



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

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Whitmore Lake 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 #48
Washtenaw County Commissioners
District 2
Washtenaw County Judges
Washtenaw County Clerk
Washtenaw County Treasurer
Washtenaw County Water Resources Comm
Washtenaw Com College Board of Trustees
Washtenaw County Proposals
Northfield Township
Webster 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 #48
(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>Brian Ignatowski (Rep)</p> <p>Campaign Website: brian48.com</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>
<p>Jennifer A. Conlin (Dem)</p> <p>Campaign Website: conlinforstaterep.com</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>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).</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.).</p>
<p>Eric Borregard (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><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 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 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>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 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>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 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>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 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> <p>* I have been county clerk/register for almost 20 years and accomplished a lot.</p> <p>* 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.</p>	<p>* Every person who comes to our office is treated with courtesy and respect. That is my ongoing commitment.</p> <p>* My team has greatly expanded access to information online, and we're not done yet.</p> <p>* We were the first county in the state to implement electronic death registration, a big savings in time and energy for everyone involved.</p>	<p>* 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.</p> <p>* In particular, the August primary needs to be earlier, ideally in May, for</p>	<p>* 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.</p> <p>* In a voting precinct or absentee counting board, every sensitive task is performed by two poll workers of different partisanship, working together.</p> <p>* The absentee ballot process, in particular, is</p>

<p>* 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.</p> <p>* And, of course, I've been the county's chief election official since 2005.</p> <p>* 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.</p> <p>* 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.</p>	<p>* I will also continue advocating for voting rights and human rights.</p> <p>* 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.</p> <p>* 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.</p> <p>* 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.</p>	<p>better voter turnout, and to assure enough time for recounts and post-election random-precinct audits.</p> <p>* 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.</p> <p>* 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.</p> <p>* In the long run, I expect Michigan will have a mostly or fully mail-in voting system, like Oregon or Colorado.</p>	<p>structured to protect the anonymity of ballots.</p> <p>* 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.</p> <p>* Voter intimidation is illegal, and our poll workers, our local clerks, and our police agencies are alert to intervene if it happens.</p> <p>* Prop 2 of 2022, among many other things, mandated secure drop boxes for absentee ballots.</p> <p>* I am confident that our voting process is safe and secure.</p>
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Washtenaw County Treasurer
(Covers all of Washtenaw County)

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 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,</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</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</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</p>

<p>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>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>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>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 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>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. 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>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 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>. 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 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: 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 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>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 policies to protect our water resources.</p>

Washtenaw County Commissioner - District 2

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>P. McNichol (Rep) Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>

<p>Crystal Lyte (Dem)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>What makes me the most and best-qualified candidate to continue as a county commissioner is all of my experiences. I am a former educator, cheer and dance coach, social services case manager who has served all of Washtenaw County and beyond our county border, and the director of a returning citizens program at a major university in Washtenaw County. The experience that qualifies me best is that I am currently serving as District 2 county commissioner and in these last two years I have learned the needs and wants of our county. I have had the opportunity with my colleagues to develop and initiate resources for our county that haven't been available to our county as they should. I am a life-long resident of Washtenaw County!</p>	<p>If re-elected my goals are to continue working on the housing and homelessness initiative. My goal is to develop affordable housing opportunities in all of Washtenaw County. What I mean by affordable is for residents to have the opportunity to afford rent/mortgage that one income can afford. I determine to make sure that our aging community is provided the resources that they need to age gracefully. One major goal is to complete the development of the new Eastern Washtenaw Community & Recreational Center. I have a laundry list of goals that I will accomplish if re-elected.</p>	<p>One of the county's most serious problem is that we are facing are affordable housing and homelessness. I will continue to work with my colleagues so that we can create ordinances to reduce renter abuse until our legislators are able to change how landlords and mortgage companies charge consumers.</p>	<p>One of Washtenaw County's greatest assets are our resources. I have stated before that Washtenaw County is one of the wealthiest resource counties and aren't afraid to utilize them!</p>
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22nd Circuit Judge of Circuit Court (Non-Incumbent)	6-year term	VOTE FOR 1	
CANDIDATES <i>(Visit VOTE411.org for Responses to additional questions)</i>	What are your objectives if you are elected and how will you work to accomplish them?	What are the priority issues facing this court, and how would you address them if elected?	What is your general judicial philosophy?
<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. 	<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>

		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>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 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</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</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</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>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>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>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 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</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</p>

		toward elimination of cash bail.	administration of our justice system.
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Washtenaw Community College Board of Trustees **6-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?	How well do you think Washtenaw Community College is meeting the needs of its community?
<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) 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</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>

Washtenaw Community College Board Trustee.		
<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>

