

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

KALAMAZOO AREA

P.O. Box 2106

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Non-Profit Organization

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2008 Voter Guide

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League of Women Voters



2008 General Election Voter Guide

**Non-Partisan Information for
National, State & Local Elections
November 4, 2008**

What's in this Guide?

Information About Voting

U.S. President & Vice President

U.S. Senate

Representative in Congress, 6th District

State Board of Education

University of Michigan Board of Regents

Michigan State University Board of Trustees

Wayne State University Board of Governors

Michigan Supreme Court Judge

Michigan Court of Appeals Judge, 3rd District

State Representative, 60th, 61st & 63rd Districts

Kalamazoo County Commission

Kalamazoo County Officials

Circuit Court Judge, 9th Circuit

District Court Judge, 8th District

Probate Judge

State Ballot Proposals

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Polling Places

This Voter Guide was prepared by the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area as a service to the voters. The League of Women Voters is a national non-partisan organization which encourages informed and active citizen participation in government. It never supports or opposes any political party or any candidate. The League does support issues after careful study without regard to the stand of any party. League positions on issues are never indicated in Voter Guides.

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This guide on line at: www.lwvka.org

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Vote Tuesday, November 4, 2008

Polls Open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Who May Vote?

All U.S. citizens at least 18 years of age by election day, who are registered at least 30 days before the election.

How?

The procedure involves four steps:

1. Complete an application to vote.
2. An election inspector checks your name against the list of registered voters for the precinct.
3. Show photo identification or sign an affidavit stating that you're eligible to vote.
4. Vote.

You may receive assistance when voting from anyone except an employer, union or their representatives. Election officials may assist you, in which case two inspectors (one from each major political party) will give assistance.

About Voter Identification

A new provision of Michigan election law requires voters to either present picture identification or sign an affidavit if they do not have picture identification with them.

To implement this requirement, precinct election workers will ask voters for photo identification at the polls. The following are acceptable forms of photo identification, assuming they are current and a picture is provided:

- Michigan driver's license or personal ID
- Non-Michigan driver's license or personal ID
- Federal or state government-issued ID
- U.S. passport
- Military ID
- Student ID—high school or accredited institution of higher education
- Tribal ID card

If the voter does not have an acceptable photo ID in his or her possession when offering to vote, that voter may sign an affidavit attesting that he or she is not in possession of a photo ID. A voter who completes an affidavit will be allowed to vote a regular ballot.

Write-in Candidates

To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the name of that person in the blank space provided for that office and darken the oval.

Votes for write-in candidates are counted only for persons who have declared their intent, at the appropriate jurisdiction, to be write-in candidates by 4 p.m. on the second Friday preceding the election.

Are You Registered & Who's on Your Ballot?

The Voter Information Center on the Michigan Secretary of State website allows voters to confirm their registration status, obtain information on the location of their polling place, view a sample ballot and obtain other election-related information. <https://services2.sos.state.mi.us/mivote/>

Editors' Note

The League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area (LWVKA) contacted local city and/or county clerks to identify proposals and candidates who will be on the ballot. Included were those known to have filed a declaration of intent to be write-in candidates at the time of printing this Voter Guide. We sought biographical information and answers to issue questions from each candidate. The word number limit for biographical information is 75 words unless otherwise indicated; limits for other answers accompany the questions for each office. An ellipsis and ending period (...) closes candidates' statements where their submitted responses exceeded those set limits. Responses were edited for spelling. "Did not respond in time for publication" or "Did not respond to question" follows the candidate's name when the League did not receive a requested reply.

Candidates in partisan races are listed according to the order in which their parties registered in Michigan. Other candidates are in alphabetical order, according to the office being sought. The League of Women Voters of Michigan provided information about national and state candidates; the League of Women Education Fund provided information about the Office of the President and candidates for President.

LWVKA publication of these candidate statements and opinions is solely in the interest of public service. No one should construe this service as a League endorsement in any way. The League of Women Voters takes no responsibility for any of the views or facts stated by the candidates.

Acknowledgments

The following organizations generously provided financial support for LWV voter service efforts, including this Voter Guide:

- First Community Federal Credit Union
- Kalamazoo Community Foundation/John E. Fetzer Institute Fund
- Harold and Grace Upjohn Foundation
- League of Women Voters of Kalamazoo Area Education Fund

Absentee Ballots

A voter may apply for an absentee ballot by 2:00 pm the Saturday before the election, either by letter or in person at the appropriate city or township clerk's office. In case of emergency after that day, contact the clerk's office.

You are eligible to vote absentee if you:

- are 60 years of age or more.
- expect to be absent from the area during the time the polls are open.
- are unable to go to the polls and vote without the assistance of another person.
- cannot attend the polls because of your religious beliefs.
- are an election inspector in another precinct.
- are confined in jail or prison awaiting arraignment or trial.

How do I receive the ballot?

You can obtain an absent voter ballot by writing to the clerk of the city or township in which you are registered to vote. Ballots cannot be supplied through telephone requests. Your written request must include:

- Your name
- The date of the election
- The address where you are registered to vote.
- The reason why you are requesting an absent voter ballot.
- The address where you wish to receive your ballot. (This must be your registration address, an address outside of your jurisdiction of registration, a hospital, or some other type of residential institution.)
- Your signature and the date of your request.

Blank absent voter ballot applications can be obtained through your city or township clerk. Members of the armed forces and their spouses and dependents, members of the Merchant Marine and their spouses and dependents, and U.S. citizens temporarily living or traveling outside the territorial limits of the United States must sign the Federal Post Card Application under oath to obtain an absent voter ballot.

When must absent voter ballots be returned to the clerk?

Voters may cast their absentee ballots in the clerk's office until 4:00 pm on Monday before the election. Ballots must be received in the clerk's office by 8:00 p.m. on election day. There are instructions included with the ballot regarding who is eligible to return a ballot on behalf of a voter. For further information, contact your city or township clerk.

Your Rights As A Voter

When you go to vote anywhere in the United States, you should be able to expect fair and decent treatment. That includes:

- Equal treatment and opportunity to register and vote, regardless of race, religion, national origin, sex or disability;
- Privacy—only you should know how you voted;
- Having your vote accurately recorded and counted;
- If you have a disability, access to a voting device you can use, and appropriate assistance;
- Assistance in voting from poll workers if you request it;
- Courtesy from poll workers and others at the polling place.

Excerpt from: Navigating Election Day—What Every Voter Need to Know; 2004 League of Women Voters of the United States

**The stakes are too high
for government to be a
spectator sport.**

Barbara Jordan

How can I vote if...?

... I'm homeless

When you register to vote, you may use the address of the shelter where you sleep or the two nearest cross-streets to where you sleep at night.

... I have a criminal record

Unless you're currently incarcerated after conviction, you can vote. Ex-offenders automatically regain the right to vote after completion of a prison sentence. It is recommended that ex-offenders update their voter registration after they leave jail or prison.

... I'm awaiting trial in jail

You can vote by absentee ballot. Your local clerk, if asked, will send you an application for an absentee ballot and you can have your ballot sent to you.

... I'm in the military

If you're out of state in the military, your last Michigan voter registration is still valid. For instructions and assistance, visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program at <http://www.fvap.gov/>. If you registered to vote by mail from outside the U.S., you can vote by absentee ballot and the voter registration deadline of October 6 does not apply to you. This provision also applies to spouses and dependents of members of the armed forces.

