

# VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION HURON VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**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 School District Board Member for TWO 6-year terms

**DENISE PISTANA** 928 Joshua Dr., Highland, MI 48356

**THOMAS WISEMAN** 7647 Cedar Creek Dr., White Lake, MI 48383

### 1 Candidate for School District Board Member for ONE partial term ending 12/31/2022

**LINDSAY COTTER** 816 E. Huron St., Milford, MI 48381

### 3 Candidates for School District Board Member for TWO 4-year terms

<b>CANDIDATES for SCHOOL BOARD</b>  <b>TWO 4-year terms</b> <i>Vote for no more than TWO</i>	<b>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</b> <b>Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for School Board and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position that you are running for.</b>	<b>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</b> <b>What are the top three (3) Priority Issues facing your school district and what actions would you take to address them if elected to the school board?</b>
<b>LAURA DODD</b> 2253 Wixom Trl. Milford, MI 48381	<p>As the mother of a first grader, the performance of our schools is deeply personal. As a nonprofit professional (cancer research, historic preservation, substance abuse prevention, religious tolerance, education, support for businesses affected by COVID 19) my career has been dedicated to giving back.</p> <p>I'm running for the Huron Valley Schools Board of Education because I want to do my part to ensure our schools support the learners in our community to become their best selves. The skills I have developed in the nonprofit world allow me to understand how to make the best use of limited resources, be a good steward of the resources we do have, and creatively work to make the best learning environment for our learners at the same time we support and build a strong staff team.</p>	<p>1 – Huron Valley Schools is at the lowest funding level for public schools in Michigan. This funding is drastically below what the experts at the School Finance Research Collaborative have found our schools need. As a school board member, I will be an advocate and encourage other parents/community members to advocate with me to ensure we have proper funding for Huron Valley Schools to meet the needs of the students in our district.</p> <p>2 – COVID-19 has caused a major upheaval in public education around the globe and the Huron Valley Schools Board of Education has been at the center of this decision making for our district. This is the time to reexamine how we deliver school and ensure we are working to educate every learner.</p> <p>3 - I would like to bring innovative programs to our district like language immersion, skilled trade programs, parent advocate programs, and more.</p>

## HURON VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

<p><b>CANDIDATES for SCHOOL BOARD</b></p> <p><b>TWO 4-year terms</b> <i>Vote for no more than TWO</i></p>	<p><b>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</b> Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for School Board and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position that you are running for.</p>	<p><b>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</b> What are the top three (3) Priority Issues facing your school district and what actions would you take to address them if elected to the school board?</p>
<p><b>MARK GATESMAN</b> 1151 N. Lakeview Ln. Highland, MI 48357</p>	<p>I am a 15 year resident of Highland Township, my wife and I have two children who attend Huron Valley Schools. I am self-employed as an Attorney in my own practice, The Law Office of Mark Gatesman located in Howell, MI.</p> <p>As a practicing attorney for 30 years and a small business owner I understand how to successfully operate a business. I have employed individuals and I understand that any business must operate with a budget in mind. A successful business must balance return on investment, performance and professional responsibility, while striving relentlessly for high performance and excellence in customer service.</p> <p>I have previous Institutional Executive Board experience as a former Trustee on the Howell Carnegie District Library Board, 2000-2004. As a Library Board Trustee, the board managed annual multimillion dollar budgets. The Board successfully launched capital campaigns for major physical improvements to the library and expanded library services and technology.</p>	<p>During these difficult and trying times it would be my priority to wisely and judiciously manage the State Foundational Student Allotment. I would also strive to maintain the District Fund balance to ensure Huron Valley Schools continue the tradition of excellence in elementary, middle and secondary instruction.</p> <p>I would work collaboratively with the HVS Board to ensure that HVS students and faculty have access to the best and most cutting edge technology. This will allow staff to continue the HVS tradition of excellent instruction thus preparing our students to succeed in a diverse and competitive world economy.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to explore adjusting school start times. A growing body of research suggests later school start times for Middle and High School allow students to be more rested and alert during instruction, providing an efficient way to drive achievement, test scores and overall student performance.</p>
<p><b>JEFFREY LONG</b> 3180 Long Ln. White Lake, MI 48383</p>	<p>I grew up in White Lake Twp. I graduated from Lakeland High School in 1982. Both my children attended Huron Valley Schools and are Lakeland Graduates. (2017, 2018). I have served 9 years on the HVS Board. During that time, we have continued to be fiscally responsible and pass balanced budgets annually and protecting our 5% fund balance (rainyday). My time on the board has been spent representing the people of Huron Valley in an un-bias, collaborative way.</p>	<p>#1 Recovering the funding spent meeting the needs to return to school safely during the Covid Pandemic, and redesigning the model for learning to accommodate the needs of all our students.</p> <p>#2 Continued collaboration with our staff and community to assure we are meeting all our stakeholders needs.</p> <p>#3 Continued fiscal responsibility managing the General Fund and the Bond spending.</p>

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