



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

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Manchester 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 #33, #47
Washtenaw County Commissioners
District 3
Washtenaw County Judges
Washtenaw County Clerk
Washtenaw County Treasurer
Washtenaw County Water Resources Comm
Washtenaw Com College Board of Trustees
Washtenaw County Proposals
Freedom Township
Manchester Township
Sharon 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 #33
(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?
Jason Rogers (Rep) Campaign Website: Education/Qualifications / Experience:	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
Morgan Foreman (Dem) Campaign Website: forwardwithforeman.com Education/Qualifications / Experience: I'm running for state legislature to continue my commitment to service and advocacy. Growing up in Southeast Michigan, inspired by my community, I learned the values of hard work and giving back. As an educator in Ypsilanti Schools and MEA member, I saw the transformative power of education. At the Student Advocacy Center, I empowered residents through nonpartisan Get Out the Vote efforts. Serving on the Washtenaw County Democratic Party Committee and former Treasurer of its Black Caucus, Working as a legislative staffer I championed critical issues. I aim to fight for healthcare, education, senior care and representing my community's voices	To ensure equitable, quality public education and address teacher shortages in Michigan, the state should increase teacher salaries and benefits, provide incentives for hard-to-staff areas, and expand alternative certification pathways. Long-term strategies include investing in teacher education programs, offering robust mentorship and professional development, improving working conditions, and fostering community and parental engagement. Policy changes should focus on equitable funding distribution, reducing reliance on local property taxes, and advocating for supportive legislation to improve teacher retention and student outcomes.	The state's role in mitigating climate change involves implementing policies to reduce emissions, promote sustainability, and prepare for climate impacts. Key actions include enforcing regulations on emissions, supporting renewable energy development, and investing in public transportation and green infrastructure. The state should incentivize energy-efficient buildings and sustainable urban planning, raise public awareness, and encourage carbon footprint reduction. Collaborating with local governments and businesses, developing climate action plans, and investing in resilient infrastructure are also crucial. Michigan can lead in this space.	To attract and retain residents in Michigan, the state can focus on key strategies outlined in the Growing Michigan Together Council's report. These include fostering job creation in tech, manufacturing, and green energy sectors, and offering incentives for business expansion. Enhancing education, healthcare, and public safety will improve quality of life, alongside developing affordable housing. Improving transportation and digital infrastructure supports modern living, while promoting community engagement creates vibrant neighborhoods. These efforts aim to make Michigan a desirable place to live, work, and thrive.

State Representative – Michigan House District #47
(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?
Teresa Spiegelberg (Rep) Campaign Website: taspieg.wixsite.com/staterep Education/Qualifications / Experience:	I feel we should encourage technical schools and on the job training more than we do.	I feel the state should encourage green, without just moving blindly towards it.	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>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>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>

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</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</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</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</p>

<p>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 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>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 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>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 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>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 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 	<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.

	election experience is the best defense.		
--	--	--	--

Washtenaw County Treasurer
(Covers all of Washtenaw County)

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 currently limited resources?	What are your thoughts about the current tax system in Washtenaw County?	What are your thoughts regarding the level of customer service provided?
<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</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>	<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</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</p>

<p>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 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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safeguard Public Funds: Ensure the safety of public funds, protect county assets, and adhere to ethical standards. 2. Property Tax Collection Effectiveness: Optimize tax collection processes to safeguard public funds and support essential services. 3. Homeownership Preservation Programs: Enhance existing programs to prevent foreclosures and promote homeownership, benefiting the community. 4. Community Partnerships: Foster collaborations with local organizations, businesses, and neighborhood associations to drive community investment and innovation. 5. Compliance with State Laws: Uphold state regulations to maintain public trust and ensure sound financial practices. 	<p>Washtenaw County faces several challenges: Delinquency and Collection Issues, Equity and Fairness, Administrative Burdens, Digital Accessibility, and Foreclosure Prevention. I 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>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 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>
--	---	--	--

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</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</p>

<p>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 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>waters. Educating our citizens will help address all these concerns and our elected officials will develop policies to protect our water resources.</p>
---	--	--	--