... I'm a college student living away from home

You must register to vote where you maintain your principal residence in the state. You can register at your campus address or your address where you previously resided if that is still your "principal" residence. If you have a Michigan Driver's License, your license address must be the same as your voter registration address and changing one of those addresses will automatically change the other. If you want to change where you're registered to vote, do it 30 days before the election so you'll be on the list at the polls on election day.

If you register to vote at home and want to vote by absentee ballot, you need to either register to vote in person at the local clerk's office or a Secretary of State branch office or visit the clerk's office before you ask for an absentee ballot so that the clerk can verify your ID.

... English is not my primary language

In two townships in Michigan, ballots printed in Spanish are required: Clyde Twp. in Allegan County and Buena Vista Twp. in Saginaw County. However, other areas may have them available, and requests for non-English ballots should go to your county clerk. You are allowed to bring someone to the polls with you to assist you in reading the ballot.

**The League of Women Voters
is where hands-on work
to safeguard democracy
leads to civic improvement.**

For questions relating to the election process, contact your local Clerk or visit the Michigan Secretary of State website <http://www.michigan.gov/sos>

Alamo Township	Garilyn Sportel-Bogard	382-3366
Brady Township	Cande Vermeulen	649-1813
Charleston Township	Linda Kramer	665-7805
Climax Township	Marcia Lewis	746-4103
Comstock Township	Anna Scott Goodsell, CMC	381-2360
Cooper Township	Bonnie L. Sytsma	382-0223
Kalamazoo Township	Donald Z. Thall, CMC	381-8080
Oshtemo Township	Deborah L. Everett, CMC	375-4260
Pavilion Township	Karen E. Hayward	327-0462
Prairie Ronde Township	Michael Rochholz	679-5666
Richland Township	Jacqueline Light	629-4921
Ross Township	Martha Chambers	731-4888
Schoolcraft Township	Virginia M. Mongreig	649-1276
Texas Township	Linda M. Kerr, CMC	375-1591
Wakeshma Township	Jerry Hamelink	778-3728
Galesburg City	Debbie Miner, CMC	665-7000
Kalamazoo City	Scott A. Borling, CMC	337-8793
		TDD 1-800-649-3777
Parchment City	Curtis Flowers, CMC	349-3785
Portage City	James R. Hudson, CMC	329-4511

Sus Derechos Como Votante

Cuando vota en cualquier lugar del país, usted merece que lo traten equitativa y decentemente. Esto incluye:

- Tratamiento equitativo y la oportunidad de inscribirse en el padrón electoral y votar, sin distinción de raza, religión, nacionalidad de origen, sexo o discapacidad;
- Privacidad, solo usted sabrá como voto;
- Oportunidad de que su voto se registre y compute correctamente;
- Si es discapacitado, acceso a un dispositivo para votar que pueda utilizar y la ayuda necesaria;
- Si lo solicita, ayuda para votar de uno de las personas a cargo de las mesas electorales;
- Cortesía por parte de los encargados de las mesas y del resto de las personas en el recinto electoral.

El Día de Elecciones: Información Para Todos Los Votantes; 2004 Liga de las Mujeres Votantes

President of the United States

Ground Rules

1. All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to five issue specific questions. Candidates were qualified if they met the following criteria: 1) the candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President; and 2) the candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes; and, 3) the candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the FEC Web site as of August 8, 2008.

2. Responses were limited to 50 words and truncated after the 50th word.

About the Office of President

Salary: \$400,000 per year

Term: Four years. Limit of two terms.

How Elected: Every four years political parties nominate candidates to run for President of the United States in a general election that is held on the first Tuesday in November of years divisible by the number four. Candidates may also directly petition each state individually to gain access to the ballot. The way the voters cast their ballots for President and Vice President determines how the members of the Electoral College will vote.

Duties: The President is the head of state of the United States of America and is the

Chief Executive Officer and the Commander in Chief of all military forces. The powers of the President are described in the Constitution and federal law. Subject to Senate approval, the President appoints the members of the Cabinet, ambassadors to other nations and the United Nations, Supreme Court Justices and federal judges. The President, along with the Cabinet and its agencies, is responsible for carrying out and enforcing the laws of the United States. The President may also recommend legislation to the United States Congress.

Electoral College

The Electoral College was established by the founding fathers as a compromise between election of the president by Congress and election by popular vote. Voters actually cast their ballot for electors who then vote for the President and Vice President. Every four years, the 538 members of the Electoral College, a little known feature of our Constitution, meet in their respective states to perform their sole constitutional function: to elect the President and Vice-President of the United States. Under the Electoral College system, almost all of the states award their electoral votes on a winner take-all basis, so that the candidate who receives the most popular votes in a state receives all of that state's electoral votes. Two ballots are taken, with each elector casting one vote for the President and one for the Vice-President. Electors almost always vote for the candidates to whom they have been pledged. However, the Constitution does not bind them to do so.

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President/Vice President of the United States

4-Year Term — Vote for One (1) pair

John McCain/Sarah Palin

Republican
www.johnmccain.com

Barack Obama/Joe Biden

Democrat
www.barackobama.com

Bob Barr/Wayne A. Root

Libertarian
www.bobbarr2008.com

Ralph Nader/Matt Gonzalez

Natural Law
www.votenader.org

Chuck Baldwin/Darrell L. Castle

U.S. Taxpayers
www.baldwin08.com

Cynthia McKinney/Rosa Clemente

Green
www.votetruth08.com

Three presidential candidates who met the criteria described in the Ground Rules on page 3 submitted their answers to the following questions:

- 1. GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE:** What, if anything, do you believe the federal government should do to control global climate change?
- 2. COST OF HEALTH CARE:** What should be done at the federal level, if anything, to combat the high cost of health care?
- 3. ECONOMIC DISPARITY:** What, if anything, should the federal government do about the growing economic disparity between the middleclass and the well-to-do?
- 4. EDUCATION:** What, if anything, should the federal government do to create the world's best educational system for all children in America?
- 5. U.S. STRATEGY – RISING GLOBAL POWERS:** What should the U.S. strategy be towards rising global powers like Russia and China?

JOHN MCCAIN

Republican

WEB SITE: www.johnmccain.com

BIOGRAPHY: John McCain graduated from the Naval Academy and served for 22 years as a naval aviator. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1982 and the Senate in 1986. He has served as chairman of the Commerce Committee and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee.

1. I support developing a cap-and-trade system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 60% by 2050, providing tax credits for alternative energy, promoting zero-carbon nuclear power, reducing the federal government's carbon footprint, funding research into clean-coal technology, and offering incentives for America's automobile industry to develop electric cars.
2. Under my plan, American families will receive \$5,000 tax credits to purchase insurance, either through employers or the private market—insurance that can follow them if they change jobs or leave the workforce. I will work for reforms to lower costs and provide coverage to Americans with pre-existing conditions.
3. We must spur growth, create jobs, improve educational attainment, and enhance financial security. My plan will keep income and payroll taxes low, reduce the price of gas, double the dependent exemption, bring down health-care costs, give deserving homeowners new fixed mortgages, slash our high business taxes, and expand trade.
4. Our education system must focus on standards, accountability, and choice. My plan calls for recruiting highly qualified teachers in the neediest communities, empowering parents to choose the best schools for their children, expanding online educational opportunities, providing low-income families with access to tutors, and funding professional development for teachers.
5. As President, I will work to establish good relations with other nations. At the same time, I will stand up for democratic values and human rights, and I will oppose aggression and international lawlessness that threaten our security.

