

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3



# The City Pulse Election Guide

Welcome to our 2020 Election Preview issue, produced in cooperation with the League of Women Voters, which has generously allowed City Pulse to use selected content in a common effort to better inform voters on what is the most important election in the nation's history since at least 1932, when Franklin Roosevelt defeated Herbert Hoover in the midst of the Great Depression. Then the nation's well being was at stake because of the economic havoc. Today, we face not just a recession, but the greatest health challenge since 1918 as well as what many see as an unprecedented assault on constitutional rights on multiple fronts.

This guide is unfortunately incomplete. We will present additional races next week, including many in Eaton County as well as several school board

For complete guides by the League of Women Voters for local and state races, see [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) and [www.LWVMI.org](http://www.LWVMI.org).

races. We hope to work with the local and state league next year and in the future to present you the league's complete guides on races in mid-Michigan. While we took into consideration presenting this information early, it's clear as Michigan and the nation move in unprecedented numbers to absentee voting that it would have been better to present it even earlier, given that people are already voting. We will do better in future years as we adjust to

changing voting patterns.

The excerpts this week and next are generously underwritten by the Lansing City Clerk's Office and the City Pulse for Community Journalism. If you wish to donate, please see [www.lansingcitypulse.com/donation](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com/donation).

— **BERL SCHWARTZ**, editor and publisher

### Coming next week

The League of Women Voters information on candidates for candidates for judges, university trustees, selected school boards and a selection of races in Eaton County will appear in City Pulse along with endorsements in statewide, congressional and local races.

## Voting underway in Greater Lansing. Here's how to do it.

At the South Washington office complex, a city of Lansing polling location, Margaret Suleyman does not go inside to vote.

Instead, she places her absentee ballot in a secure drop box outside.

"I'm voting absentee because of my age and the coronavirus," Suleyman said. "I'm old and black, and that's the combo right now."

As the Nov. 3 election draws closer, a record number of Michigan residents are making a similar decision.

As of Sept. 21, over 2.3 million absentee ballot requests have been submitted, according to the secretary of state. This is a significant portion of Michigan's registered voters, which number nearly 8 million, according to the Michigan Voter Information Center.

Across Ingham County, clerks Chris Swope of Lansing, Jennifer Shuster of East Lansing and Evan Hope of Delhi Township said that together they have already sent out over 50,000 absentee ballots, and more requests just keep coming in.

Swope said his office has sent out nearly 30,000 ballots to voters, including those living out of state or overseas.

"We had 27,000 ballots going out the door in one day," Swope said, "and we plan to send out several hundred more in our next wave."

East Lansing has also mailed over 8,839 absentee ballots, and Delhi Township has sent out an estimate of 9,200.

Ingham county reported around 209,500 registered voters for the 2020 election.

According to Swope, this past year saw an increase in Lansing's local election participation, which he attributes to absentee voting and expects to continue with the November election.

"Lansing had two municipal elections last year, and we did see about a 25% increase in participation," Swope said. "I don't know if there will be that much of a change for November's election, but



Danielle James for City Pulse

Lansing resident Margaret Suleyman dropping off her absentee ballot.



Stories in this special section are paid for by readers like you through contributions to the CityPulse Fund for Community Journalism. To contribute, please go to [lansingcitypulse.com/donation](http://lansingcitypulse.com/donation).

we definitely anticipate an increase."

Swope said that he expects mail-in voting to play a large role in this election as the pandemic continues to affect Michiganders.

"Personally, I think the popular trend will be voting at home, but any avenue is available to voters," Swope said. "We're trying to make all options as safe as possible."

"I think every voter should decide which way they feel most secure," he said.

Swope said he urges voters who do not plan on heading to the polls to consider voting absentee.

"It's not too late," Swope said. "We can mail ballots out legally until the Friday before the election, although I wouldn't recommend waiting that long."

Delhi Township Clerk Hope called voting absentee "is a safe way to vote and protect your health, and the process is secure."

The Michigan Voter Information Center has provided voters with steps to take to ensure that they are registered to vote and follow the correct procedure for requesting a ballot.

### How to check voter registration status:

Voter registration can be done online, at a local branch of the secretary of state or at a local clerk's office.

To be eligible to vote in Michigan, residents must be U.S. citizens, over 18 years of age and not serving a sentence in jail or prison. Voter registration is open through election day, and some clerk's offices have opened satellite offices for registration purposes.



In order to register, residents must show proof of address with one of the following documents: a Michigan driver's license or State ID card, a current utility bill, a bank statement, a paycheck or government check, or another government document.

Voters can check their registration status <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>

### How to request an absentee ballot:

A voter must live in a city for at least 30 days to request an absentee ballot there.

There are several ways to request an absentee ballot.

"We've mailed out applications to all Michigan voters," Swope said. "You can fill out the application to receive a ballot and mail it back in, or if you have a Michigan driver's license you can go online and apply."

Ballots can also be requested in person at a local clerk's office. They must be requested by mail before 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30, but they can be retrieved in person until 4 p.m. the day before the election. Again, though, waiting to the last minute for a mailed ballot could be too late.

Voters can track their ballot or view a sample at <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index> while they wait to receive it.

### What to do after receiving an absentee ballot?

See How to vote, Page 16



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

## How to vote

from page 15

Once a ballot is received, residents cast their votes and sign the ballot envelope. The ballot can then be mailed back to the City Clerk's Office or placed in a secure drop-box location.

According to Swope, Lansing has 15 drop box locations open 24 hours a day. "Ninety percent of the city is within a mile and a half of one of our drop boxes," Swope said, "so it should be pretty convenient for most voters."

Lansing drop-box locations include fire stations, community centers, the CATA CTC station and the City Cemetery Office.

East Lansing voters can drop their ballots at the north lot of East Lansing City Hall at 410 Abbot Road, the MSU CATA Transportation Center at the Shaw Parking Ramp No. 1 or the East Lansing Department of Public Works at 1800 E. State Road.

Also, East Lansing announced Tuesday it will open a satellite office Oct. 5 at Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road. Voters can register, vote and turn in absentee ballots there before Election Day. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays Oct. 5-Oct. 30 and Monday, Nov. 2. Hours on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Hours on Election Day are 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Delhi Township voters can drop off their ballots at the drop-box in front of the Township Offices at 2074 N Aurelius Road.

Other drop-box locations can be found online at the Michigan Voter Information Center. Locations vary by area, according to Swope.

"Michigan operates under one election law, so all clerks follow the same rules," Swope said. "The only differences between offices are things like location of drop boxes and hours of operation."

Ballots must be dropped off by 8 p.m. on election day. Mailed ballots can arrive within 14 days after the election if they are postmarked by Nov. 2, according to a Michigan Court of Claims ruling.

### What are some common mistakes made when filling out a ballot?

According to Swope, one of the most common mistakes a voter can make is forgetting to sign the outside of the ballot envelope.

"We use their signature and compare it to one on file to ensure that no fraud is committed," Swope said. "If they don't sign it, we do try to contact them to let them know, but the voter has to sign the envelope in order for their vote to count."

Is there any cost for voting absentee?

According to Swope, voting absentee will not add any additional cost during the November election.

"We are paying for postage for this election," Swope said. "Most communities have not paid for postage in the past, but the secretary of state is providing funding in this election."

Can an absentee vote be changed after it is mailed in?

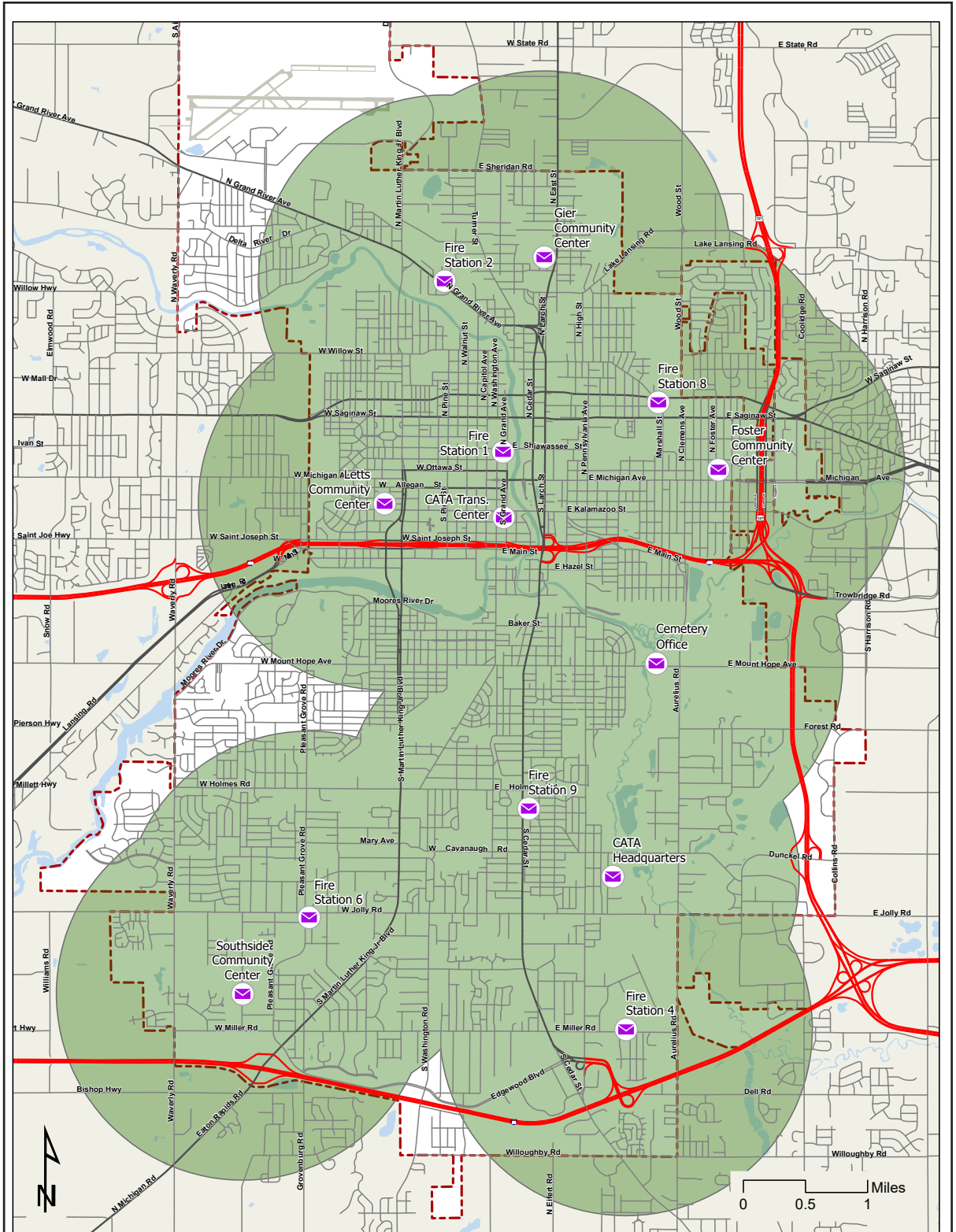
According to the Voter Information Center, a voter can spoil their ballot if they wish to change their vote for any reason.

A voter must submit a written request to their city or township clerk, sign the request and state how they would like to receive their replacement ballot.

This request must be received by 2 p.m. the Saturday before the election if received by mail. A ballot may be spoiled in person at the clerk's office until 4 p.m. the Monday prior to the election.

If a voter has not returned their ballot, they can surrender it or sign a statement stating that the ballot was lost and vote at the polls.

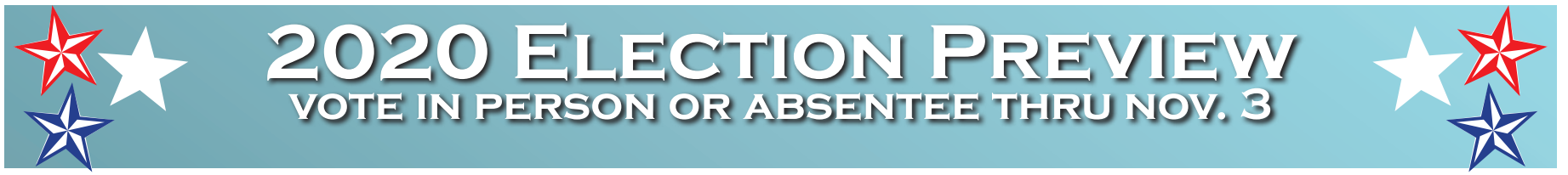
— DANIELLE JAMES



## Ballot Drop-Box Locations

Location	Address
Gier Community Center	2400 Hall St,
Foster Community Center	200 N Foster Ave
Letts Community Center	1220 W Kalamazoo St
Southside Community Center	5825 Wise Rd
CATA Transportation Center	420 S Grand Ave
CATA Headquarters	4615 Tranter St
Mt. Hope Cemetery Office	1709 E Mt Hope Ave
Fire Station 1	120 E Shiawassee St
Fire Station 2	2114 N Grand River Ave
Fire Station 4	1435 E Miller Rd
Fire Station 6	5135 Pleasant Grove Rd
Fire Station 8	815 Marshall St
Fire Station 9	520 Glendale Ave
Lansing City Hall	124 W. Michigan
South Washington Office Complex	2500 S. Washington

Courtesy Lansing City Clerk



## Statewide Proposals on November 3, 2020 Ballot

**Statewide Proposal 20-1**  
**Michigan Use of State and Local Park Funds Amendment**

A proposed constitutional amendment to allow money from oil and gas mining on state-owned lands to continue to be collected in state funds for land protection and creation and maintenance of parks, nature areas, and public recreation facilities; and to describe how money in those state funds can be spent.  
 [Referred to the Ballot by the Legislature]

***This proposal would:***

- Allow the State Parks Endowment Fund to continue receiving money from sales of oil and gas from state-owned lands to improve, maintain and purchase land for State parks, and for Fund administration, until its balance reaches \$800,000,000.
- Require subsequent oil and gas revenue from state-owned lands to go into the Natural Resources Trust Fund.
- Require at least 20% of Endowment Fund annual spending go toward State park improvement.
- Require at least 25% of Trust Fund annual spending go toward parks and public recreation areas and at least 25% toward land conservation.

***Should this proposal be adopted?***

**YES**     **NO**

(Source: Michigan Secretary of State)  
 A **“yes”** vote supports making changes to how revenue in the state’s park-related funds can be spent, including (a) making projects to renovate recreational facilities eligible for grants and (b) allowing the parks endowment fund to be spent on park operations and maintenance, and (c) removing the cap on the size of the natural resources trust fund.

A **“no”** vote opposes making changes to how revenue in the state’s park-related funds can be spent, thus (a) continuing to prohibit projects to renovate recreational facilities from receiving grants and (b) continuing to prohibit the parks endowment fund from being spent on park operations and maintenance, and (c) keeping the cap on the size of the natural resources trust fund.

**Support for: Vote Yes for MI Water Wildlife & Parks**  
 is leading the campaign in support of the ballot measure.  
 Website: [www.miwaterwildlifeparks.com/](http://www.miwaterwildlifeparks.com/)

**Opposed: No organized group has been formed as of September 8, 2020.**  
 (Source: Ballotpedia)

**Statewide Proposal 20-2**  
**Michigan Search Warrant for Electronic Data Amendment**

A proposed constitutional amendment to require a search warrant in order to access a person’s electronic data or electronic communications.  
 [Referred to the Ballot by the Legislature]

***This proposal would:***

- Prohibit unreasonable searches or seizures of a person’s electronic data and electronic communications.
- Require a search warrant to access a person’s electronic data or electronic communications, under the same conditions currently required for the government to obtain a search warrant to search a person’s house or seize a person’s things

***Should this proposal be adopted?***

**YES**     **NO**

(Source: Michigan Secretary of State)  
 A **“yes”** vote supports this constitutional amendment to require a search warrant to access a person’s electronic data and electronic communications.

A **“no”** vote opposes this constitutional amendment to require a search warrant to access a person’s electronic data and electronic communications.

**No organized groups for or against this proposal have been formed as of September 8, 2020.**  
 (Source: Ballotpedia)

# HOW TO GET INFORMATION OR HELP

- Michigan’s Voter Information Center: [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote)
- Your local or county Clerk’s office
- MichiganVoting.org  
 (Election Protection Coalition)
- The League of Women Voters, ACLU, NAACP or another voter advocacy group



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### U.S. Senate Term: 6 years • Vote for ONE (1)

**Duties:** U.S. Senators share the responsibility with U.S. Representatives for enactment of the nation's laws as provided in the U.S. Constitution. Senators ratify international treaties and confirm Presidential appointments of Cabinet members, federal judges, and foreign ambassadors.

**Qualifications:** A Senator must be at least 30 years of age and a U.S. Citizen for at least 9 years. There are 100 Senators, two from each state.

#### GARY PETERS, Democrat

**Website:** petersformichigan.com/  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/PetersForMichigan  
**Twitter:** twitter.com/GaryPeters

**Occupation / Current Position:** United States Senator

**Education:** After Alma College, I put myself through night school, earning degrees from Michigan State University, Wayne State University Law School and an M.B.A. from the University of Detroit Mercy.

**Qualifications and Experience:** Michigan native, 20+ years experience in business, served in the U.S. Navy Reserve rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, served in elected positions in local, state, and federal governments.



#### QUESTION 1

**HEALTH CARE:** What do you see as the federal government's role in health care? Given the Covid19 pandemic, what are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. health coverage, policies and programs, including Medicare and Medicaid?

As we continue to work through the pandemic, it's never been more critical that Michiganders have access to quality, affordable health care. I have worked to protect and strengthen the Affordable Care Act and oppose the GOP-led lawsuit to overturn it in the Supreme Court which would gut protections for pre-existing conditions for over 1.7 million Michiganders and raise health care costs. I've fought to ensure Medicare and Medicaid are fully funded, and worked to bring down the cost of prescription drugs by passing legislation to fight big pharmaceutical companies' from monopolizing the lower cost, generic drug market.

#### QUESTION 2

**ECONOMY:** What federal policies do you support for a healthy economy and to help the broader American public improve their economic positions?

My top priorities include rebuilding our economy and creating good-paying jobs in Michigan to strengthen our middle class. I've passed legislation to promote manufacturing in Michigan, support small businesses and expand opportunities in the skilled trades and am working to bring back manufacturing of critical medical supplies. Before entering public service, I worked in business for over 20 years, and understand the unique challenges that small businesses face and their critical role in our economy. That's why I helped pass the Small Business Jobs Act which provided tens of millions of dollars to Michigan.

#### JOHN JAMES, Republican

**Website:** johnjamesforsenate.com  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/JohnJamesMI  
**Twitter:** twitter.com/JohnJamesMI

**Occupation / Current Position:** U.S. Senate Candidate, former Army Captain, President- James Group International

**Education:** Bachelor of Science from the U.S. Military Academy, Master of Supply Chain Management and Information Systems from Penn State University, Masters of Business Administration from the University of MI  
**Qualifications and Experience:** Ranger-qualified aviation officer, served in Operation Iraqi Freedom earning a Combat Action Badge (CAB) and two Air Medals while logging over 750 flight hours, leading 2 Apache Helicopter Platoons



We are facing a major crisis right now with COVID, which has stressed our nation's healthcare systems. Any healthcare plan that I support must absolutely protect individuals with pre-existing conditions, lower drug prices, and protect seniors. We must also protect Medicare/Medicaid and work to ensure their long-term sustainability. We need a patient-centered, market-based approach that works for everyone. We need to keep the parts of the Affordable Care Act that work and replace the parts that don't, including those that increase prices. We must empower doctors & patients, not insurance companies and the federal gov.

Michigan is home to the most innovative manufacturers, agricultural producers in the world. I support trade policies that bring back and protect US jobs. As a member of Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan's Workforce Development Council, I've worked to help make the American Dream possible for Michiganders. Politicians talk about bringing manufacturing back, but we need leaders to actually support policies that bring those jobs back. I also support opportunity zones to help revive areas hurt most by COVID. Americans aren't looking for free stuff, just a fair shot. I look forward to bringing my experience to the U.S. Senate.

#### VALERIE L. WILLIS, US Taxpayer

**Website:** willisforcongress.com  
**Occupation / Current Position:** Licensed Insurance Agent-11 years; Wealth Advisor, IRA, Pensions, Annuities, Medical Care, more  
**Education:** AA-Associate Degree in Fine Arts BA-Bachelor Degree Liberal Arts/Minor English MAC-Masters Degree in Educational Administration and Community Leadership BS-(unf) Business/English Lang & Lit

**Qualifications and Experience:** 11 Years Licensed Insurance Agent: Wealth Advisor: Medicare, Medical Coverage, Health Saving Accounts; Medicaid; Social Security Pensions; Annuities And Ira Rollovers: Farmer 19 Years Navy Wife 16 Yrs



The government has a limited role in health care! This is the states right to create laws on medical coverage for all. Let the experts take care of this-the insurance carriers are the experts, for over 245 years! Obama tried to break the carriers and invade their income streams. We can cover all the people of this country by state, with pre-existing conditions and disabilities, we the people need to control our own policies. I have solved this problem and I urge my voters to come and meet me and listen to my solution, it is the only one that makes any sense. I am the expert in this area.

A true free market in Michigan-less regulation of businesses; nothing that stops trade inside of Michigan, the USA and worldwide; government needs to stop interfering in business trade; the Michigan economy has been decimated by Gov. Whitmer's unconstitutional executive orders; our business economy has been decimated, yet no where in our Mich Constitution or US Constitution says the gov can shut down our economy yet we allowed them to at great financial losses; we have the right to due process to sue the state of michigan for our losses this is common in the insurance world to make up our losses.

#### MARCIA SQUIER, Green

**Website:** crowdpac.com/campaigns/395494/marcia-t-squier  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/MarciaSquier4Senate/  
**Twitter:** twitter.com/triple\_marcia

**Occupation / Current Position:** Valet Supervisor for a local, Michigan-based company Education: Bachelor of Science Degree Wayne State University Class of 1997 Psychology Major

**Qualifications and Experience:** 2 terms on local park association (IGPA) Board of Directors- Chairman & 2nd Vice President 1 term as secretary for local middle school parent-teacher committee



We all deserve to have universal basic healthcare, especially with an ongoing global pandemic. We also need more healthcare providers, which is why my #HIRE jobs program focuses on Healthcare, Infrastructure, Renewables and Education. We would also need more educators in order to accomplish this goal. And we could absolutely afford this if we just simply ended the endless wars and enacted a GI Bill for All type legislation. People could do voluntary community service instead of military servitude. Working towards peace instead of more costly wars, death and destruction.

I believe that if we are our best, healthiest, most educated selves, not only would our economy be improved, but also the quality of life overall, in addition to a significant reduction in crimes of desperation. If we invest into ourselves, our healthcare and education, by expanding already existing legislation to include everyone, regardless of age or military status, we could ensure lifelong basic healthcare and higher education beyond high school. Skilled trades and STEM fields are very crucial in today's day and age, and we're only hurting ourselves if we fail to achieve this goal.

#### DOUG DERN, Natural Law

Did not respond in time for inclusion

### U.S. Representative in Congress

Term: 2 years • Vote for ONE (1)

**Duties:** Representatives share the responsibility with Senators for enactment of the nation's laws as provided in the U.S. Constitution. Laws that require payment of taxes are initiated in the House of Representatives.

**Qualifications:** A Representative must be at least 25 years of age and a U.S. Citizen for at least 7 years. There are 435 Representatives based on Congressional districts reapportioned after each census. Michigan has 14 districts as of 2012.

### MICHIGAN DISTRICT 7

#### GRETCHEN D. DRISKELL, Democrat

**Website:** votegretchen.com  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/votegretchen  
**Twitter:** twitter.com/votegretchen  
**Education:** (BS) University of Lynchburg (MBA) George Washington University (MPA) University of Michigan

**Qualifications and Experience:** City Council (93-98) Mayor of Sa-line (99-12) State Representative (13-16) The majority of my experience is nonpartisan.



#### QUESTION 1

**HEALTH CARE:** What do you see as the federal government's role in health care? Given the Covid19 pandemic, what are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. health coverage, policies and programs, including Medicare and Medicaid?

The role of government should be to make access to health care easy and affordable. I support universally accessible, affordable health care. COVID-19 has illuminated our need for protection for those with preexisting conditions, and the astronomical cost of prescription drugs. We should make expanding policies and programs like Medicare and Medicaid a priority to better equip our country to handle large scale health issues in the future. I support Medicaid expansion and lowering the qualification age for Medicare.


#### QUESTION 2

**ECONOMY:** What federal policies do you support for a healthy economy and to help the broader American public improve their economic positions?

We need to support job growth by helping our small businesses and diversifying our job market with hightech and green jobs. We should eliminate unnecessary regulations to ensure business success, and ensure rural broadband access such that families can start their own home-based small businesses. We should also support community college programs that train students in growing technical fields, including trade schools and apprenticeships, and work with our local businesses to match workforce requirements.

