



LOCAL NON-PARTISAN VOTER GUIDE

GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

GARDEN CITY

POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTHWEST WAYNE COUNTY

Website: www.LWVnorthwestwayne.org E-mail: lwvmail@yahoo.com Ph: 734-421-4420

What's on the Ballot?

Partisan Ballot:

≈Governor (vote for 1)
≈Secretary of State (vote for 1)
≈Attorney General (vote for 1)
≈U.S. Senator (vote for 1)
≈U.S. Representative (vote for 1)
*State Senator, 5th District (vote for 1)
*State Representative, 11th (vote for 1)
≈State Board of Education (vote for 2)
≈U of M Regents (vote for 2)
≈MSU Trustees (vote for 2)
≈WSU Governor (vote for 2)
*County Executive (vote for 1)
County Commissioner, 12th District. (unopposed)

***Covered in this Voter Guide**

≈Covered in the LWVMI (newsprint) Voter Guide

All races, including those unopposed, appear on VOTE411.org

Ballot Proposals: *Schoolcraft College Millage
≈3 Statewide Proposals

Nonpartisan Ballot

JUDGES

≈Supreme Ct 8-yr. term (vote for 2)
Court of Appeals 6-yr term (unopposed)
Court of Appeals, partial term (unopposed)
Circuit Ct. 6-yr term, Incumbent (unopposed)
*Circuit Ct. 6-yr term, Non-Incumbent (vote for 3)
Circuit Ct. partial term (unopposed)
Probate Ct 6-yr term, Incumbent (unopposed)
Probate Ct 6-yr term, Non-Incumbent (unopposed)

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Schoolcraft College (unopposed)
Garden City Schools (unopposed)

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County is a nonpartisan organization established in 1960 in Livonia, MI. The League works to encourage citizen participation in government. It never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. The work of the League is financed by the dues of its volunteer members and by contributions from citizens in the community.

Publication of these statements from the candidates is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters. Candidates' words are printed as submitted (including any misspellings). The League takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by the candidates.

The on-line version of this Voter Guide can be accessed at VOTE411.org.

