



**LOCAL NON-PARTISAN VOTER GUIDE
GENERAL ELECTION**

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Chelsea School District

ELECTION DAY POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

EARLY VOTING: October 26 – November 3

<https://www.washtenaw.org/3970/Early-Voting>

Included in this Local Voter Guide:
(Contested races only)

State Representative #46, #47, #48
Washtenaw County Commissioners
District 1
Washtenaw County Judges
Washtenaw County Clerk
Washtenaw County Treasurer
Washtenaw County Water Resources Comm
Washtenaw Com College Board of Trustees
Washtenaw County Proposals
Dexter Township
Lima Township
Sylvan Township

***Information about the following
races not included in this local
Voter Guide can be found by
visiting Vote411.org or
lwwashtenaw.org***

US President
US Vice President
US Senate
US Congressional Representative
Michigan Supreme Court
Michigan Court of Appeals
Governing Boards of Michigan Universities

The League of Women Voters of Washtenaw County is a nonpartisan organization established in 1920 in Ann Arbor, MI. The League works to encourage citizen participation in government. It never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

Publication of these statements and opinions of 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. The League takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by the candidates. Each question is limited to 1000 characters, and there has been no editing on the part of the League for spelling or grammar. All responses are solely in the words of the candidates. The work of the League is financed by the dues of its volunteer members and by contributions from citizens in the community.

Membership in the League of Women Voters of Washtenaw County is open to all citizens 16 years and older. For information about joining or contributing to the League, or information about elections, contact the League of Women Voters of Washtenaw County at: P.O. Box 3832, Ann Arbor, MI, 48106 or website: **lwwashtenaw.org**.

State Representative – Michigan House District #46
(Washtenaw County)

VOTE FOR 1

<p>CANDIDATES</p> <p><i>(Visit VOTE411.org for responses to additional questions)</i></p>	<p>What should Michigan do to provide an equitable, quality public education for all while addressing the current teacher shortage.</p>	<p>What do you see as the state’s role, if any, in mitigating the impact of climate change?</p>	<p>What actions/proposals, if any, do you support to retain residents in our state?</p>
<p>Kathy Schmaltz (Rep)</p> <p>Campaign Website: kathyschmaltz.com</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>As your State Representative, my job is to make life easier for you, affordable, safer, healthier and to make sure your children get the best education. Right now our education system is failing our children. Inflation is out of control and making life tougher for Michigan families. I have a bill to cut taxes, and legislation offering a three thousand dollar tax credit on a down payment of a house. I’ve lived in my community for over 35 years, served on many state and local boards and non profits. I see the needs in our community especially with our at risk children and other vulnerable residents. I’ve introduced legislation to help.</p>	<p>We need to make sure our children get the best education possible whether it’s private, public, charter or homeschool. Eliminating the third grade reading law is unacceptable. Michigans4th graders rank 43rd in the nation in reading. We need to make sure our children’s education is a top priority. We also need to put our kids on a successful career path when they graduate high school whether in skilled trades or college. Financial literacy is also a must. I introduced legislation to ensure our high schoolers learn personal finance. I also have a bill to make sure our dyslexic children learn to read. Promote careers in education.</p>	<p>We all need to do our part to protect our environment. I sit on the State House Energy, Communication and Technology Committee. We need to work toward clean energy without raising your rates and taking away local control. The Democrats voted to take local control away concerning where wind and solar projects can be put in your community. They gave that control to the state government. I voted against that. You should decide if windmills or solar farms can be located next to your house. Affordability and reliability are the key. I introduced an amendment, if your rates go up 30%, we stop and reevaluate. They said no.</p>	<p>We have to make life more affordable for people. Groceries have gone up nearly 25% since 2020, and buying a house is too expensive to even think about. I’ve introduced affordability legislation to offer a state child tax credit that is 50% of the federal credit and establishing a child care savings account, along with my tax cut legislation. We also need to cut red tape and make it easier for our businesses to do businesses with fewer burdensome regulations. We need to prioritize our small businesses giving them the tools they need to succeed. Also getting our young people on a career path early in our business community-networking.</p>
<p>Daniel J. Mahoney (Dem)</p> <p>Campaign Website: mahoneyformichigan.com</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I am running to be State Representative for House District 46 to protect Michigans Democracy. As a former Jackson County Commissioner and current Mayor of the City of Jackson I bring 10 year of experience in public service, policy change and progressive work. I am running to keep more money in our pockets. To make our communities safer, to work across party lines to find common ground for smart infrastructure projects. To stand up for Michigan women. I am running to get things done for us all.</p>	<p>Michigan should continue to create opportunities for Michiganders like Michigan Reconnect, that offer a pathway to higher education, which leads to better paying jobs, which helps people get out of poverty. To address the teacher shortage we need to offer better wages, better benefits and better systems of support to those who take the time to shape the minds of Michigan Future Leaders.</p>	<p>Michigan has the potential to be a leader in environmental protection and climate change. We should be acting on that potential. We must do all we can to protect our environment and become leaders in climate change.</p>	<p>I support providing resources and efforts to retain residents in our state.</p>

State Representative – Michigan House District #47
(Washtenaw County)

VOTE FOR 1

<p>CANDIDATES</p> <p>(Visit VOTE411.org for responses to additional questions)</p>	<p>What should Michigan do to provide an equitable, quality public education for all while addressing the current teacher shortage.</p>	<p>What do you see as the state’s role, if any, in mitigating the impact of climate change?</p>	<p>What actions/proposals, if any, do you support to retain residents in our state?</p>
<p>Teresa Spiegelberg (Rep)</p> <p>Campaign Website: taspieg.wixsite.com/staterep</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I am running to see if we can streamline all the regulations that we have. Government should be for the people and not just full of regulations.</p>	<p>I feel we should encourage technical schools and on the job training more than we do.</p>	<p>I feel the state should encourage green, without just moving blindly towards it.</p>	<p>The state needs to encourage growth here in the state to retain residents and bring new people in. Such as not taxing social security.</p>
<p>Carrie A. Rheingans (Dem)</p> <p>Campaign Website: carrierheingans.com</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I am running for reelection because I believe in a Michigan that is welcoming to all and a place where everyone can thrive. My passion and entire career have been in service of advancing issues of equity and focusing on bringing along groups and elevating voices that have historically been left out, such as people of color, indigenous communities, our LGBTQ+ siblings, and working people. My philosophy is to have impacted people in the discussions about how we address the problems facing our society and in crafting the legislation to do so. I'm proud of what I was able to do in Lansing in the last term, but there is so much more to do.</p>	<p>As the mom of a public-school student, and a former teacher at a public university, I know how imperative it is to have robust funding for public education. We’ve done a lot in the last term to provide for a more equitable education for our kids, but there is still so much to do. No child should be deprived of a quality, public education based on their zip code or their family’s income level. We as a state can and must do better. A high-quality public education is the key to everything, and attracting and maintaining our high-quality teachers is what makes that possible. That means higher pay, better benefits, and improved working conditions.</p>	<p>The state must do everything it can to help mitigate the impact of climate change, the existential threat of our time. I support the Governor’s plan to achieve economy-wide carbon neutrality by 2050, but even that isn’t fast enough. Ann Arbor’s A2Zero plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 is the type of aggressive, place-based plan that should be replicated throughout our state. Converting as much of our energy supply to be carbon-neutral and come from renewable sources as quickly as possible is a top priority for me. This will provide us with an opportunity to be a countrywide leader in this field and create tons of good-paying jobs.</p>	<p>There are many actions that we can take to both retain our residents and attract folks to settle in Michigan. If our state can meet our citizens' basic needs and protect their rights to be who they are, love who they love, and have autonomy over their own body, they will be able to focus on other things like taking a risk and starting a new business, pursuing a new hobby, having a child, or just enjoying our state's incredible natural resources. To do that, I support passing single-payer healthcare for ALL, mandatory paid sick and family leave, universal childcare, subsidized eldercare, affordable housing, and a higher minimum wage.</p>
<p>Aaron Wright (Grn)</p> <p>Campaign Website:</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>

State Representative – Michigan House District #48
(Washtenaw County)

VOTE FOR 1

CANDIDATES <i>(Visit VOTE411.org for responses to additional questions)</i>	What should Michigan do to provide an equitable, quality public education for all while addressing the current teacher shortage.	What do you see as the state's role, if any, in mitigating the impact of climate change?	What actions/proposals, if any, do you support to retain residents in our state?
Brian Ignatowski (Rep) Campaign Website: brian48.com Education/Qualifications / Experience:	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
Jennifer A. Conlin (Dem) Campaign Website: conlinforstaterep.com Education/Qualifications / Experience: I strongly believe that as a state representative I am able to enact meaningful policies in multiple areas that benefit my constituents and the residents of Michigan.	Michigan should continue to provide record funding for public schools, ensure free or easy access to early childhood education, and optimize incentives for our educator pipeline (through programs like tuition assistance; increased supports for experts, such as social workers and counselors; and a more robust investment in educator retirement plans).	The state can continue to advocate for and execute policies that promote clean energy use (community solar, for example) while exploring solutions in other spaces, like sustainable agriculture practices.	To retain Michigan residents, we need to explore economic development incentives that create a favorable environment for growth (which stimulates business, tourism, etc.) and ways to retain educators and healthcare professionals (through interstate licensure compacts, tuition assistance programs, etc.).
Eric Borregard (Grn) Campaign Website: Education/Qualifications / Experience:	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND

Washtenaw County Commissioner - District 1

4-year term

VOTE FOR 1

CANDIDATES <i>(Visit VOTE411.org for Responses to additional questions)</i>	What are your goals should you be elected and how will you work to accomplish them with limited resources?	What are the most serious problems facing the county, and how will you work to solve them?	What are Washtenaw County's greatest assets and how can they be used to help the community thrive?
Phyllis L. Risdon (Rep) Education/Qualifications / Experience:	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
Jason Maciejewski (Dem)	First, we must continue to provide impactful mandated services through a balanced county budget. A major goal is preserving district court	The most significant problem facing the county is maintaining service levels in upcoming budget years when overall	Washtenaw County's people are our greatest asset. We have a level of experience, expertise and resources that ranks

<p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>My experience includes a variety of leadership positions in both professional and elected environments. As the Chief Executive Officer for an Area Agency on Aging I work daily on issues impacting older adults and caregivers, such as meals-on-wheels and other services that assist people to thrive in the community. As a County Commissioner I have served on the Broadband Task Force, Commission on Aging, County Roads Funding Subcommittee, SEMCOG's Executive Committee and as liaison to the Board of Public Works. In 2021 and 2022 I served in Board of Commissioners leadership quadrant, chairing Working Session. From 2008-2016 I served as a Dexter Township Trustee, working to build a voter-approved fire substation that has improved service and reduced emergency response times. For ten years I was a member of the Western Washtenaw Recycling Authority Board of Directors. I hold a B.A. in Political Science and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.</p>	<p>services in Chelsea and working to establish a Western Service Center so residents in western Washtenaw can access county resources close to home. The recently completed county building space study allows for more efficient facility operations overall. Another priority is completing the project bringing broadband access to county residents who currently cannot connect to the infrastructure of the internet. I will also continue fostering the County Commission's relationship with the County Road Commission to better address road maintenance and further improve communication with residents. We must continue to progress in addressing behavioral health issues through collaboration amongst county, school, municipal and health system collaboration. Finally, supporting completion of our Border-to-Border Trail connections is also a focal point for me.</p>	<p>revenue will be decreasing. Beyond providing efficient and effective mandated services, I will prioritize preserving services that positively impact residents. Deploying the new Mobile Resource Unit and building a western Washtenaw Service Center are steps toward reaching out to rural and underserved areas. This is an important step in meeting people where they are, bringing access to resources rather than making them come to an office in Ann Arbor, Saline or Ypsilanti. I will continue to support innovative public safety operations that bring a combination of resources to appropriately address situations. All county operations, including court and law enforcement, need to continually review how they are meeting their mandates in our changing environment. Finally, we need</p>	<p>amongst the best in the world. County government must continue to partner with organizations and individuals to realize progress and impact. A good example of this is the work being done on youth behavioral health, which involves students, teachers, behavioral health professionals, hospitals, community leaders and county staff. There are over 40 county boards, commissions and authorities, many of which present great opportunities for the public to contribute in meaningful ways. Another of our greatest assets are recreational resources like the park system, the Border-to-Border Trail, a first-class mountain bike course, the recreational lakes and many preserved areas. The entrepreneurial spirit, innovative mindset and creativity of thought, combined with a natural setting of lakes, rivers and open spaces make Washtenaw County a world class place to live.</p>
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Washtenaw County Clerk/Register of Deeds
(Covers all of Washtenaw County)

VOTE FOR 1

<p>CANDIDATES</p> <p>(Visit VOTE411.org for responses to additional questions)</p>	<p>What are your goals should you be elected and how will you work to accomplish them with currently limited resources?</p>	<p>What thoughts do you have about the current voting procedures?</p>	<p>Are there challenges to ensuring a safe and secure voting process, both in-person and through absentee ballots? What are your recommendations to meet these challenges?</p>
<p>Samantha Strayer (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California-Irvine and a master's degree in politics from the Hillsdale College Graduate School of Statesmanship. My education reflects a consistent interest in politics—particularly the cultivation of an informed and engaged citizenry. I am a writer and editor by vocation, which require a high level of precision in meaning, effective communication, and accuracy. My writing is also rooted in respect for the reader, gratitude that someone would take time out of his or her busy life to read something that I</p>	<p>My goals are first to ensure the integrity of our elections, particularly in our county seat of Ann Arbor, and second to ensure accurate record keeping regarding land ownership. I would like to work with CheckMyVote.org to clean up our county's voter rolls. This will be an ongoing initiative and involves any resident who wishes to participate. Also, I plan to connect with the county's clerks to hear from them what works, what doesn't, and ideas they have. Overall, I wish to provide timely, efficient, and accurate service to our</p>	<p>How we vote is one part of the problem and definitely needs improvement, as it is time consuming, expensive, and, in several respects, needlessly complicated. It is also fraught with (intentional) weaknesses that invite abuse. For example, there is no requirement for any voter to prove s/he is a citizen. This must change (e.g., the SAVE Act).</p> <p>Early voting further complicates what truly should be a relatively simple process: you show up at your local precinct polling place on Election Day (one day!), show your</p>	<p>Absolutely. There are challenges with both mail-in and in-person voting, but the challenges are much greater when there is mass mail-in voting, which is highly vulnerable to fraud and banned in most countries. We need strict rules on signature verification as well as full transparency of the process. We also need strict adherence to following the chain of custody. Additionally, the quality of the voter rolls is a major problem. We in Michigan have much to change in the way we conduct our elections, yes, but it starts with the foundation of accurate data. Michigan has</p>

<p>have written. Taken together, these experiences fit perfectly with the role of County Clerk/Register of Deeds, who must be precise, accurate, an effective communicator, and wish to serve all residents so that they can be informed and engaged and know what resources and information are available to them.</p>	<p>residents. The current website has a lot of great information, so that important infrastructure already exists and is a strong foundation to build upon. I would leverage the existing site and add to it additional resources. I would also modify some of the wording, navigation options, and other aspects of the site, so that it's more intuitive and therefore easier to use and find information.</p>	<p>photo ID to verify you are a registered voter in your precinct, and vote. Mail-in voting is a danger to election integrity.</p>	<p>nearly 105% voters! In short, we have dirty voter rolls. This is a problem statewide but especially in Washtenaw. Attempts to clean up the voter rolls are sabotaged by our Secretary of State. Magically, voters who have passed away or moved—even years ago—somehow keep reappearing. It's a mess, and it's a mess by design. Last but not least, we must end our membership with ERIC, the Electronic Registration Information Center.</p>
<p>Lawrence Kestenbaum (Dem)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * I have been county clerk/register for almost 20 years and accomplished a lot. * I have a B.A. in economics, a law degree, and did graduate work in city/regional planning and historic preservation. I have lectured or taught classes at three universities, and I continue to do presentations for service groups and lecture series. * My past election experience included working as a poll worker and as an attorney for candidates in recounts. I have written and lectured on election issues such as voter authentication, tabulation technology, and security. * And, of course, I've been the county's chief election official since 2005. * I was elected to county boards in two counties, served on university, city, and regional planning commissions, and too many other things to list here. * I was one of the pioneers of the World Wide Web. In 1996, I created the Political Graveyard web site (PoliticalGraveyard.com), which made a tremendous amount of U.S. political history available online. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Every person who comes to our office is treated with courtesy and respect. That is my ongoing commitment. * My team has greatly expanded access to information online, and we're not done yet. * We were the first county in the state to implement electronic death registration, a big savings in time and energy for everyone involved. * I will also continue advocating for voting rights and human rights. * In 2014, when Michigan's gay marriage prohibition was struck down, I opened the office on a Saturday to process marriage licenses for same-sex couples. Three other county clerks followed my lead. * In 2012, the legislature added unconstitutional roadblocks to stop voters from recalling elected officials. I'm in the forefront of those opposing that power grab. * Many states are seeing partisan attacks on voting rights and the election system. Michigan is a flashpoint of this conflict. A county clerk with deep election experience is the best defense. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Successful ballot proposals in 2018-22 expanded voting rights and access. Implementation of these changes is ongoing, including early voting, automatic registration, pre-registration of 16-year-olds, a permanent absentee list, and routine post-election audits. We still need help from the Legislature to fully realize these things. * In particular, the August primary needs to be earlier, ideally in May, for better voter turnout, and to assure enough time for recounts and post-election random-precinct audits. * Michigan asks a LOT of our voters. Each of us gets to vote on nearly 100 different offices, from president to library board, from Court of Appeals to Probate Judge. * With the decline of media coverage of local government, an increasing proportion of voters prefer to vote at home, with access to resources to look up candidates and issues. * In the long run, I expect Michigan will have a mostly or fully mail-in voting system, like Oregon or Colorado. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Michigan election law protects the integrity and security of the process. And the right to a secret ballot is now explicitly protected in the state constitution. * In a voting precinct or absentee counting board, every sensitive task is performed by two poll workers of different partisanship, working together. * The absentee ballot process, in particular, is structured to protect the anonymity of ballots. * Our automatic tabulators are regularly tested and audited (before and after every election) to verify that they report votes accurately. Ballots are also kept for 22 months after every federal election, so that anyone can count and compare them to the reported totals. * Voter intimidation is illegal, and our poll workers, our local clerks, and our police agencies are alert to intervene if it happens. * Prop 2 of 2022, among many other things, mandated secure drop boxes for absentee ballots. * I am confident that our voting process is safe and secure.

