

VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE – District 43
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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Go to my.lwv.org/michigan/oakland-area and click on ‘Voter Guides’ then scroll down to ‘Judges’ for a link to additional candidate responses on www.OCBA.org website.

2 Candidates for DISTRICT JUDGE for ONE 6-year Term; *Vote for no more than ONE*
District 43 includes the Cities of Ferndale, Hazel Park & Madison Heights.

<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>KELLY COLLINS</p> <p>A 1992 graduate of Hillsdale College and 2000 graduate of Wayne State Law School, I worked full time as a judicial clerk and secretary while attending the evening program. For the past 19 years, I have served the citizens of Oakland County as an assistant prosecuting attorney. I have appeared in every courtroom in Oakland County and handled everything from civil/traffic infractions to Murder. As a 20 year resident of Ferndale, along with my husband, Keith Binkowski, a Hazel Park elementary school teacher and our children, Joe and Katie, I now seek to serve as our District’s first female jurist on the bench. I am passionate about our youth and volunteer for Royal Oak Youth Football and Cheer Teams (ROYFT) and several booster clubs.</p>	<p>Throughout my service as an assistant prosecutor under two elected officials, I have practiced in the areas of criminal law as well as civil child protection law. I have concentrated much of my work prosecuting crimes committed against the most vulnerable in our communities, including domestic violence, human trafficking, child sexual assault and crimes committed against the elderly. My experience in the Juvenile Justice Division included civil cases involving issues of child abuse and neglect and juvenile delinquency matters wherein a juvenile was charged with a crime. I have extensive litigation experience within our courts and familiarity with the rules governing every type of criminal case that will come before a District Court Judge.</p>	<p>Having worked for 19 years as an Assistant Prosecutor, I have the experience and knowledge necessary on day one to tackle the awesome responsibilities of a District Court Judge handling a criminal matter. I possess the ability to manage the necessary balance of flexibility and firmness in dealing with parties that come before the court with a temperament befitting a judge. I am compassionate and have perspective that comes from my experience in the courts and as a mother. I am approachable and respectful with those I encounter and have the humility necessary to the position of a successful and committed Judge. I am passionate about our communities, our youth and our courts and bringing them together as we move toward the future.</p>

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE - District 43 (Continued)

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<p>BRIAN CHRISTIAN HARTWELL</p> <p>I was born and raised in this district. I stayed here to practice law, give back to my hometown, and raise a family. I was appointed to serve as the 43rd District Court Judge in June 2020. This is my dream job and the culmination of my passions for public service and trial practice. BA, WMU, International Politics & Economics. Language Certificates, La Sorbonne. Juris Doctor, UDM School of Law. Creator of the free pro bono law clinic at the Madison Heights Senior Center. 13 years in local government as Mayor or Councilman. I have been a member of the following local organizations: Kiwanis Club, Men’s Club, Michigan Municipal League, Little League Baseball Umpire. I am married to Lingyu Chen.</p>	<p>I have handled 1000s of court cases in every area of law in the district court: civil, criminal, traffic, and landlord tenant. I have appeared in 100 courts before 200 judges. I handled civil rights cases fighting for families and individuals who were discriminated against, probate cases representing widows from our community, and bankruptcy matters. I respect my opponents who have incredible experience in criminal law. I, however, have done it all and come to the bench with an open mind without bias or favoritism to one side. My law practice was located in the district. My clients are from the district. If my time as a lawyer has made a difference to anyone, it’s the people of this community who I have helped.</p>	<p>When Governor Whitmer appointed me she selected me over the others for these reasons: First, I managed a government office as Mayor. On my first day as judge, I told the court staff I will empower them to love the law. Second, I have litigation experience in all areas handled by the court. I am not only a criminal or civil attorney. Third, I have the temperament to be a judge after years of public scrutiny as Mayor. I never lost my cool. It’s one thing to practice as an attorney, it’s another to lead while controlling emotions and making difficult decisions. Fourth, I am from this community and have devoted my career to public service. I promise to be kind, diligent, cooperative and fair.</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.