<p>CANDIDATES</p> <p><i>(Visit VOTE411.org for responses to additional questions)</i></p>	<p>PRIORITIES: <i>What are your top three state legislative priorities? Why did you select them?</i></p>	<p>EDUCATION: <i>What measures do you support/propose to achieve improved educational outcomes and accessibility for Michigan students from early childhood through post-secondary education?</i></p>	<p>ECONOMY: <i>What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?</i></p>
<p>DeShawn Wilkins (R)</p> <p>Website: www.deshawnwilkins.com Facebook: http://facebook.com/wilkins4statesenate Twitter: twitter.com/wilkins4senate Occupation / Current Position: 1) Senior Pastor / District Elder - Immanuel Outreach Cathedral 2) Insurance Sales - State Farm Education: Aeon Bible College - Ministerial / Ordination Studies Kaplan - State Mandated - Property and Casualty Insurance Courses Qualifications / Experience: Over 16 years of Christian church pastoring, ministerial and operational oversight. Over 3 years producing a weekly Christian Radio Program. Church fundraising to pay for church programs. Community outreach to those in need. Over 21 years as a small business owner/operator. Former Chair and Vice-Chair of the RTA's Citizen Advisory Committee. Committees and boards. Insurance Sales and service.</p>	<p>1) Auto Insurance Reform - Increase efforts to uncover insurance fraud. Remove the mandates and allow the consumers to have the choice of insurance coverages that you want or don't want. Ensure that auto related medical billing is in line with non-auto related medical billing (same rules). etc. 2) Develop Public/Private partnerships to work to eliminate the "Skills-gap" in Michigan. 3) Roads, and Infrastructure. - The use of better quality, longer lasting materials for our roads and bridges. And start the long process of replacing all of the lead pipes throughout Michigan.</p>	<p>I support the possible elimination of the Michigan Department of Education or at least rethinking its purpose in the education of our children. Elimination of Common Core standards and return back to a Michigan standard of education rather than Federal. Provide teachers with all of the necessary tools to educate our children. Close chronically failing schools. Strengthen our public schools while maintaining school choice for parents.</p>	<p>Put skilled trades and other vocational training back in the schools. Help our citizens to develop marketable skill-sets to land better paying jobs. Public/Private partnerships that more broadly focus on the elimination of the "skills-gap" here in Michigan.</p>
<p>Betty Jean Alexander (D)</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>		
<p>Larry Betts (WC)</p> <p>Website: See independent website https://www.workingclassfight.com. Occupation / Current Position: Currently on Social Security disability, being treated for injuries to my back suffered in last job. Education: Detroit public schools McGraw Elementary, Tappen Middle, McKenzie and Cody High. Left school at 16 to work. Got GED when I was 31 or 32. Took on-line courses at U of Phoenix, Everest Inst., Ashford U. Qualifications / Experience: I started working at 16, I know what it is to work hard, to be unemployed, to be injured on the job, to have to fight to get Social Security disability -- and to keep going. I know what it means to have to fight just to get an education. Because of what happened to me, I can speak for working people, and all the problems we go through.</p>	<p>Three problems: jobs, public services, taxes. Michigan's biggest problem is lack of jobs, especially in Detroit. You need a car to get to a job, but without a job, you can't get a car. The state gives big money to big money interests. That's our tax money. Take it back, use it for mass transit and lots of other services we all need. The tax system is not fair today. They take more taxes from poor folks than from rich folks. A bigger part of what we get goes out in taxes, income tax, sales tax, fees, utility tax, gas tax, etc. To make it fair, taxes should be flexible so every person contributes what they are able.</p>	<p>Eliminate all the tax breaks that provide nothing for the population. Use that money for the schools. College should be free. The same thing is true for the public schools. They say they are free, but parents have to pay for lots of things anyway. And most schools don't give the education every child needs. Charter schools should meet the same standards that the public schools have to meet. And money they get should not go to profit.</p>	<p>We all need a decent-paying job. The state should use tax money to hire more people to repair roads, bridges, water systems, build new schools, hire more teachers, hire maintenance workers, hire more people in state offices so we don't have to stand in line just to renew our driver's license. I could make a list ten pages long of all the jobs we could have if the state used our tax money to make everything work OK. Right now the state gives tax money away to big business. Use that money for what everyone needs. That would put people to work.</p>