<p>CANDIDATES</p> <p>(Visit VOTE411.org for Responses to additional questions)</p>	<p>What are your goals should you be elected and how will you work to accomplish them with currently limited resources?</p>	<p>What are your thoughts about the current tax system in Washtenaw County?</p>	<p>What are your thoughts regarding the level of customer service provided?</p>
<p>Robert F. Zimmerman (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>This is a financial position and my career has demonstrated Proven Financial Leadership for 35 +years. My educational background is a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Business from Carnegie-Mellon University and a Masters in Business Administration with majors in Accounting and Finance. I've passed the CPA Exam. My audit experience includes a "Big Four" CPA firm and internal audit roles in management responsibilities for two Fortune 200 firms. I'm very knowledgeable of financial statements and what they represent regarding the operating performance of an organization. Moreover, my professional experience in financial operations includes roles and responsibilities as a CFO for 17 years in the steel industry, Director-Finance for an international automotive supplier, Division and Operations Controller for 3 Fortune 200 manufacturers. My CFO tenure included Pension committee membership and determining fund selections for the 401-k plan.</p>	<p>I approach each assignment with a goal of continuous innovation. I'm oriented to "out-collaborate everyone else", to help my employers compete. Creating and tracking benchmarks indicating where additional value is created (as well as identifying where we have work to do) is key. I'd like to enhance current efforts in the following ways: Working with our cities and townships to "get ahead" of potential opportunities and problems by digging into delinquent tax payments. The county perpetually has a credit line of over \$20M to cover delinquencies, now far more costly with increased interest rates. The cost to the county to administer foreclosures is \$1M, benefiting no one. I'd like to work with our city & township treasurers to provide incentives to encourage more timely payment, address those taxpayers with cash flow issues, and help get vacant properties filled towards their highest and best purpose. This can help keep our values strong and ensure "Main Street" thrives for all.</p>	<p>The county's tax structure is largely driven by the state with a very limited voice for county treasurers. We no longer have a structure that grows our economy for the working classes. Sales taxes and income taxes are a manageable process and can be compared to competing states. Property Taxes have become convoluted, particularly in Washtenaw as so much property is held by non-profits. Our taxes for similar housing and commercial properties are rarely competitive with other counties. A county commissioner noted it's difficult for those making \$60k to afford to live in Washtenaw. Many will locate in adjacent counties, spurring growth there rather than here. For those not desiring growth in our county, their property taxes will still increase as the pool of property taxpayers is comparatively low. We are looking at up to 7 county millages on the ballot this year. I'd like to see a cap on property tax rates and assessments that cannot be exceeded or overridden.</p>	<p>Most of the public interface is with our local townships and city treasurers as the first point of contact. Only items such as dog licenses are handled by the county treasurer's office as a "retail" service. The office would engage the public when taxes are not paid to the cities and townships by the deadline. This can be a stressful situation to property owners that may already be very stressed. Accordingly, it's tough to get a good read when the customer can be in an emotional situation. The office has undertaken educational opportunities available to those caught in this situation. I'm hearing the program is well received. It does suggest potential enhancements to financial education throughout the county. This could help our residents not only in stressful situations, but to get better financial footing before these events happen. As many mental health & domestic violence situations result from financial issues, perhaps a program to better train our social workers would help.</p>
<p>Latitia Lamelle Sharp (Dem)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I am proud to hold degrees from Ypsilanti High School, Washtenaw Community College, and Eastern Michigan University. These educational institutions have provided me with a strong foundation across various fields, enabling me to contribute effectively to Washtenaw County governance for over 35 years. In my extensive career, I have actively participated in county operations, gaining valuable insights into</p>	<p>My goals will focus on five key priority pillars that address the essential responsibilities of the position. These pillars form a robust framework, emphasizing community well-being, responsible management of public funds, and financial integrity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safeguard Public Funds: Ensure the safety of public funds, protect county assets, and adhere to ethical standards. 	<p>Property taxes in Michigan are billed twice a year (in July and December) by the local city or township treasurer. If local treasurers cannot collect property taxes, the county treasurer becomes responsible for collecting all delinquent taxes. The current tax system in Washtenaw County faces several challenges: Delinquency and Collection Issues, Equity and Fairness, Administrative Burdens, Digital Accessibility, and Foreclosure Prevention. I</p>	<p>. If elected as the Washtenaw County Treasurer, my commitment to customer service will be a strong primary focus. In my career of public service, I have dedicated myself to courteous customer service, listening and providing whatever is needed, or making the connection with resources that can provide the service. The office should provide courteous and helpful assistance to taxpayers, whether in person, over the phone, or via email. Promptly addressing inquiries related</p>

<p>grant management, procurement, financial analysis, accounting, and human resources. My commitment to financial best practices is evident through my membership in the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and the National Grant Management Association (NGMA). My primary qualification lies in my dedication to bringing a fresh perspective to the role of County Treasurer. I aim to build upon the retiring treasurers' work while emphasizing transparency, taxpayer safeguards, and community-centered programs. A vote for me is a vote for a Treasurer who prioritizes the people.</p>	<p>2. Property Tax Collection Effectiveness: Optimize tax collection processes to safeguard public funds and support essential services.</p> <p>3. Homeownership Preservation Programs: Enhance existing programs to prevent foreclosures and promote homeownership, benefiting the community.</p> <p>4. Community Partnerships: Foster collaborations with local organizations, businesses, and neighborhood associations to drive community investment and innovation.</p> <p>5. Compliance with State Laws: Uphold state regulations to maintain public trust and ensure sound financial practices.</p>	<p>will work diligently and affectively to collect taxes equitably and fairly to prevent delinquency and foreclosure, ensuring accessibility for all residents within the county's administrative resources.</p>	<p>to property taxes and payment options is essential. The office should be transparent about tax assessments, billing, and collection processes. Clear communication regarding due dates, penalties, and exemptions is crucial. Ensuring accuracy in property assessments, tax calculations, and records management is vital. Any discrepancies or errors should be promptly rectified. The office should prioritize accessibility for all residents, including older adults.</p>
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Washtenaw County Water Resources

4-year term

VOTE FOR 1

<p>CANDIDATES <i>(Visit VOTE411.org for Responses to additional questions)</i></p>	<p>What are your goals should you be elected and how will you work to accomplish them with limited resources?</p>	<p>What steps will you take to mitigate the Gelman plume contamination?</p>	<p>What do you think are the greatest threats to our county's surface and ground water resources?</p>
<p>Lisa Gubaci-Root (Rep) Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>
<p>Gretchen D. Driskell (Dem) Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>My education includes an accounting degree, former CPA and MBA. I recently completed my MPA at the Ford School of Public Policy at University of Michigan. Additionally, I have attended Michigan Inland Lakes and Streams conferences and MSU educational sessions regarding our fresh water systems. I have had long term interest in our fresh water and learned over the years about the challenges and opportunities that are present. I have served as a local elected official for over 20 years and also spent 4 years as a state legislator. I have worked in a collaborative manner with other stakeholders to help solve regional</p>	<p>The Water Resources Commission has state mandated responsibilities regarding drainage and stormwater management, which we will continue to maintain and enhance as needed. Additionally I will work collaboratively with our communities and stakeholders to develop innovative solutions to the impacts of climate change on flooding and water quality. Water is our most important natural resource and helping to educate our citizens on how to protect it is also an important ongoing issue.</p>	<p>Now that the Gelman plume has become a Superfund site, I will work with our federal partners to insure that the contamination is cleaned up as soon as possible. Additionally, we need to inform our impacted citizens on the movement of the plume on a continual basis. I will work with the local governing authorities to insure we are doing everything possible to contain and ultimately clean up the plume.</p>	<p>The greatest threat is the lack of understanding our citizens have on the impact they potentially make to our water system. Whether that is fertilizing your lawn, lack of maintenance of our septic systems, or soil runoff from flooding on heavy rainfall. PFAS and other contaminants are also a substantial threat and fortunately the state of Michigan is at the forefront of addressing this issue. The other threat is climate change and the severe weather that is occurring. Heavy rainfalls cause more contamination of our waters. Educating our citizens will help address all these concerns and our elected officials will develop</p>

