet Performance, SUNY at Buffalo. 40+ years of teaching experience from K to doctoral students; policy researcher and author; teacher educator. Website: www.mitchellrobinson-forstateschoolboard.org. Facebook: www.facebook.com/mrobmused. Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mrobmused>.

1. I am a career educator, with over 40 years of experience teaching students from Kindergarten to doctoral study. I hold bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees in music education, and a certificate of advanced study in educational administration. I have been a classroom teacher, district supervisor, school administrator, teacher educator, and department chair, and have worked with state departments of education in New York, Connecticut, and Michigan. I have conducted and published research on music teacher evaluation systems and school-college collaboration, and served on the Editorial Boards of several research and policy journals.
2. Reduce or eliminate standardized testing requirements. No vouchers—public tax dollars are for public schools. Improve teacher working conditions and pay to address the teacher shortage. Restore music, art, and physical education classes that have been cut—all children deserve a rich, diverse curriculum. Eliminate the use of student test scores in teacher evaluation systems. Overturn “Right to Work” legislation. Require all teachers to be highly qualified and fully certified.
3. Public education in Michigan is under attack. I’m tired of school board members and teachers being targeted with made-up ALEC talking points about CRT, furries, and banning books. The other side of the aisle has no positive vision for public education—because their real goal is to destroy it. We need serious people talking about serious issues: (a) how to strengthen public institutions, like our schools; (b) provide a high quality education for all children, not just those who grow up in the suburbs; and (c) defend our colleagues in the schools who are doing tremendous work under very difficult conditions.

Tamara Carlone

Republican. CPA and Process Improvement Expert. Business Administration degree from the University of Michigan. I am an education expert & speaker at the national, state & local levels with 22 years of experience in the field. I have educated people of all ages & ability levels, including twice exceptional. Website: carlone4education.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/Tamara4ED.

1. As a Corporate CPA/Process Improvement Expert, I have helped many large organizations operate more efficiently and effectively. I have a degree in Business Administration from the University of Michigan, and my 2 children graduated from there as well, my son a biomedical engineer and my daughter a neuroscientist. In my 22 years of education activism, I have become an education expert and have led efforts on the national, state, and local levels to return our schools to excellence in academics. I speak about education all over MI. Please see the long list of experience I will bring to our SBE, and my plan of action, on my website.
2. We must provide every child with an excellent education to set them up for a great future and so that our state and nation continue to thrive with innovation and prosperity. Our schools are failing at this job in a big way, and it is completely unacceptable. People must be held accountable for this critical job of educating our youth. We must get back to excellence in reading, writing, arithmetic, and accurate American history and civics. We must get back to explicit phonics. 3rd grade reading proficiency went from 75% pre-Common Core (2010) to 44% 10 years in! Children must be able to read to learn. See my website for my extensive plan.
3. The most pressing issue facing the SBE is its lack of fulfilling its role. We must return the board to its constitutional purpose, and we must get our schools back to providing an excellent education for all children. Everybody needs to understand the power and accountability structure of MI schools so we can get it working again. Children only get one chance at a K-12 education, and we must get it right. Local boards also need to be educated on their critical role, and we must get back to parental rights and local control. There is a reason our founding fathers did not want national control in education, and we are seeing it play out.

Linda Lee Tarver

Republican. President, Tarver Consulting. Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), a Doctorate in Theology (Th.D.), a Master of Science in Organizational Psychology (MS/IO Psych), and a Bachelors of Science in Business Management. Former MI Civil Rights Commissioner, fellow of parent leadership institute network (PLIN), member of Lansing Promise Zone, member of Detroit-based Automation Workz Institute, school choice advocate. Website: lindatarver.com.

1. Dr. Linda Lee Tarver, Ed.D, is a proud mom of two college graduates who both earned academic scholarship at High School graduation thanks to School Choice! She has more than 25 years as an educational advocate. Linda Lee is a former Michigan Civil Rights Commissioner and believes education is a Civil Right. In 2019, Dr. Tarver received the “Leadership in Individual & Social Responsibility” Award from Olivet College & the “Women For Racial Equity & Social Justice” Award from She Leads MI. Liberal ideologies & indoctrination have failed MI students and Linda Lee refuses to sit back and watch! Education in MI is not just political, it’s pitiful.
2. The public education in Michigan is arguably dismantled and in great need of reconstruction. The pathway toward better education and excellence must come from the basics: reading (learning), writing (communication & comprehension), and arithmetic (critical thinking). My sole task is to promote policy to Educate, Not Indoctrinate, Not Incarcerate, & Not Cremate! literacy is the most important success factor and the goal for which public education is expected to achieve. Literacy is defined simply as the ability to read & write. Yet, literacy is the most prevalent indicator of tragic failure to date among Michigan’s 1.3 million students.
3. The Michigan State Board of Education is responsible for K-12 education and community colleges. Working with the Michigan Legislature and Governor, the SBE is essential in recommending funding and guidance. The most pressing issue facing the Michigan State Board of Education is the lack of guidance in supporting parents, students, & responding to obvious failures in Michigan’s public education. Spending like drunken sailors on programs that don’t lead to Literacy will take our already pathetic academic ranking even lower! All available resources should go to literacy, keep-

3. What are the most pressing issues facing the State Board of Education and what actions would you take regarding them?

ing schools safe and protected & cooperating with Parents (MCL 380.10).

