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# CityPULSE

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A newspaper for the rest of us

## Social justice & equity What the candidates say ... or don't

SEE PAGE 15

FOR EVERY  
WRONG,  
THERE IS A  
REMEDY.



Andrew Abood

# A B O O D

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# CityPULSE

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### WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

- ACTUAL PANDEMIC RESPONSE TEAM**: Illustration of two doctors in white coats.
- CIVIL RIGHTS**: Illustration of a person holding a sign that says "DON'T SHOOT".
- A REAL EPA**: Illustration of a person in a hazmat suit holding a clipboard.
- WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD NOT DYING FROM THE GLOBAL GAG RULE**: Illustration of a woman in a headscarf.
- THE JUSTICE SYSTEM**: Illustration of a judge with a sign that says "JUDGE 4 LIFE".
- MILLIONS NOT LOSING HEALTH INSURANCE**: Illustration of a man holding a sign that says "DROPPED".
- JOURNALISM**: Illustration of a woman with a microphone.
- DEMOCRACY**: Illustration of a man at a computer terminal.
- EARTH**: Illustration of a globe with flames.
- BIDEN**: Illustration of a man's face with the text "OH YEAH, ALMOST FORGOT!".

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**PAGE 9**

Purple Michigan 2020: Oshtemo Twp.



**PAGE 49**

Downtown Lansing gets a boost from #Liftuplocal



**PAGE 50**

New in Town: Marketplace Manna



**PAGE 57**

Flash in the pan: Sage Zucchini Stuffing

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## CITY PULSE

on the AIR

NOW AT 10:00 A.M.  
SUNDAYS on

WDBM  
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88.9FM

## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

HELLO PROFESSOR! STILL WORKING ON THE **SIMULACRON**?

YES! AS YOU KNOW, IT'S A COMPUTER **SIMULATION** POPULATED BY VIRTUAL **DOPPELGÄNGERS** WHO BELIEVE THEMSELVES TO BE **REAL PEOPLE!**

FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, I'VE BEEN RUNNING A **STRESS TEST** ON AMERICAN DEMOCRACY **ITSELF!** I MADE **DONALD TRUMP** THEIR **PRESIDENT--**

THE **LOUD GUY** WITH WEIRD HAIR WHO'S IN PRISON FOR TAX FRAUD, HERE IN THE **REAL WORLD?**

THE SAME! AND IN **THEIR** WORLD, THE PANDEMIC **WE** CONTAINED THROUGH COMMON-SENSE PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES HAS RUN **RAMPANT** DUE TO HIS **INCOMPETENCE!**

THAT SOUNDS VERY **STRESSFUL!**

INDEED! AND THERE'S ONGOING SOCIAL UNREST AND A WORSENING CLIMATE CRISIS AS WELL! AND WITH THEIR ELECTION LESS THAN A MONTH AWAY, THE PRESIDENT HAS REFUSED TO COMMIT TO A **PEACEFUL TRANSITION OF POWER!**

YIKES!

HE'S ALSO TRYING TO RAM THROUGH A NEW SUPREME COURT JUSTICE WHO WILL ALMOST **CERTAINLY** STRIP HEALTH CARE FROM MILLIONS IN THE MIDDLE OF A PANDEMIC! **BUT--** THIS IS MY ABSOLUTE PIÈCE DE **RÉSISTANCE--**

--HER ANNOUNCEMENT WAS A **SUPER SPREADER** EVENT! AFTER DOWNPLAYING THE VIRUS FOR NINE MONTHS, **TRUMP HIMSELF** HAS CONTRACTED IT! NOBODY KNOWS **WHAT** TO EXPECT **NOW!** I'VE REALLY **OUTDONE** MYSELF THIS TIME!

AS ICING ON THE CAKE, I SLOWED DOWN THE RATE AT WHICH THEY SUBJECTIVELY EXPERIENCE **TIME** INSIDE THE **SIMULACRON!** FOR THEM, EACH **DAY** SEEMS TO LAST A **WEEK!** THE NEXT MONTH WILL BE **EXCRUCIATING!**

BWAAH HA HA HA!

YOU SEEM TO BE ENJOYING THIS A LITTLE TOO MUCH, SIR.

NONSENSE, BOY. I'M A **SCIENTIST.**

NEXT HMMM... SHOULD I GIVE THEM A **CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS--** OR A **FULL ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE?**

OR... WHY NOT **BOTH!**

TOM TOMORROW © 2020

PULSE

NEWS &amp; OPINION

# City Pulse endorsements

Last week, City Pulse endorsed former Vice President Joseph Biden for president. Here are the rest of our recommendations.

## STATEWIDE

### U.S. Senate

The second most important decision facing Michigan voters — after ridding the Oval Office of its current malignancy — is reelecting Gary Peters. Wrestling control of the Senate from Republicans will be next to impossible without a Peters victory. His opponent, Republican business owner and military veteran John James, is making it a close contest thanks to a prodigious fundraising effort and boatloads of independent advertising from national Republican interest groups. It's sad but unsurprising that James' television ads distort Peters record and misrepresent James' own support for Republican efforts to gut the Affordable Care Act. Because James is an avowed Trump supporter with a Trumpian relationship with the truth, and because Peters is a no-nonsense, bipartisan workhorse who ably represents the people of Michigan, **we endorse Gary Peters for a second term in the U.S. Senate.**

### Michigan Supreme Court

The Supreme Court was center stage last week, with the court's four Republican-leaning justices voting to uphold the governor's lifesaving executive orders during the COVID-19 pandemic. Brock Swartzle, a Republican nominee for the high court and current justice of the Michigan Court of Appeals, helpfully pointed out in his League of Women Voters candidate questionnaire that the judicial canons governing the conduct of Supreme Court justices require them to "be unswayed by partisan interests." Of course, the majority of current justices willfully ignored this canon in their ultra-partisan zeal to rein in Whitmer's emergency powers. We're not persuaded that Swartzle or Republican nominee Mary Kelly would be any different. We prefer to have as many Democratic-leaning justices on the court as possible, so **we endorse Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack and attorney Elizabeth M. Welch.**

### Education boards

Electing individuals to serve on the governing boards of Michigan State University, University of Michigan and Wayne State University has always been an exercise in frustration for state voters because so little information is typically available about the candidates. As a result,



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

voters are strongly inclined to make their choices based on party affiliation rather than the candidate's qualifications. That pattern is unlikely to change, so we'll save time and space by **endorsing the Democratic candidates for all three academic institutions, as well as the State Board of Education.**

### Ballot proposals

Two proposals appear on the statewide ballot: Proposal 20-1 changes the distribution and use of oil and gas tax revenues for the acquisition, development and maintenance of Michigan state parks and local parks. The proposal is supported by dozens of environmental and conservation groups, although the Sierra Club is opposed because it believes the state should move away from fossil fuel revenues to fund parks. We agree, but meanwhile **we encourage a YES vote on Proposal 20-1.**

The second ballot question — Proposal 20-2 — amends the Michigan Constitution to require law enforcement agencies to obtain a warrant before searching an individual's electronic communications, such as cell phone records and emails. Although requiring a warrant may slow some investigations, we stand by the constitutional edict that protects the right of all citizens to be free from unreasonable searches of one's

home and property. A person's electronic communications are certainly part and parcel of one's property and should be protected as such. This measure was placed on the statewide ballot by the Legislature with unanimous bipartisan support. **We recommend a YES vote on Proposal 20-2.**

## U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### 8th District

First-term Rep. Elissa Slotkin faces a strong challenge from Republican Paul Junge, who touts his experience as a former Trump Administration official. This alone is a good reason to reelect Slotkin, but there are plenty more: Slotkin's credentials as a national security analyst who served three tours in Iraq and her thoughtful approach to public policy make her one of the most capable and respected freshman members in the U.S. Congress. Moreover, she restored Lansing's district office. **We wholeheartedly endorse U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin for another two-year term.**

### 7th District

Incumbent Republican Rep. Tim Walberg, now seeking his sixth term in office, represents a small slice of west Lansing in Eaton County. For the third time in six years, he faces an aggressive challenge from Gretchen Driskell, a former state representative and the long-time mayor of Saline. Driskell lost, 54-46, to Walberg two years ago. She's a long shot again in 2020, but a Democratic surge in Michigan could catapult her into the winners' circle on Election Day. Walberg is a standard-issue Trump Republican who toes the party line. **We endorse Gretchen Driskell and hope the third time's the charm.**

## STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### Districts 67, 68, 69 and 71

The capital region is blessed with four strong, capable women serving in the Michigan House of Representatives. Each has performed admirably in office. Julie Brixie (D-69) is a force in the House and a prodigious fundraiser for the Democratic caucus through her Blue Wave Fund, an effort to help Democrats across the state win close races. Sarah Anthony (D-68) is a

See Endorsements, Page 6

Send letters to the editor on this editorial or any other topic to [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com).

Please limit them to 250 words

# Endorsements

from page 5

thoughtful and passionate champion for social justice at a tumultuous time. Kara Hope (D-67) is a steady, sensible voice who ably represents her constituents. Of the four, only Angela Witwer (D-71) has a serious challenger, and that's mostly due to the close partisan split in her district. Witwer is a small-business owner who has made constituent service a high priority during her first term. She's a business-friendly Democrat who enjoys support from multiple chambers of commerce. Her opponent, Gina Johnsen, is notable mostly for organizing a law enforcement fundraiser at the Old Country Mill, which discriminates against the LGBTQ community by prohibiting same sex marriages at the facility. That's all we need to know about Johnsen.

**We endorse State Reps. Kara Hope, Sarah Anthony, Angela Witwer and Julie Brixie.**

## INGHAM COUNTY

### Prosecuting attorney

As much as we would like to endorse Carol Siemon to continue serving as Ingham County's prosecuting attorney, we hesitate to give her the nod for two reasons: First, her decision to decline City Pulse's invitation to debate her Republican opponent, George Platsis, denies her constituents (and the media) the opportunity to hear what she has to say about important matters, including questions about her record as prosecutor. Moreover, as a first-termer, her refusal does not bode well for her openness down the road when she is even more secure in the job. Secondly, as we have previously opined, we're uncomfortable with her continued insistence on flouting the state's mandatory life in prison sentence for first-degree murder. Her recent plea bargain in a notorious double homicide earned her a stern rebuke from Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina, who summarily rejected the deal as a matter of "good conscience." On this point, we stand with Aquilina and again encourage Siemon to reconsider her approach to offering lenient plea bargains in capital murder cases. Although we're certain she will win, our conscience compels us to decline to endorse in the Ingham County prosecutor's race.

### Other countywide offices

For the most part, Ingham County's cadre of Democratic countywide elected

officials, including Clerk Barb Byrum, Treasurer Eric Schertzing, Register of Deeds Derrick Quinney, Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth, and Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann, perform their jobs capably. We find no compelling reason to turn any of them out of office. We would prefer that the county move toward combining the treasurer and register of deeds positions as a cost-saving measure, but that's a question for another day.

### Board of Commissioners

Of the 14 seats on the county board, 11 are held by Democrats. All of the incumbents except District 13 Commissioner Randy Schafer of Williamston and District 14 Commissioner Robin Case Naeyaert, both Republicans, have opponents this time around. We are content to endorse the slate of Democratic candidates, with the exception of Robert Pena. After defeating first-term commissioner Thomas Morgan in the August primary by just 52 votes, Pena filed a campaign finance waiver that said he would not spend more than \$1,000 on his campaign. Given evidence that he has, in fact, spent more than \$1,000 and given his evasive answers to our questions on that matter, we cannot endorse a candidate who knowingly flouts campaign finance reporting laws.

One county commission contest is an open seat vacated by Carol Koenig in her bid to become the county's public defender. Erin Graham is an assistant professor at MSU, chair of the East Lansing School Board and the Democratic nominee to replace Koenig. Her opponent, Crystal Grantham, also failed to respond to the League of Women Voters' candidate questionnaire. **We endorse Erin Graham for the District 9 seat on the Ingham board.**

### County Ballot Proposal: Senior Services Transportation Renewal

We support the renewal of Ingham County's dedicated millage that funds senior transportation services.

## EATON COUNTY

### EATRAN Millage Renewal

Like CATA, EATRAN provides essential public transportation in Eaton County and the dedicated county millage that supports this vital service is up for renewal. Although we believe the region would be better served if CATA and EATRAN merged their services, for the time being it's important that EATRAN can continue to provide public transit. **We recommend a YES vote on the EATRAN millage renewal.**

### Board of Commissioners

In keeping with our strong preference for electing Democrats at every level, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners is no exception -- with one exception. Based on his unseemly association with shadowy dark money organizations, we decline to endorse District 2 candidate T.J. Buchholz.

### SHERIFF

There's a special place for Democrats who decline to say if they support Joe Biden. We get it that Eaton County is purple — but what we get more is now is definitely the time for all good men to come to the aid of their party. Sheriff Tom Reich is putting getting reelected above principal. Or is he one of those law-enforcement officials Trump is crowing support him? His GOP opponent, former state Sen. Rick Jones, gave the same cowardly answer — it's nobody's business how he votes — when asked by City Pulse if he was voting for Biden or Trump. A pox on both their houses. We decline to endorse.

## JUDICIAL

### 30th Circuit Court

Choosing a new judge to succeed retiring Chief Judge Janelle Lawless on the 30th Circuit Court bench is no easy task. A handful of qualified candidates have filed for the position, including former Ingham County Commissioner Carol Koenig, assistant prosecutor Steve Kwasnik, and local attorneys Morgan Elizabeth Cole and Colline Cheltenham. We appreciate Koenig's progressive politics and Kwasnik's experience, but **we endorse Elizabeth Cole**, who strikes us as having both the temperament and experience to serve with distinction on the Circuit Court bench. She is endorsed by Circuit judges Rosemarie Aquilina and Lawless. We concur.

## EDUCATION

### LCC Board of Trustees

Voters have several excellent choices in the race for two seats on the Lansing Community College Board of Trustees. Incumbent trustee Andrew Abood is eminently reasonable and quietly effective as a member of the college's governing board. Among the contenders for the other seat, all four of the candidates have merit. We like Greg Sinicropi's business experience, which is often lacking on elected public boards, and Howard Spence brings strong academic credentials to the table. **We recommend that voters choose Andrew Abood and either Sinicropi or Spence for the LCC Board.**



## Downtown Lansing traffic circle

It's been nearly two years since the city and the Capital Region Community Foundation started and paused plans for public artwork at the roundabout in downtown Lansing. Seven months into a pandemic, city officials bigger fish to fry. But can we at least get some flowers? Maybe a pumpkin or two?

A city spokeswoman confirmed last week that there are still "no updates" on a permanent art installation, but residents can expect those red holiday balls back for Christmas. In the meantime, however, the space is just a makeshift wooden stage surrounded by some unalluring (and dying) daylilies and mulch. It's an underwhelming sight for any vibrant downtown area — especially in the heart of a capital city.

Downtown Lansing Inc. maintains the shrubbery in that space and is reportedly making plans for "fall beautification" in addition to long-term flower beds. That spooky season makeover can't come quick enough. Here's hoping it amounts to more than just a few stacks of hay bales and dead corn stalks tied to light posts.

In 2018, city officials announced that at least \$200,000 or \$300,000 would be needed to bring in a sculpture that's good enough for a permanent space downtown. Four early concepts seemed to disappoint most residents. The Community Foundation wasn't willing to pitch in more than \$100,000 and Mayor Andy Schor ruled out putting up any city dollars toward the project. More expensive artwork would invariably require donations, and in the current economic climate, few people seem amped to shell out big cash to jazz up a traffic circle.

Still, if anyone has any spare Michelangelos out in the garage, maybe give Schor a call. Lansing desperately needs something more than seasonal holiday ornaments as its main streetscape feature.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

"Eyesore of the Week" is our look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design. Have a suggestion? Email [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call it in at 517-999-6715.

# Girding for the worst

## What will you do if Trump pulls a coup?

Like most Americans, Lansing psychoanalyst therapist Peter Wood has been badly roughed up by this year's cascade of dire news.

The next big abyss — the prospect of a stolen election or post-election power grab by the Trump administration — has him on maximum alert.

Wood and his wife, Merry Stanford, are starting to wonder what they would do if Trump and his followers stop the vote count, declare the results invalid, refuse to leave or pull some other coup between November and January, and they're not alone.

Wood has practiced psychotherapy for about 30 years, first for St. Vincent Catholic Charities, the last 15 years in private practice. Stanford has been psychotherapist and clinical social worker for 26 years.

Both of them are up to their scalps in stressed-out clients who are grieving for a normal life and feel helpless to deal with whatever's coming.

"There's been so much lost this year," Wood said. "Family members who died of COVID, jobs, businesses, faith in government, the ability to hug loved ones. Now there's the prospect of losing the democratic system we both grew up in and took for granted."

Election year rhetoric is always hyperbolic, but Wood couldn't shake off Trump's refusal to commit to accepting election results.

"He's refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power, should Biden win, and in fact refuses to acknowledge that Biden could legitimately win," Wood said. "About a month ago, we came to realize we need to take this situation seriously. People have been sounding warning cries."

New York Times columnist David Brooks, hardly a radical firebrand, closed his Sept. 3 New York Times column with a challenge: "It's time to start thinking about what you would do" if Trump won't go.

In the column, Brooks urged "a new force" of center-right Republicans and center-left Democrats to come together and gird for "a sustained campaign of civic action, as in Hong Kong and Belarus, to rally the majority that wants to preserve democracy."

A series of online training sessions in nonviolent non-cooperation led by George Lakey, a longtime activist, sociologist and writer, fleshed out

the concept for Stanford and Wood. (Future sessions can be accessed on the Choose Democracy website, but they have a way of filling up as soon as they are announced.)

"We took the training as a way of overcoming a feeling of helplessness and terrible anxiety," Wood said.

Lakey, a gay Quaker, literally wrote the book on direct action — a manual used by civil rights activists in Mississippi in 1964 — and put his shoulder to many progressive causes since then, from "ban the bomb" and early gay rights to pushing banks to stop financing mountaintop removal in Appalachia.

Lakey is optimistic that quick and nonviolent mass action can stop a coup in the United States, most likely in days.

"Non-cooperation" would likely take the form of a nationwide general strike, "not allowing society to function until the illegitimate authority has left," Stanford said.

In 2017, Stephen Zunes, an international relations scholar at the University of San Francisco, released a study of 12 attempted coups around the world since 1958. Lakey refers to the study as a sign of hope in his workshop. Zunes found that eight of the coups were stopped by nonviolent resistance, including the Soviet Union in 1991, Thailand in 1992, France in 1961 and Argentina in 1987.

Lakey is hopeful that in the United States, where political power is decentralized, effective mass action would be galvanized by local leaders' refusal to go along with a coup. The groundwork for such resistance was laid, he maintains, when governors, mayors and other local officials broke with the Trump administration on a range of issues in 2020, from pandemic policy to immigration policy to civic unrest.

"Refusing from the outset to recognize the authority of Trump's claim to office — or the authority of anyone who answers to him — is key," Lake wrote in an online article for the "Waging Nonviolence" website.

The Transition Integrity Project, a bipartisan group of over 100 current and former senior government and campaign leaders and other experts, reached similar conclusions in an Aug. 3 report finding that legal and political



Wood

A series of online training sessions in nonviolent non-cooperation led by George Lakey, a longtime activist, is available at [choosedemocracy.us](http://choosedemocracy.us)

chaos is "highly likely" this November. The group was organized by Georgetown University Law Professor Rosa Brooks and Nils Gilman, a historian at the University of California, Berkeley.

The group found that "a show of numbers in the streets, and actions in the streets, may be decisive factors in determining what the public perceives as a just and legitimate outcome."

But the report also warned that street actions came with the danger of violence, possibly incited by embedded Trump surrogates, that the administration could use as a pretext for invoking the Insurrection Act and sending the military into US cities "to 'restore order,' 'protect' voting places, or confiscate 'fraudulent' ballots." That's just what happened in one of the project's scenario exercises.

Stanford said nonviolence is key to recruiting people who might be on the fence if Trump pulls a coup. Another key element to broadening the movement, she said, is to frame the action as a defense of the Constitution and democracy rather than pushback against Trump.

She was also careful to distinguish being prepared from living in fear.

"All of this is not because we necessarily expect a coup to happen, but we want to be prepared if it does," she said. "It requires holding more than one possibility in your mind."

The best way to deal with an impending crisis is to avert it, if possible. To that end, Wood and Stanford have been working on voter registration by phone.

"This is all the backup plan," Stanford said. "To vote is the first and primary priority. If Trump wins the election fairly, we'd all have to recognize that he's the president for the next four years."

It's not very Quaker to bring this up, but in the face of a volatile Nov. 3 and beyond, many Americans who own guns are dusting off the gun cabinet. Others are asking themselves, perhaps for the first time in their lives, whether they should buy a gun.

Wood and Stanford offered this advice.

"If you haven't lived with guns, if you're not seasoned and matured with gun use, if you're not an expert user of a gun, this is not the time to buy a gun," Stanford said. "You're more likely to misuse it than use it correctly."

Wood says there's a risk no matter

what you decide. "If you carry lethal weapons, then you are prepared to die by violence," he said. "If you decline to carry a weapon, then you are prepared to die by violence you refuse to participate in."



Stanford

It may not be safer, Wood said, but there are other compelling reasons to choose nonviolence.

"There is a saying: 'there's no way to peace — peace is the way,'" Wood said. "Choosing nonviolence is a way to say that this is the way we engage with difficulties if we want the kind of society we're glad to live in, and for our grandchildren to live in."

— LAWRENCE COSENTINO

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## REWIND

WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK



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**Koenig**  
FOR CIRCUIT COURT  
Working For Justice

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Greater Lansing Labor Council AFL-CIO MI.  
Assoc. for Justice

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Mayor Andy Schor • State Rep. Julie Brixie

Prosecutor Carol Siemon

Treasurer Eric Schertzinger

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For more, see:  
[CarolKoenigforJustice.com](http://CarolKoenigforJustice.com)



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Carol Koenig for Justice  
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# Who are these people running for education posts?

Voters will once again elect two members of the state Board of Education and the governing boards of the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University.

The often unheralded and uncompensated education board posts are often selected based on how voters feel about the top of the ticket. However, for those who like to vote buffet style, here's the skinny on the major-party nominees.

The Libertarians, Working Class Party, Green Party, U.S. Taxpayers Party and the Natural Law Party all have at least one candidate in each race.

## Michigan State University Board of Trustees

- Rema Vassar, Democrat, is a former K-12 public school teacher, counselor, administrator and parent organizer who has a daughter at Michigan State University. The husband of the expert in education policy is a two-time alum. Vassar has a doctorate degree and is essentially the alternative candidate to Trustee Joel Ferguson, who was pushed out of seeking another term.



Vassar

- Brian Mosallam, Democrat, is a first-term incumbent who runs a financial management firm. A group of Dr. Larry Nassar survivor parents is backing Mosallam, who can be a bit of a lone wolf on the eight-member board at times, particularly when it comes to addressing post-Nassar issues. He's a former Spartan football player who earned Academic All-Big Ten honors three times.



Mosallam

- Pat O'Keefe, Republican, is a strategic adviser, financial consultant and turnaround adviser for under-performing companies. The self-described conservative has also been a forensic accountant responsible for investigating several large Ponzi schemes in Michigan. On the board, the MSU alum said he wants to protect free speech and make college affordable to students and families.



O'Keefe

- Tonya Schuitmaker, Republican, is a former state senator and House

member who was among those calling for reform at Michigan State University during the Nassar scandal. A former attorney general candidate, Schuitmaker is a practicing attorney by trade, who chaired the Higher Education Appropriations committee during her time in the Legislature.



Schuitmaker

## University of Michigan Board of Regents

- Mark Bernstein, Democrat, is a southeast Michigan personal injury attorney who has become the public face, president and manager partner of the law firm his father, Sam Bernstein, founded. The first-term incumbent is a former Michigan Civil Rights commissioner who strongly considered running for governor in the past.



Bernstein

- Shauna Ryder Diggs, Democrat, is a Detroit-area cosmetic dermatologist and first-term member of the Board of Regents. She earned all of her higher education degrees at U-M, spending a combined 11 years in Ann Arbor before graduating in 1994. After working with another physician for about nine years, she opened up her own practice in Grosse Pointe Farms in 2004.



Diggs

- Sarah Hubbard, Republican, the owner of Lansing-based lobbying firm Acuitas LLC, is also known around town as the former vice president of the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce. Prior to that, she worked as a staffer for then-state Sen. Nick Smith and then-Rep. Bill Bullard. She received her bachelor's and master's of business administration from the University of Michigan.



Hubbard

- Carl Meyers, Republican, has been the treasurer of the



Meyers

Michigan Republican Party and has run several times before for the U-M board. Professionally, he's the senior vice president of investments at Raymond James in Dearborn with a specialty in wealth management. He earned his undergraduate from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

## Wayne State University

- Eva Garza Dewaelsche, Democrat, is the president and CEO of SER Metro-Detroit for Progress and a former Detroit police commissioner. The WSU graduate served 12 years on its alumni board among numerous other WSU and community boards. Including her time earning her bachelor's and master's degrees, she's been involved with the University in some capacity since 1969.



Dewaelsche

- Shirley Stancato, Democrat, is the former president and chief executive officer of New Detroit, Inc., a coalition focused on racial understanding and racial equity in Metro Detroit. The governor appointed Stancato to the board last December to fill the vacancy created when Kim Trent resigned. Republicans nearly got Stancato kicked off the ballot last month by claiming she signed an affidavit that all her campaign finance filings were up to date, when they were not.



Stancato

- Don Gates, Republican, is an IT security, management and business development professional and retired colonel with the U.S. Army after 38 years of service. He received his master's in business administration from WSU in 1997. The former Republican precinct delegate sits on the Wayne County Republican Committee.



Gates

- Terri Lynn Land, Republican, is the former secretary of state and Kent County clerk who ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate in 2014. She was a late addition to the ballot after the Bureau



Land

of Elections kicked off the ballot the Republicans' original nominee, Diane Dunaskiss, for signing an affidavit that all her campaign finance matters were up to date when she had unpaid fines from her 2018 run.

## State Board of Education

- Ellen Cogen Lipton, Democrat, is a former state representative and 2018 congressional candidate from Huntington Woods. She is a long-time patent attorney with a chemistry degree from Williams College and a juris doctor from Harvard. While in the state House, she was highly critical of then-Gov. Snyder's Education Achievement Authority alternative for Detroit school children.



Lipton

- Jason Strayhorn, Democrat, is in real estate development and management in Southeast Michigan, but is best known as the radio color commentator for Michigan State University football games. The former captain of the MSU football team's passion for public education comes from his three school-aged children and his volunteer reading initiatives designed to help poorer, urban children.



Strayhorn

- Tami Carlone, Republican, is a second-time candidate to the state board, having finished third in her 2018 run. The self-described education activist is passionate about pushing back on what she sees is "biased teachings" in the public education system. She's involved in a national network called "Truth in American Education" that works against liberal indoctrination in the K-12 system. She's also opposed to Common Core.



Carlone

- Michelle Frederick, Republican, is on the Special Education Advisory Committee and "Michigan Parents Involved in Education." She is running in oppo-



Frederick

# Is Trump stirring up a 'Blue Tsunami' for suburban K-Zoo?

By **SAMANTHA SCHRIBER**  
AND **KYLE MELINN**

**OSHTEMO TWP** — At the Husted's Farm Market, a woman plucking apples for her homemade pies and fritters shook her head when asked how she'd describe her community's political behavior.

Refusing to share her name and equipping her hair to veil her emotions like an invisibility cloak, she said, "I don't know. I keep to myself — there's a reason why we keep to ourselves."

Nearby, a graffitied vehicle is broadcasting anything but secrecy. In neon writing on back windshield reads: "Oh lord, we the people need the truth! But we get — draft dodger, lyer, tax cheat, whore monger, racist Donald J. Trump."

Today's trip around Purple Michigan takes us to the 61st state House District, an agriculturally driven community of professionals snuggled around the city of Kalamazoo County. Its main communities of Portage, Oshtemo Township and Texas Township represent the smudge of historical lavender within Michigan's red-versus-blue political quarrels.

It's a thoughtful district of notorious ticket-splitters. It's a place where some see unsolicited political conversations as bad manners and invasive to their family-oriented civilization.

Like any community, though, there's no shortage of folks displaying their nearly radioactive political expressions. Outspoken or not, folks have made up their mind Trump, but they prefer to keep them to themselves.

"They're not mentioning him," said term-limited state Rep. Brandt Iden, R-Oshtemo Twp., who is knocking doors for Republican state House candidate Bronwyn Haltom. "They didn't support him last time and they're not going to support him now. For them, there's no reason to continue a discussion on it."

The polling numbers speak volumes. A Mitchell Research & Communications survey last month showed Joe Biden is up 54% to 38% on Trump here, a considerably larger margin than the 49%-45% margin by which Clinton beat Trump in the 61st in 2016.

The feeling from political observers and folks on the ground is that Trump's latest bout with COVID-19 isn't going to make much of a difference either.

"It's all part of the political show that only a small minority really pay attention to," said Jason Howard, a lifelong Portage resident and beer distributor. "I think it's based on fundamental values for a voter, and I think their minds are made up." Trump's COVID-19 "contin-



This is the third part in a six-part series reporting on the presidential campaign in Michigan in different locations across the state. This series is paid for by contributions from you to the City Pulse Fund for Community Journalism. To contribute, please go to [lansingcitypulse.com/donation](http://lansingcitypulse.com/donation).

ues to raise awareness for how real this thing is and how it affects everybody individually."

The difference in the 61st is that the sharp turn away from Trump doesn't necessarily spell doom for local candidates like Haltom or Iden before her. Iden overperformed GOP gubernatorial candidate Bill Schuette by 8 points in 2018 to retain his seat.

With majority of the state House on the line, Republicans are counting on voters who want to meet their local representatives face-to-face to swing it for Haltom, a 27-year-old political consultant. Mailboxes are flooded with pro and con mail for her and Democratic opponent Christine Morse.

No House district in the state is seeing as much TV ad spending as the 61st (close to \$500,000), according to the Michigan Campaign Finance Network.

Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist was stumping for Morse, a Kalamazoo County commissioner, on Friday. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is slated to appear for the 54-year-old stay-at-home mother and breast cancer survivor Wednesday.

Both Whitmer and Gilchrist are hoping to make it a clear sweep for Democrats in an area that could decide who wins a competitive U.S. House race between 17-year incumbent Fred Upton and Democratic state Rep. Jon Hoadley.

Traditionally, Upton and other Republicans have had no problem in this former home of uber-conservative



Photos by Samantha Schriber for City Pulse

(Above) A vehicle in front of Husted's Farm Market, 9191 W. Main St., in Kalamazoo, warns shoppers of the dangers of a Donald Trump presidency. (Right) A young woman protests outside of the Oshtemo branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library over a visit from Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist to promote Democratic voting.

ex-Rep. Jack Hoogendyk. This time around, Trump is poisoning the political well in the land of college employees and Pfizer executives.

"I know that the area. I hear that it's a little more politically conservative. I can tell you that where I live right now, people up and down my road are mostly Biden signs," said Carolyn Kennedy, a 40-year district resident of the district.

Kennedy said one of her reasons for voting Democrat this upcoming Election Day "is everything."

"Particularly on the national level, I am very, very concerned about the direction of the country. I think of what Trump has done and I am just completely sick of all of the lies, the incompetent leadership, the corruption — I can go on and on," Kennedy said.

She said she even wonders if her perception of the area being conservative is incorrect, especially as those in her immediate circles are majorly non-Republican.

Meanwhile, Howard said he's likely voting for Trump. He said others he knows who support the president prioritize success and tax structure over concerns around his rhetoric. There are plenty of those folks, too.

Portage consists of residents employed anywhere from the global likes of Stryker Corp., which invested \$109 million into creating an industrial site in the city during 2018, to two-person start-ups. With Kellogg's, Whirlpool and Walmart taking up significant residencies, business is a huge driver for voters, Howard said.

While that may be the case, Democrat Keshia Dickason of Texas Township,



who is running to take over Morse's seat on the Kalamazoo County Commission, said there isn't a particular poster child of the area, but instead an entire poster family.

"They try to remain family-oriented and the importance is what's going to help the family — not so much as a way to help one's pockets grow, but what's important for the family," Dickason said.

