

**VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE – 6th Circuit**

**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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**7 Candidates for CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE INCUMBENT SEAT for SIX 6-year Terms
Vote for no more than SIX**

The 6th Circuit Court includes all of Oakland County.

<p>Question 1: Summarize your biography, including your education (degrees conferred, colleges and law school), career and employment experience, elected offices held, community service activity, organizational affiliations, and other pertinent information.</p>	<p>Question 2: Describe the general nature of your law practice or other legal work you have done, the typical clients you have represented, areas of specialty or concentration, and the geographic region of your practice.</p>	<p>Question 3: Why should voters elect (or re-elect) you to judicial office; what qualities (e.g. temperament, diligence, etc.) and experiences do you have that commend you to the judicial office you seek?</p>
<p>MARTHA D. ANDERSON</p> <p>I was born in Italy and immigrated to the U. S. I became a naturalized citizen at the age of 18. I attended Wayne State University obtaining a Bachelor of Arts in English. I attended the University of Detroit Law School. I was a Referee for the Friend of the Court for 23 years. Elected to the bench in 2003. I served on the Family Division, the General Civil/Criminal Division and am currently on the Business Court. I have been active in many organizations and activities. I am the incoming president of the Michigan Judges Association, member of the American, State and Oakland County Bar Associations. I have served as Chief Judge Pro Tempore. Please see my biography on county website for all of my affiliations and activities.</p>	<p>During my first two years after law school, I was a research attorney for judges in the Wayne County Circuit Court. I then became a Referee at the Oakland County Friend of the Court. My duties included hearings and enforcement of domestic relations matters and providing recommendations to the Court. I ran for a seat on the Circuit Court in 2002 and was elected. I served on the Family Division for 7 years. I then transitioned to the General Civil/Criminal Division, where I served for 8 years. In 2019 I was appointed by the Supreme Court to serve on the Business Court, where I currently sit. I continue to also do criminal cases. I have heard and tried every type of case a trial court handles.</p>	<p>I seek to continue to serve the citizens of Oakland County as I have for the past 18 years. I pride myself in being a hard worker, putting the interest of the litigants who appear before me first and foremost. I also have what I feel is the right judicial temperament. I respect and am civil to all who appear before me. I am willing to listen to both sides and base my decisions on the law. I strive everyday to be the best I can be and will continue to do so if I am re-elected.</p>

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE – 6th Circuit (Continued)

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<p>MARY ELLEN T. BRENNAN</p> <p>I graduated from James Madison College of Michigan State University in 1987 with a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Justice, Morality and Constitutional Democracy.</p> <p>I earned a Juris Doctor from Wayne State University School of Law in 1990 and was admitted the Bar that November.</p> <p>I began my law career as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Oakland County. In that office, I handled District and Circuit Court matters.</p> <p>I spent many years working in the City of Royal Oak as an Assistant City Attorney and Staff Attorney.</p> <p>I was elected to the Bench as an Oakland County Circuit Court Judge in 2008 and re-elected in 2014. Throughout my judicial tenure, I have served as a Family Court Judge exclusively.</p> <p>I am currently the Presiding Judge of the Oakland County Family Court.</p>	<p>When elected in 2008, I brought significant trial experience to the Bench with me. In the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, I conducted jury and bench trials at the District and Circuit level. I was also assigned to the Criminal Sexual Conduct Unit- a specialized division that offered vertical prosecution of sexual offenses against child victims.</p> <p>As a sitting Judge, I am on the Bench on a daily basis- including during the pandemic- conducting trials and hearings. I am responsible for thousands of cases- divorce, juvenile delinquency, custody, child support, adoption, guardianship and child abuse/neglect matters.</p> <p>I am in my 10th year volunteering as the Presiding Judge of our Family-focused Juvenile Drug Court.</p> <p>I serve on the Oakland County Child Death Review Board.</p>	<p>I am seeking re- election to the Circuit Court Bench so I may continue to serve as a Family Court Judge. I have declined the option of transferring out of the Family Division of the Circuit Court because I believe the work we do with parents and children is some of the most important work that gets done in the courthouse.</p> <p>I have been honored to receive the Distinguished Public Servant Award from the Oakland County Bar Association. I have been named a Eugene Moore Champion of Children. I regularly present for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education and the Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. I will continue to do my best case-by-case and not be swayed by partisan interests, public clamor or fear of criticism.</p> <p>I am a wife of 25 years and a proud mother of three.</p>
<p>LISA GORCYCA</p>	<p align="center">DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</p>	

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE – 6th Circuit (Continued)

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<p>NANCI GRANT</p> <p>As a graduate of U-M and Wayne State Law School, I have served as a circuit judge since my election in 1996. I preside over both civil and criminal matters and am the founder and presiding judge of Michigan's only Combat Veterans Treatment Court. I served as Chief Judge of the 6th Circuit Court for 8 years; Chairperson of the Judicial Tenure Commission and President of the Michigan Judges Association. I have received many honors and awards during my judicial tenure including the State Bar of Michigan's Champion of Justice Award for my work with veterans, the Legal Excellence Award, the "Women Who Lead" Award, and I am consistently named a "Top Circuit Court Judge" by Dbusiness. In 2019, I was selected for inclusion in the Register of Preeminent Judges.</p>	<p>As an Oakland County Circuit Court Judge, I serve the entire Oakland County area. I am a judge in the general jurisdiction, which means I preside over criminal matters as well as civil cases. In addition, I started and preside over Michigan's only Combat Veterans Treatment Court, a court designed specifically to help the veterans who served in combat or search and rescue zones but afterwards find themselves entangled with the criminal justice system. Many of these veterans are afflicted with specialized trauma and substance use and abuse disorders. The Court gives particular attention because these military combat veterans, due to their training, can be resistant to accepting the help necessary to get their lives back on track.</p>	<p>I always remember that those who appear before me are seeking resolution of their matters or justice in their cases. The citizens of Oakland County should expect their judges to be diligent in their work ethic, patiently listen to their matters and give sound and timely decisions. I have done that as a judge since my election. I would be honored to continue my service to the public in this capacity.</p>

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE – 6th Circuit (Continued)

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<p>SHALINA DEBORAH KUMAR</p> <p>Appointed Oakland County Circuit Judge 2007, elected 2008, re-elected 2014;</p> <p>Sylvan Lake City Council 1997-1998;</p> <p>Wiener and Cox, P.C. 2004-2007;</p> <p>Sommers,Schwartz, P.C., 2000-2004;</p> <p>Sherbow and Mitchell, P.C., 1999-2000;</p> <p>Lopatin, Miller, 1998-1999;</p> <p>State Bar of Michigan, American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, Michigan Association for Justice, Michigan Judges Association;</p> <p>University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law, J.D. 1996</p> <p>University of Michigan-Dearborn B.A. 1993</p>	<p>Oakland County Circuit Court Judge 2007-present, civil/criminal docket. Current Chief Judge.</p> <p>Civil litigation 1997-2007, primarily medical malpractice, primarily Oakland, Macomb And Wayne Counties</p>	<p>I am proud to have served on the Oakland County Circuit Court since 2007. I was named Chief Judge in 2018 and continue to serve in that role. Additionally, I volunteer my time to preside over the Adult Treatment Court. The qualities I find important in a judge are good judicial temperament, patience, understanding of the law, compassion and a sense of fairness. I believe I have exhibited these qualities during my 13 years on the bench.</p>

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE – 6th Circuit (Continued)

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<p>JEFFERY S. MATIS</p> <p>I have been an Oakland County Circuit Court Judge for 5 years and I am running for re-election to that position. I previously worked for over 20 years as an attorney and an adjunct law professor where I taught law school classes at two different law schools. I was also elected to be a City Councilperson and later an Oakland County Commissioner, where I was elected to be Vice Chairperson of the County Commission in multiple unanimous votes of all Republican and Democrat Commissioners. I graduated from Oakland University with a Bachelor of Science in Business and The University of Detroit School of Law with a Juris Doctor. I worked full time through both college and law school and paid for my own education as a Commercially licensed pilot and I ran a small family owned aviation business.</p>	<p>As a judge for the last 5 years I have presided over many cases, including a significant number of trials. These cases involved civil litigation, property disputes, class action lawsuits, criminal matters, divorce, custody, paternity, parental abuse and neglect, PPO's, as well as other matters. I am also one of the judges overseeing the court's Adult Treatment Court program involving persons with drug and alcohol addictions. Previously I was an attorney for over 20 years where I primarily handled civil litigation. I prevailed in many jury trials and I successfully argued cases at the Michigan Court of Appeals and Michigan Supreme Court. I taught law school classes at multiple law schools and I was a guest lecturer at the Oakland University Paralegal & Legal Assistant Program.</p>	<p>The voters should re-elect me because I have significant experience and traits that qualify me to continue to serve as a judge. I have served 5 years as a judge handling many significant cases. I have made many rulings where the Michigan Court of Appeals and Supreme Court agreed with me. I believe that everyone entering my courtroom should be treated professionally and with respect. I have a very strong work ethic evidenced by my working full time through college and law school and paying for my own education. With over 25 years of experience as a judge, attorney, and a professor teaching law school classes, I believe that my broad range of experience, qualifications, temperament, and strong work ethic qualify me to continue to serve as a judge, and I would be honored to receive your vote.</p>

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE – 6th Circuit (Continued)

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<p>ADRIENNE YOUNG <i>(Write-in)</i></p> <p>Adrienne is a school board trustee, mom of 3, and assistant defender at the State Appellate Defender Office. She has represented indigent people in courts across the state, including the Michigan Supreme Court. She is a member of the State Bar of Michigan’s School-to-Prison Pipeline committee, Oakland County Bar Association’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and is co-editing the first-ever State Bar of Michigan Journal on Education Law. Before joining SADO, Adrienne clerked on the Michigan Supreme Court. Adrienne is a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School where she was awarded the Pro Bono Service Award of Excellence. Prior to attending law school, Adrienne earned her Master in Education while teaching special education. She is a graduate with distinction from the U of M.</p>	<p>Adrienne represents individuals who have been convicted of felonies and cannot afford counsel. She practices state-wide with a majority of her practice being in Wayne and Oakland county. Adrienne specializes in sentencing, working with young adults, and advocating on behalf of clients who suffer from mental illness short of legal insanity. She trains judges and practitioners on annual case law updates. Prior to her work as an appellate defender, Adrienne served as a law clerk at the Michigan Supreme Court, where she researched and wrote on family law, tax law, teacher compensation and benefits, as well as criminal law. While clerking, she participated in the Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice.</p>	<p>Adrienne is running as a write-in candidate for Oakland County Circuit Court in the incumbent full-term section of the ballot. As an elected school board trustee, she has grown familiar with making tough choices in the best interest of children and families. Adrienne aims to bring equity, compassion, and reflection to the bench. With 42% of the children in juvenile detention being Black and only 15% of our youth, Oakland County is overdue for equity. Oakland County is overdue for compassion from judges, who see litigants in distress and often hold the keys to their liberty. Judges are overdue for reflection, naming and tackling the bias that holds our county justice system back from being something so much more. Adrienne Young humbly asks that you write her in as you vote safely.</p>

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE – 6th Circuit (Continued)

**1 Candidate for CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE INCUMBENT SEAT for ONE Term ending
01/01/25**

Vote for no more than ONE

The 6th Circuit Court includes all of Oakland County.

KAMESHIA D. GANT

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE – 6th Circuit (Continued)

2 Candidates for CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE OPEN SEAT for ONE 6-year Term

Vote for no more than ONE

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<p>CLARENCE DASS</p> <p>I served as Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the Oakland County Prosecutor’s Office from 2012-2016. I was a member of the Special Victims Unit, which prosecuted some of the most violent crimes in our county. After leaving the Prosecutor’s Office, I founded a law firm devoted to protecting individual’s rights and liberties.</p> <p>I have dedicated my entire career to serving our community. In 2017, I received the Leon Hubbard Community Service Award from the Oakland County Bar Association for “promoting cultural diversity, advancing social equality, and working to enhance the quality of life for all people.” In 2019, I received the Unsung Hero Award from the State Bar of Michigan for continuing to serve my clients and community while fighting (and beating) stage 4 colon cancer.</p>	<p>As a prosecutor, I appeared in every court in Oakland County and worked with every law enforcement agency and probation department in the county. I prosecuted serious crimes, including domestic violence, sexual assault, child and elder abuse, and murder.</p> <p>As an attorney, I have represented individuals in family, criminal, and business law primarily in Oakland County, but also throughout Michigan. I have advocated for treatment courts, fought for the civil rights of individuals, and sought to ensure a level-playing field for all in our justice system. I believe this kind of well-rounded experience is vital to the position of Judge.</p>	<p>Having been a prosecutor, defense attorney, and manager of a law firm, I have seen our justice system from many angles. I have diverse, well-rounded experience that will create empathy for every litigant and improve our justice system. I believe I have a temperament suited to serving as Judge, an appetite for hard work, and a devotion to service in my community.</p>

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE – 6th Circuit (Continued)

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<p>LORIE SAVIN</p> <p>Degrees: University of Michigan, A.B. in Political Science and Sociology (1992); Wayne State University Law School, J.D. (1995).</p> <p>Career: Oakland County Friend of the Court Referee since 2003. 25-year legal career with an emphasis on family and juvenile law at a law firm, legal aid, and a non-profit organization. Represented clients in many other different types of legal matters. President of Referees Association of Michigan. Appointed to three State Bar of Michigan committees relating to ethics and professionalism, including 10 years on the Judicial Ethics Committee. Published author and speaker on ethics, family law, and cultural competency.</p> <p>Community: Resides with her husband and two daughters in West Bloomfield. Served as Doherty Elementary PTO Treasurer and Diversity Committee Chair. Temple Israel, NCJW, and 100+ Women member.</p>	<p>As a Family Division Referee in Oakland County, I have approximately 1,800 enforcement and evidentiary hearings related to custody, parenting time, and child support annually. I am a trained mediator and often use these skills to help parties reach an agreement. I resolve 99% of the matters without the parties needing to see their assigned judge. Additionally, I direct a team of six others and handle administrative tasks.</p> <p>Previously, I primarily represented adults in family and juvenile court matters in private practice and at legal aid, and children in abuse and neglect cases through a non-profit organization. I also served as a court-approved family law mediator. I have worked with clients from all different backgrounds, experiences, and income levels.</p>	<p>In my 17 years as a hearing officer, I have demonstrated an ability to conduct hearings impartially, patiently, and effectively in high-conflict cases. I am well-respected in the legal community because I am acknowledged as fair, knowledgeable, prepared, and providing well-reasoned and thorough recommendations based upon the law. I am hard-working and committed to providing excellent service to the public.</p> <p>My volunteer work with legal organizations demonstrates my commitment to ensuring everyone has equal access to the courts and is treated fairly in the legal system. It also demonstrates my belief that judges need to meet the high standards expected of them when placed in a position of such responsibility. I also commit to remain accessible and accountable to the voters that elect me.</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.