

VOTER GUIDE – AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION
COUNTY COMMISSIONER – DISTRICT 18

Tuesday, November 3, 2020
POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OAKLAND AREA

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3 Candidates for COUNTY COMMISSIONER for ONE 2-year term

CANDIDATES for COUNTY COMMISSION ONE 2-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i>	Question 1 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for County Commissioner and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top 3 Priority Issues that the County Commission should address and what actions would you, as a commissioner, take regarding each of them?
<p><i>Democrat</i> CHARLIE CAVELL 640 E. Marshall St. Ferndale, MI 48220</p>	<p>I am running for office to improve regional cooperation, create racial, social and economic justice, make Oakland County a leader in innovative government, and address the needs of our aging population and infrastructure. My values are rooted in my lived experiences. My mother died at a young age and my father was incarcerated, leaving me to shuffle between the homes of relatives and in our State’s foster-care system until I was adopted at 16. I later earned Bachelors and Masters degrees in Social Work from Wayne State University and the University of Michigan. I then founded an innovative nonprofit whose job-training model was adopted by our State and provided 3,000 of our neighbors with career-path work. I also worked internationally on community development in India and East Africa, and served locally on Mayor Duggan’s Economic and Tax Policy team handling public finance during Detroit’s comeback. I currently work as a Program Director at Matrix Human Services, a local nonprofit.</p>	<p>The top 3 issues that I would like to tackle on the County Commission are regional transit, caring for the needs of our seniors, and implementing criminal justice reform. Our lack of effective regional transit has left us behind, and if elected, I would work with our local and State-wide partners to pass an effective and equitable regional transit plan once and for all. Second, with our growing senior population, I would work with our regional partners to develop and fund a plan that will provide our seniors with the resources to gracefully age in place in Oakland County. Further, having been personally touched by the mass incarceration epidemic, and with nearly half of our County budget dedicated to the criminal justice system, I hope to work on the County Commission with our County Prosecutor and Sheriff to reduce the number of residents we throw in jail for petty offenses, establish the means for effective community police oversight, and end cash-bail for non-violent offenses.</p>
<p><i>Republican</i> MICHELANGELO FORTUNA III 23777 Easterling Ave. Hazel Park, MI 48030</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</p>	

COUNTY COMMISSIONER – DISTRICT 18 (Continued)

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<p>Green Nick Rowley 12800 W. Nine Mile, #32 Oak Park, MI 48237</p>	<p>I am a transplant from the United Kingdom. I grew up in a political environment that has deeply left wing political parties and allows for genuinely left wing policies. I believe that left wing policies are the most people centered and the most practical and the one thing we need right now, most of all are people centered and practical policies.</p> <p>I look at the US and I see very little in the way of genuinely left wing politicians. There is a nominally left wing party in the Democrats but it is only nominally left leaning.</p> <p>I want there to be more genuinely left wing politicians, I'm going to start with me. I am a member of the most viable and most left party I can identify, which would be the Green Party.</p> <p>Having worked on political campaigns on both sides of the Atlantic, I know that pragmatically there is a strategic vote for President but down ballot people can vote for more people centered candidates because change rises from the grass roots rather than being bestowed from above.</p>	<p>Water stability and usability: Initiate a survey of water systems throughout my district and the county as a whole to determine where improvements can occur, where replicable best practices are occurring and where issues need to be addressed.</p> <p>Policing: Initiate policies to lessen the need for police to deliver services that other professions are better suited to handle, encourage the creation of better procedures in terms of conflict resolution and deescalation in current policing.</p> <p>Office Holder-Constituent-Community connection: Hold regular town halls in and around my district as well as host a regular virtual town hall viewable on multiple social media platforms in which I will speak to community voices and discuss issues most concerning my constituents.</p>

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan national organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party. Candidate responses are included as submitted and have not been edited except in cases where the replies have exceeded the stated word limitations. **Spelling and Grammar were not corrected.** The inclusion of candidates' statements and opinions 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 which takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by the candidates.