That may be why Hoadley is confidently predicting a "blue tsunami" will sweep over suburban Kalamazoo.

He said the 61st House District is the embodiment of so many voters who woke up to the fact that the Republican Party has detached itself far away from the values that once drew them to the polls.

"I've talked to so many families who are struggling with virtual learning," he said. "They're figuring out how to keep their families safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. They're worried about healthcare and the environment and they've watched as Trump's Republican Party moves further away from the concerns they care most about."

## Education

from page 8

sition to standardized testing and the adoption of Common Core standards. Frederick also see liberal ideology creeping into social studies instruction, which she sees as progressive activism with little historical context.

— **KYLE MELINN**

(For information on the candidates for the board of Lansing Community College, please see pages 20-21.)

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING  
INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE  
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE  
STREET LIGHTING SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT**

**TO THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN,** the owners of the land described below within the Street Lighting Special Assessment District, and any other interested persons:

2328 Showtime	1615 Lake Lansing Road	2704 Lake Lansing Road	3319 Wood Street
2401 Showtime	1627 Lake Lansing Road	2706 Lake Lansing Road	3323 Wood Street
2501 Showtime	1634 Lake Lansing Road	2710 Lake Lansing Road	3320 Preyde
2505 Showtime	1700 Lake Lansing Road	1540 Lake Lansing Road	And Also Parcels:
2620 Showtime	1707 Lake Lansing Road	2800 Preyde Blvd	
3508 Wood St.	1720 Lake Lansing Road	2500 Showtime Dr	
2810 Chamberlin Dr	1813 Lake Lansing Road	2201 Towne Centre Blvd	33-21-01-02-100-002 Wood St.
2500 Kerry Street	1910 Lake Lansing Road	3115 Towne Centre Blvd	33-21-01-03-200-011 Wood Street
2503 Kerry Street	2000 Lake Lansing Road	2800 Towne Centre Blvd	33-21-01-02-126-03 Showtime
2511 Kerry Street	2017 Lake Lansing Road	2925 Towne Centre Blvd	33-21-01-02-126-100 Showtime
2127 Lake Lansing Rd	2030 Lake Lansing Road	3225 Towne Centre Blvd	33-21-01-03-200-014 Wood Street
2401 Lake Lansing Rd	2110 Lake Lansing Road	2320 Wood Street	33-21-01-03-200-015 Wood Street
2615 Lake Lansing Rd	2129 Lake Lansing Road	2401 Wood Street	33-21-01-03-401-017 Lake Lansing
1320 Lake Lansing Road	2200 Lake Lansing Road	2510 Wood Street	33-21-01-03-426-007 Lake Lansing
1384 Lake Lansing Road	2250 Lake Lansing Road	2707 Wood Street	33-21-01-03-426-009 Wood Street
1403 Lake Lansing Road	2300 Lake Lansing Road	2715 Wood Street	33-21-01-03-426-021 Lake Lansing
1405 Lake Lansing Road	2312 Lake Lansing Road	2723 Wood Street	33-21-01-03-427-034 Lake Lansing.
1408 Lake Lansing Road	2400 Lake Lansing Road	2727 Wood Street	33-21-01-03-451-005 Lake Lansing
1411 Lake Lansing Road	2408 Lake Lansing Road	2733 Wood Street	
1415 Lake Lansing Road	2410 Lake Lansing Road	2920 Wood Street	33-21-01-02-503-001 Wood St.
1422 Lake Lansing Road	2412 Lake Lansing Road	2925 Wood Street	33-21-01-03-503-001 Wood St.
1475 Lake Lansing Road	2414 Lake Lansing Road	3010 Wood Street	33-21-01-03-426-023 Lake Lansing
1492 Lake Lansing Road	2425 Lake Lansing Road	3018 Wood Street	33-21-01-02-127-001 Showtime
1500 Lake Lansing Road	2500 Lake Lansing Road	3107 Wood Street	33-21-01-02-127-002 Showtime
1515 Lake Lansing Road	2502 Lake Lansing Road	3125 Wood Street	33-21-01-02-128-002 Showtime
1824 Lake Lansing Road	2510 Lake Lansing Road	3300 Wood Street	33-21-01-02-201-008 Preyde
1520 Lake Lansing Road	2512 Lake Lansing Road	3305 Wood Street	33-21-01-02-201-009 Preyde
1530 Lake Lansing Road	2515 Lake Lansing Road		
1568 Lake Lansing Road	2524 Lake Lansing Road	3318 Wood Street	
1600 Lake Lansing Road	2620 Lake Lansing Road	3309 Wood Street	
1609 Lake Lansing Road	2628 Lake Lansing Road	3315 Wood Street	

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Township Supervisor has reported to the Township Board and filed in the office of the Township Clerk for public examination a special assessment roll prepared by her related to all properties listed above, and that are within the Street Lighting Special Assessment District, and are benefited by the street lighting improvements generally described as follows:

The acquisition, construction, installation, maintenance and operation of luminaires, standards, and other equipment, wiring, cables, and appurtenances related to street lighting generally, but not necessarily limited to, along Lake Lansing Road from US 127 west to the City limits, and Wood Street from David Street north to county line.

The special assessment roll has been prepared for the purpose of assessing the annual cost of the acquisition, construction, maintenance and operation of the street lighting improvements and work incidental thereto within the special assessment district. Information regarding the street lighting improvements is on file and available for public examination with the Township Clerk at the Township's Administration Building, 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, within the Township. The total assessment is \$116,362.00, which amount will be assessed to the properties within the special assessment district.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Township Supervisor has further reported that the assessment against each parcel of land within the special assessment district is such relative portion of the whole sum levied against all parcels of land in the special assessment district as the benefit to such parcel bears to the total benefit to all parcels of land in the district.

**PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that the Township Board will meet virtually via ZOOM (online and/or by phone), due to health concerns surrounding COVID-19 under the Governor of Michigan's Executive Order 2020-154 on Tuesday, the 13th day of October, 2020 at 7:00 o'clock, p.m., for the purpose of reviewing the proposed special assessment roll and hearing any objections thereto.

Join Zoom Meeting	
<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2315421280">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2315421280</a>	Dial by your location
	+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 231 542 1280	+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
Passcode: LansingTwp	+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
One tap mobile	+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+16465588656,,2315421280# US (New York)	+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+13017158592,,2315421280# US (Germantown)	+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
	Meeting ID: 231 542 1280

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2315421280>

The special assessment roll may be examined at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular business days until the time of the hearing and may further be examined at the hearing.

Appearance and protest at the hearing, in person or in writing, are required in order to appeal the action of the Township Board in approving the special assessment roll, and/or the amount of an assessment, to the state tax tribunal. A property owner or party in interest, or his or her agent, may appear in person at the hearing to protest the special assessment proceedings or may file his or her appearance and protest by letter and his or her personal appearance will not be required. The owner or any person having an interest in the real property who protests in person or in writing at the hearing may file a written appeal of a special assessment with the state tax tribunal within 30 days of the date the special assessment roll is confirmed by the Township Board.

Dated: September 22, 2020

Susan L. Aten, Township Clerk

CP#20-227

# Homeowners have questions on Lansing's tax bill for drain project

When it comes to drain assessments, David Fisher is a two-time loser.

First, as a former Groesbeck resident, he helped pay for the Tollgate Drain project, led by Ingham County Drain Commissioner Patrick Lindemann, that created the wetlands on Lansing's east side.

Then he moved near Frandor. And last month, he received notice of an assessment for Lindemann's new, \$34.8 million Montgomery Drain project: \$6,700.

Fisher said the only official information he and his neighbors received from the city has come in the form of a tax assessment.

"I caught wind of this project a little while ago," Fisher said, "but like my neighbors, I didn't get any information from the city about how this would affect us until we got our tax assessments last week."

Residents want to know why they are being charged so much for the project and if it can be appealed, Fisher said. Assessments are based on property size. Property owners in the affected area will pay much more than the city-wide assessment all owners will pay.

"When they sent us our assessments, they were based on the size of our lots," Fisher said.

"Everyone was a little gob-smacked when they got that bill and hadn't heard anything about it before," he said.

Residents were to meet with city officials Tuesday evening — the first time they will be able to speak directly with city officials, said Fisher.

"The Council finally said that they need to communicate with residents, but this came after the assessments already came out," Fisher said, "This is going to be everybody's first opportunity to engage with them, including for those of us who've spoken at Council meetings and haven't gotten a response."

Residents want to know how they can appeal their portion of drain costs, he said.

"There's a public hearing on the 12th, but if we want to appeal the assessment, we have to have it to the city in writing before the hearing is over," Fisher said. "We have to write our appeal without even knowing what we have to appeal."

"We don't have any sense of context for what the city is basically trying to sneak by us," he said.

But the city's public service director,

Andy Kilpatrick, said it is difficult for residents to appeal the project.

"With the way drain law works, a property owner really cannot appeal the project because they don't have legal standing," Kilpatrick said. "Once the project has been approved by the drain board, it can only be stopped by the drain board." He was referring to the Ingham County Drainage Board. Lindemann has long advocated the Montgomery Drain project in order to end pollution of the Red Cedar River.

According to the City of Lansing, county drain projects where the city determines some cost should be assessed to individual properties must go through a five-step public improvement process.

The process involves the Public Service Department, the Assessor's Office, the Finance Treasurer's Office, the mayor and City Council. Each step must be approved by City Council.

The drain project is in the fourth step of the approval process. After the cost of the project is allocated, letters are mailed to residents and a public hearing date is set.

Kilpatrick said the City of Lansing is responsible for 64 percent of the total project cost, or nearly \$23.7 million.

"The City's current plan for paying its apportionment is to pay approximately 50 percent with a citywide drain tax," Kilpatrick said, "and the other 50 percent through assessment to the benefited properties in the drainage district."

The cost for individual properties depends on their size and runoff contribution.

According to Kilpatrick, residents can choose how and when they want to pay.

All properties owners have the option of paying off the entire amount," Kilpatrick said, "or they can pay it off in installments on their property taxes over a period set by the council."

Fisher said that period is up to 30 years, but a longer window of time could cost residents.

"They did give us a 30-year payment option, but at 3.2 percent interest that becomes much more than \$6,700," Fisher said. "That tax assessment comes directly off the equity of our property, so it's up to us to determine how we want to handle it."

Fisher said he has paid for a drainage project before, at a previous residence.

"When I bought my house in the Groesbeck neighborhood, they had just finished a stormwater drainage



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

Neighbors gather Tuesday evening on Hillgate Circle in northeast Lansing for a meeting with city officials over steep assessments they face for the anti-pollution Montgomery Drain project.

project," Fisher said. "When I bought that house, the assessment there was still outstanding from the previous owner and had to be paid off."

"Having gone through this already, I know this assessment would have to be settled before any of us could sell our houses."

Fisher said that he wants to find a better solution.

"We just want to get as many people at the meeting as we can," Fisher said. "I don't want people bringing torches and pitchforks, I want them to bring questions and concerns."

"And I want the city to provide tech-

nical information to us," he said.

Kilpatrick said project information is posted on the city's website, but questions regarding the project should be addressed to the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office.

"The link to project information is on the City's website," Kilpatrick said, "and this link was included in the notice of public assessment mailing."

— DANIELLE JAMES

*This story is paid for by readers like you through contributions to the CityPulse Fund for Community Journalism. To contribute, please go to [lansingcitypulse.com/donation](https://lansingcitypulse.com/donation).*

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**, in the 54-B District Court, Courtroom 2, 101 Linden Street, East Lansing.

A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1492, an ordinance to amend sections 50-5, 50-36, 50-93, 50-94, 50-144, 50-593, 50-793, 50-812, 50-813, and 50-814 of Chapter 50 – Zoning – of the code of the City of East Lansing to make updates and corrections.

Call (517) 319-6930, the Department of Planning, Building and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, for additional information. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. These matters will be on the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting after the public hearing is held, at which time the Commission may vote on them. The Planning Commission's recommendations are then placed on the agenda of the next City Council meeting. The City Council will make the final decision on these applications.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services should write or call the Planning Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823. Phone: (517) 319-6930. TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777.

Note: This hearing is currently scheduled to occur as a regular public hearing at the meeting. If, at the time of this hearing meetings are still not permitted under an Executive Order of the Governor and an Executive Order permitting meetings electronically allows for an electronic meeting, this hearing will occur electronically and a notice of the means of participation in that hearing will be published in compliance with the Open Meetings Act and any relevant Executive Orders.

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

CP#20-234

# County commission candidate ducks questions on campaign spending

The Democratic candidate for Ingham County commissioner from Lansing's east side has declined to disclose his records on campaign spending to the media after he was questioned about whether he is violating the state's reporting requirements.

The candidate, Bob Pena, received a waiver from reporting after he filed a statement with the Ingham County Clerk's Office that his campaign did not expect to exceed \$1,000 in spending for the Aug. 4 primary election, when he defeated incumbent Thomas Morgan for the nomination. The waiver remains in place for the Nov. 3 General Election, which he is expected to win.

But City Pulse has information that suggests he may have exceeded \$1,000 in spending for the primary election.

When City Pulse asked Pena by text message for an interview to question him about the possible violation, he replied, "My supporters were mad and upset about your last story. I need to try and keep them on board by listening to them. Appreciate you and your paper." (The story was a profile of him after he won the primary.)

In a subsequent text message, Pena said he was "willing to respond in writing to your concern."

Asked to share his records on spending and contributions - the waiver also applies to donations - he said he would check with his treasurer, "But we should (sic) OK. If we go over I will file with Clerk."

Asked again if he would share his records, he replied on Friday, "Not sure if that is legal. Will have to check with attorney. If it is sure."

Asked how it could be illegal, he said, "The law states when go over 1000 we are to file with clerk. When that happens we will do that. Respectfully sir you are not the clerk."

When asked again Saturday if he would share his records on spending and contributions - which state law requires a campaign to maintain for five years - he replied, "As required we will be filing sir. Our treasurer is working on the report. Keep you posted on the rest."

Asked if that meant that his campaign spending exceeded the limit, he said, "Letting treasurer figure exact math out. The local attorney from ethics board said your request potentially conflicts with the county code of ethics for commissioners. Your solicitation not standard operating procedure. Planning on filing by deadline as our campaign committee is required. Hope that helps sir."

He did not respond to a follow-up question on how a request to disclose



Pena



Berl Schwartz/City Pulse

Yard signs in the front yard of Ingham County Commissioner candidate Bob Pena's house on Lansing's east side. Out back, he raises chickens.

his records violates the Ingham County Code of Ethics, especially given he has not been elected yet and therefore is not governed by them. Nor is there anything in the county's ethics code that appears to suggest any conflict.

Nor did he answer a question on why he did not meet the filing deadline if his campaign exceeded the \$1,000 limit.

Byrum said City Pulse's request and fulfilling it do not violate the county's ethics code. Moreover, she said that if Pena's campaign did exceed \$1,000, she would not have allowed the waiver to stay in place for the General Election.

There are two reporting deadlines for candidates in the primary. The pre-primary reporting deadline was July 24 for all spending thru July 19. The post-election deadline was Sept. 3 for all spending from July 19 thru

Aug. 24. The state also requires them to report within 48 hours any spending that occurred July 20 thru Aug. 24.

Byrum said Pena met none of those deadlines. She said Tuesday he was yet to file anything.

Pena did not return a texted request Tuesday for any further comment.

Efforts to reach Pena's campaign treasurer, Carol Kasuda, were unsuccessful.

Also, efforts to reach an official in the Secretary of State's Office on what penalty, if any, Pena faces were unsuccessful.

Pena beat Morgan by 52 votes. Morgan, who did not seek a waiver, filed his primary reports on time. He declined to comment on Pena's situation.

— BERL SCHWARTZ

**B/21/024 Lansing Police Ops Wellness Center** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids electronically on line at [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info) or at the City Of Lansing Purchasing Office, at 124 W. Michigan Ave 8th floor, Lansing, MI 48933 until **2:00 PM** local time in effect on **October 19, 2020** at which time bids will be opened. **Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Shannon Tracy at (517) 483-4128, or [Shannon.tracy@lansingmi.gov](mailto:Shannon.tracy@lansingmi.gov) or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info).** The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses. **CP#20-239**

## No News Is Bad News

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a Public Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM conferencing for the purpose of public input on the Parks Five Year Master Plan for 2020-2025. Please visit [www.lansingmi.gov/827/Parks-Recreation](http://www.lansingmi.gov/827/Parks-Recreation) prior to the meeting for complete ZOOM meeting information.

With Executive Order 2020-4, Governor Whitmer declared a statewide State of Emergency due to the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). To mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and to provide essential protections to vulnerable Michiganders and this State's health care system and other critical infrastructure, it is crucial that all Michiganders take steps to limit in-person contact, particularly in the context of large groups. Therefore, the above meetings will be conducted via audio/video conference.

The meetings are being held electronically in accordance with the Open Meetings Act in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public. Members of the public wishing to participate in the meeting may do so by logging into or calling into the meetings using the website or phone number above, and meeting ID provided. Michigan Executive Order 2020-154 provides temporary authorization of remote participation in public meetings and hearings.

For more information, please call 517.483.4307. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the ZOOM public meeting. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m. on the day of the Public Meeting at the Lansing Department of Parks and Recreation office, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing, MI 48912 or email [kellie.brown@lansingmi.gov](mailto:kellie.brown@lansingmi.gov)

Brett Kaschinske, Director  
[www.lansingmi.gov/827/Parks-Recreation](http://www.lansingmi.gov/827/Parks-Recreation)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingParksAndRecreation](https://www.facebook.com/LansingParksAndRecreation)

CP#20-237

# MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE

## ✓ vote at Home

- For quickest delivery, request your ballot online at [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote).

## ✓ vote Early or

- Clerk's Election Unit, 2500 S Washington Ave, Open Extended Hours, Free Parking
- Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center, 5825 Wise Rd, Opening October 19
- City Hall, 124 W Michigan Ave, Open 8 am - 5 pm Monday - Friday

## ✓ vote Nov 3rd

**CHRIS SWOPE** LANSING CITY CLERK

**LansingVotes.com (517) 483-4131**



## Rating candidates on social justice and equity

When it comes to issues over which local elected officials have much control, social equity and equality are two. They may not be able to do much about COVID-19 and the economy, but they can help our communities deal with and overcome the byproducts of racism.

What follows starting on the next page are the results of a survey sent to virtually every candidate in mid-Michigan. The goals were two: pro-

vide voters with information to help them make up their minds, and rate the candidates based on City Pulse's liberal views of these issues.

Thanks to Kyle Kaminski for undertaking this project and to Abby Sumbler, our production manager, for making it so readable.

And a special thanks to pioneering civic leader Barbara Roberts Mason, who kindly agreed to write her thoughts on this important matter.

Her words combined with the results of the City Pulse questionnaire — whether through the candidates' words or their failure to respond to the survey — are meant to help you as you decide your choices in an election that is as much about who is at the bottom on the ticket as above.

**BERL SCHWARTZ**  
Editor and publisher

## How ... and why ... to judge candidates on racial and social justice

By **BARBARA ROBERTS MASON**

*(The writer was the first African American woman to be elected to statewide office, serving 24 years on the state Board of Education. She helped lead the creation of the Office of Minority Affairs at the Michigan Education Association. She was a longtime leader of the Lansing Regional Sister Cities Commission.)*



Mason

**W**e were excited when Barack Obama was elected president. Some felt as though we had finally achieved a “post-racial” society. We thought this was a perfect opportunity for elected officials throughout the country to shape policies that would benefit all citizens and reduce inequities. This, of course, did not happen, as was shown by the way the U.S. Senate declared from the beginning that Obama would only be a one-term president.

What we witnessed instead, was overt morphing of implicit bias into explicit bias. Elected officials in Michigan and across the country adopted laws and policies that intentionally continued social and racial inequities that have existed for decades and even centuries.

During an election year, candidates make many promises about racial and social justice. They promise to work toward eliminating racism. They extoll their love and respect for people of all racial and ethnic groups. They express their disdain for bias and the rise of domestic terrorism. Yet, many of these same people have difficulty using words such as racist, institutional or systemic racism, white privilege, white supremacy or Black Lives Matter. In fact, many have little understanding of how entrenched in our society these and like words are or why. As voters interview the candidates and study their long-term and



more recent positions, we should challenge them on their understanding of the issues they espouse and not just take it for granted that they will do the right thing, just because they say the right things. If elected, regardless of the position they will hold, e.g. legislature, school board, sheriff or township council, they will take actions and shape policies that will have an impact on reducing, maintaining or increasing our inequities.

When candidates discuss racial and social justice issues, we must make sure that they understand that the problems facing us at this time are not just current issues. They are issues that have haunted us since before the inception of this nation. These issues became a reality and a problem in 1619 when cap-

tured human beings were brought to this land and it was determined that they would exist only at the pleasure of and for the use of the white population of this country. Religious entities and scientists proffered the tenet that Africans were somehow less than human and possessed inferior intelligence and were not fit to be included in the riches the land had to offer, but were only deserving of the pity and servitude and patronization of their white superiors. Even the Constitution, written by the founding fathers and ratified by the new nation, avowed freedoms for all people ... but did not include people of color.

To be able to definitively represent people

See Justice, Page 28



# About City Pulse's Rating System

Surveys were sent weeks in advance to candidates in nearly every contested race on the General Election in Ingham, Clinton and Eaton counties. A total of 93 of 259 candidates replied, while 166 either declined to participate or simply didn't respond to our calls and emails.

We awarded up to 6 points to those with progressive views on racial justice and social equity.

Only 43 candidates received a perfect score. Some judicial candidates cited judicial ethical conflicts in declining to answer some questions. Most of the Republicans flunked it altogether.

**ENGAGEMENT:** Candidates who responded to this survey (at least) expressed a willingness to engage in a conversation about racial justice and social equity. For that, they each received one (1) point.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER vs. ALL LIVES MATTER:** Each candidate was asked to choose between "Black Lives Matter" or "All Lives Matter" without explanation. Those that clearly selected "Black Lives Matter" received one (1) point.

**EQUALITY vs. EQUITY:** Candidates were also asked to define the differences between equality and equity. Equity involves trying to understand and give people what they need to enjoy full, healthy lives. Equality, in contrast, aims to ensure that everyone gets the same opportunities in order to enjoy full, healthy lives. Like equity, equality aims to promote fairness and justice, but it can only work if everyone starts from the same place and needs the same things. Those who were able to clearly define and delineate between those two distinct concepts each received one (1) point.

**RACISM EXISTS?:** Candidates were asked whether structural racism exists within their communities.

**Color Key:**  
**REPUBLICAN**  
**DEMOCRAT**  
**NON-PARTISAN**  
**U.S. TAXPAYERS PARTY**  
**GREEN PARTY**  
**NATURAL LAW PARTY**  
**LIBERTARIAN PARTY**  
**WORKING CLASS PARTY**

Structural racism is woven into the fabric of our society. Those who recognized this received one (1) point.

**DISMANTLE RACISM:** Candidates who expressed a desire to dismantle structural racism received one (1) point.

**ABOVE & BEYOND:** This last point was awarded subjectively. The candidates who our editorial team felt went above and beyond simple platitudes and listed specific reforms for policies or procedures that were actually aimed toward dismantling systemic racism received an extra one (1) point.

Contested races in which none of the candidates responded have been omitted from this listing. They include: Ingham County drain commissioner and county commissioners for Districts 2 and 7; Aurelius Township supervisor and clerk; Wheatfield Township supervisor; Williamston Township trustee; Leroy Township treasurer; Vevay Township trustee; Dansville Village clerk and trustee; Stockbridge Village trustee; Eaton County treasurer and commissioners for district 10, 12 and 14; Vermontville Township treasurer; Walton Township treasurer; Dimondale Village trustee; Ovid City Council; 4th U.S. Congressional District representative; state representatives for Districts 65 and 71.

	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
<b>INGHAM COUNTY</b>								
<b>County Prosecuting Attorney (PICK 1 of 2)</b>								
<b>Carol Siemon</b>	✓	✓	✓	NO	✓	✓	5	NO
<b>Q: What types of solutions to criminal justice problems do you bring to the table?</b>								
A: "I'm looking at how gun violence and homicides can be reduced through implementation of new programming that has succeeded in other communities. Our gun violence and shootings, like almost every urban community, disproportionately involve Black and brown victims and participants. We cannot continue to solely do the same "law and order," "tough on crime" reactions and expect different outcomes. I remain committed to working within the community, with community members through Advocates and Leaders for Police and Community Trust, with victim efforts with community leaders, and whatever new avenues open up."								
— Carol Siemon, Democratic Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney								
<b>George Platsis</b>	✓	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	1	NO
<b>County Sheriff (PICK 1 of 2)</b>								
<b>Scott Wriggelsworth</b>	✓	NO	✓	NO	✓	NO	3	NO
<b>Daniel Wells</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>County Clerk (PICK 1 of 2)</b>								
<b>Barb Byrum</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	100
<b>Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?</b>								
A: "It takes the form of overtly racist policies, unfair or inequitable hiring practices, or more subtly, yet still as inexcusable, requirements like policies that disadvantage those who may not have ready access to transportation, or who may not have government-issued identification. It is redlining (including its legacy) or legislative districts that are carved out to limit minority representation. It is also found in pretrial incarceration, bond conditions, and sentencing guidelines that disproportionately punish minority communities more stringently than others."								
<b>Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?</b>								
A: "I will be an advocate on behalf of those minority groups to end discriminatory hiring practices, to provide equitable health care to those communities that need it most, and ensure that everyone's voice is heard through voter registration drives and voter education in those communities that may be underserved and underrepresented in the halls of power. I have also made unconscious bias training mandatory for all appointed staff and supervisors. When the situation with the pandemic improves, I plan to physically visit communities with mobile office hours where those who need access are located. I will continue to do everything in my power to break through barriers to make this process better and more efficient for all. I will continue to participate in rallies and protests to register people to vote and increase access to the office by keeping an eye toward partnerships. I also intend to ensure that district lines are drawn fairly and give residents of all races and ethnicities a voice on the Board of Commissioners."								
— Barb Byrum, Democratic Ingham County Clerk								
<b>Joseph Werner</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>County Treasurer (PICK 1 of 2)</b>								
<b>Eric Schertzing</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	100
<b>Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?</b>								
A: "We each have certain privileges from where we grew up. It's embedded in the words and phrases used without thought. In my world of housing, it is embedded in the opportunities of ownership and asset building in neighborhoods. It is in the health and health outcomes of different races. It is so everywhere that some people can't understand it surrounds us."								
<b>Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?</b>								
A: "Continuing work with, and listening to, the BIPOC community and funding opportunities for quality affordable housing are the most impactful areas I can work on to dismantle structural racism. Growing my own self awareness and listening to individuals in marginalized communities will direct these efforts. I look forward to working with the County								

# Social justice & equity

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
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Equity Task Force to develop programs and funding streams for long term affordable housing. I would like to emphasize home ownership and building of assets for people of color. Participating in more listening sessions facilitated by BIPOC members. I will continue to engage, listen and be an advocate for racial and economic justice.”  
 — **Eric Schertzing**, Democratic Ingham County Treasurer



**Bruce Little** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**County Register of Deeds (PICK 1 of 2)**

**Derrick Quinney** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 <sup>100</sup>

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**  
 A: “Structural racism shows itself in a number of ways. One way is the heightened number of traffic stops that disproportionately impacts Black drivers in East Lansing. It’s seeing the lasting impact of the construction of I-496 through a thriving Black community over 50 years later. It also looks like the over-policing of Black and Brown youth throughout Lansing. Structural racism looks like schools not getting adequate funding for a fair education. The reality is, racism exists in every facet of American society; structures are no different.”



**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**

A: “My office deals directly with documentation in land ownership in many forms. I will work with local and county officials to address the history of housing discrimination, primarily through redlining and covenants and deed restrictions. This involves addressing the wrongs of those that have been historically marginalized and making sure they have access to fair and equal information. This also includes providing information, acknowledging and correcting past inequalities, and collectively moving forward on approaches that include everyone.”  
 — **Derrick Quinney**, Democratic Ingham County Register of Deeds

**Carol VanDrie** ✓ NO NO NO NO NO 1 NO

**County Commissioner — District 1 (PICK 1 of 2)**

**Victor Celentino** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ NO 5 NO

**Kathy Prout** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**County Commissioner — District 2 (PICK 1 of 2)**

**Ryan Sebolt** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ NO 5 NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**  
 A: “It exists in virtually every aspect of our culture and society, from the entertainment we consume and employment opportunities to the way we access education, healthcare and transportation. And everything in between.”  
 — **Ryan Sebolt**, Democratic Member of Ingham County Board of Commissioners



**Peter Hudy** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**County Commissioner — District 4 (PICK 1 of 2)**

**Bryan Crenshaw** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ NO 5 NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**  
 A: “Structural racism refers to a system in which public policies, institutional practices, cultural representations and other norms work in various, often reinforcing ways to perpetuate racial group inequity. We must all work to ensure all racial/social-economic groups have an opportunity to have a seat at the table and be part of the decision making process.”  
 — **Bryan Crenshaw**, Democratic Member of Ingham County Board of Commissioners



**Jennifer Smith** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
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**County Commissioner — District 5 (PICK 1 of 2)**

**Todd Tennis** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 <sup>100</sup>

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**  
 A: “It looks like persons of color receiving harsher sentences for committing the same crimes as white people. It looks like minorities having a lower property value for identical homes as white people. It looks like people with ‘ethnic-sounding’ names being less likely to be called in for a job interview than someone with a ‘white-sounding’ name. It looks like a person of color with an identical credit history as a white person nonetheless having a lower credit score. It looks like black people having worse health outcomes than white people living in the same neighborhood.”



**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**

A: “I hope to have a role with the racial equity task force in creating policies to do whatever we can as a county government to create real equity in our region. This could range from supporting educational programs and improved oversight of our justice system to providing public spaces to hear from minority residents about broad or specific complaints and recommendations regarding structural racism. The first step is to admit there is a problem. Far too many of our Ingham County residents continue to believe that racism is “over” and that there is not a real problem with racial equity. The first policy should be to collect the incontrovertible evidence that structural racism exists and to gather broad support to address it.”  
 — **Todd Tennis**, Democratic Member of Ingham County Board of Commissioners

**David Robinson** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**County Commissioner — District 6 (PICK 1 of 2)**

**Randy Maiville** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ NO 5 NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**  
 A: “It is a cycle of poverty, health care, education, opportunities and jobs that is often repeated and sometimes interrupted with unequal justice.”  
 — **Randy Maiville**, Republican Member of Ingham County Board of Commissioners



**Brandon Currin** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 <sup>100</sup>

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**  
 A: “I see it in schools all the time. We teach a canon of classics which is usually old white men. In our history textbooks it is usually skewed to be white man centric. We teach students that to be successful they need to all speak with a common language which is usually a white dialect.”



**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**  
 A: “We need to do more community outreach. We need to show that we will take action more than just saying black lives matter. We need to prove it. We need to look at ways to diversify our boards and show the community that we are fighting to better Ingham County. At the simplest level we need to listen and respond and begin building a relationship based on trust.”

**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**  
 A: “We need to work with schools to diversify their curriculum. My background is education and we need to do a better job of strengthening the relationship between the schools and the county. The 6th district is primarily rural. We need to show that this is not just an issue for Lansing but it matters for Onondaga and Mason as well. We need to start the work within our schools to help bring that message that a student and person feels valued.”  
 — **Brandon Currin**, Democratic Candidate for Ingham County Board of Commissioners

**County Commissioner — District 8 (PICK 1 of 2)**

**Mark Grebner** ✓ ✓ NO NO NO NO 2 NO

**Virginia Werner** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

# Social justice & equity

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

**ENGAGEMENT:** Candidates that responded to this survey (at least) expressed a willingness to engage in a conversation about racial justice and social equity. For that, they each received one (1) point.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER vs. ALL LIVES MATTER:** Each candidate was asked to choose between "Black Lives Matter" or "All Lives Matter" without explanation. Those that clearly selected "Black Lives Matter" received one (1) point.

**EQUALITY vs. EQUITY:** Candidates were also asked to define the differences between equality and equity. Equity involves trying to understand and give people what they need to enjoy full, healthy lives. Equality, in contrast, aims to ensure that everyone gets the same things in order to enjoy full, healthy lives. Like equity, equality aims to promote fairness and justice, but it can only work if everyone starts from the same place and needs the same things. Those who were able to clearly define and delineate between those two distinct concepts each received one (1) point.