#### TIM WALBERG, Republican

Did not respond in time for inclusion



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

<p><b>QUESTION 3</b>  <b>ELECTIONS: What federal policies do you advocate regarding elections, campaign funding and voting rights? Do you support mailing ballots to all eligible voters?</b></p>	<p><b>QUESTION 4:</b>  <b>SOCIAL INJUSTICE: Do you believe there is systemic racism, economic disparity, and other social injustices which should be addressed by Congress? If so, what policies do you support?</b></p>	<p><b>QUESTION 5:</b>  <b>ENVIRONMENT &amp; ENERGY: What policies do you support to meet U.S. energy needs while protecting our water, air and land for current and future generations?</b></p>	<p><b>QUESTION 6:</b>  <b>IMMIGRATION: What policies do you support relative to immigration into the U.S.?</b></p>
<p>Voting is at the core of our democracy and every American has the right to make their voices heard at the ballot box. I support policies to curb the influence of money in elections and make it easier to vote. I'm a proud cosponsor of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act to protect and expand voting rights. And as the President attempts to disenfranchise Americans from voting, I'm working to modernize our voter registration system, reduce long wait times to vote, prohibit deceptive practices that could discourage voting, and make sure that the people of the state of Michigan are able to vote absentee.</p>	<p>From police violence to the impact of COVID-19 on minority communities, it's clear Black and Brown Americans face institutional racism. We must address inequities in our society including fixing economic, health and educational disparities in addition to reforming our criminal justice system. That's why I'm leading legislation to improve community policing, support commonsense policing reforms, and fought to increase access to capital for minority-owned businesses amid the pandemic. I will continue fighting so every Michigander can achieve our nation's promise of justice, prosperity and equality for all.</p>	<p>We need to invest in clean energy job creation and support measures to tackle the threat of climate change, which will continue to harm the Great Lakes and threaten our way of life. I am committed to reducing carbon pollution, building a clean energy economy that supports both our economic needs and provides environmental justice. I've passed legislation to prevent catastrophic oil spills on the Great Lakes and curtail the use of toxic PFAS chemicals. I've also secured historic Great Lakes funding to clean up contaminated lakes, beaches and waterways, and prevent the spread of invasive species.</p>	<p>As Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, securing our borders and upholding our laws is my top priority. Immigrants are essential to the fabric of our nation, strengthening our communities and economy. That's why I support comprehensive immigration reform, common sense laws to strengthen our borders, a tough but fair path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who are already working and paying taxes here, and keeping families together.</p>
<p>I served in the U.S. Army to defend and protect the rights and freedoms of this country. I support and encourage every American's right to vote. It is the cornerstone of our democracy. In Michigan, it is law of the land for every registered voter to be able to vote absentee with no reason.</p>	<p>As a black man, as a father of three boys, I was heartbroken to see the video of George Floyd. And the others that have come before him. My father grew up in the Jim Crow South. I'm in the position to run for US Senate because somebody marched for me. My father moved to MI, started a family business and I'm looking forward to using my platform and opportunity to fight for anybody else who wants to work for an opportunity to achieve the American dream. We need to offer all in Michigan, who wish to achieve it, a path to prosperity. This path will tear down barriers, increase access, and provide economic opportunity.</p>	<p>Here in Michigan, we have amazing national treasures, like the Great Lakes. We must protect the lakeshore and update infrastructure to ensure the economic impact of the lakes to our state is not interrupted. I support an all-of-the-above energy policy that will focus on affordable energy. I will champion policies and programs that protect environmental quality throughout the Great Lakes and protect them from invasive species. The same applies to the land we farm and live on and the air we breathe. We enjoy an incredible agricultural diversity in Michigan and need to guarantee it for future seasons.</p>	<p>Our immigration system is broken, and I believe that both parties have failed. No one wants to see families separated. America is a nation of immigrants and we are also a nation of laws. I will work to support reform of the legal immigration system that provides security while supporting our economy. We need comprehensive immigration reform that will help our nation grow and retain talent and thrive while also protecting our national security. I am the only candidate in Michigan's US Senate race who has ever had to secure a border. I will work with anyone to work toward meaningful reform that ensures secure borders.</p>
<p>I, Valerie Willis, support in person voting! Get rid of the machine voting where only a few companies own all the machines. Go back to paper ballots, with pens to vote with, with men and women counting by hand, locally in every voting precinct and township! Which will result in a real true count! Each county individually accountable! To the voters...Show up and vote for every election, and vote in your township and county! This is how we the people remain free by exercising our right to vote! Assemble your counties michigan general jural assembly...Power resides in the republic.</p>	<p>I, Valerie Willis, support constitutional rights and Michigan constitutional rights, as originally intended. I support these constitutional rights for all men, women and children, elderly, disabled, veterans and more, of every race and nation that lives in our country and in my state. It is time we rise to our original constitutional sovereign status, as we the people and enact our unalienable rights. All should be treated the same, and equal under law.</p>	<p>Energy: we are still in the era of coal and gas, this is a reality of living now. We need to get the lowest energy rates for our patriots in Michigan, while providing safe jobs to our workers in the energy industry. Gas heating is too expensive for most people and needs to be lowered. Environment: Michigan is a chemical septic tank, there is no other way to describe our beloved state. Anyone who denies this is a liar. We are at the top in cancer in the nation and in pfas contamination in the united states. We have contaminated flouride water in water pipes in our homes.</p>	<p>I, Valerie Willis support the Willis plan for immigration and will take this plan with me when I win my race, and will fight for the right to finally get to true immigration reform. 1) Close all borders of the USA until we have immigration reform and until we (house, senate and president) agree 2) close the Mich border until further notice until we the people of Mich have true immig. Reform. No new immigrants in until true reform has been achieved by our house, senate and governor 3) whomever is in the USA, or Michigan now, stays, and must immediately proceed to gain their citizenship.</p>
<p>I advocate for hand-counted paper ballots with citizen oversight, as opposed to our current system of machine-counted with government oversight. Our central tabulators are extremely vulnerable to electioneering. I do not support the use of privately owned machinery, owned by companies that donate to campaigns and/or parties. I support taxpayer-funded recounts as opposed to taxpayer-funded major party primaries (especially ones that use superdelegates- the single largest form of voter disenfranchisement in existence today). I support taxpayer-funded general elections with Ranked Choice Voting (and/or Approval Voting).</p>	<p>I do believe that there is systemic racism, economic disparity and social injustices that should be addressed by Congress. This includes breaking up corporate monopolies, increasing the minimum wage, stricter penalties for law enforcement and elected officials that abuse their positions, and ending the War on Drugs by retroactively legalizing cannabis and decriminalization of drugs in general. If we had universal healthcare and education, less people would self-medicate their problems away and seek proper treatment instead.</p>	<p>I support as part of my #HIRE jobs program, going 100% fossil fuel-free ASAP. I support strict penalties for polluters and poachers. We need to invest in renewable energy and infrastructure over the next decade if we are going to continue to evolve as a nation and civilization. Skilled trades investment for the betterment of all. Innovation will be key in the future, both near and distant.</p>	<p>I support giving a welcoming path to citizenship for all people without violent pasts. People with other types of criminal pasts should be eligible for citizenship after a probationary period. Our country was founded by immigrants and descendants of immigrants. It should always be the country people want to go to when they can't stand their own. If we end the endless war, the refugee crisis would be greatly diminished, and more people would stay in their homeland if it wasn't war-torn. Too many of us have no idea what it's like to live in a country that sees military bombings regularly.</p>
<p><b>QUESTION 3</b>  <b>ELECTIONS: What federal policies do you advocate regarding elections, campaign funding and voting rights? Do you support mailing ballots to all eligible voters?</b></p>	<p><b>QUESTION 4:</b>  <b>SOCIAL INJUSTICE: Do you believe there is systemic racism, economic disparity, and other social injustices which should be addressed by Congress? If so, what policies do you support?</b></p>	<p><b>QUESTION 5:</b>  <b>ENVIRONMENT &amp; ENERGY: What policies do you support to meet U.S. energy needs while protecting our water, air and land for current and future generations?</b></p>	<p><b>QUESTION 6:</b>  <b>IMMIGRATION: What policies do you support relative to immigration into the U.S.?</b></p>
<p>Michigan voters in 2018 passed a "voter bill of rights" with Proposition 3 which allows for no reason absentee voting, same day voter registration, and a variety of other tools to increase access to the vote. I support broad legislation that expands voter rights, and support mailing ballots to all eligible voters. Further, I am endorsed by End Citizens United, and believe money shouldn't be so salient in our politics.</p>	<p>Systemic racism and other social injustices are still significant issues that should be addressed by Congress. Flint, Michigan acts as a contemporary example where systemic racism and economic disparity allowed for widespread harm of countless communities of color. I support policies that invest within and protect minority communities.</p>	<p>Clean energy jobs are the future to a healthy earth and healthy economy. We need a more robust, affordable education system such that more can enter the clean energy industry.</p>	<p>I support guest worker programs, especially those in agriculture, to help supplement labor in markets that need more workers. I am supportive of a path to citizenship for undocumented people living in this country as I believe that immigrants are who help make this country great.</p>



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### U.S. Representative in Congress - Term: 2-years • Vote for TWO (1)

**Duties:** Representatives share the responsibility with Senators for enactment of the nation's laws as provided in the U.S. Constitution. Laws that require payment of taxes are initiated in the House of Representatives.

**Qualifications:** A Representative must be at least 25 years of age and a U.S. Citizen for at least 7 years. There are 435 Representatives based on Congressional districts reapportioned after each census. Michigan has 14 districts as of 2012.

**QUESTION 1**  
**HEALTH CARE:** What do you see as the federal government's role in health care? Given the Covid19 pandemic, what are your concerns and plans regarding U.S. health coverage, policies and programs, including Medicare and Medicaid?

**QUESTION 2**  
**ECONOMY:** What federal policies do you support for a healthy economy and to help the broader American public improve their economic positions?

### MICHIGAN DISTRICT 8

#### ELISSA SLOTKIN, Democrat

**Website:** elissaforscongress.com/  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/pg/elissaslotkinforcongress  
**Twitter:** twitter.com/ElissaSlotkin

**Occupation / Current Position:** I am the current Representative for Michigan's 8th District.

**Education:** I graduated from Cornell with a BA, and from Columbia University with a Masters in International Affairs.

**Qualifications and Experience:** Before I was elected in 2018, I spent my career in national service. I served three tours in Iraq with the CIA, and served under both Presidents Bush and Obama at the White House and the Pentagon.



All Americans deserve access to affordable health care, and I'll continue to defend funding for Medicare and Medicaid. We need to defend and advance the progress made under the ACA, and I believe that must include allowing a Medicare buy-in for anyone at any age. Health care reform must be accompanied by serious prescription drug pricing reform, which is why I worked to pass two major bills through the House that would lower the cost of prescription drugs. COVID-19 has reminded us of the inequalities in our healthcare system, and we must act to ensure all Americans have access to an affordable future vaccine.

Michigan is the birthplace of the middle class, and we must enact policies that help Michigan's middle class succeed. The COVID-19 crisis shows that bringing manufacturing back to the U.S. is a homeland security and economic imperative, and our recovery plans should reflect that. For our communities to thrive, we need to invest in preparing our workforce for the 21st century workplace. Businesses tell me they have trouble finding the local talent they need to compete, especially in fields like IT and health care. We should invest in job training programs to match talent to opportunity in our own communities.

#### PAUL JUNGE, Republican

Did not respond in time for inclusion

#### JOE HARTMAN, Libertarian

**Website:** joe4congress.vote  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/JoeHartmanforCongress  
**Twitter:** twitter.com/realJoeHartman

**Occupation / Current Position:** Tax Consultant  
**Education:** University of Central Florida: Bachelor's Degree in Finance

**Qualifications and Experience:** I meet the Constitutional requirements of age, citizenship, and residency.



I support removing government meddling from healthcare. During the first few weeks of the Covid pandemic, the CDC prohibited competition in development of tests. This is just one example of how the political control over the healthcare industry limits the options for consumers and creates costly barriers to necessary medical services. Due to regulatory capture, government agencies often slow development of and access to new medicines, devices, and technologies that may improve quality of care and reduce cost of care.

The only defensible role of government in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. I advocate for removing unproductive regulations, reducing and eliminating taxes, and getting government out of the way of private enterprise. These regulations, including intellectual property laws and occupational licensing, actively hurt people by stifling human energy, innovation, and well-being.

### State Board of Education - Term: 8-year terms • Vote for TWO (2)

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

**QUESTION 1**  
 Describe your qualifications and experience for State Board of Education and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset to the Board?

**QUESTION 2**  
 What actions and policies would you recommend to improve our education system?

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

#### ELLEN COGEN LIPTON, Democrat

**Website:** ELforED.org  
**Facebook:** Ellen Cogen Lipton  
**Twitter:** twitter.com/replipton

**Occupation / Current Position:** Attorney in private practice; President of the Michigan Promise Zone Association  
**Education:** BS, Chemistry and BA, Art History from Williams College JD from Harvard Law School



I believe my experience as a former legislator most qualifies me for this office. I served for six years in the State House, serving as the minority vice-chair of the Education Committee, as well as the minority vice-chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on K-12 Schools. As such, I have a deep understanding of the education policy as well as the funding landscape in this state. I passed legislation to require the state to undergo a comprehensive costing-out study to determine the cost of educating a child in our state. This law resulted in the determination that we are currently underfunding all our students.

Michigan has been consistently underfunding our K-12 schools since the early 1990's. Although Proposal A attempted to equalize funding among our hundreds of school districts, it did nothing to address the two critical components of sufficiently and equitably funding our schools. I would propose a "lock box" around the school-aid fund, and not allow it to be used to fund community colleges or public universities, which both have separate sources of funding. We also need to move toward a system that drives resources toward our most vulnerable students, our English language learners, and those with special needs.

We are in the midst a global pandemic, with no immediate end in sight. As such, the most pressing issue is the safe return to learning. I think the school board's role should be to assemble and analyze research from around the state and around the country in terms of what has worked and what has not worked during the pandemic. The school board can also be an important bridge between the local school districts, which are nearest to their communities, and the MDE which has access to the most relevant research regarding teaching and learning during a pandemic, best practices, and robust data analytical capabilities.

#### JASON STRAYHORN, Democrat

**Website:** votestrayhorn.com  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/JasonStrayhornforSBE

**Occupation / Current Position:**  
 Jason Strayhorn is a state of Michigan licensed Real Estate Broker with over 15 years of experience.  
**Education:** Undergraduate degree from MSU



As the father of three children, I know the challenges that parents, teachers, support staff, and especially students are facing. Through my job I travel throughout Michigan and I see the disparity between school districts. There are children in Michigan who live on separate sides of a street, and depending on which side they live on will depend on whether they receive a quality education. If I'm on the Board I want to ensure that every child in Michigan receives a quality education.

We need to look at equitable funding, and when I say that I don't want to "steal from the rich and give to the poor," I want to help give struggling schools the resources they need to educate our children. I would also use the position on the Board to as a bully pulpit to advocate for children who need additional services, such as special education and English as a second language children.



Being on the State Board of Education isn't about being a Democrat or Republican. It's about doing your best so every kid in Michigan has an opportunity at a great education. I want to remove any partisanship from the Board and ensure that we have one voice advocating for every kid in Michigan, no matter their race, religion, gender identity, or zip code.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

QUESTION 3 ELECTIONS: What federal policies do you advocate regarding elections, campaign funding and voting rights? Do you support mailing ballots to all eligible voters?	QUESTION 4: SOCIAL INJUSTICE: Do you believe there is systemic racism, economic disparity, and other social injustices which should be addressed by Congress? If so, what policies do you support?	QUESTION 5: ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY: What policies do you support to meet U.S. energy needs while protecting our water, air and land for current and future generations?	QUESTION 6: IMMIGRATION: What policies do you support relative to immigration into the U.S.?
I don't take corporate PAC money, so my constituents know I work for them, not special interests. We need to curb unlimited spending in elections, end partisan gerrymandering, and upend a culture of corruption. I have led legislation to prevent foreign interference in our elections by ensuring foreign governments can't purchase domestic political ads. I supported the reforms MI voters approved in Propositions 2 & 3 and Secretary of State Benson's efforts to ensure voters can vote by mail. I am a co-sponsor of the Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would ensure minority voters are given equal access to the ballot.	Congress must address systemic racism and inequality. I was a co-sponsor of the Voting Rights Advancement act, which requires states to seek federal permission before making changes to election procedure that could impact accessibility for communities of color. We must address racial disparities evident in police abuses and in the disparate impact of COVID-19 on communities of color. I support survivors of sexual assault and harassment, and introduced legislation to stop Secretary DeVos from making it harder for survivors to successfully come forward with Title IX claims. I also am a supporter of the Equality Act.	The development of clean energy technologies like wind and solar not only helps our environment, it also means economic potential. Michigan has always been a leader in manufacturing, and I will fight to make sure we're in a position to welcome the next generation of high-skilled, well-paying jobs to our state. I believe access to clean water is a homeland security issue, because it is about the safety of our communities. I championed six provisions to protect against the "forever chemical" PFAS that were signed into law by the President. In Congress, I am a member of the bipartisan Great Lakes Taskforce.	Our immigration system is broken and not working for anyone. I'm committed to working on a bipartisan basis for reform that is keyed to the needs of our economy, including strengthening border security, reforming our temporary worker programs, and providing a path to citizenship for Dreamers. I wrote bipartisan legislation that passed the House to ensure humane treatment in immigration detention centers. I co-sponsored the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, which would establish a program for agriculture workers in the US to earn legal status through continued agricultural employment & contribution to the US economy.
The Libertarian Party presidential ticket will be on the ballot in all 50 states and should be included in the presidential and vice presidential debates. Ranked choice voting sounds like a good idea. Based on the 10th amendment, I advocate for the passage of the Daylight Act, which would end federally mandated clock changing by allow the laws passed by state legislatures to implement permanent daylight savings time.	The most explicit example of systemic racism is the social security system. The taxes are confiscated from workers and benefits are paid to older people. The system disproportionately hurts low income workers by reducing their discretionary income. Based on the demographics of these groups, the outcome reflects systemic racism. Abolishing payroll taxes would be an effective way to reduce systemic racism and wealth inequality. Ending the drug war, ending qualified immunity, and demilitarizing the police would help to reduce the social injustice imposed by law enforcement.	I support policies that would remove the government barriers to replacing coal-burning and oil-burning power plants with safe, non-polluting, high-tech nuclear power plants. Generation IV nuclear power is an effective way to reduce carbon emissions. I also support deregulating the use of off-grid solar power.	I advocate for expanded immigration and welcoming peaceful people to immigrate to the United States. A truly free market requires the free movement of people, not just products and ideas.

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

QUESTION 1 Describe your qualifications and experience for State Board of Education and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset to the Board?	QUESTION 2 What actions and policies would you recommend to improve our education system?	QUESTION 3 What are the most pressing issues facing the State Board of Education and what actions would you take regarding them?
<p><b>TAMI CARLONE,</b> Republican Website: tamicalrone.com Facebook: facebook.com/Tami4ED Twitter: twitter.com/T2CPA <b>Occupation / Current Position:</b> CPA and Process Improvement Expert Education: University of Michigan Bachelor of Business Administration Accounting Major</p>  <p>Having 30 years of experience as a successful Corporate CPA &amp; Process Improvement Expert, I am able to bring a professional level of fiscal responsibility, &amp; problem solving to the Board. Skills that will be helpful to the Board given the role itself, as well as the status of education in MI. Being a national, state &amp; local education advocate, activist, speaker &amp; writer, for 20 years, I have built up an exceptionally unique set of skills to bring to the Board. I know education law, policy, funding, methods, standards, the players &amp; more. I am running to give the students of MI Truth &amp; Excellence in their education.</p>	<p>Teachers must deal with way too much these days, like jumping through one governmental hoop after another, excessive paperwork &amp; data collection, meetings &amp; more. We need them connecting with students &amp; focused on teaching in their classrooms. We must make sure what teachers are learning in teacher college makes them ready to meet the demands of the job, like expertise in phonics. Excellent teachers can CHANGE LIVES. We must stop the teach to the test mentality that is killing our children's love of learning. We must get out of Common Core &amp; the related testing &amp; give our students the proven best standards &amp; tests.</p>	<p>All one must do is look at the results to know MI is in trouble regarding education. MI education spending goes up each year despite declining enrollment &amp; declining results. The Wall Street Journal summed it up perfectly 1/2018, "Few state school systems report worse achievement metrics than MI." We must focus on academic achievement and not political agendas. I am passionate about making MI a POWERHOUSE in education for ALL children. We should be the state others look to as the example. Every ed dollar must have a positive impact on classroom learning. Education policy makers must be held accountable for results.</p>
<p><b>MICHELLE A. FREDERICK,</b> Republican Website: michelle4sbe.com Facebook: facebook.com/michelle4sbe <b>Occupation / Current Position:</b> College student and Michigan Parents Involved in Education, board member <b>Education:</b> BSN Student and Associates of Arts, Oakland Community College</p>  <p>I have been an education advocate for 17 years, founding board member at Michigan Parents Involved in Education, and a leadership team member at Stop Common Core in Michigan. I am running because I have witnessed and experienced the quality of my own children's public education deteriorate over the years. This is not an isolated incident. Michigan's current reading proficiency is at 44% and math proficiency is at 38% which demonstrates this is a systemic problem throughout our great state. Michigan's parents deserve a voice that represents them on the State Board of Education, not another politician.</p>	<p>The actions and policies I would recommend to improve our education system is a thorough examination of teacher training, professional development, standards, and all standardized tests at each grade level. There must be a deficiency somewhere along the chain from development to delivery when Michigan's children are testing below the national average. Parents and children should not be subjected to a broken system with lifelong consequences when problems should be identified and rectified within a reasonable amount of time.</p>	<p>An immediate but temporary pressing issue is the mass exodus from public schools due to the virtual learning platform that was not designed for all students in mind. There are students that do not have reliable access to the internet and/or the equipment needed, some students are not developmentally capable to navigate a virtual learning format due to age and/or disability, while other students are just not able to learn through this type of platform. I would like to have all public schools opened for children with virtual learning as an option for parents who are not comfortable for their child to attend in person.</p>



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### State Board of Education (continued) - Term: 8-year terms • Vote for TWO (2)

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

	QUESTION 1 Describe your qualifications and experience for State Board of Education and explain your reasons for running. How would you be an asset to the Board?	QUESTION 2 What actions and policies would you recommend to improve our education system?	QUESTION 3 What are the most pressing issues facing the State Board of Education and what actions would you take regarding them?
<p><b>BILL HALL, Libertarian</b>  <b>Facebook:</b> facebook.com/VoteBillHall  <b>Occupation / Current Position:</b> Real estate/mining law attorney/                      Partner, Warner Norcross + Judd, Michigan's 2d largest law firm  <b>Education:</b> Northwestern Univ. School of Law, Chicago, IL, J.D., cum laude &amp; Order of the Coif, 1981, Wabash College, Crawfordsville, IN, A.B., magna cum laude &amp; Phi Beta Kappa, 1978, Frankton High School, 1974</p> 	<p>39 years' experience advising on legal matters. Managed firm's Real Estate Group for 10 years. Listed in The Best Lawyers in America since 1995. Served on many nonprofit boards. Boy Scout leader since 1994. Honors graduate, Northwestern Univ. School of Law and Wabash College. Committed to improving education through freedom of choice and fiscal responsibility. Will be an independent voice on a Board driven by partisan politics.</p>	<p>Support freedom of choice in education. Competition from schools of choice, charter and private schools and home schooling pushes traditional public schools to innovate and better educate, and saves taxpayer dollars. Don't mandate a "common core" curriculum. Give parents more freedom to choose schools and schools more freedom to choose their own policies. Support fiscal responsibility. Replace underfunded defined benefit with defined contribution retirement plans, State funding should follow the student, let poorly performing schools fail rather than bailing them out, re-deploy funds to focus on academic achievement.</p>	<p>The COVID pandemic, and the State's authoritarian response, have severely damaged the educational development of a generation of students. The SBE has abdicated its role, letting the Governor and legislature lead in mandating a response that ignores the wishes of parents and local school districts and rewards special interests. The SBE should pursue policies that respect parents' freedom to choose programs they feel are best, e.g., in-person or remote schooling, delivered at home, with tutors, or at private, charter or traditional schools. One size does not fit all, as pandemic effects vary widely across the State.</p>
<p><b>RICHARD A. HEWER, Libertarian</b>  <b>Facebook:</b> facebook.com/Richard-Hewerfor-Michigan-Board-of-Education  <b>Occupation / Current Position:</b> Retired Professor / Professor Emeritus  <b>Education:</b> MBA - Grand Valley State University BBA - University of Michigan, Dearborn Diploma - Garden City High School</p> 	<p>I just retired last week after teaching Computer Information Systems classes for Ferris State University at Big Rapids, on-line, and at various Community Colleges, Dual Enrollment High Schools and ISDs. Teaching these classes showed me students need more options and should not be locked into the school system for their residence. My background would bring a unique prospective on educational options some students have and ways those could be expanded to all students.</p>	<p>Allow ALL students in Michigan to have a choice on their type of education and have the State money go to the education choice they make. Increase Vocation Education, Industry Certification and Dual Enrollment education options and make those available to all students, not just a select few. Not require all public schools have the same programs and teaching method but allow them to specialize. Let the students choose the school with their specialty and the teaching method that fits their learning style, not just the ones that are available from their local public schools.</p>	<p>Making a quality customizable education available to everyone in Michigan. I would not require students to attend failing school systems but allow students to have an online education or do other creative education choices. Providing guidance to school systems on how to educate graduates that will fulfill the job requirements needed in Michigan. I would allow the students to pick their education options and not be required to go to a cookie cutter local class. I would have more industry certification, Vocational Education and dual enrollment options available.</p>
<p><b>KAREN ADAMS, U.S. Taxpayer</b></p>	<p>Did not respond in time for inclusion</p>		
<p><b>DOUGLAS LEVESQUE, U.S. Taxpayer</b></p>	<p>Did not respond in time for inclusion</p>		
<p><b>MARY ANNE HERING, Working Class</b>  <b>Website:</b> workingclassfight.com  <b>Occupation / Current Position:</b> college teacher, Henry Ford College  <b>Education:</b> formal education from Michigan State University, M.A. Psychology and through life experience at factory gates and in working class communities</p> 	<p>As a long time teacher I have been a steadfast advocate for students, their families, teachers, and the support staff who make sure schools function. I have also organized in the working class for decades. I can speak for teachers and other employees who are deprived of the means they need to educate young people, and whose wages and benefits are reduced because the state cuts money from education. I can give voice to workers who see their children deprived of a decent education because of those cuts. I will be saying a tidal wave of money is needed to guarantee quality education for all and safe in-person schooling.</p>	<p>Stop the cuts to school funds. Stop the policy of raiding one school budget to give to another. The money is there. All these attacks could grind to a halt by ending tax cuts, subsidies and outright gifts handed over by the state, to major corporations and real estate speculators. I think the educational system can be transformed when those most affected - school employees, parents and students - organize together to demand that the money the laboring population pays, disproportionately in taxes, be used for public education. And I would stand with them and assist in any way I could to help with that social fight.</p>	<p>COVID-19 and how to open up schools to safe, in-person learning. The glaring disparity in education in our school districts. Both can be resolved by guaranteeing high, high levels of funding for all school districts. How? Banish the idea that there isn't enough money. The money is there! But we have to stop the raiding of public funds by private interests in the form of tax breaks, and subsidies and to for-profit charter schools. I would use the resources of the SBE to assist teachers, parents, students and others in their communities to organize to stop this theft to ensure full, high funding for public schools.</p>
<p><b>HALI MCEACHERN, Working Class</b>  <b>Education:</b> Henry Ford College, University of Michigan in Dearborn, restaurant worker for eight years</p> 	<p>I am a junior at the University of Michigan in Dearborn. I am getting my bachelor's in secondary education in history. As a teacher and board member I will use teaching best practices. I work as a server in a restaurant. I know the needs of workers and their children. I am running because I know the resources are there to give every student in the state the best quality education. I went through the public schools in Allen Park. I want better for teachers and school workers. My main focus will be to facilitate the most student learning and to improve the working conditions of teachers and school workers.</p>	<p>To enhance student learning students need smaller classroom sizes. Art, music, and gym are essential. Child and adolescent development determines a person's quality of life, so students need to be learning in enriched environments. Schools can have psychologists and nurses available for students, teachers, and parents. Conflict mediation and family counseling should be offered. A healthy breakfast and lunch must be provided. The resources are there for students to have updated technology; iPads, science experiments, calculators, supplies, instruments, and anything teachers tell us that students need to learn.</p>	<p>The most pressing issue is the profit-driven corporations draining money from education. Workers produce all of the wealth in society. There is an abundance of money in our communities that should provide schools with everything they need. Each school should be the best. Our tax money is given in the millions and billions to corporate welfare. GM, Chrysler, and Ford made billions of dollars in profits in 2018, then received billions from Michigan tax payers. If billion dollar corporations paid their taxes, and if workers taxes went to workers, Michigan schools could have the highest quality of education.</p>
<p><b>TOM MAIR, Green</b>  <b>Twitter:</b> twitter.com/TraverseGreens  <b>Occupation / Current Position:</b> Manager - Personal Artist Manager  <b>Education:</b> K-12 Southfield Public Schools; Western Michigan Univ - Major Business Administration Minor Marketing; Grand Valley State Univ - International Business; Ferris State Univ - International Business</p> 	<p>I am drawn to public service in Education and to Health Care as immediate needs for Michigan's K-12 students so that the students get the excellent education they deserve. COVID-19 has become the 'new school' and to prosper we need to work within the existing system of education adding higher health care standards to be safe. Not just safe learning, but safe living in our Michigan communities. I am an experienced &amp; qualified administrator. I was elected in 2016 to a seat on the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners. I understand how to work in &amp; with government. I was a manager at a federal agency.</p>	<p>Currently, we in Michigan are under a State of Emergency and we have a pandemic. I believe that the Public School Districts should have the authority to decide how school will be delivered. From online to hybrid to face-to-face. When a case is discovered in a face-to-face classroom, then all the students should be in quarantine at home for 14 days. I will encourage special education students (students with disabilities) at Intermediate Schools to be in the classroom. Teaching can be done one-on-one if necessary. I believe Public Schools should be online - online is preferred for health safety reasons.</p>	<p>Two big issues facing public schools are the COVID-19 pandemic &amp; school funding. We must ask (demand) our state &amp; federal elected officials for more funding than we received in the last budget. Funding for added costs this year should be disbursed by the State Treasury from the CARES Act and more should be included in the next federal COVID-19 Stimulus Bill. I understand how to work with elected officials without political party getting in the way. On every board I have served on (20 years-on over 12 major boards) I have worked as a team member for that organization. I'm a Green and I'm independent of the two parties</p>