RALPH NADER

Independent

WEB SITE: votenader.org

BIOGRAPHY: Attorney, author, and consumer advocate, named by Time Magazine one of the "100 Most Influential Americans in the 20th Century." Over 4 decades of public service. Helped establish the OSHA, EPA, Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Safe Drinking Water Act, Motor Vehicle Safety Act, and Freedom of Information Act.

1. The government should stop subsidizing fossil fuels: oil, electric and coal mining interests. Invest in renewable energy that is efficient, sustainable, and environmentally friendly: wind and solar power. Encourage more efficient automobiles, homes and businesses. Ratify the Kyoto Protocol. Create an independent Oceanic Protection Agency. Adopt a carbon pollution tax.
2. Adopt a private delivery, free choice of hospital and doctor, single payer public health insurance system. This would save \$350 billion annually by eliminating exorbitant executive pay, advertising, computerized billing fraud and abuse, and apply those savings to comprehensively cover everyone without increasing taxpayer costs. Lower costs through bulk purchasing.
3. Unfair legislation allows the middle class to suffer while the rich entrench their status. To correct this we should enact a living \$10 wage, adopt a fair tax, and provide equal pay for women. We must end corporate subsidies and bailouts. Repeal NAFTA and the anti-union Taft/Hartley Law.
4. Increase civic education and decrease standardized testing. Repeal "No Child Left Behind" Act. Do not tie test performance to school funding. Provide full funding for pre-school and nutrition programs. Get product marketing out of the schools. Ensure that the nation's crumbling schools are repaired within 3 years.
5. The US should be a humanitarian superpower. Our foreign policy must redefine global security, peace, arms control, an end to nuclear weapons and expand the many assets of our country to assist with major initiatives against global infectious diseases. Stop support of foreign dictators. Human rights come before trade, profit.

BARACK OBAMA

Democrat

WEB SITE: www.barackobama.com

BIOGRAPHY: Obama began his career as a community organizer on Chicago's South Side and headed a voter registration drive. Obama practiced civil rights law and taught constitutional law. He served eight years in the State Senate before his election to the U.S. Senate. He graduated from Columbia University and Harvard Law.

1. I believe the federal government should pursue multiple paths to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the threat of global climate change, including implementing aggressive cap and trade requirements to reduce U.S. emissions by 80% from 1990 levels and investing heavily in clean energy and advanced vehicle technologies.
2. My healthcare plan will make aggressive investments in cost-cutting technologies and will place more focus on prevention and chronic care management. The net result will be to bring down the costs of healthcare spending by \$2,500 for a typical family, annually, and lower the expense of Medicare's services.
3. I will cut taxes for the middle class and roll back some of the Bush tax cuts for those making over \$250,000 to restore fairness to the tax code. I will make long term public investments in R&D, clean energy, infrastructure, and manufacturing to create millions of good-paying jobs.
4. I will strengthen public schools by expanding early childhood education, reforming and funding No Child Left Behind, recruiting and rewarding high-quality teachers, and expanding afterschool and summer learning opportunities. I will create a \$4,000 American Opportunity Tax Credit and expand financial aid to make higher education affordable for all.
5. We must enhance our abilities both to collaborate and compete with China, while being vigilant about China's military modernization and respect for human rights. As we seek a future of clear-eyed engagement with Russia, we must ensure Russia acts as a force for progress, not regression to past conflicts.

Remember to Vote November 4!

United States Senate

Six-Year Term — Vote for 1

Candidates were asked to summarize their backgrounds in 75 words and were allotted 75 words to answer each question. If the candidate did not reply by the required date for publication, the words, "Did not respond in time for publication" appear under the candidate's name.

1. What should the federal government do, if anything, to ensure that every American has health coverage?

Jack Hoogendyk, Jr.

Republican

Background: I have 15 years experience in sales and marketing, including several years in sales management. I have years experience as the director of a faith-based non-profit organization. I have 8 years experience in government; two years as a county commissioner, and six years as a state representative. I have been married 32 years; have five children, and seven grandchildren.

1. The government should ease regulations on things like purchasing health insurance across state lines and allowing insurance premiums by individuals to be fully deductible. We should get rid of mandated coverage for things the insured will never use. We should deny any medical care for illegal immigrants, other than emergency care.
2. We should encourage, through tax incentives, the development of alternative energy. Other than that, we should encourage domestic production of nuclear energy and domestic gas and oil.
3. Lowering the corporate tax rate from 35% (2nd highest in the world) to 12.5%, matching the lowest in the world. This would bring millions of jobs to America, including Michigan. We should also advocate for Michigan to become a "right-to-work" state.

Carl Levin

Democrat

Carl was born in Detroit and attended Detroit public schools. He is a graduate of Swarthmore College and Harvard Law School. Before being elected to the Senate, Carl served as Michigan assistant attorney general and general counsel for the Michigan Civil Rights Commission from 1964-67. He was special assistant attorney general for the State of Michigan and chief appellate defender 1968-69. Member of the Detroit City Council from 1970-77, the last four years as Council President.

1. Senator Levin believes that we have a moral obligation to ensure that all Americans have access to affordable, quality health care and he has fought for, and will continue to fight, to ensure this becomes a reality.
2. Senator Levin believes we need a long-term comprehensive energy policy that will decrease our dependence on foreign oil and reduce climate change emissions while promoting use of renewable energy sources and environmentally responsible domestic production of conventional energy sources. The federal government has a key role in the development of advanced energy and automotive technologies, both in providing funds for development and in being an early adopter of advanced technology. Tax incentives are critical for...
3. Senator Levin will continue to push for economic policies that promote manufacturing and trade policies that will create a level playing field for our manufacturers. Senator Levin is supportive of a comprehensive plan called the American Manu-

facturing Initiative that will help produce new manufacturing jobs, advanced automotive technologies, renewable non-polluting energy sources, and energy independence.

Scotty Boman

Libertarian

I'm a Life-long Michigander. In 1997, the Detroit News endorsed my Detroit City Council candidacy. I've been an educator for 19 years. I'm a professor at Wayne County Community College District and Macomb Community College. I received a BS in Physics and Philosophy from WMU in 1985, and an MA in Physics from there in 1987. I earned an MAT from WSU in 1999, where I was also elected to Student Council.

1. The Democratic and Republican run Federal government currently interferes with citizens' access to healthcare. This includes restricting the informed sale of nutritional supplements, and jailing people for medical Marijuana in states where it is legal. Their monetary policy has inflated the cost of everything, including health care. The Federal government has no Constitutional authority to control or provide healthcare. Return authority to the people and the states, as the Constitution requires.
2. The Federal government should get out of the way and withdraw to its Constitutional limits: It should end subsidies to Oil Companies, stop taxing the development of renewable energy sources, and promptly approve new patents for energy saving devices. It should lift the moratorium on domestic breeder reactors. Breeder reactors produce more fuel, in place of nuclear waste. A free market economy provides the best sustainable mechanism for encouraging sound and ethical energy choices.
3. The major parties have continued on this reckless course like a canoe team riding the rapids to Niagara Falls: Deficit spending, paying off debt by printing money, imprisoning large portions of the population, and wasting our resources and lives on unprovoked military crusades. This can't go on. Instead, I support a more rational comprehensive plan: Free market reforms such as eliminating the Income Tax, balancing the budget, restoring hard money, and reducing burdensome regulations.

Doug Dern

Natural Law

Did not respond in time for publication.

Michael N. Nikitin

US Taxpayers

Did not respond in time for publication.