**RACISM EXISTS?:** Candidates were asked whether structural racism exists within

their communities. Structural racism is woven into the fabric of our society. Those that recognized this received one (1) point.

**DISMANTLE RACISM:** Candidates that expressed a desire to dismantle structural racism received one (1) point.

**ABOVE & BEYOND:** This last point was awarded subjectively. The candidates that our editorial team felt went above and beyond simple platitudes and listed specific reforms for policies or procedures that were actually aimed toward dismantling systemic racism received an extra one (1) point.

**Color Key:**

- REPUBLICAN
- DEMOCRAT
- NON-PARTISAN
- U.S. TAXPAYERS PARTY
- GREEN PARTY
- NATURAL LAW PARTY
- LIBERTARIAN PARTY
- WORKING CLASS PARTY

	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
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**County Commissioner — District 9 (PICK 1 of 2)**

**Erin Graham** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ NO 5 NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

"We had redlining in East Lansing until the 1960s. This housing discrimination prevented Black families from owning homes, a legacy that continues to be felt to this day. In addition, we have witnessed generations of racialized police violence in the city, a result of structural racism."

— **Erin Graham**, Democratic Candidate for Ingham County Board of Commissioners



**Crystal Grantham** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**County Commissioner — District 10 (PICK 1 of 2)**

**Robert Pena** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ NO 5 NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

"I have witnessed patrons of the same color being served first at the cash register while someone of a different color had been waiting there longer. There are those in the community that are doing the same work but being compensated differently because of race."

— **Bob Pena**, Democratic Candidate for Ingham County Board of Commissioners



**Kelly Christopherson** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**County Commissioner — District 11 (PICK 1 of 2)**

**Emily Stivers** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 <sup>100</sup>

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

"It looks like police in Lansing and Ingham County pointing fingers at each other and refusing to take responsibility for using tear gas on civilians during downtown protests. It looks like tear gas being used on unarmed black protesters who want their lives to matter, but not on armed, threatening white protesters who don't want to wear face coverings to protect their neighbors."

It looks like a legal team gaslighting and discrediting a black plaintiff, all in the name of saving the government from a costly lawsuit, because that's just the legal team's job. It looks like a candidate search, to fill an important vacancy, that employs a predominantly-white hiring firm that makes little/no effort to find diverse applicants, then offering only "color blind," nameless applications to the Board for consideration, leading to only white applicants being interviewed."

**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**

A: "As a white woman, it's not my part to lead this effort. It's my part to listen. I am working on ideas for how we can shift funding away from the Ingham County Sheriff's Department and towards preventive measures, such as mobile mental health and addiction units — run not by the police but by the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties. If calling 911 for a substance abuse or mental health related problem resulted in doctors instead of police, I believe that would cut down on needless incarceration, promote social equity, and reduce on the incidence of police hav-



	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
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ing to respond to calls they are not qualified to field, in addition to reducing the presence of the police in black and brown communities."

— **Emily Stivers**, Democratic Member of Ingham County Board of Commissioners

**Paul Adams Lello** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**County Commissioner — District 12 (PICK 1 of 2)**

**Mark Poldsifer** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ NO 5 NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

A: "Structural racism is the pervasive policies that are in place that, cynically or not, have put hurdles in place for minorities for things like loan interest rates, or the decades-long aftereffects of redlining on African-American equity in real estate and familial net worth."

— **Mark Poldsifer**, Democratic Member of Ingham County Board of Commissioners



**Sam Frangie** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**Mason City Council (PICK 4 of 7)**

**Russell Whipple** ✓ NO ✓ NO NO NO 2 NO

**Elaine Ferris** ✓ NO ✓ ✓ ✓ NO 4 NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

A: "The most obvious sign is the 'you're not from here so we won't trust you as if you were us' mentality. But with familiarity comes knowledge of the person as a neighbor. It takes time and education to solve the problem."

— **Elaine Ferris**, Nonpartisan Member of Mason City Council



**Angela Madden** ✓ ✓ ✓ NO ✓ NO 4 NO

**Rita Vogel** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 <sup>100</sup>

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

A: "Structural racism has been a part of social, economic and political systems and is not something new that a few people or institutions choose to practice. It is 2020 and Mason is nearly 90% white. This doesn't suggest that our community is racist, however it does challenge us to take inventory and acknowledge what we look like to individuals, or businesses and families who are looking to invest their lives here."

**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**

A: "It's important to understand structural racism. Who are our bids for city contracts going to? Are we casting a wide enough net to cultivate diverse businesses, female owned, minority owned? Where are our tax dollars being spent and who are they going to? More importantly, what message does that send?"

— **Rita Vogel**, Nonpartisan Candidate for Mason City Council



**Kenneth Bliesener II** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**Leon Clark** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**Josh Shade** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

# Social justice & equity

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
<b>Lansing Twp. Clerk (PICK 1 of 2)</b>								
<b>Susan Aten</b>	✓	NO	✓	NO	✓	NO	3	NO
<b>Maggie Sanders</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Lansing Twp. Trustee (Pick 4 of 6)</b>								
<b>John Broughton</b>	✓	✓	✓	NO	✓	NO	4	NO
<b>Tracie Harris</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>John Bankson</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Henrietta Brewer</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Nathan Ruiz</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Samuel Biddle</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Williamstown Twp. Supervisor (PICK 1 of 2)</b>								
<b>Wanda Bloomquist</b>	✓	✓	NO	✓	✓	NO	4	NO
<b>Monica Schafer</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Delhi Twp. Trustee (PICK 4 of 5)</b>								
<b>Pat Brown</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Dianne Warfield</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Stuart Goodrich</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Matt Lincoln</b>	✓	✓	✓	NO	✓	NO	4	NO

**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**  
 A: "Help people understand that social and economic diversity makes us stronger as a community and that we should look out for one another. If your neighbor needs help making ends meet, lend a hand. If they are struggling to provide childcare while working a full time job, lend a hand, because the people that are most in need just may end up helping you in the future."  
 — **Matt Lincoln**, Democratic Candidate for Delhi Township Trustee



**TyJuan Thirdgill** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 <sup>100</sup>  
**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**  
 A: "Structural racism exists everywhere. When we look at things like redlining where people of color were denied the opportunity to live in certain neighborhoods, were denied loans by banks, and even now have higher insurance rates simply because of the areas that they live in."  
**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**  
 A: "I could make sure that when we accept contracts for new housing projects, we make sure the housing is affordable. We could bring in people and organizations who focus in these areas to help us identify areas where we, as a Township, can improve when it comes to equity. I plan to make sure that we accept housing that everyone can afford. I would look into creating a more formal alliance and working partnerships with groups like the Holt Equity and Access Team. One of the best things that we can do as a board is admit what we don't know and reach out to the people in the community to see what their needs other and where they think we can improve as a township."  
 — **TyJuan Thirdgill**, Democratic Candidate for Delhi Twp. Trustee



**Dansville Village President (PICK 1 of 2)**

	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
<b>Carole Colburn</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NO	5	NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**  
 A: "Structural racism absolutely exists everywhere, including Dansville. What we don't see here is an outright demonstration of racism — mostly because we are a 99.9% white community."  
**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**  
 A: "If we had Black and Brown residents I would specifically recruit them to become a part of the Village Council."  
 — **Carole Colburn**, Nonpartisan Dansville Village President

**Michael Stolz** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO



	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
<b>Stockbridge Village President (PICK 1 of 2)</b>								
<b>Molly Howlett</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Greg Uihlein</b>	✓	✓	NO	✓	NO	NO	3	NO
<b>30th Circuit Court Judge (PICK 1 of 5)</b>								
<b>Colline Cheltenham</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	<sup>100</sup>
<b>Morgan Cole</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	<sup>100</sup>

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**  
 A: "Structural racism exists, period. And we must admit its existence and its ubiquity if we are to remedy it as a society. As a current employee of the Circuit Court, I see the effects of structural racism every day. I see it in a mother's eyes when her son gets a harsher sentence because of the color of his skin. I see it in defendants who are working with inadequately-funded public defenders, too overworked to provide excellent representation. I see it in bail hearings, and prosecutorial decisions, and jury selection. I know that we need systemic change."  
**Q: What types of solutions to criminal justice problems do you bring to the table?**  
 A: "Dismantling systemic racism cannot only be done in isolation. It will take a group effort, and starts with everyone having a seat at the table and allowing for open conversations that may, at some times, be uncomfortable for those that have traditionally been privileged. I will make sure that by putting children and families first, the court will treat all families with fairness in the service of justice. In addition, I will emphasize community outreach with a focus on engaging, embracing, and encouraging traditionally silenced voices. We have to be intentional in addressing racial bias in the Court — not only in how it serves Ingham County residents, but how it employs its workforce who also serve our residents. A huge area of opportunity I see in the Court is implicit bias training. The scales of justice are said to be blind, but they cannot be blind to the situation or circumstances of one's birth. We need to achieve equity in the law more than equality in the law."  
 — **Morgan Cole**, Nonpartisan Candidate for 30th Circuit Court Judge



**Carol Koenig** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ NO 5 NO  
**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**  
 A: "Black residents of Ingham County make up 12% of the population, but 40% of criminal defendants. Prosecutor Carol Siemon has worked to reduce jail and prison incarceration, which has reduced its impact on the Black population. There is more work to be done."  
**Q: What types of solutions to criminal justice problems do you bring to the table?**  
 A: "The first step is to make the courts easier to use and accessible to all. In civil cases, I think we need to be mindful that every person deserves their day in court, and that often it is workers and families who don't get a fair shake from right-wing judges. Circuit judges also handle criminal offenses and acts of juvenile delinquency. We know that there is a greatly disproportionate impact on Black Americans and that as a result, policies that impact sentencing and juvenile justice will have a disproportionate impact on persons of color, especially African Americans."  
 — **Carol Koenig**, Nonpartisan Candidate for 30th Circuit Court Judge



**Steve Kwasnik** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 <sup>100</sup>  
**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**  
 A: "It can be seen at every level of society, from housing and business loan access, limited employment opportunities, access to quality schools, and support resources. It looks like the brilliant and accomplished people, I love, struggle to get the same opportunities for advancement or earn the same wage as their white coworkers. It looks like black and brown adolescents being treated as if they were older or less innocent in the eyes of neighbors, teachers and the police. It looks like sexual assault survivors of color, not being believed or have their cases prosecuted to the same rates as their white fellow survivors."  
**Q: What types of solutions to criminal justice problems do you bring to the table?**  
 A: "Being flexible in scheduling and technology use to improve access to court proceedings. Making sure that the needs of our juvenile offenders are being met so that the root of their behavior is addressed so they can grow to be productive members of our community."



# Social justice & equity

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

**ENGAGEMENT:** Candidates that responded to this survey (at least) expressed a willingness to engage in a conversation about racial justice and social equity. For that, they each received one (1) point.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER vs. ALL LIVES MATTER:** Each candidate was asked to choose between "Black Lives Matter" or "All Lives Matter" without explanation. Those that clearly selected "Black Lives Matter" received one (1) point.

**EQUALITY vs. EQUITY:** Candidates were also asked to define the differences between equality and equity. Equity involves trying to understand and give people what they need to enjoy full, healthy lives. Equality, in contrast, aims to ensure that everyone gets the same things in order to enjoy full, healthy lives. Like equity, equality aims to promote fairness and justice, but it can only work if everyone starts from the same place and needs the same things. Those who were able to clearly define and delineate between those two distinct concepts each received one (1) point.

**RACISM EXISTS?:** Candidates were asked whether structural racism exists within

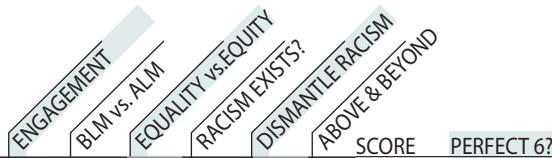
their communities. Structural racism is woven into the fabric of our society. Those that recognized this received one (1) point.

**DISMANTLE RACISM:** Candidates that expressed a desire to dismantle structural racism received one (1) point.

**ABOVE & BEYOND:** This last point was awarded subjectively. The candidates that our editorial team felt went above and beyond simple platitudes and listed specific reforms for policies or procedures that were actually aimed toward dismantling systemic racism received an extra one (1) point.

**Color Key:**

- REPUBLICAN
- DEMOCRAT
- NON-PARTISAN
- U.S. TAXPAYERS PARTY
- GREEN PARTY
- NATURAL LAW PARTY
- LIBERTARIAN PARTY
- WORKING CLASS PARTY



Expanding access to specialty courts like the Dependency Court, that addresses underlying problems with substances, so that the parents have an opportunity to overcome the barriers that are keeping their family apart. Working with victims in a restorative justice model, so that their voice can be impactfully heard by the offenders, so that juvenile can gain a better insight into how their actions affect those they harm. Addressing the needs of at-risk youth, with programs like the Phoenix Court, where children who have been or are in danger of being sex-trafficked by persons looking to prey upon their vulnerabilities are treated not as offenders but as persons with self-worth and opportunity."

— **Steve Kwasnik**, Nonpartisan Candidate for 30th Circuit Court Judge

**Landis Lain** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 100

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

A: "Black residents of Ingham County experience pretrial jail incarceration rates that are roughly six times greater than those experienced by white residents. Latino residents are two times as likely to experience jail incarceration. Consequences of an incarcerated parent often means family housing instability, income instability, employment barriers following incarceration, family disruption and destabilization. The demonizing and criminalization of children starts in school districts. Behaviors of children across racial lines was essentially the same, but black children were expelled from school at much higher rates."

**Q: What types of solutions to criminal justice problems do you bring to the table?**

A: "Recognize that racism exists. Recognize that we are all impacted by racism. Check to make certain decisions will be made fairly, legally and without bias. Listen to the people who come before me; understand and acknowledge the fact that many will be survivors of domestic abuse, system racism. Find out what barriers people face and direct them to programs which may assist them. Acknowledge that all forms of oppression are connected. Many survivors of domestic or sexual abuse also face racism, sexism, gender discrimination, etc.. Attempt to recognize and support survivors and victims' unique experiences. Fairness and equity are very important to me. I believe that every person should be treated with respect and compassion. I believe in accountability and people being shown ways to take responsibility for their lives so that they can escape intergenerational trauma of domestic, gender, age or racial violence. I would like to foster more mental health community supports."

— **Landis Lain**, Nonpartisan Candidate for 30th Circuit Court Judge

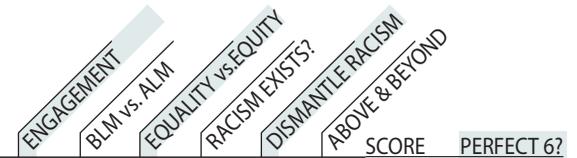
**Brandon Waddell** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ NO 5 NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

A: "Lansing was not immune from the structural inconsistencies that COVID-19 has shone a new light on across the country. In Ingham County, black residents make up 12% of the population, yet 28% of cases. This can partly be attributed to years of underlying medical issues because of restricted access to adequate healthcare, healthier foods, clean water, and other resources."

**Q: What types of solutions to criminal justice problems do you bring to the table?**

A: "I will take part and promote inclusion training throughout my community. I believe



one of the greatest causes of structural racism in the justice system goes back to equality vs. equity. Often the structural roadblocks that may cause a minority to find themselves in the justice system are not taken into account by prosecutors and judges. Often what may be deemed a mistake in judgment by a Caucasian individual can be seen as a pattern of behavior by a minority that must be punished to the furthest extent of the law. As a judge, I will do all in my power to make sure all individuals have equitable solutions to their legal issues and promote and assist in training. Education is at the top of my list. Not just in general, but the community needs to be educated about the justice system, so if they do find themselves in it in a variety of capacities, they are not lost. I would promote a town hall like setting where a mixture of judges/prosecutors or others periodically join the community to discuss certain legal issues."

— **Brandon Waddell**, Nonpartisan Candidate for 30th Circuit Court Judge

**Lansing Community College Trustee (PICK 2 of 5)**

**Andrew Abood** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 100

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

A: "The Lansing Police Department acknowledged that minority teenagers are 4.5 times more likely to be arrested than nonminority teenagers. If you are a minority, our jury system is not made up of our peers."

**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**

A: One area in particular will be how our police force is interacting with our student body and general public. I have also been very vocal on the issue of our development education. I believe this program significantly impacts minorities in a negative way and it needs to be reviewed and re-examined in light of its failings. One of the important things we need to look at is simply because a policy is race neutral doesn't mean it is okay. Policies can also create a disparate impact on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion etc. I have the ability to make sure that we don't just look at the policies on their face, but also look at the impact. This is particularly important with our development ed program where we are charging students college tuition and our results are not satisfactory with no college credits being earned."

— **Andrew Abood**, Nonpartisan Member of Lansing Community College Board of Trustees

**Kimberly Kaye Azima** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 100

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

"It shows up in hiring practices, promotion opportunities, in our justice system, in our healthcare system, and sometimes in just dealing with people in disrespectful ways or preferential treatments based on race."

**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**

A: "The idea is to engage and intrigue the young people early on. At the college level, it is important that policies and procedures are continuously reviewed to ensure they don't discriminate against anyone in terms of employment practices or how students are treated. It is important to ensure that every employee has the same opportunity to be promoted, and that everyone's contribution is acknowledged. And it's important to find a way to figure out what the needs of the students are, so that they don't feel left behind. First, I would like to see a thorough review of LCC's current policies



# Social justice & equity

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
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and procedures from the perspective of social equity. Then as issues and barriers to equity are identified, they must be systematically addressed. Both academic programs as well as programs supporting students and staff will need to identify where inequities exist and offer plans to address those inequities.”

— **Kimberly Azima**, *Nonpartisan Candidate for Lansing Community College Board of Trustees*

<b>Gregory Sinicropi</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NO	5	NO
<b>Howard Spence</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	<u>100</u>

**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**

A: “Anyone can write a policy for diversity, but most often it is a fraudulent policy to be put in a book and never implemented. Until ‘leaders’ can bring themselves to conclude that there needs to be a better path forward relating to racial harmony and ‘equity’ in our communities, the policies that they write and put in their policy books will not be very meaningful.”

— **Howard Spence**, *Nonpartisan Candidate for Lansing Community College Board of Trustee*



<b>LaShunda Thomas</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	<u>100</u>
<b>EATON COUNTY</b>								

**County Sheriff (PICK 1 of 2)**

<b>Tom Reich</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	<u>100</u>
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**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

“Structural racism exists everywhere and can look different in different communities. When our government institutions treat people and communities of color differently, that’s structural racism. That could mean communities not getting equitable resources, or people being treated differently by public servants.”

**Q: What types of solutions to criminal justice problems do you bring to the table?**

A: “I will continue to mandate training for Deputies that emphasize diversity and cultural and de-escalation skills. I also believe that law enforcement at all levels must do better at recruiting, hiring and training a diverse team of law enforcement professionals from communities of color. Most of all, I think it’s important to listen to every member of the public that we serve, if we are to identify where our government falls short of equal treatment so that we can do better. That’s my commitment to Eaton County residents. I believe that continued training, especially in diversity, is a critical component of law enforcement. The key to ensuring equity from the perspective of a law enforcement official is to listen to residents. Different people and communities have different concerns and needs.”

— **Tom Reich**, *Democratic Eaton County Sheriff*



<b>Rick Jones</b>	✓	NO	✓	NO	✓	✓	4	NO
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**Q: What types of solutions to criminal justice problems do you bring to the table?**

A: “I will make sure every officer gets proper training and will investigate any complaint. I will be the most accessible Sheriff in the history of Eaton County. Leaders in the ‘black and brown’ communities will have my personal cell phone number and email. Many already do. I trained the first African-American officer in Eaton County history. I will continue to recruit men and women of all races.”

— **Rick Jones**, *Republican Candidate for Eaton County Sheriff*



**County Drain Commissioner (PICK 1 of 2)**

<b>Richard Wagner</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Branden Dyer</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	<u>100</u>

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

A: “Lack of representation would be one of the biggest issues in Eaton County. There are few elected and appointed officials across that county that belong to a minority group.”

**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**



ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
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A: “I would reach out to minority groups to be sure they have a seat at the table when making decisions. I am also aware of the tragic history in America where environmental pollution tends to overly affect communities of color. I would be mindful of that in addressing drain issues across Eaton County. Use the contract and bid process to hire vendors that have a commitment to diversity and inclusion. Encourage minority and women owned businesses to submit bids.”

— **Brandon Dyer**, *Democratic Candidate for Eaton County Drain Commissioner*

**County Commissioner — District 1 (PICK 1 of 2)**

<b>Robert Piercefield</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NO	5	NO
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**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

A: “You only have to look at the recent events at Grand Ledge Public Schools and the controversy surrounding the comments of the former superintendent to see an example.”

— **Robert Piercefield**, *Democratic Member of Eaton County Board of Commissioners*



<b>Tim Barnes</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
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**County Commissioner — District 2 (PICK 1 of 2)**

<b>Blake Mulder</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>TJ Bucholz</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	YES	6	<u>100</u>

**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**

A: “Among other items, Eaton County should take up a resolution that calls racism what it is — a public health crisis, and then structure its budget to reflect that resolution accordingly. That acknowledgment would go a long way to reshuffle county’s fiscal priorities along equity lines. Additionally, the county also needs to work with the Eaton County Sheriff’s Department and local police agencies to end racial profiling and unfair targeting of both Black and brown people.”

— **TJ Bucholz**, *Democratic Candidate for Eaton County Board of Commissioners*



**County Commissioner — District 3 (PICK 1 of 2)**

<b>Terrance Augustine</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NO	5	NO
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**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

A: “While it may not be visible to some, it exists when black men and women are fearful of being pulled over; when disproportionately arrested and locked up because of the color of their skin; when killed at a much higher rate than white men and women by COVID-19 and other diseases; when going without insurance and housing because of the color of their skin.”

— **Terrance Augustine**, *Democratic Member of Eaton County Board of Commissioners*



<b>Darren Musolff</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
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**County Commissioner — District 4 (PICK 1 of 2)**

<b>Brandon Haskell</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NO	5	NO
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**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

A: “The best examples came during the Grand Ledge School Board meetings on the topic of the now former superintendent’s racially biased remarks. For hours we heard stories of how African American students were treated differently by the district and residents and so much more.”

— **Brandon Haskell**, *Democratic Member of the Eaton County Board of Commissioners*



<b>Rick Olivarez</b>	✓	NO	NO	✓	✓	NO	3	NO
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**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

A: “Law enforcement pulling people over because of the color of their skin. No minorities in high level, local government and law enforcement.”

**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**

A: “I would implement a Diversity, equity and Inclusion resolution for all hiring positions within Eaton County. I would make sure Eaton County





# Social justice & equity

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
<b>Duplain Twp. Clerk (PICK 1 of 2)</b>								
Dawn Levey	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Sandra Frink	✓	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	1	NO
<b>Elsie Village Trustee (PICK 3 of 4)</b>								
Todd Carroll	✓	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	1	NO
James Hyland	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Joseph Ondrusek	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Samuel Frink	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO

**FEDERAL**

	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
<b>U.S. Senator — 14th District (PICK 1 of 5)</b>								
Gary Peters	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	<u>100</u>

**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**

A: "I'm pushing to address health care disparities, including by passing and protecting the Affordable Care Act, which has cut the uninsured rate for Black Americans by a third, and passing legislation which will help reduce Black maternal mortality. I have focused on underserved communities in my pandemic response efforts, helping secure \$60 billion in small business assistance for underserved communities, and proposing legislation to establish the Office of Equal Rights and Community Inclusion at FEMA to strengthen disaster response efforts for communities of color. I will continue to support efforts to make sure the American Dream is accessible to all. With the support of the NAACP, I introduced legislation to help encourage police officers to live in the communities they serve, which boosts mutual trust and understanding. I am also working to pass bills that would ban the use of chokeholds and require independent and impartial investigations to hold law enforcement accountable when they use deadly force."

— Gary Peters, Democratic Member of the U.S. Senate



John James	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Valerie Willis	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Marcia Squier	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	6	<u>100</u>

**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**

"I would help to dismantle structural racism by working to guarantee publicly funded healthcare and education, by expanding the G.I. Bill to include everyone. This would help minorities by giving them the resources they need to be successful. Policies that I support that would strive toward social equality and racial justice include ending the war on drugs, cracking down on police brutality, and providing healthcare and education for all!"

— Marcia Squier, Green Party Candidate for U.S. Senate



Doug Dern	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
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	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
<b>U.S. Representative — 8th District (PICK 1 of 3)</b>								
Elissa Slotkin	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	5	NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

"The persistent inequalities in housing, education, economic opportunity, health and other areas point to the fact that structural racism continues to affect minority communities. The COVID-19 has shined a big, bright light on those inequalities, not just in the toll the virus has taken in minority communities, but in the disproportionate proportion of people from our Black, Latino and other minority communities in "essential worker" positions, in the difficulty many communities have had in giving kids access to meaningful distance learning, in the struggles of minority-owned businesses to access loans and other financial support to weather this crisis."



	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
<b>Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?</b>								
A: "I need to be a convener and facilitator, trying to bridge gaps. After the murder of George Floyd, I held meetings with African American leaders across the district. They pushed me to use my role to decide on an agenda to counter structural racism and use my convening authority to bring different groups together. When I heard from Black business owners about difficulties accessing federal loans during COVID, I brought business leaders and banking leaders together to talk about how we could narrow those gaps and help support more Black-owned businesses."								
<b>Q: What types of solutions to criminal justice problems do you bring to the table?</b>								
A: "The most urgent need, highlighted this summer, is policing reforms to address racial injustice in law enforcement. I am disappointed that Congress has yet to pass into law meaningful reforms like the Justice in Policing Act that the House passed; we have to continue that fight. But we need a comprehensive agenda to counter systemic racism — it can't just be one topic only."								
— Elissa Slotkin, Democratic Member of the U.S. House of Representatives								
Paul Junge	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Joe Hartman	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>STATE</b>								
<b>Supreme Court Justice (PICK 2 of 7)</b>								
Bridget Mary McCormack	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	1	NO
Susan Hubbard	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Mary Kelly	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Kerry Lee Morgan	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Katherine Mary Nepton	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Brock Swartzle	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Elizabeth M. Welch	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	3	NO
<b>State Representative — 65th District (PICK 1 of 2)</b>								
Sarah Lightner	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Nancy Smith	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	<u>100</u>
<b>State Representative — 67th District (PICK 1 of 2)</b>								
Kara Hope	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	<u>100</u>

**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**

A: "Policing and criminal justice provides the most glaring and shocking examples, but it is certainly not the only place where systemic racism exists. During the pandemic, the disparities in access to and the quality of health care have been glaring. While COVID-19 has provided a stark example of that disparity, the disparity isn't new or limited to COVID-19. Recognizing the depth and scope of the problem is just the first step."

**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**

"I fully support the state's effort to improve racial equity in health outcomes, specifically Executive Directive 2020-7. This directive requires that healthcare professionals undergo implicit bias training to obtain their licensure, registration and renewal of licenses and registrations. Lastly, I support efforts to address income inequality that disproportionately harms Black and brown communities. I support raising the minimum wage. I support better access to quality childcare and better access to education and job training."

**Q: What types of solutions to criminal justice problems do you bring to the table?**

A: "I support efforts to improve police training and "demilitarize" police departments. In June, I introduced House Bill 5925, which would ban the use of chemical irritants to control crowds. My bill was inspired by heavy-handed police tactics against recent Black Lives Matter demonstrations and other protests against police brutality. I was proud to support House Bill House Bill 5837, which would require that law enforcement officers receive training in implicit bias, de-escalation, and mental health. I also supported House Concurrent Resolution 25, which declared racism a public health crisis. The resolution called for support for long-term strategies that would "reduce the long-term impact that racism has on the quality of life and health for citizens of color in the state of Michigan."

— Kara Hope, Democratic Member of the Michigan House of Representatives





# Social justice & equity

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**



**ENGAGEMENT:** Candidates that responded to this survey (at least) expressed a willingness to engage in a conversation about racial justice and social equity. For that, they each received one (1) point.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER vs. ALL LIVES MATTER:** Each candidate was asked to choose between “Black Lives Matter” or “All Lives Matter” without explanation. Those that clearly selected “Black Lives Matter” received one (1) point.

**EQUALITY vs. EQUITY:** Candidates were also asked to define the differences between equality and equity. Equity involves trying to understand and give people what they need to enjoy full, healthy lives. Equality, in contrast, aims to ensure that everyone gets the same things in order to enjoy full, healthy lives. Like equity, equality aims to promote fairness and justice, but it can only work if everyone starts from the same place and needs the same things. Those who were able to clearly define and delineate between those two distinct concepts each received one (1) point.

**RACISM EXISTS?:** Candidates were asked whether structural racism exists within their communities. Structural racism is woven into the fabric of our society. Those that recognized this received one (1) point.

**DISMANTLE RACISM:** Candidates that expressed a desire to dismantle structural racism received one (1) point.

**ABOVE & BEYOND:** This last point was awarded subjectively. The candidates that our editorial team felt went above and beyond simple platitudes and listed specific reforms for policies or procedures that were actually aimed toward dismantling systemic racism received an extra one (1) point.

**Color Key:**

REPUBLICAN
DEMOCRAT
NON-PARTISAN
U.S. TAXPAYERS PARTY  
GREEN PARTY
NATURAL LAW PARTY
LIBERTARIAN PARTY  
WORKING CLASS PARTY

	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
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**Nate Ross** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**State Representative — 68th District (PICK 1 of 2)**

**Sarah Anthony** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 <sup>100</sup>

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

A: “Structural racism exists in every institution and in every community in America. It is present in resource allocation, the lack of representation in various leadership roles, and disparate access to health care, housing, food, and opportunities for people of color.”

— **Sarah Anthony**, Democratic Member of Michigan House of Representatives



**Robert Atkinson** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**State Representative — 69th District (PICK 1 of 3)**

**Julie Brixie** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 <sup>100</sup>

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

A: “There is no better example of structural racism in Michigan than our tax policies. Michigan’s reliance on property tax revenue to fund things like education and local government are incredibly biased. In urban areas like Detroit, we fund police and fire departments in large part by property tax. Those communities typically have lower property values than their suburban neighbors, and yet people from the suburbs come into the cities and use their resources throughout the workday but are not adequately contributing to paying for the service burden.”

— **Julie Brixie**, Democratic Member of the Michigan House of Representatives



**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**

A: “We need sweeping tax reform to begin dismantling structural racism in Michigan. I will advocate in favor of moving to a graduated income tax, where millionaires and billionaires pay a higher rate than people earning less than \$200,000. This would play a huge role in solving major structural inequities facing communities of color, where decades of systematic racism have contributed to wealth inequities. We would also need modifications to Proposal A and to adjust our revenue sharing formulas so that we can better fund communities and services.”

— **Julie Brixie**, Democratic Member of the Michigan House of Representatives

**Grace Norris** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**Gene Gutierrez** ✓ ✓ NO ✓ ✓ NO 4 NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

“Underlying imperialism and white supremacy are at the core of this country’s origins and run us to this day. Structural racism shows itself in everything, every day, from our education system to our judicial system. We just saw another example with the Breonna Taylor decision. And guess who gets to pay the city settlement with her family? We pay for the murder of our own people.”



	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
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**Q: What types of solutions to structural racism do you bring to the table?**

A: “Universal basic income and health care and defunding the police is a good starting point. Give people the money they deserve and need to live. Give people the access and treatments they need for a healthy life. Get the knee off the neck of the people, literally.”

— **Gene Gutierrez**, Green Party Candidate for Michigan House of Representatives

**State Representative — 93rd District (PICK 1 of 2)**

**Graham Filler** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**Muhammad Salman Rais** ✓ ✓ ✓ NO ✓ NO 4 NO

**State Board of Education (PICK 2 of 11)**

**Ellen Cogen Lipton** NO ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

A: “Structural racism exists in every community in which black and brown children do not receive the same educational experiences that their white counterparts receive. That can look like black and brown students being steered away from honors classes, or more harshly disciplined for infractions for which white students are not disciplined.”

**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**

A: “One important policy would be to fund schools based on a formula that reflects the true costs of educating a child in our state. When I was serving in the Legislature, I passed a law that required the state to undergo an educational costing-out study. The results of this study were further incorporated into the findings of the School Finance Research Collaborative, which determined that we were underfunding students living in chronic poverty, English language learners, and special education students. As such, I will continue to advocate for an equitable school funding formula that drives additional resources to those students most in need.”

