VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WEST BLOOMFIELD

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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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan national organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party. Candidate responses are included as submitted and have not been edited except in cases where the replies have exceeded Spelling and Grammar were not corrected. The inclusion of candidates' statements and the stated word limitations. opinions is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters which takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by the candidates.

2 Candidates for TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR for ONE 4-year term

CANDIDATES for <u>SUPERVISOR</u> ONE 4-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i>	Question 1 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	Question 2 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?
Democrat STEVEN KAPLAN 6823 Post Oak Dr. West Bloomfield, MI 48322	I am a graduate of Detroit College of Law, obtaining my juris doctorate degree, with honors, and serving as assistant prosecuting attorney for Macomb County for 24 years, followed by a two-year stint as a homicide prosecutor for Wayne County. I have been recognized as a distinguished adjunct professor at Michigan State University College of Law, and have taught there since 1997. In addition, I have held local elective office for more than 24 years, including eight years as a school board trustee for Southfield Public Schools, and 12 years as a trustee for West Bloomfield Township. I was elected and have served as West Bloomfield Township Supervisor since November 20, 2016.	The first issue is ensuring the safety of the residents of West Bloomfield Township, by maintaining a highly trained, qualified staff of public safety officers, 911 dispatchers, fire fighters, and emergency medical responders, to provide the highest level of public safety possible. Another issue of paramount importance is that the staff at the town hall building provide superlative service to the residents, contractors, and visitors, and the passing and adopting of a reasonable budget that maintains a strong general fund balance. The final area of focus is maintaining the integrity of the wetlands and woodlands throughout the township, and making sure our ordinances are followed, so that property values remain at an optimal level.
Republican DONALD L. PERRY 6749 Colony Dr. West Bloomfield, MI 48323	DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION	

1 Candidate for TOWNSHIP CLERK for ONE 4-year term

DEBBIE BINDER 4324 Foxpointe, West Bloomfield, MI 48323

CANDIDATES for Question 1 (150 Words or less): Question 2 (150 Words or less): Provide biographical information and TREASURER What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your explain why you are running for Township township and what actions would you, as a **ONE 4-year term** office and relevant qualities and skills you township official, take regarding each of Vote for no more than ONE would bring to the position. them? West Bloomfield Township's Top Priorities: Democrat As the elected West Bloomfield Treasurer, since November 2008, I have the TERI ADELBERG demonstrated skills and core competencies 1 FINANCIAL STABILITY: As WEINGARDEN necessary to be your Treasurer for four Treasurer, I ensure that I always 3962 Fieldview Ave. more years. I strive to continually educate protect the township financial assets by West Bloomfield, MI myself in all areas of the Treasurer's office following PA20 investment guidelines 48324 and Pension board. As the Pension Board and finding unique ways to save Chair, I closely monitor our retirement money. I proposed bonding our OPEB system plan assets and ensure the safety of obligation, and the Clerk and I funds for both our current employees and researched refinancing these bonds in retirees. I achieved the Certified Public 2019, thus saving an additional \$1.5 Treasurer's designation and Advanced million. We have saved the township Certified Public Fund Manager certification. millions of dollars and properly funded I help plan Treasurer's BASIC Institute and our OPEB obligations. Early in my train new Treasurers and am considered a term, I was able to increase our credit leader among my colleagues. rating from AA to AA+ and the township has maintained this credit As a former Finance Executive at UNISYS rating, even during economic and Management Consultant at Andersen downturns. Consulting (Accenture) I brought my skills and experience to the Treasurer's 2. SERVE ALL RESIDENTS: It is vital department. I reorganized and improved that we serve and protect all residents processes in my organization providing regardless of political party, race, significant cost savings to the Township. religion, disability or sexual orientation. I am dedicated to As a life-time resident, I attended West providing excellent customer service to Bloomfield public schools K-12, University all my residents. of Michigan undergraduate and Wayne State graduate school, I understand local 3. PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT: I issues. I hope to provide exceptional work with the township board to customer service to the residents of West protect our lakes, wetlands, and Bloomfield for four more years. woodlands. I am the appointed West Bloomfield Representative on the Upper Long Lake Board, ensuring lake health is maintained. I volunteer at community recycling events and ensure we probably fund and promote the safe disposal of hazardous waste.