<p>issues and represent the needs of our citizens. I am an innovative problem solver and will work to address your concerns in a fiscally responsible manner.</p>			<p>policies to protect our water resources.</p>
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22nd Circuit Judge of Circuit Court (Non-Incumbent) 6-year term VOTE FOR 1

<p>CANDIDATES <i>(Visit VOTE411.org for Responses to additional questions)</i></p>	<p>What are your objectives if you are elected and how will you work to accomplish them?</p>	<p>What are the priority issues facing this court, and how would you address them if elected?</p>	<p>What is your general judicial philosophy?</p>
<p>Jinan Hamood (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have worked in Washtenaw County serving the community in various legal positions - from interning at the Public Defender's Office, completing a judicial externship at the 15th District Court, to running my own practice. For over a decade I have practiced criminal defense, family law, and civil litigation, all of which are areas of law a circuit judge presides over.</p> <p>Throughout my career, I have centered my work on addressing disparities in the criminal legal system, navigating difficult matters of family law and a variety of civil disputes with compassion for those affected and outcomes that embody fairness and justice. I have served as an advocate, as a guardian ad litem, mediator, parenting coordinator, and court appointed receiver. I have represented criminal defendants and victims of crimes. My work experience in these different roles gives me a unique perspective on how our legal system serves and impacts people on all sides.</p>	<p>If elected, my objectives are to serve our community in a way which helps to heal harms, address root causes of justice involvement, and provide fair and equitable outcomes to parties involved in family court disputes, civil disputes, criminal matters.</p> <p>I will do so by utilizing my knowledge of our local courts and our laws, as well as by bringing the compassion, empathy, and understanding I have developed from my diverse practice. This knowledge and experience shapes my ability to work collaboratively with parties and their attorneys, and to find creative, practical, and realistic resolutions which enable all sides to be heard in difficult situations. I am familiar with our court services, treatment courts, and county programming. I know what is working and have ideas on what we can improve.</p>	<p>In addition to the day-to-day administration of my courtroom, I have three systemic priorities which I will work to accomplish:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Criminal Justice Reform – Our courts should be compassionate and progressive in their values, and I will work with attorneys to best serve justice to those who are harmed and ensure that individuals are not wrongly ensnared in the legal system. I believe in restorative justice models, the use of treatment courts, and intend to work with our current judges to expand the use of both. 2. Access to Justice – As one of the largest recipients of public tax dollars in Washtenaw County, our court system should be affordable and accessible for all, regardless of their background. 3. Diverse Perspectives – I want to help Washtenaw County stand out in our state as a leader and example of supporting diverse perspectives. I bring with me my lived and professional experiences, both of which give me an understanding of how important diversity is in our justice system. 	<p>I believe that judges should serve with compassion, integrity, and empathy. If elected, my judicial philosophy will be that of applying the law and seeking to remedy past harms with a fair and equitable administration of justice. We must work to make our courts and our community more welcoming and more accessible. As judge, I would act in accordance with these goals, seeking to ensure that when people are in court - often dealing with some of the worst days they will face - they feel they are listened to and are still treated with dignity, understanding, and compassion.</p>
<p>Jeffrey Worosz (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have been a practicing attorney for over 12 years, with a practice focusing</p>	<p>I want to apply the law fairly and impartially to everyone, and to improve public confidence in the court system. It starts by treating everyone in the courtroom with respect, courtesy and empathy. Litigants are real people facing significant</p>	<p>I think two of the biggest issues facing all courts are 1) access to justice; and, 2) public confidence in the judicial system. Access to justice to me means everyone should have the ability to seek a remedy through the legal system.</p>	<p>I don't adhere to a specific philosophy, but I value several important principles that are essential for making fair and equitable decisions. First and foremost, an open mind is paramount. This means not only</p>

<p>primarily on family law, contested probate matters, and general civil litigation. My extensive litigation experience has afforded me significant trial and courtroom experience, allowing me to develop a deep and comprehensive understanding of the types of cases that frequently come before the circuit court. Having handled sensitive, complex, and high-stakes matters, I understand how crucial it is for individuals to feel heard and respected in the courtroom. I appreciate the importance of approaching each case with empathy and fairness, ensuring that every party receives a fair opportunity to present their case. I have appeared in courts throughout the state of Michigan, in front of dozens of judges, giving me insight into the varied approaches to judicial decision-making. This broad exposure has provided me with a keen sense of what works and what doesn't within our legal system.</p>	<p>issues, often with considerable consequences and it's important to remember and be respectful of that fact. I would show this not only in how I interact with the people appearing before me, but also by being prepared for every case that comes before me. Preparation includes understanding and anticipating the legal issues applicable to case beforehand, so that when the facts are presented, I know how they connect to the relevant laws. Proper preparation also has the benefit of ensuring that the courtroom runs efficiently, preventing unnecessary delays and drawn-out proceedings. Lastly, self-reflection on how and why I am making decisions, screening to keep out my personal biases, will help to ensure I am making decisions for the right reasons.</p>	<p>As a judge, the way to achieve this is by ensuring every litigant has an opportunity to be heard. That can be accomplished through making sure litigants are aware of resources and tools available, or just having the patience to listen. To improve public confidence in the courts, the key is to be consistent and fair in how all litigants are treated and how the law is applied in every case. The public loses confidence in the legal system when judges have personal agendas that influence the manner in which they apply the law. Through self-awareness, an openness to criticism, and a willingness to critically evaluate my own decisions, I can work to ensure that I am accountable and consistent in my treatment of people and application of the law.</p>	<p>having a willingness to listen to all parties, but also to be fully informed before making any decisions, but also setting aside any personal agendas and preconceived notions, ensuring that every case is evaluated solely on its merits and the applicable law. Litigants deserve a meaningful opportunity to be heard, and that can only happen when a judge approaches each case with an open and impartial mindset. Second, being prepared. Understanding the matter before the court, including the relevant legal issues and potential challenges that may arise during the proceedings. Third, being decisive and accountable. After hearing all of the facts, judges should make decisions that are not only legally sound, but also fair and impartial.</p>
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15th District Judge of District Court (Incumbent)

6-year term

VOTE FOR 1

<p>CANDIDATES <i>(Visit VOTE411.org for Responses to additional questions)</i></p>	<p>What are your objectives if you are elected and how will you work to accomplish them?</p>	<p>What are the priority issues facing this court, and how would you address them if elected?</p>	<p>What is your general judicial philosophy?</p>
<p>Tamara Garwood (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I graduated from the University of Michigan and Detroit College of Law. I have been an attorney for twenty-five years, handling domestic, probate, landlord-tenant, criminal and civil matters, through all phases of litigation. For eight years, I have been on the bench as the 15th District Court Magistrate, giving me a unique eye to the successes and needs of the Court. I see the impact I have on our community, every day. While I hold the rights of those before me paramount, I never lose sight of my responsibility to the community and the law. On the bench, I uphold the highest standards of accountability and transparency, supporting policies and practices of responsibility that also focus on education and rehabilitation, working to eliminate racial and economic disparities by ensuring fair treatment for all individuals regardless of background. My experience, compassion, judicial</p>	<p>I will put an end to cookie-justice. Holding people accountable for their actions, I will champion individualized approaches to justice, addressing the root causes that bring individuals to court. I will focus on creating innovative court options to move away from over-incarceration and towards meaningful solutions. I will uphold justice and equality, acknowledging the historical and ongoing impact of racial inequities. I will work to end racial disparities through fair and compassionate rulings, with dignity and respect for all. Through collaboration with local organizations, I will develop and implement programs that support marginalized communities and ensure equal access to justice. Expanding community outreach and youth engagement, I will work to end the school to prison</p>	<p>We must eliminate systemic biases within the legal system to ensure all individuals, regardless of race, gender, socioeconomic status or other characteristics, receive fair and impartial treatment. Recognizing and combatting implicit bias within our system, we must have transparent and fair court procedures and policies from charging to sentencing decisions to avoid the disproportionate impacts often faced by marginalized communities. Working collaboratively with community organizations, advocacy groups and residents, I will continue to find solutions that protect the rights of those in the courtroom while keeping our community safe and protected. I am committed to expanding our exemplary Mental Health Court,</p>	<p>I will continue my work to reform criminal justice by advocating for alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenses, using community service, meaningful probation and treatment programs. I support policies and practices that aim to reduce prison populations by addressing the root causes of crime. I will encourage rehabilitation over punishment through vocational training and education, to reintegrate former offenders into society and reduce recidivism. Advocating for mental health and addiction treatment services through our Specialty Courts, where we treat these issues as public health concerns rather than criminal issues. Finally, we must ensure that young people receive fair and age appropriate treatment protecting the</p>

<p>temperament and integrity are unparalleled in this race.</p>	<p>pipeline, uplifting young people to thrive in our community, graduating with diplomas and degrees, not criminal histories. I am committed to a more inclusive, effective and efficient court for all users.</p>	<p>Sobriety Court and Veterans Court to support individuals with the necessary resources for treatment and rehabilitation rather than incarceration.</p>	<p>rights of these individuals and providing them with opportunities for positive development and growth.</p>
<p>S. Kerene Moore (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I earned my undergrad and law degrees from the University of Michigan, and for two decades, I've worked to increase access to justice, promote restorative justice, and support victim's rights. I represented over 1,000 people who could not afford an attorney, fought discrimination at the MI Department of Civil Rights, and served behind the bench as a judicial attorney and juvenile referee. I currently handle innocence cases and provide expungement support in the Prosecutor's office. I am a leader in social justice advocacy and have extensive experience on the ground in the community. I've served as an Ann Arbor District Library Trustee, a Human Rights Commissioner, and on the boards of Neutral Zone, Equality Michigan, and Jim Toy Community Center. I've trained attorneys regionally and nationally, have 10 legal publications, and founded a pro bono project that is going into its 10th year. As Judge, I would work hard to ensure fair access to justice for people from all walks of life.</p>	<p>Our justice system continues to fail the community in a number of areas. Michigan ranks dead last in provision of crime victim services. Despite representing only 12% of the county's population, 49.9% of charges are disproportionately pursued against black community members. Finally, many perceive two justice systems - one for those who can and another for those who cannot afford an attorney. 15th District primarily handles evictions, suits for less than 25K, and minor offenses. It also has three treatment courts where judges can offer meaningful early intervention. Through diverse community partnerships, improved and expanded treatment courts, grant funding, data transparency, and ethically-permissible policy reform work, I will work to improve victim support, decrease bias, and increase access to justice for all litigants, not just those who can afford an attorney.</p>	<p>Restorative justice, lack of victim support, and bias are priority issues. Those appearing in criminal court either receive resources needed to move forward, or go deeper into the criminal system. Victims are at higher risk of returning to the court as offenders if support isn't received, and offenders often have underlying issues that need treatment. Through changes to court rules and community partnerships, I will work to improve victim access to services. Using my background working with under-resourced community members, I will work hard to connect with treatment court participants and offer individualized, culturally competent treatment plans. With grant funding, I will re-establish the domestic violence treatment court, and create a housing specialty court to improve oversight over probationary agreements. To decrease systemic bias, I will support data transparency efforts, prioritize alternatives to incarceration, and work toward elimination of cash bail.</p>	<p>It is critical that local judges are learned, compassionate, experienced, and diverse. My philosophy centers around fair and just administration of our courtrooms, ensuring that no matter your race, color, or creed, or income, you will find equal justice in the 15th District Court. I've earned over 150 endorsements because I don't pretend the system is fair and operates optimally. Instead, I've committed my career to ensuring that marginalized community members have fair access to the courts. I believe judges are ethically obligated to improve court services. I will inform policy, improve functionality of court rules, and lead restorative justice efforts. Courts must be partners in both ensuring safety and addressing underlying needs of offenders. With a renewed focus on restorative justice, courts can become trusted partners in rebuilding communities. If elected, I am committed to not just enforcing the law, but to promoting the fair administration of our justice system.</p>

Washtenaw Community College Board of Trustees

6-year term

VOTE FOR 2

<p>CANDIDATES</p> <p><i>(Visit VOTE411.org for Responses to additional questions)</i></p>	<p>What are your goals should you be elected and how will you work to accomplish them with limited resources?</p>	<p>How well do you think Washtenaw Community College is meeting the needs of its community?</p>
<p>Alex Milshteyn (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>If elected, my primary goals are to keep tuition affordable, enhance student support services, and strengthen community partnerships at WCC. I am committed to ensuring that every dollar in our budget is used effectively to provide the best possible education for our students. By keeping a</p>	<p>WCC is highly effective in meeting the needs of its community by aligning its programs with current and future job market demands. Utilizing the Lightcast Analyst tool, WCC regularly monitors employment trends and earnings regionally and statewide, ensuring that its</p>

<p>As a current Trustee of Washtenaw Community College and a proud graduate of both WCC and Eastern Michigan University, I bring a deep, personal connection to this role. My educational journey has given me firsthand experience with the value of affordable, accessible education, driving my commitment to making WCC a gateway of opportunity for all students. Throughout my tenure, I've worked tirelessly to keep education affordable and to support student success through initiatives that enhance academic advising, career services, and community engagement. My hands-on experience with the local community, combined with my dedication to WCC's mission, ensures that I am well-prepared to continue advocating for policies that benefit both students and the broader Washtenaw County community.</p>	<p>close eye on WCC's finances, I will prioritize spending on programs and resources that directly impact student success, such as academic advising, career services, and innovative educational initiatives.</p> <p>With limited resources, I will work to identify cost-saving measures and explore additional funding opportunities, such as grants and partnerships, to support our goals. My experience in both finance and community engagement will allow me to make informed decisions that balance fiscal responsibility with the need to invest in our students' futures. By carefully managing our budget and focusing on strategic investments, I am confident we can continue to offer high-quality, accessible education at WCC.</p>	<p>offerings lead to high-wage jobs or provide seamless transfer opportunities. The College is committed to delivering programs that result in livable wages or smooth transfers to four-year institutions. More than two-thirds of the associate degrees earned in 2022-23 were in transfer programs, allowing students to continue their education at universities like the University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University. With nearly one hundred transfer agreements with major universities, WCC remains the leading transfer institution to both U-M and EMU, demonstrating its dedication to student success and community service.</p>
<p>Diana McKnight Morton (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have an Associate's from Washtenaw Community College; a Bachelor's in Special Education from University of Michigan; a Master's in Guidance and Counseling from Eastern Michigan University. I taught elementary and adult education. I have been a WCC Board Trustee for 30 years. I am also a 25-yr member of the Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) Legislation Board; a 10-yr member of SEMCOG (South Eastern Michigan Counties of Government) as Vice-Chair of the Education Bloc; and, a 25-yr member of the Association of Community Colleges Trustees (ACCT).</p> <p>Based on my knowledge, skills, and abilities, I believe I am fully qualified to perform the functions required to be a Washtenaw Community College Board Trustee.</p>	<p>My main goal for the past 30 years has been for WCC to become the number community college in the country. And WCC achieved this goal by earning the Center of Excellence Award for Nursing in 2018 and 2023 which WCC is the only community college to be recognized in the U.S., among other noteworthy awards and distinctions. However, my continued mission as a trustee is to help the President make informed decisions on important matters that can affect the college internally and externally based on funding from the State and Federal agencies.</p>	<p>WCC continually assesses and reevaluates its mission and strategic goals to deliver quality programs that are in alignment with today's job market and trends. It is vital to the College to maintain long established relationships with open dialogue between the college President and industry leaders in Washtenaw County - and beyond. WCC remains determined to create quality academic programs centered on each student's success after graduation and to remain successful in today's job market that is ever evolving.</p> <p>WCC is also dedicated to being a driving force in strengthening the economic growth in Washtenaw County by reinvesting in its residents through the partnership of business-lead organizations and industry leaders who have firsthand knowledge of markets shifts and the creation of jobs for the future.</p>
<p>Eileen Peck (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I am a graduate of both the University of Michigan and Washtenaw Community College. I worked in the non-profit technology sector for 20 years before starting my own business. I also have volunteer development and governance experience. For nearly five years, I have maintained the WCC Watch blog and believe I have a deep understanding of</p>	<p>My goal is to increase the number of degree programs that prepare students for high-wage, high demand jobs. WCC issues more non-degree certificates than associate degrees. This strategy opposes the state's goal of increasing the number of people with 60 college credits. It may also limit WCC's federal financial aid options for some certificate programs under the new "gainful employment" rules. I will advocate to eliminate preferential tuition treatment that WCC gives to out-of-district and out-of-state online enrollees. WCC should not use Washtenaw County's tax dollars to subsidize the attendance costs of students who don't live or work here, and will never come here.</p>	<p>In any service environment there is always room for improvement. WCC must focus on creating high-wage, high-demand programs like clean energy, power production, and power management, infrastructure building and modernization, climate change mitigation, water management, semiconductor manufacturing, agriculture – including urban agriculture, and facilities maintenance</p> <p>These programs will not only provide economic development by attracting new employers and industries now, but also prepare Washtenaw County for a future</p>

<p>the challenges that face WCC and Washtenaw County. As a resident of Ypsilanti Township, I will bring a broader Washtenaw County perspective that has been historically lacking on the WCC Board. For WCC to succeed, it needs to understand and address the challenges that all parts of the county face right now, including income and housing inequities, transportation and housing costs, and a lack of new economic development and the jobs that go along with that.</p>	<p>I intend to seek an industry-standard facilities maintenance budget. This will help prevent a repeat of WCC's 10,000-gallon sewage spill into the Huron River watershed. I will also advocate for an effective asset protection policy, and an enforced limit on the number of vice presidents - currently 13 - on the payroll.</p>	<p>that must address the impacts of climate change. These programs will also offer our young adult workers the opportunity to work AND live in Washtenaw County. Right now, a WCC student makes an average of less than \$40,000 ten years after first enrollment. The median household income here is nearly \$85,000. Most WCC students can't afford to live here, so we are training our prime age workers to live and work elsewhere. This must stop, and WCC must be part of the solution.</p>
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Dexter Township Supervisor	4-year term	VOTE FOR 1
<p>CANDIDATES</p> <p><i>(Visit VOTE411.org for Responses to additional questions)</i></p>	<p>What are your goals should you be elected and how will you work to accomplish them with limited resources?</p>	<p>What are the most serious problems facing the township and how will you work to solve them?</p>
<p>Martin E. Ruhlig, III (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>Having grown-up in Dexter Township and spending most of my life here, I have watched the township grow from a quiet farming community to a community trying to keep the quiet rural atmosphere, while housing development grows. I have worked on farms and owned agricultural businesses my whole life. I know how to bring a group of people together to solve problems and get the job done.</p>	<p>My goals are to listen to the people, find out their concerns for the area, and try to maintain a township where people can enjoy their lives in peace and quiet.</p>	<p>Fiscal responsibility, road maintenance and maintaining our quiet way of life. We are spending peoples tax dollars. We have to make wise decisions to get the most value and benefit from the spending.</p>
<p>Lonnie Scott (Dem)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I am the only candidate in this race with experience on the Dexter Township Board and having run local government meetings when I previously served as the chair of Ypsilanti Township Park Commission.</p> <p>I was born and raised in Washtenaw County, and my wife, Heather, and I are excited to raise our family here in Dexter Township.</p> <p>As a current Dexter Township Trustee, I'm proud of what my colleagues and I have accomplished which are too numerous to list here but include improving local roads, preserving farmland and open space, and increasing transparency and communication.</p>	<p>Preserving Dexter Township's agricultural heritage and rural character is at the heart of my platform. By focusing on rural character, conservation values, and recreational opportunities, we can maintain our unique identity. With half of the township's acreage consisting of open spaces, preserving these areas is vital for residents who cherish a rural lifestyle.</p> <p>Public safety is another priority. I championed the passage of public safety millages for Fire and Police services without increasing taxes, ensuring efficient resource allocation for essential services. I have consistently supported the Dexter Area Fire Department in implementing comprehensive safety plans tailored to our community's needs.</p> <p>We've achieved incredible things in a fiscally responsible way, providing additional services and benefits to residents without extra costs. By leveraging available resources and seeking innovative solutions, we'll</p>	<p>Like most small rural communities, our biggest challenge is making smart development decisions. The overwhelming support for the Farmland and Open Space Preservation millage shows that our residents value Dexter Township's rural charm. I share this vision and will work closely with other board members to preserve our rural character while balancing the need for growth.</p> <p>Smart development practices, along with updated zoning policies, are essential for our community to thrive. Our current board has been diligently working on these initiatives, ensuring that Dexter Township remains a destination for those seeking a rural lifestyle. Together, we can achieve sustainable growth while maintaining the unique charm of our community.</p>

<p>From 2013 to 2023, I led Progress Michigan one of the state's largest progressive non-profits, fighting for better government transparency, paid sick time, higher minimum wage, and strong public schools. My work in the Michigan legislature with Alma Wheeler Smith and Jeff Irwin gave me valuable experience in public budgeting and the importance of listening to our community.</p>	<p>continue to enhance the quality of life for everyone in Dexter Township.</p>	
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Dexter Township Board of Trustees

4-year term

VOTE FOR 1

<p>CANDIDATES <i>(Visit VOTE411.org for Responses to additional questions)</i></p>	<p>What are your goals should you be elected and how will you work to accomplish them with limited resources?</p>	<p>What are the most serious problems facing the township and how will you work to solve them?</p>
<p>Tara Guenther (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>MBA - Executive leadership; BS - Business Management; Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Certification. I am an enthusiastic leader with over 15 years combined military and operational leadership experience. I possess strong critical, analytical, and lean problem-solving skills, with proven ability to reduce waste, simplify processes, and identify barriers to success. Strong ability to build trust with co-workers, direct and indirect reports, to improve engagement and empowerment, resulting in a motivated team and increased productivity.</p>	<p>I've always believed in leaving things better than they were found. Putting new eyes on issues brings in new ideas and perspectives to build on what a team has already built. My first goal is to get a good understanding of what has been accomplished over the last few years and evaluate what can be done to build on what the team has started. I have extensive experience doing more with less. Lean Six Sigma is a managerial approach that improves performance by eliminating resource waste and defects. With my experience and knowledge in this area I will be able to help the team see what is value added and what is not, helping the entire team to accomplish more.</p>	<p>Dexter Township is an amazing place to live. Looking at the big picture, there are very few if any earth shattering issues with the township. With that being said, there is a significant lack of trust between many of the residence and the township. To be successful in any endeavor there has to be trust, not only between the Township members, but also with the residence. To fill this gap I intend to be very transparent with the residence. Over communicating what is being done and why will be the first step in reconciling what has been lost over the last few years. If teams know they have each others best interest at heart, there is very little that can't be accomplished. Understanding what our tax dollars are being spent on and making sure the residence are in agreement with a direction, and understand the direction is the process I will use for any of the problems we face.</p>
<p>Regina Hamlett (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>My expertise/experience primarily lie in Early Childhood Development, Education, and Leadership Development. I have dedicated 30 years to a fulfilling career in education, relishing the opportunity to assist children and families in uncovering their incredible potential!</p> <p>Recently, my focus has shifted towards lavender farming, nurturing a small business, and actively participating in my community. I have taken on roles in different boards, committees, and groups that contribute to the betterment of the community, our state, and the broader region.</p> <p>Being a farmer/small business owner has given me valuable insights into how our government collaborates with these</p>	<p>My aim is to listen to the pulse of Dexter and understand its residents' needs and desires.</p> <p>Collaborating with fellow board members, we will strive for a cohesive Dexter that prioritizes residents' interests.</p> <p>I envision an active board engaging with the community to communicate with residents. It's essential to create an environment where people can openly discuss their wishes.</p> <p>I firmly believe in the incredible community we live in, nestled in one of the most stunning regions. My dream is to witness a flourishing and united community that values both its people and the environment.</p>	<p>I believe the primary issue lies in the inadequate communication between the board and the public. The lack of willingness to find solutions to problems worsens the situation. Establishing transparency and open dialogue is essential for creating trust and a sense of community.</p> <p>When individuals feel acknowledged and valued, they are more inclined to participate and assist in communal endeavors. Encouraging open communication can lead to collaborative problem-solving and a cohesive community.</p> <p>I believe that investing in unnecessary projects and excessive consultations from external sources like lawyers is unjustified. Our focus should be on directing resources towards initiatives that directly support our community and promote growth. Let's make thoughtful choices that align with our values and</p>

