

**VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION**  
**ROYAL OAK 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.lwv.org/michigan/oakland-area](http://my.lwv.org/michigan/oakland-area)

**E-mail:** [lwvoami@gmail.com](mailto:lwvoami@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 248-594-6602

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**6 Candidates for School District Board Member for FOUR 4-year terms**

<p><b>CANDIDATES for</b>  <u><b>SCHOOL BOARD</b></u></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>  <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></p>	<p><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></p>
<p><b>ERIKA ALEXANDER</b>            3592 Arbor Ave.            Royal Oak, MI 48073</p>	<p>My name is Erika Alexander. I'm excited about the opportunity to run for a seat on the Royal Oak School Board. My husband Don and I have lived in the city for 17 years. We chose Royal Oak in part because of the quality of the schools. Our daughter, age 11, is a 6th grader starting virtual middle school this year. I hold a master's degree in counseling from Oakland University and work full time for a local non-profit where I currently serve as Director of Quality Assurance. My husband is a small business owner. Our daughter recently retired her soccer cleats after playing for 7 years but remains active in dance and is preparing to begin guitar lessons.</p>	<p>Diversity and equity are the themes reflected in my top priorities. 1. I want to be a part of ensuring that the district remains diligent and purposeful in attracting and more importantly retaining teachers of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. It is important for all students to have racial and ethnic mirrors as a part of their learning experience. 2. Work together to introduce a culturally competent curriculum that is integrated district wide. This curriculum should be woven throughout all subjects with stakeholder input. 3. Ensuring fair and equitable disciplinary practices. To start, the data needs to be mined and policy changes made. Transparency of discipline data, through easy public access is one way that a district can be held accountable to ensure that students of color, and those who learn differently (including students in Special Education, with IEP's and 504 plans) are being disciplined in equitable ways to white students and typical learners.</p>

## ROYAL OAK SCHOOLS (Continued)

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<p><b>TIMOTHY J. CIECHORSKI</b> 227 E. Twelve Mile Rd. Apt. 8 Royal Oak, MI 48073</p>	<p>I made my home in Royal Oak 12 years ago. It was on of the greatest decisions of my life. I have served on the Royal Oak Parks, Recreation and Senior Services Board for nearly 4 years, currently the Chair. I am a member of the Royal Oak Downtown Park Taskforce. I want to use this public service experience on a larger scale to serve my community. I am a member of numerous civic organizations and actively use my time volunteering throughout the Royal Oak community. Professionally, I have used strategic negotiation techniques to achieve an unanimously approved collective bargaining agreement; this ability will serve me well when elected to the Royal Oak Schools Board of Education. The Royal Oak School District is a great public school system. As with everything, there is always room for improvement. I will use my encouraging and advocating voice to progress the ROSD into the a position that other districts want to follow.</p>	<p>Diversity and equity has fortunately come to the forefront of our society. The ROSD has acknowledged the disparity with in the school district. There have been steps, slowly, taken to address this issue. I want this progress expedited. This is an "act now" moment. No longer can this progress be talked about without substantial and immediate action. Resolutions without action are simply hollow words. We have found ourselves suddenly living in a virtual world. The ROSD needs to be the best in online education, I want to see the ROSD become the leader education technology. There will be unprecedented budgetary struggles next year. Planning for this shortfall needs to begin now. Creative and new budgetary procedures will be necessary. We can not ask students and staff to take concessions in their education or pay. I will work tirelessly to accomplish these goals by listening to the community, students, parents and staff. I will encourage fellow trustees to take these progressive actions.</p>

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<p><b>LISA-ALINE HANES</b> 4003 N. Blair Ave. Royal Oak, MI 48073</p>	<p>My name is Lisa-Aline Hanes and I have lived in Royal Oak for over 20 years. I am married and have 2 children at Royal Oak High School: Bryan, who is entering his Senior year, and Maddie, who is entering her Sophomore year. I am a first generation American on both sides of my family and am proud to share that I am of Lebanese and Maltese descent. I was raised to value hard work, honesty and integrity while embracing the strength and fortitude that makes living in our country so great. In my teenage years my family was hit with tragedy when my younger brother died and it was then that I realized my passion for helping others.</p> <p>I have a BA in Psychology from MSU and and my BSN in Nursing from U of D . I have been a nurse for 23 years and have been blessed to save lives , educate and take care of others. I have been very involved in Royal Oak through the PTA, Choir and Drama Boosters, Royal Oak athletics, Gilda’s Club and Stagecrafters Theatre.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Diversity- of teachers, leaders and curriculum improvement. Every child of color should feel safe and have educators who put their needs and quality of education first while also being role models and mentors within our district. I would like to work on supplementing the curriculum with additional subject matter on diversity throughout the entire year.</li> <li>2. Healthy and safe environment: As a healthcare professional my passion is to assist others in living healthier lives: physically and mentally. If elected, I would like to enrich this effort by ensuring that all students have resources that improve their physical and mental wellbeing. If a child does not have enough food to eat or live in a safe environment how can we expect them to focus on their education?</li> <li>3. Modernization of classrooms and curriculum: work to equip all classrooms with the latest technology and use best practices in enhancing the curriculum to meet the varied needs of our students.</li> </ol>
<p><b>DUSTIN G. KAUPP</b> 520 Marlin Ave. Royal Oak, MI 48067</p>	<p>I am running to make royal oak schools better for the future. I want my children to have to opportunity to attend the best school possible.</p> <p>I am looking forward to serving the Royal Oak community.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Safety- students need to feel safe going to school everyday</li> <li>2. Nutrition- students to be educated on the proper things to put in their bodies and know everyone’s body is different.</li> <li>3. Students Opportunity- students learn more from being on teams, clubs, etc. this starts with getting students back to in person learning.</li> </ol>

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<p><b>LAKEESHA MORRISON</b> 1316 Millard Ave. Royal Oak, MI 48073</p>	<p>Hello, my name is Lakeesha Morrison. I am a 36 year old wife, mother of three children, and a lifelong resident of Royal Oak. I am also a former Royal Oak student and now my own children are currently in the same district.</p> <p>I want to represent the personal interest of all Royal Oak students, including students of color! Honoring the diversity in our schools is important to the Royal Oak community, diverse representation on the school board is extremely important.</p> <p>I plan to continue engaging our Royal Oak community by continuing to use my voice and holding family orientated rallies!</p>	<p>The Top three priority issues I believe needs to be faced is ensuring that ALL children have the best proper learning experience while in school, the lack of a diverse staff and curriculum and safety in our schools. If I were elected I would consider the opinions of fellow board members, parents and the community. Bringing their concerns to the table and collectively coming up with a solution. Communication is key when it comes to meeting these issues.</p>
<p><b>MARYANNE VANHAITSMA</b> 2624 Glenwood Rd. Royal Oak, MI 48073</p>	<p>I am Maryanne VanHaitsma, the only incumbent running for re-election to the Royal Oak School Board. My husband and I are 23-year residents of Royal Oak and parents of two graduates of Royal Oak schools in 2017 &amp; 2019. I have been active in our district for 17 years through PTA, school and parent committees. I am also a member of the Oakland County School Board Association's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force, as well as the State PTA Advocacy Committee and the State PTA Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. I serve on numerous other committees that advocate for our children, including Royal Oak Youth Assistance and the Royal Oak Schools Foundation. I hold bachelor's and master's degrees from Wayne State University and I worked in health care for over 30 years. I am committed to the community I live in and believe strong schools build a strong community.</p>	<p>Fiscal responsibility is always a top priority. As an incumbent school board member, I am proud to serve on a board that has managed available resources in a sound and prudent way that allows for educational and extracurricular programs to continue and thrive.</p> <p>A quality education in a safe environment for students and staff is a priority. We need to ensure a quality education and the continued provision of a safe and healthy environment in which students and staff can thrive.</p> <p>A key priority is always working to improve equity within our district. Every student, employee, teacher and administrator must be given every opportunity to thrive. Equity remains the overarching work that becomes inherent in all district efforts (professional development, curriculum, discipline, resources, etc.). As a member of the district's Cultural Competency Engagement Committee, I work to see its goals and objectives are aggressively pursued and met.</p>