— **Ellen Cogen Lipton**, Democratic Candidate for Michigan Board of Education



**Jason Strayhorn** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**Tami Carlone** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**Michelle Frederick** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**Bill Hall** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**Richard Hewer** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**Karen Adams** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**Douglas Levesque** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**Mary Anne Herring** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ NO 5 NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

A: “In Dearborn, where I work and live, it has been historically racist towards the black population, enforced through the political structures and the police department. Today, structural racism still exists and has extended to the Middle Eastern population.”

— **Mary Anne Herring**, Working Class Party Candidate for Michigan Board of Education

**Hali McEachern** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**Tom Mair** ✓ ✓ ✓ NO ✓ NO 4 NO

# Social justice & equity

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
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**U-M Board of Regents (PICK 2 of 10)**

**Mark Bernstein** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 100

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**  
 A: "Structural racism manifests itself in disparities in the criminal justice system, limited access to medical care — including the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black and other minority communities, worse healthcare outcomes and shorter life expectancy. It also manifests itself as an impact of climate change on vulnerable, typically minority, communities and as an underrepresentation of Black (and other minority) leadership in many different arenas."



**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**  
 A: "Making college more affordable for students that struggle to pay tuition will make the transformative impact of higher education available to more families, make our campuses more diverse and inclusive, and educate future champions of social justice. There are big and small ways to make progress on these priorities. Eliminating certain criminal history questions on student applications and changing residency guidelines to permit undocumented students to pay in-state tuition are small policy changes."

— **Mark Bernstein**, Democratic Member of the University of Michigan Board of Regents

<b>Shauna Ryder Diggs</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Sarah Hubbard</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Carl Meyers</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>James L. Hudler</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Eric Larson</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Ronald E. Graeser</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Crystal Van Sickle</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Michael Mawila</b>	✓	✓	NO	✓	✓	NO	4	NO

**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**  
 A: "A college education is the next step, helping the next generations rise up and out of the distressed conditions of their childhoods. Professionals who are minorities have been proven to have the largest effect in improving their communities. As the success stories, the community identifies with and listens to the advice of their businessmen and women, their doctors, and their teachers. Professionals mean a build up of capital and equity that can be reinvested back into the community, and that is what will end inequity."



— **Michael Mawila**, Green Party Candidate for University of Michigan Board of Regents

**Keith Butkovich** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**MSU Board of Trustees (PICK 2 of 10)**

**Brian Mosallem** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO  
**Rema Ella Vassar** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ NO 5 NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**  
 A: "It looks like redlining, predatory lending, inadequate funding for vulnerable schools, disparate healthcare and health outcomes for minoritized citizens, food insecurity, policing of Black bodies along the P-20 spectrum and crippling student loan debt."

**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**  
 A: "Every policy needs analysis. Every single practice needs scrutiny. Accountability requires relationships. In order to amplify voices of minority community members, I must first hear them myself. I am not one who speaks for others without hearing from those I claim to represent. Black folks are no monolith. There is diversity within and between people of color. What Brown people experience in Sturgis will be different from the Brown folks in Detroit. They will show up to MSU with unique experiences, worldviews, and needs. I will be in community, in relationship with people, hear them, and bring their collective and individual concerns to the board room."

— **Rema Ella Vassar**, Democratic Candidate for Michigan State University Board of Trustees

**Pat O'Keefe** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO  
**Tonya Schuitmaker** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
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**Will Tyler White** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 100

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**  
 A: "People of color are statistically more likely to be pulled over by police, more likely to be incarcerated, and have lower rates of home ownership."



**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**  
 A: "More coursework on racial justice might help, and a workshop for incoming freshmen. The annual conference on Race in 21st Century America (hosted by the James Madison College) could be expanded to a two-day event. The student organizations that address these issues deserve the full support of the university too. Most importantly, admission policies should reflect the broad spectrum of social and economic conditions of prospective students."

— **Will Tyler White**, Libertarian Candidate for Michigan State University Board of Trustees

<b>Janet Sanger</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>John Paul Sanger</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Brandon Hu</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Robin Lea Laurain</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	<u>100</u>

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**  
 "If you take a tour through a prison or a juvenile detention center, you will notice that the faces are mainly those of color. The school-to-prison pipeline starts early with kids of color. Judges are especially tough on girls of color and are more apt to sentence them to a facility and white girls to mental health treatment or a diversion program."



**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**

A: "First, all decisions made at MSU would involve students and faculty of color, the Lavender Community, people with disabilities, and visiting students from abroad. No one would be left out of the process. Second, this new empowerment would be spread into the community through the pre-University education system. MSU students would be required to do 40 hours of volunteer work as part of a requirement for graduation. Each school or sports team would be required to do an outreach program with people of color. I would personally be working in the field with the students. Examples of this program could be things such as the School of Nursing doing a shadowing program allowing junior high and high school students to shadow them in the clinical setting where appropriate."

— **Robin Laurain**, Green Party Candidate for Michigan State University Board of Trustees

**Bridgette Abraham-Guzman** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO

**Wayne State Board of Governors (PICK 2 of 7)**

**Shirley Stancato** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 100  
**Eva Garza Dewaelsche** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO  
**Don Gates** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO  
**Terri Lynn Land** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO  
**Jon Elgas** ✓ NO NO NO NO NO 1 NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**  
 "My community tends to look down on the poor, which tends to be African Americans. While I don't believe it is intentional, everyone needs to try to help those in need."

— **Jon Elgas**, Libertarian Candidate for Wayne State University Board of Governors

**Christine Schwartz** NO N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A 0 NO  
**Susan Odgers** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 100

**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**  
 A: "We must create a wider space for all. Actions can not be about "checking a box"; we must address structural racism in every part of the university. This means initiatives are NOT tied to specific faculty, courses, student organizations or departments. We need a holistic approach that addresses structural racism in every fiber of the university. We must be a voice to end racial profiling and police brutality, protect immigrant rights, end deportations and strengthen paths to citizenship. I am especially concerned as



# Social justice & equity

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

**ENGAGEMENT:** Candidates that responded to this survey (at least) expressed a willingness to engage in a conversation about racial justice and social equity. For that, they each received one (1) point.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER vs. ALL LIVES MATTER:** Each candidate was asked to choose between “Black Lives Matter” or “All Lives Matter” without explanation. Those that clearly selected “Black Lives Matter” received one (1) point.

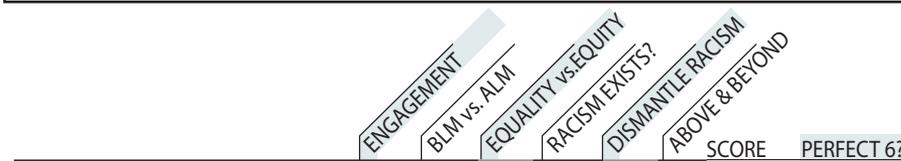
**EQUALITY vs. EQUITY:** Candidates were also asked to define the differences between equality and equity. Equity involves trying to understand and give people what they need to enjoy full, healthy lives. Equality, in contrast, aims to ensure that everyone gets the same things in order to enjoy full, healthy lives. Like equity, equality aims to promote fairness and justice, but it can only work if everyone starts from the same place and needs the same things. Those who were able to clearly define and delineate between those two distinct concepts each received one (1) point.

**RACISM EXISTS?:** Candidates were asked whether structural racism exists within their communities. Structural racism is woven into the fabric of our society. Those that recognized this received one (1) point.

**DISMANTLE RACISM:** Candidates that expressed a desire to dismantle structural racism received one (1) point.

**ABOVE & BEYOND:** This last point was awarded subjectively. The candidates that our editorial team felt went above and beyond simple platitudes and listed specific reforms for policies or procedures that were actually aimed toward dismantling systemic racism received an extra one (1) point.

**Color Key:**  
 REPUBLICAN DEMOCRAT NON-PARTISAN U.S. TAXPAYERS PARTY  
 GREEN PARTY NATURAL LAW PARTY LIBERTARIAN PARTY  
 WORKING CLASS PARTY



to how structural racism at WSU intersects with military veterans, international students, the financially poor, the LGBTQ+ community and persons with disabilities. Anti-racist training through local Detroit area folks and groups like freedomlifted.com could be helpful. I'm interested in Dr. Jovanovic's recent work on trauma and racism. I want us to recognize the ways structural racism intersects with the COVID-19 pandemic. Think long-term, not reactionary policies. Look deeply to understand the problems so that solutions match the concerns. Enforcement of the policies we have is key. I'm always concerned about increased administration costs and lowered student services."

— Susan Odgers, Green Party Candidate for Wayne State University Board of Governors

## BOARDS OF EDUCATION (LOCAL)

### East Lansing Public Schools (PICK 3 of 8)

**Nichole Martin** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ NO 5 NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

A: "Policy structures that, for years, have overrepresented and disciplined African American males is a form of structural racism. Academic practices and standards which promote stereotypes of hyperactivity and bad behavior or inability to achieve within the classroom is part of structural racism. Holding students accountable for their workouts and competitions but not holding the same standards and expectations for their academic success is part of decades and decades of structural racism. The mechanisms in which the district previously went about hiring new employees was set up from a position of white privilege as we whitewashed our own role in devaluing teachers and administrators of color. Structural racism also looks like sitting on the sidelines and watching the inequities take place."



**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**

A: "We could bolster social equity by enacting policy that requires policy review with an equitable representation of constituents. Perhaps that looks like hosting policy meetings in the community; at community centers or in shared spaces where access to attend these meetings would not be so difficult. I do not believe we need to micromanage district policy to strengthen policies, but I do believe we need to advocate for providing opportunities for people to be able to come to the table. In this manner, we can address policy updates and drive conversations that promote empowerment, create understanding, and facilitate the development of our community's purpose in supporting all our students."

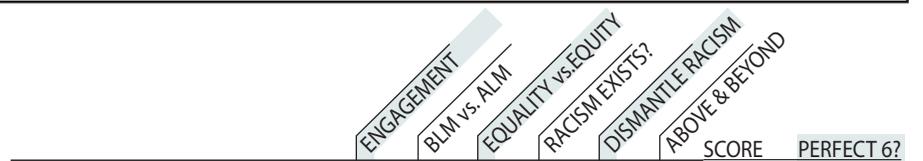
— Nichole Martin, Nonpartisan Member of East Lansing Public Schools Board of Education

**Joshua Barber** ✓ NO NO NO ✓ NO 2 NO

**Monica Fink** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 100

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

"Specific to East Lansing, and the most glaring presentation of structural racism is the lack of diversity in positions of authority to include our school board, school administration, and school staff. A history of racist housing discrimination, redlining, which continues to have long reaching ramifications for Black and Brown residents. Law enforcement interactions, a lack of documentation showing color of individuals encountered allows for the misrepresentation and inaccurate statistics."



**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**

A: "It is important that we not only identify the forms of racism that shape our community, schools, and classrooms but also begin addressing and dismantling the racist structures of internalized racism, interpersonal racism, institutional racism, and structural racism in each of these settings. We also need to identify where we stand in relation to those destructive social forces and continue to evaluate effective ways to influence changes that will lead to better outcomes for all our students and families. This work needs to continue with progressive, aggressive, mindful and targeted practices that require the voice of people of color to ensure that the important conversations that address the issues that happen almost exclusively to Black and Brown children happen through an antiracist lens. Children of color seeing themselves in authority figures they encounter in school will promote pride, feelings of being understood, and combat the real and consequential implicit biases of those with privilege and power."

— Monica Fink, Nonpartisan Candidate for East Lansing Public Schools Board of Education

**Matthew Heos** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 6 100

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

"As it relates to our schools, tying property taxes to school funding is an example of structural racism. This system divides us by class, race, and geography, which inhibits opportunity and social mobility and perpetuates inequity."



**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**

A: "My goal is to help our students learn more about our government, and how and why it functions the way it does, and why it is better that the other forms of government. My proposal is for civics (government) to be taught in elementary school and middle school in addition to the one semester our students are taught in high school. Structural racism can be fixed but only by the will of the people. That is possible if we educate our youth to use our government to remove barriers to a just society at an early age. Social equity can be fostered by empowering students to be the agents for change so that we can achieve our ideals within our lifetimes. The vehicle to accomplish that is by teaching civics to our students early and often. STEM is very important, but it has been elevated to the point where social studies has become second tier. Math is taught every year, but government gets only one semester. There should be no surprise then that people are losing faith in our democratic institutions."

— Matthew Heos, Nonpartisan Candidate for East Lansing Public Schools Board of Education

**Gregory Hess** ✓ NO NO NO NO NO 1 NO

**Elizabeth Guerrero Lyons** ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ NO 5 NO

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

"Structural racism is embedded in the structures of various systems such as policies and processes as well as embedded in decision making that, consciously or unconsciously, sustain racism. Structural racism can be normalized across generations and in many cases seen as a normal course of business. Some examples of these can be found in curricula being taught, funding streams that fund public school systems based on property, redlining housing markets to systemically discriminate people of color from buying homes in certain areas."



— Elizabeth Guerrero Lyons, Nonpartisan Candidate for East Lansing Public Schools Board of Education

# Social justice & equity

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**



	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
<b>Dorian Prier</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	<u>100</u>

**Dorian Prier**

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

"Students of color are more likely to be disciplined and have interactions with the police. This leads to students having negative interactions with law enforcement and reaffirms the school-to-prison pipeline."

**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**

A: "Ensure that disciplinary policies don't target Black and brown students. Ensure that funds are allocated to recruit educators of intentional hiring of people of color in educator and administrative positions. Development of partnerships and allies to achieve equity. Ensure all staff receive implicit bias training. Allocate resources so that people of color are recruited and retained. Town halls with communities of color."

— **Dorian Pryer**, Nonpartisan Candidate for East Lansing Public Schools Board of Education



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**Debbie Walton**

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

"Structural racism absolutely exists in our community. Structural racism exists everywhere in our culture. We know it exists because socioeconomic divisions tend to break down along racial lines. We know it exists because our highest-achieving students tend to be white. We know it exists because Black and brown students receive more punishments than their white counterparts. We know it exists because our parent councils are dominated by white parents."

**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**

A: "First, our hiring practices must be overhauled to ensure that our employees look like our students. Second, and less obvious, is the fact that our district is currently set up so that parents/guardians must advocate strenuously for their students' academic needs. This sets up an inequitable system in which the only students who receive appropriate resources are those whose parents have the time, energy, and ability to advocate for them. If elected, I will work to create in-district options for all our students and tailor curriculum to meet each of our students' needs. In its current form, our system enforces systemic racism by restricting access to advanced curriculum based on parental advocacy. Additionally, I believe that it is vitally important that we make a conscious choice to include BIPoC as stakeholders in decisions."

— **Debbie Walton**, Nonpartisan Candidate for East Lansing Public Schools Board of Education



**Haslett Public Schools (Pick 2 of 3)**

<b>Tracy Collins</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Greg Bird</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	<u>100</u>

**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**

A: "As someone who is privileged, my first responsibility is to listen and learn. Then, we must lead by example to enact policies that will dismantle structural racism."

— **Greg Bird**, Nonpartisan Candidate for Haslett Public Schools Board of Education



**Camara Lewis**

	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
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**Holt Public Schools (PICK 3 of 4)**

<b>Amy Dalton</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Mark Perry</b>	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
<b>Jennifer Robel</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	<u>100</u>

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

"Whether here in our community or across the country, people of color continue to be more likely to live in poverty, drop out of school, be unemployed, be incarcerated, and/or suffer from poor health and a lack of access to quality health care, among other things."

	ENGAGEMENT	BLM vs. ALM	EQUALITY vs. EQUITY	RACISM EXISTS?	DISMANTLE RACISM	ABOVE & BEYOND	SCORE	PERFECT 6?
<b>Francisca Garcia</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NO	5	NO

**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**

A: "I will continue to work to enact policies and practices across the district that do not exacerbate privilege or put a specific racial group at a disadvantage. I will also continue working to diversify our educator workforce and staff, as research shows that students with teachers and staff who look like them are more likely to succeed."

— **Jennifer Robel**, Nonpartisan Candidate for Holt Public Schools Board of Education



**Francisca Garcia**

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

"One of the ways is in how discipline and consequences are carried out by our schools towards black and brown students versus white students. Data and reports have consistently shown that schools expel and suspend students of color more often than white students. Our students in the Holt High High School Diversity Club have attested to that happening here as well."

— **Francisca Garcia**, Nonpartisan Candidate for Holt Public Schools Board of Education



**Okemos Public Schools (PICK 4 of 6)**

<b>Katie Cavanaugh</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	<u>100</u>
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**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

"We see it in our school curriculum from history taught from a white male European perspective, to novels read in English classes predominantly written by white authors, to the Meet the Masters art program for elementary children that features paintings almost exclusively by white males. Unfortunately, for example, we also see racism in student discipline when students of color are given harsher punishments, and we see it when students of color are underrepresented in advanced placement classes. Okemos is not immune to structural racism."

**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**

A: "Each policy should be examined using an equity lens to help determine how it will impact every group of students. We will be addressing the Chief name as our school mascot in the coming months. As we work towards more equity in our district, we need to examine hiring practices and work towards hiring a more diverse faculty that more accurately represents our diverse student body. We need to provide professional development for our teachers on implicit bias and structural racism. We must examine how our racial and religious minority students are treated in every area including discipline, class placements, and socially by their classmates and work towards rectifying any biases seen."

— **Katie Cavanaugh**, Nonpartisan Member of Okemos Public Schools Board of Education



**Melanie Lynn**

	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	<u>100</u>
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**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

"Structural racism is characterized by negative racial messages about black/brown students' abilities and strengths, implicit bias among educators, disparate disciplinary practices/decisions, culture that results in black/brown students feeling unwelcome, underrepresentation of diverse perspectives and imagery in curriculum and educational materials, and limited participation in gifted and talented programs."

— **Melanie Lynn**, Nonpartisan Member of Okemos Public Schools Board of Education



**Joe Friedhoff**

	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	<u>100</u>
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**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

"It looks like the underrepresentation of BIPOC students in advanced coursework and the overrepresentation of these same student groups in special needs programs and detention halls. On the adult side, it looks like a lack of racial and ethnic diversity in the teaching and educational staff, including in upper-level administration."

**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**

A: "My focus will be ensuring that existing policies are viewed through an equity, diversity, and inclusion lens, and that additional policies that can advance this effort be authored and adopted. Unconscious bias training is increasingly being required of other



# Social justice & equity

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

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**ABOVE & BEYOND:** This last point was awarded subjectively. The candidates that our editorial team felt went above and beyond simple platitudes and listed specific reforms for policies or procedures that were actually aimed toward dismantling systemic racism received an extra one (1) point.

**Color Key:**  
 REPUBLICAN DEMOCRAT NON-PARTISAN U.S. TAXPAYERS PARTY  
 GREEN PARTY NATURAL LAW PARTY LIBERTARIAN PARTY  
 WORKING CLASS PARTY



professionals (e.g. health care workers), and providing such training to our teachers, staff, and admin would be a positive step. Policies that help the school district recruit, hire, and retain a diverse workforce will be important to achieving this goal. So, too, will be ensuring that all students are provided with challenging pathways throughout the school system and multiple opportunities to access advanced coursework. That said, the effectiveness of such policies needs to be measured through data collection, and we must use the data to determine if the current approaches are making appropriate strides toward achieving the intended outcomes.”

— **Joe Friedhoff**, Nonpartisan Candidate for Okemos Public Schools Board of Education

Candidate	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Thomas Gorman	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Andy Phelps	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Jayne Taylor	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	100

**Q: What does structural racism look like in Greater Lansing?**

“Denying that it exists is dangerous and shortsighted. Elimination of clubs based on sexual orientation, race/ethnicity, unrealistic academic expectations for certain ethnic populations, unfair discipline.”

**Q: What types of solutions to public education problems do you bring to the table?**

A: “Advocating for the reinstatement of clubs to ensure that our students feel accepted and understood, analysis of our discipline standards and push to develop fair and equitable discipline procedures, I will work hard to continue our district equity plan work, encourage and recommend racial bias training for all staff. Continue to encourage community discussion and outlet for students to express their concerns about structural racism.”

— **Jayne Taylor**, Nonpartisan Candidate for Okemos Public Schools Board of Education



**Waverly Community Schools(PICK 3 of 5)**

Candidate	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Amy Krause	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Holly Nester	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Adre Brown	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NO	5	NO
Tamia McClain	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
John Robertson	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Tou Vue	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO

**Grand Ledge Public Schools(PICK 2 of 5)**

Candidate	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Patrick McKennon	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Jamil Cage	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Raymone Gude	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Andrea Herrst	NO	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	NO
Nicole Shannon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	NO	5	NO

## Justice

from page 15

of color, a candidate needs to know and understand our complicated racial history and how that history impacts our lives today. He/she needs to be able to explain how government played, and still plays, a role in creating and maintaining racial inequities. It was the white leadership centuries ago that defined rights; that decided who could gain full or 3/5 citizenship, who owned property and who was property, who owned the crops and who worked the crops, who could be educated and who was denied the right even to learn to read, who was on the top rung of the newly institutionalized caste system and who was (and still is) on the bottom rung.

Racism, like the caste system that exists in our daily lives, is not new. But, they will both continue to exist as long as we bury our heads in the sand and refuse to address them forthrightly and with truth. Candidates and voters need to tackle these issues and talk about them with an unequivocal call for transformation. All of us must face the existence of the caste system developed 400 years ago in colonial America and how institutionalized and systemic it has become in our mindsets, behaviors and beliefs. We must make sure that people who are running for office intend to serve as representatives of all people. They should be willing to identify their own imbedded implicit biases, as well as the open explicit biases that have become systemic in every aspect of our lives including political, economic, health, education, mortality, housing, the media, the justice system and day to day living.

People running for office must attest

that they know why we emphasize that Black Lives Matter. True, all lives do matter. However, our history of racial discrimination and disparities have shown that over the centuries Black lives have mattered less to the powers that be than white lives have mattered. Any candidate should confirm support for the Black Lives Matter movement by acknowledging the necessity to dismantle the structures of racism and oppression so Black people can ultimately get the justice they deserve.

Finally, it must be noted that before voting for a candidate, we must make sure it is someone whom we can trust to bring these issues to the front and center of the agenda. People of conscience are rising up. No longer can we allow an elected official to say one thing and do another or be silent, when it is time to act. Silence is complicity. Ignoring racism is being complicit. Standing on the sideline and not speaking the name of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Emmett Till, Trayvon Martin or Tamir Rice is being complicit. Letting a governmental entity change the rules in order to suppress the vote of any people without speaking against it is being complicit. Ignoring over 400 years of established practices that have led to the current plight of social and racial injustices is being complicit. Supporting a candidate who is not willing to upend unjust systems, e.g. systemic racism, is complicit. Remaining silent is the same as agreeing to perpetuate the status quo.

This election is the most important of this lifetime. The impact on future generations is at stake. The future of our communities, state and nation is in our hands. The responsibility of electing the right people to ensure that rights and liberties of all people are protected is up to us. And most important, it is the people who get the last word ... and that last word is ... OUR VOTE.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## East Lansing School Board Election - Nonpartisan • 4 year term expiring 12/31/2024 • Choose 3 candidates

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

<p><b>QUESTION 1</b> Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the School Board.</p>	<p><b>QUESTION 2</b> What are the priority issues facing the School Board during this pandemic and how would you address them if elected?</p>	<p><b>QUESTION 3</b> What technology issues are affecting the district? How do you propose addressing them?</p>
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### JOSHUA R. BARBER

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I come to you a humble and concerned father. My background is in the service industry. I graduated from The School of Hospitality Business at MSU and served as the General Manager of the Okemos Olive Garden for seven years before I left to become a full-time father. I am now currently working as a courier for the Clinical Center Pharmacy at MSU where I am part of an amazing team that is taking care of some of our most vulnerable citizens and neighbors throughout this pandemic. Although my background is not rooted in education, I understand leadership, service, safety, and have a strong passion for education. I understand it is our outstanding public-school system here in East Lansing that makes this a great place to live and raise a family.

I was motivated to run by my son. He has allowed me to truly see what is most important in this life. His bravery, his kindness, his generosity, his tenacity. He has put on a brave face during this pandemic and now he was left out of Kindergarten due to his parents work schedules and absence of realistic options. I want to help. I want to help others that have not had a voice in this process. I want to help get our children back to in-person learning. I want to be a voice for those that have none.

There is one primary issue right now. We have no options other than virtual learning for our children in this community. I would address this by providing a voice for those parents that have had to sit back and allow the decisions of the few outweigh the needs of the community. I would push for options. At home virtual learning may work for some right now, but we need options for working families and children with special needs that cannot be met on an iPad. Essential workers have braved this pandemic in many capacities and now I am asking for some brave individuals within our education system to work with parents. Please help us to start getting students into the classrooms on a voluntary basis to ease the transition. I would work with neighboring districts to find best practices.

### MONICA M. FINK

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I am a U.S. Air Force veteran and former Department of Human Services (DHS) employee with 20 years of experience in human resources and administration and certified in general civil mediation. I have over fourteen years of knowledge and experience in the criminal justice system. I am also a mother of two and have been involved in East Lansing Public Schools since we moved here in 2013. My roles within ELPS include: breakfast and lunch Monitor at Marble Elementary, co-founder and president of the Marble Equity Team, Marble Parent Council, District Parent Council, HS Black Parent Union, room parent, Safe Routes to School. I'm active in securing grants and donations for students and staff. Provided input to the ELPS Office of Curriculum and district learning plan. I believe in quality public education and have a personal investment in preserving, promoting, and improving the quality of our school system. I have served and advocated for the educational needs of our community since 2013.

The priority issues facing the School Board during this pandemic are: Returning to school amid the covid-19 pandemic: Reopening schools this fall should be done as safely as possible, in the least disruptive way, with as much fluidity as possible. While we have a responsibility to ensure we create a welcoming, nurturing, and safe environment for all our students, staff and families, I don't believe this is possible if we were to open schools 100% in person. I believe a hybrid approach that meets stringent safety protocols is the best way to ensure maximum safety, flexibility, and a non-disruptive learning environment for our staff and families. Until implementation of robust safety protocols can be met, the safest approach to reopening is online only. We have to come together as a community to make sure that we are providing as much support to our leadership and families as possible if we are going to thrive in this new era of schooling.

1:1 technology implementation is an issue affecting the district. It has been recognized for many years now that in order to keep up with technological advances, putting technology into the hands of all students is worth pursuing. Rapidly developing science and technology has necessitated fundamental changes on educational approaches and has affected every field of education that make traditional methods outdated and inadequate for preparing our students to be global citizens. Computing initiatives have become widespread in K-12 schools with the benefits of 1:1 computing being tremendous, but we must take careful consideration when planning for this initiative. Some considerations for before a successful 1:1 implementation can occur are: overcoming fears, changing beliefs and attitudes, and strengthening professional development in order to shift pedagogy and accessibility are imperative. We have to create an atmosphere where technology is embraced.

### MATTHEW J. HEOS

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**Education:** BA from MSU in Telecommunications with a cognate in social studies and a JD from Cooley Law School  
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I have lived in East Lansing most of my life and attended ELPS as did my siblings. My daughter and niece are second graders, and my nephew is in early 5s at ELPS. My gratitude for the effective education we received through ELPS shaped my appreciation of our school system and has led to my decision to serve the district. By running for the board of education I hope to be part of the solution to problems we face in maintaining quality education. I attended MSU where I earned a BA in Telecommunications with a cognate in social studies. My Law degree is from Western Michigan University Cooley Law School. My law practice is in East Lansing where I work to resolve conflict issues for my clients. I serve on the Parish Council at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. My education and experience can have a positive impact on our district since I can effectively work with multiple points of view to create consensus. Equity, anti-bullying and special education are the issues I am focused on.

Equity of experience among pupils is paramount for a successful society. We cannot let great talent fall behind because of factors beyond our students' control. The Covid-19 pandemic has drawn sharp focus on the need for equitable access to online learning. Some students have computers, tablets, and unlimited internet access, while others do not. In these times, all our students need access to the district's online learning capabilities. That means access to hardware, software, and wireless internet that will give each pupil the same opportunity to learn without additional costs to families. We all want our students back in school this fall, but there is conflict among those who want in person instruction and those who fear putting students, faculty, and families at risk of infection. We can adapt to this challenge if we can focus our resources in an equitable way.

Distance learning has been difficult for students, faculty, and families. Being at school provides an equitable environment because all students have the same access to their teachers and the materials necessary for their education. Learning at home on a tablet or laptop over broadband internet cannot be equitable given that all families do not have the same internet access and technology. That disparity will leave some students behind if we do not act now. Federal and State officials must partner with tech companies to provide wireless 4G LTE internet compatible devices and wireless internet for schools to deliver high quality distance learning to students at no additional expense to families. Congress must appropriate funds and use all the resources of the federal government to remove socio-economic barriers to education during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our district needs a plan with alternative programs--distance learning, a hybrid system, and in person instruction.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## East Lansing School Board Election - Nonpartisan • 4 year term expiring 12/31/2024 • Choose 3 candidates

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

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**GREGORY HESS**  
**Occupation:** Enterprise Architect / Doctoral Candidate  
**Email:** gregcorleone@yahoo.com  
**Education:** M.S. in Computer Science (Montana State University) - enrolled at Michigan State University  
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I think the qualifications for the position are minimal but I do meet them. I live in the district, have committed non felonies and have at least a high school degree. My experiences are that my wife was a teacher for grade school level and I have taught at community college and University level. I also have a daughter that goes to East Lansing Schools and so am very vested in how the school is run

The pandemic introduces issues like safety, cleaning and how to account for the silent effects of children \*not\* being at school. Other priorities for me are that E.L. schools comply with antibullying laws already on the books, that we review and standardize our process on how we engage parents and guardians in our processes and will want to review the school's five and ten year fiscal plans. I would also like to create a review of pay/ compensation disparity and inclusive hiring and placement

I do not know of any immediate issues other than the remote learning for COVID support. As a computer scientist and IT person would like to review their IT strategic plans.

**ELIZABETH GUERRERO LYONS**  
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I graduated from Michigan State University with a B.S. in Human Ecology with an emphasis on youth. I continued my post-graduate education at MSU and received a Master's in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education and, most recently, my doctorate in K-12 Educational Leadership K-12. I worked as a coordinator for pre-college youth programs at MSU for three years and then moved to the Undergraduate Office of Admissions, where I worked closely with high school students and their parents. I then transitioned over to the College of Human Medicine Office of Admissions, where I have been working for the last 10 years as the Director of Diversity Recruitment. I began volunteering in the East Lansing school district when my daughter started school at Glencairn and my son at Donley in the Y5 program. I have been active in the Glencairn PTO meetings, served as a room parent, and coordinated the staff appreciation week.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion is essential for the school board to clearly define what diversity and equity mean and have policies that reflect this understanding. The pandemic has amplified issues of historical trauma felt by communities. We must put policies in place to change systemic structures that prevent and hinder our children's success in the classroom. I think this is the time to look at our curriculum while making sure that our teachers are given training to teach and continually enhance culturally relevant coursework. Mental Health/Trauma Informed-I believe mental health is strongly linked to educational outcomes. These circumstances with the pandemic have compounded already existing issues many of our families and teachers were dealing with both within the classroom and outside. We have to make sure our teachers/social workers/administration receive support, have quality access to training and other resources to provide various levels of support to the students.

As we begin fall semester online, the board must provide leadership to ensure remote learning is as equitable and accessible as possible. The current board and ELPs administration are taking important steps by distributing devices to all students who need them. A continuing concern is access to high quality internet that can support streaming and other remote learning activities. Also, many students and parents are navigating technology and applications that they have not used before. It is imperative that there is a training onboard for parents to help with the transition to online learning. Parents need to feel confident in helping their students navigate their lessons. Another concern is communication through email, which can be overwhelming for families. There should be a central location where families can access new updates without having to receive frequent emails. The ELPs website should be more user-friendly, as parents will need to access it regularly during online learning.

**NICHOLE MARTIN**  
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With over twenty years of experience in the areas of behavior therapy, developmental needs assessment, program design and development, educational planning, academic support building, community collaboration and fundraising, I believe I provide a wellrounded skill set that helps to address a variety of ongoing topic areas that we face in our district. I previously ran with a focus on building collaborative relationships, striving to create a better awareness and emphasis on mental health resources, access to creative technology solutions, collaboration with local businesses, and working to honor diversity and cultural understanding among students, teachers, administrators, and community. I believe as a district we have worked to improve in all these areas during my time with the board. My tagline continues to be "Committed to Community, Dedicated to Progress" and that remains my focus; to learn, collaborate, adjust, and strengthen the collective educational community in East Lansing.