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### University of Michigan Board of Regents – Two 8-Year Terms – Vote for TWO (2)

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

**QUESTION 1**  
Describe your qualifications and experience for the University Board and explain your reasons for running. What, specifically, makes you an asset to a University Board?

**QUESTION 2**  
What are the two most pressing issues facing this university today, and what is your position on those issues?

**QUESTION 3**  
What recommendations would you propose to make university education more accessible to all Michigan's residents?

#### MARK BERNSTEIN,

**Democrat**

**Website:** mgobernstein.com

**Occupation / Current Position:** Regent of the University of Michigan

**Education:** University of Michigan B.A., J.D., M.B.A.



I am a proud product of Michigan's public education system. From kindergarten to earning three degrees from the University of Michigan. My long commitment to public service, work in government, business and the law makes me uniquely qualified to serve on the University of Michigan Board of Regents. As a regent, I have fought and won for Michigan families by successfully championing the Go Blue Guarantee - a promise of free tuition for families with incomes under \$65,000 dollars.

1. Affordability. We need to continue fighting to keep the University accessible for families that struggle to pay tuition. Since I was elected, the net tuition for students from families with household incomes up to \$120,000 has gone down significantly (21% lower). The Go Blue Guarantee is our promise to provide free tuition for families with incomes under \$65,000 dollars and tuition support for families with incomes up to \$180,000 dollars.  
2. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The University cannot be excellent without being diverse. We know that talent is distributed widely in our society, but opportunity is not.

I'm fighting to protect the promise of public education. That means making the University of Michigan accessible for Michigan residents who struggle to pay tuition. I am dedicated to promoting broader access to life-changing education through the expansion of the Go Blue Guarantee, continued investments in student scholarships, and significant investments in diversity, equity and inclusion priorities.

#### SHAUNA RYDER

**DIGGS,**

**Democrat**

**Occupation / Current Position:** Regent, University of Michigan

**Education:** University of Michigan--Inteflex Program-combined 7-year undergraduate and medical school program BS Biomedical Science and MD



I ask for your vote for re-election to the University of Michigan Board of Regents. As the daughter of two university professors, I learned the importance of higher education to our collective futures. As an alumna of the undergraduate and medical schools, I am committed to improving our institution so that it best serves its students, staff, faculty and our state. As the first physician to ever serve on the board, I was able to impact our large academic hospital system to improve the healthcare of Michigan residents. I will continue to bring my knowledge and experiences to the boardroom.

The two most pressing issues facing UofM are the COVID-19 pandemic and campus culture. The safety of our campus community members is paramount. I support investment into our health and research capabilities as we investigate the best treatments, vaccines, and effective public health strategies. Our COVID-19 responses must consider the welfare of the students, including physical and mental health and the financial impact during this economic instability. I want to ensure a campus culture that nurtures and protects members from discrimination and misconduct to create an exceptional learning environment for all.

During my first regental term, we established the Go Blue Guarantee which opened access by providing free tuition to Michigan families making \$65,000 or less. We expanded financial aid to Michigan families making up to \$180,000. Our challenge in this next term is to expand a guarantee to our Flint and Dearborn campuses, providing financial security to aspiring students. We also need to expand pipeline programs, assisting middle and high school students as well as older non-traditional students prepare for and see the college experience as an achievable, affordable goal, particularly if the pandemic impacts our economy.

#### SARAH HUBBARD,

**Republican**

**Website:** hubbard-4michigan.com

**Facebook:** facebook.com/Hubbard4Michigan

**Twitter:** twitter.com/Hubbard-4Mich

**Occupation / Current Position:** Government Relations and Business Consultant

**Education:** 1990 -Bachelors of Political Science and Psychology (double major), University of Michigan 2007 - Masters of Business Administration, Ross School of Business, University of Michigan



As a life-long Michigander and having earned two degrees from U of M I care deeply about the impact and outcomes of the University. I'm running to provide a perspective currently missing from the Board - that of a conservative woman who understands education and the role U of M plays in MI. I'm a small business owner, advocate, sports enthusiast and I'm not afraid to share my opinions. Voices like mine are needed in elective office to represent people from throughout MI and ensure their tax dollars are being spent wisely. I grew up on a farm and I'll bring that down-to-earth sentiment to the Board.

The impact of COVID-19 on students and athletics is the most pressing issue facing U of M today. I believe strongly we should have students on campus and be playing athletics safely. Coach Harbaugh has shown he can keep his team safe and if others would follow his lead they would be safe too. Cancellation of U of M's football season is draining \$100 M from the athletic department - and that will have an oversized impact on all other sports. Additionally, the need to ensure free speech for all voices on campus - including conservative voices.

Higher education could be more accessible to Michigan residents if the State of Michigan would invest more - specifically focused on in-state residents. Lowering tuition for in-state residents could allow far more families to afford U of M. Keeping tuition increases limited and increasing scholarships for in-state residents will go far.

#### CARL MEYERS,

**Republican**

**Website:** Meyers4Michigan.com

**Facebook:** facebook.com/carl.meyers.10

**Occupation / Current Position:** Raymond Jams Financial. Senior Vice President of Investments. Financial Advisor, WMS.

**Education:** University of Michigan - Dearborn. School of Business, BSA. 1979



As a U of M Regent, I will propose an immediate freeze in tuition for Michigan resident undergraduate students. Michigan families are in financial crisis, trying to pay for college, especially with COVID-19. Higher education is out of reach for most without family sacrifice and crippling student debt. My 38 years of experience in finance, investment management and board governance are an asset as U of M addresses budgetary and tuition challenges. My investment experience will assist in oversight of the University's 12 billion-dollar-plus endowment. Our daughters and sons should have access to a U of M Education!

The greatest challenges facing U of M today are: #1 - To provide a safe education and campus experience in a COVID-19 environment and #2 - To maintain academic and institutional excellence with a constrained budget. As public health and science permits, the entire University should return to pre-pandemic levels as soon and safely as possible. The Board must control growth of the budget for efficiency to assure continued excellence, affordability, diversity, and inclusion. While navigating Covid-19 and budget, the Board must be more transparent. All business should be conducted publicly, with digital access.

Freezing tuition will address the greatest barrier of entry for our resident applicants. U of M is now one of the highest cost public universities in the country.

#### JAMES L. HUDLER,

**Libertarian**

Did not respond in time for inclusion

#### ERIC LARSON,

**Libertarian**

**Facebook:** facebook.com/Eric-Larson-237929759141/

**Twitter:** twitter.com/EricL-Larson

**Occupation / Current Position:** Clinical Assistant Professor in Anesthesiology, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine

**Education:** BSE - University of Michigan MD - University of Iowa



As an alumnus of the University of Michigan and life time Michigander, I have a good feel for the place that the University of Michigan plays in our state. It is a national leader in academics, research, and athletics and is an economic asset to the state. We need to preserve these attributes and I am uniquely qualified to handle these decisions. I have been in private medical practice for over 16 years and also served in leadership positions within the hospital system and our physician group. As president of our group for four years I gained experience in strategy, business, and HR that would be useful as as Regent.

The most pressing issues facing the University of Michigan are dealing with COVID-19 while maintaining academic excellence and value for students. Also, we must always focus on keeping UM affordable and elite as a public university. This could be done by providing more online options and continuing the thoughtful consideration of the safety of faculty and students.


Clearly, COVID-19 has made it clear that the traditional ways of educating are shifting. Prior trends have simply been accelerated so that now we face the opportunity to expand the educational reach of UM in ways not before used through online learning. We can expand UM's academic reach virtually throughout the state while also offering in person options for students seeking a unique experience. This could make UM not only more accessible but also affordable as its 'customer' base could expand significantly.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3



### University of Michigan Board of Regents - Two 8-Year Terms – Vote for TWO (2)

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

	QUESTION 1 Describe your qualifications and experience for the University Board and explain your reasons for running. What, specifically, makes you an asset to a University Board?	QUESTION 2 What are the two most pressing issues facing this university today, and what is your position on those issues?	QUESTION 3 What recommendations would you propose to make university education more accessible to all Michigan's residents?
<b>RONALD E. GRAESER,</b> US Taxpayer	Did not respond in time for inclusion		
<b>CRYSTAL VAN SICKLE,</b> US Taxpayer	Did not respond in time for inclusion		
<b>MICHAEL MAWILAI,</b> Green Website: migreenparty.org 	Asian Pacific Islanders are among the largest groups attending the University, but we haven't been represented among the Board of Regents. Neither has poverty. I've walked door to door in Detroit's poorest neighborhoods to save families from losing their home to tax foreclosure, and having been a four year student at U-M, I know what getting their kids to become graduates would do for their family. From Kim Wong Ark to Vincent Chin's murder, I've learned from history and see the future of what's possible, because if Princeton's Board brought down South African apartheid, some pure Michigan can change the world.	Covid requires an immediate, dynamic response, free from the partisan politics that have only worsened the situation. Health, jobs, the careers the students are studying for, must all be carefully balanced and without running a deficit. An economy has to be rebuilt, but it won't happen by trying to force it to happen. As much as I'd like free college to happen, it's not the situation. It's a marathon to 120 credits but U-M gives an affordable opportunity for in-state students. Sabermetric course advisement could help students get past obstacles like changing majors and dropping out to graduate into successful careers.	I remember when just being in Ann Arbor meant you could slip into an auditorium to watch a film you could never catch anywhere else. We have the ability to share more of our classes with the general public through remote learning technology. That means incoming students can preview and review the classes and professors, and adults can continue learning... and this in no way cheapens a degree from the University of Michigan because it's all a learning curve, which means everything we do pushes learning forward, and those who stay will become champions: the leaders and the best.
<b>KEITH BUTKOVICH,</b> Natural Law	Did not respond in time for inclusion		

### Michigan State University Board of Trustees - Term: 8-year terms • Vote for TWO (2)

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

	QUESTION 1 Describe your qualifications and experience for the University Board and explain your reasons for running. What, specifically, makes you an asset to a University Board?	QUESTION 2 What are the two most pressing issues facing this university today, and what is your position on those issues?	QUESTION 3 What recommendations would you propose to make university education more accessible to all Michigan's residents?
<b>BRIAN MOSALLAM,</b> Democrat Website: VoteMosallam.com Facebook: facebook.com/BrianMosallam/MSU Twitter: twitter.com/BMosallam63 Occupation / Current Position: President Spartan Wealth Management Education: B.S. Engineering arts, Michigan State University. 	MSU has gone through one of the largest sex abuse scandals in the history of this country. In May of 2018 I issued a plan of reform ( <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/134E9le3kSUwXzCeNuETGJFA1c-QeoUP7VNGLD0Bln7j4/edit?ts=5f566bd8&amp;skip_itp2_check=true&amp;pli=1">https://docs.google.com/document/d/134E9le3kSUwXzCeNuETGJFA1c-QeoUP7VNGLD0Bln7j4/edit?ts=5f566bd8&amp;skip_itp2_check=true&amp;pli=1</a> ) and many of my initiatives have been adopted, including an escalation policy of all Title IX reports to the Board, the creation of the Audit, Risk and Compliance (ARC) Committee and the hiring of a Chief Compliance Officer, who reports to the ARC. I know what it takes to fix MSU and that is why I have survivors and their parents supporting me.	1. Student health and wellness. We have to become the national model of how to make sure a Nassar situation never happens again. Please visit my website to read more about my plan of reform "New Day MSU" 2. Transparency and accountability. We have to hold all of those responsible for what has transpired at MSU. That is why I have called on two General Counsels to resign and fired a third one. Once our legal claims are settled, and in order to gain the public's trust, I support releasing the 6000 privileged documents.	We need to realize that Michigan is 50th in the country in investing in higher education. For the past 18 years, the Michigan legislature has balanced the state's budget on the backs of higher education. That being said, I support the policy of families living below the poverty level having the ability to go to MSU for free. I would also like to see those who graduate and stay in Michigan having their income tax used as credit against their student loans.
<b>REMA ELLA VASSAR,</b> Democrat Website: DrRema.com Facebook: facebook.com/remavassar.7 Twitter: twitter.com/drrema4msu Occupation / Current Position: Associate Professor Michael G. Morris Endowed Chair Eastern Michigan University Education: PhD Urban Schooling University of California, Los Angeles With Honors Distinction 	As a student-centered educator, I have advocated for marginalized, ignored, and harmed students throughout my career. My focus on fairness and justice will help facilitate trust in MSU leadership, promote healing, and bring stability back to students, families, faculty, and staff. As a current faculty member, I have expert knowledge of universities structures, policies, and practices to bring to bear in this COVID19 moment. As the parent of a Spartan entering her junior year, I have intimate knowledge of the unique needs of MSU families and students, and a keen imperative to improve campus life.	Frequent incidents of racism, misogyny, and sexism and racial and sexual violence threaten students' feelings of safety and belongingness. Inequity and injustice need to be addressed, head on, with boldness, urgency, and policy. Campus culture and climate need to change to facilitate inclusion that honors differences and protects every student. Additionally, MSU faces financial challenges due to COVID19 and persistent funding cuts. Creative fiduciary leadership is necessary to make up for these losses while ensuring affordability and access to all Michiganders. Everyone deserves to be a Spartan.	Strengthen Transparency and Accountability. There is still work necessary to redress the Nassar tragedy wrongs survivors and their families experienced at MSU. Better Outreach to Marginalized Communities. Intentional recruitment efforts in rural areas, low-income, and to Indigenous families will diversify MSU. Diversification in Administration, Faculty, and Staff. Students need to see themselves reflected in those charged with their care and development. Affordability. MSU is a land grant institution and any Michigander should be able to afford room and board--including middle-class families.



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### Michigan State University Board of Trustees (continued) - Term: 8-year terms • Vote for TWO (2)

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

QUESTION 1 Describe your qualifications and experience for the University Board and explain your reasons for running. What, specifically, makes you an asset to a University Board?	QUESTION 2 What are the two most pressing issues facing this university today, and what is your position on those issues?	QUESTION 3 What recommendations would you propose to make university education more accessible to all Michigan's residents?
--	--	--

**PAT O'KEEFE,**  
**Republican**  
**Website:** okeefeformsu.com  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/okeefeformsu  
**Twitter:** twitter.com/okeefeformsu  
**Occupation / Current Position:** CEO of O'Keefe Consulting & CEO of Grow Michigan  
**Education:** Michigan State University - Bachelors in Accounting. Graduated Cum Laude Wayne State University - MBA in Finance



I am running for the MSU Board of Trustees because I believe higher education is in a significant national crisis. MSU in particular is a university that is in need of fiscally conservative leadership on its board. I have spent the last 30 years of my career as a crisis manager. My firm is recognized around the globe for our problem solving capabilities. I am familiar with dealing with troubled situations and producing better than expected outcomes when the stakes are high. I have served on advisory boards at multiple universities across the state. I understand the requirements of good governance and oversight.

The non-compliance with the Clery Act is only the latest example of the lack of oversight by the Board. The Clery Act was designed to ensure university reporting on crimes on campus. MSU failed to provide the proper level of governance and oversight. I would suggest MSU has not fixed the internal controls necessary to ensure a safe campus for students. This is a very basic requirement for parents who send their kids to MSU. Critical thinking is a basic ingredient for educational learning. An educational institution needs to expose students to a variety of opinions without fear of reprisal by school administrators.

Higher education is becoming financially unattainable for minorities and lower income students. MSU must focus on using their resources, including millions of taxpayer dollars, more efficiently and develop a larger outreach in the State of Michigan. I have specific financial plans and ideas to incentivize MSU to reach this objective. Programs like Income Sharing Agreements force universities to keep the cost of education down while developing students into productive members of society. No such program exists at MSU and it is one of many options that should be considered by the Board in order to remain competitive.

**TONYA SCHUITMAKER,**  
**Republican**  
**Website:** tonyaschuitmaker.com  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/VoteTonya  
**Twitter:** @votetonya  
**Occupation / Current Position:** Attorney  
**Education:** Detroit College of Law, Juris Doctor Cum Laude Michigan State University, Bachelor of Arts, Business Administration




I am running for MSU Trustee to ensure a healthy, strong future for Michigan State University graduates; protect students and free speech on campus; and make MSU fiscally responsible and accountable to students, families, and taxpayers. My husband, daughter, and I are MSU graduates, so we care about Michigan State. During my career in elected office, I focused on public safety, the importance of higher education, and expanding economic opportunities for everyone. Additionally, I work as an attorney helping people with business and family situations.

1) Paving the way for graduates to have a healthy future, which includes ensuring higher education is affordable and that students are learning the skills and values to prepare them for success.  
2) Public safety: The campus must be safe and freedom of speech needs to be protected. In elected office, I received the "Outstanding Contributions to Public Safety" award, helped lead the charge to protect women on campus, and was named both the Michigan Sheriff's Association Legislator of the Year and Victim Services Program Legislator of the Year.

1) Holding tuition costs down is crucial so a Michigan State education is accessible. That requires being fiscally responsible, focusing resources on priorities, and practicing strong oversight and accountability.  
2) Michigan State is a big campus, so students and their family need to feel comfortable with the safety and security. By empowering public safety officials, investigating and bringing criminals to justice, and defending free speech, Michigan State will be accessible and welcoming.

**WILL TYLER WHITE,**  
**Libertarian**  
**Website:** willtylerwhite.org/  
**Occupation / Current Position:** Owner of White Bros. Music in Bath.  
**Education:** Lifelong student, technically still an undergraduate at MSU.



As an MSU student, I learned that some degrees are worth more than others, but there was not much help to guide you on which degree to pursue. I ended up studying independently with the International Economic Development Council and learned that economic development affects all communities in profound ways. It is a cross-discipline field of study though, and not offered as a major. Eventually, I qualified as a Certified Economic Developer and encourage MSU to develop programs in that field. As an entrepreneur and community activist for forty years, my business and nonprofit experience is also an asset.

Student debt and better outcomes are the most pressing issues. Getting a degree that leads to a successful career is paramount. If you spend \$100,000 on a vehicle, it has a warranty and good trade-in value. Some universities guarantee tuition rates until graduation. What kind of guarantee comes with an MSU degree? There is an implied contract. If students spend \$100,000 to earn a degree but can't earn enough to repay the cost, they could be allowed free or reduced tuition for more education or placement services. Any student debt payments could be suspended with no additional interest for certain periods.

More online opportunities and out-state satellite locations are needed. That means investment in changes, especially the availability of internet to all students. Some great outreach has been ongoing since 1915 with MSU Extension service. They help grow the economy in nearly every county, educating at the community and individual level. In 2017 their programs reached 360,000 kids and adults, and their Product Center helped launch 91 new businesses. The MSU Extension program should be supported and expanded.

**JANET M. SANGER,**  
**U.S. Taxpayer**

Did not respond in time for inclusion

**JOHN PAUL SANGER,**  
**U.S. Taxpayer**

Did not respond in time for inclusion

**BRANDON HU,**  
**Green**

Did not respond in time for inclusion

**ROBIN LEA LAURAIN,**  
**Green**  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/TrustRobinLaurain2020/  
**Occupation / Current Position:** Management for adult foster care homes that care for adults experiencing mental health disorders.  
**Education:** I graduated from Nursing school in 1981 and am currently attending the Nursing Home Administrator's Program at MSU.



My experience in the education field is that I helped establish two proprietary schools in Lansing. I was a Program Director and Instructor so I understand funding sources for education. Many of my students were eligible for the WIA program which helped to get individuals receiving State aid into vocational fields so that they could be self sufficient. I found that many of my students lacked basic reading and math skills. They had very little understanding of government or history. I set up tutoring classes in reading and math skills outside of the program and recruited volunteers to help me. All my students passed!

Campus safety is a number one issue at MSU. Safety from exposure to covid, sexual predators, racism, discrimination, and failure to thrive as students. Safety is a huge umbrella. As a Trustee, I will work tirelessly to make sure that umbrella covers all our students. Students can not learn if they do not feel safe. Faculty needs to feel safe in order to effectively teach. I will be that Trustee that walks the campus and reaches out to the Spartan community. I will use that old business model... managing by walking around which I learned at MSU. I would advocate for tuition being cut 30% for on-line classes.

I believe that any student who desires to go to University should be allowed to do so. I would work to bring the New Green Deal to MSU which calls for free college tuition. Until this could be implemented, I would advocate for a tuition freeze. I would also work towards a 30% tuition reduction and free net for all students who are not attending classes on campus due to the pandemic. Under my watch MSU would create a University Corps of advanced students to work with at risk youth to prepare them for University in exchange for tuition reduction. I would be there with the students helping them prepare future Spartans.

**BRIDGETTE ABRAHAM-GUZMAN,**  
**Natural Law**

Did not respond in time for inclusion

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### Wayne State University Board of Governors - Term: 8-year term • Vote for TWO (2)

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

<b>QUESTION 1</b> Describe your qualifications and experience for the University Board and explain your reasons for running. What, specifically, makes you an asset to a University Board?	<b>QUESTION 2</b> What are the two most pressing issues facing this university today, and what is your position on those issues?	<b>QUESTION 3</b> What recommendations would you propose to make university education more accessible to all Michigan's residents?
---	---	---

**EVA GARZA DEWAELSCHÉ,**  
**Democrat**  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/eva4wsu  
**Occupation / Current Position:** President and CEO of SER Metro-Detroit, a Detroit nonprofit workforce development organization  
**Education:** Bachelors of Sociology '79 and Masters of Education '91, Wayne State University; Fellow of Michigan State Political Leadership Program; Community Exec. Leadership Program, Harvard University



I'm a life-long Detroit and CEO of SER Metro-Detroit, a nonprofit workforce agency. I received my bachelor's degree and Master's in Education from WSU and have been involved with WSU since the '70's. I was a WSU Alumni Board member (12 yrs.) and was on several president's advisory councils from Dr. Adamany to Dr. Wilson. I'm running because I'm worried about WSU's future in this pandemic, the turmoil on the board, and recent loss of affiliation with DMC Children's Hospital. I've sat on many boards and commissions, and I bring commitment and 40+ years of administrative, education and workforce experience.

