

GENERAL ELECTION
VOTER GUIDE-Dearborn

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

Partisan Ballot	Nonpartisan Ballot	Ballot Proposals
President/Vice President U.S. Senator U.S. Representative --- State Representative State Board of Education MSU, U of M, WSU Boards	Justice, Michigan Supreme Court Judge, Court of Appeals, 1st District	
Wayne County Officials: Clerk, Prosecutor, Register of Deeds, Sheriff, Treasurer Wayne County Commissioner-13th District	3rd Circuit Court Judge, Incumbent 3rd Circuit Court Judge, Partial Term 3rd Circuit Court Judge, Non-incumbent Wayne Co. Probate Ct. Judge, Incumbent Wayne Co. Probate Ct. Judge, Non-incumbent	Wayne County RESA Millage Renewal
	19th District Court Judge Dearborn School Board Members	



VOTE411.org includes more information. Go online to VOTE411 and enter your address to view all your races and ballot proposals. LWV-Michigan publishes a print version of federal and state-wide contests. Copies are available at your local library.

Partisan Ballot

Wayne County Officials

Five (5) races; four (4) are contested: Clerk, Prosecutor, Register of Deeds, and Sheriff. The Treasurer race is uncontested. **Terms are all 4 years ending 12/31/2030.** Candidate names and information can be found online at **VOTE411.org**.

Wayne County Commissioner 13th District (includes Dearborn)

4 year term ending 12/31/2028 Vote for 1 of 1 (uncontested). *As the legislative arm of Wayne County government, the chief role of a commissioner is to adopt a budget and enact ordinances.*

NEW! EARLY VOTING OPTION

Early voting is open 9 consecutive days beginning on Saturday, October 26, 2024 and ending Sunday, November 3, 2024. Voting will take place at a polling site designated by your city. Contact your Clerk's office for more information.

YOUR LOCAL CLERK'S PHONE NUMBER
Dearborn 313-943-2030



Nonpartisan Ballot

Judge of Wayne County 3rd Circuit Court 3 races; only 1 is contested (2 candidates running for 1 position) See below.

The circuit court is the trial court with the broadest powers in Michigan. In general, the circuit court handles all civil cases with claims of more than \$25,000 and all felony criminal cases (cases where the accused, if found guilty, could be sent to prison).

Incumbent Judge, 6 Year Term ending 1/1/2031 - Vote for 18 of 18 (uncontested)

Incumbent Judge, Partial Term ending 1/1/2027 - Vote for 2 of 2 (uncontested)

Non-Incumbent Judge, 6 Year Term ending 1/1/2031 - Vote for 1 of 2 candidates (contested)

<p>Judge, 3rd Circuit Non-Incumbent, 6 Year Term ending 1/1/2031</p> <p>Vote for 1 of 2 candidates</p>	<p>What experience and skills qualify you to serve as Circuit Court Judge?</p>	<p>What are the priority issues facing this court, and how would you address them if elected?</p>	<p>If you observed a party in your courtroom being poorly represented by an unprepared or ineffective lawyer, how would you handle the situation?</p>
<p>John Larkin</p> <p>Education: University of Michigan (B.G.S. - Accounting Concentration, 1988); University of Detroit School of Law (J.D., 1991)</p> <p>Email: larkin4judge@gmail.com</p> <p>Facebook: www.facebook.com /larkin4judge?mibextid=eQY6</p> <p>Website: www.larkin4judge.com</p>	<p>For the past 32 years, I've proudly served as a general practitioner with a diverse legal practice spanning civil litigation, criminal law, bankruptcy, landlord-tenant disputes, license restoration, personal injury, and more. Throughout my career, I've been dedicated to representing the average citizen, assisting them with a wide range of legal matters.</p> <p>From my life and courtroom experience, I developed and believe in treating everyone with dignity, understanding, and fairness. These values have been honed over my legal career, and I will listen and comprehend each litigants' arguments and point of view before making a decision. That decision will be based on the evidence and law applicable to that case.</p>	<p>1) Expeditious resolution of Court business - publish judicial records for when judges arrive at court and when they leave court. Also, publish how many cases they are resolving; average time to resolve cases, etc. 2) Continue to improve Court Transparency - make it easy for citizens to watch on Zoom or YouTube what is happening in court. Also, continue to make non-personal records available via the internet so all citizens may understand what is happening in the court.</p> <p>3) Adequate representation for all litigants - making sure litigants are represented with counsel by informing all parties of legal services available either free or at reduced costs. When parties are represented, legal results tend to be more just.</p>	<p>I would convene all attorneys at the bench to address any issues I observe and propose a plan of action to resolve them. If the attorney in question is a public defender and his/her conduct is particularly egregious, I would contemplate declaring a mistrial or at least adjourning the proceedings to address the matter. However, if the attorney is privately retained, it would be up to the litigant to address the issue, unless the conduct violates the Rules of Professional Conduct. Parties have the right to choose their preferred counsel, and judges do not have the authority to override that choice unless ethical standards are compromised. If ethical standards are violated, then there may be a duty to contact the ethics board.</p>