2 Candidates for TREASURER for ONE 4-year term

CANDIDATES for <u>TREASURER</u> ONE 4-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i>	Question 1 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	Question 2 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?
Republican WILLIAM J. BURRIS 6590 Commerce Rd. West Bloomfield, MI 48324	I have been a resident of West Bloomfield for 37 years. Now retired, I am both a CPA and CFE (certified fraud examiner). My career began in public accounting with Ernst and Young, but eventually I transitioned to the private sector where I was CFO for companies in service industries (law, architecture, civil engineering), manufacturing, and health. While I was a Partner, Board Member, and Treasurer for several of these companies, my approach was always hands-on, and I would like to apply my knowledge of accounting and management to the issues facing the township. University degrees in Architecture from the University of Michigan and MBA in Accounting from Wayne State University.	 Fiscal responsibility, transparency, and putting the taxpayer first. Fiscal responsibility: if I were to be elected Treasurer, I would save the taxpayers money since I can carry out the duties of the position, eliminating the need to hire other people to do my job. Transparency: it is important to be accountable to the taxpayer, and one way to do this is to make public the actual hours worked by the Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer, all of whom are elected officials. Putting the taxpayer first: the taxpayer is footing the bill for everything done in the township. As Treasurer I would make it my business to work at ways to keep property taxes the same or, better yet, lower them.

7 Candidates for TRUSTEE for FOUR 4-year terms

Candidates for TRUSTEE for FOUR 4-year terms			
CANDIDATES for <u>TRUSTEE</u> FOUR 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than FOUR</i>	Question 1 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	Question 2 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?	
<i>Democrat</i> JIM MANNA 5021 Karach West Bloomfield, MI 48322	DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION		
Democrat HOWARD ROSENBERG 2390 Harness Dr. West Bloomfield, MI 48324	DID NOT RESPOND IN	TIME FOR INCLUSION	
Democrat DIANE ROSENFELD SWIMMER 6925 Evershed Terr. West Bloomfield, MI 48323	I have been a proud West Bloomfield resident since 1973. It was very important to me to raise my three boys in West Bloomfield township. I have served as Trustee since 2012. I am a registered nurse who is committed to both my hospital work and West Bloomfield residents. They are both jobs where care and compassion goes hand in hand with teamwork and attention to detail. I will continue to work hard to keep those qualities to the Township Board. In 2012 I was a willing participant in the Fire ops 101 class. I wanted to learn more about what our fire fighters are up against first hand. What I learned in that class was invaluable to making decisions for our West Bloomfield Township fire department. I have been instrumental in moving our public safety into updated facilities and equipment. As well as improving our road ways. I have also been the liaison for the township board with the Environmental commission as well as being appointed the election commission and also chosen to be on Brenda Lawrence's Women's Advisory Committee. The recent challenges in the health care industry only affirmed my desire to make a difference and help people.	My top 3 priorities continue to be the same. My first priority is to treat all residents with respect and respond promptly to neighborhood concerns. My second priority it to continue to control Township spending, always looking for the best value in goods and services. My third priority is to protect our quality of life with strong public safety, parks and library system.	

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CANDIDATES for	Question 1 (<u>150 Words or less)</u> :	Question 2 (<u>150 Words or less)</u> :
<u>TRUSTEE</u>	Provide biographical information and	What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your
	explain why you are running for Township	township and what actions would you, as a
FOUR 4-year terms	office and relevant qualities and skills you	township official, take regarding each of
Vote for no more than FOUR	would bring to the position.	them?
Democrat JONATHAN WARSHAY 7366 Birchwood Trl. West Bloomfield, MI 48322	I am running for re-election as Trustee because I believe local government has the greatest effect on people's everyday lives, and I want to make a difference at that level. I have played an active part on the Board of Trustees in shaping policies and procedures to help the township address our residents' needs while paying attention to budgetary constraints. For example, I have worked closely with the Township's IT department, the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Cable Commission to shape the development of the Township's new fiber network. I have extensive experience as an IT consultant/analyst in the public and private sector, including a term with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. As an attorney for Lakeshore Legal Aid, I helped many people, including directly representing Oakland County seniors. I have been involved in several community organizations, including the West Bloomfield Democrats (chair), United We Walk (fundraising chair), and Friendship Circle, I have also been a Boy Scout Leader. I have a law degree, Master's in Business Administration, and Bachelor's in Economics.	 Most important is to maintain a high level of services for the residents in the current environment (pandemic and economic). I will continue to focus on areas that enhance the quality of life for residents, such as public safety, lakes and woodlands, and roads/traffic. I will continue work within the township and with other agencies such as the Road Commission for Oakland County to improve the quality of our roads and address congestion. I will continue to support ordinance and code changes that will help large and small businesses to move to or expand in West Bloomfield, without damaging our township's natural beauty. Our tax base must grow responsibly.

