

**VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION  
LAKE ORION 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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**9 Candidates for School District Board Member for FOUR 4-year terms**

<p><b>CANDIDATES for SCHOOL BOARD</b></p> <p><b>FOUR 4-year terms</b> <i>Vote for no more than FOUR</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>DANIELLE BRESETT</b> 1220 Quail Ridge Dr. Oxford, MI 48371</p>	<p>I have been actively involved in the world of education for the past 21 years as a former classroom teacher, current private tutor, and as a parent who has been deeply involved in the schools. I graduated from Michigan State University with not only my bachelor's degree in Psychology but also earned my teaching certificate in both Psychology and history. Now more than ever, public schools need board members who can not only provide leadership but can bring a unique perspective to the board. I work with students every day and see how the decisions that various boards of education make affect them. In addition, as a current board member for The Daisy Project of Michigan, I have a unique insight into the special needs community and want to give them a voice within the schools. As a graduate of Lake Orion Schools myself, I truly love the district and feel that my leadership and knowledge of the educational field would positively guide the district for generations to come.</p>	<p>The top three priorities facing Lake Orion Community Schools are communication, collaboration, and being responsible financially. Providing clear and open communication with parents is paramount within any district. As a board member, I will make it a priority to engage with the community and gain insight into what the parents, students, and community members feel that Lake Orion Schools do well and where they believe the district could be improved. Second, collaborating with staff within the district is crucial. Lake Orion Schools have incredible staff members. I will prioritize the administration working with the staff to continually improve the district. Having a true collaboration with exceptional staff and administration leads to producing exceptional students. Lastly, I believe having a district that is financially responsible is essential. With the inevitable cuts in funding, I will work to ensure that the impacts on the programs for students are minimized.</p>

## LAKE ORION SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

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<p><b>JOEL COLE</b> 2536 Cole Rd. Lake Orion, MI 48362</p>	<p>I decided to run for the Lake Orion school board because there needs to be another voice upholding the interests of the students, their parents, and the residents of Lake Orion. Children are our future. We all benefit when tomorrow's leaders are given a solid educational foundation. However, I have a vested interest in the school district's success because it contributes to the success of my children. I'm proud to call my daughter, Adeleigh, and son, Logan, dragons.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Give students and parents the option of an in-person education</li> <li>2. Focus on the efficient use of school district's assets and contain spending</li> <li>3. Keep critical theory out of our district's curriculum</li> </ol>
<p><b>SUSAN FLAHERTY</b> 1867 Arrowhead Trl. Oxford, MI 48371</p>	<p>My husband and I have lived in the Lake Orion district for over 15 years. Our daughter attends Paint Creek Elementary. I am a product of Michigan public schools and the first member of my family to earn a college degree receiving my BS in Social Science and Executive MBA from Michigan State University. I am passionate about assuring all children have opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive in a safe, challenging, learning environment.</p> <p>Additionally, I'm a former business executive with over 25 years of experience in the Automotive and Telecommunications industries. I possess strong leadership and communication skills with a proven track record of implementing strategies, streamlining processes, and reducing costs. I'm now a fulltime stay-at-home Mom...the most challenging and rewarding job ever! I believe my enthusiasm for education and community involvement, combined with my relevant professional and personal credentials will be strong assets to the Lake Orion School Board.</p>	<p>First and foremost, the most important issue is assuring the safety, health, and well-being of our students, teachers, and administrators. This extends beyond the current COVID crisis and includes security from all threats such as bullying, violence, and exposure to harmful substances. Second, the district needs to be fiscally responsible for managing the budget so funds can be allocated to meet the district goals, as well as explore all avenues of funding including state monies by building strong relationships at all levels of government. Third, we need to foster a collaborative environment promoting two-way, open communication with the administration, teachers, and most importantly, the community. We are the "voice of the community" and I am prepared to be their elected representative on the board. We must maintain high quality educational standards to assure our community is a desired destination for families. This ensures high enrollment and positively impacts property values.</p>

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<p><b>BIRGIT MCQUISTON</b> 440 N. Broadway St. Lake Orion, MI 48362</p>	<p>Elected over nine years ago to the Lake Orion School Board, I remain:</p> <p>Invested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 20 year resident of Lake Orion</li> <li>- Married 30 years to Greg</li> <li>- Two children - Emily and Erich;</li> </ul> <p>Graduates of LOHS 2012 and 2016</p> <p>Involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Certified by the Michigan Association of School Boards: Level 5 Master Diamond Award - having achieved over 528 hours of professional development; Advocacy Skills Specialist</li> <li>- MASB Resolutions &amp; Bylaws Committee</li> <li>- Oakland County School Board Association Board of Directors</li> <li>- Board Officer for 8 of the past 9 years</li> <li>- Revived Curriculum Committee; Policy Committee; Lamp of Learning Committee; Initiated and currently lead the Board Self-Assessment Committee</li> <li>- Initiated and led the creation of Board Operating Procedures</li> <li>- Founding and Current member of Blessings In A Backpack - Lake Orion</li> <li>- Advocate for our students with state legislators; testified at education committee meetings</li> </ul> <p>Informed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investing time researching, studying the issue and listening to stakeholders</li> </ul>	<p>Top issues facing Lake Orion Schools that I am committed to working through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providing an exemplary education for all learners is our mission, and accomplishing that is at the forefront of what our Board of Education does, no matter what the setting - virtual, remote, in person. This includes:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Differentiating our programming to meet the needs of ALL our students</li> <li>b. Keeping our staff and students safe</li> <li>c. Returning to in-person education as soon as possible</li> <li>d. Social and Emotional Health/learning of our students and staff</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Fiscal Responsibility is the second biggest issue facing all school districts! We have faced many budget concerns due to the state's improper funding of schools and their inequity in doing so. This year the budget concerns are even greater as a result of the pandemic. Balancing our budget while providing an exemplary education during the stages of a pandemic is a new challenge for us. Advocating for our students has never been more important!</li> </ol>

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<p><b>MISTY MORRIS</b> 2999 Buckner Rd. Lake Orion, MI 48362</p>	<p>Lifelong Lake Orion resident &amp; LOHS alumni '98. Wife to James Morris, LOHS alumni '95 and mother to our three children, Edwin 10th, Landon 8th &amp; Levi 4th grade. My professional career has taught me the quality of the local school district is the most important factor determining property values in the area. I deal with the community &amp; local business owners frequently which allows me to have a pulse on a wide range of issues affecting our community. I have been involved with my sons activities including serving on the PTO, school committees &amp; taking leadership positions in groups supporting their extra curricular activities, including football &amp; wrestling. I have learned the roles &amp; responsibility of the community, LOCS Administration and the Board. I thrive in an environment that requires resolution of problems. The integration of my current experience in real estate paired with my active involvement in LOCS is why I am running for school board.</p>	<p>#1: Remote learning: The current situation of focusing on returning students face to face with the assurance that all stakeholders are comfortable and confident in the safety of measures moving forward.</p> <p>#2: Funding: In a time of economic uncertainty, where funding is uncertain, it is vital to assure that our highest priority is assurance of keeping programs in place.</p> <p>#3: Upholding district distinction: Integrating my professional experience in the district has allowed me to see first hand how strong of an impact the school district has on property values. Strong schools equal strong property values.</p>

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<p><b>EDWINA MITCHELL PATTERSON</b> 2450 Orion Rd. Oakland, MI 48363</p>	<p>I decided to run for this school board position to add a Diverse Voice into our pursuit of academic excellence within our district. I am passionate about education and the achievement of academic excellence for my child and those within our community. I am a proud mother of 3 children, and have been happily married for 25 years. I have for 26 years gained extensive and diverse experience in the areas of Operations, Engineering, Safety, Business Planning, Negotiating and Bargaining, People Systems, Budget Management and Project Management. In my own pursuit of academic excellence, I have acquired a BSEE, MSM and in pursuit as a EdD candidate in Organizational Leadership with a cognate focus in Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice. I have the professional experience, educational competence, the unbiased passion, and the personal motivation needed to ensure the needs of ALL our children are being met with respect and regard for their mental, social and physical health.</p>	<p>Security and Safety: Pandemic Management – Immediately assisting students, parents, and teachers in successful achievement in these unprecedented circumstances. Ensure no child left behind nutritionally, academically, and socially. Behavior Issues- Establishing and managing district wide processes and policies for bullying and school violence problems facing students and teachers.</p> <p>Culture and Diversity : Executing a Diversity and Inclusivity Plan for K-12 Schools – Establish and execute programs that provide learning and support for administrators, teachers, and students. Curriculum Savviness- Policies in place to ensure the success of ALL students. (college bound and non-college bound including all ethnicities and genders) Advocacy Consistency- Creating and Maintaining an environment where the students and teachers feel valued and heard. Staffing- Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Teachers/Administrators - Greater emphasis on having faculty that reflects the student body demographics.</p>
<p><b>AMY DENISE SILVESTER</b> 220 Schorn Dr. Lake Orion, MI 48362</p>	<p align="center"><b>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</b></p>	

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<p><b>SCOTT TAYLOR</b> 1227 Stoney Creek Rd. Lake Orion, MI 48362</p>	<p>Lake Orion Dragon for life. Forty five year resident of Lake Orion; Blanch Sims, Lake Orion Middle School and Lake Orion High School Grad. Involved in Stadium Elementary, Blanche Sims Elementary and Oakview PTO programs. Father of one Oakview Middle Schooler and one Lake Orion High student, I was appointed to the Lake Orion Community Schools board of education in 2014 and was hooked! I then ran and won in 2014, 2016 and looking for reelection in 2020. I have served for 6 years as Trustee, vice president and president. I sit on the Board Policy Committee, Lamp of Learning Committee as well as the Facility Liaison for the Board and previously served on the Superintendent evaluation committee . I like to camp, boat, do home improvement projects with family and friends and watch my daughters play soccer. Currently I am involved in the Orion Area Chamber of Commerce, local club soccer as well as local nonprofit endeavors to help make the world a better place for all of us.</p>	<p>Properly funded schools is the number one issue facing our schools. The budget process is very challenging each year with never knowing what funding is available and what will be allotted per student. The main action that we can do as a board is remain vigilant in presenting a balanced budget as well as being active with our legislatures and voice our needs as a group. The second challenge for this year is dealing with a world wide pandemic and determining when it is truly safe for our students and staff to return to face to face learning. The Lake Orion administration has been very diligent in using all available health care experts to determine when it is safe because we ALL want our students back in face to face learning but we cannot accomplish this until students and staff safety can be insured. The third and final challenge is bond implementation and construction. Bond implementation has been going very well in spite of delays caused by Covid. Projects are all at budget.</p>
<p><b>JANICE ZALE</b> 3338 Proctor Ln., Oakland, MI 48363</p>	<p>My husband is a Lake Orion graduate and we have 3 wonderful children. I am running for school board because I love our district and I want to give back to keep our schools the best they can be. For the past 7 years I have been involved with Blessings in a Backpack. Currently I am the Vice President of the Blanche Sims PTO and love the team that I work with. Formerly I was a Library Board Member in Oakland Township. I appreciated being a part of this as I know the importance of instilling a love of reading in our students. Locally, I also volunteer and support Dutton Farm. I love being a part of an organization that values everyone and works so hard for inclusion for all.</p>	<p>Safety, Excellence, and Transparency. First, we are facing an incredibly difficult situation with COVID-19. Our students need to be back in school in a safe and responsible manner. I will work with the administration, staff, and parents to help our students get back into the classroom safely. Second, I will focus on excellence in our students' education. In our ever-changing world, I want to make sure our students are challenging themselves so they can be prepared for their bright future. Third, I believe our district needs to be transparent with the community. This year has shown us that communication is vital. I will work hard to make sure our parents have the information they need so they can make the best decisions for their children.</p>