<p>CANDIDATES</p> <p><i>(Visit VOTE411.org for responses to additional questions)</i></p>	<p>PRIORITIES: <i>What are your top three state legislative priorities? Why did you select them?</i></p>	<p>EDUCATION: <i>What measures do you support/propose to achieve improved educational outcomes and accessibility for Michigan students from early childhood through post-secondary education?</i></p>	<p>ECONOMY: <i>What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?</i></p>
<p>James Townsend (R)</p> <p>Education: Bachelor of Science, Business Management; Spring Arbor University Qualifications / Experience: Precinct/State Delegate, 18 years</p>	<p>1 Education & Workforce Readiness – By supporting parental choice and charter schools to expand and enhance quality educational opportunities for all Michigan students. Help students to reach their full potential by adhering to a challenging curriculum, for higher academic standards 2 Protect Employer Rights in the Workplace – I would support the right of employers of all sizes to manage their workplaces free of undue interference 3 Maintain a Sound Legal Climate - i would oppose efforts to expand the types of claims that can be filed against Michigan job providers protecting and strengthening Michigan's laws.</p>	<p>By supporting parental choice and charter schools to expand and enhance high quality educational opportunities for all Michigan students and assisting students in reaching their full potential by insisting that all schools adhere to a challenging curriculum based on high academic standards. I would urge the State Board of Education to do a better job holding all public schools, traditional and charter, to high standards for student achievement.</p>	<p>We need to create a business friendly environment in Michigan, and focus on increased education attainment, crafting policies that attract young talent to vibrant cities.</p>
<p>Jewell Jones (D)</p> <p>Website: www.jonesforstaterep.com/ Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/unit edforjewelljones/ Twitter: twitter.com/onlyjjones Occupation / Current Position: Michigan State Representative Education: University of Michigan - Dearborn B.A. Political Science Qualifications / Experience: Former Inkster City Councilman (2015) Current State Representative (2017-Present) Michigan Army National Guard (Present)</p>	<p>1) Accelerate Growth in Michigan's economy by providing incentives for development in emerging industries (e.g., high-tech, advanced manufacturing, cyber security, urban logistics, alternative energy) and tourism. Expand support programs that stimulate small business development. 2) Restore leadership in K-12 and Post-Secondary/Career-Technical education by investing more dollars. Community College tuition should be free to students who maintain acceptable GPAs. 3) Michigan can improve the quality of life by increasing investments in health care, the environment and policies that ensure the well-being of our citizens</p>	<p>We should ensure that more equitable funding is available at all levels. Early childhood and K-12 education is underfunded with the current approach to providing students a quality education. We need policies that close the estimated \$1,959 gap (according to Michigan School Finance Research Collaborative) in per student funding. We should explore allowing school districts more flexibility in raising millages and look into alternative approaches for financing education. College tuition is too high and limits affordability for many students. We need to lower college costs and make community college attendance free.</p>	<p>We need to invest in road/bridge reconstruction and infrastructure improvement projects that create jobs and business opportunities across the state. The minimum wage should be raised to \$15.00 per hour and union members should benefit exclusively from collective bargaining and contract negotiations. Prevailing Wage provisions should be restored as a requirement for government contracts to ensure that there are fair and equitable pay levels and benefits provided to workers. Unions and equitable wages created the middle class and resulted in higher standards of living for all workers.</p>

Candidates were asked several questions by the League of Women Voters. The answers are printed as submitted and have not been edited, except for necessary cutting when replies exceeded the stated word limitations.

Responses to additional questions posed to candidates for state representative and state senator concerning elections, justice and the environment/energy can be found by logging on to VOTE411.org.

Wayne County Executive

4-Year Term

VOTE FOR 1

CANDIDATES	<i>Please provide biographical information and experience, and explain why you are running for this office.</i>	<i>What are the priority issues facing this office and what actions would you take to address them if elected?</i>
Denis Curan (R)	DID NOT RESPOND	
Warren C. Evans (D)	DID NOT RESPOND	