CANDIDATES for <u>TRUSTEE</u> FOUR 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than FOUR</i>	Question 1 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	Question 2 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?
Republican LAUREN BAYLERAN BURRIS 6590 Commerce Rd. West Bloomfield, MI 48324	I have been a resident of West Bloomfield Township for 37 years. My husband and I raised our two children on Green Lake, and now they are living in West Bloomfield with their own children. I have been involved with issues surrounding lake quality and have an appreciation of the delicate balance between maintaining and conserving our natural resources and the property rights of landowners. I have two business degrees and have been self- employed in both industrial advertising and commercial real estate. In both businesses I was a fiduciary, always putting the concerns of my clients above my own. I will do the same as a Trustee of the township.	Our township is led by a board that includes trustees, and they are accountable to the township's citizens. One of the hallmarks of townships is that property taxes are usually low, but not ours. As a Trustee, I would like to take a hard look at our budget and figure ways to lower the tax burden facing every taxpayer. I want the needs of the citizens to be heard and I want to work with the taxpayers, not against them. Above all, I want to work in a transparent fashion with everything done in an open forum so that the people of the township know that my decisions have been made in their best interest.
Republican STEPHEN MATHENY 6008 Petros Dr. West Bloomfield, MI 48324	Steve Matheny has been a resident of West Bloomfield for over 26 years and has raised two boys here with his wife Maria. Steve is a licensed Professional Civil Engineer (BSCE and MSCE from Wayne State University) with over 30 years of working with committees and delivering projects on time and budget. Steve has owned a small consulting business (in West Bloomfield) for over 20 years and has also worked for a large Corporation. Steve is a problem solver who analyzes the data and works with clients to provide the best solutions. Steve's background will serve the Township of West Bloomfield with the complex issues the township navigates.	Working for the taxpayer, Transparency and Financial Stewardship. My current duties are to serve the General Public's Health, Safety and Welfare and the Trustee position will focus these skills for the West Bloomfield Residents. Transparency is a corner-stone of my profession which is also critical for the position I am running for. Engineering requires financial stewardship to the committees that I serve. Projects are designed and specified for a budget using best practices of engineering to ensure a project is delivered on Time and Budget.
Republican BILL PONKOWSKI 7047 Locklin West Bloomfield, MI 48324	Being semi-retired, I now have the time to serve my community. I have lived in West Bloomfield for 37 years. My background as a successful business owner enables me to look at budgets, spreadsheets, and analysis work flow situations.	Transparency, less executive closed meetings Listening to citizens, right now the township feels very authoritarian, and residents are just something that need to be dealt with. Being Fiscally responsible, closer examination of budgets, tighter control of discretionary spending.

CANDIDATES for PARK COMMISSIONER	K COMMISSIONER for SEVEN 4 Question 1 (<u>150 Words or less)</u> : Provide biographical information and	Question 2 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your
Seven 4-year terms Vote for no more than SEVEN	explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?
Democrat TERRANCE T. ADAMS 4264 Old Dominion Ct., West Bloomfield, MI 48323	I am sincerely humbled and honored for this opportunity to run for the West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Commission. I am a dedicated husband and father who has a love for my West Bloomfield community. I have spent almost two decades in government as a Fiscal Analyst successfully helping to bring not only budgetary but also a general perspective to issues concerning parks and recreation. Therefore, I believe I possess a unique set of expertise and skills that would make me an ideal candidate to be apart of the Parks and Recreation Commission. As a West Bloomfield resident, I seek to continue to enhance the quality of life and the environment for our families and children. By accomplishing this, I know it will be important to protect natural resources and provide leisure time opportunities for the benefit of all families of West Bloomfield. I have a strong interest in my West Bloomfield community and would be sincerely grateful to have the opportunity to work for the West Bloomfield community. For more information please visit: Website: https://terranceadams4parkcommission.web s.com and Facebook: Terrance T. Adams For Parks Commissioner	 Within our community, we all been affected by the COVID 19 pandemic. Parks and Recreation can provide a key role to bringing a sense of harmony and emotional stability in the aftermath of the pandemic. When there are vibrant parks in a community, there is a sense of pride among the residents of that community. I am ready, willing, and able to be creative and do the work to help continue to show that the parks are the essence (the heart) of our community. Ensuring sufficient and sustainable funding is important. I am prepared and trained to consider all budget items for review and approval; be instrumental in continuing to provide insight to the park master plan for the acquisition, maintenance, management, and control of parks and places of recreation. According to studies by the CDC, creating, improving and promoting places to be physically active can improve individual and community health and result in a 25% increase of residents who exercise at least 3x per week. I understand this importance and will work to continue to promote a system of neighborhood parks, health fairs, and other recreational activities to serve the needs of various neighborhoods.
<i>Democrat</i> MERVIN ARONOFF 6516 Post Oak Dr., West Bloomfield, MI 48322	DID NOT RESPOND IN	TIME FOR INCLUSION