Dissention on the board negatively impacts WSU's reputation and progress. The Board's priority should be to support and guide WSU on surviving this global pandemic, developing virtual learning that works for all students, improving student retention, and ensuring a solid financial position. WSU's lost affiliation with DMC Children's hurts the medical school and services to Detroit children. Since the WSU Board could not agree on a partnership with Henry Ford Hospital, they need to pursue another hospital to maintain its leadership role within the medical community, city and state, and for our children.

Affordable tuition will improve access among low income families. Stronger partnerships with workforce and nonprofit agencies will reach underserved communities i.e., long-term unemployed, returning citizens. Entrance exams do not measure student success and should be eliminated. WSU needs to address student retention and other barriers through enhanced wrap-around social and mental health services, housing, daycare, transportation, and remedial resources. Faculty and staff need adequate tools, ongoing training and support to ensure they meet students where they are in this new virtual learning environment.

**SHIRLEY STANCATO,**  
**Democrat**  
**Website:** stancato4wsu.com  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/ShirleyStancato4WSU  
**Occupation / Current Position:** Principal, SRS Advisory Services, LLC  
**Education:** BA, Wayne State University; MA, Wayne State University; Honorary Doctorate, University of Michigan




After being appointed by Governor Whitmer to Wayne State's Board of Governors, I am now running to retain my seat. I led a long career in civic, corporate and community leadership, both as CEO of a major civic organization and as a high-ranking corporate officer in the banking industry. For almost 20 years, I served as the president and CEO of New Detroit, where I worked across the proverbial "aisle" in the private and public sectors to create a more equitable and just community. I am passionate about improving public education in Michigan, particularly at Wayne State, where I am a proud, first-generation alumna.

I am deeply concerned about the skyrocketing costs of a college education. We must be proactive and think creatively about how to address tuition affordability at Wayne State, particularly in this age of COVID-19, where state resources are strained and higher education support is more uncertain. Similarly, we must also be hyper-vigilant about addressing the health and safety of students, faculty and staff at Wayne State, both in the short term and long term. We must ensure the value of a Wayne State education and degree continues to grow, whether students are learning in the classroom, remotely or a mix of the two.

More than ever before, students and parents are questioning the cost of a higher education. While affordability is not the only factor affecting students' accessibility to higher education, I think it is the most significant one. In addition, I support the review of the heavy value placed on the ACT and SAT as an effective measure of scholastic aptitude for college admission and success. I also believe new recruiting strategies should be developed to attract the best minds from all geographies and socio-economic backgrounds.

**DON GATES,**  
**Republican**  
**Website:** gatesforwsu.com  
**Facebook:** fb.com/gatesforwsu  
**Twitter:** twitter.com/GatesForWSU  
**Occupation / Current Position:** Consultant and Operational Architect for InSight Global with JANUS Research Group  
**Education:** Masters Certificate, NDU 2019; Masters, Army War College 2015; MBA, Wayne State University 1997; B.S.B.A. University of Nebraska 1990; B.G.S.D. University of Nebraska 1990



My campaign is based on leadership, professionalism, and innovation. From the boardroom to the battlefield, I have led Soldiers in combat and commanded units with hundreds of Soldiers. I have presented and sold million-dollar projects to Corporate 500 companies. As a retired Colonel in the Army Reserve, I know how to lead effective teams and treat people with dignity and respect. I am trained to solve complex problems and develop innovative solutions. I know how to work with all stakeholders, present recommendations, make compromises, and implement winning solutions. I am running to give back and serve my alma mater.

The two issues are keeping student and faculty safe from COVID-19 and providing a quality education using a hybrid teaching format. Providing safe instruction means students and faculty must follow all the protective measures outlined by the CDC during and after classes. It is very critical they follow the rules, so they don't cause a flair up. I am in favor of stiff penalties for rule breakers. WSU has adopted a hybrid teaching method which includes 100% on-line and some classes a mix of on-line and resident classes. The classes must be challenging and teach the same content, so students receive a quality education.

The two issues are high tuition and admission policies. First, tuition rates are too high. Second, admission policies are stringent for students that don't test well on standardized tests. For tuition, I will NOT vote for a tuition increase in my eight years, reduce the administrative staff and increase the faculty, and scrutinize the exorbitant salaries and vote for reductions. Under president Wilson, administrators increased 22% and faculty decreased 12%. For WSU, MI students comprise 90%. For admissions, I will allow different admission criteria for a percentage of incoming students to increase Michigan students.

**TERRY LYNN LAND,**  
**Republican**

Did not respond in time for inclusion

**JON EGLAS,** *Libertarian*

Did not respond in time for inclusion

**CHRISTINE C. SCWARTZ,**  
**US Taxpayer**

Did not respond in time for inclusion

**SUSAN ODGERS,**  
**Green**  
**Twitter:** twitter.com/TraverseGreens  
**Occupation / Current Position:** Professor; Northwestern MI College, Columnist; Traverse City Record Eagle  
**Education:** BA Oakland Univ. MA Wayne State Univ. PhD all coursework/exams, Wayne State Univ.



migreenparty.org bio: Gratitude to all my relations. Born in Det. WSU grad. Very connected to WSU & Metro-Det. Identify as she/her/hers. LWV member. To give back. Knows needs of students/their families. Lifelong higher ed. employee. First elected Adjunct Faculty rep. at NMC. Works w/everyone. 17 yrs. state board; MPAS, 2 years as chair. In Det., served on New Horizons & Det. Rec. Univ. Hosp. PAC Bds. Currently, VP of Traverse Area Dist. Library Board, Chair Traverse City Human Rights Commission, etc. Taxpayer voice beyond Metro area. Inspires hope. Hardworking. Speaks truth to power. Working class. Progressive.

Students: Restore hope/opportunities, mental health needs, school re-imagined via Covid, affordability, personal safety, alumni outside Det. more connected to WSU, Jubilee on debt, provide free internet & address other barriers, vets/disabled/BIPOC/LGBTQ & international students beget greater support. Leadership: Wider participation/decision-making by all, challenging enrollment & funding issues more fully addressed, teacher needs higher priority. As the 2010 Sara Hardy Humanitarian of the Year, I witnessed the value of civility. Without students=no WSU. Problems & answers lie w/the univ's most marginalized people

Ask students what they want to create, not just do for a living. Students MUST be a larger part of WSU's creative process & decision making. Students question higher ed. cost to benefit ratio-with good reason. Increased flexibility in the when, way & what they learn. Listen to students & their families...they have the answers. Increase WSU connection to the community & entire state; needs & resources. Take \$ out of politics (including at the university level), no greed, no privatization, no union busting, no forgotten employees or students. Period. Common sense governance. My WSU education prepared me well for BOG.



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### Judicial Candidates appear in the NONPARTISAN section of the ballot

## Michigan Supreme Court Justice - Term: 8-year term • Vote for TWO (2)

The Michigan Supreme Court is the state's highest court and makes the final determination and interpretation of Michigan's laws. It supervises all other state courts. The court has seven members.

<b>QUESTION 1</b> Why are you running for the Michigan Supreme Court, and what educational, occupational, civic and community experiences have you had that particularly qualify you for this office?	<b>QUESTION 2</b> Do you believe the current process for selecting Supreme Court Justices is the best path to fair and impartial representation – including how candidates are nominated for election or appointed for vacancies and how campaigns are funded and regulated? Please explain.	<b>QUESTION 3</b> What, in your opinion, are the two greatest areas of need in the Michigan justice system, and how should the Supreme Court respond to them?
--	---	--

**SUSAN L. HUBBARD,**  
**Nomination method:** This candidate was nominated by the Green Party.

Did not respond in time for inclusion		
---------------------------------------	--	--

**MARY KELLY**  
**Website:** marykellyforjustice.com



**Facebook:** facebook.com/MaryKellyforJustice/  
**Occupation / Current Position:** Senior Assistant Prosecutor, St. Clair County  
**Education:** Michigan State University, Bachelor of Science Detroit College of Law, JD  
**Nomination method:** This candidate was nominated by the Republican Party.

I'm running for the Michigan Supreme Court to serve as a defender of the rule of law and a protector of the vulnerable in our society. During 30 years as a prosecutor I have been a steadfast champion for the rights of victims. As Senior Assistant Prosecutor I was the lead attorney for the Criminal Sexual Conduct Unit which handled all sexual and physical abuse cases against children. Not only did I vigorously prosecute crimes like drunk driving resulting in injury and death, but also set up treatment programs to stop repeat offenses. I will always be a strong voice for victims and for safe communities.

As a Prosecutor I'm given the responsibility to enforce the law and as a Justice on the Michigan Supreme Court my role would be to make certain we adhere to the rule of law. I will not be an advocate for any political cause, but instead abide the law. Our system gives the authority to make new law and our Constitutional system to the legislative and executive branches and to the people. I will work within the system the other branches of government and the people put in place and will not put my judgement ahead of theirs.

In 2015, I was honored to receive the James T. Corden Civility Award from my peers in the St. Clair County Bar Association. This award is given to attorneys who place a premium on integrity, honesty, ethics and fairness. In short, those who practice law with dignity and respect. The Michigan Supreme Court is the ultimate authority in our state legal system and must set the example for decorum and enforce the rules throughout the system. Some judges put themselves in the role as super legislators. It is incumbent upon our state's highest court to enforce and not make the law. That is exactly what I will do.

**BRIDGET MARY MCCORMACK**



**Website:** bridgetmarymccormack.com  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/reelectchiefjusticemccormack  
**Twitter:** twitter.com/bridgetmarymc  
**Occupation / Current Position:** Chief Justice of Michigan Supreme Court  
**Education:** New York University Law School, New York, NY, J.D., 1991 Trinity College, Hartford, CT B.A., with Honors in Political Science and Philosophy, 1988  
**Nomination method:** This candidate was nominated by the Democratic Party.

I am seeking re-election to the Michigan Supreme Court to continue advocating for the principle that everyone, regardless of their ability to afford a lawyer, deserves equal access to justice and a fair opportunity to have their case heard. Since joining the court in 2013, I have worked each day to ensure that our courts are accessible, independent, efficient, and engaged with their communities. I spent my career as a lawyer working for individuals who were disenfranchised from our justice system and prior to being elected was the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs at the U of M law school, where I still teach today.

Every process can be improved, including the one we use to elect justices in Michigan. It is important that the court is nonpartisan and therefore, in my view, the party nomination process along with some of the independent expenditures can send the wrong message to the public. Judges and justices have to be willing to lose friends and elections when making decisions--that's what their oath requires and in my experience they are, which makes some of the cost to public confidence regrettable. However, this is the process the People of Michigan have selected and I welcome their assessment of my work at the ballot box.

The most critical challenge is access to justice. Eight of 10 people in Michigan can't afford a lawyer when they have a civil legal problem and they have to either navigate the courts without one or they simply don't even try. We announced a Justice For All Taskforce last year which aims to achieve 100 percent access to the civil justice system in Michigan. There is also an absence of innovation and technology in courts, which costs them transparency, efficiency and access. We have made great progress recently, but we need to make processes more user-friendly and efficient to improve our service to the public.

**KERRY LEE MORGAN**



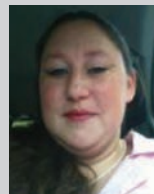
**Website:** pck-law.com/attorney/kerry-l-morgan/  
**Facebook:** martindale.com/attorney/kerry-lee-morgan-2161158/  
**Occupation / Current Position:** Attorney. Kerry Lee Morgan is Of Counsel to the law firm of Pentiuik, Couvreur, & Kobiljak, P.C.  
**Education:** Regent University, M.A. Public Policy, magna cum laude, 1985. Detroit College of Law, J.D., 1981 Michigan State University, B.A. Political Science and Criminal Justice, with honors, 1977.  
**Nomination method:** This candidate was nominated by the Libertarian Party.

The Supreme Court needs Justices who will apply the law as written, not as it ought to be written in the mind of the Judge. My background in the law for over forty years has taught me the importance of this purpose. My experience in the practice of law before judges has taught me that judges are sometimes reluctant to simply apply the law as written. I can bring a balanced respect for the written law and the Constitution in particular to the bench, so that Justice may be done.

The nomination and election process for Supreme Court Justices is adequate. Campaigns will always be funded in part by special interest and those who propose schemes to limit the effect of those interests, have an interest of their own in influencing the outcome of elections. The People are the best check on those interests and funding abuses through the ballot box. Government "solutions" and the snake oil of "bipartisan" support are designed to simply increase major party control of the Supreme Court and should be avoided.

The future of the judicial system is for the People to decide, but that future must recover a solid commitment to the rule of law, not the law of judges. Michigan Lawyers must also be freed from the politicized State Bar of Michigan by elimination of compulsory membership. The Supreme Court should be leading this fight. Instead, it sides with the Bar. It compels lawyers to pay money to the Bar for the propagation of ideas with which they disagree. The Court also tramples down the natural rights of conscience in the process. Securing natural rights is the states only compelling interest.

**KATHERINE MARY NEPTON**



**Website:** votenepton.com  
**Occupation / Current Position:** Lawyer at The Nepton Law Firm, PLLC  
**Education:** University of Connecticut Thomas M. Cooley Law School  
**Nomination method:** This candidate was nominated by the Libertarian party.

As an unexpected candidate in almost every way; I am running for the ability to affect positive change across Michigan for generations. Bringing my unique world view to the Courts. My secondary goal in running is to bring awareness to the fact that in Michigan's 183 years as a state we are only beginning to bring Indigenous people into the fold. I wonder how many Indigenous clerks there are across Michigan. I wonder how many Indigenous lawyers have the opportunity to take a job offering various opportunities instead of working blue collar jobs through school like I did. These aims are why I am running.

Although I believe money and politics should not intertwine, my only comment on Campaign Finance is that current Michigan law makes things appear as if those in power never considered that an Indigenous person would ever get as far as being on the ballot. And, justifiably, it has taken 183 years for Michigan to have their first ever Indigenous person Candidate for Supreme Court Justice. There are specific barriers to me, as a candidate, because of my race that are built into Michigan Law. Neighbors & sister tribes are restricted, for reference please see MCL 169.252, and MCL 169.254.

First, Michigan needs to reduce archaic laws. Just because the constitution overrules certain laws does not mean that Michigan should have these laws on the books. Next, Michigan has gotten too close to the "debtor's prisons" of time long past. Our Founding Fathers set up a system so that we would never need to put people in jail for not being able to pay a bill. In Michigan numerous people are in jail for this very reason. This systemic problem influences society in many ways. The less able you are to pay a fine, the more likely that you have a criminal record because of debt owed to the state. This is unacceptable.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### Judicial Candidates appear in the NONPARTISAN section of the ballot

#### Michigan Supreme Court Justice (continued) - Term: 8-year term • Vote for TWO (2)

The Michigan Supreme Court is the state's highest court and makes the final determination and interpretation of Michigan's laws. It supervises all other state courts. The court has seven members.

<p><b>QUESTION 1</b></p> <p>Why are you running for the Michigan Supreme Court, and what educational, occupational, civic and community experiences have you had that particularly qualify you for this office?</p>	<p><b>QUESTION 2</b></p> <p>Do you believe the current process for selecting Supreme Court Justices is the best path to fair and impartial representation – including how candidates are nominated for election or appointed for vacancies and how campaigns are funded and regulated? Please explain.</p>	<p><b>QUESTION 3</b></p> <p>What, in your opinion, are the two greatest areas of need in the Michigan justice system, and how should the Supreme Court respond to them?</p>
---	--	---

**BROCK SWARTZLE**  
**Website:** BrockForJustice.com  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/BrockSwartzleForJustice  
**Occupation / Current Position:** Judge, Michigan Court of Appeals  
**Education:** B.S., University of Michigan; J.D., George Mason University Law School  
**Nomination method:** This candidate was nominated by the Republican Party.



The Rule of Law is a bedrock of our society, and we must be vigilant in protecting it. Justice, due process, equity, and fairness all flow from the Rule of Law. As a Michigan Court of Appeals Judge, I am committed to upholding these principles. Before becoming a judge, I worked in the Legislature as House General Counsel, in 3 federal courts as a law clerk, and as a lawyer in private practice (e.g., antitrust, employment, healthcare, criminal law, etc). I've given back to my community through my church and alumni association, as well as teaching at the MSU Law School and serving on a national judicial education board.

The people should decide who their judges are. There are many ways this can be done, and Michigan's system strikes a reasonable balance. It is absolutely essential that judges run as nonpartisans, because our judicial canons require us to "be unswayed by partisan interests." Canon 3(A)(1). We need more outlets to inform the public about each candidate's judicial philosophy and experience, so that judicial elections are focused on the issues, not catchy slogans or memorable phrases. And, most importantly, candidates must be transparent—that is why I have posted my opinions to my website, BrockForJustice.com.

We have the greatest legal system in the world—if you can afford it. Simply put, justice that is too expensive is not justice. We must make access to justice cheaper for everyone, from the single mom to the corner storekeeper to the adoptive parents to the low-income juvenile to our biggest employers. So, (1) the Michigan Supreme Court needs to reform its court rules to make pretrial matters (e.g., fact discovery, motion practice) quicker and cheaper, and (2) the Court needs to work with the Legislature and other groups to provide juveniles who enter the justice system with early and effective intervention.

**ELIZABETH M. WELCH**  
**Website:** welchforjustice.com/  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/welchforjustice  
**Twitter:** twitter.com/welchforjustice  
**Occupation / Current Position:** Attorney  
**Education:** Penn State University, BA with honors; Ohio State University, JD  
**Nomination method:** This candidate was nominated by the Democratic Party.



My experience with employment law (representing small businesses, nonprofits, and individuals); bi-partisan advocacy for public schools, voting rights, and conservation; criminal law and abuse/neglect cases; and community mediation will add value to the Court. I have served in leadership roles on my local school board, in nonprofit organizations, and on foundations working to solve deep challenges in our communities. We need justices with broad backgrounds and exposure to different viewpoints to make important decisions and ensure the Judicial Branch functions fairly and transparently to assure public trust.

Our partisan nomination process is confusing. An alternative is a non-partisan commission/appointment by Governor/retention election process. Importantly all judges should face voters in elections to ensure they stay connected to those served. Voter guides with candidate information could be sent to all voters with absentee ballots and be placed in polling places. Finally, we must have full, timely disclosure of all money spent in judicial races. Candidates already have robust campaign finance disclosure requirements, but the law should also require full disclosure of money spent by everyone else.

The lack of complete data makes it impossible to fully study and understand outcomes in our criminal justice system. The Court should work to modernize technology platforms in order to gather data in a usable format across the State so that outcomes are examined to ensure justice is delivered fairly across all demographics and programs are implemented that ensure safer communities. Additionally, we have a crisis in our court system; the vast majority of litigants lack access to counsel. We must utilize technology and new pathways to ensure everyone can access justice fairly (even if unrepresented).

### Judicial Candidates appear in the NONPARTISAN section of the ballot

#### Michigan Appeals Court

The Michigan Appeals Court is the primary appeals court of the state. There are 4 districts; candidates run on the Nonpartisan Section of the Ballot.

*All candidates are unopposed and were not sent questionnaires.*

<p><b>District 1</b> 6-Year Terms – Vote for no more than THREE (3)  <b>KAREN FORT HOOD</b>  <b>ANICA LETICA</b>  <b>CHRISTOPHER M. MURRAY</b></p> <p><b>District 2</b> 6-Year Terms – Vote for no more than TWO (2)  <b>MARK J. CAVANAGH</b>  <b>JONATHAN TUKEL</b></p>	<p><b>District 3</b> 6-Year Terms – Vote for no more than TWO (2)  <b>MARK THOMAS BOONSTRA</b></p> <p><b>JANE E. MARKEY</b></p> <p><b>District 3</b> Partial Term Ending 1/1/2023, 2 Years Vote for no more than ONE (1)  <b>JAMES ROBERT REDFORD</b></p>	<p><b>District 4</b> 6-Year Terms – Vote for no more than TWO (2)  <b>MICHAEL J. KELLY</b></p> <p><b>AMY RONAYNE KRAUSE</b></p> <p><b>District 4</b> Non-Incumbent, 6-Year Terms – Vote for no more than ONE (1)  <b>MICHELLE RICK</b></p>
--	---	--

**VOTE IN YOUR CLERK'S OFFICE**  
September 24 to November 2  
40 Days of Voting!

or

**VOTE AT YOUR POLLING PLACE**  
on November 3, 7 am - 8 pm

**VOTE FROM HOME**  
by Absentee Ballot

✓ Ballot Drop Boxes are available in most communities. For Drop Box location(s) see [www.Michigan.gov/vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/vote)

✓ Mail 1st Class by October 19 - or drop it off in person at your Clerk's office.




# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### Ingham County Clerk - Term: 4-years • Partisan • Candidates: Choose One

The County Clerk maintains county records, serves as the chief election officer for the county, and records statistics on births, deaths, marriages, military discharges and applications for citizenship. The clerk also serves as clerk for the board of commissioners. The clerk can also officiate at wedding ceremonies. As the chief election official for the county, the clerk supervises all elections and is responsible for administering campaign finance reporting for all candidates that file locally.

	1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Ingham County Clerk position.	2. What are the priority issues facing the Ingham County Clerk?	3. How could voter participation, particularly among youth, be increased?
<p><b>BARB BYRUM - DEM</b>  <b>Occupation:</b> Ingham County Clerk  <b>Email:</b> clerkbyrum@gmail.com  <b>Website:</b> barbbyrum.com  <b>Facebook:</b> facebook.com/barbbyrum  <b>Education:</b> Juris Doctor, MSU College of Law 2004 Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management, MSU 1999  <b>Address:</b> PO Box 27344 Lansing, MI 48909</p> 	<p>I have been County Clerk for Ingham County for the past 8 years. During that time, I have been credentialed as a Certified Elections/Registration administrator and have successfully conducted 25 elections. In 2016, I was the first County Clerk to complete the recount of the Presidential Election. I have been an advocate for the voting rights of qualified registered voters and have focused on the rights of military and overseas voters. I am an active member of the Overseas Voting Initiative, a collaboration to improve the process of voting by the military and civilians living abroad. In 2017, I served on Election Center's Security Task force and I currently serve on Michigan's Election Security Commission, a team of advisors tasked with securing elections in our state. I worked with the LWV to register our most vulnerable residents to ensure that they are able to exercise their right to vote. I am running for re-election as Ingham County's Clerk because my work is not yet done.</p>	<p>The biggest priority that faces the Ingham County Clerk is ensuring that our elections are administered openly, fairly, and securely. In the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, one of the top issues that faces clerks at all levels is how to provide a safe environment with which to vote. I have been promoting the right to vote Absentee without needing a reason for several years, as a result of the passage of Proposal 3 in 2018. My office has sponsored mailings that would give residents the ability to easily sign up for their local clerk's Permanent Absent Voter Ballot Application List. I hosted Ingham County's first Election Academy to encourage a better understanding of Michigan elections and the numerous precautions taken to secure our elections. I am a prolific election blogger as I believe the more people understand how our elections are run, the more confidence people will have in the outcome and the more likely others will want to become involved in the process.</p>	<p>Increasing youth participation is a specific challenge that I have been tackling head on. Ingham County is uniquely suited to drive youth registration, awareness, and turnout in our elections due to our several colleges and universities here. I have partnered with student groups as well as MSUVote to hold many registration drives and information sessions on campus, reaching thousands of student youths. In 2020, I created the "Student's Guide to Voting" and worked with local high schools and universities to distribute. This guide focused on how to register to vote, common misconceptions about changing your registration and how to find out where your polling location is. I also have been creating content for media platforms that youths typically prefer. I have made several public service announcements that I have been able to share via Youtube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok. I've also disseminated this information using traditional media.</p>
<p><b>JOSEPH W. WERNER - REP</b>  <b>Email:</b> electjoewerner@gmail.com</p>	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond


### Ingham County Treasurer - Term: 4-years • Partisan • Candidates: Choose One

The County Treasurer is the custodian of all county funds and the collector of taxes. The treasurer receives all revenues, invests reserve funds, collects delinquent property taxes, and sells real estate that has unpaid taxes. The treasurer is also the chairman of the Ingham Land Bank.

	1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Ingham County Clerk position.	2. What are the priority issues facing the Ingham County Clerk?	3. How could voter participation, particularly among youth, be increased?
<p><b>ERIC A. SCHERTZING - DEM</b>  <b>Email:</b> shertzling@aol.com</p>	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond
<p><b>BRUCE A. LITTLE - REP</b>  <b>Email:</b> littlebabuilder@yahoo.com  <b>Phone:</b> 517-282-1722</p>	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond

### Register of Deeds - Term: 4-years • Partisan • Candidates: Choose One

The Register of Deeds records deeds, land contracts, mortgages and other documents showing property ownership within the county. The duties are established by state law.