Harley G. Mikkelson

Green

I was born in Minnesota but have lived in Michigan since 1954. I am married, have five children, a BS from MSU, and am an Army veteran who spent a year in Vietnam. I am a retired State of Michigan employee who worked for the Departments of Community Health, Education, and Human Services. I have also worked on farms, in factories, and for the Post Office. I was an active AFSCME and UAW member.

1. We need to remove the responsibility for providing health care coverage from employers by having the federal government expand Medicare to include everyone. This expanded Medicare needs to pay for prescription drugs. This expanded Medicare would be paid for by taxpayers based on their ability to pay by a progressive income tax along with co pays based on a person's income level.
2. The era of cheap fossil fuels has past and the quickest way for the federal government to help people realize this is to institute a carbon tax. I am in favor of instituting a carbon tax of 20 cents per gallon of gasoline and raising it 20 cents per year every year for the next ten years. The proceeds from the tax would be used to subsidize public transportation.
3. We need Fair Trade not Free Trade. We need to repeal all unfair trade agreement. We should not be freely importing goods into this country which are produced by workers earning less than our minimum wage or from countries which do not meet our environmental protection standards. We also need a Corporate Responsibility Law which would make corporation responsible for the economic losses to communities and individuals when they relocate factories.

For more information on Michigan Elections, go to:

www.mivoterpower.org



A project of the League of Women Voters of Michigan

U.S. House of Representatives, 6th District

Two-Year Term — Vote for 1

Candidates were asked to summarize their backgrounds in 75 words and were allotted 75 words to answer each question. If the candidate did not reply by the required date for publication, the words, "Did not respond in time for publication" appear under the candidate's name.

1. What should the federal government do, if anything, to ensure that every American has health coverage?

2. What should be done, if anything, at the federal level to reduce our use of and dependence on fossil fuels?

3. What measures would you support at the federal level that would help our Michigan economy?

Fred Upton

Republican

Did not respond in time for publication.

Don Cooney

Democrat

Associate Professor WMU (32 years); Kalamazoo City Commissioner for last 11 years; M.Div. (Mary Immaculate Seminary); M.A. (Fordham); Ph.D. (Bryn Mawr). Married 15 years to Kathy Cooney; 23 year old son, Nathaniel; Assistant Director, Lewis Walker Institute for Race and Ethnic Relations (WMU); Born in Philadelphia; Community Organizer in Brooklyn and Philadelphia (1964-1975) Founding Member of Kalamazoo Living Wage Coalition, Communities in Schools, Poverty Reduction Initiative; Committee member of American Friends Service Committee Southern Africa...

1. This nation spends far more than any other industrialized nation on health insurance and we have 47 million uninsured and at least 50 million with inadequate insurance. Too much is wasted on paperwork and bureaucracy. We need health care which emphasizes prevention, is universal, comprehensive, accessible and affordable. Health care is a right not a commodity. We need a universal, single payer system.
2. We need action in 4 areas: a) We need a man-on-the-moon effort to develop renewable energy. Michigan has enormous potential to develop wind power. We need to capitalize on that and dramatically expand use of solar, geo-thermal, bio-fuels. b) Conservation. We can make huge savings through conservation, Government support for insulation, retrofitting homes and buildings. c) Restructuring automobile manufacturing so we can significantly increase our miles per gallon. d) Revive our commitment to Public Transportation.
3. Our economy generates 14 trillion dollars a year. From 1992 to 2000 the average working family's annual income increased \$7500. Since 2001 it has decreased \$2500 while the richest 1% quadrupled their wealth. We need to redirect this economy to

invest in our human and physical infrastructure. A new energy policy, rebuilding our infrastructure, universal health care would generate thousands of jobs. Greater investment in education and skill development will equip our people for the...

Greg Merle

Libertarian

Greg attended Central Michigan University and served as a Reservist in the United States Marine Corps. He has also served as President of Kappa Alpha Psi (Social Fraternity), Sigma Delta Pi (Honors Fraternity) and Masonic lodge #33. Greg also attended the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy but found his talents were better utilized in his passions for Salsa and sales.

1. Very little and get the hell out of the way. As long as someone else is paying the bills for these health care costs, the problem of health care costs will steadily increase. This I guarantee. A health care voucher system would go a LONG way in bringing prices down. Only then can doctors, hospitals and pharma compete for our business, subsequently improving care.
2. Get out of the way. The free market will easily solve this problem but politicians have to get out of the way and allow the brilliance of our creators create. Necessity is the mother of invention. One can not legislate with the stroke of a pen a new cleaner, renewable fuel. If there is way to do it, I promise you it will come from the private sector and not some government bureaucrat making promises...
3. Without haste I would fully and wholeheartedly support the Fair Tax. This is a tax policy that has been studied for 20 years by hundreds of economist and would guarantee reinvestment in Michigan (and keep others from leaving) as well as every other state in the US. The details can be found at fairtax.org and has over a million supporters.

Edward Pinkney

Green

Born 10/27/48; married to Dorothy. Assistant minister; head of BANCO (Black Autonomy Network Community Organization) for six years. Under Rev. Pinkney's leadership, BANCO has monitored local and county courtrooms and council chambers, worked to bring jobs to Benton Harbor, helped hundreds of Benton Harbor citizens register to vote, led a successful recall campaign against a Benton Harbor City Commissioner. Rev. Pinkney continues to speak about injustices experienced by Benton Harbor citizens.

1. "Health coverage" is not enough. We must ensure that everyone in this country has high-quality health care. Greens support publicly-funded single-payer universal health care, including nursing home care where needed. And we explicitly affirm a woman's right to an abortion. Political, social, and economic equality between men and women is a fundamental Green value. Health care and insurance should not be connected to gender - or employment status.
2. Focus on the future beyond the bottom line of the next quarter's profit. Stop subsidizing unnecessary, unsustainable consumption - of all kinds of energy. Encourage conservation, and more efficient use of what energy we do use. Raise CAFE standards; lower the boom on those who gather windfall profits at the people's expense. Build community-centered economies with local renewable power supplies - to make sure we don't transport goods, people, or fuel more than we absolutely must.
3. First and foremost, stop the unjustified, undeclared "war". Support our troops by bringing them home. That way, we can also keep at home the hundreds of billions of dollars both Republicans and Democrats in Washington have sunk into destroying, then rebuilding other nations. Michigan's fair share of the savings can help rebuild Michigan's economy. A true peace dividend, at last, can spur investment in the people and the jobs of a new, local, sustainable economy.

State Board of Education

Eight-Year Term — Vote for 2

Candidates were asked to summarize their backgrounds in 75 words and were allotted 75 words to answer each question. If the candidate did not reply by the required date for publication, the words, "Did not respond in time for publication" appear under the candidate's name.

1. Parents recognize that a high school diploma alone is insufficient to meet the demands of a changing economy. What role, if any, should the Board of Education have in promoting and ensuring that Michigan

students have the skills to be successful in the 21st century?

2. What long term evaluation plans should be in place to assess the results arising from the implementation of the more rigorous high school graduation requirements?

3. What measures should be taken to encourage the development of qualified Mathematics and Science teachers and to encourage young students to enter these fields?

Scott Jenkins

Republican

Scott Jenkins has worked for over 15 years for both the state and federal government, culminating his public sector work as a Deputy Assistant Secretary at the United States Department of Education. Recently, he led a comprehensive school district renewal initiative, working with the Pontiac School District Board of Education. He is a member of Rotary and the Williamston Schools Foundation. He is married with two teenage children enrolled in the Williamston School District.