Nonpartisan Ballot

<p>Judge, 3rd Circuit Non-Incumbent, 6 Year Term ending 1/1/2031</p> <p>Vote for 1 of 2 candidates</p>	<p>What experience and skills qualify you to serve as Circuit Court Judge?</p>	<p>What are the priority issues facing this court, and how would you address them if elected?</p>	<p>If you observed a party in your courtroom being poorly represented by an unprepared or ineffective lawyer, how would you handle the situation?</p>
<p>Adrienne G. Scruggs</p> <p>Education: Wayne State University Law School, Detroit, Michigan. Juris Doctor, December 2005 Tennessee State University, Nashville, Tennessee. Bachelor of Science Criminal Justice, December 2001</p> <p>Email: scruggsforjudge@gmail.com</p> <p>Facebook: Scruggs for Judge</p> <p>Website: scruggsforjudge.com</p>	<p>A judge must possess integrity, be compassionate, have an even temperament, and be fair. I have those qualities and demonstrate them in the hearings I conduct as a Referee. A judge must also blindly and fairly apply the law based upon the facts of the case. I currently issue recommendations and proposed orders where I am required to listen to testimony of the parties, their witnesses, and review admitted evidence. I have experience in weighing the interests of different parties and making decisions and recommendations. I understand the power I have to impact someone’s life and I treat it with great care and respect. I want to help build a justice system that reflects our shared values of compassion, integrity, equity, and fairness.</p>	<p>Championing civil justice reforms, including expanding access to counsel in civil and family law proceedings, making sure that parties are properly served with the Complaint on a case, making sure that parties receive proper and timely Notice of Hearing, and making sure cases are timely scheduled and orders entered. Likewise, we must continue efforts to provide alternatives to incarceration, expand the use of treatment courts, and engage the use of mental health facilities. It is important that we take measures to stop the criminalization of poverty, as well as provide legal aid resources to the public at large so those who interact with our justice system can do so fairly and with adequate counseling.</p>	<p>I would address each situation based on the behavior of the lawyer. Unethical or otherwise more serious behavior will be reported to the State Bar, while for more minor offenses I might hold a conference with all parties involved to properly address the behavior. If the attorney is part of a public agency, then I might also contact their administration to address my concerns and remove the attorney from further representation. An attorney is bound to the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct and violations of those rules, especially ethical issues may also warrant sanctions or contempt findings.</p>

Election Protection Hotlines

866-OUR-VOTE 866-687-8683

844-YALLA-US 844-925-5287

Nonpartisan Ballot

Judge of Wayne County Probate Court 2 races; only 1 is contested (4 candidates running for 2 positions). See below.

Probate Court jurisdiction includes cases on guardianships, conservatorships, protective proceedings, estates, trusts, and the mentally ill, as well as jury trials.

Incumbent 6 Year Term expiring 1/1/2031 - Vote for 1 of 1 (uncontested)

Non-Incumbent 6 year term ending 1/1/2031 - Vote for 2 of 4 candidates (contested)

<p>Judge, Probate Court Non-Incumbent 6 year term ending 1/1/2031</p> <p>Vote for 2 of 4 candidates</p>	<p>What experience and skills qualify you to serve as Probate Court Judge?</p>	<p>What are the priority issues facing this court, and how would you address them if elected?</p>	<p>If you observed a party in your courtroom being poorly represented by an unprepared or ineffective lawyer, how would you handle the situation?</p>
<p>Todd E. Briggs</p> <p>Website: Briggs4Judge.com</p> <p>Email: todd@briggs4judge.com</p>	<p>I am a hardworking attorney and family man. I have 36 years of dedicated service and have appeared in all state and federal courts in Michigan. Besides representing private clients, I have been appointed 1000's of times by at least 25 different probate courts to represent individuals and families that need legal representation. Because of my experience and skills, I have been appointed to serve as Guardian, Conservator, Special Fiduciary and Trustee 100's of times by various probate judges. I have been appointed even more times to assist probate judges by writing reports that involve investigation, legal analysis and recommending solutions or actions to take. I have had more probate jury trials than anyone in the state the past 7 years.</p>	<p>My priority is to "Put Families First" which means ensuring every person has a voice and is given the opportunity to be heard when they come to court asking for protection, helping a loved one or asking for assistance with a family dispute. My probate experience has taught me that each person is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect so fairness and justice prevails. My belief is that every court decision should prioritize the well-being and best interests of families and individuals. My goal is to create a court environment where families feel supported and confident that their concerns are being addressed with the highest level of professionalism and care.</p>	<p>As judge, I would first gently try to direct such a lawyer on what legal issue, law or what facts and evidence are relevant to or for their client during the hearing. If that did not work, I would take a short recess and give the lawyer an opportunity to talk with their client to discuss the relevant law, issues or facts. Lastly, I would adjourn the matter and direct the attorney to be prepared on the specific issues or facts needed to assist their client. If it was a court-appointed attorney and the attorney was unprepared or ineffective repeatedly, I would likely not appoint them until they demonstrate that they can be effective helping their client.</p>