Northfield Township Board of Trustees		4-year term	VOTE FOR 4
<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>Janet M. Chick (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have been in management positions for most of my working career with 25 years overseeing administration for a dental corporation at multiple locations. Most of my relatable education and experience has been working within the Northfield Township government itself since 2008. I started as a volunteer on the Northfield Township Blue Skies Committee responsible for creating a SWOT analysis that was published for township use. I went on to become a Planning Commissioner and still hold that seat after 15 years. I am currently in my 12th years as a Northfield Township Trustee. This has allowed me to gain irreplaceable knowledge of how our township government runs, as well as the needs and wants of its residents and the benefit of historical actions, plans and decisions. This provides</p>	<p>I listen to and respond on a daily basis to our resident's concerns about those things they want to see in our township that are not provided. I have been part of developing two Master Plans and other plans to develop our downtown area, and it has been a struggle to get those plans put into action. My goal has always been to build up our downtown and make it the healthy viable downtown it has the potential to be. I will work complete the park area on the shoreline that is finally seeing movement on those previously approved plans. To do that the township has a fund balance policy that we work very hard to maintain. In some years it has been harder, but we watch our budget very closely. Going forward any budget decisions will be made with keen discernment between wants and needs for the township. Finally, to ensure development pressures do not diminish our township. We need an equal balance of new business and quality residential mindful of the rural character we hold dear.</p>	<p>We have infrastructure challenges. Our sewer system has aged and is in need of upgrading system wide. We are presently in the process of starting that project so there will be construction going on for a couple of years throughout the township along those lines. Funding is being acquired and that will require a manageable rate increase for sewer users. We have road issues and limited funds for improvement. Annually we do a review of the worst and work with the county to prioritize those that need the most attention to the point we have funds to do improvements. We have attempted each budget year to increase funding, it might be tighter next year, but we will do what we can. Again, we have development pressure and as stated above we need to be selective and make sure we are not taxing our infrastructure, PD, and FD to the point it is costing more to service our current and new residents. We also need to update ordinances and standards to make sure what we get is what we want.</p>	

<p>years of perspective others may not have gained yet that benefits the policies and decisions which impacts our citizens.</p>		
<p>Jacob Donner (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have deep roots in Northfield Township and I am very involved in the community. I have served on the Northfield Township Historical Society and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Currently, I sit on the Zoning Board of Appeals and I volunteer with Kiwanis, serving as the Chair of the 4th of July parade. I am also the unofficial historian of the area, collecting all types of documents and ephemera about Whitmore Lake and Northfield Township. I also make a point to attend Township meetings, both in online and in-person so I can be informed about what is going on.</p> <p>I work for the City of Dexter's Department of Public Works and I think that my experience and training here could provide a valuable perspective on the Township Board.</p>	<p>1) Improve walkability, by focusing on the downtown and sidewalk replacement as well as extending non-motorized pathways to the new waterfront park. 2) Maintenance and infrastructure, by applying my professional experience. The Township continues to add infrastructure including the new waterfront park. We now need to focus on hiring employees to maintain this infrastructure. We also need to focus on our Capital Improvements Plan and think about future needs and improvements. 3) Bring more professionalism to the Board, by working and collaborating with my fellow Board members. The Board has been dominated by one person in the past and this needs to change. Everyone on the Board should have a voice and be included in decision making. 4) The Township needs to work to improve their development standards. Development and growth is going to happen and we need to advocate for our community to get the highest quality. 5) The Township must become more business-friendly</p>	<p>As I mentioned in a previous answer, I think that the Township needs to focus on development standards. We are at a very important time where we are starting to grow, and I acknowledge that there is going to be some conflict between pro-development residents and those that want Northfield Township to retain its rural character. We need to maintain the balance between preserving open space, while encouraging appropriate growth and getting the best possible developments that we can. And while we focus on new developments, I think the Township also needs to continue to pursue property maintenance and code enforcement, especially in the downtown. The majority of our property owners take care of their property, but those that do not, need to be addressed.</p>
<p>Nate Muchow (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>
<p>Mark Stanalajczo (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>Prior I held the position of Trustee on the Northfield Board of Trustees (same position I am running for). I have served on the Northfield Zoning Board of Appeals and am currently the Chairman of the Northfield Township Planning Commission. I have two degrees (Wayne State University and University of Michigan). I own a small business that has been operating for 34 years.</p> <p>I am a decorated Army veteran of two military campaigns. I am currently a Colonel in the US Army Reserves. I have held a command position in the Army for 13 years.</p>	<p>To reestablish sound monetary policy at the board level. Spending with the current township board has been irresponsible. Look into creating a regional waste water entity that can take over operational and management of the Northfield WWTP.</p>	<p>Spending and lack of cooperation within the township government itself. We need to work on better relationships between the Board and the subordinate commissions to better be able to serve the community .</p>
<p>Adam Olney (Dem)</p>	<p>My goals, if elected, are centered on maintaining and enhancing transparency within the board. I am committed to openly communicating the rationale behind my</p>	<p>One major issue facing our township is funding, particularly for critical areas like North Village Park, Land Preservation, and the Downtown District. While many</p>