	Question 1 Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Ingham County Register of Deeds position.	Question 2 What are the priority issues facing Ingham County Register of Deeds?
<p><b>DERRICK QUINNEY - DEM</b>  <b>Occupation:</b> Ingham County Register of Deeds  <b>Email:</b> derrickquinney35@gmail.com  <b>Facebook:</b> facebook.com/derrick.quinney  <b>Education:</b> University of Michigan Labor Studies Program  <b>Phone:</b> 517-706-9883  <b>Address:</b> 2010 Wellesley Dr Lansing MI 48911. United States</p> 	<p>I have been serving in local government for two decades, beginning as a City of Lansing Police Commissioner. I spent ten years in that role, providing oversight to the Lansing Police Department and holding its leadership accountable. In November of 2007, I was elected to serve as an at-large member of the Lansing City Council. I loved supporting my community in that position, working to improve the city that raised me. I remained on the council for seven years. I was appointed to serve as the Ingham County Register of Deeds in 2015 and re-elected in 2016. Since taking office, I've focused on streamlining customer service and ensuring that county homeowners are connected with the resources they need to achieve comfort and security. I have taken care to support homeowners of all races, religions, gender identities and sexual orientations, and to guarantee the faithful execution of Ingham County's non-discrimination policies. I am running for re-election to continue that vital work.</p>	<p>As Register of Deeds, I have taken an interest in educating the public on the dangers of property fraud, predatory lending practices and abusive contracts. There is strong evidence that communities of color are especially vulnerable to predatory lenders and bad-faith land contracts, and putting a stop to those disturbing trends is key to ending systemic racism in our region. It is my conviction that would-be victims must be armed with the knowledge to safely pursue homeownership, and that type of knowledge will be especially pertinent in the wake of the financial devastation many families have experienced due to COVID-19. Ingham County is also facing budgetary stress related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and maintaining efficient county workplaces will be of vital importance as we attempt to control costs and balance budgets going forward. I have made every effort to promote that kind of efficiency by modernizing the recording process and transitioning to a digitized, 21st-century system.</p>
<p><b>CAROL J. VANDRE - REP</b>  <b>Email:</b> caroljv123@comcast.net  <b>Phone:</b> 517-256-3779</p>	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### Prosecuting Attorney - Term: 4-years • Partisan • Candidates: Choose One

The Prosecuting Attorney—a licensed attorney—is the chief law enforcement officer for the county. The office reviews, authorizes and prosecutes violations of felony and misdemeanor or criminal laws committed within the county. The prosecuting attorney reviews all drug and property forfeiture matters, reviews petitions involving juvenile offenders under 17, and files action to establish family support, as well as serving an array of other legal functions.

**Question 1**  
Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney.

**Question 2**  
What are the priority issues facing Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney?

**CAROL A. SIEMON - DEM**  
**Occupation:** Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney  
**Email:** carolsiemon@comcast.net  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/CarolSiemonforInghamCounty-Prosecutor/  
**Education:** BS Michigan State University, James Madison College, 1978, JD Suffolk University, Boston, MA, 1981  
**Phone:** 517-333-0687  
**Address:** PO Box 4488 East Lansing, MI 48826



Four years ago, I ran for prosecutor to use my experiences with in the system - including 11 years as an Ingham County Assistant Prosecutor - to reform the office's charging and sentencing practices, while expanding victim services. As the prosecutor, I've helped create alternatives to mass incarceration by expanding diversion and specialty court programming and working to reduce our prison population by changing how we prosecute individual cases. In 2017-18, we reduced our prison commitment rate by 21% while increasing diversion referrals, also by 21% - while the number of cases dropped slightly overall. We have expanded our services to victims; adding a new assistant prosecutor dedicated to sexual assault cases; created a grant-funded domestic violence project with the Lansing Police; adding a new victim-witness position to ensure notices are distributed; and added on-line notifications, so that crime victims don't need to rely on a recorded phone message.

Coronavirus is the most critical issue facing our society, and our criminal justice system plays a role. We have worked to reduce our state and local inmate population to control the spread of Covid-19 to which inmates are particularly vulnerable. We have stayed open for essential operations, while encouraging our staff to work from home when feasible. I'm encouraged that, thanks to our overall response to the pandemic, Ingham County has kept infections under control, relative to hot-spot areas. Beyond that, I believe we need to create a justice system that promotes racial healing, ends the practice of mass incarceration, crafts a proportionate and humane response to each individual case, and serves victims and survivors of crime in a trauma-informed setting. As the prosecutor, I have worked to turn these beliefs into action by creating alternatives to incarceration while expanding our services to the victims of crime.

**GEORGE PLATISIS - REP**  
**Occupation:** retired  
**Email:** george.platisis@prodigy.net  
**Facebook:** George Platisis  
**Education:** Studied Medicine and Law at the University of Michigan, where I also received my undergrad degree  
**Phone:** 517-349-2440  
**Address:** 2019 Shagbark Lane Okemos, Michigan 48864

I am a 50 year member of the Michigan Bar. Born in Crete, Greece to American citizens and raised in Battle Creek, Michigan from the age of 6 months. A resident of Ingham County for the last 50 years. U.S. Army Veteran serving 2 years during the Vietnam War era. Served 2 years with the Federal Trade Commission in Washington D.C. upon graduation from Michigan Law School. Served 10 years as an Assistant Attorney General and Special Assistant Attorney for the State of Michigan under Attorney General Frank Kelly, also known as the "Eternal General." Practiced civil trial and appellate law in the State of Michigan, primarily medical malpractice, employment, condemnation and injury law cases. Argued before the Supreme Court of Michigan, Michigan Court of Appeals, Federal District Courts and 6th Circuit Court of Appeals.

I do not have an agenda. I will follow the law and the facts with transparency and truthfulness. I will uphold and honor our Bill of Rights for every citizen and ensure that our fundamental freedoms are both practiced and protected.

### Sheriff - Term: 4-years • Partisan • Candidates: Choose One

The Sheriff has civil and criminal jurisdiction throughout the county. This office is responsible for executing orders of the courts, serving papers, arresting and detaining accused offenders, and operating the county jail. The sheriff's office provides support for other law enforcement agencies within the county, particularly for road patrols.

**Question 1**  
Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Ingham County Sheriff.

**Question 2**  
What are the priority issues facing the Ingham County Sheriff?

**SCOTT A. WRIGGELSWORTH - DEM**  
**Occupation:** Ingham County Sheriff  
**Email:** sawriggelsworth@comcast.net  
**Website:** votewriggelsworth.com  
**Facebook:** Scott Wriggelsworth for Ingham County Sheriff  
**Education:** 1988 Holt High School; 1992 Michigan State Univ (marketing). 2006 FBI National Academy Session 226  
**Phone:** 517-285-1831  
**Address:** PO Box 77 Holt, MI 48842



27 year in law enforcement, starting with East Lansing Police in 1994 where I rose to the rank of Lieutenant. I was elected Sheriff in 2016 and took office 1-1-2017. My first term as Sheriff has been enjoyable and challenging all at the same time. I've lived in Ingham County all my life (50 years) and have invested most of my life trying to make our community better. My entire career in law enforcement I have done my best to make our profession better, and now in my role as Sheriff I can have an even greater positive impact. I have a lot of work left to do. The Mission of the Sheriff's Office is "to provide correctional, law enforcement, and support service excellence in partnership with our community" Created under my leadership, this is my expectation of myself, and my staff, each and every day. Now maybe more than ever, law enforcement and corrections are in the spotlight and under the microscope. I accept the challenge and look forward to leading ICSO for years to come.

Staff and budget. Since 2008, we have lost 45 full time positions between corrections and law enforcement. Trying to provide all that is expected of us by the community we serve is more challenging than ever. The financial impacts of COVID, on the federal, state, and local level will take years to fully grasp, and will likely significantly impact our profession. Transparency and accountability have never been more important. Hiring people with good moral character. Those willing to listen more, talk less, and above all else willing to do what's right each and every day both on and off duty. Using good judgment, giving people their time, even those that find themselves incarcerated. The more our profession can connect with people on a personal level, the better off we all are. Partnering with our community and other law enforcement agencies in our area has a synergistic effect. Being able to do more (or the same) with less, is only achievable through these partnerships.

**DANIEL J. WELLS - REP**  
**Email:** djwells3452@gmail.com

Candidate did not respond

Candidate did not respond

## INGHAM COUNTY PROPOSALS

### Public Transportation System for Elderly and Disabled Millage Renewal Question

**Yes    No**

For the purpose of renewing funding at the same millage level previously approved by the voters in 2016 for a transportation system to be used primarily by elderly and disabled persons in Ingham County, 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, previously increased by up to 0.6000 mills, \$0.60 per \$1,000 of taxable value, be continued and renewed for a period of six (6) years (2021-2026) inclusive? If approved and levied in full, this Millage will raise an estimated additional \$4,609,732 for the transportation system in the first calendar year of the levy based on state.

*The above proposal is for all residents of Ingham County. There are also proposals for residents in Danville School District, Eaton Rapids School District, LeRoy School District, Wheatland Township, and Williamston Township. Please go to [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) to see the wording of those proposals.*



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### Drain Commissioner - Term: 4-years • Partisan • Candidates: Choose One

The Drain Commissioner provides for construction, maintenance and improvement of county public storm drains. That office is responsible for all natural water courses and sewers and drains in the county and all water treatment plants established under the drain codes. Other responsibilities include implementing state environmental laws, particularly those dealing with lake levels and erosion control. The Drain Commissioner also assesses benefitted property owners to pay for costs of a drain.

**Question 1**  
Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Ingham County Drain Commissioner.

**Question 2**  
What are the priority issues facing the Ingham County Drain Commissioner?

**PATRICK LINDEMANN - DEM**  
**Occupation:** Ingham County Drain Commissioner  
**Email:** patricklindemann@icloud.com  
**Web Site:** patricklindemann.com  
**Education:** Bachelors Degree, MSU in Resource Development. Extensive post-graduate credits in Water Management  
**Phone:** 517-488-8651  
**Address:** 3024 W. Willow St., Lansing, MI 48917



I have been the Ingham County Drain Commissioner for 27 years. During that time I have spearheaded the construction and reconstruction of thousands of miles of stormwater infrastructure throughout the county. My innovative stormwater management practices and infrastructure replacement and new construction projects have lead the way in the State of Michigan and across the nation. They have saved millions of dollars for the tax payers. I have lead the field in pollution reduction and environmental stewardship, managing both urban and rural stormwater runoff. My record and my finished projects speaks for themselves.

Infrastructure in the state and across the country is crumbling and in desperate need of repair, everything from roads, storm drains, sanitary sewers, drinking water and gas lines. I have developed a proactive maintenance program, not reactive. My predecessors have taken a reactive approach to infrastructure management which has led to larger project costs, and more failures within our infrastructure. This reactive approach has led to costly management of our infrastructure and extremely heavy pollution problems to our waterways. For the past 27 years, I have worked to put a proactive approach together that coordinates response and maintenance, which is cost-effective and efficient at reducing pollution loading into our waterways and groundwater resources. My top priorities are to continue to face the complex issues of this office and to set into motion long-term programs which address these problems efficiently. It took us over 200 years to get here. Solutions will take many years.

**BRIAN B. BEAUCHINE - REP**  
**Email:** bebeau@comcast.net  
**Phone:** 313-444-4538

Candidate did not respond

Candidate did not respond

### Lansing Community College Board of Trustees- Term: 6-years • Non-Partisan • Candidates: Choose 2

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.

**Question 1**  
What special qualities do you bring to the Lansing Community College Board?

**Question 2**  
What is your vision for LCC? What do you see as the role of the community college? What are your priorities?

**Andrew P. Abood**  
**Occupation:** Attorney  
**Email:** andrew@aboodlaw.com  
**Facebook:** Andrew P. Abood  
**Education:** JW Sexton (1983) MSU (1987). Cooley Law School (1990). Also have attended LCC  
**Phone:** Office 517-332-5900  
**Address:** I live in Lansing and work in East Lansing at the Abood Law Firm.



I am the only candidate who has been on the Board for the last six years. I was also previously appointed to the Civil Service by Governor Granholm. I am attorney, licensed in the State of Michigan for the last 30 years. I have my own private practice located in East Lansing. I attended and graduated from JW Sexton, Michigan State University and Cooley Law School. I am a life long student of Lansing Community College. I have raised four children who all have graduated from college (Colorado, MSU and U of M) and understand the importance of a quality education at fair price. I am a lifelong resident of Lansing and have been involved in numerous community service programs and continue to give back to a community that has been so generous with me.

Our priorities have been and will continue to be to focus on student success. Particularly in regards to persistence and completion. We also need to continue to look a non traditional forward looking educational environments and tools especially in light of the current pandemic. Our online tutoring has been a success and we need to push for reduced costs associated with books for the classes. The community college role is an important step for Lansing and the districts student to get from point A to point B without going into a mountain of debt. The college is an economic engine that partners with business to provide professional development, and we offer continuing education and development for our residents. My vision for LCC is to continue on our current trajectory of success but our double down on issues like development education and the importance of successful outcomes for our minority student body.

**Kimberly Kaye Azima**  
**Occupation:** Retired  
**Email:** kimberly.kaye.azima@comcast.net  
**Facebook:** Kimberly Kaye Azima for LCC Trustee  
**Education:** Nursing Degree from LCC, Phlebotomy Certificate. Cosmetology License  
**Phone:** 517-281-2825  
**Address:** 1132 Woodwind Trail Haslett, MI 48840

As a former LCC student, a small business owner, a nurse, a mother, a grandmother, and a person with a husband who has been a professor at LCC for over forty years, I bring to the table a broad range of viewpoints, as well as an understanding of the workings of the college.

I would like to see true shared governance at LCC. I believe getting everyone (faculty, staff, students, administrators, and board members) involved, rather than a top down model of governance, would help to promote student learning and student success. A community college should be responsive to the needs of its diverse student population, by being a place for everyone to learn and grow, no matter what their age, who they are, their background, and so on. The success of every student, whatever a student considers their success (be it mastering a skill, achieving a certificate, earning a degree, transferring to a four-year institution, or just personal growth), is my highest priority.

**Gregory Sinicropi**  
**Occupation:** Restaurateur  
**Email:** gsin5150@yahoo.com  
**Facebook:** @sinicropiforLCC2020  
**Education:** Bachelors in business administration from western Michigan University  
**Phone:** 517-282-0950



I'm from lansing and still live in lansing. I graduated from lansing eastern My children Have attended lansing schools since kindergarten and are currently going to everett high school. My father has dedicated his Entire professional life to education and is currently the superintendent of Lansing schools. I have been in business for 22 years. I started with Kroger and was in retail management for almost 8 years and have been self employed with restaurants now for almost 15 years. I own Crossroads Grill and bar in leslie and I am co owner of arts pub in Lansing. I bring a business background with expertise in operations and have grown up in the education field. I know the struggles and have lots of resources to help me learn the processes I need to learn to help LCC.

I would like to see LCC raise awareness in the local school districts to help grow enrollment. I would like to put a spotlight on LCC and it's many wonderful programs. I see my role as a business person who can provide that insight into budgeting and spending. My first priory is to get in and learn everything I can about the structure of the school, the professors and the students and see how I help . I believe in open dialogue and communication and I think I will do all I can to provide a fresh set of eyes on the problems we face in 2020 and beyond.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### Lansing Community College Board of Trustees- Term: 6-years • Non-Partisan • Candidates: Choose 2

**Continued:** 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.

#### Howard T. Spence

**Occupation:** Attorney - Arbitrator - College Instructor - State of Michigan Retiree (State Exec - Licensing Exec - Ad Law Judge)  
**Email:** htspence@gmail.com



**Website:** howardspence4lcctrustee.com/  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/howard.spence.921/

**Education:** BA Honors College Mich State U; MBA MSU; MS MSU; MLIR MSU; JD Univ of Mich Law School; MPA U Mich  
**Phone:** 517-321-8775  
**Address:** 1637 Willow Creek Dr., Lansing, MI 48917

#### Question 1 What special qualities do you bring to the Lansing Community College Board?

Resident of Greater Lansing area since 1967 with considerable community contacts, and activism; 30+ years of exec management state of Michigan in depts of corrections, commerce (public svc commission, insurance bureau, and occupational licensing); experience in human resource management, organizational development and team building; legal counseling and litigation experience representing both management and employees in the state civil service and courts; strong people skills to respect and consider needs and issues affecting ALL area residents; a love, passion and experience in advocating and implementing diversity/inclusion; 3 terms elected Eaton County Commissioner representing Delta Township; Active in Mich state bar, professional organizations and nonprofit community programs; member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc; experience and training in public policy, strategic planning and org oversight; a Life-long strong enthusiasm for self-advancement through continuing education.

#### Question 2 What is your vision for LCC? What do you see as the role of the community college? What are your priorities?

LCC has been one of the most notable community institutions and community assets since its inception. It already provides a multitude of education and training opportunities for a wide range of community players - including young people who want to get education or training experience to begin their post secondary education, to learn a skill or trade, or to explore and mature in both knowledge and experience and ability. LCC also offers businesses training and special assistance for their growth and employee development. Individuals can "self-actualize" by developing interests in the arts and sciences. I am happy with what LCC has been able to accomplish thus far. As a Board member, my priorities would include working with a new and incoming president and COO to continue well established programs and to identify needed new education trends and programs to offer to the community during what could be turbulent and challenging times.  
 "I believe that Education is a great equalizer."

#### LaShunda Thomas

**Occupation:** State of Michigan  
**Email:** lagriff2@aol.com  
**Facebook:** Citizens To Elect LaShunda Thomas



**Education:** Bachelors of Science Publication Administration/Community Development. Student-Masters Social Work

**Phone:** 616-951-1847  
**Address:** 1615 N. Waverly Rd Lansing, MI 48917

Becoming a Lansing Community College Trustee, I will bring previous board experience, along with first hand experience. Lansing Community College enabled me to begin my education as a single mother of five. I have also counseled many students and their parents, allowing me to be the bridge builder between faculty and students from many educational institutions. Being a mother, mentor, community activist, and a youth advocate, has allowed me insight on real issues that our communities face. It has allowed me the opportunity to form a relationship with students, parents, and faculty within the greater Lansing area.

My vision for Lansing Community College is to see students continue to experience success and be well equipped to enter a world unlike anything we have seen in the past. That means addressing the needs of students in the classroom as well as outside. I want to empower our student body to be the world shapers I know they can be, through rigorous academic standards geared to an ever changing social and cultural climate. My priority would be safety for all students, faculty, staff, and Administration. Preparing everyone to return to a safe campus, assuring each individual that Lansing Community College has their safety in mind. My priority will also be to ensure that quality education continues even during the pandemic. Everyone deserves to have confidence that LCC is providing a safe place to continue the awesome work that is already being done.

### Ingham County Commissioner- Term: 2 years • Partisan • Candidates: Choose One

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.

1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Ingham County Board of Commissioners.	2. What are the priority issues facing the Ingham County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	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?	4. Do you see the role of the county health department changing as a result of our experiences with COVID-19?
--	--	---	---

#### DISTRICT 1 Victor G. Celentino DEM

**Occupation:** Special Education Teacher  
**Email:** victorcelentino8201@comcast.net



**Website:** vote-celentino.com

**Education:** Diploma: Waverly High School; AD, LCC; BA, Olivet College; MA Western Michigan University.  
**Phone:** 517-285-9049  
**Address:** 1029 Andrus Ave., Lansing, MI 48917

20 years as a County Commissioner, Chairperson of the BOC 2004, 2006, 2014, 2018 (partial). Member of the Law and Courts and County Services Committees. Capital Region International Airport Authority Board; member of NAACP; Italian American Club of Lansing; St. Gerard Catholic Church. Former Lansing Township Trustee (1992-2000). Presently a Special Education teacher at Sexton High School with the Lansing School District. I am running for reelection because my years of experience is needed in these challenging times. I've been involved with many issues during my tenure ranging from infrastructure, recreational opportunities, and regionalism. In 2020, Waverly Road from Old Lansing Rd to St. Joe street along with MDOT's project on the interchange, will be resurface and restructured. I would like to monitor this important project which I've been involved with and benefits all the citizens of our region. I would like to continue to offer positive and responsible progressive leadership.

The first priority is the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic. Making sure we are doing all we can to ensure our employees and our citizens of are safe and healthy. We have taken many proactive steps when responding (declaring local state of emergency; activating our EOC, working with officials and others within the region, making sure our employees finances are not disruptive, keeping businesses aware of the stimulus money flowing into the region their continued operations.etc.). The second priority is to closely monitor the financial impact this will have on our finances for the continuation of the FY 2020 and when preparing for the 2021 FY budget. Being prudent in any additional spending right now is being practiced by the Board. My third priority is the continuation monitoring the completion of the Waverly Road/MDOT infrastructure project, which has already began this spring.

Ingham County has always been a steward on being environmentally aware. Global warming is an issue facing our country. Ingham County has always established "green" policies for building projects to the extent possible. Our committee process has always tried to identify any environmental concerns within our country structure and looking at possible solution, for example going 'green' on building projects as I mentioned, or any other environmental policy which would benefit. Also, our Health department does an exceptional job monitoring lead levels in our water, which is an environmental concern for our community.

The Ingham County Health Department has been a leader throughout our state when responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our County Health Officer Linda Vail, has exhibited exceptional leadership with her proactive approach when this first started. The results of our policies has kept the numbers at a minimal, however, we are very saddened for those who have lost their lives from this virus and our thoughts and prayers goes out to their families and loved ones. As a result of the the policies, our hospitals have not been overburden and they have been able to handle the crisis. We are very grateful for the many health care workers who risk their lives taking care of us. We will continue to work toward keeping our citizens healthy and safe during this pandemic crisis. Ingham County has been a strong and steady leader throughout this crisis.

#### Kathy Prout - REP

**Email:** kprout@email.com  
**Phone:** 517-372-3549

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### Ingham County Commissioner (continued) - Term: 2 years • Partisan • Candidates: Choose One

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.

1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Ingham County Board of Commissioners.	2. What are the priority issues facing the Ingham County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	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?	4. Do you see the role of the county health department changing as a result of our experiences with COVID-19?
--	--	---	---

**DISTRICT 2**  
**Ryan Sebolt - DEM**  
**Occupation:** Gov-ernment Relations, Labor  
**Email:** rsebolt@gmail.com  
**Website:** voteryansebolt.com/  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/voteryansebolt/  
**Education:** B.A., Albion College 2005  
**Phone:** 517-927-3917  
**Address:** 1555 N Genesee Dr  
 Lansing, MI 48915



I am currently serving in my second term as County Commissioner. I also have more than a decade of experience working in the legislature, and through that, working with various levels of government. Prior to being elected to office, I also was on the boards of Suits and the City (an LGBTQ professional networking group) and Michigan Pride (which hosts the LGBTQ Pride Festival in Lansing each year). I am seeking reelection because I believe strongly in the work done by county government. We provide critical services that improve the lives of the residents of Ingham County.

The biggest issue that will now face Ingham County will be our ability to continue to provide the quality services our residents rely on while dealing with the anticipated budget shortfall due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are many environmental issues that we can focus on locally, from preserving green space to increased use of renewable energy to addressing traffic and urban sprawl. I think the most important role the county can play in addressing environmental concerns is to serve as a regional coordinator. As a coordinator, the county can help align efforts between larger entities like Lansing and East Lansing, while also providing assistance to smaller townships in developing their plans.

For the foreseeable future, there will be increased demands on the Ingham County Health Department. We are very fortunate to have such a proactive health department whose efforts have really helped to curb the spread of COVID-19 and flatten the curve. The health department will have a continued need to do contract tracing, especially as we start to re-engage sectors of the economy. There will be a need to continue to inform the public, including vulnerable and marginalized populations on health and safety measures to prevent the spread of the virus. There will also be the need to inspect and enforce safety standards at workplaces across the county.

**Peter S. Hudy**  
**REP**  
**Email:** hudypete@yahoo.com  
**Phone:** 517-927-6682

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

**DISTRICT 3**  
**Derrell E. Slaughter - DEM**  
**Email:** slaughterforlansing@gmail.com  
**Phone:** 517-295-1012

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

**Beverly K. Hansen**  
**REP**  
**Occupation:** Retired from MI Dept. Treasury  
**Email:** bkhansen4@aol.com  
**Education:** Graduate of Parsons Business School(now Davenport College. General Business Course (acct. & bus.)  
**Phone:** 517-708-7485  
**Address:** 4811 Ora Street



I am a Precinct Delegate, Volunteer for MIGOP by making phone calls, Mid Michigan Womens' Republican Club officer, Ingham County Republican Party, top volunteer of the County for 2020. I worked for the Michigan Dept. of Treasury for 32 years and am retired. I worked in Kalamazoo Office for 16 of those years and answered phones, helped customers that came to office for assistance and called delinquent taxpayers, did tax returns, banking reconciliation, filing and helped wherever needed. In Lansing I worked in Receipts Processing for 16 years and helped process funds from different departments and made sure that everything was balanced before sending out. Traced checks that were not credited.

My Priority is to cut wasteful spending & consolidate some of the County positions. Fix roads.

COVID-19 is our most important issue at this time. Our County Health Dept. is doing its job to make sure citizens are aware of what needs to be done as far as testing.

All I see changed is more testing because we have advanced since February. I also feel that spit would help out instead of sticking swabs up the nose. That would include the individuals active germs present in their systems. I also feel wearing masks in public is important to keep the germs from spreading.

**DISTRICT 4**  
**Bryan L. Crenshaw - DEM**  
**Occupation:** Attendance Specialist, Lansing School District  
**Email:** bryanlcrenshaw@gmail.com  
**Education:** Associates Degree in Business, (Major Criminal Justice) Lansing Community College 1996  
**Phone:** 517-256-6573  
**Address:** 213 E. Harris St.,Lansing, MI 48906



I have served as a County Commissioner since September 7, 2013. I was appointment to complete the term for my predecessor who resigned for other opportunities. Since joining the Board, I have been active in all deliberations that have come before us. I have served as the Chair of the Law & Courts Committee in 2016 and 2018 and have served as Chairperson of the Board for 2019 and 2020. I have also served on the County Services and Finance Committee's. I want to continue the work the Board has established in improving the quality of life for Ingham County residents. As we have faced the impacts of COVID-19, it is important to have someone serving who understand how the Board works and our budget, as we will have to make some tough decisions in the years to come.

Our priorities have varied of the years. Currently our priority is fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and how this will impact our budget. We will have to look at all aspects of the budget and may have to make some tough decisions on continuing or cutting programs. Each decision will impact at least one resident. We have to work to ensure this impact is minimal and does not risk the health and prosperity of our residents.

Ingham County has been fortunate to have a Health Officer who has been working 24/7 to ensure the impact of COVID-19 has been as minimal as possible. While we have had 793 confirmed cases and 29 deaths, our Health Care Officer has worked to ensure our health systems are able to deal the number of individuals who required hospitalizations/quarantined. This has helped mitigate the spread by helping identify where COVID-19 is prevalent. The county health department will still be the leading charge in addressing public health issues, but the delivery maybe slightly different. More screenings before individuals enter the facilities, outreach to individuals who may exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 and a response that will hopefully mitigate the spread of the disease are all things the county health department may move towards as we move forward.