Nonpartisan Ballot

<p>Judge, Probate Court Non-Incumbent 6 year term ending 1/1/2031</p> <p>Vote for 2 of 4 candidates</p>	<p>What experience and skills qualify you to serve as Probate Court Judge?</p>	<p>What are the priority issues facing this court, and how would you address them if elected?</p>	<p>If you observed a party in your courtroom being poorly represented by an unprepared or ineffective lawyer, how would you handle the situation?</p>
<p>Macie Gaines</p> <p>Website: www.gainwithgaines.com</p> <p>Email: gaines4judge@gmail.com</p>	<p>For the past decade, she has been a tireless advocate for the most vulnerable people in society. She focuses on the protection of families and vulnerable adults through guardianships, conservatorships, and neglect/abuse matters. Even in private practice, she has served Wayne County Probate Court as a fiduciary, Guardian Ad Litem, and court appointed attorney for the mental health and developmentally disabled docket. As a community minded attorney, her zealous representation has never wavered regardless of the client's income or lack thereof. As a Judge, she plans to utilize her specialized legal knowledge to every case while treating every person who enters the courtroom with the dignity they deserve.</p>	<p>Fee waivers and access to the Court are issues. The staff should automatically off fee waivers to self-represented litigants. In addition, the Court needs to open up or a hybrid structure should be adopted. Right now, it is a 100% remote and citizens cannot enter Court to file what they need. Pre-COVID, a person could walk to the 13th Floor where every possible probate form would be available for free. A person could fill it out and file it immediately. Now, the court only takes filings via fax, mail or email. Payment can only be submitted via mail/online. Unfortunately, this is not convenient for many. It fails to account for those who do not have internet, computers, printers or online payment options. These barriers should not exist.</p>	<p>Within the bounds of the canons that govern a Judge's conduct, If the party faces irreparable harm by the attorney's ineffectiveness, I would ask the party and attorney to approach the bench. I will ask the attorney if he/she is ok. I will consider reasonable personal issues as a possible basis to adjourn. At that point, the party has an option to seek effective counsel.</p>

Nonpartisan Ballot

<p>Judge, Probate Court Non-Incumbent 6 year term ending 1/1/2031</p> <p>Vote for 2 of 4 candidates</p>	<p>What experience and skills qualify you to serve as Probate Court Judge?</p>	<p>What are the priority issues facing this court, and how would you address them if elected?</p>	<p>If you observed a party in your courtroom being poorly represented by an unprepared or ineffective lawyer, how would you handle the situation?</p>
<p>Ron L. Haywood</p> <p>Email: haywoodisgood@gmail.com</p>	<p>In February 2023, I started working for the Department of Appeals and Hearings for the City of Detroit as an Administrative Hearing Officer. In this quasi-judicial position, I hear appeals arising out of decisions made by multiple city agencies against businesses and Detroit citizens. In addition, on a daily basis, I make decisions on cases that come before me. Currently, I hear cases regarding blight, dangerous buildings and environmental pollution. I worked for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for twenty-three years. My court litigation experience has provided me with the ability to conduct trials, and issue proper rulings of law to serve the community at an excellent professional level.</p>	<p>After talking to over 5,000 Wayne County residents about Probate Court, their consistent concern is the delay in the settlement of probate cases. If elected their concern will become my concern. I would go to the Chief Judge to try to implement new procedures to speed up the probate process.</p>	<p>Everyone is entitled to good and competent legal representation. If I felt a lawyer was performing so badly that his client would suffer harm due to the lawyer's incompetence, I would stop the proceeding. I would call both parties up to the bench or go into chambers and request that the attorney withdraw from the case.</p> <p>If there is no valid reason provided for the performance, I would report the incident to the Attorney Grievance Commission.</p>

Nonpartisan Ballot

<p>Judge, Probate Court Non-Incumbent 6 year term ending 1/1/2031</p> <p>Vote for 2 of 4 candidates</p>	<p>What experience and skills qualify you to serve as Probate Court Judge?</p>	<p>What are the priority issues facing this court, and how would you address them if elected?</p>	<p>If you observed a party in your courtroom being poorly represented by an unprepared or ineffective lawyer, how would you handle the situation?</p>
<p>Daniel L. Mercier</p> <p>Website: www.MercierForJudge.com</p> <p>Email danielmercier@mercierlegal.com</p>	<p>I began my legal career as a Special Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor in Wayne County Juvenile Court where I gained valuable courtroom experience and skills. I later served as Assistant Deputy Director for Wayne County's Department of Children and Family Services where I oversaw programs that successfully rehabilitated families involved in our court system. As a litigator, I have conducted multiple trials throughout our county's court systems. Additionally, my memberships with the Wayne County Juvenile Court Trial Lawyers, Detroit Bar Association, and the Wayne County Defense Bar Association have provided me invaluable professional development. My experience and training has uniquely prepared me to serve the public as their probate judge.</p>	<p>Wayne County Probate Court is the busiest court in our state and yet, its doors remain closed to the public it serves, affecting access to justice. If elected, I will lead the effort to reopen the probate court's doors allowing the public full access to the court. Too many families have been detrimentally affected by the court's self-imposed closure. While remote proceedings may be effective in certain circumstances, they should only be conducted by choice. I will also hold accountable court-appointed attorneys who exploit vulnerable families by over charging legal fees. Too many families have been left penniless after our probate courts approve exorbitant fees for the attorneys they appoint, this is unacceptable and must change.</p>	<p>In such a situation, I would do my best to ensure the client was protected by explaining their rights on the record and ensuring they understood those rights. I would also address the issues their attorney neglected and ask the client if they needed additional time before agreeing to any matters. Additionally, I would consult with the lawyer in an attempt to understand why they were ineffective or unprepared. If the representation was egregious, I would report the lawyer's conduct accordingly. I may also give the client a list of free legal aide clinics if the circumstances indicated.</p>

Judge, 19th District Court - Incumbent, 6 year term ending 12/31/2030 Vote for 1 of 1 (uncontested)

Member, Dearborn Public Schools Board of Education - 6 year term ending 12/31/2030 - Vote for 2 of 10 candidates
Those elected serve as Members of the Board of Education and also as Trustees of Henry Ford College. They approve an annual budget, and hire and evaluate the superintendent/ President. They also set policy, provide a vision or direction for the district, provide accountability, and advocate for education in their district.

Nonpartisan Ballot

<p>Dearborn Public Schools Board of Education</p> <p>Vote for 2 of 10 candidates</p>	<p>Why are you running for the School Board, and what background and experience qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>What are your top K-12 priorities and how would you address them?</p>	<p>What is the role of the School Board in supporting an educational environment sensitive to the needs of a diverse community?</p>	<p>What are your top priorities for Henry Ford College, and how would you address them?</p>
<p>Jamal Aljahmi</p> <p>Email: votejamalaljahmi@gmail.com</p> <p>Website: www.jamalaljahmi.com/</p>	<p>I am a passionate advocate for education and community development. I am running for the Dearborn School Board with a vision to enhance our local educational landscape. With nearly four decades of dedicated service to the Dearborn community, I bring a wealth of experience from my roles on various school boards and a decade-long involvement with the City of Dearborn Parking Recreation Commissions. My contributions to the Master Land Use Plan and extensive volunteer work with nonprofits highlight my commitment to improving the lives of children and families.</p>	<p>1. Equity and access to quality education for all students: I believe every child, regardless of their background or circumstances, deserves access to a high-quality education. 2. Supporting teacher retention and professional development: Teachers play a vital role in the success of students, and it is important to support their professional growth and well-being. I would prioritize initiatives that promote teacher retention, such as providing ongoing professional development opportunities. My approach to addressing these priorities would involve collaboration with stakeholders, including parents, teachers, administrators, and community members, to develop comprehensive and sustainable solutions that prioritize the needs of all students.</p>	<p>The School Board plays a critical role in supporting an educational environment that is sensitive to the needs of a diverse community. Some key responsibilities of the School Board in this regard include, setting policies and allocating resources. The School Board is responsible for setting policies that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within the school system. Which might include policies dealing with curriculum development, hiring practices, student discipline, and student support services. By establishing clear guidelines and expectations around diversity and inclusion, the School Board can help create a supportive and inclusive educational environment for all students.</p>	<p>As a member of the School Board, my top priorities for Henry Ford College would include: 1. Improving student success and retention: One of the key priorities would be to focus on improving student success and retention rates at Henry Ford College. 2. Enhancing academic programs and workforce development opportunities: This could involve expanding partnerships with local businesses and industries to offer relevant training programs and apprenticeships, as well as updating and aligning curriculum to meet the needs of a rapidly changing job market.</p>

Nonpartisan Ballot

<p>Dearborn Public Schools Board of Education</p> <p>Vote for 2 of 10 candidates</p>	<p>Why are you running for the School Board, and what background and experience qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>What are your top K-12 priorities and how would you address them?</p>	<p>What is the role of the School Board in supporting an educational environment sensitive to the needs of a diverse community?</p>	<p>What are your top priorities for Henry Ford College, and how would you address them?</p>
<p>Silvio Davis</p> <p>Email: scdavis728@hotmail.com</p>	<p>The time for a new member is now. I was born and raised in Dearborn and have lived here my entire life. I am married to Lauren and we have twin boys, Lorenzo and Silvio. I am a product of Dearborn public schools starting at Whitmore- Bolles moving to DuVall onto O.L Smith and graduating from Edsel Ford in 2004. For 15 years now I have volunteered within our community focusing on helping families and children. I have helped or organized the following: Back to school supplies drives, food drives, hats/coats/mittens/gloves drives, helping school gardens or PTSA fundraisers, operating "Floatie nights" at our local pools and serving as the President of Dearborn Goodfellows ensuring "No child goes without a Christmas" for the past 5 years.</p>	<p>Our number one priority needs to be our students. We must focus on their needs and provide them with the tools they need to succeed in our educational environment while moving into their adult living. The quality of teachers has to be at the top of that list, we need to attract and KEEP our teachers in our district. How? Listen, learn, communicate and focus on a plan to build the morale and trust within our educational staff. We must be able to support their concerns and needs so we have their trust so they can focus on being the best educator they can for our students. We need to bring together our parents and administrative staff, to ensure the safety and quality of education every single student deserves. How? Communication& follow up.</p>	<p>Our community has been diverse for decades, we have grown into such a welcoming and inclusive school system to all who attend. Growing up as a child with a diverse background, I watched the growth over the years from the students to the staff members. Our staff within the school system has become more diverse to show our students what they can become. Our educational employees were once students, in the same district, walking the same halls. The opportunities offered to all students and visuals they see daily, allow them to relate, communicate and become an educated student. It is the role of the board to ensure all of our students have the same opportunities their leaders were given. This will allow our educational system to grow.</p>	<p>The Henry Ford College has grown so much within the comparing colleges, within our community, and within the job force over the past decade. We have witnessed so many steps forward. The Boards job is to understand where the college wants to go and how we can serve that out. Keeping the momentum and positive strides forward comes with good relationships with the community, work force, staff members and the students. We must listen, learn and communicate with all those who make the school successful. Our relationships and partnerships are key to that success. First day as an elected official, I want to meet with the staff from top to bottom, to fully understand all day to day operations. I want to listen and learn from the staff and students</p>

Nonpartisan Ballot

<p>Dearborn Public Schools Board of Education</p> <p>Vote for 2 of 10 candidates</p>	<p>Why are you running for the School Board, and what background and experience qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>What are your top K-12 priorities and how would you address them?</p>	<p>What is the role of the School Board in supporting an educational environment sensitive to the needs of a diverse community?</p>	<p>What are your top priorities for Henry Ford College, and how would you address them?</p>
<p>Steve Durant</p> <p>Website: facebook.com/mrdurantrhs</p> <p>Email: durants@wy.k12.mi.us</p>	<p>Dearborn is a community rich in culture, history, and diversity. Our public schools play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our city. I am running for the Dearborn Public School Board to ensure that our schools provide every student with the opportunities they need to succeed. As a parent, grand parent, parks and recreation commissioner, community leader, I am deeply invested in the success of our schools and am committed to making sure they meet the highest standards of excellence. Our schools are the heartbeat of Dearborn. As a member of the Dearborn Public School Board, I will be a dedicated advocate for our students, our teachers, and our community. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant future for Dearborn.</p>	<p>As a candidate for the Dearborn School Board, my primary goal is to ensure that every student has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their background or future aspirations. Academic excellence is at the heart of this mission, and I believe we can achieve it through several key initiatives. Elevating Curriculum Standards Our curriculum needs to be both challenging and inclusive, providing every student with a pathway that suits their individual goals. Whether students aim to attend college, pursue vocational training, or enter the workforce right after graduation, our schools should be offering the tools they need to succeed. I will advocate for enhancing our curriculum to ensure it reflects the diversity of opportunities available,</p>	<p>The School Board plays a vital role in fostering an educational environment that is inclusive, equitable, and sensitive to the needs of a diverse community. As the governing body responsible for setting policies, allocating resources, and overseeing school district operations, the Board has a direct impact on the quality of education and the inclusiveness of the learning environment</p>	<p>One of the top priorities for Henry Ford College should be ensuring that students succeed both academically and in their future careers. This includes providing students with the tools they need to graduate on time, transfer to four-year institutions if that's their goal, or enter the workforce with the skills that employers are looking for.</p>

Nonpartisan Ballot

<p>Dearborn Public Schools Board of Education</p> <p>Vote for 2 of 10 candidates</p>	<p>Why are you running for the School Board, and what background and experience qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>What are your top K-12 priorities and how would you address them?</p>	<p>What is the role of the School Board in supporting an educational environment sensitive to the needs of a diverse community?</p>	<p>What are your top priorities for Henry Ford College, and how would you address them?</p>
<p>Robbin Makled</p> <p>Website: robbinfordearborn.com</p> <p>Email: robbinfordearborn@gmail.com</p>	<p>I'm a lifelong Dearborn resident and mother of three current Dearborn Public School students. I want my children to have the best schools, which is why I have spent over ten years devoting my time and energy as a PTA leader and advocate for quality education in Dearborn. Spending many hours on school playgrounds and advocating at board meetings, I've built trust with parents and teachers, and I've seen firsthand how important equitable education is for our community. I know how to listen with empathy and bring people together to achieve solutions. I earned my B.A. and MBA from Michigan State University and have spent 28 years in accounting, the last 20 at Ford Motor Co. I have extensive experience with budgets and financial controls.</p>	<p>Three years past the pandemic, we are still working to address the impact of learning loss. Academic progress depends heavily on emotional well being. Strong relationships between teachers and students along with parent engagement are and will continue to be critical to our students' path forward. Adequate numbers of social workers, counselors, and support staff will benefit the social emotional health of our students, improving educational outcomes and the well-being and retention of our greatest assets- our educators. Driving parent engagement is an area I know a lot about as a PTA leader, and I've seen the benefits firsthand. I will also support music and art, as they bring creativity and joy to our students.</p>	<p>The most important role of the School Board is to ensure that District policies align with important Federal and state laws which are intended to ensure equitable educational opportunities.</p>	<p>My top priority is continuing to make educational achievement more attainable and increase graduation rates, especially for those from marginalized communities. This would involve student support through counseling from day one, and interventions when a student is struggling. I would also work to eliminate social and economic barriers so students are able to enroll and graduate. Some students get a great start to their college journey at HFC before transferring to a four year college which allows them to save time and money in a supportive environment. HFC offers transfer plan agreements with four-year institutions to help make this transition easier. I would support and work to expand transfer agreements to other state universities.</p>

Nonpartisan Ballot

<p>Dearborn Public Schools Board of Education</p> <p>Vote for 2 of 10 candidates</p>	<p>Why are you running for the School Board, and what background and experience qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>What are your top K-12 priorities and how would you address them?</p>	<p>What is the role of the School Board in supporting an educational environment sensitive to the needs of a diverse community?</p>	<p>What are your top priorities for Henry Ford College, and how would you address them?</p>
<p>Mohammad Mubarak</p>	<p>Candidate did not respond in time to make print deadline</p>			
<p>Nasir Sobh</p> <p>Website: www.votenasri.com</p> <p>Email: nasri@votenasri.com</p>	<p>I'm running for the School Board to bring a fresh, progressive perspective that reflects the needs of both today's students and the new generation of parents and teachers. As someone who has spent over 10 years tutoring and mentoring students in my community, I understand the challenges students face and can connect with them on a deeper level. Additionally, my experience as a corporate attorney and in nonprofit leadership equips me with essential skills like contracts, compliance, policy development, budgeting, and programming. I believe that I can strongly advocate for all stakeholders in the school district. These qualifications, combined with my passion for education, position me to make meaningful, positive change in our schools.</p>	<p>My top priorities as a school board candidate are to nurture a safe and supportive school environment, improve support for teachers and staff, advance special education programs, strengthen and modernize infrastructure and curriculum, and revitalize arts and extracurricular activities. I will advocate for mental health resources and anti-bullying programs to ensure safety, push for better pay and resources for teachers, enhance special education with improved training and communication, invest in updated facilities and technology, and bring back robust arts and extracurriculars to foster well-rounded students. These initiatives will create a stronger, more inclusive learning community for all.</p>	<p>The Dearborn School Board plays a critical role in fostering an educational environment that reflects the district's rich diversity. With a student body spanning various cultures, religions, and socioeconomic backgrounds, the board must advocate for policies that promote equity and inclusion. By ensuring culturally responsive curricula, celebrating diversity, and supporting professional development for staff, the board helps create a welcoming space for all. It is essential to cultivate an atmosphere where students and staff feel safe, respected, and valued, as this is key to academic success and community cohesion.</p>	<p>My top priorities for Henry Ford College include enhancing the existing relationship between the college and Dearborn Public Schools, expanding on the dual enrollment and early college programs, and strengthening pathways from high school to higher education and the workforce. I will work to continue enhancing the opportunity for students to earn college credits and learn vocational skills at no cost, saving students and parents money and resources. I'll advocate for improved infrastructure, resources, and support services at the college to ensure that students from all backgrounds can thrive and transition smoothly into their future careers or further education.</p>

Nonpartisan Ballot

<p>Dearborn Public Schools Board of Education</p> <p>Vote for 2 of 10 candidates</p>	<p>Why are you running for the School Board, and what background and experience qualifies you for this position?</p>	<p>What are your top K-12 priorities and how would you address them?</p>	<p>What is the role of the School Board in supporting an educational environment sensitive to the needs of a diverse community?</p>	<p>What are your top priorities for Henry Ford College, and how would you address them?</p>
<p>James Thorpe</p> <p>Website: jimthorpefordearbornschools.com</p> <p>Email: thorpej@dearbornschools.org</p>	<p>I believe a strong public school system is critical for the students and for the vitality of Dearborn. I'm running for school board because I want to do the best things possible for the students, staff and community. My background serving as a trustee for the last 8 years puts me in a position to offer my experience for the benefit of the district. As a trustee, I have served with integrity, listened openly, and worked for the advancement of our students and community. I am a Certified Board Member through the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB). I was appointed to the MASB board this year, benefiting our district and serving all Michigan school boards.</p>	<p>Create a safe and caring environment for students and staff by continuing to ensure that school buildings are secure, adding social workers to address mental health and student needs, and continuing to expand anti-bullying programs. Maintaining high graduation rates through the continued implementation of multi-tier support systems for students. Improvement in college and career readiness by providing opportunities for students to explore options through career fairs, job shadowing, and job and skill specific classes such as those offered by the Michael Berry Career center and the Henry Ford Early College.</p>	<p>In creating the strategic plan, district policies, and the yearly budget, the board needs to be cognizant of the needs of our diverse community and strategies and tactics that help address and meet those needs. For example, since I joined the board the school district has increased the number of employees focusing on student mental health, advisement, and staff members certified to teach students whose native language is not English.</p>	<p>Continue to serve our students in their journey to careers whether vocational or professional by offering classes using the latest technology and teaching up-to-date methodologies and practices. Expand the list of universities where our students can experience a seamless transition and full transfer of credits they have earned while at Henry Ford College.</p>

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<p>Mark Trzeciak</p> <p>Website: www.markfordearborn.com</p> <p>Email: Mark4dps@gmail.com</p>	<p>I am running for School Board to further improve the educational product the DPS as a whole provides. My qualifications are unique in that I am the only candidate running or currently on the board that has comprehensive educational and managerial experience spanning nearly 30 years. I am currently a classroom teacher in P-CCS (formerly of Dearborn), have taught in teacher preparation program at EMU for 10 years, been an administrator, advocate and also I am the parent of a Special Ed student. I have been the author of several scholarly articles on STEM Education and was invited to present at an international conference in Malta. I know the hard questions to ask to make the most significant impact.</p>	<p>My main priorities for K-12 are as follows: I would like to make sure that all programs are available and equitable across the district, and more so for students of all backgrounds. I would demand that there be transparency in the decision making process for programs that could negatively benefit student growth and hinder their testing abilities and growth. I would demand a comprehensive assessment of discipline and accountability in the schools, and make certain the schools are a safe place for students to attend, and foster a culture of education and improvement. Special education is an area that I would address as well, in my own experience the schools deliver the quantity of services necessary , but not the quality some need.</p>	<p>The School Boards role should be one that is first non partisan, and non judgmental but should solely focus on the specific needs of the students in the district as a whole. That said, decisions need to be made and considered that take into account cultural and social factors and make certain we are operating as an inclusive entity and not an exclusive one. At the end of the day, candidates (I feel I am) should put personal interests aside and focus on the betterment of the educational product for all students, not some, not most. Lastly, providing resources to both staff and administrators and offering them full support, will also allow for all stakeholders to better meet the diverse needs our district presents.</p>	<p>My main focus for HFC would be to ensure that the students who arrive from DPS were able to thrive at the college. I would like to see a focus on partnerships outside of the DPS that would provide further opportunities for students. I would make sure that we do our best to serve non traditional students with programs that would be relevant and provide opportunities, like apprenticeship programs and CTE courses. Lastly, I would work with the professors and instructors to have them help assess the needs they personally face in their roles. I would give all stakeholders a seat at the table when it's time to plan programming and be proactive.</p>

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<p>Jackson H. Wagner</p>	<p>In 2022, the School Board gave a platform to homophobia and violated the 1st Amendment rights of students when it caved to the demands of homophobic book banners. The School Board never spoke up in defense of LGBT students, and in the two years since there has been a surge in homophobic bullying in Dearborn Public Schools. I played a prominent role in standing up to book bans in 2022. My whole life, even as a young child, I've been standing up to bullies, including adult bullies who model toxic behavior and encourage kids to bully each other. Speaking out against the book bans comes from the same place. The School Board hasn't protected marginalized students; it has endangered them.</p>	<p>My highest priority is the well-being of all students and making sure that every student is safe and supported. Well-being and safety aren't just physical; students have emotional needs, social needs, and educational needs. This requires a holistic approach, including evidence-based policies, making sure teachers are well-paid and well-supported so they can support our students effectively and so that the district can attract and retain a talented workforce, and fostering an institutional culture where students feel safe reaching out for help when they're scared or when their needs aren't met.</p>	<p>The real divide in any diverse community is not between one demographic and another; it's between those of us, from all backgrounds and all faiths, who believe in a tolerant and open society, and those who are intolerant. It's very easy for students from marginalized groups to slip through the cracks if their needs and perspectives aren't proactively taken into account. The School Board has a duty to defend tolerance from the intolerant and to lead by example. It can't do that when it bans books (or sets up mechanisms to do so). Diversity is Dearborn's strength, and the School Board is supposed to nurture that strength in the younger generation.</p>	<p>Given that our school board oversees both K-12 and HFC, I think it's crucial to support and improve upon the existing early college dual enrollment program. Ensuring that faculty and staff are paid well. Ensuring affordability and accessibility for students.</p>

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<p>Amer Zahr</p> <p>Email: info@electamer.com</p> <p>Website: electamer.com</p>	<p>I'm a lawyer, educator, and fighter. I have always stood up for equality and equity in Dearborn. We must strengthen our students. Are our students getting the best education possible? Are our outcomes on par with other local communities? Are we preparing our kids to excel in college, the workforce, or wherever they head after graduation? I think we can do better. I'll be laser focused on always asking and answering one question: How is this helping our students? We must fully support our teachers. Our teachers are the engine of our schools. Many times, they are our children's top role models outside of the home. I will uphold and support our dedicated teachers. Finally, we must make sure everyone is treated equally, without exception.</p>	<p>Our reading and writing outcomes are not where they need to be. We need to work tirelessly to raise those outcomes. If our students are not excelling, nothing else matters. Also, we need to ensure that our dollars are being spent wisely. That means effectively communicating why our district needs the money it's asking for. Millages have failed because we are not adequately letting the residents know why these funds are necessary for the long term survival of our schools. Finally, we always talk the talk of inclusivity. So we have to walk the walk. That means creating and fostering environments where all students feel welcome and included, whether they are religiously conservative, LGBTQ, or anything else.</p>	<p>Dearborn's beauty lies in its diversity. Elected officials must always reflect our diversity and the values that come along with that. I am angry that outside forces sought to create division in our community during the book episode in 2022. Banning books shouldn't happen. Parents should surely have a voice in what their children read. But we cannot encourage any environments where people feel attacked or excluded. I was disturbed by how LGBT advocates were attacked during those meetings, and also how conservative parents were talked down to. There was a real opportunity to bridge a divide. And I'm not sure our leaders effectively took advantage of it.</p>	<p>HFC is doing very well. Of course, we can always do better. We can expand course offerings even more. We can further strengthen the programs. But overall, I think HFC is a shining light in our community.</p>

Ballot Proposals

**Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA)
Renewal of Regional Enhancement Millage Proposal
Vote Yes or No**

Pursuant to state law, the revenue raised by the proposed renewal of the enhancement millage will be collected by the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency ("Wayne RESA") and distributed on an equal per-pupil basis to local constituent school districts including eligible public school academies within the boundaries of Wayne RESA. None of the enhancement millage revenue will be distributed to Wayne RESA, and all funds shall be independently audited by the local constituent school districts and eligible public school academies as part of their annual school audits.

As a renewal of authority which expires with the 2027 levy, shall the limitation on the amount of ad valorem taxes which may be imposed on taxable property in the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency, Michigan, be increased by 1.9812 mills (\$1.98 per thousand dollars of taxable value) for a period of six (6) years, 2028 to 2033, inclusive, to provide operating funds to enhance other state and local funding for local school district operating purposes? It is estimated that 1.9812 mills would raise approximately \$108 million when first levied in 2028. The revenue from this enhancement millage will be distributed on an equal per pupil basis to the following listed constituent school districts and the public school academies within the boundaries of Wayne RESA which are eligible to receive enhancement millage under the Revised School Code:

Allen Park Public Schools, Crestwood School District, School District of the City of Dearborn, Dearborn Heights School District No. 7, Detroit Public Schools Community District, Ecorse Public School District, Flat Rock Community Schools, Garden City Public Schools, Gibraltar School District, Grosse Ile Township Schools, Grosse Pointe Public School System, School District of the City of Hamtramck, School District of the City of Harper Woods, Huron School District, School District of the City of Lincoln Park, Livonia Public Schools School District, Melvindale-Northern Allen Park School District, Northville Public Schools, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, Redford Union Schools, District No. 1, School District of the City of River Rouge, Riverview Community School District, Romulus Community Schools, Southgate Community School District, South Redford School District, Taylor School District, Trenton Public Schools, Van Buren Public Schools, Wayne-Westland Community School District, Westwood Community School District, Woodhaven-Brownstown School District, School District of the City of Wyandotte.

League of Women Voters of Dearborn-Dearborn Heights



Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

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

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

Membership in the League is open to everyone aged 16 years or older. Please visit LWVDDH.org for more information or contact us at lwvddh@gmail.com or (313) 278-6476.

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

Go to VOTE411.org for more information on the candidates.

Co-Presidents: Jennifer Oliver & Alicia Mazurek
Voter Services Team: Jennifer Teller & Betsy Cushman



League of Women Voters of Dearborn-Dearborn Heights



REMOVE THIS PAGE AND TAKE TO THE POLLS

**My Dearborn Local Competitive Races
Write your choices in the boxes below
Tuesday, November 5, 2024**

Judge, 3rd Circuit Non-Incumbent Vote for 1 of 2 candidates	
Judge, Probate Court Non-Incumbent Vote for 2 of 4 candidates	
Dearborn Public Schools Board of Education Vote for 2 of 10 candidates	
Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) Renewal of Regional Enhancement Millage Proposal Vote Yes or No	

Note: In the Partisan Section of the Ballot, voters may check a box to vote a straight-ticket or split their ticket to vote for individual candidates of their choice in each race.