<p>sectors. I have gained a deeper understanding of the state and local laws that regulate farming/small businesses. I am grateful for the learning opportunities along the way, and I believe that my budding expertise in these domains will enhance my role as a Trustee dedicated to supporting local businesses/farmers.</p>		<p>goals, ensuring that each dollar spent contributes to a brighter future.</p>
<p>Alicia Abbott (Dem)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have been an entrepreneur since 1990. I have worked in a variety of fields allowing me to learn and take those lessons to my next adventure. Currently, I am vice president of a national contracting firm in the construction industry. All of my experiences have taught me how to be a good fiduciary. Thus an important part of being a trustee. I am also serving on the Planning Commission and Local Roads Committee, which has allowed me to have insight into how our township operates.</p>	<p>My goals would start with continuing to improve the roads in my township. I currently serve on our Local Roads Committee. I believe there is much work to do here. Another goal is emergency preparedness. I would like to work with neighboring Emergency Management Directors to enhance notifications to our residents when weather emergencies are present. While we have weather notification sirens through out the township, there have been instances where an area of the township was not notified during a weather emergency. This means the sirens do not have the notification reach we should expect.</p>	<p>The flow of information is an issue in this township. The current board has made terrific strides in improving the transparency and flow of information to the public. However, we need to do more. I believe we need to place a synopsis of all BOT meetings in the local newspaper for the residents to see. Many local townships do this. I would advocate to have money set aside in the budget to cover this cost.</p>
<p>Karen Nolte (Dem)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>My experience as a small business owner, gives me a background in budgets, operating within said budget and providing leadership to complete projects. I have been serving as a Trustee since 2020 and have spearheaded and created many new community engagement activities. From the general inbox (info@dextertownship.org) or the printed newsletter, and our monthly email updates, "in the loop". We are now able to communicate with over 35% of our residents in email form. (Please consider joining "in the loop" email updates.) Additionally, Fall Clean-Up days, the Hudson Mills Metropark pass offer, addressing our waste water plant updates and environmental protections - all creations from viewing, listening and engaging with our residents. I am a worker and an implementer focused on our strategic plans four pillars: good governance, communication, environmental stewardship and community engagement.</p>	<p>Should I win another term, I would like to continue the Single Hauler Trash project within our township, to determine its viability. This project may create savings for each household utilizing curbside trash services, improve our recycling capabilities and help reduce wear & tear on our roads. Added projects to complete: restoration of our cemeteries through volunteer assistance: creating a Waterways Group, with HRWC and interlocal agencies, to address the health of our lakes and rivers and working together for best educational practices.</p> <p>Combining forces with Washtenaw County, Spectrum, MEC, Mercury we are making large headways to reach our goal of 100% broadband connection. I enjoy representing Dexter Twp residents and problem solving, sometimes we even have wins! Finally keep addressing communication. Monthly email updates, printed newsletters, coffee chats, hosting HOA meetings, all methods, but the work never stops - reaching out, listening and communicating, contact me.</p>	<p>Managing growth is a serious issue. Whether it is housing development, protecting/preserving our land, our environmental concerns or addressing our traffic patterns: growth continues within our township and in areas surrounding us. Creating challenges to manage. The creation of our Farmland and Open Space Board was a first step, to protect land. With this process in place now we need to address our lakes and rivers. Working interlocally and in combination with Huron River Water Council we can address environmental concerns: PFAS, invasive weeds, education, monitoring programs and more. Another step in our work.</p> <p>Finally, roads and traffic. This administration took action on improving our roads (thank you Karen Sikkenga for your lead). We actually fixed the damn roads (as we say in Michigan). Now I feel traffic patterns need a long range plan, working interlocally with our surrounding communities to address these challenges.</p>
<p>Laura Sanders (Dem)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>My goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Maintaining excellent fiscal management and wise spending for residents needs -Increasing community engagement - Caring for natural areas and waterways through enhanced environmental stewardship 	<p>The natural areas, green and open spaces of our township have been facing the threat of too much subdivision development that is unaffordable to many people and where infrastructure to sustain the population is lacking. In my first term, I co-coordinated a successful</p>

<p>I earned a BA in Women's Studies and a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Michigan. This prepared me to be an instructor of Social Work at U of M, a clinical therapist, and to integrate social justice, community and environmental well-being, and the values of economic equality into all of my professional, political and volunteer activities. I am a community organizer and love to engage our local community in township decision-making, for example, my efforts to co-organize a committee to explore farmland and natural areas land preservation, eventually resulting in winning a bi-partisan millage to support an official land protection program and board in my first term in office. I am particularly interested in our continued work toward good environmental stewardship, including conservation of our waterways, thoughtful development, and diversity and inclusion efforts. I would like to continue serving and learning with our township residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Single-hauler trash to preserve our roads and environment - Promoting agritourism in commercial development - Ensuring broadband access for all <p>In the first four years, we engaged our community in the creation of a new Master Plan that highlights Dexter Township resident's priorities. With wise and thoughtful management of our limited resources we have accomplished so much toward these goals in the last four years. I will continue to promote spending that meets the needs of our residents using our Master Plan as a guide and promote wise financial management.</p>	<p>farmland and open space preservation program, with millage support, that gives farmers options for the use of their lands through the sale of their development rights to the township to preserve the land for agricultural and nature-based uses, in perpetuity. I now sit as the BOT representative on that board and plan to continue my active support of this program. We also are grappling with the new large scale renewable energy state law, working on an ordinance that supports the intention of the law and enables some workable and local control from the township for renewable projects. Reducing environmental threats to our many beautiful lakes and waterways in Dexter Township is a major priority.</p>
<p>Karen Sikkenga (Dem)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have served as a Trustee for Dexter Township for one term, culminating with service as the Supervisor since May 2023. My background is in operations, policy, and budget as a consultant for local government entities and public gardens. I have a master's degree in public administration with a focus on local government, policy, and budget. I am passionate about good government, especially local government. I believe local governments have the power to implement programs and policy that directly benefit the health, safety, and quality of life for residents - including Dexter Township!</p>	<p>Local Roads: I have been working on bringing all our local roads to "good" condition after many years of neglect. With the support of our Board of Trustees, I spearheaded a multi-year program that will culminate next year with the restoration of Madden and Quigley roads. Every single other local connector road in Dexter Township has already been restored under my leadership, and the local roads citizen committee I established has become a model for other townships.</p> <p>Our board prioritizes public safety & infrastructure, and I will continue this effort next term including bringing our warning siren system into alignment with the County Sheriff's Department.</p> <p>Environmental stewardship is top priority for me personally and for our board. This term, we focused on land preservation. Next term, we hope to take actions to preserve our precious waterways: the Huron River and its watershed.</p>	<p>We are under threat from increasingly severe weather events. To ensure that we are prepared to meet any future weather disasters head on, I initiated a \$200K investment in Dexter Township's warning sirens. I am now working on an emergency preparedness plan for approval by the Board.</p> <p>Threat of development is another challenge. We are addressing threat of development with master plan priorities around thoughtful development and controlling our traffic.</p> <p>Local roads are a major challenge. Dexter Township has 25 miles of unpaved local connector roads (ie, non-neighborhood roads). Almost all the funding to maintain these roads must come from Township resources. To ensure that our roads remain in good condition in perpetuity, I created a "Capital Fund" and developed a 25-year capital maintenance plan. With these tools, the current BOT is setting aside funds every year to ensure that our roads and other infrastructure remain in good condition in perpetuity.</p>

Lima Township Trustee	4-year term	VOTE FOR 2
<p>CANDIDATES</p> <p><i>(Visit VOTE411.org for Responses to additional questions)</i></p>	<p>What are your goals should you be elected and how will you work to accomplish them with limited resources?</p>	<p>What are the most serious problems facing the township and how will you work to solve them?</p>
<p>Dale Luick (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>

<p>Greg McKenzie (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have been actively involved with the township for more than 35 years in many capacities - planning commissioner, ZBA, township appointee to several boards and committees the township has representation on including WAVE Board, Construction Agency, CAFA fire chief search committee, among others as well as nearly 20 years as a Township Trustee.</p>	<p>It is vital to make sure township resources are used wisely and protected by using sound management practices and professional advice, especially as we move forward with our township hall project. This will be a \$1.5M +/- project that the township has prepared for while still maintaining an adequate fund balance as well as increased road and bridge funding in conjunction with WCRC. I will advocate for a capital resource and spending plan that provides a forward look to include all current and anticipated township assets as a guide for the future.</p>	<p>The township has had three township clerks resign in the last two years and the current appointed clerk did not file for this primary election. The clerk's duties and work load have steadily increased as population has increased and many new and expanded election laws have been mandated. The Board must provide greater support to help meet the needs of this position. In addition the past township auditor declined to be rehired and the land division coordinator resigned as well. We, as the Board, need to listen and to determine what the needs are and work to provide the resources and positive support for the staff and consultants. The township also purchased the large several acre site at Jackson and N Lima Center Rd and has invested approx \$500,000 in purchase and upgrades. The current and future uses of this site will be a significant issue in our long term capital planning process including whether to retain, use or sell all or part of it?</p>
<p>Jennifer Evens (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>Born and raised in Michigan, my parents were my first educators. They taught me to do what's right—especially when no one's looking. Be the person who stops and helps. No one is better than anybody else. Treat everyone with respect and kindness. I graduated from the Northwestern University School of Communication. I currently teach private voice lessons, helping young and old find their voice. To the township government, I will bring a lifelong habit of going above and beyond. I enjoy working as a team member and have a deeply embedded moral compass. I look forward to working with our new Township Supervisor and Board. In recent months I have had the pleasure of getting to know many past and present Township Board members, Committee members, public servants and residents. I have also been attending meetings for the Lima Township Board and Planning Commission, Thornton Farms Board, and helping fill the position of Alternate to the Supervisor of the Chelsea Area Fire Department Board.</p>	<p>One of my biggest goals is to help the Supervisor and other Board members make the best possible decisions for our Township. Whether the board needs more viable options, or a fellow board member wants more data for an upcoming vote, I am an effective researcher who will bring information from reliable sources – pros and cons – for the Board's timely consideration. In addition to helping the Board do its work with excellence. I will continue to utilize the Michigan Township Association's often free resources to promote best practices and healthy board functioning. I will also continue to reach out and make myself available to residents and to bring the voices and perspectives of the township's farming and non-farming families into the conversation.</p>	<p>I am thankful that our new presumptive Supervisor intends to bring informed, standard practices for oversight and accountability. He is addressing the very concerns that compelled me to get involved as a concerned citizen and, ultimately, to run for office. If elected, I will continue to call it like I see it, as I do now during public comments. I will continue to record meetings and work to make them available while an official Live Stream system is set up through the Township website. This will also help with continued oversight and more robust citizen involvement. It is, by law, the Board's fiduciary duty to use our community's hard-earned money responsibly and transparently. I will support my colleagues' efforts to do what's best. And, my vote will always be in the interest of the people of Lima Township.</p>

