

VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION
OAKLAND COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OAKLAND AREA

Website: www.lwvoa.org E-mail: contact@lwvoa.org Phone: 248-594-6602

2 Candidates for PROSECUTING ATTORNEY for ONE 4-year term

CANDIDATES for PROSECUTOR ONE 4-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i>	Question 1 (150 Words or less): Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for county office 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 this county office should address and what actions would you, as an elected official, take regarding each of them?
<p><i>Democrat</i> KAREN MCDONALD P. O. Box 1750 Birmingham, MI 48009</p>	<p>Over the past twenty years, I have served Oakland County as a Circuit Court Judge (2012-2019), assistant prosecutor (1999-2004), and private practice attorney (2004-2013). I have seen firsthand that our broken criminal justice system is failing Oakland County residents—especially poor people and people of color. I stepped down from the bench in 2019 because we need a prosecutor who will actively work to implement progressive criminal justice reform that will reduce mass incarceration and create a fair system for all people. With my background as a judge, assistant prosecutor, and attorney, I am uniquely qualified to lead the Prosecutor’s Office in this pursuit with experience and understanding in all areas of the court.</p>	<p>Despite the availability of treatment programs in Oakland County, our current prosecutor refuses to participate in treatment courts. If elected, I will not only commit to participating in these life-saving treatment courts, but will also implement additional progressive criminal justice reform policies to reduce mass incarceration in all areas of the justice system. As Prosecutor, I will uphold the Supreme Court’s decision to resentence juvenile lifers, treat children like children, and hold youth accountable without unnecessary incarceration. Finally, I will form a senior advisory board to give assistant prosecutors discretion to reduce or amend charges by eliminating the requirement of cash bail and putting an end to coercive plea bargaining. By lessening prosecution of nonviolent offenders, we will not only reduce mass incarceration, but also save county resources that can then be used to strengthen Oakland County schools and communities.</p>

OAKLAND COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY (Continued)

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<p><i>Republican</i> LIN GOETZ 2936 Riverside Dr. Lake Orion, MI 48359</p>	<p>I am an attorney with 28 years of extensive experience in the practice of Criminal law, both as an Assistant Prosecutor in Oakland County, and as a Criminal Defense Attorney. I have considerable courtroom experience, which extends from initial client meetings, to research of constitutional issues through trial and appeal. I have not only handled complex litigation but have often offered my assistance to help others navigate their case through the court system, declining compensation for my time for those with a limited income. In addition to trying misdemeanors and felonies, I have substantial experience in the Juvenile Justice system, and family courts. My experience includes helping protect children from Neglect and Abuse, helping reunify families, and have fought to protect our elderly citizens who were more vulnerable to predators.</p> <p>I want to make Oakland County the safest county in Michigan through my lifelong commitment to the protection of others. I AM TOUGH BUT FAIR TO ALL.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Integrity Unit- Implement a review procedure whereby convictions would be re-examined when new evidence comes to light such as DNA evidence, new scientific evidence or additional witnesses become available. This will ensure that convictions are based on all available evidence and to ensure that guilty persons are punished while innocent individuals do not remain in custody.. 2. Training and re-assignment of Assistant Prosecutors to substantially improve overall services to the community. Training has been sorely lacking over the last 12 years and I intend to give the assistants every opportunity to keep abreast of all current trends in the law. 3. Increase involvement in Treatment Courts and other jail diversion programs for non-violent offenders, and increase community outreach to ensure that citizens of Oakland County will have their voices heard and have ongoing line communication with the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.

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