Donna Gundle-Krieg

Libertarian. Real Estate Broker and Township Trustee. B.A. Communications, Wayne State University. While I am currently a real estate broker, I have a strong interest and background in education. I worked for a short time as a high school teacher, and was an education policy journalist. Website: nwmichiganlibertarians.org/. Facebook: www.facebook.com/NWMLibertarian.

1. My experience is varied, which makes me ideal to represent a population with varied backgrounds. My experience includes teaching, and writing about education policy. My background in communications and leadership has trained me to serve effectively on several boards, including as an elected township official in Mancelona. I want to serve on the board because I would bring a voice to the table which has previously been missing. As a Libertarian, I am interested in representing all children, parents and teachers, regardless of which party they belong to. I want to work with all parties to get the job done.
2. The state board should have minimal interference in local education. The board should facilitate recommendations and communications, but the local school board should be the main decision-makers regarding school policy. There should be more communication between parents, teachers, and administration. The “PTO’s” I have worked with are simply Parent Fundraising Organizations. Very few teachers are involved, and the function of these groups is to raise funds by selling candy. There would be far less conflict and more productivity if these PTOs were actually dedicated to education, and if parental input was valued beyond fundraising ideas.
3. Again, the department’s primary role should be to support and make recommendations to local school districts. The most pressing issues facing Michigan schools involve the balancing act between respecting educators, and at the same time honoring parents. After all, parents are the ones responsible for raising their children. Division would be minimized if parents were given the opportunity for actual input, and if, in turn, teachers felt supported by parents.

Bill Hall

Libertarian. Attorney/Partner Warner Norcross + Judd LLP. Honors graduate, Northwestern University School of Law and Wabash College. Attorney with 41 years’ experience advising individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations. Served on many nonprofit boards, Boy Scout leader since 1994, 11 as Scoutmaster. Facebook: www.facebook.com/VoteBillHall.

1. Attorney/partner in Warner Norcross + Judd, Michigan’s 2d largest law firm specializing in commercial real estate/mining law. Managed firm’s Real Estate Services Group for more than 10 years, about 40 attorneys/paralegals. Listed in The Best Lawyers in America since 1995. Have a passion for serving our youth. Committed to improving education through freedom of choice and fiscal responsibility. Will be an independent voice on a Board riven by partisan politics.
2. The pandemic and the State’s authoritarian response severely damaged the education of a generation of Michigan students. At the same time, they led us to try new and innovative approaches, some of which were successful and should be encouraged. We learned that in many cases home, private and charter schools should be incentivized, as they are much more flexible than traditional public schools and deliver superior educational results. One-size-fits-all edicts from the State are inferior to policies developed by parents, teachers and schools to address local needs and goals. Hybrid or remote schooling methods work well for some but not all.
3. Recovering from the Pandemic: Pursue an educational policy based, first and foremost, on respect for the freedom of parents, teachers and schools to choose public and private educational programs they feel are best for their children. Focus on tutoring to repair the loss of education. Federal mandates (common core, transgender rights, etc.): Leave decisions to local school districts, teachers and parents. Fiscal Responsibility: Freeze participation in existing underfunded defined benefit pension plans and shift future contributions to defined contribution plans; don’t bail out failing schools.

Ethan Hobson

U.S. Taxpayers

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org

Mary Anne Hering

Working Class. Teacher. Academic education as an undergraduate from University of Illinois, Chicago and Michigan State University for graduate school. Life experience education as an organizer in the working class. I am a long-time community college teacher and advocate for quality public education for all. Website: www.workingclassfight.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/WCPMichigan.

1. I am a long-time community college teacher and have an inside perspective about how and if students come prepared academically from our K-12 system. I have also been politically active, organizing in the working class, especially at Ford Rouge. I can give voice to the problems students, families and workers face when it comes to the lack of access to a quality public school education. I also have the experience campaigning as a Working Class Party Candidate since 2016 and have talked to thousands of teachers, and other school employees, parents and students about the problems they have faced in the schools and this system.
2. Simple. If children truly are our society’s most valuable resource, then All the economic resources needed to provide an excellent quality education, including the social and cultural experiences, should be put into public education. And to provided decent working conditions and good pay for all school employees. Since this government can find millions to give in tax breaks to corporations, and billions for war, the money is there. Working people know this. They know how much they pay in taxes, and how much the lottery takes in. It should go to what people need.
3. Although funding per pupil has increased; and there is COVID relief funding, public school funding has not kept up with economic growth. There continues to be huge disparities in school districts. We know it is the wealthy school districts that have the best academic results. Every child should have the best of opportunities. Public money should go to public education and not handed over to corporations and real estate speculators. I would use the resources the office has to give people information that is hidden from them and to encourage teachers, students and parents to organize to fight for a tidal wave of money for the public schools.