Access to food is a priority, as many of our children rely on food, through the school system's food program. The process to maintain food distribution throughout the duration of the pandemic was successfully completed and a new process was set up for the current year to tend to updated eligibility and distribution guidelines. The district is providing single platform options, in Seesaw and Goodgle classroom to allow students to become more successful this fall and reduce frustration, opening the path for classroom engagement. Through the increased isolation many have felt over the past six months it will be important moving forward that we, as a district, are well versed in any potential signs of increased anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation or any other influential factors that could jeopardize the health and well-being of our students. Lastly, we need to support parents with resources and provide opportunities to get involved in ways that

Prepandemic, 1:1 electronic devices were not necessary as buildings utilized mobile electronic carts to share devices. At onset, there was no way of knowing how long or what financial extent would satisfy the need to support t students via distance learning. In trying to manage the various options for virtual and in-person learning, the more and more evident it became that one to one electronic device accessibility had become a reality. Recent purchase for iPads, Chromebooks and Laptops are expected just after Labor Day. When students are able to return to inperson instruction it is highly likely that the sharing of devices that once was will no longer be available to students. Devices will assist all our students with not only a smoother transition to in-person instruction but will maintain device accessibility if we need to move between in-person and virtual learning. The district is working to better understand the ongoing connectivity needs of families to support virtual learning.

**DORIAN PRIER**  
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Candidate did not respond

Candidate did not respond

Candidate did not respond

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## East Lansing School Board Election - Nonpartisan • 4 year term expiring 12/31/2024 • Choose 3 candidates

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### DEBBIE WALTON

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I began volunteering in the East Lansing Public Schools in 2009 when my son entered Kindergarten at Donley Elementary. Since then, I have volunteered in many capacities including: creating STEM events at the elementary and middle school levels, initiating a "Needs Closet" at MMS, providing music enrichment to Special Ed classes, and tutoring Algebra at ELHS. I've also served as President and Vice-President of the Donley, MMS, and District Parent Councils. Through this work, I have built strong relationships with teachers, administrators, and families across the District. Now I hope to join the Board so that I can help our District provide exceptional, rigorous academics to every member of our diverse student body. Professionally, I have two degrees from MIT, and I am a former NASA engineer. Given this technical background, I believe that I am well-suited for making impartial, data-driven decisions to benefit our entire community.

The most urgent issues facing our District are how to maximize the value of online learning and safely and quickly return to in-person school. This pandemic provides a unique opportunity to rethink our approach to education. Right now, the best thing we can do is allow our teachers broad creative latitude to engage students academically and support their emotional health in whatever ways they consider necessary. We should provide Professional Development that doesn't merely teach the technical aspects of moving online, but rather supports alternative teaching methods like flipped classrooms and project-based learning. We need to plan now to find ways to keep our students and teachers safe as we transition back to in-person instruction. Looking ahead, we must address the fact that resource disparities across our district mean that our achievement gap will be significantly wider when we return. If we plan now, we will be prepared to address these challenges.

Our most pressing technology issue is the need to provide devices and internet access for every student who lacks these resources at home. Providing these necessities is the first step in creating an equitable online learning environment. Our district is off to a promising start, but computers are not due to arrive until early September, so we must monitor the order and be ready to make changes as necessary. Second, excessive screen time is of great concern to many parents during this pandemic, particularly among our youngest learners. We must encourage teachers to embrace creative non-screen-based methods to more effectively engage our students. Third, cyberbullying and social media misuse are scary by-products of our online culture. It is imperative that we teach our students how to maintain online safety and to cultivate relationships between students and teachers/counselors so students feel comfortable reaching out for necessary support.

## Haslett School Board Election - Nonpartisan • 4 year term expiring 12/31/2024 • Choose 2 candidates

### GREG BIRD

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For over 20 years, I have been fortunate enough to provide vital legislative and public relations counsel in both the public and private sector. During this time, including five years with the Michigan State Budget Office, I gained extensive experience with the State's education budgets. For ten years, I was the Director of State Relations for Wayne State University where I helped to successfully advance the strategic goals of the University. I was also grateful to have served on the Haslett School Board for two years where I supported efforts to increase technology in the classroom; increase pay for our hard working and dedicated teachers and support staff; and improvements to our school's infrastructure and classrooms.

The most important issue facing administrators and school boards this school year is how to provide a quality education while ensuring the health and safety of our students, educators and support staff. I will strongly encourage that our district continue to listen to local and state public health experts when making decisions during this pandemic. We must also encourage state and federal officials to ensure that districts, like Haslett, have the resources necessary to keep our students, educators and support staff safe when they eventually come back to school.

As a member of the School Board to support the most recent milage, I did so in part due to the additional funds that were made available for technology in the district. I was encouraged to see that the district was able to provide every student with a device for the start of the (remote) year. As a member of the Board, I will always encourage ways to improve technology in the district in order to improve the quality of education for our students. I will also support initiatives that will ensure that students and parents are familiar with and can effectively use that technology.

### TRACY COLLINS

**Occupation:** Former Teacher and School Board Member  
**Email:** collinstracy114@gmail.com  
**Education:** B.A. in History and English, M.A. in Curriculum and Teaching, M.A. in Special Education  
**Phone:** 517-242-1221

I am interested in continuing my service on the school board because I am invested in the future of Haslett Public Schools. While I am concerned for my own children, there is not one particular issue or reason that pushes me to serve. Instead, I want to help build upon the District's success and improve the educational experience and opportunities for all students in the district. I am a strong supporter of public education. Serving on the Board would allow me to do the two things I love most: Serve the community and be involved in education. I believe that my experience will bring a unique perspective to the Board of Education. I am a certified teacher and a parent. I have over 20 years experience in both general and special education classrooms and I believe that helps me understand the real world implications of Board decisions. This experience also makes me uniquely qualified for a position on the school board.

The Covid-19 pandemic has put stress on our education system, teachers, parents, students and administrators. While we survived the impromptu online learning of the Spring, our greatest challenge is to make sure our students are being educated well and safely as we move into the 2020-21 school year. Things will not look or feel the same as they did before and we need to adjust our teaching and learning to meet these trying times. If elected, I plan to continue working with the Superintendent, staff, students and parents to create a safe transition to in person learning. This pandemic has shown a bright light on the inequities in education. I plan on addressing the learning gap that is created by inequities in technology, transportation and food security. I also want to make sure that our students with special needs are getting the support that is required through their IEP's. This is an opportunity to address many of the issues that have been present, but have not yet been solved.

Haslett voters have consistently supported education and in 2018 they passed a bond that has been used to update our technology and buy new devices for students. That money is providing our students and staff with the most current technology available for the classroom. This past summer, all buildings in the district were rewired and chromebooks and ipads were bought so that all students have access to a device. This process has taken almost two years, but our schools are ready for the future of education. We still face challenges because close to 10% of our families do not have consistent access to devices and the internet; however, we are working to close that gap with our 1:1 initiative and the purchase of internet hot spots for families. We need to continue to meet the technology needs of our parents and students so that all children can be successful. If elected, I will continue to make this a priority.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## Haslett School Board Election - (continued) Nonpartisan • 4 year term expiring 12/31/2024 • Choose 2 candidates

	QUESTION 1 Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the School Board.	QUESTION 2 What are the priority issues facing the School Board during this pandemic and how would you address them if elected?	QUESTION 3 What technology issues are affecting the district? How do you propose addressing them?
<p><b>CAMARA LEWIS</b>  <b>Occupation:</b> Communications Manager  <b>Email:</b> lewiscamara@gmail.com  <b>Campaign Web Site:</b> camaraforhaslett.com  <b>Education:</b> B.S. Advertising: Management and Media, Michigan State University  <b>Phone:</b> 847-436-4992</p> 	<p>I have years of servant leadership under my belt. Working for state government in both the Dept. of Corrections and Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity has allowed me to better serve statewide communities. Aside from being a professional communicator and public relations practitioner, I volunteer as a board member for Central Michigan Public Relations Society of America, Grand River Connection and the Peppermint Creek Theatre Company. Six summers ago I began volunteering for Riverwalk Theater's – Young Artisan Workshop, where I first became passionate about helping the young children who were using the theater as a means to escape from the unpleasant environment they faced at school. Haslett Public Schools is part of a community of children that need a strong and effective school board - their achievement depends on it. I have an undeniable ambition to be and do better for the community. Being able to serve on the school board will allow me to assist my more direct local community.</p>	<p>The biggest priorities facing public education, including Haslett Public Schools, is funding and agility during this ongoing pandemic. If elected, I hope to work with the current Haslett Public School Board Members in advancing and strengthening systems of communications in the virtual space. This will include updating policies, communications procedures and other practices that provide timely and consistent updates to the community. Additionally it will entail taking grassroots advocacy efforts, encouraging our community to contact the Michigan Legislature and ensure we get the statewide funding and federal assistance that public schools in Michigan will need over the next year to function appropriately. Finally, given the nation's reckoning with social justice and racism I want to work with the rest of the Haslett School Board to ensure Diversity, Equity and Inclusion is integrated with every policy and system set forth as well as update new policies to reflect an inclusive lens.</p>	<p>Given the widespread effects of COVID-19 and the need for distance/virtual learning, we are seeing the true inequities that are caused by lack of internet access and technology at home. While I have my own thoughts, the biggest priority to fix this will be to work with the board to ensure technology and internet are as small of a barrier as possible, creating practices in place to support families during this historic movement of remote learning. Funding will always play a part here, as well as with Legislature changes. I will work to use resources from the statewide school board association, the Michigan Department of Education and create stronger advocacy calls-to-action to alleviate this as a barrier for students and their families.</p>
<p><b>JOSHUA MOREY</b>  <b>Email:</b> morey.joshua@gmail.com  <b>Phone:</b> 765-532-5481</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond</p>

## Holt School Board Election - Nonpartisan • 6 year term expiring 12/31/2026 • Choose 3 candidates

<p><b>AMY M. DALTON</b>  <b>Occupation:</b> Teacher  <b>Email:</b> daltonamym@aol.com  <b>Education:</b> MBA, University of Michigan-Flint, BS, Central Michigan University, AA, Jackson College  <b>Phone:</b> 517-694-7459  <b>Address:</b> 1960 Heatherton Drive, Holt, MI 48842</p> 	<p>I have dedicated my life to public education through work as a K-12 teacher, a college instructor, and a school board member. I believe that our public schools provide a path for students to achieve their full potential, to actively and thoughtfully participate in society, and to prepare them for adult living. I have been a Holt Public Schools Board of Education trustee for the past three years. I am proud of many things that this board has championed and accomplished, and I would be honored to continue serving the students and families of the Holt Public School District.</p>	<p>The Holt Public Schools Board of Education has many urgent issues to address during this pandemic. First, we must ensure that we educate students in a format that is safest for students and employees. Second, we must utilize and coordinate all external resources available to address the needs of our students, especially those needs that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, such as mental health, child-care, and racial inequality. Third, we must support teachers and staff as the demands placed on them are ever increasing.</p>	<p>Technology is crucial to reach all students during remote instruction. Holt Public Schools has purchased hundreds of devices, as well as many hotspots, to assist families with accessing online instruction. Now that families are connected, Holt Public Schools must provide quick and easy access to answers for families' technology questions, including use of digital learning platforms and student information systems. Holt Public Schools must also work with teachers and staff to enhance their technology skills and leverage their existing educational expertise to facilitate student learning.</p>
<p><b>FRANCISCA G. GARCIA</b>  <b>Email:</b> g.francisca1@outlook.com  <b>Phone:</b> 517-528-2575</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond</p>
<p><b>MARK PERRY</b>  <b>Email:</b> marper@yeoandyeo.com  <b>Phone:</b> 517-242-7805</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond</p>

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## Holt School Board Election - (continued) Nonpartisan • 6 year term expiring 12/31/2026 • Choose 3 candidates

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

<b>QUESTION 1</b> Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the School Board.	<b>QUESTION 2</b> What are the priority issues facing the School Board during this pandemic and how would you address them if elected?	<b>QUESTION 3</b> What technology issues are affecting the district? How do you propose addressing them?
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### JENNIFER ROBEL

**Occupation:** Department Manager

**Email:** jsmith63075@hotmail.com

**Facebook page:** Jennifer Robel Holt Public Schools Board of Education Trustee

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts, Alma College

**Phone:** 517-712-1210



I have served on the Holt Public Schools Board of Education for the past two and a half years and am seeking re-election. I am a proud community member who has lived in the district for nearly two decades and have two children who currently attend Holt Public Schools. In addition, I am a school volunteer, a member of the Community Task Force, and a member of the Holt Equity and Access Team (HEAT). I believe in Holt Public Schools, in our staff and in the work that they do. I want to continue working to ensure that every student in our community has equitable access to the high-quality education they need and deserve.

It's more important than ever that our schools have the funding necessary to ensure that students, educators and staff have access to the tools and resources they need to be successful. No child should have to worry about where their next meal comes from, especially when they are not able to physically enter a school building. Holt Public Schools has done an incredible job during the pandemic working to ensure that all students have access to meals. It is imperative that we continue to provide food distribution to any and all students who need it, at no cost, and that we continue this effort as long as it is necessary, even after CARES dollars and other funding mechanisms subside. It is also vital that we keep working to provide equitable access to technology and the internet so that every student in our community can continue to grow and learn. Lastly, I believe that we must also do everything possible to support and rally around our educators during these unprecedented times.

Like so many districts across the state, it has become clear that there are many technological disparities amongst our students, particularly access to devices and the internet. We must continue to work to secure enough Chromebooks so that students who need them can connect with their teachers and peers, and have access to their coursework. We must also provide hot spots throughout the community, including in homes and shelters where they are needed, and ensure there is transportation available so students can access them. I also believe that it is imperative that we do everything in our power to ensure that there are safe and secure places for our students to learn and for our teachers to teach.

## Okemos School Board Election - Nonpartisan • 4 year term expiring 12/31/2024 • Choose 4 candidates

### KATIE CAVANAUGH

**Email:** katie4okemos@gmail.com  
**Phone:** 517-969-9059

Candidate did not respond

Candidate did not respond

Candidate did not respond

### JOE FREIDHOFF

**Email:** joe.freidhoff@gmail.com  
**Phone:** 517-331-2008

Candidate did not respond

Candidate did not respond

Candidate did not respond

### THOMAS GORMAN

**Occupation:** Software Development Intern/Student

**Email:** gormanthomas80@gmail.com

**Facebook:** facebook.com/gormanforokemos

**Education:** Graduated from Okemos High School 2020

**Phone:** 517-897-7634

**Address:** 4281 Goldenwood Dr.



I am running for Okemos School board because I want to better the lives of students going through our school system. I believe that my recent experience going through the Okemos school system will make my perspective invaluable in crafting policies to help our students succeed. When I was a student, I experienced first hand many of the issues that our students face. I loved my experience at Okemos Public Schools, but there is an issue. I know many students who thrived in our system, but also many that struggled with their education and mental health. I am running to provide insight to the board from a recent graduate's point of view.

During this pandemic my biggest concern is keeping our students and their families safe. The best way we can do that is by following state and federal guidelines. If elected I would ensure that students have a safe learning environment and parents feel comfortable sending their children to school. We will do this by analyzing the most recent data on the spread of the virus as we plan the eventual return to in person learning.

My biggest technological concern regarding Okemos Public Schools right now is the need to keep our students engaged throughout this period of distance learning. As a student, I saw teachers often struggle keeping a class of students who were right in front of them engaged. We need to be forward thinking in designing our lesson plans to be interesting to our students and applicable through a computer.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## Okemos School Board Election - (continued) Nonpartisan • 4 year term expiring 12/31/2024 • Choose 4 candidates

	QUESTION 1 Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the School Board.	QUESTION 2 What are the priority issues facing the School Board during this pandemic and how would you address them if elected?	QUESTION 3 What technology issues are affecting the district? How do you propose addressing them?
<p><b>MELANIE C. LYNN</b>  <b>Occupation:</b> Engineer/Project Manager  <b>Email:</b> melanieclynn@gmail.com  <b>Web Site:</b> MelanieLynn-OPS.com  <b>Facebook:</b> @MelanieLynnOPS  <b>Education:</b> B.S. Electrical Engineering, Clemson University and MBA, University of South Carolina  <b>Phone:</b> 517-290-8698</p> 	<p>I am honored to have served as a member of the Okemos Board of Education (BOE) since 2010. I have demonstrated Board leadership in several Officer positions - President (2 Terms), Vice President (2 Terms), Treasurer and Parliamentarian. I intended to retire my service to the Board of Education at the end of my term in December 2020. However, my leadership, BOE experience and learnings can support the governance associated with the COVID-19 challenges and addressing the outstanding equity work. I am committed to sharing my GOOD GOVERNANCE "definition" of effective board service - orderly and transparent policy/decision-making, engaging community/student voice and building consensus. My husband and I have lived in the Okemos community since 2007. We are the proud parents of three (3) Okemos Public School graduates - 2012, 2014 and 2016. I am an Electrical Engineer, and I have an MBA. I currently work with Consumers Energy (Jackson, MI) managing strategic projects/programs.</p>	<p>Pandemic-related priorities include student/staff physical/mental health and safety, public-school funding, and equity-focused policies that promote a positive educational and socialemotional environment. Addressing these issues involves applying a conservative approach to pandemic-related safety/health decisions that balance the mental and socialemotional needs of our educational community. Advocacy and partnering offer means of addressing the publicschool funding challenge including advocating for increased funding at the state/national levels while encouraging partnering with community organizations and universities. Educational excellence during the pandemic requires agility in our modes of delivery and challenges policy-making that attends to the diverse student and staff educational needs. The recent pandemic-related policy experiences have enhanced my GOOD GOVERNANCE framework that will support educational excellence and educational justice.</p>	<p>I will continue to prioritize the use of technology to support the educational environment - including teaching and learning devices, equipment and infrastructure in the Okemos School District. The community's recent approval of the \$9.7M technology bond positions the district to upgrade essential technology within the district enhancing our ability to deliver educational excellence. Additionally, as an advocate for educational equity, I am committed to enacting policies that remove technological and other barriers to an equitable education for all students.</p>
<p><b>ANDY PHELPS</b>  <b>Occupation:</b> Manager, Michigan Department of Corrections  <b>Email:</b> andrewphelps@gmail.com  <b>Website:</b> phelpsforokemos.com  <b>Facebook:</b> facebook.com/phelpsforokemos  <b>Education:</b> BA - Western Michigan University in Political Science and Economics  <b>Phone:</b> 517-803-7475  <b>Address:</b> 5270 Park Lake Rd East Lansing, MI 48823</p> 	<p>I am a proud husband, devoted father of two Okemos students, and a candidate for Okemos Board of Education. My wife and I purchased a home Okemos in 2009 because it was the perfect place to start a new family. We were excited to be part of a community that highly values the educational experience of all students. We have since had two children, Leila (4th grade) and Jensen (1st grade) who are enrolled at Bennett Woods Elementary. We are frequent volunteers at our school including service on the Bennett Woods Family Council where we help with events throughout the year. I was proud to be a member of the 2019 Okemos Bond Committee, presenting to the public and helping spread the word about the important and fiscally responsible bond proposal. I am also a volunteer coach for youth softball and basketball. I am running because our children deserve the highest quality educational experience possible. I will work every day with our amazing staff to ensure this happens.</p>	<p>The safety of our students and staff has to be at the forefront of all of our decisions. We must continue to make decisions best on the best science available. However, these decisions have consequences, including serious equity concerns. Just because school isn't normal this fall, doesn't mean that our standards are any lower. I will encourage the administration to think outside the box and be creative. We should be reviewing best practices across the country to determine what works and what doesn't. We will need to stay nimble and flexible, adapting the best training and practices as they become available. Finally, it's crucial the district gets feedback from our parents, students, and staff to ensure the plan is working. We can't settle. The District must continue to provide the highest quality educational experience for all of our students no matter the circumstances. Our students deserve that, and the reputation of our community depends on it.</p>	<p>Our standards are high, and to continue providing the best educational experience possible for all students will require that our district has the best technology possible to meet those goals. Our community has shown in the past their commitment to education, and the district should embrace that and make sure we have the resources to purchase and maintain all the best equipment. We need to have up-to-date devices for every student and staff member, the backend resources, bandwidth, and technology to support those devices, and a plan to regularly update the devices to stay at the forefront of technology. As we continue to update and renovate our buildings, they should be renovated in a way that will make it easier and more cost-effective to update the technology as it continues to advance. We can't continue to have the highest quality educational experience without providing our students and staff with the best technological resources available.</p>

## Waverly School Board Election - Nonpartisan • 4 year term expiring 12/31/2024 • Choose 3 candidates

<p><b>ADRE D. BROWN</b>  <b>Email:</b> Adrebrown@yahoo.com  <b>Phone:</b> 517-285-7429</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond</p>
<p><b>AMY KRAUSE</b>  <b>Occupation:</b> Stay at home mom  <b>Email:</b> akrause@waverlyk12.net  <b>Education:</b> Took classes at L.C.C.  <b>Phone:</b> 517-648-8842</p> 	<p>I have been a resident of Delta Township for over 20 years. My husband graduated from Waverly over 30 years ago and our 3 children have all grown up in the Waverly School District. My eldest two have graduated and my youngest is currently at Waverly High School. I was appointed to fill a vacancy 2 years ago and hope to continue working for the students, parents, teachers and staff of Waverly.</p>	<p>I feel that the highest priorities facing our district right now are getting our students back to learning in person while simultaneously keeping them safe. I think families should be given the opportunity to choose which type of learning best suits their situation. I also believe that we have the ability and dedication to do this safely and responsibly.</p>	<p>Our biggest challenge is having the funds to keep up with new and everchanging technology. We are always exploring new ways to increase our budget.</p>

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## Waverly School Board Election - Nonpartisan • 4 year term expiring 12/31/2024 • Choose 3 candidates

	QUESTION 1 Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the School Board.	QUESTION 2 What are the priority issues facing the School Board during this pandemic and how would you address them if elected?	QUESTION 3 What technology issues are affecting the district? How do you propose addressing them?
<p><b>TAMIA MCCLAIN</b> Email: tmcclain42@gmail.com Phone: 517-281-9430</p>	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond
<p><b>HOLLY NESTER</b> Occupation: Policy Analyst Email: hollymnester@yahoo.com Education: BA Michigan State University, MBA Cleary University Phone: 517-242-3906</p> 	<p>I have two children, in 8th and 9th grades, who have attended Waverly Community Schools since they began school. I have first hand knowledge as a parent and School Board member of the stellar education provided at Waverly in both the general and special education. I chose to run for Waverly School Board in 2016 because I believed, and continue to believe, that I can provide a strong voice for students, particularly those with special needs. As I have grown in my role as a School Board member I have learned more about the deficiencies of the American education system in recognizing the role minority citizens had in the development of our great nation. Waverly needs to have a teacher population that resembles our student population giving new and diverse voices to the learning environment. We also must develop a curriculum that no longer adheres to old standards. All children benefit when the voices of all our citizens are spoken together with equal importance</p>	<p>My priorities during the COVID pandemic are to ensure that all students have equal access to the education we expect from Waverly schools. I will advocate for our children who need more support to stay on track and to help caregivers who are struggling with their new work-life-school reality. I have pushed to help working parents by increasing access to child care that will also support student online experience. Also, teachers must be given the resources and flexibility to use their experience and creativity in teaching their students. I believe that the best place for students to learn is in the classroom with their peers and inperson access to their teachers but understand that in these unique circumstances the best way to ensure the safety of our students and teachers is an online environment. I will work to return our children to school buildings when our leaders and medical experts indicate that it is safe to do so.</p>	<p>During these unique and difficult times I know that all children do not have access to everything they need to connect them to the learning environment. As a school board member I have supported efforts to make sure all students have a laptop and an internet connection in order to continue their education in the same manner as their peers. As a parent and school board member I know that we need to improve access to the latest and greatest technology specifically tailored to the unique needs and abilities of our special education students. I will advocate for incorporating external, online services as part of a full complement of education resources. I believe that students benefit from diverse instructional techniques to give them an edge in this highly technological and global age.</p>

## EATON COUNTY

### 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 65 (choose 1) Biographical Info



**Nancy Smith - DEM**

**Website:** votenancysmith.com

**Facebook:** facebook.com/VoteNancySmith/

**Occupation / Current Position:** 2001-2020, Special Education Teacher, Hanover-Horton High School

**Education:** B.S. University of Michigan (School of Natural Resources), M.Ed. University of Toledo (College of Education)

**Qualifications and Experience:** Hanover-Horton Educ. Assoc. Board; Jackson Community Forum, founding member; U.U. Church of E.

Liberty, Various Leadership Roles; Jackson Personal Care Ministry, volunteer

**Sarah L. Lightner - 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?

**Nancy Smith (DEM)** Michigan's school funding is still below what it was pre-Great Recession. Funding must be increased, and made more equitable. I support current proposals to make school funding account for the fact that schools with more at-risk, special education, and ELL populations have greater expenses. Also, funding negatively impacts teacher pay, with Michigan having low starting salaries compared to other states. Teacher shortages are worsening each year with few young people entering colleges of education in Michigan. I support legislation to increase state funding for public K-12 schools, ISDs, and higher education.

**Sarah L. Lightner - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.



## District 65 Candidate Responses (continued)

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?*

**Nancy Smith (DEM)** Michigan workers and their families continue to struggle to make ends meet. I support an increased minimum wage, as originally written in the One Fair Wage ballot initiative, but rewritten during the 2018 Lame Duck session. I support the repeal of "right to work" legislation, which has weakened unions and hurt workers. I oppose measures to privatize basic services in the public sector. I support policies that will help rebuild the middle class and result in fair pay and safe workplaces. In a post-COVID, comeback economy, we should build sustainable transportation, energy and water systems with good-paying, union jobs.

**Sarah L. Lightner - (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?*

**Nancy Smith (DEM)** I support Prop. 18-2, which created the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission as a fair and nonpartisan solution to gerrymandering in MI. I also support Prop. 18-3 (no-reason absentee voting, same-day registration) to make voting more accessible. I support mailing ballots to eligible voters, especially in light of COVID-19, so that voters may exercise their rights in the manner most safe and convenient to them. Related to this, the federal govt. must adequately fund the USPS so that it can deliver all ballots. I support tighter campaign finance rules and an end to the lawmaker-to-lobbyist revolving door.

**Sarah L. Lightner - (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?*

**Nancy Smith (DEM)** Michigan's policies should be guided by science. I accept the scientific consensus that climate change is real and demands a decisive response at all levels of govt. I'll work to counteract climate change by proposing legislation to increase MI's renewable energy standard to 50% by 2030. I support policies and projects that reduce carbon emissions, encouraging public entities to transition to all-electric vehicle fleets, investing in EV charging infrastructure & expanding access to mass transit. I support investing in wind & solar projects. To protect our waterways and Great Lakes, I'll work to secure all pipelines.

**Sarah L. Lightner - (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?*

**Nancy Smith (DEM)** The COVID-19 pandemic has brought MI's racial & socioeconomic inequalities into sharp focus. The pandemic has affected some communities more harshly than others. Consider the disparate racial impact: African-Americans comprise 14% of MI's overall population, yet they account for 40% of COVID-related deaths. To bridge these disparities, I will work to protect & expand access to healthcare, particularly within rural communities and communities of color. In addition, I will work to address underlying causes by pushing to build more affordable housing, funding our schools, and creating high-quality jobs.

**Sarah L. Lightner - (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?*

**Nancy Smith (DEM)** Death by firearm is a leading cause of death for Michigan youth. I support common-sense measures to make gun ownership safer in households, and to keep firearms out of the hands of children, the mentally ill, and those who are abusive or violent. I support red flag laws, increased background checks, closing loopholes for online and gun-show sales, and disarming domestic abusers.

**Sarah L. Lightner - (REP)** Candidate did not respond.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## District 71 (choose 1) Biographical Info

### Angela Witwer - DEM



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

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

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

**Occupation / Current Position:** I currently work as the 71st district State Representative. Additionally, I own a small business.

**Education:** Bachelor's in Business Administration, Northwood University

**Qualifications and Experience: 6 years** - Elected Vice President of Waverly Community Schools Board of Education Own Edge - Full service marketing company (14 years old/award winning) Served on most local boards

### Gina Johnsen - REP



**Website:** [Gina4StateRep.com](http://Gina4StateRep.com)

**Facebook:** [Gina4StateRep](https://Gina4StateRep)

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/Gina4StateRep](https://twitter.com/Gina4StateRep)

**Occupation / Current Position:** Businesswoman, Small Business Owner

**Education:** B.A. Wellesley College

**Qualifications and Experience:** Community Service, 30 years business experience (last 20 years in healthcare industry), mother, nonprofit Director, Precinct Delegate, Eaton County Parks & Recreation Board Commissioner

### Dalton R. McCuiston - GREEN PARTY

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?

**Angela Witwer (DEM)** I have a strong background as an advocate for public education in Michigan. I was appointed, elected and reelected as Vice President of Waverly Community Schools Board of Education. I have a proven record of supporting teachers and investments in education, from early childhood through K-12. Additionally, while a board member and now as a state representative, I spend time in the classroom in order to better understand the challenges. I support measures that would invest in smaller class sizes, high-quality teachers, early childhood programs, and skilled trades education.

**Gina Johnsen (REP)** Improved ratio of teachers to students, and allocate funding accordingly. Allocate increased funding for low performing school districts so they can hire additional teachers. Math and reading education resources allocated locally so teachers have autonomy and independence to meet the needs of their students. One size does not fit all students, classrooms, and communities. Restore the Arts to public education. Restore skilled trades education as an option for high school students.

**Dalton R. McCuiston (GREEN PARTY)** 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?

**Angela Witwer (DEM)** Our #1 goal - in light of the pandemic - should be economic recovery. As a small business owner I understand the difficulty of running a business. I have been endorsed by Small Business Association of Michigan and won numerous - including INC5000 and Top 50 Companies to Watch -awards for my financial and strong business. We need to invest in local jobs and small businesses with legislation to protect them, Buy from Michigan companies first (from the state), provide workers access to training and living wage jobs, work across the aisle to put together a sound economic development strategy.

**Gina Johnsen (REP)** Open up all businesses in Michigan before there are more permanent job losses. All jobs are essential to those who have bills to pay. It's not fair to pick and choose who gets to provide for their family. Place a moratorium on lawsuits against businesses because of Covid sickness. Ensure accessibility and affordability of all medications and therapies that doctors choose, without interference of politicians or non-healthcare professionals who arbitrarily decide what should be available. Allow businesses to set their own safety and health standards and take responsibility for their employees and customers.

**Dalton R. McCuiston (GREEN PARTY)** 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?

**Angela Witwer (DEM)** I support the 2018 adopted Proposal 3 for absentee voting. Especially during this time of the pandemic, we do not want people choosing between voting and their health safety. Voters need to have the ease of voting from home. I support a transparent form of campaign funding. Every dollar donated and received should be reported so that the voter can see who donated to their candidates.

**Gina Johnsen (REP)** I support open and fair elections and severe penalties for voter fraud.

**Dalton R. McCuiston (GREEN PARTY)** Candidate did not respond.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## District 71 Candidate Responses (continued)

**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?*

**Angela Witwer (DEM)** Michigan is known for their great lakes. We host 20% of the world's fresh water and it must be protected. We need to oppose efforts to weaken our environmental protections and prevent pollution, prevent drilling and fracking without permission, expand parks and trails. I am committed to promoting a healthy state that promotes energy efficiency and renewable energy. I would like to continue to look into additional renewable energy and energy efficiencies beyond the 10% standard set in 2008.

**Gina Johnsen (REP)** We should utilize every possible type of energy sources available, and seek to find new renewable energy sources, processes and production methods that are realistic, sustainable, affordable and efficient. I support appropriate government oversight to ensure clean water, air and soil as these are basic to human life and sustainability.

**Dalton R. McCuiston (GREEN PARTY)** 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?*

**Angela Witwer (DEM)** Michigan and the country need to understand the uniqueness of each individual and remove barriers. We need to fund and provide programs and activities that will teach students and adults how to meet their potential. To fix the above stated issues we need to begin with shining a light on them and educating the public. I make sure listeners understands that 16% of our district is food insecure. We need to look into grant dollars to solve housing issues for those in poverty and think outside of the box to solve hunger and inequities. I believe time is up on racism. We must enact strong laws prohibiting hate and racism.