1. Research has shown that opinion leaders need to

work much harder to convince Michigan parents that education past high school is necessary for students to meet the demands of an increasingly competitive economy. The state board should lead public opinion on this very important issue. Providing parents and educators with the clear evidence to support college and career readiness of students is one way the board can help.

2. The Board should be looking at student and school data from elementary and middle schools to make sure that students are on an educational trajectory to meet the increased demands of the

new curriculum. Students who are falling behind should be provided academic supports and tutoring to keep them on pace to succeed. Teachers should be provided professional development and instructional tools to make sure that teaching is clear and expectations are met.

3. Michigan must now begin to support real alternative certification to recruit and retain nontraditional candidates into the classroom. Mathematicians, chemists, automotive engineers, accountants and others from the downsized automotive industry should be recruited and trained to pro-

State Board of Education, continued

vide high quality instruction. Real life examples of how math and science can be used in business and industry will inspire students to enter these fields.

Richard Zeile

Republican

Raised 4 children in NW Detroit. "Dr. Z" has taught & administered Detroit-area parochial and charter schools for 25 years, helping organize Old Redford Academy, and serving as president of Woodward Academy, noted Detroit charter schools. Education: U of M. (MA), WSU (Ed.Spec.), an MTS Harvard, a Doctor of Ministry Ecumenical T.S. Worked for the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, and has written journal articles on charter school law & school choice, published curricula and devotional writings.

1. The State Board should be primarily concerned with student skills as demonstrated on standardized tests and other objective criteria. The skills to be successful in the 21st century are those which ensured success in the 19th century to Henry Ford. These include reading, written expression, arithmetic, underpinned by moral character formation. These skills are manifest in the ability to listen and follow directions. These are the skills, lacking which, lead to failure both in school ...
2. Long term evaluation plans of high school requirements should include a permanent electronic data base of all students in the state with complete history of test scores both standardized and criterion-referenced. Follow up random testing of adults will assess skill retention and garner graduates' own assessment of the usefulness of the training and skills. Reliable studies need to be done on the relationship of workplace skills and scholastic training.
3. As in colleges, elementary and secondary schools may have to pay more for skills and certifications that are rare. Scholarships may be earmarked for mathematics and science majors which will help such graduates financially and add prestige to degrees to these areas. These may take the form of loan deferment/forgiveness for those who teach in these fields.

John Austin

Democrat

John Austin is Vice-President of the Michigan State Board of Education, and director of the New Economy Initiative for Southeast Michigan. In recent years he serves as the Policy Director for the Cherry Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth. John and his wife of 21 years Terese live in Ann Arbor, and have three children. Has a Masters in Public Administration, Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government, and BA, Swarthmore College. <http://www.austinfoforstateboard.com/index.php>

1. The State Board has developed and Michigan has made law the common, high learning expectations which reflect exactly the competencies needed for both college, technical training and the workplace. The State Board will continue to promote high school reform so our schools are smaller, more engaging and relevant for all students—and able to help them meet and exceed our learning expectations.
2. The evaluation of these reforms—is in the results they produce. We will be able to track and see more students taking the ACT (now part of their high school Michigan Merit Exam), their scores going up, and more going on to postsecondary education. We will see fewer, not more dropouts, as our schools engage our students with high

expectations for learning, and they see the possibility of college

3. The State Board of Education, under our leadership, has recently made reforms that require our teacher preparation institutions to prepare math and science instructors more rigorously, at all levels of our K-12 learning system—so they are able to excite the next generation of math and science learners. We are also expanding science, math and technology education at all levels; helping our current teachers learn how to deliver this content in fun and challenging ways.

Kathleen Straus

Democrat

State Board, two terms. Experience: Staff Director, State Senate Education Committee; Associate Director, Government Relations, Michigan Assn. Of School Boards; President, Center for Creative Studies; Director, Detroit Model Neighborhood Agency, Community Renewal Program; Director, Social Services, SEMCOG; President, League of Women Voters of Detroit; Board Member, LWV of Michigan; Economist, U.S. Treasury Department, Federal Reserve Bank of N.Y.; Junior High Teacher. BA Hunter College; graduate studies at U of M, Columbia and American Universities. Mother and grandmother.

1. As a member of the State Board I have worked very hard to increase academic standards at all levels of the education system. The new high school curriculum is a prime example. Some have questioned the increased math and science requirements, but research indicates students need the same knowledge—Math (Algebra I & II) and science—to enter college or the workforce. The Board should continue to promote strong academic standards.
2. Ongoing assessment of the more rigorous high school graduation requirements is important. There are a number of areas we can look at in addition to the statewide standardized tests to see if students are succeeding. We can look at increases in ACT scores and changes in high school drop-out rates. We can try to assess if students are better prepared for college by looking at how many complete their first year.
3. Developing good math and science teachers starts in elementary school. If students are excited about the subjects, have fun, and see science and math in the everyday world, we have a better chance of developing future teachers in those areas. The State Board should continue to work with Teacher Preparation Institutions to change the way elementary school teachers are prepared. We also need to think of incentives such as loan forgiveness to encourage more teachers.

Bill Hall

Libertarian

*Attorney/partner in Warner Norcross & Judd, one of Michigan's largest private law firms, specializing in real estate and election law. More than 25 years experience with Warner Norcross advising individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations. Managed my firm's Real Estate Services Group for more than 10 years—approximately 40 attorneys/paralegals. Boy Scout leader more than 14 years. Honors graduate of Northwestern University School of Law and Wabash College. Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*.*

1. Make traditional schools improve or close, by fostering more competition—eliminate all regulation of private and home schools, eliminate caps on numbers of charter schools, and limit regula-

tion of charter schools to those absolutely necessary to track public funding. Promote local control of schools by school boards, parents and taxpayers, and encourage the choice and diversity that result, by eliminating state mandates and freeing them to experiment with academic programs that work best for them.

2. I would eliminate state-mandated graduation requirements. As the people who know, and care the most, local school boards, parents and taxpayers should be free to educate their children as they see fit. The state has no superior knowledge in this respect.
3. Mathematics and Science instruction are casualties of the states overemphasis on funding administrators, sports programs, and other non-academic programs, to the detriment of what are important—academic programs designed to provide a vigorous foundation in educational basics. We should be funding teachers, not administrators and coaches. We should be funding classrooms and laboratories, not administrative offices and athletic facilities.

Jeff A. Steinport

Libertarian

Did not respond in time for publication.

Karen Adams

US Taxpayers

Did not respond in time for publication.

Gail M. Graeser

US Taxpayers

Did not respond in time for publication.

Dwain Reynolds III

Green

I grew up in the small town of Middleville, MI where I attended the Thornapple Kellogg school district (2004 graduate). Currently I am working as a day care teacher for school age kids and am attending WMU in order to obtain my degree in Secondary Education with a major in U.S. History and a minor in Geography.

1. The Board of Education needs to create an egalitarian, multicultural, multilingual, class-conscious, comprehensive K-12 curriculum that accommodates the wide range of teaching and learning styles. With the inclusion of mandatory vocational and fine arts courses at all levels (in order to create well rounded students). Along with the Mandatory reduction of class sizes to no larger than 20 students per teacher; also updating of all school textbooks and other learning-related materials every three years.
2. Newly rebuilt school boards (containing students, parents, teachers, school workers, and community members) will build a "questionnaire". Given every two years to students, teachers, alumni, and members of the community (non-mandatory) in order to evaluate different aspects of the school and make sure current and future needs are met.
3. Free, quality and universal public education, from pre-kindergarten through post-graduate studies, including open admissions with the abolition of tuition and fees at all public universities. Will make it possible for students wishing to become math and science teachers the ability to do so; while also granting everyone the ability to obtain the career in which they desire.