University of Michigan Board of Regents

Eight-year term — Vote for up to two

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 the skills and experience you bring to the position. Why do you want to serve on this university board?
2. What are the two most pressing issues facing this university today, and what is your position on those issues?
3. What would you recommend to make university education more accessible to all Michigan's residents?

Mike Behm

Democrat. Attorney. B.A. University of Michigan, 1989; J.D. Wayne State University, 1992. Website: mgobehm.com.

1. I first ran and was elected to the U of M Board of Regents in 2014. I am an attorney and have spent my career representing people who have been injured due to the negligence of others. Many of my clients are poor and from underserved communities and I have seen, first hand, the value of a college education. I have spent a great deal of my time on the Board working to expand opportunities to attend U of M for citizens of Michigan. We started the Go Blue Guarantee (free tuition for in-state students whose family incomes are \$65k or less) when I was Chair of the Board five years ago. Today 19% of our in-state undergrads are recipients.
2. While there are many important issues facing the University today, I believe, in addition to providing a world class education to Michigan citizens, we are duty-bound to do so in an environment that is safe and free from harassment. Over the past three years, we have uncovered instances of past abuse and unwanted harassment. We have addressed these situations head-on, and such behavior cannot be allowed to continue in the future. The second issue is related to the first; we must rebuild trust across our three campuses. Trust between faculty and students, administration and the campus as a whole, and members of our entire system.
3. While we have addressed some of the economic issues regarding accessibility (Money magazine ranked U of M the best college value in the US this year) more can and should be done. We also raised the minimum wage of all employees, including part-time students, to \$15.00 this year. I am interested in offering free daycare to students with children and we're making progress in this area. Additionally, because our Flint and Dearborn campuses have more non-traditional and first generation students, we are providing more counseling and advising services so our students know they're valued and stay on track toward completing their degrees.

Kathy White

Democrat. Prof. of Law, Wayne State University. Registered Patent Attorney. Brigadier General Army NG. Princeton University, B.S.E. Electrical Engineering & Computer Sci.; Univ. of Washington School of Law, J.D.; George Washington Univ. Law School, LL.M.; US Army War College, Masters, Strategic Studies. I am a current Regent having vast experience on the Board. Website: www.friendsofkathywhite.com.

1. I am a current Regent having vast experience and expertise on the Board and other areas. I can provide steady leadership for dynamic times. I am a full-time tenured Professor of Law at Wayne State Univ. specializing in patent law, and contracts. In addition, I am a Brigadier General in the Army National Guard serving as the Deputy Commanding General of the 46th Military Police Command in Lansing, MI. I am a registered patent attorney, electrical engineer, Fulbright Senior Scholar, and a White House Fellow. I was inducted into the Michigan Military and Veterans Hall of Honor in November 2019.
2. First, quality education is central to America's ability to remain globally competitive. UM must engage in public/private partnerships to continue building bridges between education, science, industry and government to create synergies to improve the quality of higher education. UM is well positioned to continue to translate knowledge to solve problems of general public interest to meet societal needs. Second, keeping UM affordable enables students from all backgrounds, with different perspectives, to enrich the academic environment and develop empathy, which often instills the courage to stand up and do the right thing.
3. During my tenure on the Board of Regents, UM instituted the "Go Blue Guarantee," which provides "free tuition for up to four years for high-achieving, in-state, full-time undergraduates with family incomes less than \$65,000 and assets below \$50,000." This program is available on all three campuses: Ann Arbor, Flint, and Dearborn. As more students became eligible for Veterans Benefits, I spearheaded the move to become part of the Yellow Ribbon Program and offer all veterans, reserve components, and active duty service members in-state tuition so they can take full advantage of their Veterans Benefits and maximize funding levels.

Lena Epstein

Republican

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Sevag Vartanian

Republican

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Eric Larson

Libertarian. Physician Anesthesiologist. BSE—Nuclear Engineering, University of Michigan; MD University of Iowa College of Medicine. BSE—Nuclear Engineering 1996 from Univ. of Michigan. Past President of my medical practice. Former president of the Kent County Medical Society. Current board member of the MI State Medical Society.

1. I am a graduate of the University of Michigan (1996) where I received my bachelor's degree in nuclear engineering. I then finished medical school and residency in Iowa (anesthesiology) and returned to the state in 2004 where I have practiced ever since. I want the University to maintain its academic rigor while also fostering a place where students of all stripes can learn from one another with respect. I am someone who has served in numerous leadership positions both in the private and public sphere. I want to bring those skills to UM and make it an even better institution than it already is.
2. a) Open and free discourse on campus encouraged to allow students exposure to ideas they may not have encountered. This setting is best for young adults as they will have plenty of resources to challenge and work through complicated issues. In a pluralistic society they will be faced with all sorts of ideologies and positions and we should help equip them to deal with these in an empathetic and logical manner to encourage civil discourse. b) Reasonable COVID policies that follow the science and do not violate students' bodily autonomy.
3. Keep costs low to allow for those with less means to attend more easily. It is also worth considering using the massive endowment that UM has to help lower tuition costs. Finally, we should try to minimize administrative positions that do not affect the quality of education as a way to lower the cost of running the university.

