

August 8, 2023

# Primary Election Voter Guide

Nonpartisan

for City Council Candidates, City of Dearborn Heights



## Are you ready to vote?

The primary election for City Council candidates is Tuesday, August 8, 2023. The purpose is to select the top 6 candidates who will run in the General Election on Tuesday, November 7 for three (3) Full-Term seats. Terms run from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2027. There are 9 names on the ballot, and voters may vote for up to 3 candidates. The 6 candidates who have the most votes will run again in the November 7 General Election.

Information on the candidates is found in this nonpartisan Voter Guide. Candidates were invited to provide biographical information and to answer 6 questions. Space restrictions permitted only 3 questions to be printed in this paper Voter Guide. To see the remaining 3 questions, visit [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) online.

► **Polls are open on Election Day from 7 am – 8 pm.**

All voters who are in line at 8 pm will be allowed to vote.

► **Vote early by Absentee Ballot.** Contact the City Clerk's office at [www.ci-dearborn-heights.mi.us](http://www.ci-dearborn-heights.mi.us) or 313-791-3439 after June 29 or visit in person at City Hall, 6045 Fenton Street, Dearborn Heights.

► **Visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at [www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote) to find out**

- If you are registered to vote
- Whether your absentee ballot is in the mail
- If your clerk has received your absentee ballot
- Where to vote

**And much more!**

# The League of Women Voters

## Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 as a nonpartisan political organization to encourage informed and active participation in government, increase understanding of major policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. **The League never supports or opposes a political party or candidate.**

Publication of this guide is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement of candidates by the League of Women Voters. The League takes no responsibility for any of the views or facts stated by the candidates. Candidates' responses are printed as submitted, including any misspellings and grammatical errors. Space limitations often prevent bullet points and other clarifying marks and spaces.

League membership is open to everyone aged 16 years or older. Please visit [LWVDDH.org](http://LWVDDH.org) for more information or contact us at [lwvddh@gmail.com](mailto:lwvddh@gmail.com) or (313) 278-6476.

Funding for this Voters Guide is provided by donations to the League of Women Voters Dearborn – Dearborn Heights Education Fund. Paper copies of this Voter Guide are available at the City Clerk's office, Dearborn Heights libraries, and other locations. This Voter Guide is printed by Mosaic Design Group, Dearborn, Michigan. Visit [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) for complete and updated Voter Guide information.

Go to [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) for more information on the candidates.

President: Jennifer Oliver. Voter Services Team: Betsy Cushman, Jennifer Teller.

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### ***Dearborn Heights DROP BOX LOCATIONS:***

**City Hall's Deposit Box located to the right of the Main Entrance; Absentee Voter Ballot Drop Boxes located at City Hall and at John F. Kennedy Jr. Library.**