University of Michigan Regents

Eight-Year Term — Vote for 2

Candidates were asked to summarize their backgrounds in 75 words and were allotted 75 words to answer each question. If the candidate did not reply by the required date for publication, the words, "Did not respond in time for publication" appear under the candidate's name.

1. What role should this university play in the economic development of the state of Michigan?

2. Given the current economic climate, what measures will you support to make education more affordable for students and their parents without sacrificing quality?

3. What is the most important issue facing this public university today and what is your position on that issue?

Susan Brown

Republican

U of M graduate, 1963 (BA) degree. Susan has served on the U of M President's Advisory Board and is currently on the Boards of the U of M Museum of Art and Ford School of Public Policy. She is a lifetime member of the Alumni Association. In addition to her service to the U of M she has served as trustee of Kalamazoo College, the founder and President of the Kalamazoo Historic Conservancy for the Preservation of Art, is a member of...

1. A positive future for Michigan depends upon developing a knowledge-based economy. Michigan is the engine behind the state's economy and has the ability to become a leader in technology transfer; the spinning off of University sponsored research into viable businesses, which create jobs. Today Michigan is a \$5 billion enterprise and the 3rd largest employer in Michigan with 40,000 employees on its payroll. Its success and viability is crucial to the revival of Michigan's economy.
2. With a University the size of Michigan a single issue is difficult to name. However most of the issues revolve around financial matters; rising cost of tuition with declining state support. Michigan is aware of the importance of holding down tuition. In this present campaign Michigan put almost \$800 million into the endowment to support many areas is most admirable and that over \$400 million was put into the endowment for student support is unbelievable.
3. In order to maintain the quality of U of M's education Michigan must continue looking for alternative revenue. Along with the successful transfer of technology in which the University can claim an ownership interest, the partnerships and programming at the satellite campus's, renewing and solidifying relationships with alumni and supporters along with their aggressive fundraising campaigns, U of M has a bright future. Fundraising for student aid is one of their highest priorities.

John G. LaFond

Republican

An Upper Peninsula native, I received a BSE (Aerospace) and an MBA from U of M. I gained broad experience with 30+ years of Ford Motor executive engineering and business career; culminating as Director of Ford/U of M Program Development Office resulting in extensive knowledge of U of M academic and business operations. I received the 2006 U of M Distinguished Alumni Award and currently serve as chairman of the U of M Aerospace Engineering Advisory Team. For more information please visit www.VoteLaFond.com.

1. The University has three crucial roles to play: to provide a stimulating and challenging educational environment which prepares graduates to meet the challenges of a global Michigan economy; to help create new business enterprises arising through the deployment of intellectual capital from a multitude of University resources; and to help develop a state infrastructure that will keep the best and brightest graduates in Michigan as

entrepreneurs for the future.

2. I will support the enactment of business principles and strategies that will provide a new focus on cost and spending controls, the initiation of new ideas to increase both existing and new sources of revenue streams to help deal with decreasing state funding, and the development of a more dynamic and accurate business model that addresses the impact of a global economy on the families and students who live in our state.
3. The most important problem is the lack of bold and decisive leadership. University leaders, including the Regents, must develop productive ideas that will create a quality educational experience at an affordable tuition. Leadership must reverse the trend of continually increasing tuition, while academic University rankings decrease. As a Regent with extensive business experience I will represent the families and taxpayers of our state and bring more accountability for University decisions and actions.

Laurence B. Deitch

Democrat

Lifelong resident of Michigan. Graduate, Detroit Public Schools, U of M - B.A., J.D. Corporate Attorney—Partner, Bodman LLP, Detroit. Incumbent Member of University of Michigan Board of Regents since 1993. Former member—Michigan Civil Service Commission. Former Treasurer—Michigan Democratic Party. Director—Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Married 39 years; 3 children, 2 grandchildren. Resident of Bingham Farms, Michigan.

1. Any cogent strategy to rejuvenate the Michigan economy depends on a robust U of M. Michigan will again be a leading economic power through innovation and a skilled work force. U of M's highly acclaimed medical, engineering, business and law schools as well as its Life Sciences Institute are all combining synergistically to produce the technologies and jobs of the future. U of M, MSU and WSU, as world class research universities must increase collaboration.
2. As a center for the creation of knowledge, U of M is not a business. Yet, it has to be run in a business-like manner. We have to enhance our already great fundraising and continue our top quality investment returns in order to create a large endowment with as much emphasis on general fund support as possible. As tuition increases, there must be a like or greater increase in financial aid.
3. Maintaining excellence and accessibility in the face of declining state support: My answers include: Public advocacy on the value of higher education, increasing efficiency, fundraising, attracting greater indirect support for research from both the federal government and the private sector, putting greater emphasis on technology transfer, harnessing U of M's world wide reputation to develop distanced learning and satellite classes in Asia and the Middle East as profit centers.

Denise Ilitch

Democrat

I am a University of Michigan alumna and the proud mother of a 2007 graduate. I am "Of Counsel" at Clark Hill PLC and owner and publisher of Ambassador Magazine. As the former president of Ilitch Holdings, Inc., a privately held business that manages such entities as Little Caesars Enterprises, the Detroit Red Wings, the Detroit Tigers, and Olympia Entertainment, I was part of the team that brought Comerica Park and Ford Field to Detroit.

1. With total net assets of \$11.5 billion and 32,000 employees, the University of Michigan is an important economic engine for all of Michigan. I will support research efforts that can lead to new industries and new businesses in the State, especially those that help us find renewable sources of energy. I will also support programs that keep our highly qualified graduates in Michigan to pursue their professional careers, or become entrepreneurs.
2. Avoiding tuition increases will be my top priority. I will use my extensive background in business to advance ways to increase revenue, promote cost-savings and efficiencies and create ways to help students finance their college education, using my relationships with banks and financial institutions. And finally, I will work to continue the growth of the hospitals and health systems, which are important components to the University's long and proud history of excellence.
3. Ensuring the University of Michigan continues to provide an affordable, high quality education for Michigan students is the most important issue facing the University of Michigan. Last year, 92% of U of M graduates ranked in the top 10% of their class nationwide. As your Regent, I will review the University's policies and practices to make sure the University is doing all it can to make that quality education accessible to Michigan's hard working families.

Eric L. Larson

Libertarian

I attended Okemos High School and then University of Michigan. I graduated from the U of M with a BSE in nuclear engineering in 1996. I went to medical school at the University of Iowa and graduated with my MD in 2000 and finished my anesthesiology residency in 2004. I moved to Michigan with my wife and children in 2004. I am currently a staff anesthesiologist for Anesthesia Medical Consultants, PC in Grand Rapids, MI.

1. The University of Michigan plays a role in the economic development of Michigan by providing a respected technical and liberal arts education. Developing industry leaders and tomorrow's entrepreneurs is as critical to the state's economic revival as the necessary step of improving the business and tax burden. Without making the state hospitable to businesses—no matter how educated a work force we have—graduates will continue to leave the state for opportunities elsewhere.
2. The increase in cost of higher education is unsustainable. We are making college too expensive for many Michiganders. To control the cost we must

University of Michigan Regents, continued

use innovative ways of saving money like forming public-private partnerships. These can be in the form of outsourcing janitorial and maintenance services. Or turn the construction and ownership of buildings to the private sector. Many universities have private firms run their dorms and food service, which frees up money for education.