3rd Circuit Court Judge – Non Incumbent

6-Year Term

VOTE FOR 3

CANDIDATES	<i>Please provide biographical information and experience, and explain why you are running for this office.</i>	<i>What are the priority issues facing this office and what actions would you take to address them if elected?</i>
<p>John C. Cahalan</p> <p>Occupation/current position: I currently serve as a trial attorney with the law firm of Plunkett Cooney Campaign website: http://www.cahalanforjude.com Campaign email : john@cahalanforjudge.com Campaign phone: (313) 402-6556 Education: University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, J.D., Marquette University, B.A., University of Detroit Jesuit High School</p>	<p>I was born in Detroit, went to University of Detroit High School, Marquette University, and University of Detroit Law School. I've worked at the Wayne County Prosecutor's office, I've worked for a general practice law firm, I've worked for a worked for a plaintiff's personal injury law firm, and I currently work as a trial lawyer at the law firm of Plunkett Cooney. I have wanted to be a judge for as long as I can remember. I want to spend my life on the bench dedicated to having an impact on our community and the lives I touch. I believe I have been called to the bench as I have the unique temperament, disposition, and personality it takes.</p>	<p>I believe the community needs to better understand the court system and their rights within the court system. I would like to see more programs involving judges working in the community educating the public. I believe mental health, sobriety, and drug courts should continue to grow and be utilized. I would like to serve in some capacity assisting the growth of these programs within the 3rd Circuit Court.</p>
<p>Tracy E. Green</p> <p>Occupation/current position: Solo Practitioner, Green Law, PLLC Campaign website: http://www.gogreenforjustice.org Campaign email : info@gogreenforjustice.org Campaign phone: (313) 623-3102 Education: Cass Technical HS, diploma; Wayne State University, Bachelor's of Social Work; Wayne State University, Juris Doctorate</p>	<p>I have practiced law for 21 years, primarily in the Third Circuit Court. There, I have zealously protected the rights of indigent defendants in felony cases, promoted the best interests of children in custody cases, and fought to preserve families in child welfare cases. I am an award-winning attorney, published author and trainer in child welfare. The daughter of two UAW retirees, I am also a life-long Detroiter, wife, mother, and grandmother. The chief objective of my candidacy is to help transform the public's perception of the court so that people will respect and accept in its decisions.</p>	<p>Our governmental institutions, including the courts, are in a crisis of public confidence. I believe that respect for the judiciary and its orders is especially critical today — when so many are disillusioned with the governmental institutions that were created to serve us as citizens. To address this issue, as a judge, I would ensure that every person who comes before the court leaves with his or her dignity intact. If people believe that they have been respected and treated fairly, they will more likely abide by the court's rulings, even if they disagree with them.</p>
<p>Bridget Mary Hathaway</p> <p>Occupation/current position: Bodman PLC Campaign website: http://www.hathawayforjudge.com Campaign email : bridgethathawayforjudge@gmail.com Campaign phone: (313) 580-9253 Education: J.D., Wayne State University Law School; B.A., University of Michigan, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy</p>	<p>I have spent my career litigating a wide range of cases in Wayne County Circuit Court and courts throughout the country. As a litigator for some of the region's most successful companies and individuals, I have litigated complex, multi-million dollar business disputes. As a city prosecutor, I prosecuted criminal misdemeanors. As a criminal defense attorney, I defended the accused in felony and misdemeanor cases. I understand that when people enter the courtroom, it is under difficult circumstances. They have a right to be treated fairly and respectfully, and to have their case decided without any undue delay or expense.</p>	<p>The 3rd Circuit Court has one of the highest caseloads of any Circuit Court in the State of Michigan. It is critical, therefore, to focus on developing innovative practices to maximize efficiency. If fortunate enough to be elected by the citizens of Wayne County, I will be a strong voice for efficiency, fairness, and service.</p>