<p><b>CANDIDATES</b> 850-character limit on answers</p>	<p>Please provide your biographical information and experience relevant to the position of city council member and explain why you are running.</p>	<p>What are two major issues facing the City today, and what would you do to address them?</p>	<p>The City has experienced significant flooding for decades. Storm drains and infrastructure are inadequate. What do you see as the City’s role in resolving these issues?</p>
<p><b>Zouher Abdel-Hak</b></p> <p><b>Education:</b> BSEE from Wayne State University, Graduate Diploma in Business Management from Cairo American University</p> <p><b>Campaign information:</b> 313-528-9395 www.zabdelhak4dhcc.com zabdelhak52@gmail.com www.facebook.com/zabdelhak4dhcc</p>	<p>I've been a resident of Dearborn Heights for 32 years. Married and the father of 6 and Grandfather of 4. I've been active in the City of Dearborn Heights for the last 23 years by attending City Council and Board of Education meetings. I was appointed to the Housing Commission and Zoning Board of Appeal by the late Mayor Paletko. Interim Treasurer in 2020 by City Council, and to the City Council in 2021 all so by City Council. I managed a 166-million-dollar project for GE in Egypt and held a security clearance from DOD. I co-own and operate a jewelry store in Dearborn, MI for the past 27 years.</p> <p>I'm running for Dearborn Heights City Council because every decision made by City Council affects the daily lives of Dearborn Heights Residents. We need people with experience like myself on City Council to make those decisions.</p>	<p>A shortage of police officers is a major issue facing our City. I will push to offer incentives such a as signing bonus for any new hires who pass the required testing. I would work to reinstate the health insurance benefit to newly hired officers who as of now don't receive health insurance when they retire. Our City streets are in need of urgent repair. I would advocate and vote for using some of the over 7 million dollars available in the local and major street fund to start repairing our local streets. Cooperate with State and County to speed up repair time taken on all major streets running through our City.</p>	<p>Having a 5-year plan to update the aging infrastructure, and the use of the 26 acres from the old incinerator property on Van Born to create a large retention basin. Put in the 'green space' that was supposed to go where all the houses have been torn down close to Ecorse Creek. Hiring a grant writer to get Federal, State, and County funds to reduce the tax impact on residents.</p>
<p><b>Ahmad Alkaabi</b> Continued on page 4</p> <p><b>Education:</b> High School - Star International Academy; University of Michigan -Dbn - BA Sociology; William Davidson Institute - Certification of Global Action Through Entrepreneurship</p> <p><b>Campaign information:</b> 313-247-2089 hello@voteahmad.com https://www.facebook.com/Voteahmad</p>	<p>As Dearborn Heights celebrates its 60th anniversary, we are facing numerous challenges that require bold, forward thinking, and innovative solutions. As a lifelong resident and the son of a working class family, I have seen firsthand the changes and challenges we have faced as a city. I watched as our parks were neglected, pushing families to use the facilities of neighboring cities. Since then, our city has grown and the demand for better services has increased.</p> <p>With over 10 years of community organizing and legislative experience at all levels of government, from my time as a legislative aide at our State Capitol to working for the US House of Representatives with Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, I look forward to using the experience I've gained to serve our city.</p>	<p>Since the launch of our campaign, we have launched a survey asking residents what are the main concerns facing our city. According to our survey, Ordinance violations (blight) and our parks were people's main concerns, amongst others like senior programing and public safety.</p> <p>We want to ensure our campaign platform is reflective of the needs of our residents and is inclusive of every voice. Our parks have been underfunded and neglected for years. We need to push for federal and state dollars to be allocated for our parks – our families deserve better.</p>	<p>In 2021, when we experienced a historic flood, I welcomed FEMA to the Dearborn Area. I went door to door with them as we surveyed the community to estimate the severity of the damage caused by the flood. At the time, I was a Congressional Liaison for Congresswoman Debbie Dingell.</p> <p>Serving in that capacity, I quickly learned that our infrastructure, not only as a city but as a country, is crumbling and is in need of major investments. As a city, we can not tackle this issue alone. We need to push our county, state, and federal government to allocate funding for our storm drains and infrastructure.</p>