Joe Sanger

U.S. Taxpayers

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Sherry A. Wells

Green. Semi-retired attorney/writer. Grand Rapids Jr. College, Assoc. Education, 1964-1966; Michigan State University, BA Education, 1968-1970; Wayne State University, JD Law Degree, 1973-1976. Practiced law for over 40 years; instructor of Intro. to Law; author and publisher of 5 editions of Michigan Law for Everyone; president and board member of many organizations. Website: www.migreenparty.org. Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/1183728172176662.

1. Added to the above, an important role for third parties is to raise issues that the Big Two will not raise, to focus on social justice and the environment instead of Big Corporations and war, to "follow the money" which includes how the U of M gets and spends money. I learned much about education in Michigan in my runs for the State Board of Education in 2014, 2016 and 2018. I Zoomed in on its June meeting. I drove to St Ignace and attended its first U.P. meeting and will continue. I do my homework. Of the three elected university boards, I earned degrees from MSU and WSU so now I want to attend to U of M by being on its Board of Governors!
2. Fairness to employees who uphold its reputation: this includes supporting the nurses in its renowned medical system and, like teachers and their students, their patients are as important and part of the working conditions they press for improvement. Also, U.M. Dearborn campus employees will be getting raises to \$15 soon but those at the Flint campus will be only gradually increased to \$15—Why the difference?! Also, I want to learn how much defense money the U of M takes in and about how much research is focused on the environment, which is connected with health, instead of towards war, which is a major environmental detriment.
3. Years ago, the Montcalm Community College offered courses for prisoners and recidivism reduced dramatically. Of course, that program was cancelled. (Yes, sarcasm.) Michigan annually spends \$36,000 per prisoner yet U of M tuition, fees, books, room & board and expenses is only \$33,000. Only 11 percent of Michigan prisoners have a post-high school degree. Despite 28 prisons and 38,500 prisoners in Michigan, the U of M is not among the six institutions offering post-secondary education for prisoners. Recidivism is 25% and this could reduce that as well as make the prisoners a role model for education for their families.

Kathleen Oakford

Natural Law

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.



Michigan State University Board of Trustees

Eight-year term — Vote for up to two

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

Questions

1. Describe your qualifications and the skills and experience you bring to the position. Why do you want to serve on this university board?
2. What are the two most pressing issues facing this university today, and what is your position on those issues?
3. What would you recommend to make university education more accessible to all Michigan's residents?

Dennis Deno

Democrat. Small business owner. BA and MA. Graduate of MSU, understand complexities of MSU. Website: www.dennisdeno.com.

1. As a small business owner, former staffer in the Michigan legislature, MSU graduate and someone who lives a mile from campus, I see the positives and negatives of MSU Board of Trustees' decisions. To get anything done, Trustees must put politics aside and build a consensus and also ask how their decisions affect the MSU community and the entire state. The number one job of the MSU Board is to serve as the fiduciary agent for our tax dollars and I want to use my business and political experience and community relations to ensure that MSU's budget reflects our priorities.
2. Transparency and safety. As a public body, the MSU Board must be more transparent with their decisions and budget process. The other big concern is safety—do our students, employees, and guests feel safe on campus? Is MSU a safe place for everyone? If students do not feel safe then they will not succeed academically, and if employees do not feel safe then they will not stay at MSU.
3. Every candidate is going to say that they are going to fight to lower tuition, but we all know that they can't, thanks to cuts from the federal and state government. I would first like to examine our budget and see where our finances are coming from and going and if there are cost savings. More grant money would be great, but also increasing all salaries on campus to \$15 an hour would help students pay their bills.

Renee Knake Jefferson

Democrat. Trustee, Michigan State University and Professor of Law, University of Houston. JD, University of Chicago Law School. Appointed by Governor Whitmer to the Michigan State University Board of Trustees in 2019. Running to continue my work as a champion of change for student success. Website: www.TrustJefferson.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/TrusteeReneeKnakeJefferson/. Twitter: @MSUJefferson.