**Gina Johnsen (REP)** Provide more economic opportunity for families so they can make appropriate employment choices to meet the needs of their children and senior parents whom they care for. Encourage 2 parent families for the sake of the economic stability of the children. Supplement senior housing and living costs by encouraging collaboration between government, senior centers, and civic organizations to meet seniors' needs.

**Dalton R. McCuiston (GREEN PARTY)** 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?*

**Angela Witwer (DEM)** I would like to see a loophole closed for gun licensing. I would like to see the mandatory background check - that are regularly done when buying a gun at a store - done when buying a gun at a gun show. This is a small and widely acceptable change by gun owners.

**Gina Johnsen (REP)** Encourage health and safety education so that women and people in urban areas have adequate access to self defense tools. Make sure communities feel necessary support by having access to resources that decrease violence, cope with trauma, provide adequate police rescue, provide mental health support, suicide awareness, and social workers.

## 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 Eaton Land Bank.

### BOB ROBINSON - DEM

**Occupation:** Eaton County Treasurer

**Email:** bob@bobrobinsonfortreasurer.com

**Website:** bobfortreasurer.com

**Facebook:** facebook.com/reelectbobrobinson/

**Education:** Certified in advanced public funds investment management and accredited in public relations

**Phone:** 517-281-8399

**Address:** 9421 Bismark Hwy  
Vermontville, MI 49096



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

I have experience in financial services and investments. I am certified in public funds investment management by the Municipal Treasurer's Association of the U.S. and Canada. I am Vice President of the Michigan Association of County Treasurers and will serve as its president in 2021/2022. I am past treasurer for the Michigan Association of County Treasurers, and a past treasurer of the Eaton County United Way. I have extensive knowledge of the General Property Tax Act and have been successful in bipartisan work with the State Legislatures in crafting law to benefit the citizens of Eaton County. My office has had 0 audit findings in 8 years. I want to generate positive outcomes for Eaton County. I have saved hundreds of homes and businesses from tax foreclosure, reduced county debt by over \$5,000,000, reduced borrowing by almost \$1,000,000 yearly, created a new Eaton County Land Bank, and generated \$1,600,000 for a new Foreclosure Stabilization Fund to fight blight in Eaton County.

**Question 2**  
**What are the priority issues facing the Eaton County Treasurer?**

My priorities include reducing annual borrowing to \$0, expanding use of technology to improve efficiency, and safeguarding the county treasury with advanced electronic security. Our economy will face many challenges in the months ahead including increasing tax foreclosures, reduced state revenues, and declining investment returns. I am prepared to deal with these issues head on in a way that expands opportunities for local families and businesses. Efficiency and good management will continue as the hallmarks of my next administration. Today the Eaton County Treasurer's office is doing twice what the treasurer's office did in 2012 with no increase in staffing. Financial empowerment for citizens will be a focus of my future work. A tight track on spending and good credit control helps people buy homes, pay bills, and better finance student debt. When citizens are empowered financially, it strengthens the economy of the entire county so we can all thrive.

### MIKE ATAYAN - REP

Candidate did not respond

Candidate did not respond

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## 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.

<p><b>Question 1</b> Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the the Eaton County Sheriff.</p>	<p><b>Question 2</b> What are the priority issues facing the Eaton County Sheriff?</p>
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### TOM REICH - DEM

**Occupation:** Eaton County Sheriff

**Email:** r.tom820@gmail.com

**Website:** tomreichforsheriff.com/

**Facebook:** facebook.com/SheriffTomReich/

**Education:** FBI Law Enforcement Executive Seminar, National Sheriffs Institute, Lansing Community College

**Phone:** 517-927-4454

**Address:** 4367 Eaton River Trail, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827



My top priorities are to continue pushing professionalism, ensuring the best training and technology are available to deputies, crime reduction through strategic patrols, and further development of evidence-based policing strategies. In 2019, I was named Michigan Sheriff Of The Year. I spent 25 years as an Ingham County Deputy. After that I served as Gaming Director at the Michigan Lottery, responsible for regulatory enforcement of the Gaming Act. Recently Gov. Whitmer appointed me to the new Suicide Prevention Commission. I serve as President of the Lansing Area Safety Council, and on the MI Intelligence Operations Center for Homeland Security Advisory Council, Eaton County Veterans Court Board, Eaton County Adult Drug Court, and Eaton County Community Corrections Board. I am a graduate of the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Seminar, the National Sheriffs Institute, and Lansing Community College. I have three grown children and reside in Eaton Rapids with my wife, Michele

Law enforcement must look at strong training programs. When I became Sheriff I implemented regular de-escalation & conflict management training and worked to root out bad apples. Other Accomplishments: Mandated body cameras for patrol personnel. Training to Deputies in Fair & Impartial Policing and Verbal Defense & Influence - two nationally-recognized de-escalation and conflict management trainings. Participated in the region's first mental illness crisis intervention training (CIT) program with many Deputies certified as CIT leaders. Improved relations with the State Police and others to enhance collaboration, share resources, and prevent and solve crimes. Expanded the Meth Enforcement Team to locate and eradicate meth labs. Partnered with Capital Area Violent Crimes Initiative to keep violent offenders off our streets. Working to protect seniors from being the target of scams. Early leader in fighting the opioid epidemic, enacting policies to protect citizens and save lives.

### RICK JONES - REP

**Occupation:** Former Sheriff and Senator

**Email:** rickjones24@gmail.com

**Website:** rickjonesforsheriff.com

**Facebook:** Rick Jones

**Education:** Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University. FBI Law Enforcement training

**Phone:** 517-410-9495

**Address:** CTE Rick Jones Sheriff PO Box 115 Grand Ledge, MI 48837



31 years with the Eaton County Sheriff Department- served as Deputy, Sgt., Lieutenant, Captain, Jail Administrator and Sheriff. During my service at Eaton County I handled major disasters and evacuations such as the Potterville train wreck. During my service I was shot at twice in the line of duty, stopped two men who were armed and planning an armed robbery, faced several men with butcher knives, faced "suicide by cop". On each situation I de-escalated the violence, talked the men down, and made the arrests safely. I want to have better training for deputies. I trained the first African American deputy sheriff. I want a police department that is diverse like the community it serves. Deputies need better training to de-escalate possible violent situations. I will NOT allow any mistreatment of citizens based on race, religion, or sexual orientation. All citizens have the right to protection and the service of the Sheriff Department.

Severe budget cuts coming soon. Deputies have already been cut from road patrol. I will work for at least \$70,000 less compensation than the current Sheriff to keep a deputy on the road protecting citizens. Over the last 7 years the Eaton County Sheriff Department has been on the front page for many issues. One was: Deputy abusing a citizen for a minor traffic stop. False arrest and jailing. Prosecutor released the man. NO action was taken by the Sheriff. The deputy was allowed to resign. He then went to another police department and assaulted other people. It is the Sheriff's duty to send the report of the bad behavior to the prosecutor for review and possible charges. To simply allow the deputy to resign is malfeasance of duty. There are accusations of racism that must be addressed with better training. It is widely known that the Sheriff works part time. I will be a full time Sheriff. Available 24-7. The tax payers of Eaton County deserve full service.

## EATON COUNTY PROPOSAL

### EATON COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (EATRAN) MILLAGE RENEWAL AUTHORIZATION QUESTION

**Yes No**

For the purpose of providing funds for the exclusive use of public transportation purposes, to include accommodation for the elderly and handicapped by the Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRAN), at the same millage level previously approved by the voters in 2012, shall the previously voted increase in the constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which may be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Eaton, Michigan, be continued and renewed at up to 0.2500 of a mill (\$0.25 on each \$1,000 dollars of taxable value) for a period of five (5) years, 2022 to 2026, inclusive, and shall the County of Eaton be authorized to levy such millage for said purposes? The estimate of the revenue for the County of Eaton in the 2022calendar year is approximately \$1,025,873. A small portion of the revenue collected (approximately \$11,875 in 2022) may be required to be distributed to Downtown Development Authorities, Tax Increment Financing Authorities, Local Development Financing Authorities and Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Authorities established in cities of Charlotte, Eaton Rapids, Grand Ledge, Potterville, and Village of Bellevue.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## 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.

	<b>Question 1</b> Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Eaton County Drain Commissioner.	<b>Question 2</b> What are the priority issues facing the Eaton County Drain Commissioner?
<b>BRANDEN DYER - DEM</b> Email: bdyer352@gmail.com Phone: 517-588-8418	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond
<b>RICHARD WAGNER - REP</b> Occupation: Drain Commissioner of Eaton County Email: cwagner60@aol.com Website: reelectwagner.com Facebook: facebook.com/relectwagner Education: Graduate of Waverly High School and attended Lansing Community College. Address: 9415 Nixon Road, Grand Ledge, MI 48917 	I have been the Eaton County Drain Commissioner for two terms (8 years). I have been certified by EGLE (formerly DEQ) as a Storm Water Operator and am experienced in administering projects under the State of Michigan Drain Code. As Drain Commissioner, and a past excavation contractor I have over 12 years of practical knowledge handling personnel and managing drain construction sites. I am an experienced leader and have successfully maintained the Eaton County drains in a cost-efficient manner. I have saved Eaton County property owners millions of dollars by refinancing drain bonds at much lower interest rates. I have the experience, knowledge, and expertise to manage the Office of Drain Commissioner here in Eaton County. I am running for re-election as your Eaton County Drain Commissioner to keep the momentum and continue the essential work which we are doing for the property owners. I fully understand the role and enjoy being your drain commissioner.	1.Road Flooding: I have been and will continue to work with citizens and local government officials using the petition process required by the state Drain Code to improve and upgrade areas where road flooding has been a significant issue. 2. Road Culvert Failures: I will continue to work with the Eaton County Road Commission to identify, coordinate and repair County Drain culvert failures to avoid home, farm field and road flooding. 3 . Excessive runoff due to extreme weather/rain over past several years. We have identified the problem areas across the 800+ County Drains and are cleaning brush and debris to improve drain flow. Many of the drains were installed over 50 years ago and are undersized given development that has occurred over the years. We are working to find cost effective solutions and/or upgrade those areas as petitions are received and found necessary per the Drain Code. We welcome property owners input and strive to address problems as they arise.

## Eaton 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.

	<b>1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Eaton County Board of Commissioners.</b>	<b>2. What are the priority issues facing the Eaton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?</b>	<b>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?</b>	<b>4. Do you see the role of the county health department changing as a result of our experiences with COVID-19?</b>
<b>DISTRICT 1</b> <b>Rob Piercefield - DEM</b> Email: robpiercefield@gmail.com Phone: 517-449-3246	Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.
<b>Tim Barnes - REP</b> Email: volsfaninmi@gmail.com Phone: 517-763-5250	Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## Eaton 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.

<p><b>1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the Eaton County Board of Commissioners.</b></p>	<p><b>2. What are the priority issues facing the Eaton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them if elected?</b></p>	<p><b>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?</b></p>	<p><b>4. Do you see the role of the county health department changing as a result of our experiences with COVID-19?</b></p>
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### DISTRICT 2 TJ Bucholz - DEM

**Occupation:** President and Managing Partner, Vanguard Public Affairs  
**Email:** tj.bucholz@gmail.com  
**Web Site:** votetjbucholz.com



**Facebook:** TJ Bucholz For Eaton County Commission District 2  
**Education:** BS, Central Michigan University; MPA, Western Michigan University  
**Phone:** 517-898-4641  
**Address:** 914 Oneida Woods Trail, Grand Ledge, Michigan

Professional Journalist 1994-1996, Communications Director for two Michigan school districts, 1997-1999, State of Michigan Communications and Policy Professional, 1999-2008, Senior Program Officer, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, 2008-10, Senior Director, Lambert, Edwards, and Associates, 2010-2014, Founder, President and Managing Partner, Vanguard Public Affairs, 2014 to Present. I have extensive government experience working in the realms of health care and education. Since joining the private sector, I have guided public officials, political candidates, foundations, private corporations, and nonprofits to successes in their respective industries. I believe strongly in volunteerism and serve on several boards across the region. I'm running for County Commission because I believe it's time for new leadership and increasingly innovative ideas for Eaton County as we work toward being competitive in the 21st century.

My three priorities for Eaton County are: Innovation – We have to do more to improve the way we tax our businesses and our people – with the challenge of a weakening economic climate, we need to collaborate on innovative solutions that address our legacy costs, improve our infrastructure, and reform our tax system so we put local government first. If we do, we will thrive as a state and a nation. Investment - Eaton County will only thrive when we focus our collective work on supporting every community fairly, while continuing to support better-paying jobs, accessible health care, affordable housing that fits every budget, and cleaner drinking water for all. I am supportive of seeking new ways of funding our priorities, while seeking efficiencies and government reform across the board. Transparency – Citizens need a government that puts them first. For too long, county government has done its work in the shadows. We've made significant improvements but more needs to be done.

There are a multitude of environmental issues we need to have a laser-like focus on - the water quality of our aquifers has to be a top priority for county officials so we ensure our drinking water remains pristine. There are many communities in the county where this is a challenge because of the high mineral content in our water alone and we have to keep our eye on that development. Without clean water, we will not survive economically and we must safeguard that resource at all costs. I'd also like Eaton County to be a leader in alternative vehicle development - as that industry transitions away from gasoline and toward electricity, the County could do more to create charging stations for electric cars and trucks regionally - right now our infrastructure doesn't support the need and government could do more, in concert with federal and state officials, to make this a reality. This development would encourage more alternative vehicles on the road, which improve our air quality.

I think Eaton County has been a leader in its public health response to the COVID-19 challenge and its health department has done a good job tracking and monitoring cases. The Commission has done a lot to ensure it understands the challenges facing the state of Michigan and has generally been supportive of Governor Whitmer and her work. Police and first responders across the county have done a good job patrolling and keeping people safe. So far, I haven't been disappointed in their work and I believe conversations are beginning to pivot into economic issues. I'm worried that some officials think COVID-19 is some sort of hoax and would love to see elected embrace health guidance and the continued use of masks. It's easy to get complacent and our leaders can't let us. That's why we need to ensure we are recruiting the best and brightest to help lead our county's continuing response to this pandemic.

### Blake Mulder - REP

**Email:** blake@blakemulder.com  
**Phone:** 517-331-7435

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

### DISTRICT 3 Terrance Augustine DEM

**Occupation:** Co-Owner Flour Child Bakery /CFO  
**Email:** terrance12\_2000@yahoo.com



**Education:** Bachelors in Business Administration Minors Finance/Economics & Marketing, Maple Valley High School  
**Phone:** 517-643-1849  
**Address:** 1211 Pennington Circle Grand Ledge MI 48837

I am currently serving my fourth term as County Commissioner representing the majority of the great City of Grand Ledge and was elected Chairperson, almost unanimously by my peers on both sides of the aisle in 2019 and continue to serve in that capacity today. My wife and I own and operate the family owned and awardwinning Flour Child Bakery in Grand Ledge. Prior to starting our business, I worked for 15 years in the banking industry at local community banks including in my most recent capacity as a Senior Executive. I am also a long-time member of the GL Downtown Development Association, Past President of GL Rotary and the GL Farmer's Market. My wife and I continue to leverage our businesses success to give back to the Grand Ledge Community, Lansing Region and beyond. I have lived in Eaton County my entire life and believe my experience in both the public and private sector as well as my leadership uniquely positions me to be the best choice for Eaton County Commissioner.

The top priorities of Eaton County Government include keeping our citizens safe and secure with a high level of quality of life, facilitating fiscally responsible operations to ensure financial sustainability and to improve local infrastructure and economic development opportunities. In order to address these priorities, it is crucial to engage with local and regional partners and elected officials on all sides of the aisle, and I have experience doing that. I also have experience working with private and public budgets and am know as the numbers guy to my peers. I also have a record of delivering results to the residents of Eaton County in improving our infrastructure, as a commissioner and leader. As a small business owner with a strong financial background and a record of bipartisanship, I have worked hard and will continue to work hard to forge regional relationships and partnerships across the aisle with other officials to improve the life of Eaton County residents.

While much of the work that needs to be done cannot be done at the local level, we must do what we can locally to sustain a clean and lasting environment for this generation and those that follow. Partly due to changing weather patterns and extreme weather events that scientists believe are tied to climate change the farmers in this county have suffered in recent years and will continue to if nothing is done at all levels of government. This year I will be appointing a Sustainability Committee that will look at ways we can help address climate change and take action to be more sustainable on a local level. I have worked with other regional organizations and governments to improve local recycling capabilities and am in the process of working with other board members to design a more efficient and effective structure to our local recycling programs. As Board Chairperson, I will continue to make our environment and sustainability a priority, locally and regionally.

As Board Chairperson, I have worked closely with our local Health Officer during the Covid-19 pandemic. Overall, I believe we have done a good job maintaining operations and keeping our residents safe, there are certainly things we can learn from to be better prepared for an emergency like this in the future, even if it means being critical of ourselves and our responses if the data dictates such. As an owner of a small business that has been forced to temporarily close due to this pandemic and a county leader, I believe we must continue to review our actions for opportunities to learn from our mistakes. While reflection cannot change the current outcome, it can help to be better prepared for the next crisis we will face. As we move into the next phase of this crisis and hopefully soon into the post Covid world, I will work with the Health Officer and Board of Health to make sure we review our response and continue to improve our local preparedness for future events.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## Eaton 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 Eaton County Board of Commissioners.	2. What are the priority issues facing the Eaton 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 3</b> <b>Darren C. Musolff</b> <b>REP</b> Email: dmusolff510@gmail.com Phone: 517-290-1346</p>	Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.	Candidate did not respond.
<p><b>DISTRICT 4</b> <b>Brandon Haskell - DEM</b> Occupation: Project Manager Email: brandon.m.haskell@gmail.com Website: electhaskell.com Facebook: facebook.com/Haskell-4Commissioner/ Education: Grand Ledge Graduate 2006 U of M - Flint BA Political Science Phone: 517-282-3200 Address: electhaskell@gmail.com</p>  <p>Prior to being a project manager I worked as a legislative staffer serving Eaton County. That experience put me in touch with the needs of our residents from Bellevue to Delta and everywhere in between. During that time we faced down foreclosure crisis, unstable employment, and much more. My history will be valuable for the country in the coming years.</p>	<p>The budget will be the biggest problem for county governments everywhere. The counties need to make a concentrated effort to seek full reimbursements for damages from covid-19. I am also open to soliciting the advice from nonpartisan groups line the MSU extension.</p>	<p>Not too far from my district lies a coal fired power plant that is planned for decommission. Expediting the process would improve air quality and overall regional health. Eaton County should reinforce a message of openness for green power development.</p>	<p>Overall, no. I see the impact the county health dept has now and I am satisfied with the impact and professionalism I have seen. That being said, rumors of Barry county wanting to break away from the current agreement means that Eaton should be ready for an alternative arrangement.</p>	
<p><b>Rick Olivarez - REP</b> Occupation: Department senior Analyst Email: rickolivarez8@gmail.com Facebook: Rick Olivarez for Eaton County Commissioner District 4 Education: Masters in General Administration, Central Michigan University 1995. BA in BA from CMU in 1985 Phone: 517-303-3534 Address: 6616 Old River Trail Lansing, Michigan 48917</p>  <p>Education and work experience makes me qualified for the County Commissioner of Eaton County. Work experience in workforce programs, worker's compensation, agricultural programs, and Energy and environment, and Great Lakes issues and concerns. As long with my volunteer services, Knights of Columbus, meals on wheels, Cristo Rey Community center, and greater Lansing area United way. All of these education and work experiences make me highly qualified for the Eaton County Commission.</p>	<p>1) concern about our drinking water and quality of air. I want to have testing of air quality and water quality, tested for PFAS and lead, test for anychemical or substances in the soil. Provide federal grants funding to meet federal requirements for safe water, air and soil within Eaton County. 2) law enforcement and community relations. Strengthen the relationships between law enforcement and community relations. I would implement a community relations program with law enforcement. With my experience in Civil rights implement a law enforcement racial sensitivity training. 3)</p>	<p>1) major concern in the environment within Eaton County had to do with drinking water. Eaton County needs to test for PFAS contamination. And Eaton County needs to be provided information on how to properly utilize your water to lower contamination of lead and other chemicals in our drinking water. I will draft a resolution to test our drinking water and educate the entire county on safety drinking water tips!</p>	<p>Yes, COVID-19 virus, is still being tested and scientific research for a vaccine and how to prevent the virus from spreading. Permanent procedures implemented to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.</p>	

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## Eaton 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.

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<p><b>DISTRICT 10</b> <b>Matthew S. Bowen</b> <b>DEM</b></p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> General motors employee <b>Email:</b> runred@sbcglobal.net <b>Facebook:</b> Re-elect Matt Bowen county commissioner <b>Education:</b> High school graduate, 1.5 years of community college. <b>Phone:</b> 517-896-8317 <b>Address:</b> 225 E. Quincy St. Dimondale MI 48821</p> 	<p>I am the current incumbent and was elected in 2018. I am still new to the board of commissioners and have learned alot over the past two years. I am running for commissioner again because I believe I represent the common population of our county and those voices. I have always made my decisions that way as a commissioner and will continue to do the same.</p>	<p>One of the primary issues is revenue, we have many wonderful reasons to visit and stay in Eaton county. We need to advertise these outdoor facilities to draw more attention and participation from within and outside the county. Another issue that I am committed to is to have the county work as a cohesive team. We do not have the resources or time to be divided.</p>	<p>Obviously the world has recognized that we need to find a way to slow the use of fossil fuels. Here at the county we voted to move into the direction for the use of renewable energy, while still preserving the natural beauty of our wonderful county. By placing regulations on how those types of energy can be utilized and where they can be built.</p>	<p>The county health department has already taken steps to build in more protections for employees and residents, but there overall role I do not believe will change.</p>
<p><b>Dairus Reynnet</b> <b>REP</b></p> <p><b>Email:</b> dfr1946@yahoo.com <b>Phone:</b> 248-252-7834</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond.</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond.</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond.</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond.</p>
<p><b>DISTRICT 12</b> <b>Tim Lewis - DEM</b></p> <p><b>Occupation:</b> Retired Educator <b>Email:</b> timlewis72@yahoo.com <b>Education:</b> B.A. Eastern Michigan University, M.A. Eastern Michigan University <b>Phone:</b> 517-281-1446 <b>Address:</b> 860 Chads Way, Charlotte, Michigan 48813</p> 	<p>I served on the Grand Ledge City Council for three terms and was a member of the Eaton County Commissioners for one term while living in Grand Ledge. When we moved to Charlotte, I was elected to the Charlotte City Council for one term. I was then elected Mayor of Charlotte and served from 2015 to 2019. I have worked with political people at all levels and have always kept my focus on what best serves the people I represented. I am running to work on various issues that I think will clearly benefit the people of our district and our county as a whole. I also want work to provide better communication between the Board and our citizens.</p>	<p>I am running to focus on issues that I feel are important for our citizens. I want to be a champion for development of our new county park.I would work to see that we keep it as a top project for the Board. I also want to improve communication between the Board and our citizens. I would begin:"-Tim Talks Eaton County". It would be a live Facebook event held each month. The purpose is to let people know what the Board is doing and to interview people who impact individual citizens lives. I did this as Mayor, and had an excellent citizen response. I would also look into the future of recycling in our county. I would work to see if we can find a county solution for recycling services. A finial issue is keeping our first responders equipt with the best tools and resources available to keep them safe and secure in their day to day activities.</p>	<p>Eaton County has not had a central recycling center. Individual units of government have attempted to provide recycling services in different ways. Charlotte Area Recycling Authority has served the City of Charlotte and neighboring townships. It has people working that are available to assist recyclers. Potterville in Alliance Park provides bins for citizen drop-off. Other cities and townships offer their own solution for collection of material. I would like for us to see how other counties have set up their county recycling center. It might provide another option for people outside their local community efforts.</p>	<p>Every department within county government will change as a result of the COVID-19 virus. In the health department, I see a larger role in education the citizens on major health issues. I would see a continued focus on prevention and importance of being informed as a local citizen to keep your self and your neighbors safe from illness. I would see the department team working with all the county departments on returning to "normal" in relation to keeping a workplace safe.</p>

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## Eaton 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 Eaton County Board of Commissioners.	2. What are the priority issues facing the Eaton 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?
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### DISTRICT 12 Brian Lautzenheiser REP

**Occupation:** Insurance Agent  
**Email:** brianlautz6@gmail.com  
**Facebook:** facebook.com/Elect-Brian-Lautzenheiser-to-County-Commissioner-611473418949847  
**Education:** 2001 Charlotte High School 2005 Central Michigan University  
**Phone:** 517-896-7450  
**Address:** 3292 E Daryls Way Charlotte, MI 48813



I have served on the Eaton County Board of Commissioners for 3 terms. I have been on the board long enough to see how and where I can have an impact. I was the chairman of Public Works and Planning and have served on Weys and Means Sub-Committee for all 3 terms. I am aware of the financial issues facing the County. On a personal note I was born in Charlotte, I have worked in Charlotte my entire life. I know the culture and have worked hard to know the constituents of the 12th District. I am running for another term because we need solid, realistic leadership going into the years to come. We need people who are going to have a level head and do what is best for Eaton County.

Future budgets are a concern coming off of the economic fall out from COVID 19. There will be some tough decisions in regards to the revenue and funding for programs and departments within Eaton County in coming years. I will work with County and State leadership to make sure Eaton County is positioned to survive and begin to thrive again. Developing Crandell Park is a goal of mine. We have been blessed with the amazing green space. We now need to understand what our community desires from this park. We need to begin staffing it and developing it for the future. Creating a sustainable plan for all the Eaton County recycling sites. The business of recycling has not been good and we need to come up with a comprehensive plan on how that will be accomplished. I am currently serving on a bipartisan committee addressing the recycling and environmental issues of Eaton County.

At the County we are investigating how to take our campus off the grid. We are researching what the costs are and how we can lead by example with our government buildings. Our most urgent local issue is the decline of service and revenue for the local resource recovery centers (recycling centers). We need to find a way to help them continue or look into a more regional approach. This issue is being looked at from both sides of the isle.

Personally I do not wish to see the department expanding their enforcement roles. They are doing a great job of collecting the data and providing that information to the public. They are working with any portion of the district that experiences an outbreak just like they would if there was any other kind of health emergency. Their changes will be seen in the funding arena. So much of what they do is based on budgeted reimbursements from DHHS or other grant sources and we are all in uncharted waters when it comes to COVID. They are doing what is best for the people and citizens of Eaton & Barry County. They might not be rewarded for it from a budget perspective. Difficult times to say the least.

### DISTRICT 14 Lisa A. Deavers DEM

**Email:** merrit36@yahoo.com  
**Phone:** 517-749-8400

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate did not respond.

### Jeremy Whittum REP

**Occupation:** Economics Professor  
**Email:** jeremywhittum@aol.com  
**Facebook:** Jeremy Whittum  
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**Address:** 8066 Horace Lane, Eaton Rapids MI 48827



I served the citizens of District 14 from 2010-2016. My County service went well. I served for three consecutive terms and chose not to run for a fourth term. The commissioner who succeeded me did not complete the last term she was elected to serve. The current incumbent commissioner was appointed. I have been asked by many community leaders and a plethora of district residents to return to the Board of Commissioners. I hold a Master's degree from Central Michigan University. I served a 21-year total in the US Army/National Guard, 2008/09 I deployed to Iraq. Prior public service includes Hamlin Township Supervisor, City of Eaton Rapids Planning Commissioner, currently I serve as the alternate member to the County Zoning Board of Appeals. Community reinvestment I served as Eaton County United Way Treasure. I am currently a member of Eaton County Hospice/Palliative Care Board. (This response was edited by LWVLA.)

Throughout my six years of County service the concerns I heard the most were: affordable property taxes, retaining private property rights, environmental concerns and preserving Americas Second Amendment. Public Safety and mental health issues are high priorities. Infrastructure and roads are constant concerns. I was a member of the ad hoc committee that developed the secondary road millage ballot request. Eaton County voters passed the secondary road millage ballot proposal funding secondary roads for twelve years. The 15 members of our Eaton County Board of Commissioners are elected to serve a County of 110,000 people. Putting egos and hidden agendas aside, working in the spirit of bipartisan cooperation, with the focus of community service the budget will prioritize the needs of our County.

When we as a society do not have clean air, water, and soil we do not have life. Counties in Michigan have limited jurisdictional authority to regulate environmental issues. Health Departments are the agencies empowered to act on the local level. Private sector markets are transiting from finite non-renewable energy sources to renewable energy sources. The County Board of Commissioners when leasing or purchasing vehicles should explore the cost and benefit of hybrid vehicles. When technology makes it financially prudent our Eaton County Courthouse Complex should be converted to renewable energy.

We are fortunate the initial Covid-19 were inaccurate. Health-Departments are the local unit of government for the enforcement of covid-19 safety protocols. The World Health Organization, Center for Disease Control, Surgeon General, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and numerous hospital and medical universities have not acted in unison. The subject matter experts and institutions have developed conflicting guidance and have changed guidance. A quick google search on the above agencies one will see how the guidance has changed in the last few months and confliction among organizations occurred. Until all health organizations throughout the United States are in succinct agreement, local health departments should remain flexible with local health guidance and protocols relevant to the specifics of local areas. As guidance becomes standardized local health departments should incorporate uniform standardization for Covid-19 local protocols.

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## 56A District Court Judge - Non Partisan • Term: 6 Years • Candidates: Choose 1

The District Court is where most people come in contact with Michigan's court system, District Court judges handle civil litigation with claims up to \$25,000, most traffic violations, eviction procedures, landlord-tenant matters, and misdemeanor criminal cases. It also conducts the preliminary examinations in all felony cases. The court administrators a small claims division. The legislatures designates district courts, based on population and caseload.

<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?
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### BEN CWAYNA

**Occupation:** Attorney  
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**Education:** Michigan State University, 1999-2003 (BA) Michigan State University College of Law, 2003-2006 (JD)  
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It is important to have judges with the requisite experience and knowledge on both ends of the legal spectrum, civil and criminal, to render just and lawful decisions pertaining to everything from landlord tenant disputes to collection matters to criminal sentencing and rehabilitation efforts. As lead defense counsel for the Eaton County Veteran's Court (and as a public defender), I have seen firsthand the value that our various treatment courts bring to the table. As a private attorney, I have litigated numerous civil disputes in the district court. I have practiced in both spheres of the law (civil and criminal) and believe that I have the requisite judgment, knowledge and even temperament to make an effective judge. I also believe practicing in the private sector for my entire career gives me a unique perspective on the challenges that small business owners and private citizens encounter when entering the legal system.

I am very much in favor of these types of specialty/treatment courts. As noted above, I am currently serving as the defense counsel for the Eaton County Veteran's Court. In this role I work with a team of high qualified individuals, including the Circuit Judge and treatment professionals, to work to deliver rehabilitation and services to our veterans who have been convicted of crimes and who are currently going through probation. In this setting, a team approach supersedes any adversarial trial tactics as the prosecutor, defense attorney, judge, probation officers and treatment professionals work together for the betterment of our veteran defendants. This has been a very rewarding experience for me. If elected I will continue this path of treatment courts which have already been established in the district court by Judge Reincke.

Most certainly. There is a great deal of mystery about the procedures of courts and it is no secret that many litigants in the district court proceed without attorneys. A judge needs to understand this reality and work both in and outside of the courtroom to improve the public understanding of the court system. As a down to earth lawyer, I will remain a down to earth judge and all who enter my courtroom will be treated with respect, dignity and with an eye towards understanding that the individual may not exactly understand the process. Outside of the courtroom, I believe it is incumbent upon a judge to speak to civic organizations and utilize the position to improve knowledge and education about the court system in all manners. I have taken an active role in this sort of legal education in my own practice by hosting free seminars on estate planning for a number of years.