<p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I hold a bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education with a major in Social Studies and a minor in Geography from Eastern Michigan University. Over the past 9 years, I have dedicated myself to educating students in Ancient World History, Early American History, and World History. Currently, I serve as the Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, bringing four years of experience in guiding regulatory decisions vital to our community’s development. Beyond zoning, I am actively involved in enhancing community spirit through volunteer roles on the Whitmore Lake 4th of July fireworks and parade committees. For a decade, I have demonstrated my commitment to local governance by regularly attending township meetings and actively participating in public forums and town hall-style gatherings.</p>	<p>voting decisions on pertinent issues. Additionally, I prioritize accessibility by ensuring availability for meetings with constituents to address any township-related matters or concerns they may have. I aim to leverage our current resources effectively to achieve these goals, fostering a collaborative environment that encourages community engagement and informed decision-making.</p>	<p>propose an additional milage, I believe in exploring alternative methods such as grants, private donations, and community volunteerism to support these initiatives effectively. As a member of the community and Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, I understand the importance of transparent governance and community engagement. If elected, I am committed to continuing this transparency by openly communicating the rationale behind my voting decisions and being readily available to meet with constituents. By prioritizing spending based on resident input and aligning with the Board of Trustees' established goals, I aim to address these challenges collaboratively and ensure our township continues to thrive.</p>
<p>Christopher Fick (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>Over my career, I have honed the ability to communicate complex ideas clearly and persuasively, a skill essential for effective governance. My background as a strategic project manager, particularly in government settings, has provided me with hands-on experience overseeing initiatives that require strategic planning, resource management, and collaboration among diverse stakeholders. My work has often centered on supporting small businesses, where I’ve helped to streamline processes and foster environments conducive to growth. This blend of creativity, practical management, and a deep understanding of operations uniquely positions me to serve as a Trustee who can bridge the gap between community needs and effective policy implementation.</p>	<p>If elected Township Trustee, my primary goals will be to protect our community's rural character, support small business growth, and ensure responsible management. I will work to preserve the small-town charm that our residents value by adhering to our Master Plan, focusing development in designated areas, and avoiding unnecessary expenditures and bad deals that burden taxpayers. I will listen to the neighbors, communities, and business owners to ensure that I govern with their perspectives and best interests in mind for the future of this township.</p>	<p>Our community's main challenge is balancing diverse priorities. Some focus on preserving our rural character, others on a thriving downtown, and many are concerned about the impact of growth on our educational system. To address these issues, I will engage with residents, seek common ground, and implement solutions that respect our shared values and specific needs. Transparent communication and thoughtful planning will be key to overcoming these challenges.</p>
<p>L.J.Walter, III (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>As a professional in the field of Process Improvement, I have dedicated my career to analyzing systems, identifying inefficiencies, and implementing solutions that lead to measurable improvements. My experience includes leading cross-functional teams, and driving projects to successful completion. This background equips me</p>	<p>If elected, my primary goal will be to ensure that township governance is closely aligned with the needs and desires of our residents, even with limited resources. To achieve this, I plan help design and implement innovative strategies to actively obtain and incorporate the opinions of township residents into decision-making processes. By employing unique solutions to gather the opinions of our residents, we can make informed decisions that reflect the true needs and priorities of our community, even when working with limited resources.</p> <p>This approach will not only help us better allocate our funds but also foster a sense of</p>	<p>The township faces several pressing issues, including a stagnant downtown, budget constraints, and limited parking. To address these, we need a balanced approach that focuses on revitalization, fiscal responsibility, and practical solutions.</p> <p>Revitalizing downtown requires creating an environment that draws people in and supports local businesses. This could mean enhancing the area’s appeal and encouraging diverse activities to attract residents and visitors. Budget constraints necessitate careful prioritization, focusing on essential services and exploring</p>

<p>with the skills needed to truly absorb the township's current operations, identify areas for improvement, and implement strategies that enhance efficiency and effectiveness. My ability to collaborate with diverse stakeholders and my commitment to transparent decision-making make me uniquely qualified to serve as a Trustee.</p>	<p>ownership and engagement among township residents, leading to a more vibrant and cohesive community.</p>	<p>additional funding sources, such as grants and partnerships.</p> <p>For parking, we should optimize existing spaces and explore opportunities for expansion, while also promoting alternative transportation to alleviate demand. Addressing these issues will require creative solutions and collaboration with the community to ensure our township thrives and meets the needs of all residents.</p>
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Northfield Township Library Board Member

4-year term

VOTE FOR 6

<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 is the greatest challenge facing the library today?</p>
<p>Julie Gruber (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>
<p>Jack Secrist (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>During 2016 I was appointed to the library board, and I have since been elected to the board in 2016 and 2020. I have been serving as the Treasurer since 2017.</p> <p>My education includes a B. S. in Chemistry from the University of Michigan, a Ph. D. from the University of Illinois in Organic Chemistry. I spent seven years as a university faculty member in the department of chemistry at a Big Ten school.</p> <p>I joined a 500 employee research institute, and over 34 years held many leadership positions, retiring as the President and CEO. For over thirty years I was responsible for the oversight of the research library, and for four decades I was the executive editor of an international scientific journal</p> <p>I have served on numerous boards, including small companies, and on many committees for local and state government, the National Institutes of Health, and the U. S. Army. In addition, I have served as the president of two international scientific organizations.</p>	<p>The library has a responsibility to meet the needs of the community, and to be forward thinking in anticipating those needs for the future. A critical goal is to ensure that the library is open and welcoming to all who wish to use its services. The library board takes these responsibilities seriously, and works with the library director and staff to make sure that these goals are always in mind and that they govern our actions. As the treasurer, I also have the responsibility to make sure that our funds are spent appropriately and wisely. The board must be looking to the likely needs in the future, and find ways to set aside funds to cover large expenses such as possible expansion in the future.</p>	<p>Certainly meeting the needs of an evolving community from both technology and programming standpoints continues to be the biggest challenge and the biggest opportunity for the library to have a major impact on the lives of its patrons. At this point we have the funds to meet the community needs, and it is up to the board and library staff to make that happen. The library staff has done an outstanding job of developing programming of interest to all segments of the community, and the number of participants in these activities has continued to grow over the years, in contrast to what many other libraries are experiencing.</p>
<p>Roger D. Spooner (NP)</p> <p>Occupation / Current Position: Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>The board needs to understand the library's role in the community and prepare it for future needs.</p> <p>The library's finances have been well managed with current and future needs in mind.</p>	<p>Keeping the library an integral part of the community by making the community aware of the services and resources the library provides.</p>