**Non-Partisan Ballot**

**Dearborn-Heights City Council Term: January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2027, Vote for 3**

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<p><b>Ahmad Alkaabi</b> Continued from page 3</p>		<p>Please refer to my answer below* on how we will address blight. <i>*Editor note: go to vote411.org for answer</i></p>	<p>As someone who worked with our state and federal government, I understand what steps are needed to help secure funding for our city. Experience and relationships matter – this is where it makes a difference.</p>
<p><b>Mo Baydoun</b></p> <p><b>Education:</b> BA, Wayne State University   MPA, Central Michigan University</p> <p><b>Campaign information:</b> votemobaydoun@gmail.com <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MoB4DHC">https://www.facebook.com/MoB4DHC</a></p>	<p>I am so proud to live and work in our community. In addition to being a proud husband to Dr. Laila Baydoun and father to my beautiful son and expected daughter, I am a small business owner in Dearborn Heights, hold a master’s degree in Public Administration, and serve as a Wayne County Sheriff Reserve Officer.</p> <p>Since joining City Council, I’ve brought a hands-on leadership style to the role. Whether it be riding along with our snowplows to ensure road clearing, upgrading senior and recreation center facilities, or fighting for a left-turn signal at Ford and Gulley intersection to improve safety, I am committed to taking action and delivering results for our residents. While I am proud of the many successes I have shared with my community, there is still more work to be done, and I am seeking re-election to continue serving our community.</p>	<p>Public Safety - The safety of Dearborn Heights residents is crucial for the overall well-being of our city. We must ensure our police and fire departments receive the best training and equipment available. This includes securing sufficient funding to meet their operational needs and implementing effective recruitment practices to attract qualified personnel.</p> <p>Responsible Contracting - I strongly believe in the importance of transparent procurement procedures and have passionately fought to hold contractors accountable because our residents deserve reliable, high-quality services. By demanding accountability and establishing clear guidelines, evaluations, audits, and transparent procurement procedures, we can foster fair competition, ensure accountability, and guide responsible contracting.</p>	<p>As climate change continues to pose significant challenges, collaboration with county, state, and federal partners becomes even more crucial for infrastructural improvements. Comprehensive assessments of our city’s environment and infrastructure are necessary and play a pivotal role in identifying vulnerable areas and determining the root causes of flooding. This data should serve as the foundation for developing a robust flood management plan, with a focus on prioritizing infrastructure upgrades, including expanding storm drain systems. Additionally, investing in sustainable solutions like green infrastructure and floodplain management is essential for mitigating the impact of heavy rainfall. By implementing these measures, the City can protect its residents from flooding and foster the development of a more resilient community.</p>

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<p><b>Wissam Fadlallah</b></p> <p><b>Education:</b> Real Estate Professional</p> <p><b>Campaign information:</b> 3135805018 Halocorp1@gmail.com /Wissam Fadlallah for Dearborn Heights City Council</p>	<p>A 25 year resident of Dearborn Heights, am raising my children in the city that i call home, my wife currently serves on the zoning board for Dearborn Heights, I am Real Estate professional with 25 years experience in economic development, served several years on the City of Dearborn Heights Planning commission, accredited for multiple economic developments thru-out the city resulting in a complete revitalization of the Ford rd corridor and Transforming the image of the city into a modern business district</p>	<p>Public safety is on the top of the list</p> <p>We need to empower our police department, hiring back officers that have moved on to different cities, reinstating our traffic division in a city that has a traffic problem, reinstating our narcotic department we current don't have one in a city with opioid problem, and always moving up in rank should and always will be within the department ranks.</p>	<p>It is a FACT our city has flooding/storm/drain problems. We have an old system that we keep putting a bandage on it, basically the city is in desperate needs of federal and state funding, i believe we should pursue every grant and federal/state money to completely replace and revamp our drainage system asap</p>
<p><b>Mohammad Janny</b></p>	<p>Candidate did not respond</p>		
<p><b>Denise Malinowski Maxwell</b></p> <p><b>Education:</b> Madonna University Business Administration Graduate, Henry Ford Community College alumni, Crestwood High School</p> <p><b>Campaign information:</b> (810)542-2005 Maxwell4council@gmail.com Denise Malinowski Maxwell for Dearborn Heights City</p>	<p>Dearborn Heights City Council Chair 2017-2021, AT&amp;T retired, Real Estate agent 1993-2012, CWA Chief Union Steward 1986-2000, Madonna University Business Admin Grad 1994, Member St. Linus Church since 1962, Lifelong Volunteer in the community since I was 5. Lifelong resident. Each of these Qualifications brings a unique wealth of knowledge. As recent City Council chair I know how our city operates and I know the Charter! AT&amp;T taught me to communicate with a variety of people &amp; to diffuse tense situations while remaining calm. Real Estate educated me on the different Real Estate trends in our community and how it affects us directly. As Chief Union Steward I learned to negotiate &amp; come to a fair solution for both sides. Dearborn Heights as a City needs changes and I’m here to make sure they happen to benefit ALL the residents!</p>	<p>Trash collection is a big issue. Residents are not happy with the current situation. I will pressure the current company to do their job correctly or we will replace them! Another issue is the aging Sycamore trees have reached their life expectancy. They are dying. Bark and leaves are falling off them all summer long. Dead branches are falling and damaging cars and homes. Residents have resorted to hiring private companies to cut these down &amp; other dead trees located on city property at their own expense. This should be taken care of by our own DPW. If the city can’t do it, at least provide an affordable program to get it done (like the sidewalk program). We need to clean up our city. Dearborn Heights was a beautiful and well sought after city when I was growing up. With a few necessary changes we can once again be that City!</p>	<p>The city needs to come up with a maintenance and replacement schedule. It’s time we be proactive instead of reactive. Our infrastructure is old and poorly maintained. If we don’t get a grip on things it will not be good for the residents. Flooding has been an issue for years. My Aunt and Uncle who lived on Powers experienced it for years. I personally had to deal with flooding issues at my personal home. It is a nightmare no one plans for. Suddenly you are flooded and have to react immediately to clean up the damage. On City Council I would encourage us to check for grants that could help us do as many of the repairs as possible.</p>