Washtenaw County Commissioner - District 3 **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 County and how will you work to solve them?</p>	<p>What are Washtenaw County's greatest assets and how can they be used to help the community thrive?</p>
<p>Ryan Baumgart (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>My educational background extends across multiple disciplines, including: intercultural studies as my undergraduate degree, and a graduate degree, Juris Master: International Legal Studies. Between this educational background, extensive time teaching in a cross-cultural environment, and as founder & CEO of a small business - my qualifications are well-rounded. I am able within these skills to act in both micro-systems, such as line items, while also understanding how the larger, macro-scale tasks need to fall in place. An example of this is in my own business which integrates multiple platforms for company objectives. These areas of learning and experience have naturally developed qualifying skills, such as knowledge-based learning, public speaking capability, system processes, and interpersonal relations. Effectively, these will provide the necessary tools to work across a broad spectrum of people, industries, and social spheres.</p>	<p>My goals as a commissioner are centered around the elements of my campaign: Security, Heritage, and Community. Security references ensuring that people are safe within their community by emphasizing resources toward emergency services. Heritage is centered around enabling the prospering of lifestyle within the Southwest portion of Washtenaw - allowing for continued pursuits of their daily routines. This will be accomplished by appropriately allocating funds into these areas. Finally, the concept of community deals with how a geographic area is able to handle their resources. Examples of this include increased allocation of funds to road services, alongside regular interaction & updates with trustees throughout the district. It is important to note that there needs to be a reversal of funds within the county so that outlying areas are properly supported. This can be done by actively engaging community members and allotting time to personalized reviews of the areas in question.</p>	<p>The most prominent problems facing the county are lack of transparency, misuse of funds, overreach of elected officials, and a lack of accountability in reporting. Each of these can be identified as extensions of a sole-party system within the Washtenaw County government. Paramount to my role as an elected official will be the call for transparency in reports, such as those of government funding and the availability of line items that directly impact the livelihood of constituents. Following this there is a dire need for accountability across the county. Exposure of the misuse of funds for private endeavors, partisan allocation of funds, and a lack of responsibility will all be included in my service. Using my background I intend to put these practices into plain language for presentation to the public. My goal is the enablement of renewed trust in elected officials, and the duty of the same to uphold the high standards of office to which they have been raised.</p>	<p>The greatest assets of Washtenaw County will always be the people. We have the unique advantage of incorporating the university, as well as the nearby auto industry. What this means is that we draw incredible minds from across the world, and have the capacity to provide for them wonderful lifestyles. Many of these people are lifelong residents, who reinvest into the community via small business development, promotion of commerce, the continuation of the heritage in the area, and the utilization of a diverse population of people & skills. By helping them to build quality lives, we will create longevity within and around Washtenaw. Thriving can only be accomplished when local people believe in the identity of the place they live. This means that an elected official is that: elected. Their responsibility is to serve the assets of the people for the greater good of the community. My goal is to accomplish this through proper use of the vast resources that exist in the county.</p>
<p>Shannon Beeman (Dem)</p>	<p>Bringing additional resources to District 3 remains a major goal. I have worked to secure funding for the Mobile Support Services Initiative (bus) as well as make</p>	<p>Protecting our water is key to the health of our community. Industrial polluters have left behind forever chemicals that impact our health and</p>	<p>There are two great assets in Washtenaw County – the people and the natural resources. Both of these are irreplaceable. Washtenaw County is</p>

<p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>Throughout my three-term tenure as a County Commissioner, I have faced responding to a global pandemic, filling a \$10 million gap when the State of Michigan refused to pay for mental health services, and securing over \$17 million in grants and ARPA funds to connect every resident to reliable, high-speed internet. These past six years have prepared me for any situation. My previous roles in the non-profit, economic development, and higher education sectors have given me multiple views of county services and how they support or leave behind our neighbors. I will continue to advocate for resources needed in District 3 through the relationships I have built over the years with my fellow commissioners. My MBA and years of management experience allow me to truly understand the budget process for Washtenaw County. I will continue to use my business acumen to ensure our funds are used wisely to support all residents. This beautiful community is where I grew up and where I raise my children.</p>	<p>progress on a Western Washtenaw County Resource Center to bring resources to residents. Another key goal is to obtain USDA funds –as was done in Manchester– to build affordable, multi-generational housing throughout Washtenaw County. As County Commissioner, I understand the importance of secure and affordable housing in Washtenaw. Housing is a fundamental pillar for sustainable and thriving communities. Stable housing provides children with a solid foundation, seniors a safe place to age, and our neighbors the ability to thrive. Access to secure housing also plays a vital role in fostering economic growth within the county. Restaurants, retail shops, factories, and more require staff to continue their operations; however, based on the pay scale it is difficult for potential employees to afford to live near these businesses.</p>	<p>must be held accountable. Preserving our farmland and encouraging our youth to explore agriculture is another major issue. Our region thrives because of multigenerational farms that feed and clothe our communities. To ensure we have food security and a thriving economy, I will work to protect our farmland and highlight the options available to our youth in agriculture through programming. Accessing housing and public transportation impacts the vibrancy and vitality of the cities in District 3. I will work to bring together local leaders to address these issues head-on while seeking grant funding to fill transportation and housing gaps in our communities. Supporting seniors and providing services is a rising need as our senior population continues to grow. I'll continue to help senior programs in District 3 secure the funding necessary to thrive.</p>	<p>home to some of the greatest institutions of higher education in the world. From the life-saving innovation that comes out of the University of Michigan to the desperately needed trades programs at Washtenaw Community College, we educate the best and the brightest within our community. However, many of these graduates don't stay because they cannot access the items necessary to live and work in the area such as transportation, healthcare, housing, childcare, and more. Washtenaw County must provide access to these resources to retain our top talent. The natural resources are the reason I live and raise my family in District 3. From the rivers to the fields, we live in a place of great beauty that can easily be destroyed. I will work to protect our water, air, and farmland from polluters and ensure it will be enjoyed for generations to come.</p>
---	--	--	--

22nd Circuit Judge of Circuit Court (Non-Incumbent)		6-year term	VOTE FOR 1
<p>CANDIDATES</p> <p><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</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</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 	<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>item, 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>services, treatment courts, and county programming. I know what is working and have ideas on what we can improve.</p>	<p>dollars in Washtenaw County, our court system should be affordable and accessible for all, regardless of their background.</p> <p>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>	
<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 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>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 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>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. 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>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 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>

15th District Judge of District Court (Incumbent)

6-year term

VOTE FOR 1

<p>CANDIDATES</p> <p><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 temperament and integrity are unparalleled in this race.</p>	<p>I will put an end to cookie-cjustice. 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 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>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, Sobriety Court and Veterans Court to support individuals with the necessary resources for treatment and rehabilitation rather than incarceration.</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 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</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</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</p>	<p>It is critical that local judges are learned, compassionate, 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</p>

to ensure fair access to justice for people from all walks of life.	justice for all litigants, not just those who can afford an attorney.	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.	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.
---	---	--	---

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>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>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 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>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 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)</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</p>

<p>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>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 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>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. 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>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 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>

Manchester Township Board of Trustees

4 year term

VOTE FOR 4

<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>Michael Fusilier (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>
<p>John Seefeld (Dem)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>

<p>Michael Walter (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>
<p>Lisa Moutinho (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>With over 25 years of experience working for local government, and the past 8 as a Manchester Township Trustee, I've learned the importance of building positive relationships that foster collaboration and create win/win outcomes. When we listen to and respect the thoughts and opinions of others, it's much easier to make decisions that are in the best interest of our community. As an example, I proudly represented Manchester Township on the Washtenaw County Broadband Task Force, a bi-partisan group of community leaders who focused their efforts on bringing high speed internet to all the county's rural residents. Washtenaw County is the first in the State to develop an achievable plan that brings internet access to every home, and our framework is now used as a guide for other communities. The residents of Manchester Township were some of the first to benefit from the work of this group, and I'm proud to have been a part of the team who made it happen.</p>	<p>Two words: Public Safety. The Manchester Township Fire Department has 22 members, all of whom are either part-time or paid on call. These dedicated professionals are responsible for covering nearly 100 square miles, serving 7,000 residents and 3,000 structures. They respond to an average of 611 calls per year. Our first responders possess the training and skills to assist us at what might be our very worst moment, and they are there when we need them, every time. As our community grows, so does our call volume. We need to find a way to expand the fire department accordingly, most importantly, we need to add members to the department. I currently serve on a subcommittee comprised of fire department staff and township officials who are working to identify the short and long-term needs of the department, and how we can achieve those while remaining fiscally responsible. Our goal is to present the township board with achievable recommendations at their December 2024 meeting.</p>	<p>Navigating renewable energy rules while working to protect our township's agricultural resources and quality of life for residents. Carbon neutrality is a global issue, and we are being asked to allocate precious land to aid in that effort, as evidenced by the Thorn Lake Solar project. During the permitting process, the Planning Commission and the Township Board listened and learned. As our ordinances did not specifically disallow the solar array, we had no choice but to grant the request. We disappointed many of our residents by voting to support the ordinance, but not before we worked with our Thorn Lake partners to help them to understand the priorities of our community, which then created the best outcome possible. As our lawmakers in Lansing are considering changes to laws that will limit local control of renewable energy projects, we must work together to find ways to protect our farmland, through education, our Planning Commission, and by fortifying our ordinances.</p>
<p>Corey Rippey (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I graduated from Madonna University with my bachelor's degree in English / Journalism in 2008. I am currently working for the Supervisor of Ypsilanti Township and have been in this role for four years. Prior to that, I was the administrative coordinator at the Ypsilanti Twp. Community Recreation Center for three years. I understand the importance of how local government can work for the community and make a positive impact on the resident's lives. One of my main goals is to actively listen to resident concerns and properly address the issue to help find a solution. I look forward to working with this great community that I have enjoyed getting to know over the four years since I have moved here with my husband.</p>	<p>I want to increase accessibility and engagement by offering informal meetings with residents and community members to identify priorities and collaborate on solutions. By focusing on transparency, accountability, and community involvement, we can make meaningful progress even with constrained resources.</p>	<p>One of the main problems facing the township is the split of assets between the Twp. and the City of Manchester. I would collaborate with my fellow board members to work with the city council to bring a fair result. Another issue is the inundation of outside interests wanting to install solar farms and gravel pits, as well as the State taking local control away. I will work with our Township board and the planning commission to ensure all ordinance and zoning regulations are followed.</p>

Sharon Township Board of Trustees

4 year term

VOTE FOR 2

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 township and how will you work to solve them?
Chris Holda (NP) Education/Qualifications / Experience:	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
Trudi Cooper (NP) Education/Qualifications / Experience:	DID NOT RESPOND	DID NOT RESPOND
Anna Harvey (NP) Education/Qualifications / Experience: My education and experience makes me uniquely qualified for the role of Sharon Township Trustee. I attended Michigan State University. I then served as a board member and the trainer at Michigan's largest equine non-profit for five years. It was there that I developed my talents for strategic planning, cooperation, and compromise, working collectively with other board members toward high-level objectives and common goals. I have owned and operated a local business for over a decade, where I have managed several employees and further honed my leadership skills. With my background in non-profit governance and entrepreneurial spirit, I am well-suited to serve our community.	My goal is responsible governance and strategic management by: (1) Enhancing communication between the board and citizens. Simple changes can help, like a newsletter and using the website and social media to keep the community informed about decisions and upcoming projects. These tools can also be utilized to spread awareness of local issues and learn about the concerns of our constituents. (2) Improving contracts. Given recent issues with StoneCo, some residents are concerned about how tax dollars are spent - I admit, I was one of them! Officials must understand contract management and citizens must trust that they do. I will advocate for reviews of existing contracts, training for those who make contract decisions, and increased transparency in contract negotiations. (3) Working with limited resources. We can mobilize volunteers; pursue grants to supplement our budget; and collaborate with townships, local businesses, and non-profits to share resources and reduce costs.	I believe that the most serious problem facing the township is the legal battle with the gravel pit company StoneCo. There have been some amazing recent achievements in court, and I want to ensure that this continues and our constituents are not negatively affected by it. Their concerns need to be valued over all else, and must remain the aim of the township board. I have already prioritized establishing an open dialogue during my campaign, and I will continue this practice while in office so that every resident has the opportunity to voice their concerns to me. I believe that every decision made by the board should benefit the people it serves.

Unopposed (Uncontested) Races. Responses from those who are unopposed and answered the League’s questionnaire can be found by visiting the online version of the Voter Guide at VOTE411.org.

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)?

Manchester Township Proposals (2)

Manchester Township Millage Renewal Road Maintenance and Improvement Millage Proposal A

Shall the previous voted increases in the tax limitations imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Manchester Township, of 0.35 mills (\$0.35 per \$1,000 of Taxable value), reduced to 0.3427 mills (\$0.3427 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at and increased up to the original voted 0.35 mills (\$0.35 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and levied for five (5) years, 2025 through 2029 inclusive, for the improvement, repair, and maintenance of roads located within Manchester Township, raising an estimated \$63,471.98 in the first year the millage is levied.

Manchester Township Millage Renewal Fire Equipment Millage Proposal B

Shall the previous voted increases in the tax limitations imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution in Manchester Township, of 0.15 mills (\$0.15 per \$1,000 of taxable value), reduced to 0.1467 mills (\$0.1467 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the required millage rollbacks, be renewed at and increased up to the original voted 0.15 mills (\$0.15 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and levied for five (5) years, 2025 through 2029 inclusive, for the purchasing of fire and rescue equipment and providing fire services for Manchester Township, raising an estimated \$27,202.28 in the first year the millage is levied.

Freedom Township Proposal (1)

Road Maintenance Millage Renewal (Road Maintenance)

Shall Freedom Township be allowed to impose a millage increase in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution by levy of .2497 mills for road maintenance and improvements (\$0.25 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of 4 years, 2024 through 2027 inclusive, which millage will raise an estimated \$62,285.20 in the first year of levy. This is a new millage proposal intended to supersede, rescind and replace the previously authorized millage for road maintenance in the Township that is due to expired on December 31, 2024. Should the proposal be approved?

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.