<p>I retired after nearly 30 years of service with the State of Michigan. I became involved with some holiday activities at the Library that exemplified what the library means to the community. Joining the board allowed me to be part of a team of six fellow board members that work to assure that the library will continue to provide services and resources for the community.</p>		
<p>Gerald Hermann (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have always been interested in science, technology, engineering, and math. I received my bachelor of science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan—Dearborn. I work at Laser Mechanisms in Novi as the Head of Electrical Engineering. My wife Tawn and I moved to Northfield Township in 2015 and are members of Calvary Baptist Church in Whitmore Lake. We are both active in the community.</p> <p>I have served on the Northfield Township Library Board as the secretary since being elected in 2020.</p>	<p>My main goal is to keep Northfield Township Area Library a safe place for families, a place where parents do not have to be concerned about the type of material and activities that their children are exposed to. I also want to watch over how the library spends our money. In 2023, the township collected over \$600,000 from property taxes for the NTAL. Given the seriousness of the amount collected in tax dollars, it is of utmost importance that every dollar be treated with gratitude and respect for the township's people who have sacrificed to pay for the NTAL. As a trustee, I aim to ensure that the library remains accountable to its community and that every dollar is spent responsibly and transparently.</p>	<p>The greatest challenge facing libraries today is the influence of individuals and groups with non-traditional values and political agendas. Libraries should be a source of information that spans all spectrums but does not promote inappropriate material on children.</p>
<p>Carl Watkins (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>
<p>Jennifer Olney (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>With a master's degree in higher education and 14 years of residency in our town, I bring a deep understanding of both educational needs and our community's unique character. I have previously volunteered on other local, community organizations and believe in the value of public service. My background equips me to support the library's role as an educational resource, while my long-term connection to the area ensures that I am in tune with the interests and needs of our residents.</p>	<p>I believe access to information is an essential human right that public libraries have a duty to provide. My goals are to understand the needs of our community and set policies that are attainable and fiscally responsible for the Director.</p>	<p>I believe the greatest challenge facing libraries today is the attack on banning books and efforts to defund such an incredible public resource. In a community such as ours where people do not have access to high-speed internet or technology it is imperative that a service such as a public library do all it can to provide inclusive access to a multitude of educational mediums to its residents.</p>

<p>Roger Combs (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>
<p>Bryan King (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>
<p>Katherine Kempf (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>

Webster 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>John V. Kingsley (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have a BS and MA and have attended many educational workshops related to township governance. I have had the opportunity to serve the residents of Webster Township for many years which has given me insite into the needs of our citizens. Our team has made our township one of the most fiscally responsible townships. While not all of our decisions are popular with everyone, they have proven to be the best for the majority of our residents.</p>	<p>I wish to see the completion of our broadband buildout and improvements to our road system. At this time, the buildout is progressing and hopefully will be complete by the end of the year. This has been a multi year processs: starting with an informal group of people from the western Washtenaw area, to the Washtenaw County Broadband Task Force and finally the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners fund the project.</p> <p>The road improvements are an even greater challenge. The State of Michigan has all but abandoned the local roads of the State. Webster Township has over 41 miles of "gravel" roads. The State funding provides money to support "primary" roads but not the road in front of many of your homes. Roads are owned by and are the responsibility of the County. Our Township has attempted to improve our local roads over the years by providing additional funding for projects to the point that this years expenditure is greater than the tax dollars that we receive into the general fund.</p>	<p>The single biggest problem that we face is how to get all of our roads in good shape. One improvement will be a new roundabout at Mast Rd., Huron River Dr. and Joy Rd. in 2027 funded primarily through grant money. Annually, we look at which roads require the most help and the Township Board has hard decisions to make within the dollars that we have to spend. We continue to advocate to our state represenatives that more help is needed for these local roads.</p> <p>The Township Board has placed a ballot proposal on the August ballot to let our voters decide if they wish to fund improvements at a higher level or not. The Board is letting the voters decide.</p>
<p>L. Michael DeAngelo (Dem)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>My goals, if elected, include helping update the confusing, impractical, or outdated portions of the Township's ordinances, such as who is included as a "family" for single-family zoning, what constitutes a private road, and the categories of home-based businesses. I will also work to update the online format of our ordinances to enable</p>	<p>Challenges currently facing the township include animosity between the board and some Webster residents, maintaining the township's rural character in light of outside development pressures and inadequate infrastructure, and providing timely, accessible, accurate, and transparent information about township</p>