CANDIDATES	<i>Please provide biographical information and experience, and explain why you are running for this office.</i>	<i>What are the priority issues facing this office and what actions would you take to address them if elected?</i>
<p>Delicia Coleman Morson</p> <p>Occupation/current position: Sr. Trial Lawyer that represents clients, in Criminal Defense, Family, Civil & Real Estate matters. Campaign website: http://Votedeliciacolemanmorson.com Campaign email : votedeliciacolemanmordon@gmail.com Campaign phone: 313-622-6824 Education: H.S. Diploma -John F. Kennedy H.S. BA - University of Wash JD - University of Detroit Mercy</p>	<p>I have managed an active trial practice for over 22 years in all areas: Criminal, Family, Real Estate, Civil, Probate, and Juvenile Law. I was previously an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Ecorse. I want to administer true Justice for my community with equality, integrity, and experience. I work in 3rd Circuit Court and recognize the failures that we need to address and will STAND-UP against injustice.</p>	<p>I would make sure individual and constitutional rights are upheld equally for all who come before the bench. I will address that by making sure individuals are fully represented and receive appropriate sentences for their convictions along with rehabilitation and treatment as needed so that the whole community can benefit. I would also ensure that all who come before the bench are treated with respect and integrity, and I would address that by being on time and making sure everyone has their "day in Court".</p>
<p>Suzette Samuels</p> <p>Occupation/current position: Lead Attorney-Wayne County Prosecutor's Office Campaign website: http://Vostesamuels.com Campaign email : ssamuels51@yahoo.com Campaign phone: (313) 505-0011 Education: BA; JD.</p>	<p>I was born and raised in southwest Detroit. I am a graduate of Detroit Public Schools. I have been an attorney for 24 years, with over 20 years dedicated to public service. I have been a Wayne County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for nearly 20 years. I am running for Judge to continue to serve the public with the same dedication for which I've served for 20 years. I am in court on nearly a daily basis and I have firsthand knowledge of the the need for FAIR and EXPERIENCED judges in our legal system. I'm running because I truly want to do the job and because the citizenry deserves the very best in public service.</p>	<p>1. Judges who are connected to the communities for which they serve. 2. Judges who put public service before politics . 3. Sentencing alternatives to incarceration 4. Judicial efficiency. 5. Judges who follow the law. 6. Judges who cultivate an atmosphere which enables litigants to litigate their cases without belittlement, and impatience. I am the most experienced and qualified of judicial candidates, and I will be the gate keeper of the people's court room. As such, I pledge that all of the areas I have listed will be fulfilled in the best interest of the citizenry of Wayne County.</p>
<p>Regina Thomas</p> <p>Occupation/current position: Director-Lakeshore Legal Aid's Counsel and Advocacy Law Line Campaign website: http://www.reginathomasforjudge.com Campaign email : reginathomasforjudge@gmail.com Campaign phone: 313-409-8290 Education: Cass Technical High School Tennessee State University, B.S. cum laude Vanderbilt University School of Law, J.D.</p>	<p>I have spent 22 years providing critical legal services to families as well as protecting the rights of crime victims. I see becoming a judge as an opportunity to be of greater service to my community. I currently serve as director of a civil legal services hotline which provides free legal assistance. My prior legal experience includes serving as deputy chief counsel-Legal Aid and Defender Association, an adjunct professor at WMU-Coolley Law School, an assistant prosecuting attorney for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, and an assistant attorney general for the State of Michigan. I live in Grosse Pointe Woods with my husband and two sons.</p>	<p>Access to the courts is an issue. While there is a constitutional right to counsel in criminal matters no such mandate exists as it relates to civil legal matters. There are a limited number of attorneys who are available to assist under resourced people in civil legal matters. As a result a large number of people are forced to navigate the judicial system without an attorney. In many cases these civil legal matters can be the difference between crisis and stability for under resourced families. If elected I will seek to ensure all litigants are able to participate in their legal matter in a meaningful way and are treated with respect.</p>

ALERT: NO STRAIGHT PARTY TICKET VOTING IN NOVEMBER

Unlike past elections, the November 6, 2018 ballot will not allow a voter to check one party's box to vote in all the partisan races. Voters must choose a candidate in each individual partisan race. Non-partisan elections, such as judges and school boards, will, as in the past, also require a voter to choose individual candidates (or multiple candidates if the race requires.)

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE PROPOSAL: Millage Restoration Authorization With 10 Year Expiration

Shall the Schoolcraft College District, County of Wayne, Michigan (consisting of the following public school districts: Clarenceville, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth-Canton), be permitted to restore for a ten year period, beginning in 2019, the 1986 voter-approved millage rate of 2.27, by assessing an additional 0.5038mills (\$0.5038 per \$1,000) on each dollar of taxable value of all property in the District, which rate shall be assessed through 2028 without further reduction by Section31 of Article IX, State Constitution of 1963. If approved and levied in its entirety, the additional 0.5038 mills would raise approximately \$7,136,000 in 2019?

Vote YES or NO

See the newsprint copy of the Voter Guide, or visit VOTE411.org, for information about the 3 statewide proposals.

Do you appreciate this Voter Guide?

It is printed with funds donated by people like you. Many in our community do not have access to computers and VOTE411.org. They request printed copies but we need your help to keep this work funded. We are an all-volunteer group and rely on donations to pay for unique projects like this.

*Send your tax-deductible gift, payable to:
League of Women Voters Education Fund
PO Box 51502
Livonia, MI 48151*

For more information about the League: www.LWVnorthwestwayne.org