

VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE – District 45

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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2 Candidates for DISTRICT JUDGE for ONE 6-year Term; *Vote for no more than ONE*
District 45 includes Huntington Woods, Oak Park and Pleasant Ridge; Royal Oak Township.

<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>JAIMIE POWELL HOROWITZ</p> <p>Jaimie Powell Horowitz serves as Special Prosecutor for the Fair Michigan Justice Project, appointed by Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy to prosecute hate crimes. She trains law enforcement in prosecuting hate crimes, on improving community relations, and serves as a Special Assistant Attorney General handling select cold case homicides.</p> <p>Horowitz graduated from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law in 2004 and began as an Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor serving in the Trial Division, Elder Abuse Unit, and Homicide Unit. She has served on the Ethics Board for Huntington Woods, the Oak Park - Huntington Woods Democratic Club Executive Board, the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly, and the Wayne County Elder Abuse Advisory Council.</p> <p>In 2019 she was honored by the OCDP with the Wings of Justice Award, in recognition of her contribution to the fight against injustice, hatred, and intolerance.</p>	<p>I have spent my career in public service, first as an Assistant Prosecutor handling cases involving sexual assault, child abuse, vulnerable adult abuse, financial exploitation, domestic violence, and homicide. In 2016 I joined Fair Michigan, a non-profit whose mission it is to improve law enforcement relations with marginalized communities and prosecute hate crimes. Since 2016, we've concentrated on homicides involving LGBTQ victims and training law enforcement in cultural competency when handling cases involving LGBTQ victims. We have also focused on training prosecutors and law enforcement throughout the state in prosecuting hate crimes, and worked to obtain funding and/or partnerships with other organizations that assist in tackling the intersecting issues faced by marginalized communities such as employment, temporary shelter when displaced by violence, and mental health services.</p>	<p>I want to continue the good work that is being done at 45th District Court. Currently the Court has Veteran's Court and Mental Health Court. Specialty Courts help serve the citizens by diverting those who need services out of the criminal system. I am an advocate for criminal justice reform. Courts that address the intersecting issues of mental health, substance abuse, poverty, lack of education, and institutionalized racism help to reform the justice system when we treat citizens as individuals. I have spent my career in public service and continuously worked to ensure equal access to justice for all. I will bring this commitment to the bench if elected to serve as Judge of the 45th District Court.</p>

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE - District 45 (Continued)

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<p>BRENDA RICHARD</p> <p>I earned a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies from Wayne State University (1991); and a JD from WSU Law School (1995). I clerked for a general practitioner during law school. I was an Associate at two law firms (1996-1997 and 1999-2001); the Legal Services Director for the Women’s Justice Center (1998- 1999); and formed a partnership with two colleagues (2007-2009). At all other times I’ve practiced as a sole practitioner. I was elected as a Precinct Delegate in 2018, performing telephone and neighborhood canvassing. I have provided free legal services through the William Booth Law Clinic and free legal consultations for SAAS (Sisters Against Abuse Society). I am a member of the Michigan Democratic Party, the Oakland County Bar Association, and the Wolverine Bar Association.</p>	<p>I have 25 years of legal experience. My practice spans many areas of the law. Although my primary area of practice is family law, I have expertise in personal injury, criminal defense, employment law, probate, landlord/tenant, consumer protection, contract disputes, small claims, civil infractions, and juvenile law. My geographic practice area is concentrated in Oakland, Wayne, and Macomb counties. However, I’ve also had cases in Monroe, Genesee, Washtenaw, St. Clair, and Calhoun. I’ve practiced in Circuit and District Court. My client base consists, primarily, of the middle and working class. While at the Women’s Justice Center, I assisted lower income residents of Wayne County, and residents of My Sister’s Place (a shelter for victims of domestic violence), in family law related and housing disputes.</p>	<p>I will listen, and I will understand. As an attorney one of my frustrations is leaving a courtroom with the belief that the judge did not understand my client’s position. Litigants end up in court because they are at a difficult point in their lives. They don’t want to be there but, once they are there, they want to be heard. Litigants need to know that a judge fully understands what brought them to court. I will administer justice with dignity, fairness, and respect. I am mild-mannered and will provide even-handed justice delivered with respect. Both sides of the aisle will know that I care what happens to them and to the community, regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, or social background.</p>

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