<p>I have been a resident of Webster Township for over 30 years. As both a landowner and a hay farmer with farm animals, I have a strong commitment to ensuring that Webster remains a unique place where families can enjoy its rural nature, natural beauty, and open space. As an attorney who recently retired after 27 years Michigan appellate courts, I am uniquely suited to explaining the sometimes confusing or contradictory statutes and ordinances that impact Webster Township. My distinct skills also allow me to help ensure that the ordinances Webster enacts and revises are consistent, easily understood, and meet the residents goals as reflected in the master plan, while protecting individual property rights and activities to the greatest extent possible. Also, as a former trustee of the Dexter District Library for 14 years, including when the new library was built, I have experience balancing a budget, working with contractors, and making effective sound policy and employment decisions.</p>	<p>easier resident access and searchability. Further, I plan to help develop an more efficient method for residents to obtain information and provide regular input on pending matters. I will promote transparency and accessibility, including modernizing township meetings to provide access to all, such as people with mobility/transportation issues, through the use of recording technology and remote participation. Another goal includes continuing the township's ability to preserve its rural character from development pressures by leveraging the use of PDR funding with outside grant resources to encourage protection of farmland and natural features.</p>	<p>expenditures and the reasons behind the decisions to spend tax dollars. Many of these and other problems can be alleviated by increasing means of communication with residents so they feel that the supervisor and board members are listening to and considering their concerns. Further, educating residents about the use of tax dollars and other funding sources while seeking input helps to effectuate the universal goals of limiting tax increases and preserving the rural character of the township. My education and experience will help to deescalate conflicts, avoid unnecessary or frivolous legal action, and helping to draft common sense ordinances and practical solutions to problems.</p>
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Webster Township Clerk

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 thoughts do you have about the current voting procedures?</p>
<p>Barbara Calleja (Dem) Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>
<p>Tony Brovont (NP) Education/Qualifications / Experience: While it would be quite presumptuous to claim to be the best candidate, I do have a number of qualifications for the position. The township clerk is responsible for three major areas of administration: conducting elections according to state and federal requirements, acting as the local comptroller and maintaining the official records of activities of the township boards, commissions and committees. I have earned a bachelors degree in accounting, an MBA in finance and taxation and a MS in sustainable tourism. In addition I have worked all my professional life in finance, accounting and human resource management. The conscientious compliance with a multitude of state</p>	<p>First, I would like to review and update the policies of the township. Then I would like to create an improved method of indexing and publishing records related to Board agendas, minutes, resolutions, policies, etc. Currently, these documents are in kept in a system that is very difficult for the public to access. Providing organized electronic access, preferably on-line, should be attainable with the current technology. However, it will take a great deal of human effort to accomplish a conversion. This should be possible by moving current staffing effort from election duties in non-election years. I would also like to use the clerk's office to improve communication with our residents. Ideally, regular substantive contact would foster participation, especially as it pertains to voting. Again, the township has the tools to do this, but it would be wise to look at how other townships are accomplishing this goal and adopt their best practices in addition to devising our own methods.</p>	<p>The current voting procedures are in transition in order to comply with the voters' passage of Proposal 22-2 as well as other expansions to access to the ballot. While maintaining security and integrity, all election officials from the Secretary of State to the local precinct Election Inspectors have had to adapt. This has been especially tumultuous for the election officials at the local level, such as in our township. Webster has had to change processes to accommodate absentee voting that has increased ten fold over the past few years and work with our County Clerk to coordinate early voting sites - just two examples of changing requirements. Voters are justifiably confused in many cases over when, where and how to cast their ballots so a great deal of education falls on local shoulders. Eventually, all of this will be sorted out, but at the moment there are many aspects of election administration that are in flux.</p>

<p>and federal regulations required in managing people allows me to be familiar with the application and execution of laws and is directly transferable to election administration and record maintenance. My education and experience in accounting allows me to fulfill the role of township comptroller with accuracy and competence.</p>		
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Webster 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 your current resources?</p>	<p>What are your thoughts about the current tax system in your township?</p>
<p>John Scharf (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I am a Michigan Certified Professional Treasurer (MiCPT) and I have served on the Webster Township Board for eight (8) years, the past five (5) as Treasurer. I also serve as Treasurer for the Dexter Area Fire Department (DAFD) and the Dexter Senior Center (DSC). 35 years of international business experience have prepared me well to effectively serve my fellow residents of Webster Township. My network of support includes treasurers and others from the Michigan Townships Association (MTA), the Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association (MMTA), the Washtenaw County Treasurers Association and more.</p>	<p>(1) Maintain Webster’s debt free status by not borrowing. (2) Insure the protection of Township funds through the vigilant application of prudent checks and balances. We are also constantly implementing the latest techniques to avoid continuous fraudulent attacks. (3) To recruit talented residents to support the work of the Township and to support reliable succession planning. (4) As a Board Officer, I am committed to optimize everyone’s enjoyment of their property and community.</p>	<p>Of the tens of millions in property tax that Webster Township collects each year, the vast majority, 66%, goes to schools (Dexter, Ann Arbor, Whitmore Lake, Pinckney, WISD, LESA & WCC). The next largest portion, 20%, goes to Washtenaw County. Another 4% goes to libraries (Dexter & Ann Arbor). Finally, Webster Township retains 11% for use in direct service to Webster. Property tax is an undesirable way to raise revenue, but it is the only method allowed by the State of Michigan.</p>
<p>Catherine Boudreaux (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>A resident of Webster Township for almost twenty years, I have experience working in both education and finance. After earning a degree in history, I taught classical philosophy and Latin to high schoolers, all of which gave me a background in the humanities, critical thinking, and evaluating all sides of an issue. For the past three years and counting, I have worked in accounts receivable at a multi-million-dollar corporation. This has provided me with experience both in accounting and in holding sensitive and sometimes difficult conversations with customers about money while remaining professional and empathetic.</p>	<p>My main goals are to keep taxes low and to prevent government overreach. Townships are the most local level of government; in the words of the Michigan Township Association, they are “the perfect example of neighbors leading neighbors, of government closest to the people.” Therefore, I believe it is crucial for the township to avoid an unnecessary increase in taxation or micromanagement of its citizens with more complicated ordinances, such as requiring permits for even the smallest home-based businesses. To this end, I will work to make sure that funds are allocated to things that are truly necessary, not to budget increases that facilitate more government overreach. I will also work to make the most of the funding from the county and higher up, instead of adding more burden on the township level.</p>	<p>Whenever possible, taxes should be lowered while still making sure to responsibly maintain the township’s infrastructure. Citizens also deserve to have potential long-lasting changes for taxes communicated to them clearly and effectively. For example, things like millage increases should not be proposed in the primary election when fewer citizens will see it or have the knowledge to vote on it. Also, where applicable, township ordinances should not be based on net property when citizens are taxed for gross property. If citizens are taxed for land, they should be able to fully utilize it.</p>

<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 your limited resources?</p>	<p>What are the most serious problems facing the township and how will you work to solve them?</p>
<p>David D. Daily (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have held leadership roles in automotive manufacturing for over 35 years developing teams to exceed their goals. The past 15 years I had a global role, with a strong ability to manage across cultures & internal company boundaries while coaching teams to achieve high performance standards, meet tight deadlines, solve dynamic problems to deliver results on budget. My style is servant leadership with clear communication, follow-up, accountability, and treating everyone with respect and empathy. Along with my commitment to the community, my style and background give me the tools to successfully represent the residents of Webster Township. Insuring concerns are addressed with all views represented is very important to me. I hold a BS in Mechanical Engineering from UW- Madison and completed the Strategic Leadership Series at UW- Milwaukee. My wife (Dianne) and I raised 4 daughters in the Dexter schools and now are the proud grandparents of 10. I am a Church volunteer & past treasurer.</p>	<p>Improve the communication between the Board and the community. Also work to insure all sides of concerns are understood and that actions by the board are appropriate and address the root cause of the concern. This can be through better / direct follow-up to public comment concerns and ideas, special meetings and personal 1:1 communication. Helping to preserve our open land which is why most folks come to this community. Also preserving the township's control over land use rather than state control.</p>	<p>The top concerns are: Communication - explaining to the township residents in a clear concise way. My previous experience required us to clearly state the problem or concern needing improvement. Then we had to explain what were the options for change with anticipated costs and outcomes - including do nothing. I believe implementing a process to show the logic and have it visible to all would go a long way in improving communication. The township does have an email distribution system that residents can sign up for, however, at this time it has not been utilized. Roads - our highest budget item and yet Washtenaw County is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of our roads. Requesting quarterly attendance by the Road Commission at the Board Meetings should be mandatory. Also, special meetings with the Road Commission that are clearly communicated to the residents for all to participate. The goal to better hold the Road Commission accountable and reduce additional millages.</p>
<p>John M. Gills (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have a degree in civil engineering and worked as a municipal engineer for local townships, including working with municipalities to design and build local infrastructure. I understand how projects are built. I also worked on large construction projects and had to manage million-dollar budgets. I now own a contracting business and I know what it's like to deal with over-complicated zoning. I've been engaged at the Township level since I moved here 5 years ago and see some of the struggles of the current administration. A lot of residents are seeking a change in which the Township does not serve the needs of a few and I believe I can offer that.</p>	<p>My first goal would be to just simply be honest. Many residents do not trust the current administration and I hope, if nothing else, to build trust in our township government. I believe by being forthcoming with board meeting agendas instead of a last minute update on the website will help residents become engaged. I also believe we are overtaxed. The citizens are asked this primary to approve two millages, however the Township has not provided any plans on how the additional money will be spent.</p>	<p>The Township has, in my opinion, put off addressing properly zoning parcels which has resulted in attempts to treat all properties the same, leading to to complicated ordinances. This has become a serious problem because an outside consultant from a primarily suburban township has been hired to rewrite many of our zoning ordinances. A good administration would seek to properly organize the township parcels instead of trying to govern with one big brush.</p> <p>I also believe there has not been a detailed plan on repairing roads but instead small band-aids with inconsistent funds. I would seek to put forth a detailed road repair plan in coordination with the Road Commission and make it public for the residents.</p> <p>And finally: chickens! If you want chickens (and your HOA doesn't forbid it), then you should be able to have chickens. We're about 3 years into this debacle and it's time it ends.</p>