10 Candidates for PARK COMMISSIONER for SEVEN 4-year terms

CANDIDATES for <u>PARK COMMISSIONER</u> Seven 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than SEVEN</i>	Question 1 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	Question 2 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?
Democrat DAVID BARASH 5772 Cherry Crest Dr. West Bloomfield, MI 48322	I've been serving as your WB Parks Commissioner since late 2018; (Finance Committee, Secretary, and Executive Committee). Additionally, I am a 3rd term Board Member of the Greater WB (GWB) Chamber of Commerce, and 2 year member of the GWB Cable Community Panel . It has been an honor to help guide WB Parks and support the development of such a broad spectrum of facilities and programs to meet the needs of our diverse community of residents and visitors alike. My experience as a hospitality professional and financial consultant guides me in making prudent spending decisions to safeguard tax payer dollars, generous donations and sponsorships, while striving for the long-term growth of our community. Attention to detail is paramount as staff creates fun and educational programming, healthy activities, safe facilities, all while helping to preserve the environment. West Bloomfield attracts so many who wish to live, raise families, open businesses, shop, visit, and play here. Our parks, trails and natural habitats are the crown jewels that help make our Township so welcoming. I am grateful to be a leader who continues to advance the decade's long successes of the WB Parks and R	 Innovation: Stay ahead of the curve by taking proactive measures to be creative as the emergence of sports, activities, educational interests, environmental matters, and technology change. Who we serve: Stay focused on offering services, programs and facilities to target all age groups, genders, cultures, and those with specials needs. Safety of People and Environment: Always place the physical and health safety of people and the environment as Item# 1 in all decision making.
<i>Democrat</i> ROBERT V. BROOKS 4715 Paisley Ct. West Bloomfield, MI 48322	DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION	

CANDIDATES for <u>PARK COMMISSIONER</u> Seven 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than SEVEN</i>	Question 1 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	Question 2 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?
Democrat JOHN A. ERICH 1919 Elsie West Bloomfield, MI 48324	I am a retired Human Service Professional having worked for the State and United Way Agencies providing a variety of programs for over 30 years in Oakland County. I have a Masters of Social Work from the University of Michigan specializing in Community Organization and am a founding member of the Oakland County Homeless Task Force, the Oakland County Child Abuse and Neglect Council and past president of the Sanctuary Run Away Shelter. I have also served on the Boards of the Rotating Emergency Shelter Program for the homeless, Oakland County Substance Abuse Advisory Council, Oakland County Community & Minority affairs Council. Currently, I am an activist with the Democratic Party in Oakland County recruiting, training and supporting Precinct Delegates. I am running for the Park Commission to use my experience to maintain and improve the programs provided at our West Bloomfield Parks especially as we begin to live in this Covid-19 time period. Our parks need to be used to their maximum to serve the variety of residents we have in our community from the youngest to the oldest. We need to be creative in providing services while maintaining our positive financial status.	 The top Priority Issues facing West Bloomfield's Parks are: 1. Keeping the ability to maintain and develop services during this time period of great change. 2. Staying focused on serving the needs and interests of our multi-racial, multi-ethnic and all ages of our community. 3. Remaining open to new ideas and ways to develop services throughout our community. I will bring my past professional experiences to the Park Commission Board and work with the Staff to achieve these 3 Top Priority issues.
Democrat VINCENT KIRKWOOD 6357 Odessa Dr. West Bloomfield, MI 48324	DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION	