Ingham County has been fortunate to have a Health Officer who has been working 24/7 to ensure the impact of COVID-19 has been as minimal as possible. While we have had 793 confirmed cases and 29 deaths, our Health Care Officer has worked to ensure our health systems are able to deal the the number of individuals who required hospitalizations/quarantined. This has helped mitigate the spread by helping identify where COVID-19 is prevalent.

**Jennifer L. Smith - REP**  
**Email:** jlsmith4progress@gmail.com  
**Phone:** 517-484-0202

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### Ingham County Commissioner (continued) - Term: 2 years • Partisan • Candidates: Choose One

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.

1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Ingham County Board of Commissioners.	2. What are the priority issues facing the Ingham County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	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?	4. Do you see the role of the county health department changing as a result of our experiences with COVID-19?
--	--	---	---

**DISTRICT 5**  
**Todd Tennis - DEM**  
**Occupation:** Lobbyist  
**Email:** ttennis@capitol-services.org  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/toddtennis  
**Education:** Waverly High School. University of Michigan, Bachelors Degree  
**Phone:** 517-202-2303  
**Address:** 1924 Fairmont Street Lansing, MI 48911



The focus of my career has been representing working people and charitable organizations as a lobbyist in Lansing. For the last 25 years, I have represented bus drivers, electrical workers, utility workers, school employees, and a number of other organizations aimed at making an unfair world a little fairer. After being first elected to the Ingham County Commission in 2006, I have tried to be a strong voice at the county level for the residents of southeast Lansing. I have been able to chair the Human Services committee on multiple occasions where I have led the charge to enhance the availability of primary health care services for Ingham County residents.

We are in the midst of a pandemic where our county health department and the Ingham Community Health Centers are at the center of the response. We are facing a long-overdue reckoning with the systemic racism that has plagued our nation and our community for generations. We have already engaged our health department in testing and contact tracing to help identify and prevent the spread of COVID-19, and our community health centers have implemented policies to ensure that our residents can continue to receive primary care without spreading the disease further. We will take a close look at our own policing operations to make sure that we are not asking law enforcement to perform tasks better suited to social workers and mental health specialists. I plan to participate in our efforts to address racism as a public health crisis and point out repeatedly the stress and pain racism places on our communities of color – and find ways to address systemic racism in our institutions.

Our climate is changing, and human activity is responsible for it. Without action, the impact of this change, which is already affecting people around the world, will only get worse here in Ingham County. At the county level, we have encouraged more locally grown food by allowing more backyard agriculture. We have also created a database of hazardous materials storage so as to more quickly respond to spills or other accidents and prevent the spread of contamination.

The role of many of our departments will change due to COVID-19, but obviously none will be more impacted than our health department. Our health department leaders and staff are already doing tremendous work expanding access to testing and in doing the follow-up work to lessen the spread of this disease. As medical treatments and vaccines become available, our health department will be at the forefront of dispensing medicines to the sick and providing vaccinations to the healthy. We will also have an increased burden to our mental health and substance abuse services due to the way this disease – and the quarantines – have affected so many of our Ingham County residents.

**David N. Robinson**  
**REP**  
**Email:** dnrobinso89@gmail.com  
**Phone:** 862-220-8720

Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.
----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------

**DISTRICT 6**  
**Brandon D. Currin**  
**DEM**  
**Occupation:** Teacher  
**Email:** currinbr@gmail.com  
**Education:** B.A. Michigan State University  
**Phone:** 517-604-1821  
**Address:** 66 Lilac Lane Mason, MI 48854



I have always been a believer of giving back to my community. From an early age, I began working with the Give-a-Kid Projects and from there my love of community as grown. As a teacher, I see everyday the benefits of our great county and believe that we need to invest in our future. As a teacher, I see the struggles families in Ingham County go through. I see what is needed and want to give a voice to and fight for all residents. We need to ensure that Ingham County is a destination region to our state so families can grow and prosper.

With the Covid-19 pandemic we need to make sure that we are spending and investing money in the right areas. I want to make sure that we are focusing on the most important aspects of the county. We need to continue to invest in the health of the community. In addition, I want to make sure this county remains a place people want to live. We need to look at ways to continue the investment in to programs and attributes that make people want to call Ingham County home. I also want to focus on our roads. While touring my district I see the cracks, the potholes, the weeds growing in the roads. We need to make sure this is a continued focus on the county.

Climate change is a growing issue that we need to focus on the local level. Ingham County has always invested in our parks and green spaces and we need to continue to do this. I am proud of the work of our trail system which help connects all areas of the county and would like to see those paths expanded. I live in the more rural part of the county we need to look at ways to invest and expand access to public transportation to help with this connection.

It has to change. We need to focus on the investment of our health system. I am proud of what Ingham County has done so far and we need to ensure that we invest in way to help with testing and tracing COVID-19 to make sure it does not spread and expand in our community. We have done a great job so far we need to keep that work going.

**Randy Maiville -**  
**REP**  
**Occupation:** Engineer  
**Email:** randymaiville@gmail.com  
**Education:** University of Michigan, BS Aerospace Engineering, BS Mechanical Engineering, Leslie High School  
**Phone:** 517-202-4919



Professional Employment Experience - Engineer Eaton Aeroquip 32 Years, Local Government Experience - Ingham County Commissioner, District 6, 2013-Present (elected incumbent); Onondaga Township Supervisor 2004-2011; Onondaga Trustee, 1996 - 2004; Onondaga Planning Commission 1990-2004 Why am I running? I wish to continue to serve the people of my district and Ingham County. I have the most experience as an incumbent and previous township official. I continue to be a voice for the out-county areas and not special interests. As a previous local elected official, I was outspoken with matters at the county level. I was asked to run by incumbents recognizing my work as a township official.

1) The budget as a result of the COVID Pandemic. The county was just starting to feel relief from the 2008 recession. COVID has impacted our budget for 2020 and will impact 2021 significantly. This needs to be addressed while we continue the effort to address underfunded retirement costs while maintaining the promises that were previously made to county employees. This can be done by careful review annually and trying to exceed the minimum payments the state recommends when possible. 2) Complete the new Justice Complex and leverage the efficiencies it should create for staffing and supporting areas that have been in shortfall due to past budgeting. 3) Carefully review the number of millages the county has and only renew those as necessary. 4) Have regionalism be winwin and benefit multiple agencies or the entire tricity area, not just one entity at the expense of taxpayer's money and lack of critical services. Regionalism has often benefited one or two municipalities.

I believe the most important environmental issue locally is groundwater. Once an aquifer or groundwater is compromised or polluted it cannot be easily mediated. I have supported a revisit to a groundwater study performed in the 1970's to have it updated and reviewed again. I have assisted a Health Department retiree who has taken this on personally. Ingham County does have several polluted groundwater sites. The County Government can help by support efforts to monitor and minimize impact. For example, this can be done through supporting our Health Department's Environmental Health sanitary efforts and the Drain Commission office to reduce the movement of some of the known polluted plumes.

I see the role changing to be a more visible one to the community and public. Our Health Department has been recognized nationally and is led by a world class Health Officer. As a commissioner my colleagues and myself supported our Health Department and our Health Officer through this experience. As an example, our Health Officer worked extensively over a weekend early in the evolution to limit capacity in public places due to social distancing issues in the area. Health Department was initially providing media updates 2 times a week and now once in transparent Zoom meeting to allow the media to engage and question to support the media message to the public.



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### Ingham County Commissioner (continued) - Term: 2 years • Partisan • Candidates: Choose One

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.

1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Ingham County Board of Commissioners.	2. What are the priority issues facing the Ingham County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	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?	4. Do you see the role of the county health department changing as a result of our experiences with COVID-19?
--	--	---	---

**DISTRICT 7**  
**Chris Trubac - DEM**  
**Occupation:** Legislative Aide  
**Email:** chris-trubac@gmail.com  
**Website:** chris-trubac.com  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/christrubac  
**Education:** B.S. Conservation of Natural Resources - University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
**Phone:** 517-643-1418  
**Address:** 2192 Cedar St, Holt, MI 48842



I have always been a believer of giving back to my community. From an early age, I began working with the Give-a-Kid Projects and from there my love of community as grown. As a teacher, I see everyday the benefits of our great county and believe that we need to invest in our future. As a teacher, I see the struggles families in Ingham County go through. I see what is needed and want to give a voice to and fight for all residents. We need to ensure that Ingham County is a destination region to our state so families can grow and prosper.

With the Covid-19 pandemic we need to make sure that we are spending and investing money in the right areas. I want to make sure that we are focusing on the most important aspects of the county. We need to continue to invest in the health of the community. In addition, I want to make sure this county remains a place people want to live. We need to look at ways to continue the investment in to programs and attributes that make people want to call Ingham County home. I also want to focus on our roads. While touring my district I see the cracks, the potholes, the weeds growing in the roads. We need to make sure this is a continued focus on the county.

Climate change is a growing issue that we need to focus on the local level. Ingham County has always invested in our parks and green spaces and we need to continue to do this. I am proud of the work of our trail system which help connects all areas of the county and would like to see those paths expanded. I live in the more rural part of the county we need to look at ways to invest and expand access to public transportation to help with this connection.

It has to change. We need to focus on the investment of our health system. I am proud of what Ingham County has done so far and we need to ensure that we invest in way to help with testing and tracing COVID-19 to make sure it does not spread and expand in our community. We have done a great job so far we need to keep that work going.

**David A. Webber**  
**REP**  
**Email:** davidaldenwebber77@gmail.com  
**Phone:** 616-834-3628

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

**DISTRICT 8**  
**Mark Grebner**  
**DEM**  
**Occupation:** Political Consultant  
**Email:** mark.grebner@gmail.com  
**Education:** B.A. Michigan State University, 1981. J.D. Uni  
**Phone:** 517-416-3419  
**Address:** 615 Glenmoor Rd, #1B, East Lansing MI 48823



I was first elected to the Board of Commissioners in 1976, and have served, with two four-year gaps, ever since. During those 44 years, I have been chose Chairperson of the Board four times, and have served as chair of each of the standing committees at one time or another. Because of the high turnover on the Ingham Board, most of our members think of 2010 as belonging to the misty past, let along 2000, 1990, or 1980. On many topics, I am the only person with a working understanding of how our policies were originally created, or the circumstances that led to them. As I wrap up my tenure - I have already announced that I do not expect to serve beyond 2036 - I find myself increasingly focusing on protecting and strengthening the institutional safeguards against imprudent budgeting, nepotism, petty graft, and the like. I believe my continued presence on the Board serves to provide stability and perspective.

At this writing, we face an unprecedented fiscal and humanitarian catastrophe. Obviously the only immediate priority is to get the County through the present disaster with as little damage to the public's welfare and long-term interests as we can. Once things settle down, we can return to the quieter concerns we have temporarily put aside. County government in Michigan has long faced large financial problems due to our eroding tax base and the hostility of the Republican legislature to any loosening of restrictions on the taxing powers of local government. Ingham County's response has been to repeatedly ask the public for authority to levy special property taxes to support specific functions: 9-1-1, the Zoo, the libraries, a new jail, juvenile justice, and so on. The public isn't overtaxed, but we are probably getting close to the maximum that's reasonable to tax real estate. Shifting 9-1-1 funding toward a surcharge on telephones was a small step in the right direction.

Michigan law gives counties only specific powers, and our role in environmental issues is very limited. Unlike many counties, Ingham does not have any zoning or planning powers. We support the Conservation district with a modest appropriation, and we have a small millage to purchase development rights to preserve farmland and open space. The Drain Commissioner has reoriented his office's work to make environmental protection the principal focus, making actual "drainage" almost a secondary consideration. My own role and interest in these matters has been limited. I am an environmentalist by orientation, but environmental issues aren't at the top of my priority list.

Yes . Public health has suddenly changed from being a complete conversation stopper to being almost the only thing people talk about. When the present crisis is resolved, or at least controlled, I think public awareness and support will remain high for many years to come. In that climate, it should be feasible to enlist public support for stronger programs to protect the public and prepare for future disruptions. Ingham County has long treated our health department as a priority, and funded it at a much higher level than neighboring counties have funded theirs. The experience of the past few months insures that no one will successfully propose to reduce funding. It seems likely that this new level of public support will spill over into support for other programs of the health department, including our medical and dental clinics, regulation of rural septic systems, and immunization.

**Virginia Werner**  
**REP**  
**Email:** electvirginia Werner@gmail.com  
**Phone:** 517-648-1016

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### Ingham County Commissioner (continued) - Term: 2 years • Partisan • Candidates: Choose One

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.

1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Ingham County Board of Commissioners.	2. What are the priority issues facing the Ingham County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	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?	4. Do you see the role of the county health department changing as a result of our experiences with COVID-19?
--	--	---	---

**DISTRICT 9**  
**Erin Graham - DEM**  
**Occupation:** Assistant Professor, Department of History, Michigan State University  
**Email:** erin@voteeringraham.com  
**Website:** voteeringraham.com  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/voteeringraham  
**Education:** PhD, Latin American History, University of Houston  
**Address:** 622 Beech St. East Lansing, MI 48823



I am currently the President of the East Lansing Board of Education and have served on that Board for the past five years. In my time on the Board, we have implemented mental health programming, approved inclusive sex education curriculum, reduced racial disparities in discipline, advocated for students' rights at the state and federal level, built new schools for the next generation of students, settled multi-year contracts with educators, hired new leadership, and created a shared vision for the district that includes inspiring, challenging, and equitable educational opportunities for all students. I also teach History, Women's Studies, and Chicano/Latino Studies courses at MSU and have completed the City of East Lansing's Emerging Leaders course to learn more about municipal government. I am running for this position because I believe that residents deserve a commissioner who brings the experience and expertise needed to strongly advocate for the community.

Ingham County, like many local units of government, is facing significant budget shortfalls that have been exacerbated by COVID-19. These budget shortfalls are happening at exactly the same time that people are experiencing increased trauma, unemployment, and threats to their health and safety. This is a complex and challenging set of circumstances that my background and experience will help navigate alongside other commissioners. It is critical that we work collaboratively to solve the budgetary issues in order to continue to deliver the quality services that Ingham County residents depend on: health and human services, parks and trails, housing, infrastructure, and more.

Whether we are talking about climate change, or about PFAS or lead in the water, we need to think and act on the principles of climate justice and environmental justice. Minoritized communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental pollutants, and we must reverse the histories of active government disinvestment in these communities. Corporations need to be held accountable for polluting the environment that we live and breathe in every day. We must protect our futures and our children's futures by bravely facing the science and investing the resources necessary to protect all Ingham County residents' health.

Right now, the Ingham County Health Department is leading the charge locally to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, a monumental effort to keep us all safe. For as long as we are dealing with this pandemic, the Health Department will need to be actively involved in contact tracing and in communicating important information about the pandemic to the public. It will also be crucial that the Health Department continue to provide the healthcare services, programming, and resources that residents rely on everyday: Ingham Community Health Centers, immunizations, WIC, maternal and infant health, health equity equity and social justice, and environmental health initiatives, among others. As a Commissioner, I will work hard to make sure that the Ingham County Health Department has the resources needed to help residents lead safe and healthy lives.

**Crystal M. Grantham - REP**  
**Email:** crystalgrantham2014@gmail.com  
**Phone:** 409-300-0097

Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.
----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------

**DISTRICT 10**  
**Robert Orlando Pena - DEM**  
**Occupation:** Civil Engineer PE  
**Email:** penar@michigan.gov  
**Facebook:** Bob Pena for Ingham County  
**Education:** BSCE UT Austin. MSCE Michigan State  
**Phone:** 517-256-2671  
**Address:** 2100 Vine Street



I am a licensed Engineer in Michigan with 35 years of design, construction, and material testing experience. I am involved with housing and feeding initiatives. I was a board member of the Lansing Habitat for Humanity. I am a supporter of the Lansing Area Aids Network, and the Greater Lansing Area Food Bank. I am a current member of the Capital Area Food Council. I am a supporter of the League of Michigan Bicyclists, and a member of the Tri-County Bicyclist Association, and the Lansing Bike Party. I am a Chicano Advisory Committee member and an Earl Nelson Singer. I am a UMWIM United Methodist Volunteers In Mission which includes construction of schools and orphanages in Belize, Mexico, South Africa, Haiti, and Guatemala. I served as the US representative of the Congress of Ibero-Latino Americano Asfalto aka CILA. I am running for the Ingham because i have resided here for 35 yrs. I will work for prosperity for all. I will collaborate with leaders to ensure this.

Top priority is to stop the spread of Covid-19 in Ingham Co., by reviewing practices that worked and didn't and comparing this with other local gov'ts will help to control the virus. Covid -19 testing needs to be monitored and reported to the public. Intolerance of certain social groups. I would encourage acceptance and inclusion of diversity of all peaceful racial, cultural, sexual, and religious groups in our community. Substandard housing will be addressed by working with existing organizations. I will work with Greater Lansing Food Bank, Allen Neighborhood Center, and other organizations to improve healthy food access for all. I will work on promoting bus, air, bicycle, road, and rail facilities because optimum transit helps the economy grow.

As we develop the region we need to minimize the negative effects of construction on the watershed. My experience with surface water engineering firms will help me make good decisions on policies relating to storm runoff. We need to further develop our wind and solar power generating capabilities so that we can reduce our fossil fuel use. The Lansing Area is fortunate to have public utilities. Not privatizing them is a means to maintain affordable energy. The commission can help in the development of sustainable plans for the long term.

I see the county health department working with other county departments to contain the virus. They could work closer with the sheriff's department to enforce safe practices and mitigating measures against the spread of Covid-19. For example, this could include check points were travelers are questioned about where they are going to and coming from. Who they had contact with and the purpose of the trip. This was effective in Malasia, and Singapore. Trips for pharmaceuticals, banking, groceries, and other high importance trips would be considered essential. These checkpoints could be at neighborhoods and county lines. A public health official and a deputy would be at these check points gathering and recording data. Consequently, the sheriff and county health department could use this information and testing information to perform contact tracing similar to what was successfully done in Iceland. This would also help the sheriff's department develop better community relations.

**Kelly Christopherson REP**  
**Email:** kellychristopherson@gmail.com  
**Phone:** 517-283-5825

Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.
----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW


## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### Ingham County Commissioner (continued) - Term: 2 years • Partisan • Candidates: Choose One

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.

1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Ingham County Board of Commissioners.	2. What are the priority issues facing the Ingham County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	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?	4. Do you see the role of the county health department changing as a result of our experiences with COVID-19?
--	--	---	---

**DISTRICT 11**  
**Emily Stivers**  
**DEM**  
**Occupation:**  
 Ingham County Commissioner  
**Email:** estivers@gmail.com  
**Website:** emilystivers.com  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/EmilyKStivers  
**Education:** MA, Public Policy, Ford School, UofM. BA, International Relations, James Madison College, MSU  
**Phone:** 202-534-8691  
**Address:** 1010 Cliffdale Drive, Haslett, MI 48840



In my first term as County Commissioner, I focused on expanding access to healthcare and mental healthcare in Ingham County, improving our Parks and Trails, and increasing funding for and efficiency of our roadways. Although we made significant progress on the first two issues, particularly around the passage of millage renewals for both, I was not able to get through a roads millage we desperately need. That's the main reason I'm running for re-election: to finish what I wasn't able to accomplish in my first term, and see through the projects I helped get started. In terms of my qualifications, I have a master's degree in Public Policy, have had a 20-year career in nonprofit advocacy and communications focused on helping the least-advantaged, and in my first term, served as Vice Chair of County Services and Chair of the Ethics Subcommittee. I currently serve as Vice Chair of Human Services. I hope voters will re-elect me so I can continue representing Meridian Township at the

The COVID-19 crisis has dramatically changed the priority issues facing the Board of Commissioners. In addition to roads, parks and trails, and access to healthcare, we now have serious budgetary concerns brought on by income losses related to the crisis, and we have to find ways to take care of our workers while making necessary budget cuts. In addition, we have to make sure black communities and other vulnerable populations have the access to healthcare and education they need to survive this crisis. These will be our top priorities in 2020-1, and possibly beyond, in addition to still-pressing concerns about roads and infrastructure.

Locally, we need to find ways to switch to renewable energy. I have been a champion for energy efficiency, particularly in improvements to our buildings and parking lot lighting. Now it's time to think about investing in solar technology to provide a significant percentage of the County's energy needs, and save us money long-term with smart investments now.

We have always had a strong central health department in Ingham County, and the COVID-19 crisis is showing us just how strong our team is. I'm very proud of the role the Health Department has played in providing accurate and timely information, access to testing and health services, and leadership during this crisis. I don't see that role changing. The Ingham County Health Department has been a strong leader and will continue to lead.

**Paul Adams Lello**  
**REP**  
**Email:** melloallelo@hotmail.com  
**Phone:** 517-580-4305

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

**DISTRICT 12**  
**Mark Polsdofer**  
**DEM**  
**Occupation:**  
 Deputy State Transportation and Commission Policy Adviser- MDOT  
**Email:** polsdofer@yahoo.com  
**Website:** facebook.com/votemarkpolsdofer  
**Facebook:** @votemarkpolsdofer  
**Education:** BA, Western Michigan U, 1994. Political Science, Minor in International Business. MSU Law, 1996-98.  
**Phone:** 734-604-0856  
**Address:** 1611 Wenonah Drive, Okemos, MI 48864.



I am completing my first term as County Commissioner. With my past experience as Chairman of the Ingham County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, and am a member and past Chairman of the Ingham County Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors, my colleagues asked me to continue to serve representing the Commission. I have an extensive background with transportation issues, having served in a variety of roles at the Michigan Department of Transportation since 2008. In addition, I had the privilege of working directly with Governor Jennifer M. Granholm as Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs in 2010. I also serve on the the Board of Directors for LEAP, the Lansing Economic Area Partnership. I believe my background will allow me to continue working effectively and vigorously as an advocate for the needs of Okemos and our entire region.

As we deal with the short-term severe revenue declines from the pandemic, we need to continue to look for opportunities to save money, while delivering needed services to our residents. As a member of the Finance Committee, I have already requested each Department Director to show and prioritize what a 10% cut would look like. While we must deal with the revenue issues in the current and next fiscal year, we need to also make decisions that make our region attractive into the future for job retention and creation through continued support and expansion of non-motorized trails connection our communities and promoting inclusive and open policies for all people however they identify themselves.

We need to continue our work cleaning up Brownfield sites. The County Commission through the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority approves appropriate projects, which in turn helps provide the resources to restore these contaminated locations and put them back into productive use. I have asked the Facilities Director for Ingham County to look at incorporating electric vehicle charging stations on county property. This issue/discussion is ongoing, but it will help us transition our region to support the mainstreaming of electric cars, and help make us a draw for job creation in turn. I also support the drain projects under way. These important projects when finished will help stop pollution in our rivers, and curtail flooding problems as well.

The Ingham County Health Department has done an impressive job handling this unprecedented pandemic and keeping everyone informed. While I do not see their role fundamentally changing, I am certain that this experience will provide an opportunity to adjust things into the future to better serve our citizens. The challenge will be making immediate changes while revenues are still not back to usual levels.

**Sam Frangie**  
**REP**  
**Occupation:** Businessman  
**Email:** snfrangie@hotmail.com  
**Education:** Business Administration  
**Phone:** 517-347-9691  
**Address:** 2169 Woodfield Rd.

I am a businessman and have approximately 40 years of banking experience. I am a former Delhi Township Trustee and an Ingham County resident for 42 years. I believe I can use my experience to benefit the citizens of our county.

As a result of COVID-19, the most important issue to me in our county is supporting the businesses and their employees and to make sure they are financially sound.

Recycling is a very important issue as it greatly helps our county's environment and beyond. I would like to see the county government create new programs to expand recycling access in public places.


Due to the lessons we have learned from COVID-19, the county's health department must be prepared to respond to any future health risks that may arise. Our county's health department should be self-sufficient and ready to deal with these unfortunate situations.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3


### Ingham County Commissioner (continued) - Term: 2 years • Partisan • Candidates: Choose One

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.