1. Governor Whitmer appointed me to the MSU Board of Trustees in 2019. She chose me based on my expertise as an attorney and professor in legal ethics and gender equity. I served on the MSU law faculty for a decade from 2006–16, and continue to reside in East Lansing. My husband and step-son are proud Spartan graduates. I believe education should be affordable, accessible, and inclusive. I value academic freedom, campus safety/healing, civility, diversity, equity, respect, sustainability and transparency. I have been a champion of change to further these values at Michigan State, and hope to continue my efforts for the next eight years.
2. There are several issues that I would rank as the most pressing for MSU today. Priorities for me include: (a) enhanced accountability and transparency in Board governance; (b) meaningful diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging; (c) improved campus safety and healing, especially for survivors of sexual violence and misconduct; (d) affordable tuition and living costs, in particular for in-state students; and (e) increased educational and economic opportunities for all 83 of Michigan's counties through MSU's Extension Program.
3. Making education truly accessible to all Michigan residents requires more than keeping tuition affordable, though that is important. Pipeline programs starting in elementary school and extending through high school are essential to helping our youngest residents access higher education. MSU does this through the Extension program and other outreach efforts, but more can and should be done to help make university education a realistic option for anyone who wants to pursue it. In addition to K–12 pipeline programs, I recommend targeted outreach to first-generation university students and special support for them as they enter higher education.

Mike Balow

Republican

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Travis Menge

Republican. Orthopedic Surgeon. Michigan State University (BS); University of Colorado School of Medicine (MD); Vanderbilt University (Orthopedic Surgery Residency). As a physician, I have spent my entire career caring for patients and working to improve the lives of others. I understand the many healthcare-related challenges our students and universities face. Website: www.travismenge.com. Facebook: www.facebook.com/DrTravisMenge. Twitter: @TravisMenge.

1. My healthcare leadership experience makes me uniquely qualified to successfully guide MSU through unexpected challenges, such as the COVID pandemic and Larry Nassar Scandal. Additionally, up to 15-20% of the annual budget (\$1.4 Billion) at MSU is related to medical education, health sciences, and research. The MSU Trustees provide supervision over the university and its funds, but do not have a member with healthcare experience when addressing these issues. I received a scholarship to attend MSU, and want to utilize my experience to give back and serve the university that has provided so much to me. Go Green!

2. Higher education and healthcare share many similar issues. I believe two of the most pressing issues facing MSU are the value of education offered and accessibility for students. Many people simply talk about cost, but I believe improving the value of education is more important. Value takes into account both the cost and quality. I want to make high quality education affordable and lower costs, thereby offering the best value to students. Accessibility is also an issue facing students across Michigan. I want to ensure students from all backgrounds have the opportunity to obtain a world class education at Michigan State University.
3. Improving accessibility to a high quality education at MSU is very important to me. I grew up on a cattle ranch in northwestern Colorado, and attended high school in a rural Wyoming town of less than 400 people. Without the scholarship I received to Michigan State, I never could have dreamed of (or afforded) to come to Michigan and attend school at MSU. I will work to ensure opportunities are available for Michigan students from every background to earn both merit-based and needs-based scholarships. We need to leverage our corporate and industry partnerships to further expand funding sources, and make better use of our taxpayer dollars.

Claranna Gelineau

Libertarian. MI Dept. of Human Services/Retired. Bachelor of Science. I am an alumna of Michigan State University. Website: electclarannagelineau.com. Facebook: [Facebook.com/clar4msuboard](https://www.facebook.com/clar4msuboard).

1. Retired caseworker with much experience dealing with people, paper and problems.
2. a) Affordability of attending college. The government must stop making predatory loans and administration must reduce spending whenever possible. b) Student safety. (Nasser scandal and death of Brendan Santos)
3. Increasing the availability of online learning or establishing a 'earn as you learn' route for some courses of study.

Max Riekse

Libertarian. Lt Colonel (Ret); U.S. Army; 32 years; Retired Michigan Public School Teacher; 23 years. Two MA's WMU; Political Science; International Relations; Education; History; US Army—CIB/ABN/LOM/BS/MSM; BA University of South Florida, Political Science & International Relations. Not endorsed by the left wing socialist MEA; Vietnam War & Iraq War Veteran; VFW & NRA Life Member. Website: michiganlp.org. Facebook: [michiganlp.org](https://www.facebook.com/michiganlp.org). Twitter: Lt Colonel (Ret) Max Riekse.

1. Two Masters Degrees & K-12 Teaching Certificate from WMU; Libertarians are all about Lower taxes; Less Government in our lives & face; Individual Freedom; the Constitution & Bill of Rights; the Second Amendment; & Personal responsibility; No Mandates of any kind; Max Previously received "Full Endorsement" from Michigan Vaccine Freedom PAC & "Friends of Conservative Energy Advocacy" —Michigan Conservative Energy Forum; & Michigan Right to Life; & the NRA—National Rifle Association A Rated; Its all about Individual freedom; Enact strict control—legislation regarding RED (PRC) ownership of US—Michigan farm land;
2. No Necon Wars; no Antifa or Communist's on Campus; no CIA/BATF/NSA/WOKE/BLM/CRT/PRC/FBI/ on—at any Michigan University tax supported Campus; No draft to support future Necon wars; Free Speech on Campus; It's OK to be White; Re-elect President Donald Trump for 3rd time; No war with Iraq or Russia over Ukraine; Repeal 16th Amendment/Federal Income Tax; Ax the Michigan Income tax; Remember Rhodesia; Stop Genocide on the Roof of the World—Free TIBET; ? Boy Cot PRC.
3. No vaccine or mask mandates for all Michigan University students & Michigan National Guard; Free Speech on campus; No Illegal alien attendance at Michigan K-12 university tax supported schools; No Estate tax up to 50 million dollars; then 10%; No estate tax on family farms; No PRC/Red Chinese students on campus; Priority attendance to Michigan students; (*inappropriate response deleted*); 5% Flat tax; Nonprofits/Billionaires pay 20% flat tax; Michigan Nonprofits with woke agenda pay 50% income tax; with money earmarked towards helping MI Poor with food; housing; gas; medical & Child Care."