Sylvan Township Supervisor

4-year term

VOTE FOR 1

<p>CANDIDATES <i>(Visit VOTE411.org for Responses to additional questions)</i></p>	<p>What are your goals should you be elected and how will you work to accomplish them with limited resources?</p>	<p>What are the most serious problems facing the township and how will you work to solve them?</p>
<p>Scott Cooper (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>
<p>Amanda Nimke (Dem)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have served as the Sylvan Township Clerk since 2021. In that time, I have gained a broad understanding of the most pressing issues the township faces, and how the decisions we make today directly impact our local communities now and into the future. I have also made it a priority to advocate for the needs of our residents and push for transparency and the responsible use of tax dollars.</p> <p>I also served as Sylvan's representative on the Washtenaw County Broadband Taskforce and collaborated with other officials to secure over 18 million dollars in federal grant monies to bring reliable internet to every home in the County.</p> <p>As the Chair of the Chelsea Area Construction Agency, I have spearheaded updating our policies and internal controls to better serve our residents and improve operations.</p> <p>My experience as a local business owner for over 20 years has given me a background in financial management, strategic planning, and building partnerships.</p>	<p>I collaborated with another official to champion utilizing township funds appropriately, which has put us in a position to stop collecting the 4.4 mils levy. The current Board is in the process of gathering information to finalize this process. If it has not been completed by the end of this year it will be my top priority to stop the 4.4 mils levy in 2025.</p> <p>I will continue to promote policies that protect the integrity of our communities and protect the rural character of the township. I will also support planning policies that focus higher density development near the City of Chelsea to utilize our sewer and water system and reduce our utility rates.</p> <p>We need a capital improvement plan for our water system and sewer systems to ensure sustainability and reduce taxpayer liability. I will collaborate with staff and consultants to design an effective plan.</p> <p>We also need to take a more proactive approach to our roads.</p>	<p>The township is facing a complex situation with our water and sewer systems. Although we currently have excess water capacity, we face limitations within our sewer system due to issues with the Leoni Wastewater Treatment Plant. We must consider these limitations when considering any new development proposal to avoid additional taxpayer liability.</p> <p>We are also facing an aging system that will need major repairs in the near future. A capital improvement plan will help us identify and budget proactively for repairs and maintenance.</p> <p>In recent years many residents have voiced concern about protecting the rural character of the township. I will continue to promote planning strategies that focus higher-density development near the City of Chelsea and preserve farmland and natural areas.</p>

Sylvan Township Treasurer

4-year term

VOTE FOR 1

<p>CANDIDATES <i>(Visit VOTE411.org for Responses to additional questions)</i></p>	<p>What are your goals should you be elected and how will you work to accomplish them with limited resources?</p>	<p>What are your thoughts about the current tax system in your township?</p>
<p>Trenda Eversole (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>

<p>Sandra J. Egeler (Dem)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have a Bachelors Degree in Accounting and 35 years of governmental accounting experience. I have spent my career as the Chief Financial Officer for one of the largest Townships in Washtenaw County and transitioned to Deputy Treasurer three years ago. My responsibilities included tax reconciliation, calculating tax capture revenues, and providing financial projections.</p> <p>For 25 years, I also ran my own business as a financial consultant for a Sewer and Water Authority, a Library and several small Townships. I have a great deal of knowledge in Township finances, budgeting, tax collections and reconciliation, utility billing, and utility rate calculations. I have worked seamlessly with the County Treasurer and several Auditors. My education along with my experience makes me an excellent candidate for Township Treasurer.</p>	<p>My goals for the Township are as simple as they are complex: I want to improve the operation of the Treasurer's office and provide our citizens with more transparent and easier to understand financial reports. I also want to ensure tax collection and distribution is being processed correctly to make sure we are being responsible with your tax dollars. I have spent my career helping municipalities improve their financial operations and conditions and it would be a great benefit to Sylvan Township to have that level of experience and expertise on staff as the Treasurer. In addition, I want to utilize my 25 years of experience working with a Sewer and Water Authority to update the accounting processes for our utility systems, to make it more user-friendly and efficient for residents. I will collaborate with other officials and staff to establish a capital improvement plan for the Township and for our water system and our sewer system so we know our needs and can plan for these cost</p>	<p>Currently the Township levies the maximum allowed by law for the general operating expense plus we have a dedicated fire millage. The other tax the Township currently levies is for the sewer and water bond. It appears the Township currently has enough resources to ensure the final payments can be met for the sewer and water bond, and I hope the current Board will vote to discontinue collecting this millage for the 2024 tax year. What the Township is lacking is dedicated police protection. We currently rely on the State police which can have lengthy response times. This is something I will ask the Board to collaborate on to analyze, to consider if this is something the General Fund can pay for or if a dedicated millage would need to be presented to voters. As the Township grows this could become a necessity.</p>
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Unopposed (Uncontested) Races. Responses from those who are unopposed but also answered the League's questionnaire can be found by visiting the online version of the Voter Guide at VOTE411.org.

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Washtenaw Intermediate School District Proposal (1)

Special Education Millage Renewal Proposal

This proposal will permit the intermediate school district to continue to levy special education millage previously approved by the electors. Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 2.3826 mills (\$2.3826 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Michigan, to provide funds for the education of students with a disability, be renewed for a period of 12 years, 2026 to 2037, inclusive; the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2026 is approximately \$56,900,000 from local property taxes authorized herein (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2025 tax levy)?

Washtenaw County Ballot Proposals (4)

Renewal and restoration of the Enhanced Emergency Communications System Millage

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed each year for all purposes taxable property in Washtenaw County, Michigan be increased by 0.200 mill (\$0.20 per thousand dollars of taxable value) for a period of ten (10) years, 2026 to 2035, inclusive, as a renewal of the 0.0960 mills previously authorized by the electors which expires with the 2025 tax levy as reduced by the operation of the Headlee amendment, plus new additional millage as a restoration of 0.009 mills, for the sole purpose of providing funds to the County for the acquisition, renovation, maintenance, upgrade and operation of the County's Enhanced Emergency Communications System, including the potential construction of additional towers, upgrading the existing infrastructure, purchasing equipment, and paying for maintenance and user fees? If approved and levied in full, this millage will raise an estimated \$4,493,654 when first levied in 2026.

Renewal and restoration of the Veteran's Relief Millage

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the County of Washtenaw, Michigan, be increased by 0.100 mill (\$0.10 per thousand dollars of taxable value) of the taxable value for a period of eight (8) years, 2024 to 2031, inclusive, as a renewal of that portion of the 0.100 mill authorization previously authorized by the electors in 2016 as reduced by the operation of the Headlee amendment, which was 0.0960 mill in 2023, plus new additional millage representing a restoration of the amount equal to the amount reduced by operation of the Headlee amendment, which was 0.004 mill in 2023, to provide funds to Washtenaw County for the purpose of funding the Washtenaw County Department of Veterans Affairs' provision of financial relief and services for Washtenaw County veterans, including the payment of eligible indigent veteran claims, and to fund the administration of the department? If approved and levied in full, this millage will raise an estimated \$2,197,389 when first levied in 2024.

Establishing an Older Persons Services Millage

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be levied against taxable property within Washtenaw County, Michigan, be increased by up to 0.5000 mill (\$0.50 per thousand dollars of taxable value) for a period of eight (8) years, 2024 to 2031, inclusive, as a new additional millage for the purpose of providing funding for activities and services for older persons (age 60 or older) in Washtenaw County? If approved and levied in full this millage will raise an estimated \$11,584,031 in the first year.

Renewal and restoration of the Washtenaw County Community Mental Health and Public Safety Preservation Millage

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the County of Washtenaw, Michigan, be increased by 1.000 mill (\$1.00 per thousand dollars of taxable value) of the taxable value for a period of eight (8) years, 2026 to 2033, inclusive, as a renewal of that portion of the 1.000 mill authorization previously authorized by the electors in 2017 as reduced by the operation of the Headlee amendment, which was 0.9693 mill in 2023, plus new additional millage representing a restoration of the amount equal to the amount reduced by operation of the Headlee amendment, which was 0.0307 mill in 2023, to provide funds to the Washtenaw County Community Mental Health Department, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office, local governments which have their own police force for the purposes of improving the treatment of people with mental health needs; providing increased financial support for mental health crisis, stabilization and prevention; and for continued law enforcement services to be distributed as follows: 38% shall be allocated to Washtenaw County's Community Mental Health Department; 38% shall be allocated to the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office; and 24% shall be allocated to jurisdictions in the County which maintain their own police force (currently Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Milan, Saline, Ypsilanti, Pittsfield Township and Northfield Township) in proportion to their respective 2023 population values. If approved and levied in full, this millage will raise an estimated \$22,409,411 when first levied in 2026.