CANDIDATES for <u>PARK COMMISSIONER</u> Seven 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than SEVEN</i>	Question 1 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	Question 2 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?
Democrat SALLY WENCZEL 5017 Lake Bluff Road West Bloomfield 48323	I've worked in communities where I didn't fit in right away and they let me know it. I've learned that you have to listen. You have to listen deeply to the stories and the needs of the people around you for guidance in order to execute the goals that you want to achieve. When I worked as Program Director at Penrose Art House & Art Garden in Detroit, I learned from my mentors to survey the pubic interest. I learned to use the childrens' ideas to create lesson plans and the parents' ideas for what community classes we should create. They become my teachers in so many ways and their lessons still resonate with me today. As a freelance writer, I tackled straight business news for years, interviewing small business owners about their passions. I moved on to environmental stories recently and interview local ecologists to create children's articles and create artwork to educate about the watershed, native plants and animals. I am always looking to learn something new through my writing and teaching. I hope I can continue to bring my experience and perspective to the commission. Sally Wenczel has served on the West Bloomfield Township Parks & Recreation Commission for four years.	 The health of our watershed is the health of us. It is our reflection. The more we instill this knowledge in our community, especially in our children, the more we can truly call this place a home that we can cherish and take pride in. My voice is heard in these matters. Biodiversity in plant life is vital to a thriving ecosystem, just as diversity in human populations makes a community healthy and strong. Sometimes we have to dig deep to understand each other and I am always willing to do that. Our public schools hold inside of them the minds and spirits that will shape this community's future. Our public learning institutions need our support now more than ever. It's time to step up, volunteer, come together and keep West Bloomfield Public Schools up to the high standards that they have always been.
<i>Republican</i> WILLIAM J. RAUWERDINK 5737 Templar Crossing West Bloomfield, MI 48322	DID NOT RESPOND IN	TIME FOR INCLUSION

CANDIDATES for <u>PARK COMMISSIONER</u> Seven 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than SEVEN</i>	Question 1 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Township office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	Question 2 (<u>150 Words or less</u>): What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your township and what actions would you, as a township official, take regarding each of them?
Republican LOIS SHULMAN 5532 Abington West Bloomfield, MI 48322	My work history continues to blend my skills with what brings me joy: 2020-present Editor, Community Mental Health of MI Connections Magazine; 2008-2019 Executive Board Member Oakand Community Health Network (OCHN), currently serving as Chair of OCHN's Citizens Advisory Committee and member of the Recipient Rights Committee; Substitute Teacher at Eton Academy, Roeper, West Bloomfield (WB), Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills Schools; Volunteer mediator in district courts and schools with the Oakland Mediation Center; Volunteer Lakeshore Longterm Care Ombudsman at WB nursing homes; Reg. Parliamentarian; Toastmaster public speaking; Eligibility Determination Committee and volunteer driver Freedom Road Transportation; and Volunteer Freedom Centers at Metro Airport serving those who serve us. I grew up in South Haven, Michigan playing in my beautiful backyard beside a ravine, riding my bike, interacting and appreciating nature's miracles all around me. My childhood roots in nature have been heightened by my walks in WB nature areas. I am passionate about hearing from everyone to value and implement their needs and desires re WB parks and programing for recreation and social interactions.	 The reopening of WB Parks and Programing under the guidance of the Restoration of Operations Procedural Manual. Implementation of timelines and use of resources should remain fluid to focus on the safety and well being of people as they enjoy the parks and the programing. The Commissioners' responsibility is to make sure that the leadership is in place to guide people through this process. Under the leadership of Director, Jennifer Tucker and her exemplary staff the community has been efficiently and responsibly served. Working through issues to ensure that adequate funding is available to sustain the parks, programs and social interactions that enhance our community. I would educate the community and advocate for appropriate funding to continue to support maintenance and innovation. Listening to the concerns of people will encourage collaboration. Adherence to the goals and spirit of the Strategic Plan. Transparent communication with people about the Strategic Plan, including where WB Parks and Recreation is going and why. Actively listening to people, and inviting them to the table, in the planning stage, to share their insight and perspective with leadership.
No Party Affiliation MICHELE HEMBREE 5590 Ridgewood Rd. West Bloomfield, MI 48322	DID NOT RESPOND IN	TIME FOR INCLUSION