<p>Richard Kleinschmidt (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>
<p>John H. Westman (Rep)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>As a lifelong resident of Webster Township, I have the historical perspective and institutional knowledge to continue my service as township trustee. I am a graduate of the U of M School of Natural Resources. As such, I appreciate the rural character and the wonderful natural features that we share as township residents. I, along with former Planning Commissioner Erica Perry, worked diligently to establish our Natural Rivers District which provides protection for both the Huron River and the majority of Arms Creek. As chair of our Farmland and Open Space Preservation Board I am pleased to report that over the past twenty years we have protected nearly 3,000 acres from development.</p> <p>As a retired Army officer, I possess the leadership skills that have allowed me to overcome resistance and to move projects forward. The new fire hall, built with no additional taxation, is an example. Some folks thought it was not the time. My position was, if not now, when?</p>	<p>I would like to continue serving with the land preservation program. It has been very successful and has significant resident support. We have established a Parks and Recreation Committee. It needs more guidance from the Township Board. I can provide the necessary leadership to move the process forward. Roads are a major concern. I will work toward the establishment of a long-term road improvement program. The recently passed dedicated millage will be a great help in that regard. The sound system in the township hall is woefully inadequate. I will continue to advocate for a modern system. The resources are there.</p>	<p>Of greatest concern to residents is the poor condition of our gravel and limestone roads. Although road maintenance is the responsibility of the County Road Commission, in practice, the required maintenance is seldom adequately performed. We will establish a working group of board members and citizens to recommend a path forward to facilitate the necessary improvements. We have a dedicated millage to support this effort.</p> <p>Effective communication with our residents is an ongoing problem. I am open to suggestions on how this might be improved. I know we need to promote better meeting attendance. I believe that the totally inadequate sound system in the Township Hall discourages people from attending meetings. The audience simply cannot hear what is going on. Those who do attend meetings know that I have pushed to replace the system. There is currently not enough support on the Board to make it happen. Residents need to demand that the infrastructure be upgraded to a functional system.</p>
<p>Jeff Harms (Dem)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have Bachelor's degree in Construction Management and am a certified Asset Manager. I have been in public service for over 34 years. Previous experience includes 30 years working for Washtenaw County, the last 20 of which was at the Water Resources Commissioners Office, retiring as the Director of Field Services. I have served as a Trustee for Webster Township since 2020, and currently sit on the Zoning Board of Appeals. As a result of my work experience, I am very accustomed to trying to find the most favorable long-term solution within a very limited budget, while working with residents regarding thier concerns.</p>	<p>I look forward to continuing to serve the township residents by supporting policies and decisions that are fiscally responsible, sustainable, fair, and equitable. I plan to lend my expertise to any construction projects either building, site developement, or road work that impacts the township and its residents.</p>	<p>There are some challenges facing the township. One is our roads. While the township currently recieves no road funding, leadership recognizes this as something extreamly important to the residents. The board has budgeted annully for road work in conjunction with the Road Commission, working to leverage the best possible results from taxpayer dollars. Over the last two years we partnered with the Road Commission, securing grants to fund culvert replacement. A second challenge is planning and zoning. These two things are essential to maintaining the integrity and appeal of the area. Trying to balance that with property rights is always challenging.</p>

