

**VOTER GUIDE – AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE – 6th Circuit**

**Tuesday, August 4, 2020
POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OAKLAND AREA

Website: www.lwvoa.org **E-mail:** contact@lwvoa.org **Phone:** 248-594-6602

Go to www.LWVOA.org and

- 1) click on ‘Voter Guides’ then scroll down to ‘Judges’
for a link to additional candidate responses on www.OCBA.org website;
2) click on ‘Candidate Forums’ then scroll down to see forum for judicial candidates on 6/30*

3 Candidates for CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE OPEN SEAT for ONE 6-year Term

Vote for no more than ONE

The 6th Circuit Court includes all of Oakland County.

Question 1: Summarize your biography, including your education (degrees conferred, colleges and law school), career and employment experience, elected offices held, community service activity, organizational affiliations, and other pertinent information.	Question 2: Describe the general nature of your law practice or other legal work you have done, the typical clients you have represented, areas of specialty or concentration, and the geographic region of your practice.	Question 3: Why should voters elect (or re-elect) you to judicial office; what qualities (e.g. temperament, diligence, etc.) and experiences do you have that commend you to the judicial office you seek?
<p>CLARENCE DASS</p> <p>I served as Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the Oakland County Prosecutor’s Office from 2012-2016. I was a member of the Special Victims Unit, which prosecuted some of the most violent crimes in our county. After leaving the Prosecutor’s Office, I founded a law firm devoted to protecting individual’s rights and liberties.</p> <p>I have dedicated my entire career to serving our community. In 2017, I received the Leon Hubbard Community Service Award from the Oakland County Bar Association for “promoting cultural diversity, advancing social equality, and working to enhance the quality of life for all people.” In 2019, I received the Unsung Hero Award from the State Bar of Michigan for continuing to serve my clients and community while fighting (and beating) stage 4 colon cancer.</p>	<p>As a prosecutor, I appeared in every court in Oakland County and worked with every law enforcement agency and probation department in the county. I prosecuted serious crimes, including domestic violence, sexual assault, child and elder abuse, and murder.</p> <p>As an attorney, I have represented individuals in family, criminal, and business law primarily in Oakland County, but also throughout Michigan. I have advocated for treatment courts, fought for the civil rights of individuals, and sought to ensure a level-playing field for all in our justice system. I believe this kind of well-rounded experience is vital to the position of Judge.</p>	<p>Having been a prosecutor, defense attorney, and manager of a law firm, I have seen our justice system from many angles. I have diverse, well-rounded experience that will create empathy for every litigant and improve our justice system. I believe I have a temperament suited to serving as Judge, an appetite for hard work, and a devotion to service in my community.</p>

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE – 6th Circuit (Continued)

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<p>MAURA BATTERSBY MURPHY</p> <p>I graduated from Wylie E. Groves High School in Beverly Hills, Michigan in 2002. I went on to obtained my B.A. from the University of Michigan in 2006, and my J.D. from Marquette University Law School in 2009. I was a member of the Alpha Phi Omega (community service) Fraternity while at the University of Michigan and graduated with an honors designation for my community service. While at Marquette, I continued this service in the Public Interest Law Society, which included significant fundraising to assist fellow students in pursuing public interest careers. I have continued my service to my community in working to obtain necessary items and support for foster care children through the Judson Center, and in supporting pediatric and neo-natal research.</p>	<p>I have been a litigator for the last 11 years. I have litigated criminal, civil and family court matters, across jurisdictions. I began my legal career in Wisconsin, and litigated in all counties across the state, and in civil, criminal and family matters. I litigated civil matters in federal courts. In my practice here in Michigan, I primarily litigate in Oakland, Wayne, Macomb and Washtenaw counties. I spend most of my time in court, or taking depositions. I have experience in complex civil litigation, including cases involving fraud, significant injuries, and/or financial matters involving individuals of high net worth and complex financial claims.</p>	<p>My background qualifies me to be a great judge. I am the child of first-generation Americans, and understand the challenges of building a new life in a new country. I am the daughter of small business owners. My father runs the business his father started forty years ago. I understand the concerns of small businesses, and the importance of them to our economy. I am a mother, and active in my oldest son's school organizations. I am the product of public schools. I recognize the importance of excellent education to our future.</p>

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE – 6th Circuit (Continued)

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<p>LORIE SAVIN</p> <p>Degrees: University of Michigan, A.B. in Political Science and Sociology (1992); Wayne State University Law School, J.D. (1995).</p> <p>Career: Oakland County Friend of the Court Referee since 2003. 25-year legal career with an emphasis on family and juvenile law at a law firm, legal aid, and a non-profit organization. Represented clients in many other different types of legal matters. President of Referees Association of Michigan. Appointed to three State Bar of Michigan committees relating to ethics and professionalism, including 10 years on the Judicial Ethics Committee. Published author and speaker on ethics, family law, and cultural competency.</p> <p>Community: Resides with her husband and two daughters in West Bloomfield. Served as Doherty Elementary PTO Treasurer and Diversity Committee Chair. Temple Israel, NCJW, and 100+ Women member.</p>	<p>As a Family Division Referee in Oakland County, I have approximately 1,800 enforcement and evidentiary hearings related to custody, parenting time, and child support annually. I am a trained mediator and often use these skills to help parties reach an agreement. I resolve 99% of the matters without the parties needing to see their assigned judge. Additionally, I direct a team of six others and handle administrative tasks.</p> <p>Previously, I primarily represented adults in family and juvenile court matters in private practice and at legal aid, and children in abuse and neglect cases through a non-profit organization. I also served as a court-approved family law mediator. I have worked with clients from all different backgrounds, experiences, and income levels.</p>	<p>In my 17 years as a hearing officer, I have demonstrated an ability to conduct hearings impartially, patiently, and effectively in high-conflict cases. I am well-respected in the legal community because I am acknowledged as fair, knowledgeable, prepared, and providing well-reasoned and thorough recommendations based upon the law. I am hard-working and committed to providing excellent service to the public.</p> <p>My volunteer work with legal organizations demonstrates my commitment to ensuring everyone has equal access to the courts and is treated fairly in the legal system. It also demonstrates my belief that judges need to meet the high standards expected of them when placed in a position of such responsibility. I also commit to remain accessible and accountable to the voters that elect me.</p>

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 the stated word limitations. **Spelling and Grammar were not corrected.** The inclusion of candidates' statements and 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.