Robin Lea Laurain

Green

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

League of Women Voters Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy

Wayne State University Board of Governors

Eight-year term — Vote for up to two

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 the skills and experience you bring to the position. Why do you want to serve on this university board?
2. What are the two most pressing issues facing this university today, and what is your position on those issues?
3. What would you recommend to make university education more accessible to all Michigan's residents?

Danielle Atkinson

Democrat

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Marilyn Kelly

Democrat. Law Professor/Distinguished Jurist in Residence, Wayne State University. JD Wayne State University, MA Middlebury College, BA Eastern Michigan University. 8 years' experience as Governor of the Wayne State University Board of Governors (immediate past Chair of the Board); 24 years as an appellate judge (a past Chief Justice of the Supreme Court). Website: votemarilynkelly.com. Facebook: facebook.com/marilynkelly1. Twitter: [marilynkelly1](https://twitter.com/marilynkelly1).

2. I have been a member of the Wayne State University Board of Governors for nearly 8 years. Earlier, I was a member of the Michigan State Board of Education for 12 years. I have been the chair of both boards. My experience as a former student, current professor and board member at Wayne provides me a balanced view of the University, its strengths, its weaknesses and its needs. I want to serve a second term on the Board because I am devoted to the wellbeing of the University, its students, faculty and staff. I want Wayne State to provide the best possible education to its students, to enhance their social mobility, and enrich their lives.
2. Rapid changes in higher education and reduced funding. Like other universities, Wayne State is facing enormous changes caused by our changing society. I would concentrate on better use of technology in teaching, and I would promote new curricula to better prepare students for rapidly shifting workplace demands. In past years, the Michigan Legislature has slowed its financial backing of the University, putting pressure on the school to raise student tuition in order to maintain the quality of its educational offerings. I oppose increasing tuition unless grants and scholarships for the financially needy offset the increases.
3. a) More courses offered virtually. The opportunity to get a university education should not depend on where students live in the state. It should not depend on whether students are employed or have child care responsibilities. b) More assistance to students who struggle to succeed in university courses. Many students need to have skilled people available to help them adjust to the demands of college, to help them sharpen their skills and answer their questions. The university must be a place where they feel accepted and welcomed. The faculty, staff and students alike must be sensitive to the destructive effect of implicit bias.

Christa Murphy

Republican

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Craig Wilsher

Republican

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Bruce Jaquays

Libertarian. Retired from USPS, part-time Walmart Associate. BA from University of Michigan. I have some experience with union contracts from my time at the USPS. I'm a WSU dad, my daughter graduated from WSU. Website: votejaquays.com.

1. I wish to serve on the Board of Governors as I have seen other universities' boards such as the University of Michigan, of which I am an alumni, make decisions that make the university less appealing to all students. I believe all groups should feel comfortable to come to the university. I support the first amendment on campus. I worked my way through college, I know what student debt is. I work with college age associates, who don't feel they have a future. A WSU degree would help them as it has others like my own daughter. I want WSU to become a first choice not a second or third choice. It has a lot to offer. I won't mess that up.
2. The two most pressing issues facing WSU are parking and not being considered a first choice of a university to the greater Detroit area. 1) Parking is a complaint from many students. Since WSU has a large commuter student body, safe and convenient parking issues are a major concern to them. My daughter was a commuter. Her car was broken into on campus. It wasn't the end of the world. It's also something that's often mentioned before great professors etc. 2) WSU is in Detroit. Duh?! Detroit has good points that match Ann Arbor and East Lansing if not better. Out state doesn't know that or care. A hurdle to be addressed.
3. Cost is the biggest road block to accessibility. As a governor, I would take being a steward of the financial resources very seriously. Also WSU must offer courses and classes that are practical. Parents want their children getting useful degrees. WSU needs to meet or exceed what are competitors are offering to students. WSU has a lot to offer but... it is Detroit vs Ann Arbor/ East Lansing/Mount Pleasant/etc. Actual campus crime may not be any different but... WSU needs to address this harder than other colleges. I'm in favor of spending more on security as it will benefit WSU students and our infrastructure.

Marc Joseph Sosnowski

U.S. Taxpayers

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Susan Odgers

Green

Did not respond in time for publication. For the latest information, visit www.Vote411.org.