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<p><b>Hussein Mazloum</b></p> <p><b>Education:</b> Attended Wayne State University</p> <p><b>Campaign information:</b> www.husseinmazloum.com (313)802-8875 ctehusseinmazloum@gmail.com</p>	<p>My family and I have been residents of Dearborn Heights for over 20 years. I have a very strong finance background with over 15 years of banking and financial services. I have 10 years of real estate experience in purchasing &amp; renting out properties to families in all ends of Dearborn Heights. It’s the responsibility for us as Americans to give back to the country that has given us an incredible opportunity, and one of those ways is public service. I’m running for Dearborn Heights City Council to serve my neighbors, work on their behalf, and shed light on the issues that matter to them the most. As well as being accountable to residents, I’m ready to take on the challenges to improve our city and be a part of the solution.</p>	<p>One of the biggest challenges our police department faces is staffing, and this is a direct result of our police officers being underpaid and lacking proper benefits. We have to reallocate more funding and resources to the police department in order to attract top tier talent. We have a fiscal responsibility to the residents, and the city council needs to make sure that the tax payers dollars are used in the best possible way. My finance experience is vital to serving our residents in terms of budgeting, balancing the sheet, and ensuring we have better management of city projects while also maintaining a high level of transparency. I will help ensure our tax dollars are spent efficiently while maintaining good city services and building towards the future.</p>	<p>The city is responsible for resolving these issues. While there are possible solutions, but from reviewing the budget, there are too many constraints that make this difficult to execute. We should continue to seek funds from the state and federal government to update the infrastructure. The city has held public forums about the flooding issues, and Ecorse Creek, which is a great way of being transparent to its residents, and showing that it is being worked on. If we can bridge the gap of communication between the city, county, and state, then the process of resolving these issues would occur at a faster rate.</p>
<p><b>Ray Muscat</b> Continued on page 7</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Crestwood High 72, HFCC related classes for Ford Motor Apprenticeship followed by years of specialized training.</p> <p><b>Campaign information:</b> 313-595-7883 Ray4citycouncil@gmail.com</p>	<p>I was born 4-18-1954 in Detroit Michigan. I am married to my wife Lisa for 30 years and we have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. I attended Crestwood High and then worked for FOMOCO for 42 years as a machine repairman, I then became the leader for that trade. My experience leading a workforce in a multibillion dollar operation has helped give me unique skills in problem solving. I have been an active citizen as a participant at all city council meetings and study session for close to 20 years, and now a councilman for 8 years and I understand all of the problems the city has had then and now. I am trying to help the current administration change the culture of what has been going on for years without change.</p>	<p>The main issue what I am hearing for citizens are lack of police presence on our roads. We currently are down on man power in the police department. The administration is currently working with the police chief and other organizations such as the DOJ in helping our department into the 21st century. I will do whatever is necessary in helping our police department anyway I can including fining ways to improve starting salaries and making sure we have programs such as a Police Academy and the hiring of former military police officers after a strict background check. This was a</p>	<p>I have seen more city involvement in the past 2 years on the flooding issue than the last 40 or 50 years. We now have employed a City Engineer who is a PE. He has worked tirelessly to find solutions to the flooding. We also must keep in mind that the Ecorse Creek is really a river and it belongs to Wayne County. We also are working on many CSO projects that the city was supposed to do over 10 years ago.</p>