<p>Dan Munzel (Dem)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>As Director of Real Estate at ITC, my team manages the real estate for 17,000 miles of high voltage electric transmission lines in 8 states. This requires collaboration, creative thinking, and excellent communication skills including listening to ideas from many. My ability to lead, find solutions and gain buy-in from many are skills that I also bring to the Webster Twp Board today.</p> <p>I was appointed to the Board in 2019 and elected in 2020. The Board is a well-functioning body focused on solving issues for our residents. I also serve as Secretary on the Dexter Area Fire Administrative Board, which provides oversight to the DAFD.</p> <p>A key function of any board is to manage the budget and finances, done through prioritization and management of limited resources. My professional and Board experience make me a highly qualified candidate for re-election. Finally, I received a BS from the Univ. of Mich. and have lived and raised my family in Webster Twp for over 27 years.</p>	<p>1) Ensure wise fiscal management of Township resources, with a philosophy of the lowest taxes for the greatest good. This can be accomplished by supporting policies and programs that are specific, efficient and benefit as many residents as possible;</p> <p>2) Work to improve the public safety of the community, with the opening of the new Fire Station and wise management of Sheriff Deputy support. The completion of the Fire Station has enhanced the Dexter Area Fire Department (DAFD) response time in Webster Township, especially in the NE quadrant of the Township;</p> <p>3) Maintain the rural character of the Township. We can accomplish this by continuing the very successful Farmland and Open Space Preservation program and managing new growth and development; and</p> <p>4) Ensure the Board and Board members are accessible, communicating and listening to hear concerns and challenges our residents are facing.</p>	<p>1) Managing and maintaining our gravel roads to provide a safe and smooth driving surface. We need to continue pushing the Washtenaw Co. Road Commission for a coordinated long-term maintenance and improvement plan. This will help the WCRC better align their work with the road priorities of our residents.</p> <p>2) Improving the internet infrastructure necessary to support our community. The County-wide investment in broadband infrastructure was approved in 2022 and work is underway to install high-speed fiber optic lines throughout the County and Webster Twp; and</p> <p>3) Managing our budget and working to ensure the Board allocates tax revenue in a fiscally responsible manner. Should our State Revenue Share decrease, we will need to cancel or delay spending to offset revenue losses and seek alternate funding sources (grants) to support specific programs. Working collaboratively with the other Board members and the great staff at the Twp, we can solve the challenges we face today and tomorrow.</p>
<p>Brant Savander (Dem)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>EDUCATION: Texas A&M, Maritime Systems Engineering. BSc. 1989. University of Michigan, Naval Architecture. MSE. 1990. University of Michigan, Naval Architecture. Ph.D. 1997.</p> <p>EMPLOYMENT: Principal Research Scientist, Owner. Maritime Research Associates. Ann Arbor, Michigan.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Registered Professional Engineer. State of Michigan. Advisory Board, Naval Architecture Dept., University of Michigan. National Parks Foundation, Member. Whitewater Rowing School Qualified, state of Colorado.</p> <p>TOWNSHIP EXPERIENCE: Board of Review, Webster Township, 2017-2018. Board of Trustees, Webster Township, 2019-2020.</p>	<p>The fundamental guiding principal for township management is to live the Master Plan. The Master Plan is developed in conjunction with township residents and should also be continually updated.</p> <p>Two of the most common comments made by residents is to maintain the country character and keep improving the roads.</p> <p>The country character is best maintained via three township management mechanisms, which includes Farmland and Open Space Preservation (Proposal B), balanced zoning planning, and a zoning ordinance that balances property owner rights with adjacent landowner rights and interests.</p> <p>The road question is addressed by planning and available financial resources. The goal is to establish a 3, 5, and 10-year plan to maintain the gravel roads and culverts in conjunction with the road commission. If Proposal A passes, the maintenance cycle for the 41 miles of gravel roads would be every 3-5 years. If Proposal A does not pass, the maintenance cycle would increase to 8-9 years.</p>	<p>As discussed above, two of the biggest challenges facing township management are maintaining the country character and improving the quality of the roads.</p> <p>Residents moved to Webster Township in many instances because they love the beautiful open spaces and countryside. Those motivations are also very often coupled with the love of keeping and raising farm animals. The current zoning ordinance modifications are nearly complete to allow farm animals on less than 5-acre parcels. For example, households living on less than 5 acres should absolutely be able to raise chickens to have fresh eggs for their family.</p> <p>Improving communication with the residents is also of keen interest. In this day and age, having both regular informational newsletters and a presence on both Facebook and Instagram is logically a great place for the residents to stay connected with all of the latest happenings at their township.</p>

<p>Shelley Vrsek (Dem)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p> <p>I have four years of experience as a Webster Township Trustee. I am appointed to the Michigan Board of Social Work by the Governor. I am the President of the Dexter District Library Board. I am also a member of the Webster Township Natural Features Committee, which is focused on partnering with residents to preserve Webster Township's natural infrastructure and beauty. I am a social worker who has been in leadership roles for more than 20 years. I am an expert at policies, risk management, quality processes, measurable outcomes, strategic planning and managing tight budgets for sustainability.</p>	<p>My primary goal is to balance the rights of residents with the sustainability of the township. This balance should be achieved while preventing undue cost to residents or the Township. I believe this is best done through offering public opportunities to hear from residents, by learning about what similar townships have faced, and how other townships have prepared for potential risks. I also want to improve access to our meetings so that we can continue to encourage community participation. To do this, we need to improve the technology in the Township Hall. This includes microphones, speakers, and video conferencing equipment to record all meetings and allow people to join virtually. In addition, I would like screens that connect to computers so that the audience can see what the Board is reviewing during the meeting. The Trustees have been working to include this in the infrastructure upgrade that is currently happening.</p>	<p>The residents continue to express concern over transparency. I welcome hearing the different perspectives of residents and will continue to advocate for additional meetings to input.</p> <p>The most common complaint from residents is the roads. The Board has worked hard to set aside money specific to road repairs. In 2023, we were able to use some of that money to secure a matching grant to repair several culverts. We continue to look for opportunities to use our tax dollars to leverage additional monies for local road projects, even though roads are Washtenaw County's responsibility. The animal ordinance is an issue among residents right now. The ordinance needs to be updated in order to allow residents with less than five acres to have smaller animals, like chickens and rabbits. I take all opportunities to learn from residents, our Zoning Admin, and MDARD. I will continue to listen and provide input in order to get a practical ordinance that protects the Township, residents and animals.</p>
<p>Erin A. Lamb (NP)</p> <p>Education/Qualifications / Experience:</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND</p>

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.

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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.

Whitmore Lake Public Schools Proposal (1)

Whitmore Lake Public School District Sinking Fund Millage Proposal

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Whitmore Lake Public School District, Washtenaw and Livingston Counties, Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed 1.5 mills (\$1.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2025 to 2034, inclusive, to create a sinking fund for the construction or repair of school buildings; for school security improvements; for the acquisition or upgrading of technology; for the acquisition of student transportation vehicles; for the acquisition of parts, supplies, and equipment used for the maintenance of student transportation vehicles; for the acquisition of eligible trucks and vans used to carry parts, equipment, and personnel for or in the maintenance of school buildings; for the acquisition of parts, supplies, and equipment used to maintain such trucks and vans; and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2025 is approximately \$824,424?