### KELLY MORTON

**Occupation:** Senior Assistant Prosecuting Attorney  
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**Education:** Michigan State University College of Law – Juris Doctor Magna Cum Laude  
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From 2000 to 2002, I served as a Law Clerk for the 26th Circuit Court. From 2002 to 2003, I served as an Assistant Prosecutor in Alpena County. Since 2003, I have served as an Assistant Prosecutor in Eaton County. During that time, I worked in District Court, was assigned as the dedicated Drug Prosecutor, the dedicated Domestic Violence Prosecutor, and have prepared appeals including argument before the Court of Appeals. Currently, I handle a Circuit Court docket and prosecute the majority of our sexual assault cases. I am running for District Court Judge because the citizens of Eaton County need a Judge with the right kind of experience to protect their rights, fairly decide all matters, and who understands the ever-evolving treatment and rehabilitation available. District Court is where all criminal cases begin and about 80% of the docket is criminal. My extensive experience in this area uniquely qualifies me for the position, along with the civil experience from my clerking days.

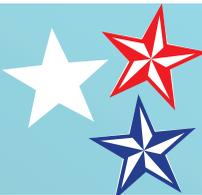
I am a firm believer in treatment courts or alternative courts. I do not believe they are appropriate in all cases but if, for example, a substance abuse or psychological issue of some sort is driving a person's behavior, public safety is best served by addressing the issue. Research tells us that the use of treatment courts reduces recidivism. All courts should be using an evidencebased approach to treatment and sanctions. I have extensive experience in all the treatment courts in Eaton County and was a member of the organizational team for our Domestic Violence Treatment Court, the Jeffrey L. Sauter Veterans Treatment Court, and the Swift and Sure Sanctions program. In addition, I have participated in the reorganization of the Sobriety Court and Adult Circuit Drug Court. I have participated in numerous trainings and conferences on the treatment court model. I am committed to continuing to use that model to improve outcomes and public safety.

Judges play an important role in educating the public about the role of courts. In fact, the Michigan Code of Judicial Conduct allows judges to speak, lecture, and teach about the law, the legal system, and the administration of justice. MCJC Cannon 4. In the past, our local court has engaged in programs such as Courts in Schools where Court is held in a local high school so the students can see for themselves how the process works. Because judges are non-partisan, they are in the best position to provide unbiased information about the legal system and how it works to people who are not involved in the courts on a regular basis. Many negative misconceptions exist regarding the justice system, whether civil or criminal, and judges have an obligation to combat those misconceptions and improve the reputation and perception of courts in general. In any individual case, it is important for the court to be sure the participants understand the process they are engaged in.



# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



## Eaton Rapids School Board Election - Nonpartisan • 6 year term expiring 12/31/2026 • Choose 3 candidates

	QUESTION 1 Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the School Board.	QUESTION 2 What are the priority issues facing the School Board during this pandemic and how would you address them if elected?	QUESTION 3 What technology issues are affecting the district? How do you propose addressing them?
<p><b>STEVEN CURRY</b>  <b>Occupation:</b> Educator  <b>Email:</b> stecurry2013@gmail.com  <b>Education:</b> BA-Psychology: Univ. of Bridgeport; MATeaching: Columbia Intl. Univ.; MA - Educational Admin.-CMU</p>	<p>My wife Sarah and I are both seasoned educators who have three high school students that attend ERPS. I have been an educator for over 20 years as a teacher, instructional leader, curriculum director, and consultant supporting districts throughout Michigan. My work has enabled me to travel across the country to collaborate with other educational leaders on issues concerning district/school improvement. I am passionate about ensuring each student in Eaton Rapids, regardless of background, receives a high quality education that provides a solid foundation for exceeding personal goals through lifelong learning and positive civic contributions.</p>	<p>The School Board's priority is to ensure policies are in place that support a framework of cohesive systems for providing a world-class education for each Eaton Rapids student, regardless of current circumstances. Uncertainties will always exist, however strong leadership supported by effective systems will provide the vision for a successful path forward. Furthermore, sound fiscal stewardship is equally important. Therefore, as an elected Board member I will promote improving the current framework of systems such as communication, collective problem solving, instructional infrastructure, student supports, budgeting, and others. To ensure sustainable improvements producing excellent student outcomes, I support requiring a 3 to 5 year cohesive academic, facilities, and fiscal improvement plan cycle. No plan is pandemic proof; however, systems ensuring fiscal stability, academic excellence, and support for every student will withstand and learn from any challenge the district faces.</p>	<p>First, and foremost, it is critical to have a clear vision for technology integration into the instructional program. Therefore, as part of a systems review and cohesive continuous improvement plan, I will promote policy that supports the development and cyclical review of this vision. The expense of consistent maintenance and technological upgrades to support integration of technology is a critical factor for strategic planning. Currently, the district has a bond proposal on the ballot for consideration that will not cause our taxes to increase. Within this bond proposal are plans to update classroom technology. For this and other reasons, I will be supporting this bond proposal.</p>
<p><b>WESLEY R. ELSBERRY</b>  <b>Email:</b> welsberr@baywing.net  <b>Phone:</b> 517-525-8886</p>	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond
<p><b>DANIEL E. GUY</b>  <b>Email:</b> danielguy80@gmail.com  <b>Phone:</b> 517-712-5569</p>	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond
<p><b>JANN JANSEN</b>  <b>Email:</b> jannyj71@gmail.com  <b>Phone:</b> 517-588-9046</p>	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond

## Grand Ledge School Board Election - Nonpartisan • 6 year term expiring 12/31/2026 • Choose 2 candidates

	QUESTION 1 Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the School Board.	QUESTION 2 What are the priority issues facing the School Board during this pandemic and how would you address them if elected?	QUESTION 3 What technology issues are affecting the district? How do you propose addressing them?
<p><b>JAMIL JAMIL CAGE</b>  <b>Email:</b> jannyj71@gmail.com  <b>Phone:</b> 517-588-9046</p>	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond

# 2020 ELECTION PREVIEW PART 2

**VOTE IN PERSON OR ABSENTEE THRU NOV. 3**  
MATERIALS PROVIDED BY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

## Grand Ledge School Board Election - (continued) Nonpartisan • 6 year term expiring 12/31/2026 • Choose 2 candidates

	QUESTION 1 Please describe your qualifications and experiences and explain why you are running for the School Board.	QUESTION 2 What are the priority issues facing the School Board during this pandemic and how would you address them if elected?	QUESTION 3 What technology issues are affecting the district? How do you propose addressing them?
<p><b>RAYMONE E. GUDE</b>                      Email: raymone.gude@gmail.com                      Education: B.A. in History, Limestone College. M.S. in Sports Administration, Canisius College</p> 	<p>One of the main reasons I am running for School Board is due to the fact, that I have a vested interest in our public school system as my children attend both Neff Kindergar ten Center and Beagle Elementary School. Also, it is no secret that our school was recently faced with a serious grievance and the current school board members were indecisive at best and only acted after community outrage. I believe it is time to bring change with a fresh set of ideas and perspective. As a former Detention Officer and current Analyst with the Michigan State Police, I have heard and heeded the call to public service and feel that I can bring that perspective and experience to helping elevate the standards within the Grand Ledge Public School District for the benefit of the students and our community.</p>	<p>The next school board members will be tasked with interviewing and selecting a new Superintendent and I believe making the process transparent to the public and thorough in terms of narrowing the choice to the most qualified individual with a vision for the district. It is essential to me to restore the community's faith in the School Board and reclaim leadership as the school to attend and graduate from. I want to ensure that the tax dollars our community has chosen to invest in our school district are not only properly allocated but are employed to ensure that Grand Ledge Public Schools provide the best education in the region if not the state as a whole. As Grand Ledge Public Schools continue to provide exceptional education to our students, our schools and community will continue to grow. I can lend ideas and work with other board members to best navigate the challenges faced by such growth.</p>	<p>With the current mandate of our students learning virtually I believe that one of the main issues facing our district is the amount of communication between, students, their teachers, and parents. I feel that although as a district we are doing the best within our abilities nothing is perfect but that does not mean we cannot strive for perfection. I would just suggest to our teachers continue the great work and should something present a bigger problem in the future, make sure to have an open communication line with both the students and parents.</p>
<p><b>ANDREA L. HERRST</b>                      Email: election@drherrst.com                      Phone: 503-943-9302</p>	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond
<p><b>PATRICK MCKENNON</b>                      Email:patrickmckennon@comcast.net                      Phone: 517-281-4982</p>	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond	Candidate did not respond
<p><b>NICOLE SHANNON</b>                      Occupation: Attorney                      Email: shannon4gl@gmail.com                      Website: shannon4gl.com                      Facebook: facebook.com/Shannon4GL                      Education: B.A. in International Relations, Michigan State University. J.D., University of Michigan Law School                      Phone: 517-798-6682                      Address: PO Box 105 Grand Ledge, MI 48837</p> 	<p>I decided to run for School Board because I'm an alum, current parent of a First Grader, and problem solver. If you check the minutes, you'll see I've attended every single Board Meeting for the last several months--something that was pointed out during a recent meeting. I'm ready for the challenges facing GL. I'm a public interest attorney, handling cases pro bono for clients. I served on the Board of Directors for Housing Services Mid Michigan, where we addressed homelessness--and got veteran homelessness down to "functional zero." I also serve on the Attorney General's Elder Abuse Task Force, where we are transforming how our state handles elder abuse. The Task Force is working on legislation, training law enforcement, improving Adult Protective Services, and increasing services for older adults. Finally, as the daughter of an independent school board auditor, I'm familiar with the financial challenges facing the district.</p>	<p>1. The fallout of the superintendent's termination. When Dr. Metcalf was fired for making his comments about George Floyd, the community made clear we want action. I'm glad the Board hired an expert from MSU and is forming a committee to address Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. I want a new superintendent with a track record of addressing racial equity. 2. Safely educating our students. As a working parent, there are no perfect solutions. I want to support families by providing safe care options for our youngest students who need it. Teachers need our support as they go above and beyond to teach under these circumstances.3. Administering the bond issue. The board has a duty to oversee the bond and make sure things are done on time and on (or under) budget. 4. Budget. K-12 education is facing an unprecedented budget challenge. I've reviewed the financial documents and know Grand Ledge is prepared for a rainy day. I will continue that financial responsibility.</p>	<p>I'm proud of the steps the district has taken so far, and I'm sure there will be bumps along the way. As the school year starts, we're learning about the technology access gaps in our district. I am glad the district has made thousands of devices and wireless hotspots available to our students who requested them. My concern is for the families who may not be receiving the emails, texts, or phone calls and the families who may have numerous students who all need to access class materials simultaneously. I also know that our special education students may need services that can't be delivered virtually. I propose the district makes clear how families can access technology and tech support as the school year goes on. I also propose that to the extent technology can't do the job, we prioritize in-person services for special education students.</p>



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# ARTS & CULTURE

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## Social media helps breathe life into downtown businesses

### #LiftUpLocal makes one last push in October

By SKYLER ASHLEY

The coronavirus pandemic has made a visible impact on downtown Lansing, with several longtime businesses temporarily shut down or closed permanently. Permanent downtown closures include Good Slice Pizza, Taps 25, Los Tres Amigos and Studio 109, while businesses such as Strange Matter Coffee's downtown location have plans to return in some capacity.

For the businesses still in the trenches, and those that have already made comebacks — including Jalapenos, Goodfellas Bagel Deli and downtown's Grand Traverse Pie Co. — a much-needed boost has been given through the support of dedicated local shoppers and social media campaigns, such as Downtown Lansing Inc.'s #LiftUpLocal movement.

The October edition of #LiftUpLocal, which is the final push from the campaign, begins next week.

#LiftUpLocal, an idea originally conceived by Michigan Premier Events in 2019, began in August and functions with the help of 24 brand ambassadors that run the campaign on social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. For an entire week, once a month, ambassadors network with local businesses and promote their products and sales by reaching out to the local community online. The hashtag #LiftUpLocal is how supporters can follow the campaign.

Downtown Lansing Inc. tracked down its ambassadors, best described as a group of impassioned Lansing residents that wished to help out local small businesses amid the pandemic, through an application process on its website. The application required potential ambassadors to describe why they love Lansing, and how they could help with their social media presence.

"The #LiftUpLocal campaign came out of a July effort that we held called 'Fresh Taste of Downtown.' That program encouraged people to explore, or

re-explore, and support downtown, Old Town and REO Town," said Cathleen Ederly, Downtown Lansing Inc.'s executive director. "After 'Fresh Taste of Downtown,' we were approached about a brand ambassador program. We found 24 residents from the Lansing area that are social media savvy, and they were given \$100 gift cards to use in one-week, concentrated periods from August to October."

#LiftUpLocal's ambassadors connect with businesses of all types. The ambassadors also help spread the word about the sporadic events, happenings and pop-up shops that have been able to be hosted in downtown Lansing neighborhoods, such as the one-off sidewalk sales put on by Lansing Art Gallery.

"They highlight the importance of people visiting our local businesses through these tough times, and they also highlight who is still open," Ederly said.

Ederly said #LiftUpLocal can help boost a business's online presence — an absolutely vital factor to help reverse some of the dramatic damage suffered by the immediate decrease in foot traffic since March.

"It's definitely no secret there's been a dramatic decrease in our daytime population, and the amount of revenue and sales at our downtown businesses, specifically," Ederly said. "Some of the most successful businesses have started online stores and made Facebook Live videos featuring their products. Social media posts have played a huge part in keeping people updated."

Guillermo Flores, who recently moved to Lansing from Chicago, got involved with #LiftUpLocal after discovering the program via a Facebook post. Flores promotes local businesses and creatives with a weekly livestream talk show he hosts on his Instagram account, so he felt like it was only natural that he chipped in his support.

"This is already what I do, it already aligns with who I am as a person. This is a really cool community of people that just want to help out and share the story of Lansing," Flores said. "When you support a local business, you are sup-



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Burcay (left) and Aybars Gunguler, owners of Social Sloth Cafe & Bakery, which has received a lot of support through social media campaigns such as #LiftUpLocal

porting somebody's dream and something they're pouring their heart and soul into."

Priscilla Bordayo said her experience as a brand ambassador has helped her become more connected with her hometown and find some of her new favorite restaurants, such as The New Daily Bagel.

"The relationships I've been able to build with the workers and owners have just been incredible," Bordayo said. "It's necessary to support downtown Lansing; it got hit really hard during this pandemic. It's the small things like getting gift cards or writing social media posts about what you ordered that makes all the difference. It's on us."

Social Sloth Cafe & Bakery, a new cafe that opened in downtown Lansing back in September that specializes in Turkish cuisine, is one of the downtown shops that has received a helpful boost from #LiftUpLocal and its brand ambassadors.

"The Downtown Lansing Inc. team is always helpful and encouraging. Before

we actually opened, when we had first rented the building, they started to email and visit us," co-owner Burcay Gunguler said.

Social Sloth faced some challenges in the beginning. Its original grand opening was scheduled for May but was delayed due to complications with the coronavirus. But Gunguler said online support has brought in a lot of customers that otherwise might not have known about her restaurant. Brand ambassador Flores was immediately won over by the cafe and said he is now over his fear of sloths.

"We had the brand ambassadors come in one-by-one and eat and try our food. And now, when I ask people how they heard about us, they say, 'social media.'"

Gunguler said she's observed local shoppers being very supportive of downtown businesses.

"They're sharing and spreading the word. Once our neighbors are back open, like Jalapenos, everybody visited them. They're telling their friends, who are then telling their friends."

# CBD boutique brings extra green to Saginaw Highway

By COLE TUNNINGLEY

Cannabidiol — more commonly known as CBD — has seen a rise in popularity in recent years. You can even buy it at the gas station. It's one of over 100 chemical compounds found in marijuana used to treat a variety of ailments, aches and pains.

Nature's Kyoor on West Saginaw Highway is Lansing's newest CBD shop. It recently opened at a new location after shutting down for a few months during the height of the pandemic. Co-owner Chad Buzinski said the shop offers its product at prices low enough to rival wholesale costs.

"We wanted to open this business because manufacturers and retailers have been taking advantage of the consumers with pricing for so long," said Buzinski. "People should be able to improve their lifestyle and their health without breaking the bank."

There are many low-quality CBD products on the market. When demand went up, standards got lower. At Nature's Kyoor, each product is emblazoned with a QR code. Curious customers can scan that QR code with their smartphones to see detailed laboratory



## Nature's Kyoor

4421 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing  
Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
(517) 928-0053  
natureskyoor.com

tests.

Buzinski said that the lab tests will show whether products contain solvents or heavy metals. These ingredients are common in lower quality CBD products. Buzinski said that the CBD sold at Nature's Kyoor is entirely free of both solvents and heavy metals.

"We like transparency," he explained. "We like our customers to know what they're buying. You won't find QR codes on every product at the gas stations."

Nature's Kyoor recently added Delta 8 THC to its inventory. It is relatively similar to Delta 9 THC — the only cannabinoid that's still federally illegal. Delta 8 THC can be used to treat pain, sleep anxiety and more. It is also commonly used to combat side effects from cancer treatment.

"It also gets you high," said Buzinski. "CBD products strictly have a medical effect. You not only get the high from Delta 8 THC, but it also treats basically



Cole Tunningley/City Pulse

The Nature's Kyoor crew posing outside its new location.

everything. It would be easier for me to list what it doesn't treat."

Delta 8 THC is available as wax, oil, edibles and vape cartridges.

Nature's Kyoor also offers products with other, lesser known cannabinoids. Different cannabinoids have different benefits. For example, CDT is used to fight bacteria and CDN is good for insomniacs looking for a peaceful night of sleep.

"The list of benefits keeps growing

and growing," said Buzinski. "They're always finding out new things. There are 113 cannabinoids and they all have their own role."

The CBD craze is showing no signs of slowing down. Since opening the new location, Nature's Kyoor has seen an influx of interested newcomers and devoted repeat customers.

"We were extremely excited to reopen," said Buzinski. "Everybody's been loving the store."

# Peppermint Creek's new season inspired by social justice movements

By DANIELLE JAMES

Despite capacity restrictions on Michigan theaters, the show will go on for the Peppermint Creek Theatre Co. The Lansing-based theater team recently released its season programming, which is much different than usual, said artistic director Chad Swan-Badgero.

"We knew that we weren't going to be presenting a typical season with an audience and stage, so we had to rethink," Swan-Badgero said. "This year, there are no season subscriptions

**"Hear Our Cry"**  
Free, RSVP through  
office@peppermintcreek.org  
Oct. 22-24, Parking lot  
opens at 6 p.m.  
217 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing  
Visit peppermintcreek.org  
for more details

or ticket sales, but there is accessibility for as many people as possible."

The series, called "The Voices Project," features four different free events beginning in October and running through May. The shows focus attention on the voices of marginalized groups. Instead of producing renditions of traditional performances, Peppermint Creek is creating original content with its community partners.

"When we first began brainstorming an alternate season, we considered streaming plays online for our patrons, but many weren't available legally," Swan-Badgero said. "Our next thought



was that maybe we could create something new."

The first event in the series, titled "Hear Our Cry," is a drive-in movie style show. It runs for three nights from Oct. 22 to 24. The show features diverse texts from different points in United States history.

"We started the project by reaching out to the Lansing community for input on what historical texts to include," Swan-Badgero said. "We got responses for everything from monologues to speeches to poems, but we ended up narrowing the list down to seven."

He said Peppermint Creek then reached out to authors across the country and asked them to respond with their own writing.

The project allowed Marianne Chan, a former DeWitt resident and published author, to reflect on her experience growing up as an Asian woman in a mostly white neighborhood. Chan said she was inspired by a government document recognizing May as the Asian-Pacific American heritage month in

Michigan.

"Prior to middle school, my family lived in Germany on a military base, which was very diverse, but then we moved to the mostly white city of DeWitt, which was a big change for me," Chan said. "I thought about my experience living there and wanted to write about what it would have been like if my school celebrated more of my heritage."

Chan's piece in the show is called "Letter to My Brother."

The screening of the October show will feature actors reading the collection of old and new texts.

"We focused on finding performers who identified with the pieces," Swan-Badgero said.

The show was adapted for performance by Kathleen Egan & Swan-Badgero and presented in partnership with the Lansing Downtown Development, Inc. and the Lansing Media Project. Capacity is limited to 40 cars per night and Peppermint Creek recommends that patrons RSVP online before attending.

The second event of the series, called "Let Us Breathe," is scheduled to take place in February and will highlight the voices of Black and Brown individuals in Lansing.

"The storyteller's event is just about putting a call back out to the community and hearing their stories," Swan-

Badgero said. "Issues of racism and white supremacy are very charged at this point in history, and our mission pushes us to address these issues."

"Holocaust Cantata: Songs from the Camps," the third event of the series, will be held in April during Holocaust remembrance week.

"We worked with the Jewish population in Lansing to see what the most appropriate time during Holocaust remembrance week would be to schedule the performance," Swan-Badgero said.

The show is a 40-minute musical piece based on original songs sung by incarcerated inmates in Holocaust concentration camps. Matthew Eldred directed the piece, which features music by Donald McCollough.

"Radical Acts of Education," the final show in the series, will be presented in May. The plan is to showcase how education has changed with the pandemic, as well as scrutiny faced by teachers.

"As a former educator myself, I believe that we don't compensate or support our teachers enough," Swan-Badgero said.

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# Favorite Things

## Ashley Stommen and karaoke

Ashley Stommen was the host of karaoke night at Crunchy's Bar before the COVID-19 pandemic shut down bars across the state. She has always been proud of her voice and loved the attention she gets from being onstage. That's why karaoke is her favorite thing.

In my mind, I have this fantasy of being a Vegas showgirl — doing some comedy, singing some songs, all while laying across a grand piano. My voice is something that I always thought was my “real talent.” I have to work harder to do other stuff, but singing just came naturally to me.

I thought I would go into musical theater when I was in high school. But I had no confidence at all. Now, I've at least learned what my voice is. I like to sing in a doo wop, old school, kind of raspy style. It's almost like I need a big band behind me with one of those stand up basses. That's how I like to imagine it.

One of the first times I did karaoke was at Waldo's in Kalamazoo. They sell pitchers of Long Islands for \$4 on Thursdays, so we were all pretty tanked. I remember singing Aerosmith's “Don't Want to Miss a Thing,” or whatever that song is called. The only reason I remember it is because I was hanging out with this girl at the time. I told her, “I'm going to sing this song for you.” Which was real dumb of me.

I used to run karaoke at Crunchy's. I did that for about two years. That was my stomping grounds here in Lansing.

As a host, I loved to make jokes because it kept the night lighter. The crew at Crunchy's would always laugh because I would be very sarcastic. Especially with



really drunk people. Naturally, I'm pretty good at filling time when I'm hosting and I always had fun. Plus, I got to sing songs whenever I wanted to.

When the lockdown first started, I was doing shows on Zoom. Then I joined a Facebook group called Quarantine Karaoke. Mainly, I started recording myself to see my progression and watch myself get better at certain songs. The only thing I've done during quarantine that's positive is working on my voice. It's something that makes me happy and has helped me get through all of this.

I don't see karaoke coming back any time soon. Think about it. It's an activity that involves a lot of expulsion of ... mouth stuff. I definitely miss it, and I miss the community. They're so supportive.

When you think about karaoke, you know that some people are good and some people are bad. If you have the guts to get up there, then you should go and do it. It made me feel really nice to hear some people say that they specifically like to come to my karaoke nights. This sense of community is something I was lacking.

*Interview edited and condensed by Cole Tunningley. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, email [skTyler@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:skTyler@lansingcitypulse.com).*

# Riverwalk Theater gives a lesson in horror

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

Theater can be particularly disturbing when the story is based on true events. “An Act of Madness: The Bath School Bombing” is a factual account of the horrific, 1927 massacre that killed 38 children and five adults. That makes the recorded performance especially difficult to watch.

After Riverwalk Theatre's live Zoom presentation on Saturday, Oct. 3, the Jane Falion play is available on its Facebook page under “videos.” Despite its brief, half-hour length, “An Act of Madness” will stay with me for a very long time.

The lives lost in the Bath tragedy remain more than those of Columbine, Sandy Hook, or any other more recent school killing. That's one of the numerous facts revealed in the virtual performance that is more a documentary than a play.

Racheal Raymer, Brian Farnham, Mark Bethea, Ben Houlzhausen and Meghan and Adam Woosley each have their own panel in the Zoom presentation. Instead of portraying individual characters, they offer chronological specifics of the 1927 massacre — sometimes one at a time and often in impressive unison for a Zoom show.

With black backgrounds, the six solemn and rehearsed actors present insights to the horrific day. Falion's direction keeps the speeches short and fluid. She also rotates the lines of the actors in varied ways to make a two-dimensional screen show more appealing. Two other panels feature period photos that enhance fascination and authenticity.

Sound effects — mostly, sounds of explosions — by Matt Ottinger make “An Act of Madness” more dramatic. Equal volume levels for the cast



David Winkelstern/City Pulse

The cast of “An Act of Madness,” a Zoom play now available on Riverwalk Theater's Facebook page.



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and smooth transitions facilitated by Cody Skalmowski add to the professionalism of the presentation.

Falion's research for “An Act of Madness” began in the mid-'90s when she was a Forensics coach at Everett High School. With help from the late Jeffery Nash, Falion wrote a script that was performed first for a school competition and later at a Lansing's Renegade event. The virtual version adapts and expands the earlier ones.

Falion's extensive investigations provide incredible — and often, horrendous — insights to the Bath catastrophe. Besides the profound details of the events of that day, we also learn more obscure particulars. I learned information like Lansing's Fisher Body Plant closed so that workers could help; that building Lansing's St. Lawrence Hospital was influenced by the disaster and that 4000,000 people came to Bath soon after the event. That was a larger crowd than those who showed up to see Charles Lindbergh's landing from Paris.



# THCA: A curious cannabinoid for curious medical marijuana patients

Tetrahydrocannabinolic acid tablets espouse medical benefits but offer no high

By **KYLE KAMINSKI**

**RISE — THCA Tablets**

Price — \$47/30 tablets

THCA content — 10mg/tablet

Be aware: There isn't much proven research out there on the actual medical benefits of THCA.

This cannabis compound certainly doesn't get you high, nor is it intended to do so. But early statistical and anecdotal evidence both suggest that THCA (or tetrahydrocannabinolic acid) can help medical marijuana patients alleviate inflammation, insomnia, anxiety, muscle spasms, chronic pain and a number of other ailments commonly treated with medical-grade cannabis.

It's worth noting here that I don't necessarily consider myself a patient who actually requires medicine for any of these ailments, except for perhaps some mild social anxiety and brief bouts of back pain. Believe it or not, frequent interviews don't always come naturally to this reporter. Sometimes, I need to smoke a joint to help take the edge off and help get my thoughts together — especially if I'm sitting down to flesh out some type of complicated city finance story.

It's also worth noting that after two weeks of taking one of these tablets every morning after breakfast, often in tandem with a joint, I really didn't notice any substantive curative effects.



**Lansterdam in Review: Pleasantrees**

1950 Merritt Rd  
East Lansing  
(517) 237-3050  
enjoypleasantrees.com

Here's the deal: THCA (or tetrahydrocannabinolic acid) is a cannabinoid with a distinctly different chemical composition from familiar THC or tetrahydrocannabinol, which is responsible for the couch-locking effects that we've all learned to know and love. Instead, THCA exists only within the raw and live marijuana plant, and can only be converted to the THC when heated.

Researchers have uncovered hundreds of types of cannabinoids, all of which work synergistically to produce a head or body buzz, or other specific medical effects. Ever notice how some weed makes you hungrier than others? Blame that specific cannabinoid cocktail.

Think of THCA like a precursor to THC, perhaps more similar to CBD than any recreational marijuana product. Again: This stuff is not supposed to get you high. It's only meant for patients to reap the medical benefits of cannabis without being knocked on their asses after a few tokes.

While THCA might not be the most entertaining cannabinoid on the market, consumers for years have vouched for its superfood-like ability to ease arthritis, fibromyalgia and neurological issues. For that reason, some people have been known to consume raw mar-



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

ijuana directly.

I'm intensely skeptical about whether this was actually related to the THCA tablets, but I did notice that I had a bit more energy and mental clarity than usual over the last week. I also didn't find myself nearly as stressed out amid an ongoing avalanche of local, state and national news.

I'm still hesitant to attribute any of this to the THCA directly. There were a couple days where I forgot to take one, and I didn't necessarily notice any type of fatigue or increase in stress. But I'd

imagine, however, this is a must-try product for those looking to get the most from their medical marijuana prescription without totally mentally checking themselves out for most of the day.

*Lansterdam in Review is a weekly column written by Kyle Kaminski, a City Pulse staff writer and cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Kaminski samples some of the best bud in Greater Lansing, gets real high and writes about it.*

## TOP 5 ANNOUNCED NEXT WEEK!

CityPULSE

FOX 47 NEWS



2020  
TOP OF THE TOWN  
CONTEST

**ROUND 2  
BEGINS  
OCTOBER 14!  
Vote for your  
favorite  
places around  
town!**



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# John Fraser

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See his profile in the  
March edition of *High Times*

# Michigan author's latest novel dissects the Bath school bombing

By **BILL CASTANIER**

A long discarded Lansing Fire Department phone log contains a simple entry indicating an emergency call from Bath on May 18, 1927.

The simple entry belies the death and destruction wrought in this quiet community by Andrew Kehoe. In a disturbed notion about what he perceived as his high property taxes, Kehoe blew up the Bath Consolidated School — killing 38 students and seven adults.

## “Day of Days” book

### release via Zoom

Thursday, Oct. 15, 4 p.m.  
Featuring author John Smolens and filmmaker Matt Martyn  
To register, email info@Lansinghistory.org

Over the years, much has been written about the bombing, its causes and the

aftermath. Most notable are the booklet “The Bath School Disaster,” by M.J. Ellsworth, published contemporaneously and containing the transcript of the inquest; “Mayday: The History of a Village Holocaust,” by Grant Parker; “Life is Fragile: One Girl’s Story of the Bath School Disaster,” by Betty Spencer and, most recently, “Bath Massacre,” by Arnie Bernstein.

There have also been short documentaries, including one produced this year by Michigan State University journalism student Ben Goldman. In addition, Lansing filmmakers at Ahptic Film and Digital Media Production are working on a documentary, which they expect to land as a cable series. They have already shot numerous scenes on location and are looking at next year for distribution.

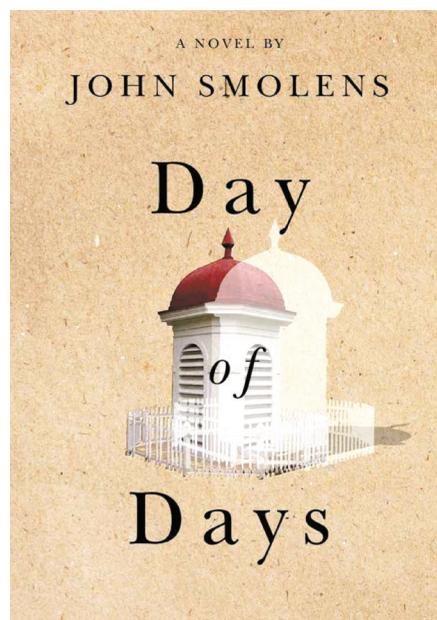
Marquette author John Smolens has written “Day of Days,” a soaring work of historical fiction recreating the terrible tragedy through the lives of two young survivors who must learn to cope with the physical and psychological aftermath of the bombing.

Smolens tells the story primarily through the eyes of the precocious Beatrice Marie Turcott. On her deathbed, decades after the tragedy, she recalls that fateful day and the events leading up to it.

Turcott, along with her friend Jed Browne, are central to the story and are on the cusp of adulthood when their innocent coming-of-age tale becomes a nightmare that will haunt them for the rest of their lives.

Smolens said both characters are fictional.

“Blending real historical figures with fictional characters really brings the narrative to life,” he said.



Within hours of the bombing, photographers were on the scene documenting the carnage for daily newspapers. Some of those photographs were turned into real photo postcards, which, although ghoulish, were sold across the state.

Smolens walks a tightrope as a historical fiction writer — especially when writing about a tragedy of this magnitude, since ancestors of the victims and survivors still recall the destruction wrought by Kehoe on the community. At the 90th anniversary of the bombing, children of the survivors, now in their 70s, recounted how they were forbidden by their parents to talk about “the day.”

For relative newcomers to the Lansing area, a short recap of the event may be in order. The bombing, at the time, was the worst example of school violence in the United States. The perpetrator, who at one point served on the school board, spent a great amount of time planning and executing the bombing. In a flourish,

he took his own life right outside of the schoolhouse. He had killed his spouse and burned down his farm a short distance from Bath.

In his book, Smolens points out that “tens of thousands” of gawkers drove to the scene, causing traffic jams in the rural community.