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<p><b>Ray Muscat</b> Continued from page 6</p>		<p>proposal years ago when manpower was starting to dwindle and was rejected by the former police hierarchy.</p>	
<p><b>Hassan Saab</b></p> <p><b>Education:</b> Electrical Engineer, licensed Builder</p> <p><b>Campaign information:</b> 3139771111 Hassans220@icloud.com</p>	<p>My Name is Hassan Saab, I am 37 years old. I am an Electrical Engineer and a Licensed Builder. I have a professional career in the New construction and Development area. I currently serve on the City of Dearborn Heights Planning Commission and a local DDA, I am engaged, committed, and looking forward to serving our residents on Council.</p> <p>My purpose is to continue serving the citizens of our great city and contributing to its growth and prosperity. I remain committed to supporting public safety; strengthening the ongoing improvements of city infrastructure; enhancing communication and major projects including parks and recreation; and encouraging new economic development, while supporting our local businesses.</p>	<p>Prioritize infrastructure projects based on their urgency and impact on public safety and quality of life.</p> <p>Seek funding through grants, partnerships with private organizations, and possibly bond measures to finance infrastructure repairs and upgrades.</p> <p>Collaborate with experts and engineers to conduct thorough assessments of the city's infrastructure to identify areas that require immediate attention.</p> <p>Develop a long-term infrastructure plan that focuses on regular maintenance to prevent further deterioration.</p>	<p>Flooding in the city has much to do with the maintenance of Ecourse Creek which is not a city asset. Nevertheless, the City has to do everything we can to help mitigate the circumstances to reduce flooding for the residence. We need actively lobbying the County, State &amp; Federal levels to help with infrastructure upgrades and dredging to the creek. When I am elected to council, I plan to organize groups to speak to Government officials to fix the problem a little bit at a time. I would also ensure that the cities budget includes a grant writing specialist to apply for County, State and Federal grants to address the issue.</p>

**Answers to additional candidate questions are at [vote411.org](http://vote411.org)**

### **Voter Guides from the League of Women Voters**

Voter Guides from the League of Women Voters are a unique and valuable service in our community. VOTE411.org and printed Voter Guides in our libraries and city hall are made possible by donations from civic-minded individuals and organizations, and by the dedicated volunteers who give their time and talent to provide these services. Please show your appreciation by sending a check of any amount to the League of Women Voters of Dearborn-Dearborn Heights Education Fund, 120 N. Military, Dearborn 48128. Your support is welcome and needed.

### **Visit the Michigan Voter Information Center**

[www.mi.gov/vote](http://www.mi.gov/vote)

#### **Find out:**

If you are registered to vote,  
Whether your absentee ballot is in the mail,  
If your clerk has received your absentee ballot,  
Where to vote,  
**And much more!**

### **Call 866-OUR-VOTE Election Protection Hotline for Voter Assistance**

For the primary election, the Election Protection **866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) hotline will be available to help voters when polls open at 7:00 am until the polls close at 8:00 pm ET.** The hotline provides voters with information, guidance and assistance, and responds to complaints or obstacles to voting.

### **Election Assistance - a suite of voter helplines administered by coalition members:**

- English: 866-OUR-VOTE – Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
- Spanish/English: 888-VE-Y-VOTA – NALEO Educational Fund
- Arabic/English: 844-YALLA-US – Arab American Institute (AAI)
- Asian Languages/English: 888-API-VOTE – APIAVote & Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC)