

**VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION  
WATERFORD 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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**6 Candidates for School District Board Member for TWO 6-year terms**

<p><b>CANDIDATES for SCHOOL BOARD</b></p> <p><b>TWO 6-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>FRANKIE HERNANDEZ</b> 2949 St. Jude Dr. Waterford, MI 48329</p>	<p align="center"><b>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</b></p>	
<p><b>THOMAS HUBBARD</b> 127 Deni Dr. Waterford, MI 48327</p>	<p align="center"><b>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</b></p>	
<p><b>DANIEL MAJESKE</b> 3174 Pirrin Dr. Waterford, MI 48329-2740</p>	<p>I am at a point in my career where I have the experience to make a difference for Waterford Schools. I retired from teaching high school after 38 years and am now in my 14th year of teaching part-time at Oakland University. I have been able to make a difference in the academic and interpersonal lives of my past students and I would like to see what I can do for this community. I have two married daughters and seven grandchildren. After I retired from teaching high school, I chose to remain current and relevant in the field of education. Not only does Oakland University give me teaching experience for undergraduate and graduate students in the School of Education, it also gives me continual professional development in the current methods for this profession. I joined the Field Office and have worked with dozens of Student Teaching Interns and their Mentors at various middle and high schools across Oakland and Macomb counties.</p>	<p>Safety of the adult staff and students is the top issue facing every school district. Waterford Schools appear to have some well thought plans for virtual and remote learning. I would work with the administration and education association to continue to refine these plans for schedules and best teaching practices with necessary technology as needed and how the eventual transition to in-person instruction can be accomplished safely for everyone. Funding and allocation of resources are top priorities. Public schools have had huge cuts since the 2008 recession and now the State is squeezed even more in this pandemic. I would work with the Waterford administration and education association on any avenues to mitigate revenue loss and lobby for increases as well as creative and brainstorming thinking to allocate resources effectively across the district to keep and improve instructional delivery, building maintenance, and raise, not cut payroll or staff.</p>

## WATERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

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<p><b>NATHAN MOSSERI</b> 5611 Cruse Ave. Waterford, MI 48327</p>	<p>I have been teaching and developing the Holly Area Schools STEM program since its founding in 2018. Before this, I taught 3rd and 4th-grade math, science, and social studies in South Carolina. I earned my Bachelor's Degree from Eastern Michigan University and my Master's Degree in Educational Technology from American College of Education. Outside of the classroom, I am a member of the Michigan Education Association (MEA), a union representative for my school, and the secretary of my local association. I chose to run for School Board because it's time for educators to be part of the decision making process. Too often, School Board Trustees' only experience with the public school system is from when they were children. With all of the changes occurring in the wake of COVID-19, someone with current classroom experience must have a role in moving the district forward.</p>	<p>The three issues facing Waterford School District are an outdated technology plan, a potential decrease in overall per-pupil funding, and racial inequities. I will address the outdated technology plan by reviewing and updating the district's technology plan. A new plan would include time for teacher training and technology implementation, purchasing devices to create a 1:1 technology environment, and adequate funding to upgrade existing wireless networks. To address the potential decrease in funding, I will defend students and teachers through any budget cuts that may occur. To provide students with the education they deserve, we mustn't decrease per-pupil spending. Lastly, to lessen any racial inequities I will analyze data and root out racial any bias in suspensions, referrals, and expulsions. If the data reveals there are clear biases, I will push for professional learning programs that aid staff in the exploration and acknowledgment of their personal biases.</p>
<p><b>MICHAEL RISTICH</b> 5517 Savoy Dr. Waterford, MI 48327</p>	<p>As a father of two Waterford School District students, the husband of a Waterford Schools District Teacher, a university faculty member, and a lifelong Waterford resident, I offer a set of perspectives and experiences that will help the Waterford School District remain focused on raising student achievement and attracting and retaining talented staff and teachers (even during Covid-19). Too, as an appointed member of the Waterford School District Board of Education, I know that effective board governance means doing what our teachers and students do everyday: listening, learning, asking the right questions, and making decisions based on the best data available.</p>	<p>Under "normal" circumstances, the focus should be on raising student achievement, attracting and retaining talented staff and teachers, and ensuring effective board governance. However, Covid-19 has forced a shift in goals. In light of the global pandemic, we need to ensure, above all, the safety of our students, staff, and community. We also need to do everything in our power to advance and support student learning in a remote/virtual setting. At the same time, we need to develop plans and procedures to welcome back our students into the classroom when the situation allows. Doing so means working collaboratively as a Board and with our District administrators, advocating for resources to ensure safe schools, listening to our community, asking the right questions, and making decisions based on the best data available.</p>

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<b>KRISTEN WAGNER</b> 7352 Breeze Ln. Waterford, MI 48327	I am a fierce advocate of public education and the Waterford School District. I am running because I feel it is imperative that we have voices on our board that are focused on creating positive initiatives that enhance education and encourage high standards that support academic and social/emotional growth. I am a graduate of Waterford Mott and Oakland University and my husband and I have three children currently enrolled in the district. I have been actively involved in their schools for many years as a member of the PTO's, volunteering, chairing events and more. I am also active at the district level, including being part of the 2016 Parent Bond Committee and I was the chair of the 2020 Bond Proposal Campaign that successfully passed on August 4th. I was instrumental in creating the Waterford Public Education Advocacy Committee to advocate for policies in legislation that would adequately and equitably fund our public schools. My candidacy is endorsed by the Waterford MEA.	The three main issues I believe impacting our district are the increased academic and social/emotional needs of our students, the lack of funding we receive, and the statewide teacher shortage. Funding is priority and I will continue to advocate to increase it. Multiple studies have been done in recent years and have shown; Michigan underfunds its public schools. Our legislators must change our funding model so that our schools are adequately and equitably funded to ensure every child receives the education they deserve. This lack of funding has affected every aspect of our classrooms from proficiency to fair pay for all employees. There needs to be an increase to the base foundation per pupil allowance and we need additional funds for all areas that impact education. Proper funding would allow us to retain experienced teachers and staff, add additional academic programs and support, and it would keep us on a forward path so our students can continue to achieve academic success.

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

**JOHN HIMMELSPACH** 7538 Woodside Place, Waterford, MI 48327

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