3. The most important issue facing the U of M is the silencing of free speech through the university's Student Code. College is a place where students should be challenged intellectually both in and out of the classroom. There is no better time to deal with offensive topics (that one will most certainly confront after college) than in an environment in which there are resources at hand (professors, libraries, etc.) to factually defend or debunk ideas.

Kerry L. Morgan

Libertarian

Kerry Lee Morgan is an attorney and author. His legal practice involves municipal law, employment discrimination, environmental law and educational policy. He previously served as an Attorney-Advisor with the United States Commission on Civil Rights in Washington D.C. In 1997, University Press of America published his book, Real Choice, Real Freedom in American Education, a scholarly work that articulates the legal and Constitutional case for parental rights and against governmental control of American Education.

1. The University should remain true to its primary mission of higher education. To the extent that it promotes economic development it should do so by creating incentives for its faculty to undertake educational seminars. These University sponsored seminars should be geared to meet the needs of Michigan business owners pertaining to the legal, regulatory and economic environment in which they must operate.
2. Tenure must be seen as it is—an economic decision, not an academic one. The entire idea of tenure and compensation associated with it must be explored. The private sector has seen the necessity of buying out senior management because of economic realities. The University cannot long escape those realities either.
3. The current Board of Regents and Administration of the University of Michigan have corrupted and politicized the educational mission of the University. The implementation of unconstitutional race-based admission schemes that subvert the merit principle, is but one shameful example. The belligerent enforcement of politically correct student "speech codes," contrary to the core freedom of student speech is another. These abuses must be eliminated.

Richard Ryskamp

US Taxpayers

Richard Ryskamp is a 52 year-old physician. He graduated from Lehigh University with a BS degree in engineering, and then earned his MD from University of Rochester. After completing an internal medicine residency in Michigan, he served four years in the U.S. Army Medical Corps at Landstuhl, Germany. He received an honorable discharge with the rank of Major and subsequently returned to Michigan in 1997. He and his wife have two sons.

1. Section 8:1 of our state constitution has the answer as to how Michigan could enjoy better government and more happiness, including a better economy! It states "Religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary for good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education

shall forever be encouraged." Our education institutions, including U of M, should invest more effort in dissemination of knowledge and less effort in undermining religion and morality.

2. 1. Stimulate the economy by lowering taxes. 2. Increase tax incentives for charitable contributions to educational institutions. 3. Concentrate current financial assistance and tuition subsidies in areas where graduates will provide critical skills to our economy (e.g. science, engineering, business). 4. Better stewardship of tuition and tax dollars. When U of M offers politicized courses like "How to be Gay," they demonstrate that they are poor stewards and that new leadership is required.
3. State educational institutions, especially the U of M, have been hijacked by those who are attempting to indoctrinate the next generation in their reckless and amoral social agenda. The U of M mission statement calls it "developing leaders ... who will challenge the present." In practice this means free condoms, graduate certificates in "Gay, Lesbian, Transgender and Queer Studies", and training young doctors to kill babies in their mothers' wombs. It's time for a turnaround!

Joe Sanger

US Taxpayers

Married, 1 daughter, 3 grandchildren. Self-employed Certified Public Accountant for the past 38 years. BA and MBA from the University of Michigan. I have served as a volunteer Treasurer of a number of political and other public service committees. See "Who is Joe Sanger" at my website: www.electjoesanger.com.

1. Article III of the Northwest Ordinance provides that: "Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." Since runaway courts have now banned religion and morality from public life, the University's remaining role is to provide "knowledge".
2. According to the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, since the autumn of 1955 the cost of living has increased by 774%. At the same time, full-time in-state tuition at the University of Michigan has increased by 5129%—an unconscionable price increase. See "Affordable College" on my website: www.electjoesanger.com for my proposals on controlling costs and reducing tuition and fees.
3. After restoring financial responsibility and rolling back tuition increases to a level consistent with the cost of living increase since 1955, the most important issue is elimination of the abuse of power by faculty and administrators in substituting ideological advocacy for education. The University must not be used to indoctrinate students in the perverse ideology of the state sponsored false pagan religion of "political correctness".

Ellis Boal

Green

Ellis Boal matriculated at Michigan law School in 1969. Spurred by the 1970 Black Action Movement strike for affirmative action, he left U of M for Detroit and involvement in working class movements. Finishing school there, he practiced privately for 25 years, representing unions and dissidents. Two decisions he obtained are widely cited in law school casebooks. He relocated to Charlevoix in 2000, where he plays leading roles in local anti-war, economic development, labor, and environmental movements...

1. It's a global economy. In assessing its development role, the university should not limit itself to Michigan. The Green Party platform calls for an

economic system based on a combination of private businesses, decentralized democratic cooperatives, publicly owned enterprises, and alternative economic structures. Collectively, this system puts human and ecological needs alongside profits to measure success, and maintains accountability to communities.

2. There must be a reordering of the federal budget priorities. Half of the total federal budget operating expenditures goes to the military, starving the education sector. Less military, more education.
3. As Ralph Nader told the Michigan Daily in 2004, large research universities like the University of Michigan compete for corporate contracts. There is some indication that there is a cross-subsidization, that tuition is beginning to pay for these kinds of corporate, joint corporate-university interplay. To find that out, we have to go into the most complex, arcane, and secretive subject, the university budget. We get summaries and so on, but they're very, very secretive.

Voter Information Links

League of Women Voters

www.lwvka.org

www.lwvmi.org

www.lwv.org

Voter information is available on these sites year-round from the League of Women Voters of the Kalamazoo Area, Michigan and the United States. The Kalamazoo area Voter Guide is available on the lwvka site approximately two weeks before the election.

Michigan Secretary of State

Voter Information Center

www.michigan.gov/sos

This is the website of the Secretary of State which also has information about election laws, voter registration, election results and other voter information. Click on "Voter Information."

Publius

www.lwv.publius.org

Check this site to find out if you are registered to vote, find your polling location, view your ballot and learn how to use your voting equipment.

Kalamazoo County Government

www.kalcounty.com/clerk

This website of the Kalamazoo County Clerk provides additional local information.

Rock the Vote & Smackdown Your Vote

www.rockthevote.com

<http://vote.wwe.com>

Find information oriented to young people, including political issues, elected officials and candidates.



Michigan State University Board of Trustees

Eight-Year Term — Vote for 2

Candidates were asked to summarize their backgrounds in 75 words and were allotted 75 words to answer each question. If the candidate did not reply by the required date for publication, the words, "Did not respond in time for publication" appear under the candidate's name.

1. What role should this university play in the economic development of the state of Michigan?

2. Given the current economic climate, what measures will you support to make education more affordable for students and their parents without sacrificing quality?

3. What is the most important issue facing this public university today and what is your position on that issue?

Lisa Bouchard

Republican

Lisa Bouchard holds a B.A. in Accounting from MSU. Under her direction and leadership as President and CEO of Dickson Associates, the company expanded its services and revenue grew from \$500,000 to more than \$20 million annually. Inc. magazine listed the business as 85th out of the 500 fastest growing privately held companies nationwide. Ranked 3rd amongst the fastest growing privately held companies in Michigan, Dickson Associates was also recognized as one of the Future....