1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Ingham County Board of Commissioners.	2. What are the priority issues facing the Ingham County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?	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?	4. Do you see the role of the county health department changing as a result of our experiences with COVID-19?
<p><b>DISTRICT 13</b>  <b>Randy Schafer</b>  <b>REP</b>  <b>Occupation:</b> Retired Vocational Education Teacher  <b>Email:</b> commschafer@aol.com  <b>Education:</b> Pewamo-Westphalia High School B.S. and M.A. Michigan State University  <b>Classes at:</b> Lansing Community  <b>Phone:</b> 517-655-1325  <b>Address:</b> 4139 Meadowdale Drive Williamston, MI 48895</p>  <p>I have served as a Commissioner since 1984. My background includes employment in: Agriculture, Business, Education, Construction and Manufacturing. All these experiences contribute to an understand of the complexity of County Government. I served on: Law Enforcement, Human Services, Finance, Administrative Services, Fair Board, Tri-County Regional Planning, Tri-County Narcotics, Tri-County Office of Aging, Road Commission, Local Emergency Planning, Vice-Chair Pro Tem, Township Association, Local Emergency Planning; as well as many sub-committees. Citizens for Schafer is an "Under \$1,000 Committee". This means I do not solicit Campaign Donations or have Fund Raisers. The emphasis is on "serving the citizens" and running on my record.</p>	<p>A fair and just legal system that focuses on "Best Practice". Addressing the substance abuse and addictions. Working with Foster Agencies, such as ST. Vincent Catholic Charities to protect the children who are in need of a safe, loving, stable place to call home. The Sheriff Dept. has decimated by budget cuts since 2008 and taken the vast majority of hits. Everyone should have a right for a response during a crises. County Government is complex with functions involving state, federal and local units of government. The top priority must be cooperation and elimination of the constant attacks in government on each other. The discussions must be on Fiscal Responsibility, efficient and ethical delivery of services. The County must have a balanced budget and reserve fund for times such as these to remain stable and keep an AAA Bond Rating. At times it is difficult for politicians to control spending, rather than keeping in mind the long term consequences of deficit spending.</p>	<p>The first step is for people to take responsibility for their own actions that have an immediate impact. The Ingham Conservation District provides fantastic guidelines. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Influence starts with us and personal lifestyles. Examine ones' own home and ways to protect the environment. The Ingham Health Department Environmental Division is very active. Tri-County Regional Planning works with Ground Water Management, Efficient Transportation, PFAS, Efficient Energy Use and a host of other functions that directly impact the environment. The County does not stand alone. It is very conscious of the fact it must work with entities such as the Sierra Club; providing green space and reducing the footprint. It must continue to out-reach to other units of government and also receive input. Local Emergency Planning and the Health Dept. are constantly working with the community to protect the environment. I strongly support these agencies and the missions.</p>	<p>The Health Officer, Linda Vail, and the Health Department has provided tremendous leadership during this time. She does not engage in personal attacks or partisanship, but rather leads with knowledge, courage and risk/benefit analysts. The Department has earned respect. The Board will listen carefully and be able to make good decisions. There are 14 Commissioners. All 14 have respect for the Department and look forward to working together to address the constantly moving targets and balancing the consequences; while addressing safety, mental health, economic impacts and human misery caused by total shut downs.</p>
<p><b>DISTRICT 13</b>  <b>Robin Case Naeyaert</b>  <b>REP</b>  <b>Email:</b> rcnaeyaert63@gmail.com  <b>Phone:</b> 517-281-5845</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond.</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond.</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond.</p>

### 30th Judicial Circuit Court - Non Incumbent - Term: 6-years • Non-Partisan • Candidates: Choose One

The Ingham County Circuit Court is a court of general jurisdiction, hearing civil cases and controversies seeking damages in excess of \$25,000, all felony criminal matters, and all family matters. Judges of the Family Division have jurisdiction over cases involving juvenile delinquents, abused and neglected children, adoptions, name changes, emancipations, parental consent waivers and domestic relation matters.

Question 1 Please describe your qualifications and experience and explain why you are running for the position.	Question 2 What is your position regarding alternative courts to meet community needs?	Question 3 Do judges have an obligation to improve public understanding of the courts?
<p><b>Colline Cheltenham</b>  <b>Occupation:</b> Family Law Attorney  <b>Email:</b> colline.cheltenham@outlook.com  <b>Facebook:</b> facebook.com/CollineForJudge  <b>Education:</b> BBA - Northwood, University. J.D. - WMU Cooley Law School  <b>Phone:</b> 517-214-1905  <b>Address:</b> 444 Tarleton Avenue East Lansing, MI 48823</p>  <p>Practicing family law attorney for 6.5 years. Specialized training in family law matters from Institute of Continuing Legal Education. Training on abuse and neglect matters from DHHS and SCAO. Admissions to the State Bar of Michigan, United States Supreme Court, and Federal District Court for the Western District of Michigan. Family Law Section Member of the State Bar of Michigan and Ingham County Bar Association. I am specifically trained and immersed in cases related to divorce, custody, parenting time, child support and handle many issues related to child abuse and neglect; Judge Lawless's courtroom is divided equally among these two areas of law. Family law is my area of passion and compassion. I am now seeking this particular judicial role in family court which will allow me to focus this passion and experience on the protection of minor children, the rehabilitation of the individuals in a family, and the reunification of children with their parents when appropriate.</p>	<p>Alternative courts play a vital role in serving our community and meeting the needs of the community as a whole. There is evidence that imposing traditional penalties (such as incarceration and fines) alone for criminal activity is expensive, and not very effective in reducing repeat offending. Alternative courts provide another avenue to discourage criminal activity, and to implement rehabilitative services, which has a significant impact on the reduction of repeat offending. In alternative courts, offenders are assigned a team that might include a probation officer, a social worker and a drug counselor. The group addresses not only treatment needs, but also issues like housing, employment and family reunification. This type of rehabilitative approach is shown to reduce repeat offending, and reduces criminal activity in a community overall.</p>	<p>Judges have an obligation to improve public understanding of the courts. Success of the courts largely lands on the trust that the community has within the judicial system. The way to instill trust in the public is to educate them on how the court functions, what is to be expected, and logistics of how a case will run as well as the obligations of each "player" in the courtroom (the lawyers, bailiff, judges and parties). When the public understands the judicial process and the function of the court systems, it reduces barriers, and encourages them to use the courts properly. Additionally, they will feel that the judicial system is more accessible to them. For vulnerable populations this is especially important, because the court system can appear intimidating and out of reach for them. Breaking down these barriers begins with education and that process rests largely on the judge's shoulders.</p>



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

### 30th Judicial Circuit Court - Non Incumbent - Term: 6-years • Non-Partisan • Candidates: Choose One

**Continued:** The Ingham County Circuit Court is a court of general jurisdiction, hearing civil cases and controversies seeking damages in excess of \$25,000, all felony criminal matters, and all family matters. Judges of the Family Division have jurisdiction over cases involving juvenile delinquents, abused and neglected children, adoptions, name changes, emancipations, parental consent waivers and domestic relation matters.

<b>Question 1</b> Please describe your qualifications and experience and explain why you are running for the position.	<b>Question 2</b> What is your position regarding alternative courts to meet community needs?	<b>Question 3</b> Do judges have an obligation to improve public understanding of the courts?
---	--	--

**Morgan Elizabeth Cole**  
**Occupation:** Ingham County Probate Register/Court Administrator  
**Email:** morgan.cole1022@gmail.com  
**Website:** morgancoleforjudge.com  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/MorganColeforJudge/  
**Education:** Juris Doctor - Thomas M. Cooley Law School; Bachelor's Degree - West Virginia University  
**Phone:** 502-593-6506  
**Address:** www.morgancoleforjudge.com



I received my undergraduate degree from West Virginia University and juris doctor degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. I am a member of the State Bar of Michigan and the District of Columbia Bar. It is vital that our next circuit court judge understands how our judicial system affects children and families. I assure you; I do. I have and continue to serve the children and families of Ingham County in a Court/Quasi-Judicial Role, whether it be as: a law clerk to the Honorable Rosemarie E. Aquilina; Friend of the Court Conciliator; Chief Deputy Circuit Court Clerk for the Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum; and currently as your Probate Register appointed by Chief Circuit and Probate Judge Richard J. Garcia. What we need is someone with both legal and life experiences, who can make these difficult decisions with common sense and compassion. This is not for the faint of heart. It takes energy, commitment and patience. I am dedicated to protecting our children as I would my own.

I support alternative courts to meet the needs of the Ingham County community. Michigan courts need to create and provide alternative solutions to issues in our communities. The 30th Circuit Court currently operates the following alternative treatment courts: Phoenix Court; Drug Court; Truancy Court; Sobriety Court; Swift and Sure Sanction; Veterans Court; and Mental Health Court. These specialty courts are often used as an alternative to incarceration. Trained personnel work directly with individuals/families in targeted areas. Each program adopts a multi-phased, well-structured treatment plan with intensive oversight and offender accountability.

Absolutely! Courts are often looked at as a place of negativity and conflict. However, with proper education and appropriate community engagement - courts can improve public misconceptions. Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack is a prime example of this effort. She has worked tirelessly to make the Michigan Supreme Court engaging and accessible. If elected Judge of the 30th Circuit Court Family Division, I will make it a priority, along with my colleagues, to enhance the public understanding, trust and confidence in the Michigan Court system. This includes making the court more accessible with community outreach, social networking, and electronic filing.

**Carol Koenig**  
**Occupation:** Attorney at Law  
**Email:** carolnkoenig@aol.com  
**Website:** CarolKoenigforjustice.com  
**Facebook:** ElectCarolKoenig  
**Education:** J.D. Cooley Law School. B A University of Detroit. East Lansing High School  
**Phone:** 517-896-6716  
**Address:** CarolKoenigForJustice P.O. Box 1112. East Lansing, MI 48826



Attorney with over 25 years of experience in general practice including civil and criminal, trial and appellate courts and informal dispute resolution/lawyer social worker. Have practiced in all Michigan Courts (trial, COA, MI Supreme) Eastern and Western Federal District Courts of Michigan and 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. We are standing in unprecedented times with unprecedented opportunity for change. People have been yearning for change for some time. As we rethink the role of law enforcement in our communities we must connect the dots. Instead of simply reacting to crime, homelessness and violence, we have to take people where we find them and help them, for themselves, their families and the greater good. As John Lewis said, "We have the chance to save the soul of America." I have been honored to be able to bring the power of the constitution to regular people, every day. Now, more than ever, our country, our community and our courts need experienced and thoughtful leadership.

As Chair of the County's Law and Courts Commission on the Ingham County Commission, I promoted specialized courts to manage each case individually and resolve problems without overcrowding our jails and prisons. As a Commissioner, I've supported the sobriety courts, mental health courts for those with underlying psychiatric conditions, and veterans' courts for those who have served our nation's armed forces. Veterans Court recognizes the special and unique role of our nation's service members, and works to resolve their cases and provide support so that they can succeed in civilian life. While these alternative courts cost more, the outcomes are better and result in net savings for all of us.

Yes! The people who come to court should have a basic understanding of what is happening to them and what the process entails. This will promote the best outcome for all. People make better decisions for themselves and others with more knowledge and understanding. This is easy to accomplish with unwritten materials and explanations that outline the process. I want the courts to belong to the people. I want to model access in such a way that the average person feels welcomed, feels that they belong there. Having your day in court is about much more than results and outcomes, it is about process, tone, civility and respect. When a citizen feels that they were not recognized, seen or heard, especially because of their color, disability, orientation or other reason--then we have failed them. Each person must have a fair and equitable opportunity to fully engage and participate in the due process that the constitution affords them.

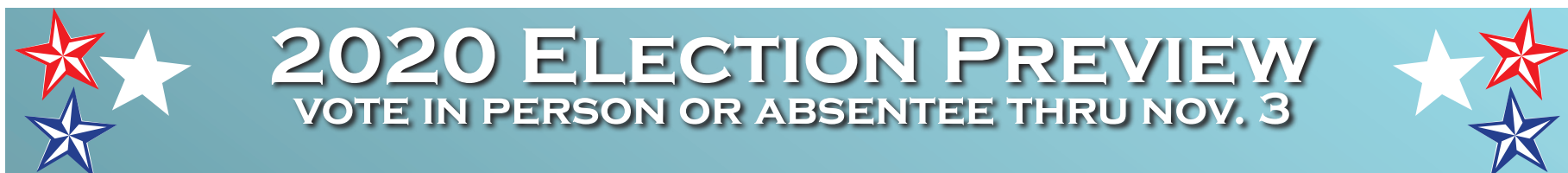
**Steve Kwasnik**  
**Occupation:** Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Ingham County  
**Email:** stevekwasnikforcircuitjudge@gmail.com  
**Website:** kwasnikforkids.com  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/stevekwasnikforcircuitjudge  
**Education:** BA, International Relations, James Madison College at MSU - 1998; JD, MSU School of Law - 2004  
**Phone:** 517-927-5782  
**Address:** 1302 Fairoaks Ct East Lansing, MI 48823



I am an Assistant Prosecutor in Ingham County for more than 15 years, specializing in crimes against children, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, adult sexual abuse, and juvenile justice. I am assigned to the Family Division and handle hundreds of cases each year, dealing with these exact topics overseen by this judicial opening. I am recognized as an expert in the field of child abuse prosecution and I train and lecture for the Prosecuting Attorney's Association of Michigan, where I teach prosecutors, police, cps workers and child interviewers, how to forensically interview children. I also have experience with divorce proceedings, custody best-interest factors and the Friend of the Court. I am running because I appear in family court every day and recognize that when people come into the court they are in crisis and need an experienced, knowledgeable, kind, decision-maker, who will treat every person with respect and give them a chance to be heard, and obtain justice.

I believe strongly in alternative courts and procedures as a tool to produce just, optimal outcomes. I have participated in Drug Court in the 54B District Court, the Mental Health Treatment Court in the 30th Circuit Court, the Substance Abuse Court in the 30th Circuit, Family Division (currently overseen by the court of this judicial opening) and the Phoenix Court, in the Family Court, which concentrates on supporting juveniles who are in danger of being sex trafficked. These alternative courts provide the participants an opportunity for support and services to address their underlying issues. Success does not mean a conviction and a jail sentence, but rather an opportunity to gain insight and change behavior, allowing them to parent their children, advance their education, and serve as role models to the other participants who are struggling with addiction or hopelessness. Utilizing informal probation and restorative justice techniques in Juvenile Justice can have similar benefits.

Yes! I am struck by how many people get excited by national and state elections, but are unaware of the duties of the 30th Circuit Court in the Family Division. Yet child protection, juvenile justice, divorce, custody, and adoption are services nearly everyone either uses or has friends or family use in their lifetime. That is why it is so important that Judges use their standing to educate about these topics. As a prosecutor, I spend much of my time explaining court procedures to children and families frightened by the system. It is an essential function because I know from experience that the more comfortable people are with the process the more likely they are to provide information the courts need to make just decisions. A judge's responsibility is even greater; ensuring that all parties provide complete information, so that justice is served. I would happily speak and write about the courts in the community and make sure all hearings are available online to the public.



## Michigan House of Representatives

**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.

**Partisan • Term: 2 years**

### District 67 (choose 1) Biographical Info



#### Kara Hope - DEM

**Website:** [votekarahope.com](http://votekarahope.com)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/KaraHopeHoltMI](https://facebook.com/KaraHopeHoltMI)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/KaraHope7](https://twitter.com/KaraHope7)

**Occupation / Current Position:** state representative

**Education:** Juris doctor cum laude, WMU-Cooley Law School; bachelor of arts with high honors, Phi Beta Kappa, Michigan State University

**Qualifications and Experience:** I am an attorney with experience in the public, private, and academic sectors. I previously served (2012-18) as an Ingham County Commissioner, including a term as board chairperson.

**Nate J. Ross - REP** Candidate did not respond.

### Candidate Responses

1. **EDUCATION:** What is your position on the role of public funding of education in Michigan? What measures do you support/propose to improve educational outcomes and accessibility for all Michigan students?

**Kara Hope (DEM)** Public funding for education is inadequate. Michigan struggles to attract and retain qualified teachers in part because of the poor pay. While we make more demands of our teachers, we don't provide them with the support they need. I would support incentives, like scholarships and student loan forgiveness or deferrals, to get Michigan's best and brightest into the teaching field. I support returning support personnel like school nurses, social workers, and librarians to our public school buildings, and I have already supported legislation to these ends.

**Nate J. Ross - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.

2. **ECONOMIC SECURITY:** What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions, in general and given the pandemic?

**Kara Hope (DEM)** A major investment (most likely with federal dollars and state dollars) in infrastructure would help create good jobs. Before COVID, Michigan needed major improvements in our roads, bridges, dams, and communications infrastructure. Those needs have not gone away. Michigan could use its public universities to attract and retain talented individuals in the fields of technology, science, and medicine. This could entail tuition breaks for students in these fields who promised to remain in Michigan for a set period after graduation. I also support raising the minimum wage and implementing other protections for workers.

**Nate J. Ross - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.

3. **ELECTIONS:** What state policies do you support regarding Michigan elections, voting and campaign funding? Do you support mailing ballots to all eligible voters?

**Kara Hope (DEM)** I have introduced legislation that would enhance reporting requirements for so-called "dark money" groups. And I have introduced legislation that would give local clerks the tools they need to efficiently process absentee ballots. Even before the pandemic, more voters were expected to take advantage of the expanded eligibility created by Proposal 3 in 2018. With the SOS's decision to mail absentee ballot applications to all eligible voters, these reforms become all the more important. Yes, I do support making voting as accessible, inclusive, and fair as it can be; that includes mailing ballots to voters.

**Nate J. Ross - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.

4. **ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY:** What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations? What is your position on energy efficiency and renewable energy?

**Kara Hope (DEM)** I support "polluter pay" legislation, and I support putting more resources into ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. I support moving aggressively to producing more renewable energy, and energy efficiency is low-hanging fruit when it comes to reducing Michigan's reliance on fossil fuels. I also support making sure that environmental justice is a focus of all environmental regulations. Too often, low-income communities and communities of color are forced to endure bad corporate actors in their neighborhoods.

**Nate J. Ross - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.

5. **SOCIAL JUSTICE:** How would you address the racial, economic, health, education, etc. inequities, including Michigan's 20% of children and 17% of seniors living in poverty?

**Kara Hope (DEM)** Raising the minimum wage to a living wage would help many escape poverty. Paid family leave and quality, affordable or free child care would also help. Better housing options would help families and seniors alike as would improved access to quality free or low-cost health care. I have introduced the Fair Scheduling Act that would give working parents more certainty regarding their work schedules, so they can plan for child care and participate in their children's school activities.

**Nate J. Ross - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.

6. **GUNS:** Do you believe that Michigan has a gun violence problem? If so, what measures would you support to alleviate this problem?

**Kara Hope (DEM)** Like the rest of the U.S., Michigan has a gun violence problem. I support common sense measures that would keep firearms out of the hands of demonstrably dangerous people and that would impose consequences on firearms owners who fail to safely store their guns. Both of these measures -- "red-flag" laws and safe storage requirements -- have been introduced in the House this session, and I co-sponsored both. I also introduced legislation that would require background checks for persons who rent guns.

**Nate J. Ross - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.





## Michigan House of Representatives (continued)

**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.

**Partisan • Term: 2 years**

### District 68 (choose 1) Biographical Info



#### Sarah Anthony -DEM

**Website:** [www.VoteSarahAnthony.com](http://www.VoteSarahAnthony.com)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/SarahAnthony517/](https://facebook.com/SarahAnthony517/)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/SarahAnthony517](https://twitter.com/SarahAnthony517)

**Occupation / Current Position:** State Representative -Lansing

**Education:** Central Michigan University, B.S. - Political Science Western Michigan University, M.P.A. - Nonprofit Management; Human Resources

**Qualifications and Experience:** Legislative Assistant, Michigan House of Representative Ingham County Commissioner Assistant Director, Michigan College Access Network

**Robert J. Atkinson - REP** Candidate did not respond.

### Candidate Responses

1. **EDUCATION:** What is your position on the role of public funding of education in Michigan? What measures do you support/propose to improve educational outcomes and accessibility for all Michigan students?

**Sarah Anthony - (DEM)** Public education has a direct impact on the economy and raises families out of poverty. We must empower and equip our kids today to compete in a global job market tomorrow. I believe we must invest in early childhood education, public schools and higher education. I support increased per pupil funding, using an equity lens to ensure our most at-risk students receive the resources they need to success.

**Robert J. Atkinson - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.

2. **ECONOMIC SECURITY:** What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions, in general and given the pandemic?

**Sarah Anthony - (DEM)** I believe we must create a variety of programs and safeguards for both workers and businesses; including but not limited to: -Investing in the staffing and technology to speed up unemployment processing -Expanding earned paid sick leave -Restoring the Earned Income Tax Credit to 20 percent for working people with low to moderate income families -Providing loan and grant assistance and creating a fund for neighborhood businesses, seasonal and majority-minority owned businesses -Providing short-term funding that reduces unemployment benefits as workers' wages return or funding is depleted

**Robert J. Atkinson - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.

3. **ELECTIONS:** What state policies do you support regarding Michigan elections, voting and campaign funding? Do you support mailing ballots to all eligible voters?

**Sarah Anthony - (DEM)** I absolutely support all eligible voters receiving ballots with a postage paid as well as making Election Day a state holiday and providing funding to local and state election officials.

**Robert J. Atkinson - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.

4. **ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY:** What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations? What is your position on energy efficiency and renewable energy?

**Sarah Anthony - (DEM)** I believe we must protect Michigan's land, water and air by adequately funding the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to ensure proper regulation and oversight in the state of Michigan. We must invest in order to ensure our drinking water is safe, our air is safe to breath, and that polluters are held accountable. I am also a huge proponent of clean and renewal energy and have fought to ensure programs to expand these efforts are affordable for everyone in the state.

**Robert J. Atkinson - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.

5. **SOCIAL JUSTICE:** How would you address the racial, economic, health, education, etc. inequities, including Michigan's 20% of children and 17% of seniors living in poverty?

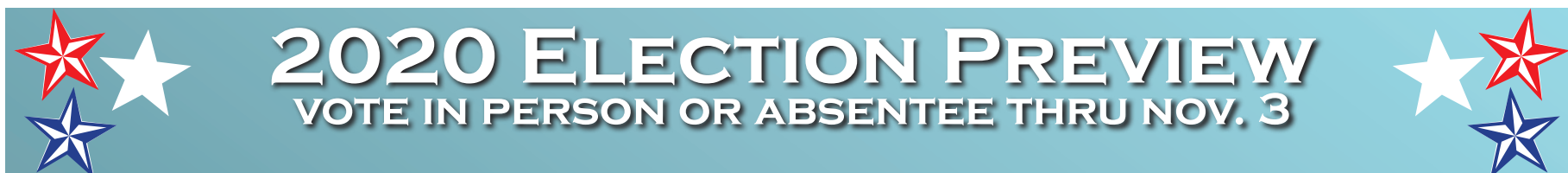
**Sarah Anthony - (DEM)** In order to address our government's historic and current failures to address disparities, we must take a multi-layered approach and look at every sector with an equity lens. That means, investing resources to close gaps in educational outcomes, health services, housing programs, access to health foods, etc.

**Robert J. Atkinson - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.

6. **GUNS:** Do you believe that Michigan has a gun violence problem? If so, what measures would you support to alleviate this problem?

**Sarah Anthony - (DEM)** While I believe in and defend the second amendment, I have advocated for common sense gun reforms to reduce gun violence and mass shootings throughout our communities.

**Robert J. Atkinson - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.



## Michigan House of Representatives (continued)

**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.

**Partisan • Term: 2 years**

### District 69 (choose 1) Biographical Info



#### Julie Brixie - DEM

**Website:** JulieBrixie.com

**Facebook:** facebook.com/StateRepJulieBrixie

**Twitter:** twitter.com/JulieBrixie

**Occupation / Current Position:** State Representative

**Education:** Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Geography; University of Illinois; 1988 Master's Degree in Crop and Soil Sciences with a specialization in Environmental Toxicology; MSU; 1991

**Qualifications and Experience:** State Representative, 2019-Present Meridian Township Treasurer, 2008-2018 Meridian Township Trustee, 2000-2008 Environmental Consultant, 1991-1998 Public Funds Investment Manager

**Grace S. Norris - REP** Candidate did not respond.

### Candidate Responses

1. **EDUCATION:** What is your position on the role of public funding of education in Michigan? What measures do you support/propose to improve educational outcomes and accessibility for all Michigan students?

**Julie Brixie - (DEM)** Make sure we're working with the brightest minds in education when we make decisions about our children's education, not the DeVos family. 2. Put an end to the senseless cuts and raid on the School Aid Fund. 3. Invest in pediatric literacy programming and establishing universal preschool. 4. Invest in the early childhood reading coaches and classroom support staff so every child has the one-on-one support they need to read at grade level. 5. Invest in our community colleges and universities again to reduce tuition rates and make college affordable for everyone. Read by full plan at JulieBrixie.com/Julies-Plan.

**Grace S. Norris - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.

2. **ECONOMIC SECURITY:** What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions, in general and given the pandemic?

**Julie Brixie - (DEM)** We have to diversify our economy. We still rely far too heavily on manufacturing, which is why we have been hit hardest by the two most recent recessions. We have made some progress, but nothing like Minnesota. In the late 90s, we had the same median household income as Minnesota and were among the top states. Since then, Minnesota has increased educational attainment and retained their graduates in order to attract 21 century employers, while we have continued the failed policy of offering business incentives. We also have to increase the minimum wage to ensure people working full time are not living in poverty.

**Grace S. Norris - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.

3. **ELECTIONS:** What state policies do you support regarding Michigan elections, voting and campaign funding? Do you support mailing ballots to all eligible voters?

**Julie Brixie - (DEM)** I fully support mailing ballots to all eligible voters and any policy that make it easier to vote. For far too long, barriers have been placed on the right to vote to disenfranchise certain groups. We took a major step forward in 2018 when we passed the Voters Not Politicians' proposal to end gerrymandering and approved Proposal 3 to restore and expand voting rights. I'm working to protect the new redistricting commission as Republican lawmakers have repeatedly tried to underfund. I'm also working to support bipartisan legislation to make sure we can count absentee ballots in a timely fashion.

**Grace S. Norris - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.

4. **ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY:** What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations? What is your position on energy efficiency and renewable energy?

**Julie Brixie - (DEM)** If we're going to be successful tackle climate change, we must establish a state-wide plan to achieve 100% renewable energy production by 2050. It's deeply ironic that the Capitol is currently having a geothermal system installed, which will make the Capitol 100% renewable. Yet, lawmakers inside haven't seen the value in establishing a plan to achieve 100% renewable energy production. I am also working to increase energy efficiency, recycling and a statewide septic code to address the thousands of failing septic systems that are polluting our waters. Residents can read my full plan at JulieBrixie.com/Environment.

**Grace S. Norris - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.

5. **SOCIAL JUSTICE:** How would you address the racial, economic, health, education, etc. inequities, including Michigan's 20% of children and 17% of seniors living in poverty?

**Julie Brixie - (DEM)** The first thing we have to do is increase the minimum wage to ensure people working full time are not living in poverty. We also need to increase our educational attainment. States with higher educational attainment have higher medium household income. In order to achieve this, we have to make college affordable again and reduce barriers that many families face. For instance, single parents and low/middle-class households need affordable child care in order to pursue their education and professions. As it relates to lifting up our seniors, we need to support retirement benefits/plans and reform social security.

