

## Voting is *our power to shape our future* as a community, as a state, and as a nation!

The League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area (LWVLA) offers this Voter Guide that includes biographical information about candidates and their answers to questions about current issues. In addition to candidate information, some local ballot proposals are listed. A separate publication from the League of Women Voters of Michigan includes candidates for congress and statewide election positions.

**The information in this publication is printed as submitted by the candidates and edited only when the answers exceed the character limit.** The League of Women Voters does not take responsibility for the views or facts as stated by the candidates. The words "Response not available." indicate that no reply was received from the candidate by the deadline. The names of the candidates for each office appear in alphabetical order. **Only contested races and races where candidates responded appear in this guide.** Other races, and later submissions to this guide, can be found at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).

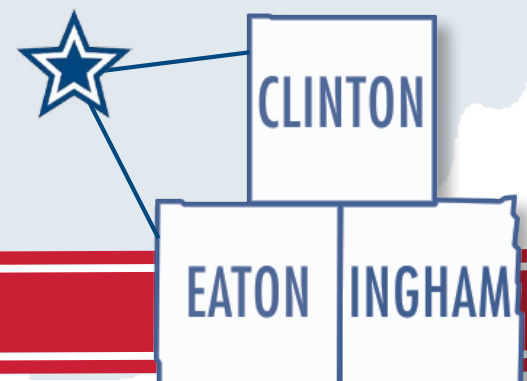


The LWVLA is working tirelessly to provide voters with information they need with our online voting resource, [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org), and printed voters' guides which provide information about candidates and ballot proposals. You can even print out your sample ballot to take to the polls on [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).

The League is a national organization, working for more than 100 years to encourage citizen participation. The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate, but it does take a position on issues after careful study by the membership.

Special thanks to the City Pulse, Marilyn and Dale Fitschen, Marty and John Courtetas, Peckhman Industries, and the Michigan Civic Education Fund for their generous support in providing this guide. The League appreciates their commitment to democracy.

*League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area*



## INDEX

VOTING - General Information. . . . . 2  
 Michigan State House Races . . . . . 3  
 Races within County  
   Clinton Cty. Commissioners. . . . . 8  
   Eaton Cty. Commissioners. . . . . 11  
     Delta Twp. Trustees . . . . . 21  
     Eaton Rapids Pub. Sch. Board . . . . . 23  
     Grand Ledge Pub. Sch. Board . . . . . 25  
   Ingham County Commissioners. . . . . 27  
     Meridian Twp. Trustees . . . . . 35  
     Meridian Twp Clerk . . . . . 36  
     Williamston Twp. Trustees . . . . . 36  
   Mason City Council Members. . . . . 37  
   E. Lansing Pub. Sch. Board. . . . . 39  
   Lansing Pub. Sch. Board . . . . . 41  
   LLC Trustees . . . . . 45  
   Leslie Pub. Sch. Board . . . . . 48  
   Mason Pub. Sch. Board . . . . . 48  
   Williamston Comm. Sch. Board . . . . . 50  
 Selected Proposals. . . . . 51



## www.VOTE411.org

- ... where you can see what is on your ballot
- ... where to check your voter registration
- ... where to find your polling place
- ... where to find links to candidate forums and other information related to voting

### Election Day is November 5, 2024

- Absentee voter ballots available for voters September 26.
- Last day to register by mail or online October 21.
- New voter registrations required an in-person visit to your clerk’s office from October 22 - November 5.
- Early Voting period October 26 - November 3, but can be longer. Check with your local clerk.

### Michigan has 2 Options to Vote Early

- At an early voting site prior to Election Day
- By using an absentee voter ballot prior to Election Day

### Options for Straight Ticket or Split Ticket

Voters may “split” their ticket in the general election (November). Per the passage of Proposal 18-3 in 2018, Michigan voters also have the option to vote straight-ticket by selecting the option on the side of their ballot with partisan races. Voting straight ticket does not automatically include selections on the non-partisan side of the ballot.

### How to get information?

- Michiganvoting.org in English, Spanish, or Arabic
- Michigan Voter Information Center mi.gov/vote
- Your local, township or county clerk’s office

### WHO can vote? \*

- A United States citizen
- A Michigan resident (at the time you register) and a resident of your city or township for at least 30 days (when you vote)
- At least 18 years of age (when you vote)
- Not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison

\* To ensure accuracy, voting information has been copied with only minimal editing from the Michigan Secretary of State’s website.

### What is Early Voting?

Early voting is the opportunity to cast a ballot in person at an early voting site before Election Day. For voters, the early voting experience will be similar to the experience of voting at a polling place on Election Day and will include feeding your completed ballot into a tabulator. To find your Early Voting Site go to Michigan.gov/vote and click on Early Voting or contact your local clerk.

### What is Absentee Voting?

Absentee voting is the process of requesting a ballot from your city or township clerk, receiving and filling out the ballot, and then, returning the ballot to your city or township clerk, either in-person, in a secure ballot drop box or by mail. Be sure to follow the instructions and don’t forget to sign the return envelope.

You can also return your completed absentee ballot to an early voting site by checking in with election workers, then inserting your ballot into the tabulator.

**Race: Michigan State House of Representatives – District 43**

**Duties:** The Michigan House of Representatives shares responsibility with the Michigan Senate to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws. **Qualifications:** 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.

**Term: 2 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>Michigan House District 43</b>	<b>Q: 1. Why are you running for the Michigan State Legislature?</b>	<b>Q: 2. What should Michigan do to provide an equitable, quality public education for all while addressing the current teacher shortage?</b>	<b>Q: 3. What do you see as the state’s role, if any, in mitigating the impact of climate change?</b>	<b>Q: 4. What actions/ proposals, if any, do you support to retain residents in our state?</b>
<p><b>Danene Shumaker</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>                      danene.shumaker@shu4staterep.org                      www.shu4staterep.com                      www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557018276863                      Self-Employed/Owner                      Master of Education M. Ed, BAA, 35+ years sales and business experience, Board Member of Allegan Homeless Solutions. Able to work with a wide range of personalities. Able to work through difficult or stressful situations</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Because the needs of hard working people are not being met! We need legislators that prioritize public education and training, our environment, helping children and seniors, and protecting ALL rights, just for starters!</p>	<p><b>A:</b> We need a taxing structure for public schools that does not solely depend upon the particular districts citizens income but instead distributes money evenly throughout the state, no matter the income of the community. At the same time, we need to figure out what to cut in order to give more salary and benefits to teachers. They are the highest educated people in our society, usually, and we pay them next to nothing. It’s time to recognize the valuable asset public school teachers are and pay them accordingly. I know pay isn’t everything, but many teachers I know have to work another job to make ends meet. Equitable pay would be a start.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> States role is crucial in mitigating the impact. We are able to enact regulations and laws for those who choose to pollute and impact our climate in a negative way. State regulations are most likely the only way we can protect our Great Lakes, for instance. Look at Enron’s’ pipeline under the straights. We all know we will have to force them to encase the line for greater safety or threaten to shut them down before they will act, unfortunately. For so many businesses, money comes before the safety and well being of our citizenry. That is where the State HAS to come in.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> It’s really about good paying jobs for people. Good schools for families. Good care (hospitals, daycares, senior facilities) for our loved ones. We have to maintain the essentials people need to live and thrive. Then people will come to Michigan or stay in Michigan.</p>
<p><b>Rachelle Smit</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican  <b>Biographical Info:</b>                      rachellesmit4@gmail.com</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>

**Race: Michigan State House of Representatives – District 73**

**Duties:** Same as above.

**Term: 2 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>Michigan House District 73</b>	<b>Q: 1. Same as above.</b>	<b>Q: 2. Same as above.</b>	<b>Q: 3. Same as above.</b>	<b>Q: 4. Same as above.</b>
<p><b>Julie Brixie</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>                      Democraticjulie@juliebrixie.com</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>
<p><b>Joshua J. Rockey</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican  <b>Biographical Info:</b>                      Republicaninfo@zsolutiontechs.com</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>

**Race: Michigan State House of Representatives – District 74**

**Duties:** The Michigan House of Representatives shares responsibility with the Michigan Senate to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws. **Qualifications:** 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.

**Term: 2 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>Michigan House District 74</b>	<b>Q: 1. Why are you running for the Michigan State Legislature?</b>	<b>Q: 2. What should Michigan do to provide an equitable, quality public education for all while addressing the current teacher shortage?</b>	<b>Q: 3. What do you see as the state’s role, if any, in mitigating the impact of climate change?</b>	<b>Q: 4. What actions/ proposals, if any, do you support to retain residents in our state?</b>
<p><b>Kara Hope</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>                      DemocraticKARAOPE                      32@GMAIL.COM                      facebook.com/KaraHopeHoltMI                      votekarahope.com                      Michigan House, representative (67th and 74th districts), former Ingham County Commissioner; attorney State Representative - Michigan KaraHope7State Representative -- 74th House District J.D. Cooley Law School; B.A. with honors Michigan State University</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I am proud to have served this community for the past 12 years in elected office, first as a county commissioner and then as a state representative. As an elected official and an involved community member, I am in touch with what the residents of this district want and need. Among those wants and needs is the right to reproductive freedom as well as the desire for quality public schools and an opportunity for everyone to fulfill their potential. It is also essential to defend democracy and the rule of law, meaning adhering to the principle that we are all equal before the law.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Equitable funding means that funding should be needs-based, not just numbers-based. During the 102nd Legislature (the current legislature), we have prioritized and followed through on exactly that. We also fully funded special education for the first time in Michigan history. Providing free breakfast and lunch for all K-12 students in public schools ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn without being distracted by hunger. Regarding the teacher shortage, teacher apprenticeships (earlier than student teaching) could help along with tuition assistance to encourage young people to go into teaching as a profession.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The state has a huge role in mitigating the effects of climate change. The clean energy package passed by this legislature is a tremendous first step. And the state remains a good steward of our Great Lakes and fresh water supply. These functions must be at the state level and not subject to parochial demands.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Free college conditioned on remaining in the state for a set period of time following graduation would be a good place to start. Continuing to invest in and support the policies that most people want and need -- like reproductive freedom, environmental protections, and LGBTQ+ rights -- is a great way to attract and retain residents. Continuing to make Michigan a more attractive place to live, particularly for young people, is paramount. That means more investment in public transit and quality, affordable housing.</p>
<p><b>Tom Izzo</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican  <b>Biographical Info:</b>                      Republicanthomasizzo23@gmail.com</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>

**NOVEMBER 5 — ELECTION DAY!**

**Polls are open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. local time.**

**If you need to register to vote, you can register and then vote at your city or township clerk’s office until 8 p.m.**

## Race: Michigan State House of Representatives – District 75

**Duties:** The Michigan House of Representatives shares responsibility with the Michigan Senate to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws. **Qualifications:** 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.

**Term:** 2 years      **Partisan:**      **Candidates:** Choose One

Michigan House District 75	Q: 1. Why are you running for the Michigan State Legislature?	Q: 2. What should Michigan do to provide an equitable, quality public education for all while addressing the current teacher shortage?	Q: 3. What do you see as the state's role, if any, in mitigating the impact of climate change?	Q: 4. What actions/proposals, if any, do you support to retain residents in our state?
<p><b>Frank Lambert</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican  <b>Biographical Info:</b>            fl140@aol.com</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>
<p><b>Penelope Tsernoglou</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>            VotePenelope.com            www.facebook.com/VotePenelope?mibextid=ZbWKwL            @votepenelope            State Representative            MSU College of Law-JD, University of Michigan- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology, Southfield High School            MSU College of Law-JD, University of Michigan- Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Sociology, Southfield High School            I am currently a State Representative and served 6.5 years as a County Commissioner. I am a former small business owner, attorney, and victim's advocate.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I am running to continue my work in the legislature. Over the past year and a half, I have worked with partners to make Michigan one of the top states in voter access and Democracy. I am currently working on bills to address PFA's in household products and remediate the harmful effects of PFA's on our citizens. As an IVF mom, I will continue to be an outspoken advocate for reproductive rights. I am also working to increase access to healthcare for working families. I want to ensure that my district is well served and that our voices are heard.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Funding, funding, funding. We need to prioritize education in our budget, support teachers and school employees, and ensure that students are receiving the opportunities they need most. By providing good benefits, working conditions, competitive pay and retirement benefits, along with incentive programs for student teachers we can begin to address the teacher shortage.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The state has an important role to play in mitigating the impact of climate change and we must continue to take steps in the right direction. By investing in solar, wind, and other clean energy sources we can move the state forward and set a nationwide standard. Investments in EV infrastructure and public transit will also go a long way in helping us meet our goals.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> We will retain residents and grow our population by being the very best place to live, work and raise a family. This means good healthcare, child care, jobs, quality educational opportunities, housing, transportation, public safety, equity, and an overall positive sense of community and recreational opportunities. I support investments in all of these areas. Michigan is a beautiful place and if we give our residents what they need we have a lot to offer. Much work is already being done to address each of these areas of interest by myself and my fellow representatives.</p>

**“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.”**

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

**Race: Michigan State House of Representatives – District 76**

**Duties:** The Michigan House of Representatives shares responsibility with the Michigan Senate to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws. **Qualifications:** 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.

**Term: 2 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>Michigan House District 76</b>	<b>Q: 1. Why are you running for the Michigan State Legislature?</b>	<b>Q: 2. What should Michigan do to provide an equitable, quality public education for all while addressing the current teacher shortage?</b>	<b>Q: 3. What do you see as the state's role, if any, in mitigating the impact of climate change?</b>	<b>Q: 4. What actions/proposals, if any, do you support to retain residents in our state?</b>
<p><b>Angela Witwer</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>                      ang.witwer@gmail.com                      angelamihouse.com                      www.voteforangela.com                      www.facebook.com/WitwerforStateRep                      Bachelors Business &amp; Marketing                      3 terms in the legislature. Currently, I hold the seat as appropriations chair in the House</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I ran for office to do the work of the people and flip the State House. In the time I have been there I have had the opportunity to increase funding to education, protect healthcare, produce thousands of jobs and a balanced budget.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> We must allocate resources based on student needs and ensure that all schools receive adequate financial support. This includes increasing funding for schools in low-income communities, providing more resources for special education, and investing in early childhood education programs. Equitable funding will help level the playing field and ensure that all students have access to quality education, regardless of their socioeconomic background. Among other things, I have worked with the House of Representatives to provide a \$280 million increase in per-pupil funding in last years budget.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Michigan has the honor of hosting 1/3 of the world's fresh water. The state must be vigilant in protecting the Great Lakes and the thousands of inland lakes and rivers. We can and have made policies that support and fund this.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Business relies on residents/workers. Workers demand a vibrant community and vibrant communities need business. This is a circle of support to keep residents. Our state should be supporting our businesses to increase job - which we have since I have been here. We also need to increase funding for vibrant community grants and look at other states who have run successful programs with populations.</p>
<p><b>Andy Shaver</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican  <b>Biographical Info:</b>                      andy4staterep@gmail.com</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>

**Race: Michigan State House of Representatives – District 77**

**Duties:** Same as above.

**Term: 2 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>Michigan House District 77</b>	<b>Q: 1. Same as above.</b>	<b>Q: 2. Same as above.</b>	<b>Q: 3. Same as above.</b>	<b>Q: 4. Same as above.</b>
<p><b>Emily E. Dievendorf</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>                      Together@emilydievendorf.com</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>
<p><b>Cady Ness-Smith</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican  <b>Biographical Info:</b>                      electnesssmith@gmail.com                      ness-smith4mi77house.com                      www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557341701758&amp;mbxtid=ZbWKwL                      Registered Nurse, BSN                      Republican Precinct Delegate,                      served on many non-profit boards,                      founding President of MEP</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I live in Eagle Township and have been very involved in fighting the proposed Megasite and other projects that destroy thousands of acres of viable farm land. I have monitored house bills for decades and assisted in many door knocking campaigns regarding recall petitions. I have been active in holding legislators accountable. My experience and background are what this district needs</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Allow parent's to choose where their child receives their education and allow the funds for each child to be spent on that child's education. This includes, home schooling, and all academies. Continue to offer programs such as post-military fast track programs for teachers to gain certificate in teaching. Consider career ladder programs.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Local government should have local control over all wind and solar development. Any regulations regarding impact of climate change should be carefully evaluated as not to cause restrictions that are impossible to oversee or manage. Not to mention, fund. All oversight needs funding requirement.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Increased skilled trades and vocational programs in high school and community colleges with emphasis on career development. Also, a more friendly atmosphere for businesses to choose Michigan and remain here.</p>

**Race: Michigan State House of Representatives – District 78**

**Duties:** The Michigan House of Representatives shares responsibility with the Michigan Senate to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws. **Qualifications:** 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.

**Term: 2 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>Michigan House District 78</b>	<b>Q: 1. Why are you running for the Michigan State Legislature?</b>	<b>Q: 2. What should Michigan do to provide an equitable, quality public education for all while addressing the current teacher shortage?</b>	<b>Q: 3. What do you see as the state’s role, if any, in mitigating the impact of climate change?</b>	<b>Q: 4. What actions/ proposals, if any, do you support to retain residents in our state?</b>
<b>Christine M. Terpening</b> Party: Democratic Biographical Info: <i>terpening.michigan78@gmail.com</i>	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Gina Johnsen</b> Party: Republican Biographical Info: <i>gina4staterep@gmail.com</i>	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.

**Race: Michigan State House of Representatives – District 93**

**Duties:** Same as above.

**Term: 2 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>Michigan House District 93</b>	<b>Q: 1. Same as above.</b>	<b>Q: 2. Same as above.</b>	<b>Q: 3. Same as above.</b>	<b>Q: 4. Same as above.</b>
<b>Kevin C. Seamon</b> Party: Democratic Biographical Info: <i>lordseamon@yahoo.com</i> <i>Bachelor Degree from Northwood University Double Major in Banking / Financial Management Federal Agent White Knight 196 I design Federal Operations. I am a Job Creator. I Bring in Tax Revenue for the Government. I have Created Several Million Jobs and brought in \$Trillions and Trillions of Dollars</i>	<b>A:</b> I am running to Create Jobs and Bring in Tax Revenue to Support the Government. I am pushing to Mandate that all College Sports Players in Michigan get paid a Taxable Salary of \$50,000 or more. I am Working on Brand New 401k Legislation. I am designing the Brand New Federal Recycling Agency. I designed Legalizing Recreational Marijuana in Michigan in 2015/2016. I designed Legalizing Sports Betting in 2015/2016. I am trying to bring Fidelity to the City of Detroit which will create Good Paying Financial Jobs. I am trying to get MGM to build a Casino/ Hotel in Saginaw. I support the Poor and the Disabled. I am a Workaholic and a Go Getter.	<b>A:</b> Pay the Teachers Better. I am a Big Time Union Supporter as I come from a UAW Family. I am running on Jobs/Education/Wages/ Public Safety. Our Schools need more Funding. I am willing to Fight for it. I have a Degree in Money. Most Politicians are not Finance People but yet we put a Budget of \$Tens of Billions of Dollars in their Hands and Hope they Manage It Right. I am a person that doesn't just Waste Money or Mismanage Money. I have been trying for more Money for Education. I address issues that others Refuse to Address and Wont Touch the Issues. I have Stated that "I Won't Turn My Back On The Hard Working Men And Women Of America"	<b>A:</b> It is an issue. I Support Wind Farms and Solar Farms but we have to be Smart about where we put them. I am Pro Farmer and I Don't want to just Tear Up Farm Land. Climate Change isn't what everyone thinks because they are not Telling You Everything. I can Tell You what is Really going on but it would take way more than 650 Letters. But we do have to address it. No Matter what we have to address it because it isn't going to Just Go Away. I do have some plans on how to do this. Again, I design Federal Operations and have been for over 14 1/2 Years. Michigan is a Strong State compared to others. I want to make us Stronger. I really Mean It.	<b>A:</b> We need Good Paying Jobs. People are Leaving Michigan because a lot of our Good Paying Auto Jobs are Gone. I come from Saginaw, Michigan and we have Lost more than Half of Everything. So I have Seen it First Hand. As we have Lost Jobs we have gone from 238,000 people down to Under 188,000 people We are Still Dropping too. We are Losing Around 1,000 people a year. Kids Graduate High School and Leave. The Graduate College and Leave. We have to Rebuild The City of Detroit, The City of Flint, and The City of Saginaw. I design ways to Beat Made In Mexico, Made In China, Made in Japan. I am running to try and Actually Implement Them.
<b>Tim Kelly</b> Party: Republican Biographical Info: <i>timkellyforrep@gmail.com</i>	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.

**Please Note: Clinton County candidates' contact information is no longer publicly available, so the League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area was unable to contact many of the candidates running for office in Clinton County. Those candidates will not appear in the printed or the on-line version of the guide.**

**Race: Clinton County Board of Commissioner – District 1**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

District 1	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences, and explain why you are running for Clinton County Board of Commissioners.	Q: 2. Are there environmental issues that the county should address such as clean water, chemical toxins, and air quality?	Q: 3. Are there other pressing issue(s) facing the County that you want to discuss? If so, how do you suggest addressing the issue(s)?
<p><b>Nicole Fickes</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i>                      vote4nicole.com  <i>Education:</i> B.S., M.S.,                      Mechanical Engineering  <i>Campaign Phone:</i>                      517.899.9307</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have dedicated 10 years to serving the people of Victor Township. Leading broadband efforts, I helped secure nearly \$15 million in grant funds to expand Internet to over 3200 locations in Clinton County. As a medical device design engineer and product manager, I worked with top doctors and hospitals across the nation, as well as international production facilities. It is important to clearly map directions that address needs effectively, efficiently, and for the least cost. I understand how things work and am uniquely suited to listen to constituents and elevate issues. As a mother of three, Girl Scout leader, and involved community member with professional experience, I have an unmatched work ethic, technical expertise and am driven to serve the best interests of the people. And hopefully, with your help, can transform problems into opportunities for our residents.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Yes. It is critical to address contamination. The quality of our water is threatened by forever chemicals such as PFAS. Additionally, potential risks that may come from renewable energy and industrial battery storage facilities should be monitored. Residents should be protected from harm and liability by using data and evidence to respond appropriately. Governance and infrastructure should include fail-safes, proper mitigation planning, and adequate reserve funds for associated costs. Proposed expansion of solid waste facilities needs to have plans for potential disturbances from hazardous waste and should be discouraged.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> 1) The Board of Commissioners continually faces new issues. I want to serve with integrity and a skillset that adds value to the responsibility of responding to each challenge. Broadband continues to be an issue across rural areas. Funding has been secured for a large portion in need. However, a stronger project management approach is necessary for the successful implementation of these funds. 2) Emergency services face rising costs and workforce shortages. Very few people are pursuing these careers. Rural communities suffer from small population densities and large distances, adding to the growing burden on tax payers. It is time to rethink how we structure, fund, and operate EMS, fire, and police. Partnering with smaller communities to combine resources is necessary to sustain these rural services. 3) Industrial battery storage facilities introduce new risks for safely managing locations. Fire authorities need training, equipment, and resources to address spontaneous combustion.</p>

**Race: Clinton County Board of Commissioner – District 2**

**Description:** Same as above.

**Term: 4 years Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

District 2	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences, and explain why you are running for Clinton County Board of Commissioners.	Q: 2. What are the priority issues facing the Clinton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	Q: 3. Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?	Q: 4. Do you see the role of the county health department changing as a result of our experiences with COVID-19?
<p><b>Evelyn Quiroga-Klein</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic</p>	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<p><b>Zach Rudat</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican</p>	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.



**Race: Clinton County Board of Commissioner – District 3**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>District 3</b>	<b>Q: 1.</b> Please describe your qualifications and experiences, and explain why you are running for Clinton County Board of Commissioners.	<b>Q: 2.</b> What are the priority issues facing the Clinton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	<b>Q: 3.</b> Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?	<b>Q: 4.</b> Do you see the role of the county health department changing as a result of our experiences with COVID-19?
<b>Bruce DeLong</b> <b>Party:</b> Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>John R. Husby</b> <b>Party:</b> Democratic	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.

**Race: Clinton County Board of Commissioner – District 4**

**Description:** Same as above.

**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>District 4</b>	<b>Q: 1.</b> Same as above.	<b>Q: 2.</b> Same as above.	<b>Q: 3.</b> Same as above.	<b>Q: 4.</b> Same as above.
<b>Matthew Boak</b> <b>Party:</b> Democratic	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Brian Hurtekant</b> <b>Party:</b> Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.

**Race: Clinton County Board of Commissioner – District 5**

**Description:** Same as above.

**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>District 5</b>	<b>Q: 1.</b> Same as above.	<b>Q: 2.</b> Same as above.	<b>Q: 3.</b> Same as above.	<b>Q: 4.</b> Same as above.
<b>Muhammad Salaman Rais</b> <b>Party:</b> Democratic	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Robert Showers</b> <b>Party:</b> Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.

**“A man without a vote is a man without protection.”**

*Lyndon B. Johnson*

**Race: Clinton County Board of Commissioner - District 6**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>District 6</b>	<b>Q: 1.</b> Please describe your qualifications and experiences, and explain why you are running for Clinton County Board of Commissioners.	<b>Q: 2.</b> What are the priority issues facing the Clinton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	<b>Q: 3.</b> Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?	<b>Q: 4.</b> Do you see the role of the county health department changing as a result of our experiences with COVID-19?
<b>John Andrews</b> Party: Democratic	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Anne Hill</b> Party: Republican <b>Biographical Info:</b> Education: Executive Master's Business Administration and Business Admin, B.A.-Northwood University	<b>A:</b> As a former Clinton County Commissioner, I recognize the responsibility of the commissioner is to represent the people of their district in matters relating to county government. My prior experience as small business owner combined with a finance background working with large and international manufacturers, allows for a broadened perspective on the needs and impacts of budgetary decisions. My goal is to strike a balance between the amount of taxpayer money spent and the benefit to the community.	<b>A:</b> High priority issues include increased crime and drug use in the county, and the safety of our residents. It also includes the wide-spread impact of high inflation rates that the people of Clinton County are dealing with. A comprehensive plan with input from our residents and taxpayers will determine the specific actions.	<b>A:</b> Local property owner rights appear to be in jeopardy by State and federal government officials and their staff, who are willing to accept incentives from corporate billionaires and foreign governments. Pros and cons for each issue should be determined by the local residents, as every decision has benefits and risks. For example, windmills can be a viable source of energy, but the materials they are made of are also non-biodegradable. Electric vehicles can be a contributing energy option, but the lithium-ion batteries, which are also non-biodegradable, can be toxic. Additionally, the raw materials for the lithium batteries come from a foreign country, which could present national security issues.	<b>A:</b> I think the role of the county health department should take into consideration pre- and post-COVID-19, in order to truly evaluate needs moving forward. There are a lot of lessons to be learned from the past four years, and as information becomes available that should inform decision making.

**Did you know...**

**LWVMI Board of Canvassers Observers**

Since November 2020, LWVMI has been the public's eyes and ears to Michigan's county canvass of voters cast during an election. The League's consistent observation during the canvassing let the Board of Canvassers know we are monitoring them. Our presence demonstrates to the County Clerks, the Director of Elections, their staff, and the canvassers that we support good governance. More importantly, should the canvass observation expose suspicious activities (i.e., anything other than ministerial and non-discretionary duties), LWVMI can elevate the issue to the Secretary of State's office or an election attorney. The LWV Lansing Area observes Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham Boards of Canvassers.

**Race: Clinton County Board of Commissioner - District 7**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term: 4 years                      Partisan                      Candidates: Choose One**

District 7	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences, and explain why you are running for Clinton County Board of Commissioners.	Q: 2. What are the priority issues facing the Clinton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	Q: 3. Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?	Q: 4. Do you see the role of the county health department changing as a result of our experiences with COVID-19?
<b>Jim Spagnuolo</b> Party: Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Dwight J. Washington</b> Party: Democratic <b>Biographical Info:</b> Education: PhD	<b>A:</b> As a Democrat elected public official (2016), a water policy and natural resource consultant, and an interpersonal / social skills instructor, County Commissioner Dwight Washington is driven to facilitate subjective well-being and improving quality of life. Dr. Washington holds a B.A., in Psychology from Michigan State university (MSU), a M.Ed., in Human Development and Psychology from Harvard University Graduate School of Education, and a Ph.D., in Natural Resources from Michigan State University. And, particularly in the recent passing of his parents, he is grateful for having been raised by a loving family and in a supportive Bath- Dewitt Township community to be a creative “out of the box” problem solver. Dwight is happily, living his Democrat values and belief that when everyone’s voice is valued and recognized is when we have a true democracy.	<b>A:</b> Clinton County has historically been a fiscally responsible organization, and is well positioned in relationship to other counties with our fund balances. This conservative policy has provided the operational flexibility to fix problems in a timely manner. Maintaining this “operational flexibility” through a strong sustainable budget is critical, as the county’s population grows significantly and approaches one-hundred thousand people. This growth and population change brings cultural and political changes. And, already, after the 2024 primary, we know that three of the seven incumbent commissioners will not be serving this next term. This change in leadership, in addition to retirements from County staff leadership positions poses new dynamics. The outcome of these processes will impact critical decision making around issues of solar energy, staffing, housing, food security, and other local services that impact or daily quality of life.	<b>A:</b> Dwight’s commitment to the environment began while growing up on his grandparents farm in Bath Township, Michigan. From those long-gone by days, the environmental challenges to the planet and Bath have significantly changed. And, Climate Change is a global reality that affects the Mid-Michigan region. Additionally, water quality issues (i.e.,Septic systems and PFAS), land use issues (i.e., Solar and Renewable Energy sites, road and development), as well other issues compete for agricultural land use. The wise use of land is imperative to get figured out, particularly, as a “housing crisis” does and should compel local leaders to earnestly search for sustainable resolutions. Dwight’s involvement on the Tri-County Regional Planning Board, Parks and Greenways, and the Clinton Board of Commissioners has and will continue to protect the people and the rural landscape from unsustainable policy, increase emerging “green technologies” when appropriate.	<b>A:</b> Dwight has been most impressed with how our Local Public Health Department performed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how they have redoubled down in their obligation to providing the “10 essential health services for Public Health.” However, with regards to change, the new Health Officer, who was appointed during the pandemic, has brought a wealth of experience to the job. And, through her background in Environmental Health - the Mid-Michigan Public Health Department has increased their vigilance and have improved the quality of health through our “environment” in Clinton County.

**Race: Eaton County Board of Commissioners - District 1**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term: 4 years                      Partisan                      Candidates: Choose One**

District 1	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experience and explain why you are running for County Commissioner.	Q: 2. Are there environmental issues that the county should address such as clean water, chemical toxins, and air quality?	Q: 3. Are there other pressing issue(s) facing the County that you want to discuss? If so, how do you suggest addressing the issue(s)?
<b>Tim Barnes</b> Party: Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Dayanara Ryelle</b> Party: Democratic <b>Biographical Info:</b> Education: Master of Science in Legal Studies (finishing in 2024, graduating in 2025)	<b>A:</b> As a writer, I tend to think creatively and not in ways that are “normal” and “expected”. I’ve always been considered an outlier and I’m okay with that.	<b>A:</b> I’d like more information on what’s being done to address the water quality/pipe issue at UM Sparrow Eaton Hospital. It was announced earlier this year that the water was no longer safe to drink and then...nothing. No updates about subsequent tests, replacing the pipes or anything. How exactly can a hospital have unpotable water and nothing is being done about it?	<b>A:</b> I think the residents needs to be made aware that the county is in dire financial straits. The issue was mentioned in a recent edition of The County Journal, but the headline was about a “tax issue”—not something that would attract the average reader’s eye, unless they were already aware that the financial problems were due to taxes.

**Race: Eaton County Board of Commissioners – District 2**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term:** 4 years      **Partisan**      **Candidates:** Choose One

<b>District 2</b>	<b>Q: 1.</b> Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Eaton County Board of Commissioners.	<b>Q: 2.</b> What are the priority issues facing the Eaton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	<b>Q: 3.</b> Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?	<b>Q: 4.</b> What do you see as the role of the County Health Department?
<b>Chris Arndt</b> Party: Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Landon Myers</b> Party: Democratic <b>Biographical Info:</b> Campaign Web Site: <a href="http://www.votelandon.com">www.votelandon.com</a> Facebook page: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/votelandon/">www.facebook.com/votelandon/</a> Education: BA Political Science and Economics, Master of Public Policy Campaign Phone: 517.648.2986 Campaign Address: PO Box 31, Grand Ledge, MI 48837	<p><b>A:</b> I am running for Eaton County Commission to represent everyone in the district as a dedicated public servant. As an eighth-generation Eaton County resident, a proud graduate of Grand Ledge Public Schools, and an active community member, I will always be present to listen to and address residents' concerns.</p> <p>I see so much potential in Eaton County. Yet, our commission has caused budget shortfalls through their inaction. I am running for county commission to fix these issues and to bring my experience to build a stronger future in Eaton County. I am a Master of Public Policy graduate- studying local government policy. I also regularly attend township and county board meetings because I recognize the importance of being prepared to start serving the community once elected. With experience as a nonpartisan nonprofit leader, I will work with anybody to accomplish positive results.</p> <p>With bipartisan support, I will represent everyone -- building a stronger future in Eaton County.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> There are several priorities the board is immediately facing. For one, the county must pay staff a fair wage for their hard work to retain employees and recruit for open positions. Without their dedication, the county would not be able to operate. As a commissioner, I would advocate to increase pay for public safety and other staff to a fair rate. However, the county has unfunded budget constraints. Due to past board actions, the county has continuously headed down a dangerous financial path. Residents are now left with the bill or drastically reduced services. We must elect commissioners to address the financial uncertainty without leaving residents with massive tax increases. We must set the county on a stable footing to ensure programs and services can be maintained and expanded.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Two local environmental concerns catch my attention: increased precipitation caused by climate change and industrial pollution. First, Eaton County is predominantly swampland. Excess water has recently increased the amount of flooding in roadways and fields, leading to inaccessible routes, flooded basements, and crop loss. With more water expected every year, Eaton County needs to consider updating drainage systems that can handle increased capacity. Secondly, Eaton County has historically had pollution concerns. Oneida Township has an EPA Superfund site on the National Priorities List still being monitored. There is also PFAS contamination in the groundwater in multiple locations across the county. While some issues are already mitigated, they continue to have lasting effects on health, and the board should be proactive in preventing environmental pollution to protect our health.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The goal of the County Health Department should be simple: to best protect and improve the health of the people in the county by ensuring health education, services and programs, and an overall healthy community. The county health department should not be involved in politics, and commissioners should leave health policy to the experts. The health department should lead the county with available scientific research to guide our work via best practices to ensure a healthy future. The Board of Commissioners should uplift the vital work of the County Health Department and ensure they have the resources needed to do their job.</p>

**“The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all.”**

*John F. Kennedy*

**Race: Eaton County Board of Commissioners – District 3**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.  
**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

District 3	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Eaton County Board of Commissioners.	Q: 2. What are the priority issues facing the Eaton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	Q: 3. Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?	Q: 4. What do you see as the role of the County Health Department?
<b>Darren Musolff</b> Party: Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Jason Peek</b> Party: Democratic <b>Biographical Info:</b> Campaign Web Site: jasonpeek.com Facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557614515524">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557614515524</a> Education: Lansing Community College Campaign Phone: 517.731.1604 Campaign Address: PO Box 648, Grand Ledge, MI 48837	<b>A:</b> I was born and raised in rural Charlotte. Moved to Lansing as an adult and for 11 years I managed a restaurant. After getting married I changed jobs to General Motors and have been there since. I'm very active with my union (UAW); I started with Civil & Human Rights committee, then I was elected Education committee chair, and now I'm the Citizenship & Legislation chair. While living in Lansing I was the chair of Medical Marijuana Commission, and the Mayor's Diversity & Inclusion board. During the COVID-19 pandemic I moved my family to Grand Ledge. I've always wanted to help and serve others.	<b>A:</b> One of the biggest priorities is the budget and how it has impacted the workers of Eaton County that work tirelessly to serve all of us. We need changes to make sure we're taking care of the employees of Eaton County without losing any services. Also I plan to bring more job opportunities into our county, ensuring a thriving economy for our families. And finally I am committed to maintaining Eaton County's safety, making it a safe place for all our residents.	<b>A:</b> We need to everything we can to change to clean energy. We can do that without damaging or interfering with farm land.	<b>A:</b> I see the department as experts that help protect and improve the health of our community.

**Race: Eaton County Board of Commissioners – District 4**

**Description:** Same as above.  
**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

District 4	Q: 1. Same as above.	Q: 2. Same as above.	Q: 3. Same as above.	Q: 4. Same as above.
<b>Brandon Haskell</b> Party: Democratic <b>Biographical Info:</b> Campaign Web Site: <a href="http://www.brandonhaskell.com">www.brandonhaskell.com</a> Facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Haskell4Commissioner">https://www.facebook.com/Haskell4Commissioner</a> Education: BA in Political Science from University of Michigan - Flint Campaign Phone: 517.282.3200	<b>A:</b> I have been involved in policy and advocacy in one way or another since I was 15 years old. In those past 20 years I have held positions ranging from volunteer and intern to Legislative Director and County Commissioner. All of which have been in service to my constituents and have given me a comprehensive understanding of the unique challenges that face my community. I have a strong desire to see my community grow, succeed, and be a place where people want to live and work.	<b>A:</b> The number one priority issue Eaton County faces today is with the County Budget. Eaton County has not adjusted its millage rate since it was set back in the 1970s. If nothing changes in the way of gathering new revenue, Eaton County will be facing a 23.4 million dollar shortfall in a matter of 2 years. This will affect all non-constitutionally mandated services including public safety. That is why my colleagues and I have voted to create a Advisory Tax Limitation Committee which has recommended a 3 mill increase. I support this initiative.	<b>A:</b> As a whole, I believe PFAS contamination is an environmental issue that is impacting every corner of the state. Eaton County is an active participant with the Tri County Planning Commission which is heavily involved with the local Ground Water Management Board (GWMB). Expanding and continuing testing is needed for understanding PFAS contamination to the fullest extent. Eaton County and the GWMB will continue to educate the public and should hold those responsible for the contamination cleanup.	<b>A:</b> The County Health Department has an expansive and important role in our society. Day to day operations include but are not limited to educating and promoting healthy lifestyles, providing nutrition assistance, providing immunizations, and inspecting for food safety. It is also the duty of the Health Department to introduce and implement effective policies in community wide health emergencies.
<b>Rich Olivarez</b> Party: NPA	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.

**Race: Eaton County Board of Commissioners - District 5**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

District 5	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Eaton County Board of Commissioners.	Q: 2. What are the priority issues facing the Eaton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	Q: 3. Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?	Q: 4. What do you see as the role of the County Health Department?
<p><b>Jeanne Pearl-Wright</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Education:</i> WMU, secondary education; Lansing Community College, business  <i>Campaign Address:</i> 531 Rapidan Rd.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have been the County Commissioner for District 5, Delta Township as of this year a total of 14 years. My first time in office was January 2005 to Dec 2010, then January 2017 to present. I have a teaching degree from WMU, a past Director of the Kids Repair Program retired in 2023 after 11.5 years of their grant writer, coordinator of events and summer bike camp programs. I have served also in several community human services agencies executive boards through my time as a county commissioner. Up to now I have 100% attendance in all the years of all full Board meetings and have a total of 10 years of service on the county Ways &amp; Means committee and 14 years on the Health and Human Services committee.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The staffing of the rural road patrol and that involves the entire allocations of the total budget. There is a definite labor shortage in various fields, and state wide at all level for police. But that does not leave out also the prosecutors and public defender offices under the umbrella of public safety. Delta Township did pass a public safety 1 mill increase in November 2022, part of that public safety millage is to go to a more costly contract to cover the deputies assigned to Delta Twp under contract. The Board currently is looking at a possible Countywide operating millage since the Board has been only able to provide a 2% raise to deputies so it's hard to recruit and retain. The entire state and many police departments in the US are in need of police. The entire staffing levels in all departments need to be reviewed going forward to ensure all departments are staffing at correct levels. Each and every aspect of each department.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?                      I believe protecting our water supply and watersheds is of utmost important. This means our many lakes, streams and Great Lakes. Barry-Eaton Health Department is involved in this aspect through the Environmental Department. The County contracts with them to water test the water we swim in at the County Parks plus tests waters in the streams and works with the Conservation district on the protection of our watersheds when needed such as the oil spill that happened in the Battle Creek river and connecting streams. At the County to help with climate change the County has installed electric charging stations and have roof top solar panels on various county building in the complex including the courthouse with a free standing set of panels that provide electricity to the 911/Tech building.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The County operates as a "shared" health district with Barry County. It's the Barry-Eaton District Health Department. My first time in office, I served 6 years on the Board of Health. The health department offers preventive services such as hearing tests for children, immunizations, food inspections at special events open to the public, restaurant inspections, monitors outbreaks of serious diseases such as STDs, food born illnesses, anything to do with public health as a whole.</p>

**Race: Eaton County Board of Commissioners - District 6**

**Description:** Same as above.

**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

District 6	Q: 1. Same as above.	Q: 2. Same as above.	Q: 3. Same as above.	Q: 4. Same as above.
<p><b>Jane M. Whitacre</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Education:</i> MPA - Masters Degree in Public Administration, BA - Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.290.1128  <i>Campaign Address:</i> 1111 Bretton, Lansing, MI 48917</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I served as Commissioner in District 6 from 2013-2022. After attending to a number of medical and family issues, I am ready to return in 2025. I have 10 years of learning and experience on the County Board, I also have 30 years of expertise in the public sector at the community level, working for people and programs that improve health, the economy and dismantling systems that perpetuate disparity. I believe local governments can and should contribute positively to the quality of life of those who pay for it. Transparency and good stewardship of resources is my priority. We are elected to return results.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> 1. A long term fix for our a structural deficit in the county budget. This is especially important for public safety. Hopefully the voters will approve an operating millage to increase revenue.                      2. Attracting and retaining employees. I think better communication and interaction with the public would help demonstrate Eaton County's excellent operation, programs and services. People want a workplace that is successful and well run. We need to pay higher wages, which requires additional operating revenue.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> At the county level, our infrastructure of old drains in rural and suburban settings needs to be repaired and replaced - the same with keeping the public water supply safe. We need to educate residents about how our public systems work and how their actions can contribute to long term sustainability.                      We need better recycling programs.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Prevention of disease and promoting good health.</p>

**Race: Eaton County Board of Commissioners – District 7**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term: 4 years                      Partisan                      Candidates: Choose One**

District 7	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Eaton County Board of Commissioners.	Q: 2. What are the priority issues facing the Eaton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	Q: 3. Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?	Q: 4. What do you see as the role of the County Health Department?
<p><b>Mark J. Mudry</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Education:</i> Lansing Community College; Genesee (Mott) Community College; Powers Catholic HS; St. Agnes Elem.  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.321.1179  <i>Campaign Address:</i> 1013 Meadowview Lane</p>	<p><b>A:</b> At my age I have a long track record of personal, family, church, career, and political experience. I have been on the Delta Planning Commission since 2009 and have been on the Eaton County Board of Commissioners since 2021 (two terms).                      I had a 34-year career as a skilled tradesman at General Motors retiring in 2006. This year I will be a 50-year member of the UAW.                      I do enjoy my time on the Delta Township Planning Commission and its positive things we work on for the betterment of the community. It gives a certain vibrancy of activity and a healthy environment.                      I was elected to the Eaton County Board of Commissioners in 2020 and sworn in under the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a little rough working and learning with my contact being vis Zoom meetings. We and I prevailed through our determination and perseverance.                      Before my election to the Board, I spent time on the Eaton County Board of Canvassers. This gave me great training and respect for the election process and the Clerks in charge.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> When elected I was thrown into many budget situations. This is not always an enjoyable pastime. I guess I was more into building things than to pay for them. Coming to grips of our County’s financial shortfall will be our challenging effort. I see no alternative than to go to the voters for added funding.                      The financial situation added to maintaining and sustaining a viable county workforce is imperative. This really is essential when talking about Public Safety along with the Sheriff’s Department and the County Courts.                      The manpower issues are a national issue. Things have been built on a “Baby-Boomer” scale; now the Boomers are retiring, and the next generations are not filling in the career gaps. We spend a lot of time and effort recruiting for good people. Our community needs the best.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Michigan, being a state surrounded by water, needs our utmost attention combating pollution. Since the Clean Water Act of the 70s we have enjoyed our beautiful lakes whether they are the Great ones or the smaller interior lakes and streams.                      I believe in clean energy and am a proponent of solar and wind power. I have had solar panels on my home since the 1980s. They have paid for themselves many times over. I keep an active eye open for affordable improvements and upgrades.                      Our family has had three electric vehicles, and I’m converting my maintenance equipment at home to electrically powered.                      The solar panels that we installed at the County Government facility was an outstanding was of using Federal Grant money. In the least we are saving on our electric utility cost burden.                      The County will continue to work on and solve problems as they arrive.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The County Health Department is constantly working to safeguard our public health. This is especially true of the lower income and financially challenged County citizens. Everyone doesn’t have a personal primary care doctor.                      I’m on the Health and Human Services Committee and we get monthly updates and progress reports. I just want to say how dedicated the staff is over there at the Health Department. They are a caring and empathetic group. I believe their sympathy reflects on Eaton County as a whole. We take care of each other.                      The addition of the dental clinic was a great move years ago because dental health determines overall health.                      I have always thought that the County Health Department has to be in a leadership position as an asset of first contact with the public. Citizens need that known security for help.</p>
<p><b>Jerry Burger</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Education:</i> Master’s degree in mechanical engineering University of Nebraska</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have 15 years of experience serving Clare County Michigan. Past experience includes elected county commissioner, township and county planning commissions, county agricultural committee and other county board activities. I have earned a Master Citizen Planner Certificate and the Michigan Township Governance Certification. I have served many years as an election inspector and served on the Clare County Board of Canvassers. I have managed county leadership programs and directed the Clare County Enterprise Community Program. I wish to apply these experiences serving as an Eaton County Commissioner.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Having just recently moved back into Eaton County, I feel I am not knowledgeable enough to adequately answer this question. However, if elected to the county commission, I will utilize my past elected official experience, civil program management experience, science and educational knowledge and community-transparent communications to solve these County problems.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Two environmental issues facing the county commission today, are water quality safeguards for the manufacturing of EV batteries and the air-noise and sound quality concerns and the efficient use of agriculture land for solar and wind power generation in Eaton County. I would utilize my township and county planning experience as well as utilizing the best scientific technology evidence available to solve these problems.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I will support the Barry-Eaton County District Health Department’s existing policies and service programs.</p>

**Race: Eaton County Board of Commissioners – District 8**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term: 4 years                      Partisan                      Candidates: Choose One**

District 8	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Eaton County Board of Commissioners.	Q: 2. What are the priority issues facing the Eaton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	Q: 3. Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?	Q: 4. What do you see as the role of the County Health Department?
<b>Kevin J. Bush</b> Party: Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Kyle Jones</b> Party: Democratic	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.

**Race: Eaton County Board of Commissioners – District 9**

**Description:** Same as above.

**Term: 4 years                      Partisan                      Candidates: Choose One**

District 9	Q: 1. Same as above.	Q: 2. Same as above.	Q: 3. Same as above.	Q: 4. Same as above.
<b>Brian Droscha</b> Party: Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Elva Reyes</b> Party: Democratic <b>Biographical Info:</b> <i>Facebook page:</i> Facebook.com/ElvaDist9 <i>Education:</i> Eastern High School Graduate, Attended LCC, Attended MSU Labor Studies Program <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.749.0181 <i>Campaign Address:</i> 1984 S. Stewart Road, Charlotte, MI 48813	<b>A:</b> I am a grandmother of 17. I retired from Michigan Education Special Services Association (MESSA) after 30 years. I was employed in the Marketing Department as a Field Services Assistant. I was heavily involved in the Support Staff union, ultimately retiring as President. I attended Lansing Community College, the Leadership Academy Program and the Labor Studies Program at Michigan State University. Since retiring I have volunteered with grass roots civil rights organizations. Including: Action of Greater Lansing, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Latino Leaders for the Advancement of Advocacy and Development, the Lansing for Cesar Chavez Committee and the Red Cross. Decisions are difficult to make even in the best of situations. I believe I can contribute and bring a different prospective to the issues our county is currently facing.	<b>A:</b> Eaton County, not unlike other counties and municipalities, is facing heavy financial deficits and consistently high rates of employee turnover. This perfect storm has caused vacant positions that have now become safety issues. Every government office, board, and all stakeholders must make every effort to come together to stabilize the current services and protect the community. Budget decisions are difficult, but if all concerned, including the community members, are participants, and there is transparency, finalized decisions may be more palatable for everyone involved. We are in an absolutely “must prioritize” situation.	<b>A:</b> Living in a rural area, I believe keeping our water clean is important. Monitoring and educating those businesses that might be prone to mishaps on preventative pollution processes is imperative. Holding violators accountable. Continue funding projects at the highest levels that’s sole purpose is to educate about pollution control and prevention. Educating everyone, young and old, of the limited time we have to make lifestyle changes that can help preserve our environment. We all need to do our part.	<b>A:</b> Because we just weathered an historic event with COVID-19 (not yet over), the Health Department should be the hub of any community. The health department should be consistently updating, distributing, and informing the public with information that will help keep the community safe and informed. Current and new services should be advertised widely and readily available. Information should be factual, and all processes should be transparent. Being present (literally) in those communities which are usually the ones most affected should be a priority. The health and safety of the community is in their hands.



## Race: Eaton County Board of Commissioners – District 10

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term:** 4 years

**Partisan**

**Candidates: Choose One**

District 10	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Eaton County Board of Commissioners.	Q: 2. What are the priority issues facing the Eaton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	Q: 3. Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?	Q: 4. What do you see as the role of the County Health Department?
<p><b>Jim Ruff</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i> <a href="http://www.jimruff4ecc.com">www.jimruff4ecc.com</a>  <i>Facebook page:</i> Vote for Jim Ruff  <b>Education:</b> Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, Michigan State University plus management and technical CEU's.  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> 517.703.4247  <b>Campaign Address:</b> Committee to Elect Jim Ruff</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have been blessed to be a resident of Eaton Co. for decades. My experience is broad with skills excelling in creative planning and management of people, processes and projects of all sizes that address public, private and social concerns. I served as the Director of Planning and Neighborhood Development for the citizens of Lansing, directing the work of six divisions and 150 staff in the final years of my city career. I am proud to have worked to Keep GM and hundreds of other projects that help maintain and grow our region. Then while serving as the Assoc. Director for the City Rescue Mission of Lansing I was able to establish a state approved substance abuse program and remodel a former school into a shelter for Women and Children. All the while, I have served with my church family to enrich our community. I am not done serving! My mandate is from Phil. 2:3-4 and my desire is to continue to serve my county neighbors with Experience that Matters!</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The County is facing budget constraints that have drastically affected existing staff, competitive hiring of qualified personnel and capital improvements to the County facilities. It is anticipated that the voters will be deciding on a millage increase that will support the County services provided and the facilities that support these services. Regardless of the available funds for the near future, priorities and programming will need to be established with as much public input and consensus as possible. Facilities will need to be maintained and safe to support these services. As a commissioner, I would seek budgetary consensus, search out cooperative/ shared funding to maximize expenditure effectiveness and seek to grow the tax base with appropriate growth while protecting our resources. My experience with budgets, capital improvement programs, contract negotiations, and multi-agency, economic development will be an asset to the County.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The County needs to keep clean water as the highest environmental priority. Safe ground water is essential for all of life and our way of life. Continuing and advancing educational programs to help county residents, including children, understand the importance of protecting our water resources should be the priority. A companion to education is providing more and convenient opportunities to dispose of household hazardous materials. Presently, Eaton County partners with Barry County providing a few opportunities that may be considered inconvenient by the average household and may be improved and expanded. Land use and storm water runoff controls along with monitoring need to be reviewed and quantified to help protect this essential resource for future generations. My experience in land use planning and development, including environmental impact statements, will be an asset to the oversight and policy roles of a commissioner. I look forward to keeping Eaton Co. safe for our future.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> According to the Michigan Public Health Code, the County is obligated to “support immunizations, infectious disease control, sexually transmitted disease control and prevention, hearing screening, vision services, food protection, public water supply, private groundwater supply, and on-site sewage management” and work in collaboration with Michigan departments of agriculture and environmental quality due to the shared funding with the state. Barry and Eaton counties have a shared agency to meet these obligations within both counties. The hearing and vision obligations are focused primarily on young children. The immunization obligations extend to all age groups for disease prevention and control. Licensing, permitting and inspection obligations with regard to commercial food preparation and handling; sewage disposal systems; and public water and private water supplies have a direct effect on everyone in the county.</p>

**Race:** Eaton County Board of Commissioners – District 10 (continued)

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term:** 4 years      **Partisan**      **Candidates:** Choose One

<p><b>District 10 (continued)</b></p>	<p><b>Q: 1.</b> Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Eaton County Board of Commissioners.</p>	<p><b>Q: 2.</b> What are the priority issues facing the Eaton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?</p>	<p><b>Q: 3.</b> Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?</p>	<p><b>Q: 4.</b> What do you see as the role of the County Health Department?</p>
<p><b>Jacob Toomey</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i>  <a href="http://votejacobtoomey.com">votejacobtoomey.com</a>  <i>Facebook page:</i> <a href="https://facebook.com/votejacobtoomey">facebook.com/votejacobtoomey</a></p>	<p><b>A:</b> I am running for re-election to the Eaton County Board of Commissioners to ensure our communities remain exceptional places to live, work, and shop. As a proud Dimondale resident for over 20 years, I cherish the small-town charm that makes Eaton County special.</p> <p>As your commissioner, I have successfully lowered costs for residents, supported our first responders, secured record funding for local parks, and assisted fixed-income senior citizens.</p> <p>My experience also includes serving as a Trustee in the Village of Dimondale from 2020-2022. Currently, I work as a legislative director in the Michigan House of Representatives, where I tackle the everyday issues faced by Michiganders.</p> <p>I am dedicated to continuing this work and making a positive impact on our community by taking a bipartisan approach to pass common-sense policies that will benefit families and businesses.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The main issues facing the Eaton County Board of Commissioners include public safety, affordable high-speed internet, and sustainable budgets.</p> <p>If re-elected, I will continue to enhance public safety by investing in resources for first responders and supporting the development of a new e-unit to restore 24/7 road patrol and train certain deputies as paramedics.</p> <p>Additionally, I will advocate for infrastructure projects to ensure every home in Eaton County has access to affordable high-speed internet. In today’s world if you can’t connect, you just can’t compete!</p> <p>Finally, Eaton County needs commissioners who have a deep understanding of local government finances and expenses. Over the past 4 years, I have passed balanced and responsible budgets.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Eaton County has ten county parks (825 acres of land) that residents and non-residents alike enjoy every day. We need to protect our local parks from pollution and degradation. Eaton County parks provide an irreplaceable gathering place for families, clubs, and individuals wishing to enjoy Michigan’s natural beauty or connect with other community members.</p> <p>Well-maintained parks are also proven to help with economic growth, public health, and increasing property values. I understand the importance of environmental health and will work to properly fund the protection and maintenance of our large parks system so generations to come can enjoy them!</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The County Health Department should work to identify, inform, and respond to any public health concerns based on data from local professionals and national resources.</p>

**“When we vote, our values are put into action and our voices are heard. Your voice is a reminder that you matter because you do, and you deserve to be heard.”**

*Meghan Markle*

**Race: Eaton County Board of Commissioners – District 11**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>District 11</b>	<b>Q: 1.</b> Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Eaton County Board of Commissioners.	<b>Q: 2.</b> What are the priority issues facing the Eaton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	<b>Q: 3.</b> Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?	<b>Q: 4.</b> What do you see as the role of the County Health Department?
<p><b>Mikaela Bliven</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i> www.votebliven.com  <i>Facebook page:</i> www.facebook.com/votebliven  <b>Education:</b> Bachelor of Arts in Political Theory &amp; Constitutional Democracy, Social Relations &amp; Policy  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> 517.898.4553  <b>Campaign Address:</b> PO Box 620, Charlotte MI 48813</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I see a lot of potential for our county, but unfortunately, we're in a financial hole. The county has been aware of our current budget cliff for more than a decade! This is likely going to mean higher taxes for our residents. However, our families are struggling too! Why are we left to clean up the mess?                      We need commissioners that are transparent and are willing to give the bad news and offer solutions before it becomes a huge issue. As a Planning Commissioner for the city of Charlotte, Camp Frances Board of Directors member, and a member of the Master Plan Steering Committee, I bring the experience necessary.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The biggest issue for the county is the projected \$1.3 million shortfall. The county needs to see if there's any ways to increase efficiency or if there's any cuts that could be made that are not critical to the counties public safety and needs before we simply sign off on millages. The sheriffs office has been understaffed and relying on overtime for years and now their overtime is cut back. We need to find ways to attract police officers and keep them in our county. I also think that many of our parks need more attention. There's rust &amp; graffiti. They are not as safe as they could be for our children. Parks promote healthy citizens &amp; increase property values. We need more maintenance for our parks, more handicap accessible park equipment and more trash cans to help with upkeep. I think that our county could benefit from more sidewalks and skywalks in certain areas as well to create more accessible and safe walking for our residents.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I think that key environmental issues that Eaton county residents face are air pollution and plastic pollution. The county can start working on these issues by educating the public. The county could partner with the "It All Adds Up To Cleaner Air" campaign. To help with plastic pollution, the county could look into plastic bag fees &amp; restricting the use of plastic straws. Water refill stations in our county would cut back the use of plastic bottles.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The County Health Department is responsible for providing health education, environmental health services, personal health services and in conducting inspections. The department works to improve sanitation and hygiene, limit exposure to disease vectors, and support policies that reduce environmental hazards. The department conducts investigations if there is an infectious outbreak. They collect data and work to prevent the spread of disease.</p>
<p><b>Shawn Furgala</b>  <b>Party:</b> NPA</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>
<p><b>Scott Hansen</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>

**Race: Eaton County Board of Commissioners – District 12**

**Description:** Same as above.

**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>District 12</b>	<b>Q: 1.</b> Same as above.	<b>Q: 2.</b> Same as above.	<b>Q: 3.</b> Same as above.	<b>Q: 4.</b> Same as above.
<p><b>Nicole Christensen</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>
<p><b>Branden J. Dyer</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i> www.vote4dyer.com  <i>Facebook page:</i> facebook.com/vote4dyer  <b>Education:</b> BA in Accounting from Olivet College</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I served 8 years on the Charlotte City Council. I want to support my city and the region. Eaton County is a great place to live and we need actions that support safety and quality of life improvements for our residents, while attracting new residents.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Addressing the fiscal crisis the county faces is the top issue. Supporting law enforcement and emergency services should be the commissions next priority and finally addressing the lack of housing.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Working to increase renewable energy and a stronger grid. Many rural parts of the county face power outages during extreme weather events.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> To use the best scientific data available to support public health and welfare and to control the spread of infections of all kinds in the county.</p>

**Race: Eaton County Board of Commissioners – District 13**

**Race:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

District 13	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Eaton County Board of Commissioners.	Q: 2. What are the priority issues facing the Eaton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	Q: 3. Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?	Q: 4. What do you see as the role of the County Health Department?
<b>Carl Berendsohn</b> Party: Democratic	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Jim Mott</b> Party: Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.

**Race: Eaton County Board of Commissioners – District 14**

**Description:** Same as above.

**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

District 14	Q: 1. Same as above.	Q: 2. Same as above.	Q: 3. Same as above.	Q: 4. Same as above.
<b>Frank Holmes</b> Party: Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Glenna Hood</b> Party: Democratic <b>Biographical Info:</b> Facebook page: Glenna Papke Hood Education: Attended Henry Ford Community College Campaign Phone: 517.663.4687 Campaign Address: 1116 Arch Rd.	<b>A:</b> Resident of Eaton Rapids Twp. since 2004. I believe I will bring a fresh outlook and vote with the best interest of the residents of my district in mind.	<b>A:</b> There are issues regarding if the county should follow the state’s gun safety laws. I believe our county should follow and enforce these laws that are there for the safety of our residents.	<b>A:</b> Clean and safe drinking water available for all of our residents. Eaton county is in need of updated systems. The county commission can support state legislation and guidelines.	<b>A:</b> The county Health Department should update and inform the community of any health threats and encourage prevention, testing and treatment.

**“We all have to vote like our lives and the world depend on it, because they do. The only way to be certain of the future is to make it ourselves.”**

*Billie Eilish*

**Race: Eaton County Board of Commissioners – District 15**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term: 4 years                      Partisan                      Candidates: Choose One**

District 15	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Eaton County Board of Commissioners.	Q: 2. What are the priority issues facing the Eaton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	Q: 3. Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?	Q: 4. What do you see as the role of the County Health Department?
<p><b>Keith Barber</b>  <b>Party: Republican</b>  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Education: Master</i></p>	<p><b>A:</b> A little about myself, I grew up in Eaton Rapids, graduated from Eaton Rapids high school. Afterward I joined the US Army where I served for 30 years. While serving I attended Michigan State University. During my time serving I worked with and led teams of people and groups from all across the country that had different experiences and ideas then I had. When in these situations I was able to find solutions and solve issues that were beneficial to completing the projects. With these experiences of working with diverse groups and points of views, I have the ability to achieve results.</p> <p>Currently I am on the Tri-County Regional Planning &amp; Zoning Commission. Eaton County Road Commission, Hamlin Township Planning &amp; Zoning Board.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The largest issue facing the county is the budget and the unfunded liabilities. The county will be asking for a tax increase on the November ballot. I want to ensure that these funds are used to fix our issues and not spend that additional money on items that don't solve the issue or improve the quality of services provided to the county residents. We have an issue with the amount of sheriff deputy coverage in the rural areas. Many of the areas there is little to no coverage at all. This is an issue that needs improvement.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I feel our community has a few issues that need to be addressed, the first is many of our city's have aging water infrastructure. There needs to be a survey, mapping of all water lines, to find the lead and other hazardous water lines in our communities. There needs to be plans formulated to replace needed items. Second issue is our power production and distribution network. As our environment changes we need to look for more sustainable ways to produce energy for our growing community. Work on moving our power distribution network underground which reduces the chances of outages and improves the curb appeal of our neighborhoods and cities. I think looking at the new technology in the field of nuclear energy would provide our energy needs into the future. I feel the county government has a place in encouraging business and municipalities to look for solutions to these issues.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I feel the county health department needs to provide its core services such as Disease prevention, Health monitoring, Emergency preparedness, and Public health education. And find ways to use technologies to improve and increase data collection and information dissemination.</p>
<p><b>Helen Broom</b>  <b>Party: Democratic</b></p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>

**Race: Delta Charter Township Trustees**

**Description:** A Township Trustee helps make legislative and administrative decisions for the township. This person shares responsibility for the township's fiduciary health with the other board members and carries out other duties as assigned by the board.

**Term: 4 years                      Partisan                      Candidates: Choose 4**

Delta Charter Township Trustees	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experience and explain why you are running for Township Trustee.	Q: 2. Are there pressing issue(s) facing your Township that you want to discuss? If so, how do you suggest addressing the issue(s)?
<p><b>Beth Bowen</b>  <b>Party: Democratic</b>  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site: VoteBethbowen.com</i>  <i>Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557204878561&amp;mibextid=kFxxJD</i>  <i>Education: Master's Degree</i>  <i>Campaign Phone: 517.3974.1744</i>  <i>Campaign Address: 7649 Madrid Dr.</i></p>	<p><b>A:</b> lol I am running for re-election to continue to emphasize responsible and transparent leadership in the planning and future direction of the Township. Housing is a big need for the community, and it needs support from infrastructure. The work I have put in the past four years demonstrated my dedication to informed and conscientious decisions.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Housing. We need more private investment into affordable and workforce housing. We also need to continue to expand our public transportation and attention to congestion along the Saginaw corridor. Through regional partnerships, township programs, and emphasis on these needs from the Board, we can bolster solutions to the needs of all residents.</p>

**Race:** Delta Charter Township Trustees (continued)

**Description:** A Township Trustee helps make legislative and administrative decisions for the township. This person shares responsibility for the township’s fiduciary health with the other board members and carries out other duties as assigned by the board.

**Term:** 4 years      **Partisan**      **Candidates:** Choose 4

Delta Charter Township Trustees (continued)	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experience and explain why you are running for Township Trustee.	Q: 2. Are there pressing issue(s) facing your Township that you want to discuss? If so, how do you suggest addressing the issue(s)?
<p><b>Fonda Brewer</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Facebook page:</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559300215976">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559300215976</a>  <i>Education:</i> Currently completing undergraduate studies at SNHU  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.410.2998  <i>Campaign Address:</i> 7515 Glen Terra Dr. Lansing, MI 48917</p>	<p><b>A:</b> As a candidate for re-election as a Delta Township trustee, I bring extensive experience, dedication, and community-focused leadership. Appointed to the Delta Township Board in 2018 and elected in 2020, I previously served a four-year term on the Waverly Community Schools Board of Trustees. My background in leadership roles at Hanna Barbera Productions, Turner Broadcasting, and Columbia Pictures, along with managing at the Michigan Education Special Services Association, has honed my strategic planning and people management skills. I founded the Weave &amp; Lash Bar, mentoring my lead stylist to take over. My community service includes roles with Communities In Schools of Michigan, the Board of Dentistry, and the NAACP Michigan State Conference. I advocate for our community through involvement in the Michigan Municipal League’s Black Caucus and New Mount Calvary Baptist Church. My goal is to continue fostering a thriving, inclusive Delta Township.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> As our community grows, it’s crucial to ensure housing is accessible, especially for essential workers. We’re researching ordinance changes to incorporate tax incentives like Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) to encourage developers to build affordable homes, which also creates construction jobs across all trades.</p> <p>In the past year, we’ve been approached by developers on new housing projects, but they face hurdles like utility constraints and financial feasibility. Our board has explored funding streams and successfully applied for grants like the CHILL and Housing Resource Grants. Our current ordinance from 1977 prohibits PILOTs, but many neighboring communities use them effectively. Repealing and updating this ordinance would support affordable housing, provide a revenue stream, and boost local economies. This aligns with our goal of ensuring all residents have access to affordable housing, enhancing the quality of life in Delta Township. I am committed to leading this effort.</p>
<p><b>Andrea Cascarilla</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Education:</i> Bachelors Degree in Economics with an emphasis in Public Finance  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.648.2367  <i>Campaign Address:</i> 1804 Canyon Trail</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have served 8 years on the Delta Twp. board. As a board trustee, I have also been appointed to the township’s Zoning Board of Appeals, Sign Board of Appeals and Elections Commission. I am also the Delta Twp. representative on the Eaton County Land Bank Authority Board. Prior to being elected to the board, I served on Delta’s Planning Commission for 7 years and on the Commission’s Capitol Improvement Committee. I believe government should be responsive and accessible and have always put residents’ and our community’s best interests first. I am proud of Delta Twp. with its beautiful parks and pathways, wonderful neighborhoods, vibrant job growth, welcoming diversity and affordability. I am seeking re-election to continue to give back in service to my community and do all I can to ensure Delta remains a wonderful place for all to live, work and play.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> We are fortunate in that Delta Twp. is very fiscally sound. We offer outstanding services and amenities yet remain a low millage, affordable place to live. Those attributes have helped us continue to grow and thrive. In order to remain an attractive place for people and businesses alike, we must continue to invest in our community. Our need for more housing of all types (apartments, condos, single family homes, etc.) seems to be one of our most pressing issues, especially given the tremendous job creation happening in Delta. We want those working in our community to be able to live here too. We should work to remove any unnecessary barriers to develop housing here.</p> <p>Additionally, we need to continue investing in our water &amp; sewer infrastructure to ensure we have the capacity to support further growth. These upgrades require significant resources. Continued strategic planning and prudent saving will reduce the burden of financing these projects on our residents.</p>
<p><b>Michelle Hart</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Facebook page:</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561113472591">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561113472591</a>  <i>Education:</i> Michigan State University, bachelor’s degree, Communication</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have lived in Delta Charter Township for more than 30 years and raised my family here. I have a degree in Communication from Michigan State University and work for the state of Michigan. Prior to working in state government, I served 10 years with Michigan Townships Association (MTA) who advocates for Michigan’s townships at the state and federal level. My work helped the organization influence legislation and policy that is important to Delta Township, such as infrastructure, renewable energy and zoning regulations. I am a strong supporter of local control and the government closest to the people. I am a neighbor, serving neighbors. I am running for trustee to prioritize residents and serve as the community’s advocate for a better quality of life.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Two issues facing Delta Charter Township are public safety and available housing. I will address these issues by holding informal discussions with township residents and bring their voices with me to the Board.</p>

**Race:** Delta Charter Township Trustees (continued)  
**Description:** A Township Trustee helps make legislative and administrative decisions for the township. This person shares responsibility for the township’s fiduciary health with the other board members and carries out other duties as assigned by the board.  
**Term:** 4 years      **Partisan**      **Candidates: Choose 4**

Delta Charter Township Trustees (continued)	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experience and explain why you are running for Township Trustee.	Q: 2. Are there pressing issue(s) facing your Township that you want to discuss? If so, how do you suggest addressing the issue(s)?
<p><b>David Howell</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i>                      Howell4DTT@yahoo.com  <i>Facebook page:</i> N/A  <i>Education:</i> HS Diploma - 1972;                      Associates Degree (PA) – 1983;                      BS (MGT) – 1976; Masters Degree (ADMIN) - 1990  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.490.1092  <i>Campaign Address:</i> CTE David Howell Delta Township Trustee, PO Box 244, Grand Ledge, MI 48837</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have been a resident of Delta Charter Township since 1997 and raised my two sons in this community. My formal education, Bachelor of Science Degree (Management) and a Masters Degree (Administration), provided me with the academic foundation to tackle the complex personnel, financial, management, and budgetary issues that the Township Board confronts on a regular basis. Beyond that, my 16 years in the Coast Guard, 15 years in the Army, and 35 year career as a Physician Assistant (PA-C) in Occupational Medicine, Family Practice, Cardiology, and Emergency Medicine have taught me how to work closely with people of every race, religion, creed, and political persuasion in every setting imaginable and under the most challenging of conditions. As a Republican, I will bring a different perspective and viewpoint to the Delta Township Board, which currently consists of seven Democrats and no Republicans, and will focus every day on how my votes affect the residents of Delta Charter Township.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The ever expanding encroachment on the agricultural and forested areas of Delta Township is very problematic. I favor a moratorium on: (a) all proposed rezoning/zoning variances affecting AG1 and AG2 zoning districts, (b) any future 425 Agreements with the city of Lansing, and (c) all future Industrial Facilities Tax Abatement proposals until a review of the Delta Charter Township Comprehensive Plan, to include a full cost/benefit analysis of all 425 Agreements and tax abatements, is completed.                      I also favor a moratorium on the final approval of the operating license for the GM-Ultium battery facility until a robust groundwater monitoring &amp; testing program to detect toxic lithium-ion battery production materials is in place and operational. Groundwater contamination would be particularly devastating to the residents of southern Delta Charter Township who rely 100% on their shallow wells for drinking water, in addition to the expansive watersheds of the Grand &amp; Thornapple Rivers.</p>
<p><b>Karen J. Mojica</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Education:</i> Master of Science in ISTM (Technology) with a specialization in Project Management  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.230.4341  <i>Campaign Address:</i> 6801 Cotswald Dr., Grand Ledge</p>	<p><b>A:</b> As a current Delta Township Trustee, I have served almost 12 years on the board. Throughout my time on the board I have served on several boards including the Election Committee board. I am also currently in the Army Reserve, where I have been serving for 24 years, as an officer. I have years of leadership, strategic, management and analytic skills training through the military.                      While serving on the board, we have done some great things for our township for the township such as creating a TIF, (tax increment finance), for our recently developed Delta Crossings. Another is a major capital improvement our water resource recovery facility, (WRRF). And currently, the new building being constructed for public safety. I am seeking re-election as trustee on the Delta Township board to continue my service to the community, I am proud to live and raise my family here.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> As Delta Township continues to grow, as any community there will be issues that need to be addressed and we will work through them as a board, for the best possible resolution for the township.</p>

**Race: Eaton Rapids Public Schools Board Members**

**Description:** The Board of Education Board Members are responsible for setting educational, fiscal and administrative policies of the school district. It hires the superintendent, negotiates staff contracts, and sets the budget.  
**Term:** The board members are elected at large and have overlapping terms.      **Non-Partisan**      **Candidates: Choose 2**

Eaton Rapids Public Schools Board Members	Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the School Board?	Q: 2. What are the strengths of the district?	Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a School Board Member?
<p><b>Jeannine Brake-Norder</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Facebook page:</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/jeannine.brakenorder/">https://www.facebook.com/jeannine.brakenorder/</a>  <i>Education:</i> Doctor of Optometry from Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University  <i>Campaign Address:</i> 5450 Springport Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have 3 children that have graduated from Eaton Rapids Public Schools. I have 6 years experience on the school board, working during COVID-19 to get children back into the classroom to maximize their education. I believe in order for students to be successful there must be a partnership between parents, teachers/schools and the student. A strong community helps the school district and a strong school system in turn facilitates a healthy community.                      Running for school board is an opportunity for me to influence educational policies and make a tangible impact on students’ lives. I am passionate about improving educational outcomes, school-community relationships and want to continue to drive towards positive changes.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Eaton Rapids Public Schools has strong community involvement, dedicated staff, and a commitment to personalized education. We have robust extracurricular programs and a focus on student success and engagement. We are dedicated to improving student outcomes (for ALL students) and maintaining smaller classroom sizes. We have a new superintendent who is committed to improving communications and ongoing success.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Potential issues include addressing funding disparities, improving academic performance, updating and maintaining facilities, and enhancing student support services. I look forward to engaging with the community to identify specific concerns and targeting the most pressing needs.                      Improving student outcomes are my highest priority, encouraging growth and learning potential from special needs to high performance youth.</p>

**Race:** Eaton Rapids Public Schools Board Members (continued)

**Description:** The Board of Education Board Members are responsible for setting educational, fiscal and administrative policies of the school district. It hires the superintendent, negotiates staff contracts, and sets the budget.

**Term:** The board members are elected at large and have overlapping terms.

**Non-Partisan**

**Candidates: Choose 2**

<b>Eaton Rapids Public Schools Board Members (continued)</b>	<b>Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the School Board?</b>	<b>Q: 2. What are the strengths of the district?</b>	<b>Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a School Board Member?</b>
<b>Mary Burleson</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Melissa Eckman</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Joseph Loren</b> Party: Non-Partisan	<p><b>A:</b> I have a wide array of experiences that make me an ideal member for the Eaton Rapids School Board. Previously, I served a 6-year term on the Eaton Rapids School Board which spanned the COVID-19 years. I know how a School Board works and how it can help the district deliver the best quality education to all students in the District. The pandemic required many difficult choices to be made to balance the educational needs of the students as well as the health and safety needs of the students, faculty, and the greater community.</p> <p>During my 22-year career as an Officer in the United States Army I have had many opportunities to make difficult decisions as a leader in very large organizations of comparable size to ERPS. That experience helps me know the right questions to ask the District Leadership and what the right answers should be. I also learned the importance of making good financial decisions to safeguard the use of taxpayer funds. My Army career and my time on the school board make</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Our District has many strengths. To start off the District has many amazing families consisting of Parents and Students that care about the Schools and the success of their students. Secondly, the District has an excellent faculty and staff that work every single day to deliver a quality education to our students. The faculty and staff make every effort to include every student and try to assist every student achieve success.</p> <p>Additionally, the District and our students are lucky to have the support of the Eaton Rapids community. The Community continual steps up to support our students. A great example is the construction bond that was passed a few years ago to renovate, revitalize and modernize the facilities for our students. This Bond has already been used to make great improvements to the facilities used for our students and will continue for several more years. The Community also provides support through attending plays, musicals, concerts and support events featuring the</p>	<p><b>A:</b> There are two pressing issues within the District to be addressed quickly. The District just hired its first new Superintendent in nearly two decades. The length of the tenure of the former Superintendent is fairly unprecedented in recent years with the State and Nation. The new Superintendent has the difficult task of filling shoes that have accumulated additional tasks for many years. As such he will need help in navigating thorough all those tasks and figuring out how best to address them. Through my many years of leadership in the Army in large organizations and with my previous 6 years on the School Board I am well positioned to help the new Superintendent. I look forward to helping him with this big challenge.</p> <p>The other pressing issue facing the District is common to most School Districts everywhere. Revenues have been dropping at the same time that expenses are increasing causing a short-term budget deficit. While the District is still financially healthy this negative</p>
<b>Brian D. Ross</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.

**“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”**

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*



**Race: Grand Ledge Public Schools Board Members**

**Description:** The Board of Education Board Members are responsible for setting educational, fiscal and administrative policies of the school district. It hires the superintendent, negotiates staff contracts, and sets the budget.

**Term:** The board members are elected at large and have overlapping terms

**Non-Partisan Candidates: Choose 3**

Grand Ledge Public Schools Board Members	Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the School Board?	Q: 2. What are the strengths of the district?	Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a School Board Member?
<p><b>Brenton Bell</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i>                      brentonbellforglsb.com  <i>Facebook page:</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/g/HQpexPRBkMxwZxHb/">https://www.facebook.com/share/g/HQpexPRBkMxwZxHb/</a>  <b>Education:</b> High School  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> 517.528.5755  <b>Campaign Address:</b> PO Box 521                      Grand Ledge MI 48837</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have lived in the Grand Ledge School District my entire life. I am a fifth-generation Grand Ledge High School graduate, and I am 'Proud to be a Comet.' But most notably, as a 2024 graduate, I have a perspective and experience that no one else on the Board has. For the last 14 years, I have spent 180 days a year at a Grand Ledge school. From Head Start to my senior year, I saw the best and worst of what GL had to offer. It is time we had a young mind on the board, someone who recently walked the halls of the schools they make policy for. It is time to give the next generation a voice! I want to be that voice.</p> <p>My three reasons for running are Parents, Students, and Educators.</p> <p>Our parents have the right to know what their children are being taught.</p> <p>Our Students have a right to a quality education and a safe place to receive that education.</p> <p>Our educators have the right to a fair and competitive wage!</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Grand Ledge is a great district, but we have a lot of room for improvement. Grand Ledge is a very welcoming district; being a school of choice, we have a very diverse population, but no matter where you are from, when you are at Grand Ledge, you are always a Comet! Grand Ledge also has a great trades program from partnering with Lansing Community College and several other companies. Grand Ledge is also highly competitive in sports and Fine Arts competitions. Most importantly, behind the Public School system is a beautiful community! From the City of Grand Ledge to the outskirts of Eagle and Mulliken, the community supports the school!</p> <p>Grand Ledge also has fantastic educators. I truly believe the educators in our district are some of the best. That being said, they are worthy of so much more than they are paid and often feel like they are not supported by the administration. I will work to make sure our educators are taken care of!</p>	<p><b>A:</b> When elected as a School Board member I am going to ensure we work for the community and its values. It seems at times that some of our board members and administrators have forgotten who they work for. Without the public the board has no purpose, and when I am on the board I will work for you! Transparency is everything, the taxpayer should know how their money is being spent, and the parents should know what their children are being taught! I want to ensure that parents see the board and the school as an open book.</p> <p>In a generation where suicide is at all time highs and mental health is at its worst, our government cut the funding for mental health by over 90%. I will make it my personal mission to advocate for mental health and school safety not just at board meetings, but also at our state capital!</p> <p>I will work with my fellow board members to make policy that serves our students, educators, and parents best!</p> <p>As I stated before I am running for Parents, Students, and Educators!</p>
<p><b>Ben Cwayna</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>
<p><b>Coban Holmes</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i> <a href="http://www.coban4gl.com">www.coban4gl.com</a>  <i>Facebook page:</i> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/Coban4GL/">www.facebook.com/Coban4GL/</a>  <b>Education:</b> College  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> 231.622.1183  <b>Campaign Address:</b> 7601 Barsfield Ln</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I work in IT focusing on software development and server administration. I have worked on a broad range of technologies and topics. I think my background would be relatively unique on our school board. GLPS utilizes a lot of technology across the district so my background would be helpful when discussing related topics.</p> <p>I have two children who are both in the district and over the last 10 years I have gotten to meet many teachers, administrators, and other parents.</p> <p>I'm married to a former GLPS teacher, and I personally know several other teachers. I've seen their dedication directly and I have a good understanding of what they go through.</p> <p>Finally, I think I am quite empathetic (at least I try to be). GLPS has many families from a wide range of backgrounds and every one of them have had their own unique experience with the district. I think it's important to actively think about people who have had different experiences than my own when making decisions.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I think GLPS has made a lot of progress on being a welcoming and supportive environment for all students. Having spent some time around the kids and the teachers, I have seen the results of those efforts and it has been exciting and heartening.</p> <p>I think Grand Ledge has a lot of great collaboration between the board, administration, teachers, and staff. I've seen a lot of great planning at a building level that have demonstrated administration working closely with teachers to set, monitor, and achieve goals. The most recent round of contract negotiations has also gone quite well, I know not everyone loves the outcome but in general I think it was a very collaborative process with positive results.</p> <p>There is a big focus on setting rigorous academic goals and putting plans in place to meet those goals. It has been great to see the amount of data analysis happening at each building with the goal of improving student outcomes.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> In general, I think our district is going in a great direction and I am most interested in continuing its current trajectory.</p> <p>I think being a safe and supportive space for all of our kids is one of the most important things we can do. GL has made a lot of progress in this area, but it is an effort that you must continually work on and that is something I want to be a part of.</p> <p>I think that investing in our staff is one of the best ways to invest in our kids, I want GL to continue to have competitive contracts that attract and retain talented people. Everyone that works for our district has an impact on our kid's lives, we should do everything we can to surround them with great people.</p>

**Race:** Grand Ledge Public Schools Board Members (continued)

**Description:** The Board of Education Board Members are responsible for setting educational, fiscal and administrative policies of the school district. It hires the superintendent, negotiates staff contracts, and sets the budget.

**Term:** The board members are elected at large and have overlapping terms

**Non-Partisan**

**Candidates: Choose 3**

<p><b>Grand Ledge Public Schools Board Members (continued)</b></p>	<p><b>Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the School Board?</b></p>	<p><b>Q: 2. What are the strengths of the district?</b></p>	<p><b>Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a School Board Member?</b></p>
<p><b>Matt Oppenheim</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i>  <a href="http://www.mattoppenheimforschoolboard.com/">www.mattoppenheimforschoolboard.com/</a>  <i>Facebook page:</i>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/mattoppenheimforschoolboard">www.facebook.com/mattoppenheimforschoolboard</a>  <b>Education:</b> Bachelors of Science in Education /Masters in Sports Administration</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I am starting my 29th year as a teacher. During the course of my career I have also served as a union officer, which afforded me the opportunity to study school budgets, negotiate, and understand the basic operations of a school system. Most importantly, my relationships with students and colleagues inform my outlook on how to develop and strengthen a public school system.</p> <p>I have two daughters who attend Grand Ledge schools: my older daughter begins 8th grade at Beagle and my younger daughter begins 5th grade at Hayes. Also, my wife (a teacher for the past 20 years) was just hired by Grand Ledge Public Schools as an instructional coach, working throughout the District.</p> <p>Given my background in education, my family, and friends in the community with school-aged children, I am invested in continuing the amazing growth and accomplishments of GLPS and serving to provide a voice for the community to further the opportunities for continued success for students.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> While I am sure there are many more, I will focus on a few. Grand Ledge Public Schools places outcomes at the forefront of the decision-making process. The District not only developed a strong strategic plan, but the leadership looks to it to guide current and future plans and decisions.</p> <p>The District is led by administrators who are student-centered and empower the educators to lead with them toward achievement in the classroom, extending to accomplishments in the arts and athletics - all producing a GLPS graduate who is prepared to take the next steps.</p> <p>The quality of the staff in the entirety of the District, including the Superintendent, administration, teachers, and the support staff, is the envy of many.</p> <p>Finally, GLPS is fiscally responsible without being overly conservative, attracting new and high-quality staff while maintaining satisfaction of those currently working in the District. The District has also been forward-facing in its effort to welcome and support all students.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I am looking forward to working with other Board Members to ensure the continued success of the District. I am especially interested maintaining a high-quality education for all students; retaining and attracting the best teachers, especially in the current landscape of lower supply; maintaining and further developing a school culture that is open and respectful and safe for all students.</p>
<p><b>Kali Stevens</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i> <a href="http://www.kalistevenforschoolboard.com/">www.kalistevenforschoolboard.com/</a>  <i>Facebook page:</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557740707197">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61557740707197</a>  <b>Education:</b> M.A. Educational Technology, B.A. Public Administration and Public Policy  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> 810.620.0705  <b>Campaign Address:</b> Committee to Elect Kali Stevens</p>	<p><b>A:</b> As a local educator, a proud parent of two children within the GLPS district, and a partner of a GLPS teacher, education is not just a profession for me—it is my life and my social mission. Honesty, integrity, and trustworthiness are the cornerstones of my character, and I take pride in being a change agent in public education. My educational background includes a BA in Public Administration and Public Policy—with a proven history of advocacy, working in the Michigan House of Representatives. I also have a MA in Educational Technology, with 12 years of experience in public schools. I am a proud member of key educational organizations, including the Michigan Association of Computer Users in Learning, Michigan School Business Officials, Michigan Association of School Administrators, and the Michigan School Public Relations Association. Locally, I am a member of the GLPS Caregiver School Improvement Team and was recently elected to serve as a board member on the Holbrook Elementary PTO.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Grand Ledge Public Schools is ahead of many other districts in its vertical alignment overall and in setting the tone for working toward a district strategic plan. Our strategic plan, goals for every building, and communication ensure that every grade level and department works cohesively toward shared educational goals. This dedication fosters a unified and forward-thinking environment where continuous improvement is not just a goal but a tangible reality, driving excellence throughout the district. Our innovative practices and growing reputation are attracting more and more top talent from local school districts, further enriching our educational community. We are stronger, more united, and more forward-looking than ever, and we are always getting better.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> As a candidate for the school board, my priorities are to align our daily operations with our strategic plan, which serves as a 5-year roadmap for achieving our educational goals. This plan guides our decisions, ensuring that we continually assess and improve based on feedback and data to effectively support our students and community. Ensuring a safe and inclusive environment is my second priority. I am committed to advancing safety measures that address both physical and emotional well-being, combat bullying, and support all students, particularly those most vulnerable, by adopting evidence-based policies and restorative practices. Lastly, I aim to champion policies and practices that enhance educational quality and equity. This includes advocating for fully funded resources, supporting teacher development, and addressing the needs of students, parents, and educators at all levels. My goal is to amplify voices and ensure that all educational needs are represented and met.</p>
<p><b>Tim Totten</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>

**Race: Ingham County Board of Commissioners – District 1**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>District 1</b>	<b>Q: 1.</b> Please describe your qualifications and experience and why you are running for County Commissioner.	<b>Q: 2.</b> Are there environmental issues that the county should address such as clean water, chemical toxins, and air quality?	<b>Q: 3.</b> Are there pressing issue(s) facing the office that you want to discuss? If so, how do you suggest addressing the issue(s)?
<b>Lisa Marie Downey</b> <b>Party:</b> Democratic	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Randy Maiville</b> <b>Party:</b> Republican <b>Biographical Info:</b> <i>Education:</i> Leslie High School, University of Michigan, Bachelor Aerospace Engineering & Mechanical Engineering <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.202.4919 <i>Campaign Address:</i> 4675 Onondaga Rd., Onondaga, MI 49264	<b>A:</b> I am one of a couple of Ingham County Commissioners with local government experience who has rose through the ranks from a township planning commissioner, township trustee, township supervisor and now a county commissioner for 12 years. This gives me a unique perspective of local governance and government cooperation.	<b>A:</b> Like other counties in the state, Ingham County is in the process of developing its Materials Management Plan (MMP) for Solid Waste Management for presentation to the State of Michigan. The board had decided to provide a single county plan while cooperating with regional interests. The county plan will be constructed under the guidance of a diverse group of local stakeholders.	<b>A:</b> Ingham County is the highest average millage tax county in the State of Michigan. This is detrimental due to the impact to current landowners and attracting new business. We need to stop adding new millage and increases.

**Race: Ingham County Board of Commissioners – District 2**

**Description:** Same as above.

**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>District 2</b>	<b>Q: 1.</b> Same as above	<b>Q: 2.</b> Same as above	<b>Q: 3.</b> Same as above
<b>Karla Ruest</b> <b>Party:</b> Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Karl Andrew Sime</b> <b>Party:</b> Democratic <b>Biographical Info:</b> <i>Facebook page:</i> Karl Sime for County Commissioner <i>Education:</i> BS Mechanical Engineering MS Automotive Systems Engineering <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.525.5995 <i>Campaign Address:</i> 1475 Kelly Rd., Mason, MI 48854	<b>A:</b> I'm a mechanical engineer with over 35 years of experience solving the many difficult problems on the course of developing Electric Vehicle propulsion systems for the automotive industry. I want to be a county commissioner because I want a community where its people can live the best lives possible in an environment with clean air and water. I live in a rural part of the district and would like to see all people, whether they live in the city or in the countryside to have the same benefit from the taxes they pay. As an engineer I lean towards science and data driven policies that promote the most benefit for the largest number of constituents.	<b>A:</b> Clean groundwater is a major concern to many of the people in my district that have wells. Fuel leaks from gravel pit and farm equipment, agricultural chemicals, dust from farming practices are all a concern to many. I work closely with Capital Area Friends of the Environment (517CAFE) on many Lansing area environmental issues and legislation recently passed by the state of Michigan. There are many new opportunities that will directly benefit the people in my community. It will be my job as a county commissioner to obtain grants and financial resources to enable my constituents to quickly benefit from these new environmental provisions. The key will be for me to obtain as many grants and funds as possible and make sure that money is spent in the most efficient manor to provide the greatest benefit to our community.	<b>A:</b> Mental health and illegal drug use are a problem and are highly intertwined. I will make sure we have local workers in these areas to help our citizens find a better path. The high cost of housing and lack of local employment furthers these issues. I plan to discover new ways to make our community attractive to new businesses and to find ways to provide low cost housing for our citizens. Senior citizens are more impacted than others due to their fixed incomes so I will fight to make sure they are included in any county resolutions.

**Race: Ingham County Board of Commissioners – District 3**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>District 3</b>	<b>Q: 1.</b> Please describe your qualifications and experience and why you are running for County Commissioner.	<b>Q: 2.</b> Are there environmental issues that the county should address such as clean water, chemical toxins, and air quality?	<b>Q: 3.</b> Are there pressing issue(s) facing the office that you want to discuss? If so, how do you suggest addressing the issue(s)?
<b>Leslie Markwort</b> <b>Party:</b> Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Chris Trubac</b> <b>Party:</b> Democratic <b>Biographical Info:</b> <i>Campaign Web Site:</i> www.christrubac.com <i>Facebook page:</i> www.facebook.com/christrubac <i>Education:</i> B.S., Conservation of Natural Resources (Environmental Conservation) <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.798.0537	<b>A:</b> I was first elected to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners in 2018, and I would like to continue serving. As a lifelong Holt resident with a background in environmental conservation and state policy, I bring an important perspective to local government. I have always believed that government requires leaders with scientific literacy and an understanding of environmental issues and challenges. I have also worked to ensure that Ingham County is a welcoming community where working families of all backgrounds are treated with dignity and respect.	<b>A:</b> Yes. Since joining the board, I have undertaken several measures to improve the county’s sustainability. By reviving the Environmental Affairs Commission and serving as its chair, I was able to create a new position—the Environmental Sustainability Manager—responsible for tracking environmental needs and implementing strategic solutions. We are working to complete a comprehensive Sustainability Action Plan that will guide our environmental initiatives going forward. Environmental Affairs Commission meetings are open to the public and I encourage those interested to attend and learn more.	<b>A:</b> 1. Transparency and accountability: Few people understand the role and importance of county government. This is largely due to a lack of engagement with the public and local news. The county must improve, making its business more accessible and encouraging public engagement. If I am reelected, I will advocate for a contract with a public relations professional. This would shine a light on what the county is doing and how our work impacts local families. 2. Efficient county services: In order to guarantee the continued availability of Ingham County services, we must ensure available funds are diligently managed. We must be careful not to fatigue our tax base and risk jeopardizing the services local seniors and working families depend on. If reelected, I will continue working with my colleagues to spend down millage fund surpluses and avoid levying millages where possible. I am also reevaluating millage language, ensuring we match community needs and capacity.

**Race: Ingham County Board of Commissioners – District 4**

**Description:** Same as above.

**Term: 4 years      Partisan      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>District 4</b>	<b>Q: 1.</b> Same as above.	<b>Q: 2.</b> Same as above.	<b>Q: 3.</b> Same as above.
<b>Jack C. Jordan</b> <b>Party:</b> Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Todd Tennis</b> <b>Party:</b> Democratic <b>Biographical Info:</b> <i>Education:</i> University of Michigan, Bachelor of Science <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.202.2303	<b>A:</b> I was first elected to the Board of Commissioners in 2006. In my time as a commissioner, I have had to make tough decisions during the housing market crash, seek ways to address a deadly opioid epidemic, and most recently figure out how to maintain vital county operations in the teeth of a global pandemic. Through it all, the county has managed to avoid fiscal or political disasters that have beset other local governments. We have also continued to lead the state in terms of providing services to our residents and promoting the fair and equitable treatment of all people. Of course, it takes a full board of hard working and dedicated commissioners for the above to come about. I will only say that my commitment to running a local unit of government that puts people first has only increased during my time on the board.	<b>A:</b> We as county commissioners are frequently asked about issues where we have little authority to make broad changes. State law puts strong guardrails around counties when it comes to creating ordinances and regulations to protect the environment. That said, the county has created an Environmental Affairs Commission to advise the county on green practices and policies with the goal of reducing to the greatest extent possible Ingham County’s carbon footprint. We are exploring ideas such as switching to electric vehicles for county use, installing renewable energy generation on county property, and other environmentally friendly policies. Commissioner Chris Trubac has been a strong voice in this area, and I’m proud to support his leadership.	<b>A:</b> Ingham County faces many challenges such as youth violence, substance use disorder, a lack of affordable housing and an aging population that needs more supports and services. We have engaged with and provided funding to local and national non-profit groups in an effort to stem the tide of gun violence, particularly among young people. We successfully participated in a national lawsuit of opioid manufacturers and are preparing to issue grants to community treatment organizations with the hope of providing more treatment options for those who want to recover. We are working on a housing millage that would help push back against skyrocketing housing prices in Ingham County and give families a fighting chance to afford quality housing. We are also sending to the voters a renewal of our senior millage that primarily funds the local area agency on aging that provides home-delivered meals, home repair services and care counseling for our growing population of aging county residents.

### Race: Ingham County Board of Commissioners – District 5

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term:** 4 years      **Partisan**      **Candidates:** Choose One

District 5	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experience and why you are running for County Commissioner.	Q: 2. Are there environmental issues that the county should address such as clean water, chemical toxins, and air quality?	Q: 3. Are there pressing issue(s) facing the office that you want to discuss? If so, how do you suggest addressing the issue(s)?
<b>Myles Johnson</b> <b>Party:</b> Democratic	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Clint Tarver</b> <b>Party:</b> Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.

### Race: Ingham County Board of Commissioners – District 6

**Description:** Same as above.

**Term:** 4 years      **Partisan**      **Candidates:** Choose One

District 6	Q: 1. Same as above.	Q: 2. Same as above.	Q: 3. Same as above.
<b>Courtney Brogan</b> <b>Party:</b> Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Rachel R. Willis</b> <b>Party:</b> Democratic <b>Biographical Info:</b> <i>Facebook page:</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Rachelforcountycommission/">https://www.facebook.com/Rachelforcountycommission/</a> <i>Education:</i> Master of Social Works, Michigan State University 2015	<b>A:</b> I am a lifelong resident of Lansing, and Lansing is where I have chosen to live and raise my family. I have served on the Lansing School District Board of Education since being elected in 2011- including four years as Board President. As a mom, I want healthy, vibrant neighborhoods where our kids can play in clean and safe parks. As a public health and child welfare expert, I want to lend my voice and experience into making impactful decisions that lead to thriving children and families. My background and professional career is in the area of social work, specifically child welfare, focused on foster care and adoption efforts. I am deeply connected to the programs and structural challenges placed by children and families across the state of Michigan. As a woman raised in the culture of public service I am deeply dedicated to using my consensus building skills to place the welfare of people over politics.	<b>A:</b> One of the key environmental areas that the commission could focus on is air quality. Addressing air quality standards and requirements for businesses and industries doing business in Ingham county is a low cost investment that could yield multigenerational benefits. Many interlinked bio psychosocial factors are impacted by the access to physical health safety such as having clean air- so this would be a place to start.	<b>A:</b> Access to services for physical and behavioral health needs are a key issue facing the county. Discussing the utilization of county child care funds and other public dollars to expand services to children and families is a key step in prioritizing service expansion. The county recently demonstrated incredibly forward thinking and partnership development through the implementation of the RIP medical debt program- this type of innovative thinking is a step in the right direction when it comes to identifying a problem and working strategically to address it. One reason why people experience medical debt is because they have underlying issues that they are not able to obtain regular or routine treatment to address. Expanding accessible services by working towards identifying opportunities for programmatic partnerships and workforce development would be key in addressing this issue.

### Race: Ingham County Board of Commissioners – District 7

**Description:** Same as above.

**Term:** 4 years      **Partisan**      **Candidates:** Choose One

District 7	Q: 1. Same as above.	Q: 2. Same as above.	Q: 3. Same as above.
<b>Thomas P. Morgan</b> <b>Party:</b> Democratic	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Michael Wiggins</b> <b>Party:</b> Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.

**Race: Ingham County Board of Commissioners – District 8**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term:** 4 years **Partisan** **Candidates:** Choose One

District 8	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experience and why you are running for County Commissioner.	Q: 2. Are there environmental issues that the county should address such as clean water, chemical toxins, and air quality?	Q: 3. Are there pressing issue(s) facing the office that you want to discuss? If so, how do you suggest addressing the issue(s)?
<b>Evelyn Davis</b> Party: Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Robert Orlando Pena</b> Party: Democratic <b>Biographical Info:</b> Facebook page: Bob Pena for Ingham County Commissioner <a href="https://www.facebook.com/bobforcommissioner">https://www.facebook.com/bobforcommissioner</a> Education: BSCE, UT Austin, TX; MSCE, MSU East Lansing, MI Campaign Phone: 517.256.2671 Campaign Address: 2100 Vine Street	<b>A:</b> I have a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas in Austin, Texas and a Masters of Science in Civil Engineering from Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. I am a licensed Professional Engineer in the state of Michigan. I worked for 33 years for the Michigan Department of Transportation ( Road and Bridge Design, Construction Engineering, Geotechnical Investigation, Material testing, and Local projects and programs around the state). I am currently serving my second term as a county commissioner. This offers valuable insight into existing and proposed infrastructure. I am also a bicycling and urban agronomist advocate. Fluent in English and Spanish. Some proficiency in German, and Haitian Creole. Committee assignments: Community Services, Human Services, Capitol Regional Airport Authority, Tri-County Regional Planning Comm, Tri-County Office and Aging, Fair board, Capital Area Region Transport Sys, Capitol Area Com Services.	<b>A:</b> We need to maintain and enforce existing quality standards for surface and ground water. Chemical contaminants should be monitored. However, dumped items need to be removed from waterways. For example electric motor scooters, bicycles, car tires, etcetera need to be physically removed from rivers and lakes. Similarly air quality contamination limits need to be monitored and enforced against those that are source polluters.	<b>A:</b> Housing shortages, medical access for the underserved, and elderly services are all important. These services already exist. We need to educate the public that the services are available. The organizations that provide these services need to coordinate with each other because there is some overlap. Communication and coordination are important to be effective. The board of commissioners has been working on millage language that will be on some of the upcoming ballots. There will be proposals for medical services, elderly services, and housing in the next few upcoming ballots. We, the Ingham Board of Commissioners, are giving the voters opportunity to decide whether or not they believe that we should continue these services. Real government works when voters participate and voice whether or not they would like the county to continue with these services.

**Race: Ingham County Board of Commissioners – District 9**

**Description:** Same as above.

**Term:** 4 years **Partisan** **Candidates:** Choose One

District 9	Q: 1. Same as above.	Q: 2. Same as above.	Q: 3. Same as above.
<b>Robert J. Macomber</b> Party: Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Ryan Sebolt</b> Party: Democratic	<b>A:</b> I am currently in my fourth term as county commissioner and serving my second year as chair of the board. I have worked for, or adjacent to, state government since 2007. I am running for re-election because I believe the decisions made at the local level most directly impact people's everyday lives.	<b>A:</b> While the county has some ability to impact these issues, much of this is governed by state law. What the county can do is continue our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint and promote clean energy usage.	<b>A:</b> One critical issues is access to healthcare. The county continues to provide access to healthcare through our Community Health Centers and the Ingham Health Plan, which is offered through a special millage. We have also recently expanding that millage to include funding for mental healthcare. Another issue is housing affordability, the county has used \$9M in ARPA funding to expand access to housing and has an additional \$15M from the state for the same purpose. With voter approval this fall, Ingham County hopes to pass a millage that will levy funds to further support housing and address homelessness.

**Race: Ingham County Board of Commissioners – District 10**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term: 4 years                      Partisan                      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>District 10</b>	<b>Q: 1.</b> Please describe your qualifications and experience and why you are running for County Commissioner.	<b>Q: 2.</b> Are there environmental issues that the county should address such as clean water, chemical toxins, and air quality?	<b>Q: 3.</b> Are there pressing issue(s) facing the office that you want to discuss? If so, how do you suggest addressing the issue(s)?
<b>Scott Greenlee</b> <b>Party:</b> Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Gabrielle Lawrence</b> <b>Party:</b> Democratic	<b>A:</b> I am now serving my first term as County Commissioner and have loved the opportunity to learn more about the services that are operated by the county. As one of the commissioners with portions of Lansing Township in my district, I have become familiar with the road department, which maintains those roads. I have served on the Law and Courts committee, the County Services committee, and the Finance committee, because I want to use my time in office to become familiar with as many different areas of operation as possible.	<b>A:</b> Environmental issues are important to anyone who is paying attention. The county is mindful of our global footprint, but there is always room for improvement. On a micro level, after my first few committee meetings I realized that there was not a recycle bin in the committee room, which meant that a lot of paper was being unnecessarily thrown away. I requested a recycle bin in the committee room and am happy to say that it is used by virtually everyone.	<b>A:</b> Ingham County prides itself on providing a large array of services to county residents, but we can't do it alone. The County can and should strengthen relationships with area school districts and municipalities to eliminate redundancies and ensure that we are all moving together in the same direction.

**Race: Ingham County Board of Commissioners – District 11**

**Description:** Same as above.

**Term: 4 years                      Partisan                      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>District 11</b>	<b>Q: 1.</b> Same as above.	<b>Q: 2.</b> Same as above.	<b>Q: 3.</b> Same as above.
<b>Mark Grebner</b> <b>Party:</b> Democratic <b>Biographical Info:</b> <i>Education:</i> B.A. Michigan State University, Urban Policy, 1981; J. D. University of Michigan, 1986. <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.351.6682 <i>Campaign Address:</i> 615 Glenmoor Rd #1B, East Lansing, MI 48823	<b>A:</b> I was first elected in 1976, and have served ever since, with the exception of the period 1981-1984 (when I was attending law school) and 2013-2016 (when I ran for Drain Commissioner). During the 48 years I have been involved in Ingham County, I have chaired the body four times, and chaired each of the standing committees for a total of about 20 years. I believe the other commissioners, our staff, and media reporters all rely upon my knowledge of history and procedure whenever a question arises. One of my proudest accomplishments has been the writing and implementation of a county ethics policy which has successfully steered us away from scandal and discord.	<b>A:</b> Ingham County has been fairly quick to deal with emerging issues, particularly through our health department. I'm not aware of any environmental problem where we are not already leading the other counties in Michigan. We were among the first to require rural septic systems to be inspected at the point of sale. We're reexamining our solid waste disposal plan, in view of new state laws. I'm literally not aware of any environmental issue which has been raised that Ingham County has failed to at least consider. Of course, we have to keep in mind that Michigan law reserves most environmental oversight powers to state government. Because counties in Michigan lack general police powers, we can only act in fields where we have been given explicit authority.	<b>A:</b> 1) We need more diverse taxing powers, so we can move away from almost total dependence on property taxes. Our ability to tax real estate, but almost nothing else, is becoming a problem because our per capita taxable value is very low compared to other counties, and because real estate is no longer a very good measure of wealth or financial capacity. 2) Many of our operations only make sense if understood as the outgrowth of historical processes. We are a number of years behind in applying technology, particularly in interaction with the public. 3) We need to begin consolidating units of government, with the assistance of changes to state law. In many areas, governmental power resides in the hands of tiny units, many of which lack any full-time staff, let alone professionals.
<b>Virginia Werner</b> <b>Party:</b> Republican	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.

**Race: Ingham County Board of Commissioners – District 12**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term:** 4 years      **Partisan**      **Candidates: Choose One**

<p><b>District 12</b></p>	<p><b>Q: 1.</b> Please describe your qualifications and experience and why you are running for County Commissioner.</p>	<p><b>Q: 2.</b> Are there environmental issues that the county should address such as clean water, chemical toxins, and air quality?</p>	<p><b>Q: 3.</b> Are there pressing issue(s) facing the office that you want to discuss? If so, how do you suggest addressing the issue(s)?</p>
<p><b>Irene M. Cahill</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.488.1486  <i>Campaign Address:</i> 657 Virginia Avenue</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I am running for reelection. I was appointed October 12, 2021 to replace the former commissioner. I submitted my resume and interviewed successfully. I dove right in and in 2024 became Chairperson of the Human Services Committee. Human Services serves as the liaison for 16 departments &amp; agencies: Health Dept., Parks Dept., Board of Health, Potter Park Zoo, Capital Area District Library, Housing Commission, Michigan Mid-South Health, Community Mental Health Board, Medical Examiner.</p> <p>I serve on 12 other committees besides Human Services and have experience with the ever changing needs of Ingham County residents and the Ingham County Budget.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> There are many environmental issues Ingham County is working on. The Materials Management Planning Committee began interviewing candidates June 17 and will resume July 15. This board will be appointed for a 5 year term to site a solid waste disposal facility operator, a composting facility or anaerobic digester operator, a waste diversion, reuse, or reduction facility operator. The focus will be sustainable materials management approaches instead of just landfilling waste.</p> <p>Besides the Clean Sweep initiative run by the Ingham County Health Dept. to collect hazardous waste twice weekly from May-September the Materials Management Planning committee will be doing important work in conjunction with the other 82 counties in Michigan.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Housing is a vital concern for a multitude of reasons. Ingham County is working with Tri-County Regional Planning as a part of leadership to address critical housing. The Capital Area Housing Partnership is working with Tri-County Office on Aging to keep people in their homes with housing rehab of roofs, windows ... and Tuesday Toolmen which builds ramps in the tri-county and beyond.</p>
<p><b>Nathan Mahn</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Education:</i> B.S. and M. Eng. in Electrical Engineering from MIT  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.889.1559</p>	<p><b>A:</b> While I am fairly new to politics, I have a breadth of skills to bring to public office. My degree is in electrical engineering and I worked as one for about decade in both small and large group projects. It allows me to take a systems-level approach to problems and look for unintended consequences. I have a good command of numbers for both budgetary and technology topics. I chose to change gears and become a stay-at-home father about ten years ago, which has given me insight into the county across a cross-section of programming such as the educational system and health department. I get to meet a lot of people, especially other parents, and build personal relationships.</p> <p>I am running for office because I have a strong belief that government properly understood and implemented to secure our rights can promote a flourishing society and allow us to build vibrant communities as we work with our neighbors, side by side, in safety.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The best way that government can ensure a clean environment is to make sure individuals can seek damages and restitution to be made whole if they are subjected to harmful environmental factors such as pollution. This keeps businesses and neighbors mindful of the consequences of their actions by knowing they can be held accountable for any harms they inflict on others.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The biggest issues that ever face the County or any level of government are those regarding its proper function. Law enforcement and public safety need to take center stage because that is the most basic function of government. Holding criminals accountable for violent crime and property crime is the foundation of a flourishing society. Road integrity and safety is also one of the most important functions of government, especially at the county level. Our clerks are administrators also provide necessary record-keeping and election functions that are core to a functional and trustworthy democracy.</p>



**Race: Ingham County Board of Commissioners – District 13**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term: 4 years                      Partisan                      Candidates: Choose One**

District 13	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experience and why you are running for County Commissioner.	Q: 2. Are there environmental issues that the county should address such as clean water, chemical toxins, and air quality?	Q: 3. Are there pressing issue(s) facing the office that you want to discuss? If so, how do you suggest addressing the issue(s)?
<p><b>Tanya L. Pratt</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i> Tanyalpratt.com  <i>Facebook page:</i> None  <i>Education:</i> MSW, CPIA, SHRM member  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 248.667.8572  <i>Campaign Address:</i> PO Box 23154, Lansing, MI 48909</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have always felt the need to serve and give back. As a School Social Worker I found joy in advocating and being a Change Agent on behalf of children and families. This was my springboard to the Michigan Education Association as a UniServ Director. MEA allowed me to impact more educators across the State. For the last 20 years, I've negotiated hundreds of collective bargaining agreements in conjunction with school administrators which addressed their wages, healthcare and ancillary benefits. MEA also afforded me the opportunity to work to elect pro-public education legislators. As the Director of Field Services at MESSA, an insurance provider for school employees, I help bring school employees peace of mind when it comes to their health concerns. This role has enhanced my leadership, project management and budgetary skills all while ensuring my staff have what they need to be successful. These skills are useful to enhance my community for future generations and ensure its growth.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> We should all feel safe in our homes and community. In order to feel safe, we need to make sure we have our basic needs met such as clean water and air, free of chemical toxins. Having safe spaces, such as parks, lakes and recreation allows for communal time and a chance to connect with many diverse people. I want to ensure that I play my part in ensuring those things and spaces remain safe for generations to come within my community. Serving on the Ingham County Board of Commissioners will ensure I can be a voice that represents my community needs and expectations and help preserve what we currently have and build upon it so that we remain a top place to live within Ingham County.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I believe there are many pressing issues within Ingham County, and my goal is to make sure I seek out the input of my constituents in District 13 to hear what they too believe are pressing issues in Ingham County. Collecting that input allows me the ability to accurately and effectively address those issues which could ultimately lead to potential resolutions on behalf of us residents. For example, are our senior needs being successfully met? In order for me to know that, I have to engage our seniors and see what is working, what isn't and what ideas they may have to help make things better.</p>
<p><b>Geoffrey Recktenwald</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>

**Race: Ingham County Board of Commissioners – District 14**

**Description:** Same as above.

**Term: 4 years                      Partisan                      Candidates: Choose One**

District 14	Q: 1. Same as above.	Q: 2. Same as above.	Q: 3. Same as above.
<p><b>Mark Polsdofer</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>
<p><b>Nikki Wang</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>