1. The research conducted by MSU will act as an impetus to the recovery of our state's economy. In 2007, Michigan's three big research universities added 69,285 jobs to the economy and had a \$13.3 billion impact. MSU is a leader in the development of biofuel technologies. Agriculture is the second largest industry in the state, the auto industry is the largest; the development of new clean alternative energy sources will drive our state's turnaround.
2. I can provide the experience needed to efficiently manage existing resources and the vision needed to generate innovative and resourceful solutions to the Universities' budget crisis. My background in business has taught me the very simple lesson that in order to have a successful enterprise, you must keep your expenses low and you must keep your revenue high. I will work to discover new revenue streams for the university.
3. The biggest challenge facing MSU is a lack of adequate financial support from the state. The state of Michigan currently ranks 49th, second to last, in allocating state funds for higher education. The percentage of per student funds acquired through the state has steadily declined, requiring the university to continually raise tuition rates in order to keep on budget. I believe tuition needs to remain affordable for Michigan's families. If state funding will not be....

George Scott Romney

Republican

Born and raised in Michigan. Graduate of Michigan State University. Graduate of Harvard Law School. Law Partner at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP. Serves on the boards of Detroit Area Council of Boy Scouts of America, New Detroit, MSU College of Law. On the MSU Board of Trustees since 1999. Married to wife Ellen. Has seven children. Scott helped his father run for Governor in 1962.

1. We must ensure that we are providing the best educational opportunities in the world, right here in Michigan, so job providers will want to locate here in Michigan. I am proud that MSU is one of the Top 100 Universities in the world. I am committed to making certain that we continue to provide an excellent education for Michigan students, an education which is practical and permits them to become engaged in productive careers upon ...
2. I have been proud of my role in making certain that tuition is as inexpensive as possible under the circumstances. Michigan State University receives a combined total of \$14,000 per student in state funding and tuition. This compares to \$22,000 per student at U of M. Even in this environment, we have been able to provide increased financial aid so that Michigan residents have access to this great university.

3. In the future I anticipate there will be tough decisions affecting: tuition; the continuing decline in revenue from the state of Michigan (thirty years ago the state provided 60% of our revenue, we now receive less than 40% of our revenue from the state); replacing many of our committed professors who are reaching retirement age; and assuring that the right people of quality and commitment and are entrusted with the future of our youth.

Dianne Byrum

Democrat

I am a small business owner with more than 20 years' experience in retail. In 2007, I started an advocacy communications and public relations firm. I served eight years as a state Representative and eight years as a state Senator, finishing my legislative career as the first woman to lead a legislative caucus. I am married, have two adult children and two grandchildren. I have a B.S. degree from MSU College of Agriculture.

1. MSU is one of three research universities in our state and Michigan's only land grant college. MSU is well-positioned to be a significant partner with the state in economic development. MSU's expertise in health care, the bio-economy, physics, engineering, food safety and animal health—to name just a few fields—makes it a powerful partner in the effort to strengthen Michigan's economy.
2. I will focus on increasing student loan programs, increase university efficiencies in administrative areas, and build coalitions to secure additional state funding. Higher education funding is a major challenge for Michigan universities in this tough economic climate. We must give our citizens the tools to get a strong education and quality training because our economy depends on a well-prepared workforce. We must invest in higher education and we must have leadership committed to this goal.
3. MSU's two largest challenges are: funding for higher education, and strategic decisions to position MSU as a leader in economic growth areas. Secure funding is critical to maintain rigorous academic programs that prepare students for 21st century jobs. Strategic decisions made by the Board in partnership with the state and major industries will govern MSU's land grant mission and influence its position as a leader in research and the transfer of technology into the economy.

Diann Woodard

Democrat

Did not respond in time for publication

David A. Brown

Libertarian

Did not respond in time for publication

Joseph Rosenquist

Libertarian

I am an alumnus of MSU with a BS degree in mechanical engineering. I have been a software developer for over 20 years. I currently am employed in Detroit and live in Birmingham. I will bring that extensive experience in the private sector to work to improve MSU as a member of the Board of Trustees.

1. MSU plays a critical role in the economic development of Michigan. It will fulfill that role by providing a high quality education for more Michigan residents than any other university in the state. It will

also improve the economy by performing cutting edge research in partnership with other universities and with the private sector wherever possible.

2. MSU has made great progress in private fundraising and growing the endowment. That must continue. The endowment must be used to keep tuition and fee increases to a minimum. It also can be used to provide more scholarships to help reduce overall costs. MSU must look at outsourcing functions not are not core, such as cleaning, maintenance, and residence hall operations. MSU must look at cutting staff, majors and departments if necessary.
3. The Michigan taxpayer is tapped out. Taxes have soared and incomes have dropped in the worst economy since the early 80s. The old model of begging for more money from the state is finished. MSU must continue its already outstanding growth in fundraising and change how it operates. The main product—undergraduate education—must grow stronger through an improved core curriculum so MSU graduates can successfully cope with accelerating change in the economy and society.

Robert Gale

US Taxpayers

Did not respond in time for publication

Crystal Van Sickle

US Taxpayers

I have been a resident of Michigan for 29 years and currently reside in Wellston, MI. Born and raised on the island of Oahu, Hawaii and a graduate of Waiānae High School in 1977. I received my BA in Business Administration with a minor in Accounting from Siena Heights University in 1990. I am married with a total of eight children in addition to seven grandchildren.

1. The role this university should play in the economic development of Michigan is to provide the most highly qualified individuals to meet the current, future and emerging markets. The university must be attuned to meet the needs of an ever-changing economy.
2. Given the current economic climate, all non-educational expenses need to be examined to determine appropriate measure to reduce them. Work closely with facility and staff to integrate cost saving technologies into the daily educational processes.
3. The most important issue facing any university is the lack of academically prepared students coming from the public sector. Increase enrollment standards requiring that all students possess the necessary skills in mathematics, reading, writing and science.

Therese Marie Storm

Green

Did not respond in time for publication



Wayne State University Governors

Eight-Year Term — Vote for 2

Candidates were asked to summarize their backgrounds in 75 words and were allotted 75 words to answer each question. If the candidate did not reply by the required date for publication, the words, "Did not respond in time for publication" appear under the candidate's name.

1. What role should this university play in the economic development of the state of Michigan?

Torion J. Bridges

Republican

Did not respond in time for publication.

Danielle Karmanos

Republican

Born and raised in Detroit area. Graduated from Fairlane Christian High School. Graduated from Michigan State University. Worked as executive video producer. In 2005 established "Danielle Karmanos Work it Out (www.dkwio.org) a charitable organization aimed at battling the epidemic of childhood obesity, particularly with inner city kids. Involved in many community organizations including Karmanos Cancer Institute, Michigan Opera Theater, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit. Married to husband Peter.

1. We must continue to provide a quality education for Michigan kids, which is accessible to them, right here at home. With the vast research capabilities of WSU and the tremendous community support it receives, WSU can be a magnet for new businesses looking for a talent pool when they are making decisions on where to locate.
2. I will expect accountability from administrators and educators at WSU to ensure that every dollar spent is spent wisely. I will also work with the legislature to make sure that WSU has a strong voice advocating for its needs and ensuring that WSU gets its fair share of state appropriation dollars.
3. The biggest challenge with any public university is walking the fine line of providing a world-class education while making it affordable for Michigan families. I will actively promote current and new research partnerships, which enrich Wayne State and will also work very hard to be strong positive voice for Wayne State in the State and community in an effort to bring more state resources to WSU.

Paul Massaron

Democrat

Paul Massaron is incumbent member of the WSU Board of Governors completing 8th year. Board Chair 2003-2004, Chair of Budget & