

GENERAL ELECTION
VOTER GUIDE - Inkster

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 -8th 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
	Judge, 22nd District Court School Board Members: Romulus, Taylor, Wayne- Westland, Westwood	Wayne-Westland Schools Operating Millage Proposal

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

4 year terms ending 12/31/2030 - Vote for 1 of 2 candidates There are four contested races: Clerk, Prosecutor, Register of Deeds, County Sheriff. The Treasurer race is uncontested. For information, go online to VOTE411.

Wayne County Commissioner 8th District

4 year term ending 12/31/2028 - Vote for 1 of 2 candidates. *As the legislative arm of Wayne County government, the chief role of a commissioner is to adopt a budget and enact ordinances.*

		Please provide biographical information and experience, and explain why you are running for this office.	What are the top 3 priority issues facing this office and what actions would you take to address them if elected?
DEM	David Knezek	Candidate did not respond prior to print deadline	
UST	Marc Joseph Sosnowski Website: USTPM.org Email: marc.sosnowski@gmail.com	<p>After 30+ years in property management, I am now my Mother's caregiver. This enables me to work from home as a power broker for Navigate Power, David Allen Capital, and Symmetry Financial Group. When I am free for half the day, you can find me on the Guest Service staff for the Detroit Tigers games or subbing in the elementary schools in Garden City, Wayne/Westland, and Van Buren. I am active with the US Taxpayers Party, the Knights of Columbus, and Lifespan.</p> <p>I am in this race because the size of government has become constitutionally unmanageable, and also unaccountable in the use of public-private partnerships usurping authority. Let's make sure that Wayne County is not funding unconstitutional projects.</p>	<p>Wayne County Commissioner is a part-time job offering full-time pay. Let's fix that, but since the commission itself sets its own compensation, let's see if any other commissioners will vote for smaller paychecks.</p> <p>Being on the supposed verge of a new "pandemic", the public should not be misled again into surrendering liberty. We especially should not be funding public health messages suggesting or coercing anyone to comply with mandates, which have no constitutional authority.</p> <p>Will we ever be able to trust our election results? Since I am running against a Democrat, and the vote counters are overwhelmingly Democrats, I request that votes be hand-counted. What sense does it make to count fractions of votes, which is allowed!</p>

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). Also:
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 6 year term ending 1/1/2031 - Vote for 2 of 4 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>

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.

Contact your Clerk's office at 313-563-9770 for more information.

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 (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>
<p>Macie Gaines</p> <p>continued on next page</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</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</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</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>continued from previous page</p>	<p>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>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>personal issues as a possible basis to adjourn. At that point, the party has an option to seek effective counsel.</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, 22nd District Court - Incumbent, 6 year term ending 12/31/2030 Vote for 1 of 1 (uncontested)



Nonpartisan Ballot

The City of Inkster is part of 4 School Districts - Romulus, Taylor, Wayne-Westland and Westwood

There are School Board races in all the districts but there is no competition in any of the Districts except for Romulus.

School Board Members approve an annual budget and hire and evaluate the superintendent. They also set policy, provide a vision or direction for the district, provide accountability, and advocate for education in their district.

Romulus Community Schools Board Member 4 Year Term ending 12/31/2028 Vote for 3 of 4 candidates	Why are you running for the School Board, and what background and experience qualifies you for this position?	What are your top K-12 priorities and how would you address them?	What is the role of the School Board in supporting an educational environment sensitive to the needs of a diverse community?
Jozet Channey	candidate did not respond prior to print deadline		
Monifa Kamaal Website: kamaal4rcs.poliengine.com	I am running because I know that Romulus Community Schools are gradually moving in the right direction, and I want to be a part of accelerating that transition. My employment, from my very first job as a Boys and Girls Club aide to now as a special needs school bus driver, and my personal life, as a recent product of public schooling and an older sister to three children in the district who are still finding their way through it, has given me a unique perspective on what should change about our education system. These roles have also ingrained in me the importance of acting with the highest integrity, transparency, and accepting feedback. I am committed to becoming a dedicated and fair board member that Romulus can be proud of!	My 7-point plan of initial priorities focuses on increasing accessibility, embracing innovation, expanding opportunities, getting parents more involved, adopting eco-friendly practices, beautifying campuses, and providing an education that sends out well-rounded human beings into the world. I will seek to remove barriers for the superintendent and administrative staff to achieve these goals by encouraging collaboration, guaranteeing openness, and ensuring accountability.	The School Board is essential in driving an inclusive and equitable educational environment for a diverse community. It must establish policies that put equity at the forefront, ensure that the curriculum reflects diverse worldviews, and enforce inclusive hiring practices. It has to fairly distribute resources to meet all students' needs. It has to actively engage the community and mandate ongoing professional development for teachers and staff to build cultural competency, address biases, and implement appropriate teaching strategies. Most importantly, the board must demand evidence that every student is being supported and empowered to succeed.
Judy R. Kennard	candidate did not respond prior to print deadline		
Debi Pyles	candidate did not respond prior to print deadline		

Nonpartisan Ballot

Member, Taylor School Board of Education
4 Year Term ending 12/31/2028 Vote for 4 of 4 (uncontested) (see vote411.org)

Uncontested candidates were not sent questionnaires.

Member, Wayne-Westland Community Schools Board of Education - 2 races:
6 Year Term ending 12/31/2030 Vote for 2 of 2 (uncontested) (see vote411.org)
2 Year Partial Term ending 12/31/2026 Vote for 1 of 1 (uncontested)(see vote411.org)

Uncontested candidates were not sent questionnaires.

Member, Westwood Community Schools Board of Education
6 Year Term ending 12/31/2030 Vote for 2 of 2 (uncontested) (see vote411.org)

Uncontested candidates were not sent questionnaires.

Election Protection Hotlines

866-OUR-VOTE 866-687-8683
844-YALLA-US 844-925-5287

Ballot Proposal

**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.

Ballot Proposal

Wayne-Westland Community Schools Replacement Operating Millage Vote Yes or No

This proposal would, replace, restore, and extend the authority of the School District to levy the statutory limit of 18 mills on all property, except principal residences and other property exempted by law, which currently expires with the School District's 2025 tax levy and allow the School District to continue to levy the statutory limit of 18 mills in the event of future Headlee rollbacks of up to 3 mills. The authorization will allow the School District to continue to receive revenues at the full per pupil foundation allowance permitted by the State.

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residences and other property exempted by law, situated within the Wayne-Westland Community Schools, County of Wayne, State of Michigan, be increased, in the amount of 21 mills with 18 mills being the maximum allowable levy (\$18.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), for a period of twenty (20) years, 2024 to 2043, inclusive? This operating millage, if approved and levied, would provide estimated revenues to the School District of \$573,266 during the 2024 calendar year, to be used for general operating purposes.



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 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, Inkster 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**