**Grace S. Norris - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.

6. **GUNS:** Do you believe that Michigan has a gun violence problem? If so, what measures would you support to alleviate this problem?

**Julie Brixie - (DEM)** Yes, and I have introduced legislation to establish a "Red Flag" law and to prohibit the possession of firearms in the Capitol so far during my first term in office. In order to address gun violence in our communities, we must: 1. Enacting Universal Background Checks 2. Robust Enforcement of Mental Health Record Reporting 3. Prohibiting Domestic Abusers from Purchasing Firearms 4. Closing the Open Carry Loophole 5. Enacting a Red Flag Law 6. Establishing a Child Access Prevention Law 7. Banning largecapacity magazines, bump stocks and assault weapons Residents can read my full plan at JulieBrixie.com/gun-safety.

**Grace S. Norris - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3

# State House reps run last race before redistricting

Don't get too attached to your state House district. After 2020, it's going to look different. Possibly a lot different.

The new independent redistricting commission will start redrawing maps next year after the 2020 census numbers come out. Rep. Sarah Anthony, D-Lansing, could still be your rep in the 68th House District when they're done ... or not.

For now, though, the area's five state representatives — Kara Hope, D-Holt, Anthony, Julie Brixie, D-Meridian Twp, Angela Witwer, D-Delta Twp., and Graham Filler, R-DeWitt — are running in the 67th, 68th, 69th, 71st and 93rd, respectively.

### 71st House District

The most competitive of the quintet is in the Eaton County-based 71st, where Republicans had their sights initially set on Witwer, a freshman House member and Edge Partnership president.

Initially, meaning last year. In the meantime, Witwer raised more campaign money than any other state House Democratic incumbent up until July. A former Patrick Colbeck campaign aide won the Republican primary. And statewide business groups like the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, which rarely supports Democrat, lined up behind Witwer.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump's numbers aren't looking great in suburban areas like Delta Township. House Republicans are moving caucus dollars to Bay City, Livonia and other areas where leadership feels their odds are better.

That's not to take anything away from Gina Johnsen, the GOP nominee in the 71st House District. The 51-year-old Delta Township Republican directs the Michigan Capitol House of Prayer, whose early-strike campaign appeared to take 2018 nominee Christine Barnes off guard.

Johnsen's slim, 273-vote win came on the back of early campaign dollars and some old-fashioned hustle. She's taken the initiative to meet people at local restaurants and St. Gerard Church, among other locations. She held a "Support the Badge" rally at the antigay Old Country Mill to support law enforcement, drawing out about 200 people and raising \$1,800 for police charities.

Johnsen said she "winning handily" as she talks with constituents who feel "voiceless," as if the governor and

her COVID-19 executive orders are "bearing down on them."

"This team is so big and we're working so hard every day. There's a lot of people invested in this," she said.

Those people do not include the Michigan Chamber, the Lansing Regional Chamber and the Michigan Farm Bureau, who all endorsed her opponent. Johnsen said the endorsements "don't mean much" in that she's a small business owner herself who has "great respect" for agriculture. She said she's piling up support from individual entrepreneurs and farmers.

So how is Witwer racking up endorsements? Simply, she talks to people. Like, a lot of people. Local officials. Superintendents. Business owners. Now she's going door to door. She publishes her home phone number on her website. Her goal is to be more accessible than any other state representative that's served the 71st.

"This is a job that I didn't need," she said. "I wanted to do this for the people and the people elected me. I've wanted to be readily available if they need me."

The Democrat said she's worked behind the scenes with the Whitmer administration to loosen up COVID-19 regulations for funeral homes. She worked behind the scenes to get gyms opened back up and hair salons before that.

Like former Sen. Rick Jones and now-Sen. Tom Barrett, she sponsored legislation restoring the sales tax exemption on pension income, which Gov. Rick Snyder eliminated during his tax reform.

Before any big vote, Witwer said she'll call constituents impacted by the legislation and get their input. For her, she said it's not "her vote" but "our vote."

### 67th House District

Republicans salivated over this south Lansing/rural Ingham County district for the better part of the aughts. The losses piled up, though, and they've since given up being serious about winning it. This go-around, they have a young, enthusiastic candidate in Nate Ross, a Dart Container engineering analyst.

The 27-year-old Mason Republican has scored endorsements from the Michigan Manufacturers Association, the Retailers Association and the Citizens for Traditional Values, among others.

He's running a better campaign than most, but he's swimming upstream. Democrats tend to win this district by nine to 10 percentage

points these days, and it'll be an accomplishment if he does better than that.

Hope, an attorney by trade, was an adjunct professor and Ingham County commissioner before starting her first House term. The 45-year-old Democrat seems to have been in the middle of the Capitol's "now" issues.

She's pushing to ban firearms from the Capitol. She's wants local clerks to have the ability to process ballots early. She sponsored a resolution requiring all House members wear masks on the House floor. She also wants police to stop using tear gas to control protests.

### 68th House District

Probably more interesting than Anthony's run against 77-year-old auto parts store owner Robert Atkinson is Anthony's political future. As a freshman, she was elected the House Democrats' caucus chairwoman, a position she could probably win again if she wanted it.

However, Anthony could make a run to chair the House Appropriations Committee, too, which is an appointed post. She's also being courted locally to run against Lansing Mayor Andy Schor next year, even though she's privately told folks she's not interested in the job now.

From a historical perspective, Democrats tend to win this Lansing-based seat with about 75% of the vote.

### 69th House District

Speaking of upwardly mobile state House Democrats, Brixie has proven to be the caucus' most prolific fundraiser outside of the current and presumed next leader. If the Democrats take the majority, Brixie is in best position to become the speaker pro tem, which has been used in recent years as a stepping stone to the top spot in the House.

Brixie, also, could end up as House Appropriations Committee chairwoman or ranking member if the Democrats don't take control. Brixie or Anthony chairing appropria-



Hope



Atkinson



Anthony



Brixie



Witwer



Johnsen



Ross




Norris



Filler



Rais



The stories on this page through page 46 are paid for by readers like you through contributions to the CityPulse Fund for Community Journalism. To contribute, please go to [lansingcitypulse.com/donation](http://lansingcitypulse.com/donation).

tions? Either way it'd be good news for the Lansing area.

The Republicans are putting up a 54-year-old Grace Norris as their nominee. She sells mineral supplements to support health and wellness. She has worked in an international import and export business as well as for various universities.

These days, Democrats tend to win this East Lansing/Meridian Township-based seat with about 68% of the vote.

### 93rd House District

If this turns out to be a Blue Wave election for Democrats, they may look back on this Clinton County-based seat as a wasted opportunity. Filler has been as impactful a freshman member as any in the House, but this district is trending the wrong way on him.

He only won election in 2018 with 52.45% of the vote and DeWitt is only becoming more suburbanized. The Democrats were content to run with Dr. Muhammad Salman Rais, who was fined \$5,000 to settle a public health code violation in 2018. He was also sanctioned in 2012, according to state public health records.

Rais' immigration status ended up in the courts, mostly because of a 2002 domestic violence conviction, according to court records. The FBI and Attorney General's Office initially roped him into a 2012 Medicaid kickback scheme where he was alleged to have referred Medicaid and Medicare patients to a rehabilitation clinic for illegal kickbacks.

The case against him was dismissed two months later.

— KYLE MELINN



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THROUGH NOV. 3

### Flashy James campaign runs against nuts-and-bolts Peters

U.S. Senate candidate John James headlined Republicans' 2018 ticket in Michigan when Bill Schuette faltered down the stretch. Amazingly, Republicans may need James to pick up the ticket again in 2020.



James

The former Apache helicopter pilot is outperforming President Donald Trump by a couple points in most Michigan polls. His prolific paid TV ads — paid for by his around-the-clock fundraising effort — depict the Detroit business executive as decisive, well-spoken and put-together candidate without Trump-like gimmicks.

His young, athletic build and big smile doesn't hurt.

The 38-year-old Farmington Hills man is described by political consultant Dennis Lennox as something that came right out of central casting. James' great-great-grandfather was a slave and his great-grandfather

a sharecropper.

His father, John A. James, came from the Jim Crow south to build an international logistics company in Detroit.

"I'm proud to teach my sons that this is the only country where you can go from slave to senator in four generations and poverty to prosperity in one," the candidate says in one of the campaign's ads.

James' wife, Liz, narrates another ad that features a touching picture of their young son, Hudson, sitting on a hospital bed in scrubs, taking in air from an inhaler.

The guy is loved by diehard grassroots conservatives and traditional Republicans alike. He allows Republicans to give a nod to Blacks while supporting an Afghanistan veteran who puts "service before self" and supports those in uniform.

"I understand what it's like to be a Black man in this country," James said at the Freeland Airport 90 minutes before Trump's September appearance. "I understand what it feels like to have guns drawn on you because someone perceives you as a threat, as you're parked in your car in a parking lot.

"I understand what it feels like to be pulled over in a nice area of Detroit with my son in the back

and wondering if this is the day that your son is going to see you bleed out in the street ... . But I also understand what it's like to be an officer patrolling areas with people who just as soon would like to see you gone, understanding what it takes to leave my family and loved ones to stand up for people who can't fight for themselves."



Peters

This isn't the John James of 2018 who stood "2,000%" behind Trump and held rallies with Kid Rock.

James is fundraising across the country to portray a paid-media image that can't be refuted by a political record he doesn't have or comments he doesn't make in the traditional media.

Six weeks before the Nov. 3 election and James has done very few media interviews. His campaign seems to prefer it that way. He isn't in a position to answer questions about Donald Trump's latest odd-ball comments. He's not nailed down on potentially divisive issues. He is dictating his message, how he wants to deliver it, on his terms.

And his campaign has the money to do it.

To be clear, first-term incumbent Peters is still leading James. In the 31 polls tracked by Real Clear Politics, Peters had a larger number in 29 and was tied in the 30th. James was up one by a Republican-leaning firm back in August.

Peters, 60, is what James is not. He's not flashy. He's not going to get swooned over. He doesn't dodge the media. He's a policy-savvy career political figure who loves to dive into the weeds and pull out a compromise.

The image he portrays on TV is who Gary Peters is. He's excited about fixing trade issues that can save northern Michigan cherry growers from losing their farms to outrageously subsidized Turkish exports.

His name is attached to six bills signed into law by President Trump, the most of any Democratic senator in the Trump presidency despite being in the minority and in his first term.

It's because Peters works behind-the-scenes on wonky, technical issues like electric vehicles and improving weather forecasting. It directly impacts lives, but it isn't going gin up headlines.

Also unlike James, he has a political record, and a long one at that. He served in the state Senate for a couple terms. He flirted with a gubernatorial run in 2001, but he pulled out to run for attorney general. After losing by 5,200 votes statewide, Gov. Jennifer

Granholt appointed him to be the lottery commissioner.

He beat longtime incumbent U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg in 2008 to start a congressional career that spanned two different districts. When U.S. Sen. Carl Levin retired in 2014, Peters stepped in as the Democrats' heir-apparent, beating former Republican Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land.

This reelection race is quite different than that one. He had blown the publicly awkward Land out of the water by mid-October. This one promises to be much closer.

Outside interest groups are pouring in money. The Michigan Campaign Finance Network has the pro-Peters Senate Majority PAC spending more on TV ads than Peters' own campaign is. Peters is also spending about \$98,000 a week on Facebook.

Along the way, he's had to answer why the U.S. Senate didn't do more to prepare the country for a global pandemic, why he didn't show up for certain committees meetings and why he uses his old state Senate retiree health care coverage as opposed to that provided federal lawmakers.

The Peters campaign has attempted to hit back on James' squishy answers on Trump's U.S. Supreme Court appointee and his vague position on the Affordable Care Act.

But since James isn't in office and has no political record, he's taking full advantage of staying on the attack without having to defend much of anything he's done.

Peters doesn't have that luxury. He's been firmly opposed to the Senate's confirming Amy Comey Barrett for the U.S. Supreme Court at this time. He was also an early strong voice against the Trump administration's apparent dismantling of the U.S. Post Office.

There's a lot more to come. Peters is the only incumbent U.S. Senate Democrat on the ballot in a competitive seat. Democrats nationally need to protect his seat as if majority depends on it.

Because it probably does.

The Libertarians do not have a candidate in this race. Doug Dern, their 2018 Supreme Court nominee, is running under the Natural Law Party banner. Marcia Squier is the Green Party's candidate for the second straight cycle and Valerie Willis, a former congressional candidate, is running as the U.S. Taxpayers Party's candidate.

— KYLE MELINN

**STEVE KWASNIK**  
for Kids

FOR 30th CIRCUIT COURT  
[kwasnikforkids.com](http://kwasnikforkids.com)

The only candidate who works in the field of child protection everyday.

- ✓ 15 years as Ingham County Assistant Prosecutor (child victims and family court)
- ✓ 2016 recipient of Civilian Citations from the Lansing Police Department for his work fighting child abuse
- ✓ Graduate of MSU and MSU Law School
- ✓ Youth coach, husband, and father



LANSING ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

POSITIVE RATING

*Having worked with Steve Kwasnik as a practicing attorney, I have known him to be prepared, knowledgeable, open minded and fair. Combine these qualities with his unmatched years of experience, there is no doubt that Steve will serve the people and families well as your next Ingham County Circuit Court Judge.*


— JULIE O'NEILL,  
56-A District Court Judge

*To support the candidate that's fighting for families, vote for Steve Kwasnik for Ingham County Circuit Court Judge by Absentee Ballot, or at the polls on November 3rd!*

PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT STEVE KWASNIK FOR 30TH CIRCUIT JUDGE  
1302 Fair Oaks Ct., East Lansing, MI 48823

**Thank you for your support in the primary!**

The General Election is November 3!



f Bob Peña for Ingham County Commissioner | @bobforcommissioner

Equity. Diversity. Inclusion.

Paid for by The Committee to Elect Bob Peña  
2100 Vine Street, Lansing, MI 48912

My name is **Robin Lea Laurain** and I am asking you to **Vote Green** for Michigan's Education Slate.

I am the Co-Chair of the Green Party of Michigan and I am the dual candidate for the Green Party of Michigan and the Socialist Party of Michigan.

Visit us at [michgreenparty.org](http://michgreenparty.org). Check out all our Green Candidates! #michiangreensunited

Paid for by the Trust Robin Laurain 2020 Committee  
4106 Bridgeport St., Lansing, MI 48911.





# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THROUGH NOV. 3

# 7 running for 2 spots on more orderly Supreme Court

Not too long ago, Michigan Supreme Court races were high-dollar, overtly partisan grudge matches in which the Michigan Chamber of Commerce dumped gobs of money into television ads to muscle their Republican-nominated members to the court.

The Michigan Democratic Party pushed back with media-driven, gimmicky campaigns that included the infamous "Sleeping Judge" ad and the purchase of a former justice's state-issued automobile.

That all changed about the time Bridget McCormack was elected to the bench. The former associate dean for clinical affairs at the University of Michigan brought sound legal debate into the chamber where the law, finally, appeared to take priority over partisanship.



McCormack

She listened to Republican colleagues like former Justice Bob Young. She agreed with them when she felt they brought forward the most compelling reading of the law. In turn, they listened to her when she brought forward the most compelling reading of the law. Then, in turn, they started agreeing with her.

Before, decisions on the seven-member court were predictably split along party lines. Today, those decisions that are not unanimous are split every which way, rarely on party lines.

McCormack, while nominated by the Michigan Democratic Party, was elected chief justice of a Republican-majority court in 2019. Almost as astounding, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, endorsed McCormack with the two Republican nominees.

Other business groups are following suit, backing the personable, charmingly quirky, even-handed McCormack. For outside observers the court's transformation has been remarkable.

More recently, the Michigan Supreme Court's ability to help local courts move their business online and over Zoom during COVID-19 has made Michigan a national model. The transformation has been — by and large — fairly smooth and has created a much more open judiciary in the process.

"When people are satisfied with the court's work, they're less likely to fight in partisan ways," McCormack, 53, offered.

Running with McCormack for the two available spots on the bench on the Democratic-nominated ticket is Grand Rapids attorney Elizabeth Welch, whose been in private practice for the last 13 years and in law for the past 26.

She has served since 2013 as a member of the East Grand Rapids Public Schools Board of Education. Up until last year, Welch, 50, served as a board member and president of the Michigan League of Conservation Voters. McCormack personally called Welch to talk her into running.

"She is somebody I've known for a long time. She's an incredibly hard worker. She knows a lot about employment law," McCormack said. "Especially in the time of COVID, I think she would add something to the court that would be a big asset."



Welch

Welch has earned the backing of numerous labor union, environmental groups and progressive organizations. The Michigan Association of Justice was an early supporter and essentially cleared the way for her nomination.

If Welch and McCormack win this November, the court will swing to a 4-3 Democratic-nominated majority.

With Justice Stephen Markman ineligible to run again due to the 70-year-old age limit on being a judicial candidate, the Republicans nominated Court of Appeals Judge Brock Swartzle and former St. Clair County assistant prosecutor Mary Kelly.



Swartzle

Most recently, Kelly, 61, was appointed in St. Clair County to essentially be the legal advocate for abused, neglected and foster care children in the judicial system. Prior to that, she was the lead attorney of the criminal sexual conduct unit for St. Clair County.



Kelly

Kelly said Markman came to the high bench with a background in criminal prosecution, working with crime victims and their families. She'd like to continue his voice as his replacement to the court. Her support from local prosecutors speaks to this commitment.

"I'm asking the people to vote for me because I bring a voice and a perspective to the Supreme Court that nobody else has once Justice Markman steps down," she said.

Swartzle is the only candidate to serve on the state's appellate court. The 49-year-old was appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to the bench after being the chief of staff to then-Speaker Kevin Cotter.

Swartzle sees himself as a "rule of law judge" who worked as an assistant to a mentor, U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge David McKeague.

"He is someone I've tried to emulate over the years," he said. "It is fair to say that the vision I bring to the court is very, very similar to the vision that he brings to his court."

Previously, he was a litigation partner with Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn and has experience in the federal courts. Currently, he's an adjunct professor at Michigan State University. Alongside McCormack, Swartzle has been gobbling up key endorsements from the Police Officers Association of Michigan, the Detroit Regional of Chamber, the AgriPac and the Realtors.

Another sitting judge is also running. Wayne County Circuit Judge Susan Hubbard, a former Dearborn City Council member and Wayne County commissioner, gives the Green Party a

rare high-profile nominee.

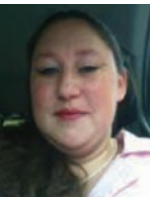
As a circuit judge in the domestic division, she saw the hundreds of people who could not afford attorneys and successfully won a grant to create a self-help divorce and custody on-line video.

"The video assists pro per litigants in obtaining a divorce and custody," she said. "As a Michigan Supreme Court Justice, I will continue to place the public's best interest at the forefront."



Morgan

Kerry Lee Morgan is back as a Libertarian-nominated option. The Lib's 2018 nominee has practiced for more than 35 years. He was an attorney for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in Washington and is strong on personal freedom and a person's "unalienable rights."



Nepton

The Libertarians also nominated Katherine Mary Nepton, who would be the first indigenous justice on the Supreme Court if elected.

The 37-year-old Lansing attorney is a legally recognized member of a First Nations band, a migratory group primarily based north of Quebec in Canada, according to the Lansing State Journal.

She's worked in private practice for nearly six years doing estate planning, Medicaid planning, social security and wills, among other services.

— KYLE MELINN

**VOTE!**

## CAROL Koenig

FOR CIRCUIT COURT

*Working For Justice*

**The ONLY candidate rated "Very Positive"**

*by Lansing Association for Human Rights (LAHR-PAC) and endorsed by:*

LiUNA! Local #499  
Greater Lansing Labor Council AFL-CIO MI.  
Assoc. for Justice  
Plumbers/Pipefitters #333  
MRC Carpenters/Millwrights  
Planned Parenthood Advocates MI

**Mayor Andy Schor • State Rep. Julie Brixie**  
Prosecutor Carol Siemon  
Treasurer Eric Schertzing  
Drain Com. Pat Lindeman  
Jerome Reide • Guillermo Lopez

For more, see:  
**CarolKoenigforJustice.com**

Paid for by  
Carol Koenig for Justice  
690 N. Hagadorn Rd.,  
East Lansing, MI 48823

VOTE NOV. 3

## Rick Jones for Eaton County Sheriff

# It's time for a change

I want deputies to have better training in de-escalating possible violent situations

## Fair and equal treatment for all people

Paid for by CTE Rick Jones Sheriff  
PO Box 115, Grand Ledge, MI 48837



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW

## VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THROUGH NOV. 3

### Political shifts turn congressional districts on their heads

The 8th Congressional District is supposed to be represented by a Republican.

That's how the Republican map makers drew it in 2011. With rock solid conservative northern Oakland County and Livingston County roped in with Ingham, it had close to a 60% Republican base at one point. It had the flappable, young Mike Rogers as the incumbent. From the GOP perspective, what could go wrong?

Move down to the 7th Congressional District. U.S. Rep. Tim Walberg narrowly snagged the seat back from Democrat Mark Schauer thanks to the Obama backlash election of 2010. Seemingly competitive Monroe County replaced seemingly competitive Calhoun County during the 2011 district swap.

Walberg seemingly was going to be on the Democrats' hit list every two years.

So, here we are in 2020. The 8th Congressional is represented by a Democrat who's expected to win reelection. And nobody outside of the 7th is paying much attention to Walberg v. Gretchen Driskell, Part III.

President Donald Trump's transformational changes to Republicans' voting base has upper-income women, in particular, repelled by his boorish behavior. But non-college educated men relate to the president's simple,

blunt, take-no-gruff attitude.

Rochester and Rochester Hills are swinging the Democrats' way these days. Jackson County and Monroe are swinging more the Republicans' way.

It's against this backdrop that Paul Junge is taking on the job that top-tier Republicans didn't want: taking on U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin in 2020 with Trump on the ballot.

The 53-year-old former FOX47 anchor recently returned to Michigan after jobs in California and Washington, D.C., with enough seed money to get his campaign off the ground. An attorney by trade, Junge worked in D.C. as a congressional staffer and federal bureaucrat. He had more than enough political experience and polish to take out three other GOP primary challengers in August.

He's like the dog who caught the car at this point, though.

Slotkin, 43, has become the Michigan Democrats' rising star. The former CIA analyst and national security official has figured out all aspects of being a successful politician. She's sharp on policy. She engages with groups large and small. She's good one-on-one. She works to solve constituent problems. And probably most of all, she keeps in touch with her communities.

The national media has noticed. She's done countless interviews in

which she's the focal point for a broader story, often on the increasing success of female political candidates.

Junge has argued that her voting records swings too much with U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., Slotkin backed impeaching President Donald Trump and was a "yes" vote on the \$3 billion COVID relief bill that died a quick death in the U.S. Senate.

However, according to Govtrack.us, Slotkin is the 236th most conservative member of 437 U.S. House members who have voted in the 2019-20 term. For some perspective, U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Detroit, is the 426th most conservative member. Walberg is 116th.

Both the impeachment and the Heroes Act vote split the district and Junge has made an issue of both votes in the two debates that's been held.

However, Slotkin has earned points for being upfront with both votes. In the face of a stream of heckler insults earlier this year, Slotkin boldly held a town hall meeting at Oakland University, where she defended her impeachment vote. She held her poise, didn't engage with protesters and talked with as many members of the media as were interested after the fact.

During this campaign, Slotkin has pivoted the discussion back to health care as much as possible while Junge makes no bones about the fact he will vote with Republicans.

Slotkin has accused Junge of being "a mile wide and an inch deep" on policy. If the Affordable Care Act were to be repealed by the U.S. Supreme Court, Junge has said he supports continuing the policy in which insurance cannot deny coverage to those with pre-existing conditions.

As for more details on what an "Obamacare" replacement plan would look like, though, Junge refuses to be pinned down.

Trump still isn't polling well in a critical part of the 8th District — Rochester and Rochester Hills. Mitchell Research and Communications has Joe Biden up 50% to 43% there and Slotkin is up 54% to 38% on Junge.

If Slotkin were in trouble, she has an enormous nest egg she could tap into. The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee would be running ads in a snap. As of now, though, it doesn't look like either will be necessary.

As for the 7th Congressional District, folks should be more than familiar with the matchup. Driskell, a former state representative and Saline mayor, hopped into the race at the last minute after no other real top-tier candidate emerged.

Democrats hoped that Driskell would ride the 2018 Pink Wave into an upset victory of the now six-term incumbent, but to no avail. The margin looked close at 53.8% to 46.2%, but getting to 50% for any Democrat in that neck of the woods will be a challenge.

Outside of Delta Township and some Washtenaw County communities, there are few places Democrats can rely on votes in the 7th, even one like Driskell who stayed away from directly attacking the president and has a history of bipartisanship.

Trump won this district 56% to 39% in 2016, which closely mirrored Walberg's number that year.

National Democrats are spending little to no money in the 7th this year. The attention has shifted to the Kalamazoo and St. Joseph with Jon Hoadley against U.S. Rep. Fred Upton.

In 10 years, the dynamics of each district has flipped as political allegiances continue their seismic shift under Trump.

— KYLE MELINN



Walberg



Junge



Driskell



Slotkin



#### Voting is the cornerstone of our democracy.

Poll workers are the people who make our democracy run. Poll workers are the staff that open and close polling locations, process voters, and process ballots. Unfortunately, most communities struggle to recruit enough poll workers to make Election Day run smoothly. Without enough poll workers, voters can wait in long lines and even be disenfranchised.

Poll workers are trained and paid for their work. Registered voters and 16 and 17-year-olds can serve as poll workers.

The voters and election officials of Michigan need you to become a poll worker. As a poll worker, you will be on the front lines ensuring Michigan has a voting system that works for all.

Have questions about being a poll worker? Email the non-partisan Election Protection Coalition at: [pollworkers@michiganvoting.org](mailto:pollworkers@michiganvoting.org)