While lying in his bed, Browne recalls “after being a headline story in virtually every newspaper in the country, the Bath School Disaster would be forgotten once the world learned that Charles Augustus Lindbergh had landed his plane the Spirit of St Louis in Paris. The world forgot, but we had to live with what happened in Bath, Michigan.”

Smolens believes that the “Day of Days” was a harbinger of the future when mass bombings, terrorist attacks and school shootings became more common.

“I wanted to show how the world has been a tragic place all along,” Smolens said.

For certain, the tragedy is not forgotten in Bath. A memorial park has a state historical marker and the cupola from the original school, complemented by a tasteful museum in the middle school across the street. The bombing is still taught as a class in the school.

Smolens follows the lead characters as they go about their mundane chores in the farming community while trying to hold themselves together. He also takes Turcott and Browne into adulthood with some surprising outcomes. The characters are an amalgam of Smolens’ fruitful imagination but are certainly believable and give the story a personal connection.

It is through Turcott and Browne’s own relationship with Kehoe and his spouse, Nellie Kehoe, that we learn how the killer’s mind works. In this fiction-

al account, both Turcott and Browne assist in farm chores and caretaking at the Kehoe farm, creating a personal relationship with the killer.

Smolens has written several works of historical fiction, including “Assassination,” about the murder of President William McKinley, and “Quarantine,” about a plague in an East Coast sailing city at the turn of the last century.

Due to the coronavirus, Smolens is joining with the Historical Society of Greater Lansing for a livestream book release on Oct. 15. Matt Martyn, Ahptic executive and executive producer of the documentary, will facilitate the conversation.

## SCHULER BOOKS

Meridian Mall · Okemos

### FAIRYTALE RETELLINGS WITH DARK TWISTS

Virtual Scary Storytime  
October 8 · 7pm

We will be joined by Joanna Ruth Meyer and debut author, Lisa DeSelm to talk about the retelling of fairy tales, how they balance the beauty and darkness, and their upcoming YA books. This event is free but requires advance registration via Eventbrite to receive the Zoom link on the day of the event.

### SHAPES STORYTIME

With Kenneth Kraegel  
October 10 · 11am

First comes the circle. Then the square and the triangle. Then the . . . emu pushing a pancake wagon down a hill? Join us on Facebook LIVE where our friend and author Kenneth Kraegel shares his newest picture book about shapes . . .and emus.

### CAN'T HELP FALLING FOR A BROMANCE

With Cara Bastone & Lyssa Kay Adams  
October 13 · 7pm

Lyssa Kay Adams says there is something for everyone to learn from romance novels. Lyssa along with Cara Bastone join us virtually to discuss their newest novels with us and we can't wait! Register here: <https://adamsbastone.eventbrite.com>

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[SchulerBooks.com/Event](https://www.schulerbooks.com/Event)

### Curious Book Shop

307 E. Grand River, E. Lansing  
Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 12-5 p.m.  
332-0112 • We validate parking

For online store and GoFundMe links,  
go to [curiousbooks.com](http://curiousbooks.com)

### Archives Book Shop

519 W. Grand River, E. Lansing  
Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 12-5  
332-8444 • Free Parking. Email us at  
[thearchivesbookshop@gmail.com](mailto:thearchivesbookshop@gmail.com)

*We have books you always  
wanted but never knew existed!  
Quality Used Books at Great Prices!*

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# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Eeeeeevil"--what can I say, it's #666. [#666, Mar. 2014] By Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1 \_\_\_ Bator (Mongolia's capital)
- 5 Part of a war plane
- 11 Italian or Swiss summit
- 14 Fantasy sports option
- 15 Qatar's leaned
- 16 \_\_\_ Paulo (Brazil's most populous city)
- 17 Bathrooms brimming with lawn clippings?
- 19 Fashion world star Anna
- 20 Words prior to "touche" or "tureen"
- 21 Obvious disdain
- 23 Wheat bread Pitt took in 2020
- 26 Appomattox initials
- 29 Country musician Axetone
- 30 Just \_\_\_\_, skip and jump away
- 31 Scandinavian fans of Wiggum's kid (in Simpsons-iana)?
- 34 Quantity of bricks?
- 35 Two from Tijuana
- 36 Stir (up)
- 37 British artist William with a 1745 portrait of him and his pug dog
- 39 Hands out
- 43 Bangkok bankroll
- 44 Utmost ordinal
- 45 Wood that flavors bourbon
- 46 Thousand-dollar bills that fly and roost?
- 50 1052, to Tacitus
- 51 Last half of a tiny food contaminant (first half is, um, you know ...)
- 52 "Two Virgins" musician Yoko
- 53 Folks who Owen Meany films, say
- 54 Pang or misgiving

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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51				52					53			
54				55	56	57	58					
59				60	61	62				63	64	65
66				67						68		
69				70						71		

- 56 Military turndown
- 59 Big poet for java
- 60 Location of what you'll ditch from all long solutions (and from Across and Down listings) for this all to work
- 66 Yahoo's was in 1996, for short
- 67 Start to unite?
- 68 Pinocchio, notoriously
- 69 Brand Ides
- 70 "Grande" Arizona attraction
- 71 Vigorous
- 7 Road tripe quorum
- 8 "I dunno," in day books
- 9 \_\_\_ for "igloo"
- 10 Mama of 1960s pop
- 11 Part of ASAP
- 12 Hill who sang "Doo Wop (That Tee-heeing)"
- 13 Toepieces of discussion
- 18 "\_\_\_ Gang" (film shorts with kid "Rascals")
- 22 Potful at cook-offs
- 23 "Right hand on holy book" situation
- 24 "Buzz off, fly!"
- 25 Capitol Hill gp.
- 27 Took a jump
- 28 Bad guys pursuing peace, man
- 31 Latvian-born artist Marek
- 32 Mila's "That '70s Show" costar (now husband)
- 33 Code and sea-lemon, for two
- 35 Transylvanian count, informally
- 38 Bubbling, in a way
- 40 Pro tour sport
- 41 Unworldly sort
- 42 Things worn to go downhill fast
- 46 Fined without fault (That Tee-heeing)
- 47 Hour for a British cuppa, traditionally
- 48 Gaucho's grasslands
- 49 How you might wax nostalgic
- 50 Works of art on walls
- 53 Auction node
- 55 Meanly, in nouns (abbr.)
- 57 City full of fjords
- 58 Prompt jaws to drop
- 61 UFC fighting classification, for short
- 62 Holm of filmdom
- 63 Quick shot of brandy
- 64 Williams with a "Mortal City" album
- 65 Cook bacon, in a way

**Down**

- 1 It usually starts with "wee wee wee"
- 2 Hawaii's Mauna \_\_\_
- 3 Off-road transport, for short
- 4 "Ixnay" (or a conundrum in a tube?)
- 5 POTUS known for his feat
- 6 Jason's mythical craft

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Answers Page 56

## SUDOKU

## Advanced

		7		5		4		
				3			6	
1		6	7				5	
			1	9				2
	1							
3			8					
5	9						7	8
	7	2			5		4	
								3

### TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, column, and outlined 3-by-3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once. No guessing is required. The solution is unique.

Answers on page 56

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezshny

October 7-13, 2020

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** "A person's best ally is someone who takes care of herself," says actress Susan Clark. I heartily agree. The people with whom you can cultivate the most resilient bonds and most interesting synergy are those who have a high degree of self-sufficiency—those who take rigorous responsibility for themselves and treat themselves with tender compassion. In the coming weeks, Aries, I think it's especially important for you to emphasize relationships with allies who fit that description. Bonus! Their exemplary self-care will influence you to vigorously attend to your own self-care.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** According to my reading of the astrological potentials, the coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to take a "vacation in reverse". What's that? It's when you devote yourself to renewing and reinvigorating your relationship with the work you love. You intensify your excitement for the vocation or job or long-term quest that teaches you important life lessons. You apply yourself with sublime enthusiasm to honing the discipline you need to fulfill the assignments you came to earth to accomplish.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** "If you are not having fun you are doing something wrong," said comedian Groucho Marx. He was exaggerating so as to drive home his humorous point, but his idea contains some truth—and will be especially applicable to you in the immediate future. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you have a temporary exemption from feeling frantically dour and unpleasantly dutiful. As crazy as the world is right now, you have a cosmic mandate to enjoy more playtime and amusement than usual. The rest of us are depending on you to provide us with doses of casual cheer.

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** "Leave the door open for the unknown, the door into the dark," writes Cancerian author Rebecca Solnit, adding, "That's where the most important things come from." I think this is good advice for you in the coming weeks. What exactly does it mean? How and why should you do what she advises? My first suggestion is to reframe your conception of the unknown and the dark. Imagine them as the source of everything new; as the place from which the future comes; as the origin of creative changes. Then instruct your imagination to be adventurous as it explores brewing possibilities in the dark and the unknown.

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** "If something comes to life in others because of you, then you have made an approach to immortality," wrote author Norman Cousins. Whether or not you believe the "immortality" part of his formulation, I'm sure you understand how fabulous it is when you help activate beauty and vitality in someone. You may even feel that inspiring people to unleash their dormant potential is one of the most noble pleasures possible. I bring these thoughts to your attention, Leo, because I suspect that you now have exceptional power to perform services like these for your allies, friends, and loved ones. I dare you to make it one of your top priorities.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** "The messiah will come when we don't need him any more," said author Franz Kafka. In that spirit, and in alignment with current astrological omens, I will tell you that the precise help you wish you could attract into your life will show up as soon as you make initial efforts to provide that help to yourself. Here are some additional nuances: The gift or blessing you think you need most will be offered to you by fate once you begin giving that gift or blessing to yourself. A rescuer will arrive not too long after you take steps to rescue yourself. You'll finally figure out how to make practical use of a key lesson as you're teaching that lesson to someone you care for.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** Libran author Ursula K. Le Guin said that we don't just naturally know how to create our destinies. It takes research and

hard work. "All of us have to learn how to invent our lives, make them up, imagine them," she wrote. "We need to be taught these skills; we need guides to show us how. If we don't, our lives get made up for us by other people." I bring this to your attention, Libra, because the coming weeks will be an excellent time to upgrade and refine your mastery of these essential powers. What can you do to enhance your capacity to invent your life? Which teachers and information sources might be helpful?

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** In 1984, hip hop group Run-DMC was the first to achieve a gold record in their genre, meaning they sold more than 500,000 albums. Their next album sold over a million. They were pioneers. In 1986, legendary producer Rick Rubin encouraged them to do a remake of "Walk This Way," a song by the hard rock band Aerosmith. The members of Run-DMC didn't want to do it; they felt the tune was in a genre too unlike their own. But Rubin eventually convinced them, and the cross-pollination was phenomenally successful. The Run-DMC-meets-Aerosmith collaboration launched a new genre that sold very well. The song was later voted into the Grammy Hall of Fame. In this spirit, and in accordance with current cosmic rhythms, I urge you to try a bold hybrid or two yourself, Scorpio: blends of elements or influences that may seem a bit improbable. They could ultimately yield big dividends.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** You Sagittarians periodically go through phases when you specialize in stirring up fresh intuitions. I mean, you're always one of the zodiac's Intuition Champions, but during these special times, your flow becomes an overflow. You have a knack for seeking and finding visions of the interesting future; you get excited by possibilities that are on the frontiers of your confidence. From what I can tell, your life in recent weeks has been bringing you these delights—and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Take maximum advantage. Aggressively gather in the gifts being offered by your inner teacher.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** Calling on my expert knowledge of healing language and imaginative psychology, I have formulated a mantra for you to use in the next six weeks. I suggest you say it five times after you wake up, and again at mid-day, and before dinner, and before sleep. It should help keep you intimately aligned with the dynamic groove that the cosmos will be conspiring to provide for you. For best results, picture yourself as glowing inside with the qualities named in the mantra. Here it is: \*StrongBrightFree ClearBoldBrisk DeepNimbleKind AdroitSteadyWarm\*.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** The Grammy Museum in Los Angeles features displays that extol the musicians who've won Grammy Awards over the years. A few years ago, a distinctly unfamous musician named Paz Dylan made professional-looking fake posters touting his own magnificent accomplishments, and managed to sneakily hang them on the museum walls. They remained there for a month before anyone noticed. I'm going to encourage you to engage in similar gamesmanship in the coming weeks, Aquarius. It'll be a favorable time to use ingenuity and unconventional approaches to boost your confidence and enhance your reputation.

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** "Relationships never stop being a work in progress," writes author Nora Roberts. That's bad news and good news. It's bad news because even for the most loving bond, you must tirelessly persist in the challenging task of reinventing the ways the two of you fit together. It's good news because few activities can make you more emotionally intelligent and soulfully wise than continually reinventing the ways the two of you fit together. I bring these thoughts to your attention because the coming weeks will be a fertile time for such daunting and rewarding work.

Go to [RealAstrology.com](http://RealAstrology.com) to check out Rob Brezshny's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

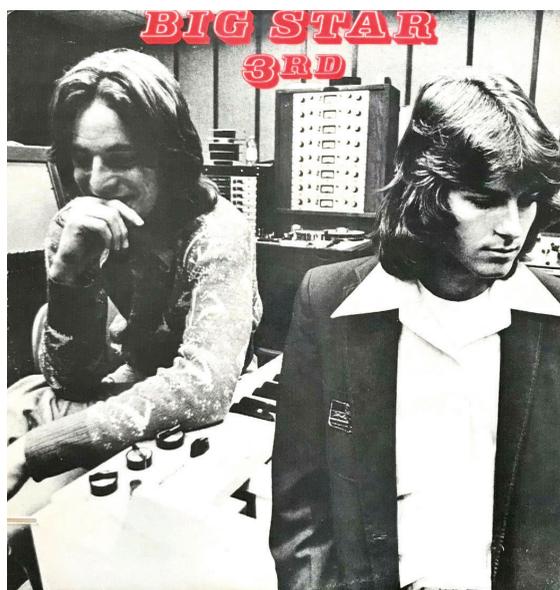
# TURN IT DOWN!

BY RICH TUPICA

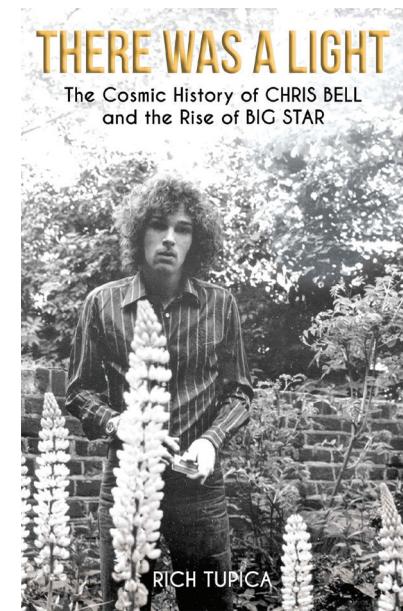
## THAT TIME BIG STAR PLAYED FIVE NIGHTS IN LANSING



Big Star performs live at The Brewery in Lansing, April 1974.



Big Star's "Third" LP. The LP's genesis happened here in Lansing.



Cover of "There Was A Light." (2020/Permuted Press)

### A Look Back: When Alex Chilton Came to Town

Back when I was still researching information for my oral-history book, "There Was A Light: The Cosmic History of Chris Bell & the Rise of Big Star," much of my time was centered on Big Star's home town of Memphis, Tennessee.

However, during my digging, I discovered a strong local connection between the cult band and Lansing. Back in 1974, the Memphians performed six nights in a row at The Brewery — the midsized venue that later became The Silver Dollar. It was demolished in 2009.

While in its initial time as a band (1971-1975), Big Star played very few live concerts. So it's fairly odd its longest run of gigs happened on the border of Lansing and East Lansing, where a Biggby and PNC Bank now sits.

From April 9-14, the band performed not only cuts from their albums, "#1 Record" and "Radio City," the group — led by legendary vocalist/guitarist Alex Chilton — also peppered in some covers, like "Candy Says" and "Sweet Jane." Big Star also performed "The Letter," the 1967 No. 1 hit Chilton sung with his first band, The Box Tops. In fact, this was Chilton's second time performing at The Brewery. Back in the summer of '69, he'd gigged there with The Box

Tops.

When Big Star arrived at The Brewery in 1974, they'd just played in Cambridge, with Badfinger (a legendary outfit). There, Big Star had all of their equipment stolen. Perhaps that's why many people remember Chilton being in a grouchy, rather sarcastic mood. While the other band members—Jody Stephens (drums) and John Lightman (bass) — delivered solid performances, Chilton delivered a few purposely sloppy sets. After the first night, the low attendance paired with the bad attitude caused the band to be fired.

Michigan musician Mark Boone recalls a not-so fun time warming up the stage for Big Star.

"I played in the opening act. We were called Uprising," Boone said. "Alex Chilton was a rude, arrogant ass. His performance was lame and his attitude caused them to get fired by the club ... I've also opened for Johnny Thunders, who had an attitude, but nowhere like Alex's."

Lightman, an addition to Big Star following the departure of founding members Chris Bell (guitar) and Andy Hummel (bass), said he felt Chilton had become jaded.

"I just thought it was Alex being Alex," Lightman said. "He'd already seen everything, being on tour with

the Box Tops. That's why he got into punk music. Once you learn all the riffs and rock 'n' roll clichés, it takes the mystique out of it."

Big Star's road manager, John Dando, confirmed the odd behavior.

"The specialty of the house was fried mushrooms," Dando recalled. "Alex started eating those fried mushrooms on stage while he was trying to play. At times he couldn't sing because his mouth was full of fried mushrooms. He would turn away from the crowd when he was supposed to be singing, things like that. He didn't care about playing to an audience, he was playing for himself."

After that first night, the band had indeed been fired. But a positive review in The State News convinced The Brewery to re-hire the band for the remaining shows. That review was written by future CREEM Magazine editor Dave DiMartino.

"More people started to come out over the next few days," Lightman said. "We played 'Baby Strange,' We did an impromptu 'Wild Thing' one night. 'Till the End of the Day' by the Kinks, 'Jeepster.' Alex did 'Motel Blues' acoustically by himself. Outside of that, Alex kept it together on that tour. He was not drinking much. We were not taking drugs. Alex and I were smoking pot, that's it. In

Lansing, we just hung out smoking in our hotel room at the Holiday Inn, which was close to the venue."

Beyond that, this time in Lansing also marked the start of Chilton's notorious relationship with Lesa Aldridge, his longtime muse. Upon request from Chilton, she traveled from Memphis to Lansing to bring Alex an acoustic guitar. While she arrived just a friend, it was in Lansing the two officially became a couple. Aldridge soon inspired many of the songs on Big Star's "Third/Sister Lovers" LP.

Just last week, Rolling Stone's updated list of "The 500 Best Albums of All Time" included "Third" at No. 285. It went on to influence countless alt-rock icons, like R.E.M., Beck and Elliot Smith. Rolling Stone called it "a record of gorgeous, disjointed heart-break ballads." Strange to think the relationship saga that inspired it all started here in Lansing.

"I flew up to Lansing with the guitar to join him on the tour," Aldridge recalled. "We had a lot of fun in the station wagon with all the equipment. It was an unusual way to quickly get to know somebody. From there, Alex and I stayed together for seven years. The rest of my life was just jumping in — sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. No boundaries and all that."

# OUT ON THE TOWN

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com). Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Suzi at (517) 999-6704.

## Wednesday, October 7

**2020 East Lansing Kiwanis "Virtual BBQ"** - 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. For info and tickets: [elkiwanis.org](http://elkiwanis.org).

**Allen Farmers Market** - 2:30-7 p.m. Allen Farmers Market 2020, 2100 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**MSU Federal Credit Union Virtual Dinosaur Dash** - Sign up: [museum.msu.edu](http://museum.msu.edu).

**Open Call: Virtual Community Sculpture** - What does "collaborative sculpture" look like? 7-8 p.m. [broad.msu.edu](http://broad.msu.edu)

**Special Collections Look Club:** Theme this week is Book Arts! 2-2:45 p.m. MSU Libraries. [bookings.lib.msu.edu](http://bookings.lib.msu.edu).

**Wednesday Workdays at CCBS** - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Capital City Bird Sanctuary. [michigan-audubon.org](http://michigan-audubon.org).

## Thursday, October 8

**Dimondale Farmers' Market** - 3-7 p.m. Village Square, 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale. 517-646-0230. [villageofdimondale.org](http://villageofdimondale.org).

**October Pagans Night Out** - 6:30-9:30 p.m. Sponsored by Weavers of the Web. 517-209-4167. [facebook.com/weaversatc](http://facebook.com/weaversatc)

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 6-7 p.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](http://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

**South Lansing Farmers Market** - 3-7 p.m. St. Casimir Catholic Church, 800 W Barnes Ave, Lansing. 517-374-5700.

**Studio (in)Process at Home** 9-10 p.m. MSU Broad Art Lab, 565 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. [broad.msu.edu](http://broad.msu.edu)

## Friday, October 9

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 7:30-8:30 p.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](http://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

## Saturday, October 10

**Boo at the Zoo/Fall Zootacular** - come in your costume! Oct. 10 & 11 - Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S Pennsylvania Ave. [potterparkzoo.org](http://potterparkzoo.org).

**Centennial Farm Antiques** - Annual Harvest Festival Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 4410 W Howe, Dewitt. 517-669-5096.

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 7:30-8:30 p.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](http://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

**Run For Giving 5k Run/Walk** - 9-10 a.m. Lansing River Trail. [cristoreycommunity.org](http://cristoreycommunity.org)

**Stimson Hospital public ghost hunt 2nd Realm Paranormal** - 7-11 p.m. 101 W Plain St., Eaton Rapids.

**Survivor Strong Charity Golf Outing** - 9 a.m. Timber Ridge Golf Club, 16339 Park Lake Rd, East Lansing. [eventregisterpro.com](http://eventregisterpro.com).

**Timber Trails 5K** - 9 a.m. 133 Fitzgerald Park Dr, Grand Ledge. [trailrunner.com](http://trailrunner.com).

## Sunday, October 11

**East Lansing Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 300 Valley Court, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

**Girls on the Run of Mid-Michigan Virtual 5k** - 11 a.m. [gotrmidmichigan.org](http://gotrmidmichigan.org).

**The Greater Lansing CROP Hunger Walk** - virtual. 2 p.m. [crophungerwalk.org](http://crophungerwalk.org).

## Monday, October 12

**Refuge Recovery Lansing (Virtual)** - 6-7 p.m. [facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing](http://facebook.com/refugerecoverylansing)

## Tuesday, October 13

**Outdoor Pop Up Art Shop** - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 119 N Washington Sq, Lansing. 517-374-6400.

**People's Law School** - 7-8 p.m. Virtual - Zoom. 616-238-7249. [sinasdramis.com](http://sinasdramis.com).

**Virtual Science on a Sphere: Life Without Sunlight** - What's living at the bottom of the ocean? 10-11 a.m. MSU Museum. [museum.msu.edu](http://museum.msu.edu).

### MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ELECTION

Please take notice that Meridian Township will hold an election on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. To vote candidates for the following offices:

- President/Vice-President
- United States Senator
- Representative in Congress
- State Representative
- State Board of Education
- University of Michigan Board of Regents
- Michigan State University Board of Trustees
- Wayne State University Board of Governors
- County Offices:
- Prosecuting Attorney
- County Sheriff
- County Clerk
- County Treasurer
- County Register of Deeds
- County Drain Commissioner
- County Commissioner
- Township Supervisor
- Township Clerk
- Township Treasurer
- Township Trustees
- Township Park Commissioners
- East Lansing School Board Members
- Haslett School Board Members
- Okemos School Board Members
- Williamston School Board Members

#### And the following proposals:

#### State of Michigan

Proposal 20-1 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

Proposal 20-2 A proposed constitutional amendment to require a search warrant in order to access a person's electronic data or electronic communications.

#### Ingham County

Public Transportation System for Elderly and Disabled Millage Renewal Question.

#### Meridian Township

EMS – Fire Protection Millage Renewal

Land Preservation Millage Renewal and Reduction

Police protection Millage Renewal

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of Meridian Township who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Meridian Township Clerk, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864, 517-853-4300; the office of the Ingham County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at [mi.gov/vote](http://mi.gov/vote) and mailed to the Meridian Township Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at [www.expressSOS.com](http://www.expressSOS.com).

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is **Monday, October 19, 2020**.

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the Meridian Township Clerk's office, located at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 at the following times:

- Regular business hours: Monday thru Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. up to Election Day.
- Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Election Day, Tuesday November 3, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

#### ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS

Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. No reason required.

The Meridian Township Clerk's Office must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at the Meridian Township Clerk's Office or by visiting our website at [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us).

Absent voter ballots can be requested until Monday, November 2, 2020 at 4:00 pm. Ballots issued on Monday, November 2, 2020 must be requested and voted in person at the Meridian Township Clerk's Office.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2020, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Meridian Township Clerk's Office.

Brett Dreyfus, CMMC  
Meridian Township Clerk

CP#20-238

### SUDOKU SOLUTION From Pg. 54

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### CROSSWORD SOLUTION From Pg. 54

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# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Free pizza brings a little joy during pandemic

By **COLE TUNNINGLEY**

Local Domino's market specialist Jesse Lovejoy saw the devastation that the COVID-19 pandemic was causing in his community and decided that he wanted to find a way to bring some positivity back into the world. He has worked at Domino's for 14 years now, so naturally, free pizza came to mind.

"In the beginning of all of this pandemic stuff, everything seemed kind of upside down," said Lovejoy. "All of a sudden, everyone started losing their jobs and no one knew what was going on."

In his days of bar-hopping in the Lansing area, Lovejoy met a multitude of service workers — bartenders, bouncers, wait staff. He knew that the pandemic put most of them out of a job, at least temporarily. So, he came up

with a plan. For every \$50 he made on a shift, Lovejoy would buy a pizza, reach out to someone in need and drop it off. It gave him an opportunity to check in on friends and acquaintances — from a safe distance, of course.

"I would just kinda stand in their yard while they sit on the porch," said Lovejoy. "I liked to talk with them and see how they're doing."

Lovejoy was initially resistant when a pizza recipient tried to offer him a tip. But then he realized that he could use the tip money to purchase even more pizzas for those in need. So, anytime he received a tip, he promised to use the money to buy a pizza for someone else.

"It kinda became a nomination thing," said Lovejoy. "People would give me a tip, give me a name and then, I'd drop off a pizza to that person. It just felt like

the right thing to do"

Lovejoy emphasized that he's not the only one who's been providing free pizzas to the community.

"Some families would call and have pizzas delivered to Sparrow Hospital," said Lovejoy. "One family called and asked me to deliver a pizza to anyone who would take it." He has also worked with nonprofit organizations like Brotherhood Against Drugs and Punks With Lunch to distribute free pizza.

The past few months have taught Lovejoy that a simple act of kindness can be more powerful than you'd ever expect.

"It brought a lot of good to a time with a lot of frustration and helped me focus my mind on positivity," said Lovejoy. "I'm just doing something small. I definitely plan on continuing to be in-



Courtesy

Jesse Lovejoy prepares to deliver a batch of pizzas.

involved and working with great people and organizations to make a difference."

### Sage advice

By **ARI LeVAUX**

In front of an Agway store in Montpelier, Vermont, a sign announces "World's Largest Zucchini Here." The grower, store employee Ron Sholtz, told WCAX News Sept. 28 that his state record 115-pound specimen is currently the largest zucchini on planet Earth, according to an unnamed international body that keeps track of such things.

His green, warty cylinder sits massively on a sturdy, hay-strewn table, a reminder of the intense power of a zucchini plant — the same unstoppable growth force that fuels a zucchini's takeover of your garden, quietly building dark submarines in the prickly undergrowth as your attention is distracted by the bounty of summer. By the time the zucchini is big enough to trip over, your options are limited. But unlike Mr. Sholtz, whose large conversation piece is, in the end, nothing but pig food, if you have a zucchini that is up to the size of a baseball bat, your big specimen can still find a little purpose in a loaf of zucchini bread.

To be clear, a large zucchini has less flavor, more bitterness, a tougher peel, and large woody seeds. You could feed a small city if you could only get someone to eat it. If

Things being how they are, there is no shame in bailing on an overgrown zuc-



chini. You owe nothing to each other. But if you have the freezer space, and a desire to bake zucchini bread through the winter, then bust out the kitchen grater and save that monstrosity in a form that could be of use down the road. Peel and seed your large zucchini until you are left with nothing but solid white flesh, and grate it through the grater's largest holes. With zucchini smaller than a wine bottle you can skip the peeling and seeding.

Add a half-teaspoon of salt for each pound of zucchini. Mix together, wait 15 minutes and then squeeze out as much water as you can, either in a colander or nut milk bag, and freeze the grated zucchini in an airtight freezer bag, with no air pockets and flat enough to stack neatly and space-efficiently in the freezer. That pound of zucchini will yield about a cup of grated product, ready to give body to your muffins, or perhaps a savory soup.

Meanwhile, the season of fresh zucchini isn't over yet. At my friend Luci's farm, October is zucchini stuffing month. Luci always seems to have a way to cook awkwardly large quantities of anything, and she invented this rec-



Courtesy

Ari LeVaux's sage zucchini stuffing.

ipe during a power walk from field to kitchen.

"I was thinking about what to do with zucchinis, because we had so many, and what to make quickly, because I had like half an hour," she recalls.

"What I really wanted was stuffed zucchini because it's so yummy, but didn't have time to bake it, much less stuff it. I always try to do one-pot meals for lunch — I have a huge kettle. So I added the ingredients for stuffed zuc-

chini and kind of stirred it around."

#### Sage Zucchini Stuffing

The guiding principle of this dish is it should taste like stuffing. When in doubt, advance that principle. The sage, croutons, onions and chicken stock do their jobs, elevated by the zucchini and meat. Luci uses stale, hard bread that she keeps frozen for this purpose. I have been very happy with bagged croutons from the store.

Serves four to six:

- 1 pound ground beef or sausage
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1/4-cup olive oil
- 1/4-1/2 cup fresh sage, coarsely chopped
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh grated nutmeg or 1/2 teaspoon dried
- 1 teaspoon powdered coriander (or whole coriander toasted in a dry pan and then crushed)

See Sage, Page 58

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# Sage

from page 57

- 1 teaspoon paprika (or hot pepper flakes)
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 pounds zucchini, cut in half lengthwise then sliced into 1/2 inch thick pieces
- 4 cups croutons or cubed white bread, either lightly toasted or dried out
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 cups chicken stock

Fry the meat in the oil in a heavy-bottomed pan until it reaches your desired shade of brown, stirring as necessary for even cooking. Add the onions, gar-

lic and spices, and cook until the onions melt into oblivion.

Add the zucchini, croutons and butter and stir it all together really well. Add the stock and cover. Turn down to low and gently simmer until the stock is gone, about ten minutes. Let sit covered for ten minutes, then serve. Being stuffing, it goes with anything.

*Flash in the Pan is food writer Ari LeVaux's weekly recipe column. It runs in about 100 newspapers nationwide, nourishing food sections large and small with complete protein for the belly brain.*

*This story is paid for by readers like you through contributions to the CityPulse Fund for Community Journalism. To contribute, please go to lansingcitypulse.com/donation.*

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<p><b>Crazy Crab</b> 3700 S. Waverly Rd. Lansing (517) 887-3888 crazycrablansingmi.kwickmenu.com</p>	<p><b>LIP SMACKING UNIQUE CAJUN BROIL</b> Now re-opened for carry out. Please order online at our new website: crazycrablansingmi.kwickmenu.com Currently you can get the best broil around from 3-9PM but we'll extend our hours soon. Or come in or place order by phone.</p>
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<p><b>El Oasis</b> 2501 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing (517) 882-1777 eloasistruck.com</p>	<p><b>TRY THE CROWN JEWEL OF LANSING'S FOOD TRUCKS.</b> Serving the Lansing community for 13 years, we extend an invitation to all those to give us a try to find out why we were voted the best food truck in Lansing's 2019 Top of The Town Contest.</p>
<p><b>Meat</b> SOUTHERN B.B.Q. &amp; CARNIVORE CUISINE</p>	<p><b>WE BELIEVE EVERYONE DESERVES GREAT BBQ.</b> Award winning BBQ. Ribs, French fry bar, chili, sides including BBQ pit baked beans, mac n' cheese. 18 rotating taps of craft, Michigan made beers. Craft cocktails. We cater, too!</p>

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- ✓ 15 years as Ingham County Assistant Prosecutor (special 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

*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  
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