

**VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION  
OAK PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OAKLAND AREA**

**Website:** [my.lww.org/michigan/oakland-area](http://my.lww.org/michigan/oakland-area)

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

| <b>CANDIDATES for<br/>SCHOOL BOARD</b><br><br><b>TWO 6-year terms</b><br><i>Vote for no more than TWO</i> | <b>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</b><br>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>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</b><br>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? |
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| <b>NEN BAILEY</b><br>21661 Cloverlawn St.<br>Oak Park, MI 48237   | <b>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</b>   |  |
| <b>CHRISTOPHER R. DAVIS</b><br>13320 Irvine Blvd.<br>Oak Park, MI 48237                                   | <b>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</b>   |  |

## OAK PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

| <p><b>CANDIDATES for<br/>SCHOOL BOARD</b></p> <p><b>TWO 6-year terms</b><br/><i>Vote for no more than TWO</i></p> | <p><b>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</b><br/>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><br/>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>   |
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| <p><b>AL ELVIN</b><br/>24511 Pinehurst Ave.<br/>Oak Park, MI 48237</p>  | <p>As a father of three sons – two of whom are currently pursuing college degrees – I understand the concerns parents have in wanting their children to attain a quality education. I want the same for my children and, as a parent in Oak Park, I’ve felt the sting of being denied this right for my sons.</p> <p>I believe my broad education; unique life and work experience; time spent as a middle and high school teacher, as well as a Communications instructor at Wayne State University, mesh well to prepare me for a role of this magnitude. Combining these qualities with my experience managing multi-million-dollar budgets, as well as my thorough understanding of contract management and negotiations, qualifies me to serve as a school board member.</p> <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Juris Doctor, University of Detroit-Mercy</li> <li>• Master’s Degree – Business Administration, University of Detroit-Mercy</li> <li>• Master’s Degree – Communications, Wayne State University</li> <li>• Bachelor’s Degree – Journalism, Wayne State University</li> </ul> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Emergence From COVID-19: At present, students are receiving virtual instruction, which I wholeheartedly support; however, ultimately, students, and staff will need to emerge back into the actual classroom. It’s imperative that all students and staff are safely reintroduced into the physical learning environment. As a board member, I would gladly seek to be a part of the planning team to ensure we continue safe instruction as students and staff make their way back into the classroom.</li> <li>2. Test Scores: The district’s standardized test scores are below par. As a board member, I’d gladly lead a task force to implement solutions that address these issues.</li> <li>3. Revolving Doors: We need to shut the revolving doors in Oak Park. The district is hemorrhaging students. One reason is because parents want their students to be challenged in a more academically rigorous environment. As a board member, I’d help to create addendums to the curriculum to support students who learn differently.</li> </ol> |

## OAK PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

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| <p><b>MAXINE<br/>GUTFREUND</b><br/>22101 Jerome St.<br/>Oak Park, MI 48237</p>                                    | <p>As a proud lifelong resident of Oak Park, I am deeply entrenched in our community. I have served on the board for over 11 years, as well as many years in the '80s, and want to continue my work hard for the educators and children of Oak Park. I have forged deep networks that have enabled me to get support for many initiatives like passing mileages to better our schools. Also, I helped bring early childhood programs into the district, and I spearheaded the plan to bring an instrumental program to Oak Park - we now boast an award-winning 100+ member marching band.</p> <p>I want to continue to serve the community of Oak Park because I believe in complete accountability and transparency for the taxpayers. You should know where your money is going when it comes to the Oak Park Schools and I will continue to work to keep up with where your money is spent in the district,</p> | <p>The top three issues facing Oak Park schools:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- we need to raise the overall test score average. I will work with the superintendent and other school board and faculty members to build programs that will provide students with better learning skills. I believe in teaching up and encouraging growth.</li> <li>2- Update school facilities. We need to continue to work with the community on this issue so they understand how vital their support is in fixing and maintaining our buildings.</li> <li>3- Fill the waterless swimming pool. We need to either get the swimming pool at OPHS repaired or replaced. I firmly believe all our children need to learn how to swim and have strong water safety skills. Too many children drown in the area simply because they weren't taught the proper water skills.</li> </ol> |

## OAK PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

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| <p><b>BEN VINEBURG</b><br/>14361 W. Ten Mile Rd.<br/>Oak Park, MI 48237</p>                                       | <p>I am the product of a public school education. My father and grandfather are both educators and I was taught from a young age about the importance of a good, high quality public schools. I feel my skills as a hospital chaplain and former City of Southfield tax clerk have adequately prepared me to be a calm, optimistic and responsive voice for students and parents of the district. Additionally, I feel my involvement in Oak Park Youth Assistance and as past president of the Tri-Community Coalition have helped educate me on the challenges youth face in our community and identify some ways I may be able to help.</p> <p>The public education model was formed with communal buy-in in mind and as a district resident I feel it is crucial to support our students, parents and neighbors in reinvigorating our district and highlighting the tremendous assets it encompasses. Our students, parents and teachers deserve support and optimism during these difficult times. I am running to be that voice.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supporting the Superintendent's plan to safely and efficiently provide instruction to students during the COVID-19 pandemic. I will only support measures that keep our children and teachers safe, which means viable hybrid or remote learning options for students and teachers in the event that in-person learning becomes logistically or financially unsustainable.</li> <li>2. Foster continued optimism and communal "buy-in" amongst district residents. I would like to build a "it takes a village" approach with the district's parents; partnering with them in providing their children with the values and skills to succeed at home, at school and in the community.</li> <li>3. To work with local and state elected officials to put forth comprehensive incentives to attract students to our district and keep resident students within the district as well. Oak Park Schools are a hidden gem in our community and I look forward to enthusiastically supporting our district's mission in the community.</li> </ol> |

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

**YOSEF KLEIN**     24501 Radclift St., Oak Park, MI 48237

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