**Race: Ingham County Board of Commissioners – District 15**

**Description:** The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

**Term: 4 years                      Partisan                      Candidates: Choose One**

District 15	Q: 1. Same as above.	Q: 2. Same as above.	Q: 3. Same as above.
<p><b>Michelle Rosa</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <b>Campaign Web Site:</b>                      michellerosa.org  <b>Facebook page:</b> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560649041099">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560649041099</a>  <b>Education:</b> MSU: Education Specialist in K-12 Admin; WMU: MA in Special Education, BS in Special Education  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> 248.716.4665  <b>Campaign Address:</b> 136 E Newman Road Williamston, MI 48895</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I graduated from Western Michigan University, where I earned my Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in general and special education. After teaching for several years, I became eager to enhance my leadership skills, so I pursued an Education Specialist Degree in K-12 Administration through Michigan State University. My professional background is my 28 year career in public education where I served as a teacher, consultant, and administrator through the Battle Creek Public Schools and Ingham Intermediate School District. I also had the opportunity to serve as an adjunct instructor for Lansing Community College. I feel my unwavering dedication to learning and working demonstrates my willingness to advocate for the residents of Ingham County and affect positive change as a County Commissioner.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> State initiatives such as the Clean Energy &amp; Jobs Act and the state’s goal to develop strategies to minimize carbon emissions are priorities for our county.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The concerns within district 15 are diverse. If elected, I will prioritize issues that directly impact the well-being of my constituents such as housing, school safety and mental health. I will collaborate with fellow commissioners and look to neighboring counties for initiatives that are showing positive outcomes for residents. I will be visible and engaged in the community. I will be consistently available so I am listening and responding to concerns of all constituents. I am committed to serving everyone in my district. I will advocate for policies, initiatives, and funding that are beneficial to the diverse needs.</p>
<p><b>Monica Schafer</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <b>Campaign Web Site:</b>                      monicaschafer.org  <b>Facebook page:</b> Monica Schafer for Ingham County Commissioner  <b>Education:</b> MBA, University of Michigan, Flint, MI  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> 517.230.2298  <b>Campaign Address:</b> 1691 Osprey Ave.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> As the current Ingham County Commissioner for District 15, I have witnessed firsthand how important it is to be involved in the community you represent to be an effective leader. As a local business owner, community volunteer, and proud mother of 6, I understand the concerns of my community because they are my concerns, too. Since 2022, I have been a strong and effective voice for the district, working tirelessly to pass bipartisan resolutions. These efforts have not only fostered unity but also brought back over 4 million dollars in millage funding to District 15. I am committed to continuing this work, ensuring all constituents can access the necessary county resources. As one of four women and one of three Republicans, I understand the value of diversity in all areas, including political parties. It is this diversity that fosters effective bi-participant communication, ensuring that all voices are heard and considered in the decision-making process.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Ingham County Board of Commissioners created and supported The Environmental Affairs Commission. The Environmental Affairs Commission is vital to steer the county toward continuing to be stewards of what has been entrusted to us and future generations. I work diligently alongside our assistant drain commissioners to ensure responsible measures are taken to protect water and drainage districts and support resolutions preserving the environment. I am proud to have recently volunteered to be a member of the committee tasked with creating the new Strategic Plan for Ingham County. This plan, along with the Environmental Affairs Commission, has the long-term objective of promoting environmental protection, smart growth, and conservation and is a testament to our county’s commitment to a sustainable future. As a member of this committee and an Ingham County Commissioner, I will continue to advocate for and ensure the protection of our environment for generations to come.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Public safety throughout Ingham County! As your current county commissioner, I take this very seriously. I purposefully sit on the Law and Courts committee to serve as a liaison and advise the full Board of Commissioners on all matters concerning the county’s law enforcement system. My deep passion lies in working with various offices and departments to ensure they have the necessary tools to provide public safety to every county resident, regardless of location, occupation, race, or religion. I have been a staunch supporter of initiatives to make our streets safer, reduce gun violence, and find ways to decrease recidivism. Ingham County’s Specialty Courts, Community Mental Health, and Advance Peace are bold examples of our county’s commitments that I support. I attended training sessions by Ingham County Emergency Operations to ensure our schools are safe and prepared to take on any threats they may encounter. Everyone should feel safe and secure in Ingham County!</p>

**Race: Meridian Township Trustees**

**Description:** A Township Trustee helps make legislative and administrative decisions for the township. This person shares responsibility for the township’s fiduciary health with the other board members and carries out other duties as assigned by the board.

**Term:** 4 years      **Partisan**      **Candidates:** Choose 4

Meridian Township Trustees	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experience and why you are running for Township Trustee.	Q: 2. Are there pressing issue(s) facing the office that you want to discuss? If so, how do you suggest addressing the issue(s)?
<p><b>Nickolas Lentz</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i> nickolaslentz.com  <i>Facebook page:</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559519176953">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61559519176953</a>  <b>Education:</b> B.A. Communication, Michigan State University  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> 517.202.4927  <b>Campaign Address:</b> 2098 E M78, East Lansing, MI 48823</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have spent my career working for and supporting non-profits, most of which are human services here in mid-Michigan. I have worked to fundraise for hunger relief, addiction recovery, and other crucial human services. In doing so, I have raised millions of dollars for organizations and missions I believe in.</p> <p>I define my life largely by the service I do for my community. In addition to the positions I am paid to do, I also have a history of volunteering on campaigns in my free time. I am immensely proud to say that I was recognized in 2022 as the volunteer in Michigan who knocked more doors in support of Reproductive Freedom for All than anyone else.</p> <p>I say all this to show that I am already serving my community in almost every aspect of my life.</p> <p>I want to bring my zeal, collaborative spirit and desire to be a public servant to this office. I want to work with other members of the board and organizations that operate here to build and protect this community that we can be proud of</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Meridian Township, like many others in Michigan, does not have the amount of affordable housing that we need.</p> <p>As someone who rents my home, I am uniquely aware of the stress that comes with your housing being at someone else’s whim. Meridian Township is a community with high property values, boxing out a lot of new Americans and young families who want to make this place their home. I am also a lover of parks and nature, serving on the Ingham County Parks Commission.</p> <p>The township government can work with players, ranging from other government entities, developers and the drain commission to find new housing while not paving over our 1800 acres of parks and wetlands that our community loves.</p> <p>This comes from working as a team to find solutions that work for everyone. I want to be a good-faith member of a team that can bring more people to our special part of mid-Michigan.</p>
<p><b>Kathy Ann Sundland</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>
<p><b>Peter L. Trezise</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Facebook page:</i> Peter Trezise for Township Trustee  <b>Education:</b> BS Michigan State Univ; JD Univ. of Michigan Law School  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> 517.349.3688  <b>Campaign Address:</b> 3818 Yosemite Dr., Okemos, MI 48864</p>	<p><b>A:</b> In January, I was appointed as Trustee following 6 years on the Planning Commission. I’ve lived in Meridian Township for 38 years and served on the Okemos School Board for 16 years. I am experienced serving on municipal boards, have been a lawyer over 45 year and have a varied career in state government, education, and human resources. I am running to help assure our citizens continue to receive the benefits of living in one of the most popular places to live in the State of Michigan. We must continue to provide public safety, roads and essential services to our residents. We must protect our environment, support our extensive parks and trail system, manage growth sensibly and create opportunities for businesses to come to Meridian Township to provide those services that our community wants. We must continue efforts to reduce our impact on climate change through reduction of energy use and support of clean energy options both for the Township and our residents.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> With the COVID-19 state and federal funds now ended, the Township will encounter challenges in creating a budget. I will work with our community to focus our spending priorities to continue to support the essential services which make Meridian Township a great place to live, work and learn. Key areas include public safety, the environment, parks and recreation and community services, while paying down pension and retiree health care deficits that have accrued over many years. Another area of some urgency is the impending loss of the current Meridian Senior Center due to school construction. The Center has been a joint operation of Meridian Township and Okemos Public Schools. The Township is exploring the feasibility of creating a new Community/Senior Center in a central location that will serve our entire community. I hope to lend my experience and creativity to support and facilitate this new service to our residents.</p>
<p><b>Marna Wilson</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <b>Education:</b> Masters degrees in Management and Medical Research Library Science  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> 773.860.8388  <b>Campaign Address:</b> 4545 Chippewa Dr.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have been a Township Trustee twice, once in the 1990’s and more recently, when I was appointed to the Township Board in March 2022 and was later elected in 2022. I also served as a Planning Commissioner for four years. As a 38-year resident of Meridian Township, I have volunteered for decades in my community: at the food pantry in downtown Lansing for the past 12 years, member and past President of the Haslett-Okemos Rotary, long-time member and former Treasurer of the Friends of the Okemos Library, co-chair of the 2022 Okemos Public Schools Bond Campaign, former member of the Okemos Education Foundation, and several other current boards and commissions. Public service is my passion.</p> <p>I am running for Meridian Township Trustee because I believe in good government and fiscal responsibility. I bring a broad education, work experience in management and strength in teamwork and collaboration to the Board. I make carefully considered decisions in the best interest of our residents.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The Township Board’s goal is to provide excellent service to our residents. Two pressing areas are police protection and repairing local streets.</p> <p>Our police staffing last Fall was alarmingly low. We took steps to create a police retention program, with higher wages and benefits, to attract qualified candidates and ensure that we will have full staff of 42 officers. We are currently at 39, seven of whom are in field training. We are in a better position, but the work is not done. Addressing this issue is a key priority.</p> <p>The condition of our 180 miles of local streets has been a challenge. We embarked on a road improvement plan six years ago to bring all of our streets up to an acceptable level. With COVID-19, the cost of asphalt had sky-rocketed, which has impacted how many miles of road we can repair or replace. It has slowed our progress, but the Township Board is investigating creative ways to stretch our dollars to improve this critical infrastructure.</p>

## Race: Meridian Township Clerk

**Description:** The Township Clerk's statutory duties maintained by the Clerk's Office include: Custody of all Township records maintains the general ledger, records and maintains Township meeting minutes, and keeps Township ordinance book. The Clerk also keeps the Township book of others, is responsible for special meeting notices, and publishes board meeting minutes. The Clerk prepares warrants for Township checks, prepares financial statements, and delivers tax certificates. In addition, the Township Clerk administers elections according to state law, keeps the voter registration file, registers voters, and maintains the permanent absentee ballot list.

**Term:** 4 years      **Partisan**      **Candidates:** Choose One

Meridian Township Clerk	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experience and why you are running for office.	Q: 2. Are there pressing issue(s) facing the office that you want to discuss? If so, how do you suggest addressing the issue(s)?
<p><b>Angela Demas</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i> www.angelademasforclerk.com/  <i>Facebook page:</i> https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558515330119  <i>Education:</i> Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.512.9579  <i>Campaign Address:</i> 2162 Banyon Trail, East Lansing, MI 48823</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I'm running as a Democrat for Meridian Township Clerk. I am an Elections Specialist for the Delhi Twp. Clerk's Office where I'm leading the effort to combat AI interference in elections. I'm a 2020 graduate of Okemos High School and earned my B.A. from Michigan State University in 2023. I've worked for many Michigan Democratic leaders, including Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.</p> <p>I'm dedicated to continuing to make Meridian Twp. the best place to live, work and thrive in the region. I believe in protecting democracy, combating disinformation, increasing transparency and expanding parks and trails. I promise to work each and every day to ensure that we have free, fair, and safe elections.</p> <p>I have earned the endorsements of: former Sen. Curtis Hertel; Sens. Sam Singh, Jeremy Moss and Paul Wojno; Ingham Co. Clerk Barb Byrum; Reps. Julie Brixie and Kara Hope; Delhi Twp. Clerk Evan Hope; Greater Lansing Building Trades; LiUNA! Local 499; Everytown; Unity Fund; and Run For Something.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> My top priorities are transparency and access to election information; voting rights; and green space and the environment.</p> <p>I will review the elections process with staff to look for ways to improve customer service, safeguard taxpayer dollars and ensure voters have access to all the information they need.</p> <p>I also will start a new initiative, free monthly "Democracy Classes" where people can learn about how the voting process works after they cast their ballot. I will make sure voters have all the information they need about registering to vote, in-person early voting and no-reason absentee voting. I also will work to pre-register to vote 16- and 17-year-olds with events at local high schools.</p> <p>As a voting member of the Meridian Twp. Board, I'll advocate for efforts to protect our planet, including protecting our extensive parks, trails, and wetlands in Meridian Township, and look for ways to increase energy efficiency in government buildings to reduce our carbon footprint.</p>
<p><b>Patty McPhee</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican</p>	No response available.	No response available.

## Race: Williamston Township Trustees

**Description:** A Township Trustee helps make legislative and administrative decisions for the township. This person shares responsibility for the township's fiduciary health with the other board members and carries out other duties as assigned by the board.

**Term:** 4 years      **Partisan**      **Candidates:** Choose 4

Williamston Township Trustees	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experience and why you are running for Township Trustee.	Q: 2. Are there pressing issue(s) facing the office that you want to discuss? If so, how do you suggest addressing the issue(s)?
<p><b>Jim Brinker</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Education:</i> BA's in Telecommunications &amp; History from Michigan State University  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 810.534.7685  <i>Campaign Address:</i> 21 Oliver Drive</p>	<p><b>A:</b> My passion for public service drives me to run for Township Trustee.</p> <p>My experience in various leadership roles positions me to effectively represent our community. For the past year, I've served as Secretary of the Williamstown Township Planning Commission, contributing to responsible Township ordinances. Additionally, my tenure on the Township's Compensation Commission, including a term as Chair, demonstrates my commitment to fiscal responsibility within the Township.</p> <p>Actively involved with my union at MSU, I've honed my skills in collaboration and advocacy through serving on the MSU APA Union board and various committees. Through these experiences, I have become equipped to navigate complex issues and represent diverse viewpoints – essential qualities for a Township Trustee.</p>	No response available.
<p><b>Mark Steinberg</b>  <b>Party:</b> Democratic</p>	No response available.	No response available.
<p><b>Keith Creagh</b>  <b>Party:</b> Republican</p>	No response available.	No response available.

## Race: Williamston Township Trustees (continued)

**Description:** A Township Trustee helps make legislative and administrative decisions for the township. This person shares responsibility for the township's fiduciary health with the other board members and carries out other duties as assigned by the board.

**Term:** 4 years      **Partisan**      **Candidates:** Choose 4

Williamston Township Trustees (continued)	Q: 1. Please describe your qualifications and experience and why you are running for Township I do.	Q: 2. Are there pressing issue(s) facing the office that you want to discuss? If so, how do you suggest addressing the issue(s)?
<b>Kevin Duffy</b> Party: Republican	No response available.	No response available.
<b>John Kane</b> Party: Republican	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Aaron Porter</b> Party: Republican	No response available.	No response available.

## Race: Mason City Council Members

**Description:** This is the legislative body; its members are the community's decision makers. Power is centralized in the elected council, which approves the budget and determines the tax rate, for example. The council also focuses on the community's goals, major projects, and such long-term considerations as community growth, land use development, capital improvement plans, capital financing, and strategic planning. The council hires a professional manager to carry out the administrative responsibilities and supervises the manager's performance.

**Term:** 4 years      **Non-Partisan**      **Candidates:** Choose 4

Mason City Council Members	Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the City Council?	Q: 2. What are the strengths of the city?	Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a City Council Member?
<b>Leon R. Clark</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Elaine J. Ferris</b> Party: Non-Partisan <b>Biographical Info:</b> Education: Bachelors in English, Michigan State University, life long learning	<b>A:</b> Knowledge of city process and a wide range of connections from participation and volunteering in city activities over years; as Farmers Market manager, church and Chamber of Commerce committee member. One way to assist is by publicizing events online; Doug Klein of the Historical Society and several others have been working towards an online replacement for the now defunct Community News to help area merchants and nonprofits to spread information about fundraisers and special events. It's just inefficient when the best way to find out what's going on if you're not online is to look at the posters in Ware's window! Solving the online accessibility issue is necessary.	<b>A:</b> Mason has a vibrant community of those who care about making this truly a "hometown USA", and are willing to volunteer and serve on boards and commissions to make that happen. There are also service clubs who keep the process going. Merchants and city staff and volunteers and nonprofits share information and resources to make things happen. We have a wealth of leaders who are involved in grants, foundations and other fundraising efforts to make things happen. School activities are shared with community, and community education classes are offered to make use of facilities for all ages. In addition, city administration is aware of and works with county, state, and national initiatives and trends. Current and ongoing efforts are aimed at upgrading infrastructure. The streets portion of millage keeps streets in repair. The real strength is in the people who volunteer, organize and put their heart and soul into living, working and making Mason their home.	<b>A:</b> Continue with park and recreational upgrades; work towards fundraising for library outside renovation, increase online connectivity for town and rural areas. Keep the historical charm and work towards affordable and senior housing options. I'm sure there will be a curveball in the next few years, will be studying up for what comes next!
<b>Daniel Giganti</b> Party: Non-Partisan	<b>A:</b> I would bring equality and mental health issues to the forefront. We need to listen to what our friends and neighbors are saying and move forward to the future of our community.	<b>A:</b> We host so many different events at the fairgrounds and throughout, which invites so many people to our town.	<b>A:</b> Bond park, mental health awareness, equity, saving our parks and natural resources. We need to get back to the basics of what we love about the tight nit community.
<b>Thomas C. Husby</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.

**Race:** Mason City Council Members (continued)

**Description:** This is the legislative body; its members are the community’s decision makers. Power is centralized in the elected council, which approves the budget and determines the tax rate, for example. The council also focuses on the community’s goals, major projects, and such long-term considerations as community growth, land use development, capital improvement plans, capital financing, and strategic planning. The council hires a professional manager to carry out the administrative responsibilities and supervises the manager’s performance.

**Term:** 4 years      **Non-Partisan**      **Candidates:** Choose 4

Mason City Council Members (continued)	Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the City Council?	Q: 2. What are the strengths of the city?	Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a City Council Member?
<p><b>Shawn Sodman</b> Party: Non-Partisan</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>	<p>No response available.</p>
<p><b>Rita Leolani Vogel</b> Party: Non-Partisan</p>	<p><b>A:</b> As an incumbent, I bring a wealth of experience and a proven track record of effective community engagement and advocacy. My special qualifications include:                      -Deep Community Connections: Over the years, I have built strong relationships with diverse community groups, ensuring that all voices are heard and represented in our decision-making processes.                      -Proven Advocacy Skills: I have successfully advocated for policies that address the needs of our residents, from securing funding for local projects to pushing for sustainable development initiatives.                      -Transparent Communication: I am committed to maintaining open lines of communication with constituents, utilizing various platforms to keep the community informed and involved in city governance.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The true strength of our city lies in its dynamic and dedicated community members. Together, we are driving growth and rebranding our city by transforming outdated and negative perceptions into a vision of inclusivity and innovation. Our residents are passionate about creating positive change, actively participating in initiatives that promote equity, diversity, and sustainability. This collective spirit is inspiring and propels our city forward, making it a beacon of hope and progress for future generations.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> If re-elected, I intend to focus on several key issues:                      -Affordable Housing: Ensuring access to affordable housing is a top priority. I will work to implement policies that increase the availability of affordable units and support sustainable development.                      -Public Safety: I aim to continue enhancing public safety by fostering community-based policing and investing in programs that address the root causes of crime.                      -Environmental Sustainability: I will advocate for initiatives that promote environmental sustainability, from expanding public transportation options to implementing green building standards.                      -Youth and Education: Supporting our youth with better educational resources and after-school programs is crucial, and I will prioritize partnerships with local schools and organizations to achieve this.                      These priorities reflect my ongoing commitment to making our city a better place for all residents.</p>
<p><b>Russell W. Whipple</b> Party: Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>                      Education: MSME, Massachusetts Institute of Tech., BSME &amp; Finance Minor - Kettering University, Mason High School                      Campaign Phone: 517.719.3654                      Campaign Address: 322 Lawton St., Mason, MI 48854</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have served on the Mason City Council for 24 years, 18 of those as Mayor, and am a lifelong resident of Mason. This, along with my education and experience as an engineer and in the management of finances, provides unique historical and operational knowledge of the role of Council in guiding an exceptional government, specifically in regard to a responsible budget. The Council sets budget and policy priorities for the City with the primary goal of providing necessary services, such as public safety and the management and maintenance of city assets. Accomplishing this goal is often complex due to limited financial and personnel resources. It is critical that a Council member has historical knowledge and technical capabilities suited to resolving conflicting demands on such resources in order to retain community and financial stability. Over many years as a Council member and Mayor I have a demonstrated ability to identify cost effective solutions in the face of conflicting demands.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Mason is a great place to live and raise a family. City government is operated efficiently and, to that end, focuses predominately on core, necessary services. The City is very active in collaborating with private organizations to provide additional services in a manner that minimizes the cost to the City. Mason tax and utility rates are very competitive with surrounding cities. Over the past few years, numerous policies and practices for budgeting and planning have been established to enable the City to efficiently tackle expensive projects while keeping government costs to residents as low as possible. Mason is a desirable place to live as evidenced by the low turnover in houses, the relatively high market value of housing, and the construction of new houses. Mason residents and businesses energetically support and develop activities, such as festivals, beautification, and education that enhance the City as a hometown. The City workforce is skilled and devoted to improving the City.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The most significant challenge for the City is similar to that faced by us all. The costs of goods and services have increased dramatically over recent years. Construction costs have more than doubled in many cases. At the same time, funding sources have not kept pace with rising costs putting pressure on the City budget. The City must be creative and diligent in planning for projects such as street maintenance, park improvements, and large construction projects, such as a much needed DPW facility, while sufficiently funding ongoing operations. My extensive experience in Mason government and proven technical, finance, and leadership skills allow me to effectively collaborate with City staff and Council members to minimize the impact of increasing costs to residents, including efforts to grow the tax base. I will continue to work collaboratively with residents to understand their concerns while providing accurate information and transparency regarding City decisions and actions.</p>

**Race: East Lansing Public School Board Members**

**Description:** The Board of Education is responsible for setting educational, fiscal and administrative policies of the school district. It hires the superintendent, negotiates staff contracts, and sets the budget. The board members are elected at large and have overlapping terms.

**Term: 4 years                      Non-Partisan                      Candidates: Choose 3**

<p><b>East Lansing Public School Board Members</b></p>	<p><b>Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the School Board?</b></p>	<p><b>Q: 2. What are the strengths of the district?</b></p>	<p><b>Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a School Board Member?</b></p>
<p><b>Elizabeth Guerrero Lyons</b> <b>Party: Non-Partisan</b></p>	<p><b>A:</b> Currently serving on the board, I bring valuable qualifications that enhance my ability to contribute effectively to our district. My experience as Vice President for the past two years has equipped me with strong leadership and communication skills, enabling me to foster collaboration and drive initiatives that benefit our educational community.</p> <p>Additionally, I prioritize active listening to understand the diverse perspectives of our families, students, teachers, and administration. This commitment to open dialogue ensures that all voices are heard and respected, allowing us to make informed decisions that reflect the needs and aspirations of our community.</p> <p>I am dedicated to continuing this collaborative approach, promoting transparency, and working towards the best outcomes for our students and schools in the ELPS district.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> As a member of the school board, I have witnessed the strengths of our district: dedicated educators, a commitment to equity, a focus on student wellness, and strong community support.</p> <p>Dedicated Educators-Our educators at ELPS are passionate and committed, prioritizing student success and fostering a positive learning environment. They adapt their teaching methods to meet diverse needs, focusing on nurturing social-emotional well-being. Commitment to Equity -Our district provides equitable access to resources and opportunities for every student. This commitment informs our policies, promoting inclusivity and addressing disparities while engaging families and community members for feedback. Focus on Student Wellness-We prioritize mental health and safety. Our programs support emotional well-being, equipping students with coping strategies. This focus rebuilds trust within our community, creating a supportive environment for academic growth.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> If re-elected, I would continue to focus on several key issues to enhance the educational experience for all students.</p> <p>Equity in Education- I will continue to promote initiatives that ensure equitable access to resources, programs, and opportunities for all students, addressing any disparities that may exist based on socioeconomic status, race, or learning abilities.</p> <p>Mental Health and Wellness: we have done an excellent job in this area-which includes expanding counseling services, training staff to recognize and address mental health issues, and promoting a culture of well-being. We will want to continue to strengthen mental health support and social-emotional learning programs within our schools.</p> <p>Safety and Security. Ensuring the safety of our students is paramount. With the new bond passed we will continue to advocate for comprehensive safety plans, including mental health awareness, crisis response training, and a safe physical environment in our schools.</p>
<p><b>Chris Martin</b> <b>Party: Non-Partisan</b> <b>Biographical Info:</b> <i>Facebook page:</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/chrismartin.elps">https://www.facebook.com/chrismartin.elps</a> <i>Education:</i> JD, University of Virginia School of Law; BA, University of Texas at Austin <i>Campaign Address:</i> PO BOX 1365, East Lansing, MI 48826</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have served on the East Lansing Board of Education since 2019. I was elected to a full term from January 2019 through January 2023 and was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board in March 2023. I have served as School Board President since January of 2024.</p> <p>I previously worked as a teacher and coach in New York City Public Schools and in Virginia. I have two children in the District. I currently work as an Administrative Law Judge for the State of Michigan--adjudicating disputes between citizens and state agencies. I have unique experiences and perspectives as a former teacher, a parent, a community member, and an attorney.</p> <p>During my time on the School Board, our District has rebuilt six elementary schools on time and under budget, invested in new contracts for our teachers that made them among the highest paid in the region, supported the needs of our students through unprecedented challenges, and our District is in its strongest financial position in a generation.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Our District is a leader in meeting the academic and socio-emotional needs of our students. We offer high-quality curriculum in the classroom delivered by experienced teachers. In addition to traditional academics, our District is invested in building a positive culture in our buildings and giving our students tools to succeed in the classroom and in their lives outside of school.</p> <p>Our District is a leader in promoting diversity and equity. Our students and teachers come from a variety of backgrounds that enhance the learning and day-to-day experience of the people in our schools. We have created inclusive school communities where everyone's voice is heard.</p> <p>Our District is building for the future. We have updated our curriculum and invested in teacher retention during my tenure. We rebuilt our elementary schools and upgraded our athletic and arts facilities. We have committed to improving security and accessibility at our High School and Middle School over the next two years.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> It is essential to continue raising the bar for academic success. If I am re-elected, I will work to ensure equitable access to opportunities for our students, high standards, and a focus on meeting students' individual needs. I will seek innovative ways to promote academic achievement and prepare our students to succeed in college and other post-secondary endeavors.</p> <p>I will continue our investments in teacher retention and giving our teachers independence to teach and inspire the next generation. Our District will invest in classroom resources for educators to deliver and differentiate instruction in challenging and engaging ways, and create welcoming and affirming classroom communities for our diverse student population.</p> <p>I will work to continue incorporating technology and practical skills into our students' educational experience to ensure that our students are positioned to succeed in the future.</p> <p>I love this community, and I believe in our excellent public schools!</p>

**Race:** East Lansing Public School Board Members (continued)

**Description:** The Board of Education is responsible for setting educational, fiscal and administrative policies of the school district. It hires the superintendent, negotiates staff contracts, and sets the budget. The board members are elected at large and have overlapping terms.

**Term:** 4 years      **Non-Partisan**      **Candidates: Choose 3**

<p><b>East Lansing Public School Board Members (continued)</b></p>	<p><b>Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the School Board?</b></p>	<p><b>Q: 2. What are the strengths of the district?</b></p>	<p><b>Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a School Board Member?</b></p>
<p><b>Felix Thibodeau</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i>                      electfelixthibodeau.com  <i>Facebook page:</i> <a href="https://m.facebook.com/electfelixthibodeau/">https://m.facebook.com/electfelixthibodeau/</a>  <i>Education:</i> Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 910.200.4774  <i>Campaign Address:</i> 6180 Gossard Ave, East Lansing, MI 48823</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I am a young person without children who still recognizes the critical importance of our school district providing students the best opportunities to be prepared for life after school. I work at the State House of Representatives and my partner is working towards her Doctorate in Physics from MSU. I have an intimate understanding of the workings of the state government, deep connections to the university, and the desire to listen to every voice in the district and organize for everyone in the school system.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The East Lansing School District is fantastic, with a great superintendent, excellent board members, nearly ideal teacher:student ratios, high quality staff, good infrastructure, and phenomenal families. Our community is resilient and understands the values of respect and kindness. These values guide our district, empower our students, and represent a strong moral foundation. Building on that foundation is critical and more than possible, if we work for it.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Perhaps the biggest issues facing this, and every school district in America, is a disconnect from community. This disconnect leads to worse practical skills training, reduced student engagement, and weakened teacher, student, and guardian rights. When any one of these groups feels disrespected they lose motivation and involvement. I believe it is the job of the school board to ensure that this trifecta remain highly involved, because it improves student outcomes and makes the district desirable for teachers, students, and parents. This means collaborating with local unions, community service organizations, and developing in students lifelong confidence in their practical skills and abilities.</p>
<p><b>Estrella Torrez</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.884.1327</p>	<p><b>A:</b> For over 15 years, I have worked closely with Indigenous and Latine families in the Greater Lansing area through culturally supportive community events and K-12 after-school programming. Through these commitments, I have maintained a connection to various schools and educational settings and, more importantly, built relationships with families from diverse backgrounds. My intent has always been and continues to be to create spaces where students, parents, teachers, and community members across demographics feel supported and heard. In over the decade and a half of working alongside local schools, I have worked diligently to build trust by listening to students, parents, caregivers, teachers, administrators, and community leaders. This trust has led to co-developing projects and programming addressing concerns emerging from these discussions. I have learned that best practices are based on understanding community resources and setting realistic, agreed-upon expectations.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The district’s strengths are its dedicated staff and community. The district continues to grow in response to student and family voices. The commitment to listening earnestly to student and family needs is unique to the East Lansing School District. The hard work teachers, staff, and administrators put in to ensure a nurturing, caring, and supportive environment for our community’s students is more than a strength; it is inspiring.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Through creating a culturally sustaining/supportive learning environment, I want to continue strengthening the school district’s commitment to DEI and creating supportive educational environments for all students, faculty, and staff through intentional program and partnership development. Given a post-pandemic environment, it is becoming increasingly necessary for ELPS to emphasize socio-emotional and physical well-being support for all its students, faculty, and community members. Students are our top priority; however, we should also prioritize creating or maintaining a healthy work environment for staff and faculty. I also want to maintain strong lines of bidirectional communication with all stakeholders, including faculty, staff, caregivers, students, and the East Lansing and Michigan State communities.</p>



**Race: East Lansing Public School Board Member – partial term ending 12/31/2026**

**Description:** The Board of Education is responsible for setting educational, fiscal and administrative policies of the school district. It hires the superintendent, negotiates staff contracts, and sets the budget. The board members are elected at large and have overlapping terms.

**Term: Partial term ending 12/31/2026                      Non-Partisan                      Candidates: Choose One**

<b>East Lansing Public School Board Member – partial term ending 12/31/2026</b>	<b>Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the School Board?.</b>	<b>Q: 2. What are the strengths of the district?</b>	<b>Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a School Board Member?</b>
<b>Gary Holbrook</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Abbie Tykocki</b> Party: Non-Partisan <b>Biographical Info:</b> Campaign Web Site: www.vote4abbie.com Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/vote4abbietykocki Education: Columbia College - Master of Arts Management; Michigan State - Bachelor's Degree, Theatre Campaign Phone: 802.734.5833 Campaign Address: 1131 Blanchette Dr, East Lansing, MI 48823	<b>A:</b> Educational Insight - I worked as an educator for MSU where I prioritized professional development in cultural competency, implicit bias training, and anti-racist teaching practices. I bring the skills to make informed decisions that positively impact the broader educational community. I have also had direct involvement in educational policy and planning as a ELPS Return to School Work Group Covid-19 Planning Community Member and Robert L. Green Community Council Volunteer. <b>Leadership Skills</b> - The ability to lead effectively in diverse organizational settings. I previously served as Pinecrest Neighborhood Association President and I am a graduate of the E.L. Emerging Leaders program. <b>Advocacy and Representation:</b> My perspective emphasizes the importance of arts, community development, and civic engagement in education. I currently serve on the E.L. Housing Commission, as Vice Chair for the Lansing Regional Smart Zone and as a Crisis Advocate for the MSU Center for Survivors.	<b>A:</b> The East Lansing School District boasts several strengths, not the least of which are our experienced and dedicated educators. In 2024, our community successfully passed the Safety, Security, and Accessibility bond which highlights the district's emphasis on mental health and inclusive environments. We have strong leadership working to provide effective guidance and curate a positive school culture. Our diverse programs, integration of technology, and innovative curriculum drive academic excellence with strong student achievement. Active support and partnerships with local organizations and institutions, such as MSU, show a commitment to fostering students who are globally aware and engaged in their communities.	<b>A:</b> Excellence is our measure. We are on the cusp of a significant cultural and curricular shift with the prevalence of AI in our students' lives. Our educators are already collaborating with experts to thoughtfully integrate AI into our curriculum. I'd like to help in developing a clear policy framework that ensures equitable access and promotes digital literacy. Groundwork has been done to create more transparent feedback loops between parents/guardians and administrators about the student experience. I'd like the board to continue its work to nurture and refine this strength and stretch it toward excellence. I would also like to work with administration and within the constructs of the 2024 bond to recentralize our schools as hubs to the spokes of our community. I will advocate for efficient use of funds and explore additional resources to foster a diverse and inclusive school community environment.

**Race: Lansing Public School District Board Members**

**Description:** The Board of Education is responsible for setting educational, fiscal and administrative policies of the school district. It hires the superintendent, negotiates staff contracts, and sets the budget. The board members are elected at large and have overlapping terms.

**Term: 6 years                      Non-Partisan                      Candidates: Choose 3**

<b>Lansing Public School District Board Members</b>	<b>Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the School Board?</b>	<b>Q: 2. What are the strengths of the district?</b>	<b>Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a School Board Member?</b>
<b>James T. Allen</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Keturah Bouyer</b> Party: Non-Partisan <b>Biographical Info:</b> Facebook page: Keturah Bouyer Education: Bachelors of Science in Ministry Leadership; Associates of Science Campaign Phone: 517.214.8104 Campaign Address: 1008 Pierce Rd., Lansing, MI 48910	<b>A:</b> The most important qualification I have is as a current parent within the district (two graduates, two current students). Another qualification I have is being a certified teacher and experience as a full time teacher within the district. I have training in working with a diverse group of people groups that I achieved while pursuing my teacher certification. As a parent and educator within the district, I will bring both perspectives to the Board.	<b>A:</b> The strengths of the district are its diversity; there are people with vastly different ideas and perspectives working together. Another strength is the district's willingness to discuss hard topics (equity, curriculum, etc.) and its ability to work hard as resolving longstanding issues. Another strength that the district has is its rich history - many administrator, teachers, and staff are former graduates of the very district they now work in.	<b>A:</b> I want to address the issue of community and parent involvement. What are ways we can bring the table of educational decisions back to the community and parents? I want to address the issue of student retention, as well as teacher retention. How are we making our district attractive to parents where they feel Lansing is the best option (instead of the last option)?
<b>Joshua Crim</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.

**Race:** Lansing Public School District Board Members (continued)

**Description:** The Board of Education is responsible for setting educational, fiscal and administrative policies of the school district. It hires the superintendent, negotiates staff contracts, and sets the budget. The board members are elected at large and have overlapping terms.

**Term:** 6 years

**Non-Partisan**

**Candidates: Choose 3**

Lansing Public School District Board Members (continued)	Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the School Board?	Q: 2. What are the strengths of the district?	Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a School Board Member?
<p><b>LaVonté Heard</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i> <a href="http://www.lavonteheardforlansingschools.com">www.lavonteheardforlansingschools.com</a>  <i>Facebook page:</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561533343688">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561533343688</a>  <i>Education:</i> B. Mus., M. Ed., M.M., 2nd Year Doctoral Student - Educational Leadership  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.705.8833  <i>Campaign Address:</i> 317 Village Drive</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I am a former teacher in the Lansing School District and currently the executive director of Transcendence Performing Arts Centers, Inc., a performing arts academy that I founded that serves students in the Lansing community. I have a keen knowledge of budget allocations as well as curriculum design. I am a Doctoral Student in Educational Leadership at Central Michigan University and have robust experience in engaging in conversations surrounding current urban education trends and solutions for a brighter future for all students.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The Lansing School District is located in Michigan's capitol. It is situated in mid-Michigan and has the most diverse student population in the area, serving students of all races, nationalities, religions, gender identities, and creeds. The district's superpower is its availability to be visible in the community. The district is very effective in engaging the community in its major projects. The district is also distinctively suited, with its resources, to support students who need accommodations</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Parent and Family Engagement: We must address the disconnect between schools and student outcomes by involving those who understand the community's needs in shaping policies that support our children's success.  Empowering Teachers: I will promote strong partnerships between families and educators to rebuild trust and affirm that teachers are experts committed to every child's success.  Improving Educational Outcomes: Enhancing educational results requires the whole community's involvement, focusing on addressing achievement gaps and preparing students for future success.  Supporting Student Well-Being: We need to listen to students' needs for enrichment and mental health support, ensuring that our efforts on the school board address these issues and promote student achievement.</p>
<p><b>Dan Nowiski</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Facebook page:</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/dnowiski">https://www.facebook.com/dnowiski</a>  <i>Education:</i> BS in Education (Central Michigan University) and MA in Religion (Graceland University)  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 989.506.1843  <i>Campaign Address:</i> 737 Emily Ave, Lansing, MI 48910</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have been serving on the board since April, so I am aware of current issues before the board and recent decisions made. I'm a Professional Registered Parliamentarian with years of experience serving on and advising boards that use Robert's Rules of Order. I have previous experience teaching and coaching at the high school level in urban and rural school districts. As a statewide church administrator, I am skilled in listening to diverse viewpoints, navigating conflict, managing budgets, implementing child protection policies, planning strategically, and overseeing staff and volunteers. I have been a foster parent for several children in the district and have training in therapeutic care and adverse childhood experiences. I am an adoptive parent for a child in the district and biological parent for a future student. My wife was a district employee for over ten years, and I have volunteered on school &amp; district committees. I'm a certified board member with MI Assoc. of School Boards.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Diversity and multiculturalism are strengths of the district that have persuaded my wife and I to remain in Lansing and send our children to the public school system. The opportunity to learn how to live and learn with students and staff from a variety of backgrounds ethnically, socio-economically, religiously, etc. provides students with experiences that will yield life-long benefits as future leaders in the family, workplace, and wider community. The ability to offer a variety of academic offerings including career &amp; technical training, advanced placement courses, dual-enrollment, international baccalaureate, language immersion, environmental education, online learning, and more is a great strength of the district. Leadership in the green energy transition and efforts to pursue sustainability for facilities and operations are a great strength. Leveraging local, state, and federal grants to provide support services and programs is another strength that benefits students and families.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> My priorities as a school board member will continue to be increasing student achievement, pursuing sustainability, and increasing parent and community involvement. Data on attendance, graduation rates, and test scores are all moving in positive directions, but we must remain focused on ensuring that students have knowledge and skills to be prosperous beyond high school. We need to ensure students are showing growth each year and reaching proficiency in subject areas that are tested and in life skills needed to be contributing community members. It is important that efforts continue to reduce carbon emissions in ways that benefit the environment, improve the health of students, and reduce operating costs. Trusting relationships with students, families, and community members need to be developed and restored to support staff and provide the extra services that can help students overcome challenges and form connections that boost self-esteem, increase engagement, &amp; promote achievement.</p>

**Race:** Lansing Public School District Board Members (continued)

**Description:** The Board of Education is responsible for setting educational, fiscal and administrative policies of the school district. It hires the superintendent, negotiates staff contracts, and sets the budget. The board members are elected at large and have overlapping terms.

**Term:** 6 years      **Non-Partisan**      **Candidates: Choose 3**

<p><b>Lansing Public School District Board Members (continued)</b></p>	<p><b>Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the School Board?</b></p>	<p><b>Q: 2. What are the strengths of the district?</b></p>	<p><b>Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a School Board Member?</b></p>
<p><b>Kyle Richard</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i>                      kyleforlansingschools.com  <i>Facebook page:</i> Kyle Richard for Lansing Board of Education  <b>Education:</b> Grand Valley State University  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.667.6080  <i>Campaign Address:</i> 916 West St.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> 1. Experience Teaching in the Lansing School District: 2016-2018 I worked as a 7th-10th grade Social Studies teacher at J.W. Sexton High School (Go J. Dubbs). My time as a teacher was the most formative experience of my life and I want to be a voice for teachers on the board.                      2. Experience Meeting with Community Members and Lawmakers: Since leaving teaching I've been an active member in multiple organizations; Citizen's Climate Lobby, Greater Lansing DSA, and Rent is Too Damn High to name a few. I'm comfortable facilitating meetings and preparing agendas. I'm a natural listener capable of asking direct questions and making asks when necessary.                      3. Perspective as a Young Person: idk if I am the youngest person in this race or not but at 30 years old my lived experience has been uniquely American. I was in Kindergarten for Columbine, my first presidential election as a registered voter was Obama/Romney. The world is not what it once was, at the same time nothing has really changed.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> 1. Being a Public School District: The fact that we are holding democratic elections for board leadership is a strength of the Lansing School District. As a public school district Lansing Schools can focus on meeting the needs of our community rather than making a profit.                      2. Diversity: Lansing is made up of a multitude of diverse communities and the Lansing School District reflects this. Diversity will always be a strength. With diversity of culture and lived experience comes diversity of thought and ideas. Lansing School District feels like a place that understands we always do better when we put our heads together.                      3. Increased Graduation Rates: Earlier this year the Lansing School District celebrated record high graduation rates. Whatever changes were made that resulted in this increase should be studied and systems streamlined in an effort to maintain and further increase graduation rates.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> 1. Teacher Retention: I wasn't the first teacher to walk away from the Lansing School District and I wasn't the last either. I would want to assess any existing efforts to retain teachers in the district before making broad suggestion but as an unretained teacher myself I know what doesn't work and I know we can do better.                      2. Student Discipline: So often our discipline in schools is punitive and lacks a true educational element. If elected I would advocate for restorative and transformative practices for discipline that foster important life skills like conflict resolution and non-violent communication.                      3. 100% On-Site Renewables: Lansing School District is the largest public building stock in our area, meaning more square feet of roof top than anywhere else. Steps are already being taken to invest in solar energy, I want join in continuing this work and building infrastructure our community can rely on for decades to come.</p>
<p><b>Cirea Strobe</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Facebook page:</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/committeetolectcireastrode?mibextid=LQQJ4d">https://www.facebook.com/committeetolectcireastrode?mibextid=LQQJ4d</a>  <b>Education:</b> B.A. in Human Development and Family Studies with a focus on Child Development Education, MSU</p>	<p><b>A:</b> As a parent and a professional with a track record of helping organizations move forward, I bring a unique set of qualifications to the School Board. My experience is diverse and deeply rooted in both education and social work. With extensive experience working directly with children, I have gained a profound understanding of their educational and developmental needs. My background in social work has provided me with valuable insight into the challenges our students and families face outside the classroom, instilling in me the importance of offering holistic support to ensure that our students can thrive both academically and personally. Currently, I serve as a Senior Analyst in the Juvenile Justice Division for the State of Michigan, where my expertise in processing data and metrics enables me to critically analyze educational data, identify trends, and make informed decisions that can positively impact our youth. I am a strong advocate for data-driven decision-making.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The district has several strengths that stand out. One of the most significant achievements is the positive trajectory toward an 85% graduation rate by 2025, reflecting a strong commitment to student success. Additionally, programs like Families Overcoming Rough Times (F.O.R.T.) provide essential support to students facing temporary or inadequate living situations, ensuring they have the necessary resources to thrive. The district also offers free therapy through Talkspace, ensuring that students have access to vital mental health resources. Furthermore, recent facility improvements, including the introduction of new technologies in classrooms, the establishment of greenhouses, and updates to school buildings like Willow, Riddle, and Mt. Hope, demonstrate a dedication to creating a supportive and enriching learning environment.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> My commitment is to ensure every student in the district receives the quality education they deserve. If elected, I will focus on several key priorities. First, I will champion higher academic standards and innovative programs to help students excel. Transparency is also essential, and I will ensure regular, open communication with parents, students, and teachers to foster trust and collaboration. Promoting policies that celebrate diversity and create an inclusive environment for all students is another priority. Additionally, I will advocate for the integration of modern technology and digital tools to enhance learning and keep schools at the forefront of educational advancements.</p>

**Race:** Lansing Public School District Board Members (continued)

**Description:** The Board of Education is responsible for setting educational, fiscal and administrative policies of the school district. It hires the superintendent, negotiates staff contracts, and sets the budget. The board members are elected at large and have overlapping terms.

**Term:** 6 years

**Non-Partisan**

**Candidates: Choose 3**

<b>Lansing Public School District Board Members (continued)</b>	<b>Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the School Board?</b>	<b>Q: 2. What are the strengths of the district?</b>	<b>Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a School Board Member?</b>
<p><b>Simon Verghese</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i> www.simonvergheseforlansingschoolboard.com  <i>Facebook page:</i> Simon Verghese for Lansing School Board  <b>Education:</b> B.A. Finance, University of Michigan Ross School of Business  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> 517.728.8031  <b>Campaign Address:</b> P.O. Box 16211 Lansing, MI 48901</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Raised by educators, I deeply appreciate the transformative power of education and am committed to devoting myself to creating an environment where students, teachers, administrators, and families are enabled to achieve.</p> <p>I have managed billions of dollars in economic development projects, including key initiatives in Lansing, requiring strong financial acumen and strategic vision. Additionally, my extensive board governance experience with the Ingham County Community Health Centers, where I oversee a \$35+ million budget and multiple locations including school-based health clinics, has equipped me with the skills to handle complex financial and operational issues. My commitment to community well-being is further demonstrated through my work with school-based clinics that provide essential behavioral health services.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Its diverse and inclusive community enriches the learning environment, helping students prepare for a diverse world. The district benefits from a dedicated group of educators and staff who are committed to student success. Strong community partnerships with local businesses and organizations provide additional resources and opportunities for students. The district also offers comprehensive support services, including school-based health clinics, which address students' behavioral and emotional needs.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Below are my core priorities that inspired me to run for Lansing School Board as they have been impactful in my own life's journey:</p> <p>Improving student achievement and graduation rates to ensure all students receive the support they need to excel academically and are prepared for future success.</p> <p>Focusing on safety, equity, and inclusion to create a quality learning environment where every student feels valued and has equal access to resources and opportunities.</p> <p>Creating mentorship programs that foster academic and life success by pairing students with caring and dedicated adults who can provide guidance and support throughout their educational journey.</p> <p>Preparing students for skilled trades and college completion to equip them with diverse pathways to success, ensuring they are ready for the workforce or further education.</p>

## Did you know...

### Correcting Your Absentee Ballot

- Voters have until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 8, three days after election Day, to correct any signature issues on their ballots.
- Michigan voters now have a right to be notified if their ballot is rejected because of a signature issue and to be given the opportunity to correct – or “cure” – the issue.
- If your ballot was rejected because of a signature issue, your local Clerk will contact you and tell you how to fix the issue.

**Category: Lansing Community College Board of Trustees**

**Race:** Lansing Community College Board of Trustees - 6 year term

**Description:** Lansing Community College is directed and governed by a Board of Trustees, consisting of seven members, elected at large in the community college district on a nonpartisan basis.

**Term:** 6 years                      **Non-Partisan**                      **Candidates:** Choose 2

Lansing Community College Board of Trustees	Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the Lansing Community College Board?	Q: 2. What do you see as the role of the community college?	Q: 3. What is your vision for LCC?
<p><b>Terry Frazier</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Education:</i> PhD Educational Leadership and Policy Studies with Certification in Community College Leadership  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> terry4LCC@gmail.com  <i>Campaign Address:</i> terry4LCC@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I will bring 25+ years of higher education experience to Lansing Community College Board. I have an earned Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and a certification in Community College Teaching and Leadership from Iowa State University. I have served for the past 12 years in executive leadership roles at Alabama A &amp; M University and Michigan State University. I am also an incumbent to the LCC board which gives me some experience working to support LCC. As well I am a member of multiple higher education organizations on a national, regional and local level.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The proper role of the Board is to guide and support the president in strategic planning and financial oversight. With a focus on those two areas the board will engage the community, advocacy for funding, promote student success and institutional effectiveness. The Board is the governing body for LCC that directs the president and their team on the best ways for institutional success. The Board holds the institution accountable to the citizens of Ingham County.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> My vision for LCC is that the college will provide opportunities for people to gain knowledge that is affordable. LCC should be one of the leading institutions in Ingham County in the development of social and economic growth. I vision LCC being the heartbeat of the community.</p>
<p><b>Ryan J. Smith</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Facebook page:</i> Ryan J Smith for LCC Trustee  <i>Education:</i> Williamston High School &amp; Michigan State University  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.881.8291  <i>Campaign Address:</i> 3705 Parula Dr.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I think there are three important attributes of successful leaders.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The ability to listen: Successful leaders represent everyone, not just the people that agree with them. They are also always looking for new and better ways to do things, whether by their own ideas or listening to someone else's.</li> <li>2. They are willing to compromise: Finding ways to make various groups of people happy is often difficult. But successful leaders are able to mediate the differences between individuals and groups to find solutions and compromises to drive the community forward.</li> <li>3. They work hard and lead by example: Time is our most valuable asset as people. Successful leaders invest significant time into building collaboration - developing ideas and making sure those ideas are then implemented.</li> </ol> <p>As a lifetime member of our community and long time neighborhood leader, I have always brought these three qualities to the table, and would once again bring them to the LCC Board of Trustees</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Like any educational institution, the role should be to assist the students of our community find the correct career path that fits their talents and abilities.</p> <p>Whether this is students taking the "traditional" approach or deciding on a vocational pathway or finding their inner entrepreneur. We need to make sure we are supplying every pathway and opportunity for our students to find success and to help prepare them for the careers of today and tomorrow.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I think a successful community college acts like an educational Swiss army knife. It has the ability to morph into whatever the needs of the student require and offers them a wide variety of pathways and opportunities based on their abilities.</p> <p>I think LCC has done a great job in offering these opportunities. I hope to assist in continuing to develop existing pathways and look to forge the way into the jobs and careers of tomorrow.</p>

**Race:** Lansing Community College Board of Trustees - 6 year term (continued)

**Description:** Lansing Community College is directed and governed by a Board of Trustees, consisting of seven members, elected at large in the community college district on a nonpartisan basis.

**Term:** 6 years      **Non-Partisan**      **Candidates: Choose One**

<b>Lansing Community College Board of Trustees (continued)</b>	<b>Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the Lansing Community College Board?</b>	<b>Q: 2. What do you see as the role of the community college?</b>	<b>Q: 3. What is your vision for LCC?</b>
<p><b>Chatum Taylor</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i> www.chatumtaylorforlcc.com  <i>Facebook page:</i> Chatum Taylor for Lansing Community College Trustee  <b>Education:</b> Bachelors in Management  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> 517.214.4791  <b>Campaign Address:</b> P.O. Box 21144 Lansing, MI 48909</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have lived in the greater Lansing area for over 40 years. I bring a background in Credit Union management and a financial background of over 20 years. I am an alumnus of LCC and hold a bachelor’s degree in management from the University of Phoenix. I worked directly with the students, faculty, and staff for over 5 years when I was the overseer for the Credit Union branch located in the Gannon building at LCC, becoming a mentor to most students. Formerly, I served on the LCC alumni committee association helping to strategize ways to increase funding for student scholarships. I bring a deep passion for our students success in whatever pathway they choose.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> LCC has been and continues to be a staple in our community. Lansing Community College has grown in its reputation, image, and diverse population of students. The role of the community college is to provide an education for all students, no matter what area of life they are in, that’s affordable, attainable, and providing “quality” education. To continue to offer unique, diverse, programs and that keep up with the ever-changing economic workforces of today’s times.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> My vision for LCC is to enhance LCC’s role as a community member by deepening strategic relationships and engagement with LCC partnerships. Recognizing the diverse needs that LCC serves, will help me collaborate with the board to look at relevant programs and detailed strategic plans tailored to all communities.</p> <p>I want to help to continue bridging the gap between financial literacy and financial capability by working with the current programs LCC offers and by looking at more effective student-options to mandate financial wellness course (s) before graduation. Keeping tuition affordable for students will continue to help in these efforts. I have a vision of LCC students staying the course of their total program without gaps by working with the board to figure out ways to get valuable, measured feedback from students</p>

## Did you know...

### Michigan Elections are Decentralized

Michigan’s elections are carried out at the local level by 1,520 city and township clerks across the state.

- 83 Michigan county clerks support and supplement the work of local clerks by coordinating election materials, managing county-level contracts with election vendors, programming the election equipment, and providing information to voters.
- Michigan Bureau of Elections is a non-partisan office within the Michigan Department of State (MDOS), providing guidance and standards to all clerks to ensure elections are carried out uniformly and in accordance with state and federal laws.
- Secretary of State is the state’s chief election officer. The SOS has broad authority over elections but does not directly administer them.

**Category: Lansing Community College Board of Trustees – partial term ending 12/31/2026**

**Description:** Lansing Community College is directed and governed by a Board of Trustees, consisting of seven members, elected at large in the community college district on a nonpartisan basis.

**Term: Partial Term Ending 12/31/2026**

**Non-Partisan**

**Candidates: Choose One**

<b>Lansing Community College Board of Trustees - partial term ending 12/31/2026</b>	<b>Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the Lansing Community College Board?</b>	<b>Q: 2. What do you see as the role of the community college?</b>	<b>Q: 3. What is your vision for LCC?</b>
<p><b>Hope Lovell</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b>  <i>Campaign Web Site:</i> <a href="http://www.hopelovellforlcctrustee.com/">www.hopelovellforlcctrustee.com/</a>  <i>Facebook page:</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558935076714">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558935076714</a>  <b>Education:</b> Bachelor of Arts Finance, Michigan State University, Master of Public Health, University of Michigan  <i>Campaign Phone:</i> 517.928.5322  <i>Campaign Address:</i> P.O. Box 81168 Lansing, MI 48908</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have over 20 years of executive leadership and board governance experience and a deep commitment to community service. As a corporate c-suite executive, I manage substantial operations and lead teams across multiple sectors, including health and finance.                      I have served as the Board Chair of Ingham Community Health Centers and have been involved with various nonprofit organizations. These experiences have taught me the importance of effective governance, fiscal responsibility, and the need for strategic innovation—all of which I would bring to the Lansing Community College Board. As a result of my leadership excellence in governance, I was awarded Board Member of the Year in 2022 by the Michigan Primary Care Association and recognized by Modern Healthcare as an honoree for Excellence in Governance in their July 2023 publication. In January 2023, I was featured in the Lansing City Pulse’s Person of the Year issue for my crucial role in the development of the new Allen Community Health</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Community colleges play a crucial role in providing accessible, affordable, and high-quality education to a diverse population. They serve as a vital bridge for individuals seeking to improve their skills, advance their careers, or pursue higher education. Community colleges are essential in addressing local workforce needs by offering programs that align with industry demands and providing pathways to skilled trades, certifications, and degrees. Community colleges support lifelong learning by offering opportunities for personal and professional growth at every stage of life.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> My vision for Lansing Community College is to establish it as a leading institution that excels in academic and vocational training. My priorities are:                      Access to Education &amp; Financial Assistance: Ensuring that education remains accessible and affordable for all students.                      Mentorship to Graduation: Developing and enhancing mentorship programs that support students throughout their academic journeys.                      Pathways to Skilled Trades &amp; Certifications: Expanding opportunities for students to gain certifications and training in skilled trades, preparing them for high-demand careers in our region.                      Career Preparation &amp; Placement: Enhance career preparation services to ensure that students are well-equipped for the workforce.</p>

**“We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.”**

*Thomas Jefferson*

## Race: Leslie Public School Board Members

**Description:** The Board of Education is responsible for setting educational, fiscal and administrative policies of the school district. It hires the superintendent, negotiates staff contracts, and sets the budget. The board members are elected at large and have overlapping terms.

**Term: 4 Years                      Non-Partisan                      Candidates: Choose 4**

Leslie Public School Board Members	Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the School Board?	Q: 2. What are the strengths of the district?	Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a School Board Member?
<b>David Cowing</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Mary Louise Crowl</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Bradley S. Dunlap</b> Party: Non-Partisan	<b>A:</b> I am a parent of a child currently enrolled in the school district. I am also an alumni of Leslie Public Schools as I spent the entirety of my K-12 education as a Blackhawk. I have lived here my entire life, own a five generation business, and have a deep connection with this community. I also sit on our community's planning commission. Our business is a multi-generational family farm. I am an active listener and put in the work to research what is going on and how I can help whether that be with change or with helping to understand. I am dedicated to our community, our school district, and all the families we serve.	<b>A:</b> Our district is a small rural district, which I believe is its biggest strength. We are able to offer a safe learning environment that reflects the values of our community. Our children are individuals in our school and not a number. The teachers and staff truly care about our kids and strive to provide them with the best education possible ensuring they are ready to be active members in our community.	<b>A:</b> One area I would like to continue to address is teacher retention. I believe that when high-quality teachers are taken care of, they stay. When high-quality teachers stay, students grow. We have taken strides in ensuring that our teachers feel supported and have the desire to stay. I would like to continue this conversation and efforts to ensure that Leslie Public Schools has and retains the brightest and best educators that our students need and deserve.  I would also like to continue to work on our testing scores. Over the last two years we have improved, but I believe there are still areas available for improvement. We have highly-qualified staff who are working incredibly hard, and aren't afraid to try something new to accomplish this goal, which is very encouraging. I am confident that we will continue to see improvement under our school leadership's guidance.
<b>Bud Fifield</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Eric Isham</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.

## Race: Mason Public School Board Members

**Description:** The Board of Education is responsible for setting educational, fiscal and administrative policies of the school district. It hires the superintendent, negotiates staff contracts, and sets the budget. The board members are elected at large and have overlapping terms.

**Term: 6 Years                      Non-Partisan                      Candidates: No more than 2**

Mason Public School Board Members	Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the School Board?	Q: 2. What are the strengths of the district?	Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a School Board Member?
<b>Matt Bennett</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Matt Hall</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Lacy Harding</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.



**Race:** Mason Public School Board Members (continued)

**Description:** The Board of Education is responsible for setting educational, fiscal and administrative policies of the school district. It hires the superintendent, negotiates staff contracts, and sets the budget. The board members are elected at large and have overlapping terms.

**Term:** 6 Years      **Non-Partisan**      **Candidates:** No more than 2

Mason Public School Board Members (continued)	Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the School Board?	Q: 2. What are the strengths of the district?	Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a School Board Member?
<p><b>Michael Kelly</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan  <b>Biographical Info:</b></p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have served 6 years on the Mason School Board, worked with two district administrations, and witnessed the most educationally disruptive and impactful events this community and its families have ever experienced. For more than 30 years I have worked with schools, communities, and industry to solve problems and access resources, from drug prevention and education to the development and implementation of online learning and training.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Mason benefits from a proud and supportive community and exceptional teachers and staff. The District strives to create supportive learning and work environments for students and staff, and values practices that help new teachers become better educators.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Engage and support parents. Parents are the primary teacher in the education of their children. We must strive to create opportunities for parents to be a more informed and meaningful part of their child's education. It is not easy, but we must encourage parent responsibility with supportive policies and practices that empower parents and remove barriers to their involvement.</p> <p>Our policies must reflect Mason needs and values, and guide the district to make the best decisions for our students, families, and the community. Excellence in academics and extra-curriculars should be driven by a desire to best prepare our children for their future -- in school or in the workforce.</p> <p>Mason values kindness, caring, consideration, and respect for every student and every family. Establishing and enforcing exceptional standards of behavior and respect for all students, parents, and staff is essential to improving educational outcomes and forming strong and confident young adults.</p>
<p><b>Brandon Leffew</b>  <b>Party:</b> Non-Partisan</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I have been a Special Education Paraprofessional and Substitute teacher for the past five school years. I am also the proud parent of an eleventh grader with Mason Public Schools.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> For the most part, we have a tight-knit community of students who are excelling in their academics and are looking to their lives after they graduate. I know many parents are active with School activities and support the School District as a whole.</p>	<p><b>A:</b> I want to ensure that the voices of the students as well as the parents are heard. I want them to know that as an educator myself, I will listen to their concerns and do my best to help resolve them. Staff, Parents and students in particular need to have faith in their School Board, as well as those on the Board.</p>



## Race: Williamston Community Schools Board Members

**Description:** The Board of Education is responsible for setting educational, fiscal and administrative policies of the school district. It hires the superintendent, negotiates staff contracts, and sets the budget. The board members are elected at large and have overlapping terms.

**Term: 6 Years**

**Non-Partisan**

**Candidates: 2**

<b>Williamston Community Schools Board Members</b>	<b>Q: 1. What special qualifications would you bring to the School Board?</b>	<b>Q: 2. What are the strengths of the district?</b>	<b>Q: 3. What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as a School Board Member?</b>
<b>Julie Conley</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.
<b>Heather Gorsline</b> Party: Non-Partisan <b>Biographical Info:</b> <i>Facebook page: Vote Heather Gorsline for School Board</i> <i>Campaign Address: 545 Cedar Ridge Drive</i>	<b>A:</b> As a parent of three Williamston students, I have been privileged to volunteer in various classrooms & gain experience supporting various teaching and learning styles. I have actively advocated for my own son's IEP & have helped other parents understand the importance of being an active partner in their child's education. I strive to maintain positive & productive relationships with teachers & administrators and bring a collaborative attitude to all situations. My husband & I are small business owners, property owners, & have been rooted in the Williamston community for quite some time. Seeing a need to address the problem of food insecurity that many of our district's students face, we founded the Weekend Survival Kids food program that helped provide over 700,000 meals to children in Williamston & surrounding communities for over 12 years. I care about kids & their futures & am committed to working together with others to help provide opportunities for them as they grow	<b>A:</b> Williamston has attracted and retained very gifted and talented educators and has been able to foster excellent administrative and community support within the district. Our community understands the need to support the district's strategic plans financially and physically, and through the efforts of a variety of volunteers and service organizations (like Rotary, Kiwanis, PTA, Booster Clubs, etc.), the district encourages its community members to actively provide many advantages to our students. Our district's leadership is transparent and inclusive, and together with the community can reach goals that positively impact our students.	<b>A:</b> With our newly passed bond proposal, I am excited to support the district's leadership and the Board in implementing the changes that will be forthcoming. It is an exciting time in Williamston as we make progress in support of our kids' futures. I also hope to be an advocate for students needing mental health resources and individualized educational plans and will continue to show support for our resource room staff and be the voice for parents whose students require accommodations in and outside of the classroom.
<b>Ginger Vincent</b> Party: Non-Partisan	No response available.	No response available.	No response available.

## Did you know...

### Voter Intimidation

Interfering with a voter's right to cast a ballot is illegal.

Voter intimidation may include, but is not limited to the following:

- Individuals who are not election workers or officials who ask voters for personal information.
- Photographing or videotaping voters without their consent.
- Blocking the entrance to an early voting site or polling place, Clerk's Office, or absentee ballot box.
- Questioning or harassing voters.
- Disseminating false or misleading information.

**Proposal Listing  
Ingham County, Michigan  
November 5, 2024 General Election**

**Ingham County  
INGHAM COUNTY HOUSING AND HOMELESS MILLAGE**

For the purposes of expanding and improving the quality of housing available to low- and moderate-income families, to prevent and reduce homelessness, to provide services to unhoused persons in Ingham County, including the purchase, acquisition, construction, maintenance, operation, improvement, extension, or repair of housing facilities and the elimination of detrimental housing conditions, and funding other housing programs, shall the Constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Ingham, Michigan be increased by up to 0.5000 of one (1) mill, (50 cents per thousand dollars of taxable value), for a period of four (4) years (2024-2027) inclusive? If approved and levied in full, this Millage will raise an estimated \$5,618,512 in the first calendar year of the levy, based on state taxable valuation.

YES [  ]      NO [  ]

**City of Lansing, City of East Lansing, Meridian Township,  
Lansing Township & Delhi Township**

**CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (CATA)  
MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSITION**

**CITY OF LANSING, CITY OF EAST LANSING, MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP,  
LANSING TOWNSHIP and DELHI TOWNSHIP**

Shall the previously voter approved millage established at 3.007 mills (that being \$3.007 per thousand dollars of taxable value) and reduced to 2.9895 mills (that being \$2.9895 per thousand dollars of taxable value) by the millage rollbacks required under the Headlee Amendment to the Michigan Constitution be renewed and authorized to be levied by the Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA), for continued public transportation service, as provided for by Public Act 55 of 1963, as amended, on real and personal property located within the City of Lansing, City of East Lansing, Meridian Township, Lansing Township, and Delhi Township for the years 2026 through 2030 inclusive, which is a period of five years? (The current levy was approved by the voters in 2020 and is authorized through 2025.) Based on currently available taxable value data, if approved and levied, this millage is estimated to generate approximately \$24,139,928.06 in 2026.

In accordance with State law, portion(s) of the millage may also be captured by the Downtown Development Authorities, Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities, and other such Tax Increment Financing Districts as established by the City of Lansing, City of East Lansing, Charter Township of Meridian, Delhi Charter Township, and Lansing Charter Township.

YES [  ]      NO [  ]

**City of East Lansing  
EAST LANSING CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSAL 1**

The proposed Charter amendment below was initiated by a citizen initiated petition and not by the East Lansing City Council.

“The Amendment states the City shall not restrict relationships of persons living together as a household or residing in homes, or interfere with rights of owners to live with persons of their choice, so long as they are not rent-paying tenants. The City will make zoning and rental records public. The City must give advance notice of housing penalties. Repeat violations of zoning and rental laws can be a misdemeanor if knowing and intentional. Persons in federal service get a house-sitting exemption from rental laws. The City shall use state law to define “renter,” “rental unit,” “lease,” “tenant” and “occupancy.”

YES [  ]      NO [  ]

Be  
informed.  
Vote  
informed.



**VOTE 411**  
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

**MICHIGAN  
HAS EARLY VOTING  
AND SAME DAY  
VOTER REGISTRATION!**



VISIT [WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/VOTE](http://WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/VOTE)

It's your voice  
**VOTE!**

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF LANSING AREA

### How YOU can support the League of Women Voters

The League is dedicated to working for a more perfect union by encouraging citizen education and participation. Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all people over the age of 16, without regard to gender, gender identity, race, political affiliation, religion or belief, color, ethnic origins, sexual orientation, veteran or disability status.

For more information about joining or to contribute to the work of the League, visit our website at [www.lwvlansing.org](http://www.lwvlansing.org).

### Election Protection Hotlines

For assistance in English, call  
**866-OUR-VOTE** (866-687-8683)

Para recibira ayuda en español, llama a  
**888-VE-Y-VOTA** (888-839-8682)

للمساعدة باللغة العربية، اتصل على  
**844-YALLA-US** (844-925-5287)

For assistance in Bengali,  
Cantonese, Hindi, Korean,  
Mandarin, Tagalog, Urdu or  
Vietnamese, call  
**888-API-VOTE** (888-274-8683)