Campaigning at the Polls

Michigan election law stipulates that individuals who wish to post, display or distribute material that directly or indirectly references an election, candidate or ballot question must conduct their activities at least 100 feet away from a polling place or building entrance in which a polling place is located. The "100 foot 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).
- Attempting to collect petition signatures.
- Soliciting donations, selling tickets or engaging in similar activities.

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

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

According to Michigan law, election officials may ask voters entering the polls to remove campaign buttons, or to cover clothing bearing any reference to a political party or interest group, campaign slogan or candidate's name. 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. Such materials should not be left behind in the voting station. Election officials periodically check voting stations to make sure they are free of campaign literature.

Based on Election Officials' Manual, Michigan Bureau of Elections, pp. 26-27, updated October 2020.

November 8, 2022 — State Ballot Proposals

Proposal 22-1: Transparency & Term Limits A proposal to amend the state constitution to require annual public financial disclosure reports by legislators and other state officers and change state legislator term limit to 12 total years in legislature

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Require members of legislature, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and attorney general file annual public financial disclosure reports after 2023, including assets, liabilities, income sources, future employment agreements, gifts, travel reimbursements, and positions held in organizations except religious, social, and political organizations.
- Require legislature implement but not limit or restrict reporting requirements.
- Replace current term limits for state representatives and state senators with a 12-year total limit in any combination between house and senate, except a person elected to senate in 2022 may be elected the number of times allowed when that person became a candidate.

Brief Explanation: The State Legislature placed this initiative on the ballot, eliminating the need for signature-gathering for the proposed Constitutional Amendment. It addresses two topics, transparency for state officials' financial reporting and term limits. For more information, go to the websites of a 'pro' group, Voters for Transparency and Term Limits, and a 'con' group, such as Michigan Term Limits Defense Fund. Currently, there are no reporting requirements for state officials, and term limits are a total of 14 years, 6 years in the MI House and 8 years in the MI Senate.

A 'Yes' Vote Means:

Members of the legislature, the governor, secretary of state and attorney general would be required to be transparent about their income, assets, liabilities, gifts from lobbyists, positions held in certain organizations, and agreements on future employment.

These financial reports would be publicly disclosed annually. Currently Michigan is one of only two states which does not require these annual reports and ranks 50th in the nation in transparency.

Term limits for state legislators would change from a maximum of 14 years to a maximum of 12 years. However, the legislator may serve the entire time in one chamber or the other, or a combination. Currently, legislators are limited to two 4-year terms in the Senate and three 2-year terms in the House.

Legislators would be allowed to serve the entire 12-year term in one chamber. Some say this would allow for the possibility of more continuity.

A 'No' Vote Means:

Michigan's top elected officials and legislators will continue to disclose their financial interests only on a voluntary basis. Michigan will continue to be free of required annual 'conflict of interest' reports, standing with Idaho as the two states without such requirements.

Term limits for state legislators will stay as they are currently, limited to two 4-year terms in the Senate and three 2-year terms in the House, with a maximum of 14 years. Some say that the proposal's effect would be to prolong terms within each chamber, and that it's helpful to have rotation of people in office.

For more nonpartisan information and analysis: Citizens Research Council of Michigan - crcmich.org

Proposal 22-2: Promote the Vote A proposal to amend the state constitution to add provisions regarding elections

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Recognize fundamental right to vote without harassing conduct;
- Require military or overseas ballots be counted if postmarked by election day;
- Provide voter right to verify identity with photo ID or signed statement;
- Provide voter right to single application to vote absentee in all elections;
- Require state-funded absentee-ballot drop boxes, and postage for absentee applications and ballots;
- Provide that only election officials may conduct post-election audits;
- Require nine days of early in-person voting;
- Allow donations to fund elections, which must be disclosed;
- Require canvass boards certify election results based only on the official records of votes cast.

Brief Explanation: This proposed amendment to Michigan's Constitution addresses various voting procedures and was placed on the ballot by gathering nearly 670,000 signatures, thousands more than the required 425,059 signatures as a citizen's initiative. The organization sponsoring the proposal seeks to enshrine more voting rights into the Constitution. For more information, go to the websites of a 'pro' group, Promote the Vote 2022, and a 'con' group, such as Secure MI Vote. Currently, Michigan voters passed Promote the Vote in 2018, placing many voting rights in its Constitution. Various laws which regulate voting can be changed by the Legislature while voting rights that are in the MI Constitution cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

A 'Yes' Vote Means:

Michigan voters will have additional constitutional rights and safeguards as listed above. These include the right to vote without harassment, require military or overseas ballots to be counted if they are postmarked by Election Day, require canvass boards to certify elections based only on the official results, allow for drop boxes and more.

Michigan elections will be modernized to enhance security and integrity to ensure that every vote counts, and that voting is more convenient and accessible for all.

The amendment will expand voting access - early voting, absentee ballots and ballot drop boxes, and allow voters to sign an affidavit to attest to their identity when they don't have their photo ID with them.

A 'No' Vote Means:

Voting policies regarding the rights and safeguards listed above will continue to be in the hands of the State Legislature.

People who forget their ID will be allowed to sign an affidavit and vote, following current state law, subject to change by the Legislature. Note: Current law states "Making a false statement in this affidavit is perjury, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both."

For more nonpartisan information and analysis: Citizens Research Council of Michigan - crcmich.org

Proposal 22-3: Reproductive Freedom for all A proposal to amend the state constitution to establish new individual right to reproductive freedom, including right to make all decisions about pregnancy and abortion; allow state to regulate abortion in some cases; and forbid prosecution of individuals exercising established right

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Establish new individual right to reproductive freedom, including right to make and carry out all decisions about pregnancy, such as prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, sterilization, abortion, miscarriage management, and infertility;
- Allow state to regulate abortion after fetal viability, but not prohibit if medically needed to protect a patient's life or physical or mental health,
- Forbid state discrimination in enforcement of this right; prohibit prosecution of an individual, or a person helping a pregnant individual, for exercising rights established by this amendment;
- Invalidate state laws conflicting with this amendment.

Brief Explanation: This proposed amendment to Michigan's Constitution addresses the right to reproductive healthcare, including access to abortion prior to the stage of viability. It was placed on the ballot by initiative petition, gathering more than 735,000 signatures, thousands more than the required 425,059 signature minimum.

For more information, go to the websites of a 'pro' group, Reproductive Freedom for All, and a 'con' group, such as Citizens to Support MI Women & Children.

Currently, Roe v. Wade was overturned on June 24, 2022, and Michigan must decide what the law will be regulating abortion. Michigan's 1931 law banning abortions was enjoined (prohibited from going into effect) by the courts.

A 'Yes' Vote Means:

People in Michigan will have the fundamental right to reproductive healthcare without political interference about all matters relating to pregnancy, including birth control, pre-viability abortion access, prenatal care, and childbirth.

Michiganders will have the right to safe and respectful care during birthing, to use temporary or permanent birth control, and to continue or end a pregnancy pre-viability without punishment.

A 'No' Vote Means:

The Michigan Legislature and the courts will continue to decide issues regarding reproductive rights, including abortion.

Depending on the rulings by the courts, the 1931 Michigan law that bans abortion except to save the life of the mother and makes it a felony to perform an abortion may go back into effect.

For more nonpartisan information and analysis: Citizens Research Council of Michigan - crcmich.org

Other Proposals:

Visit www.Vote411.org for more detailed information

Lawton Community Schools Operating Millage Proposal

Plainwell Community Schools Operating Millage Proposal

Kalamazoo County Operating Millage Levy Proposal

KALAMAZOO COUNTY PRECINCT LOCATIONS

Polls Open Tuesday, November 8, 2022 —7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Alamo Township

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

Brady Township

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

Charleston Township

- #1 Township Hall 1499 South 38th St.

Climax Township

- #1 Township Hall 110 North Main St.

Comstock Charter Township

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

Cooper Charter Township

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

Kalamazoo Charter Township

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

Oshtemo Charter Township

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

Pavilion Township

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

Prairie Ronde Township

- #1 Township Hall 8140 West W Ave.

Richland Township

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

Ross Township

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

Schoolcraft Township

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

Texas Charter Township

- #1 Calvary Reformed Church 7829 South 5th St.
- #2 Township Hall 7110 West Q Ave.
- #3 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 Faith Temple Church of God 402 S. Westnedge Ave.
- #2 & 4 Bernhard Student Center Western Michigan University
- #5 Wesley Foundation 2350 Ring Rd N
- #6 Kalamazoo RESA West Campus 4606 Croyden Ave.
- #7 & 9 Douglass Community Association 1000 W. Paterson St.
- #8 & 27 Mt. Zion Baptist Church 120 Roberson St.
- #10 Temple Baptist Church 3706 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 Urban Alliance 1009 E. Stockbridge Ave.
- #16 & 18 Converge Church 3306 Lovers Lane
- #17 Covenant United Reformed Church 3724 Lovers Lane.
- #19 & 25 Southern Heights Christian Reformed Church 4141 E. Hillandale Dr.
- #20 Centerpoint City Church 326 W. Cork St.
- #21 & 24 Girl Scouts Building 601 W. Maple St.
- #22 Third Christian Reformed Church 2400 Winchell Ave.
- #23 Bethany Reformed Church 1833 S. Burdick St.
- #26 Parkview Hills Clubhouse 3707 Greenleaf Circle

Parchment City

- #1 Parchment City Hall 650 S. Riverview Dr.

Portage City

- #1 Westminster Presbyterian Church 1515 Helen 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 & 12 Zhang Portage Community Senior Center 203 E. Centre Ave.
- #7 K-RESA Service Center 1819 E. Milham Rd.
- #8 & 14 Chapel Hill United Methodist Church 7028 Oakland Drive
- #9 & 15 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 1747 W. Milham Ave.
- #11 & 19 Kalamazoo First Assembly of God 5550 Oakland Drive
- #10 & 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

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

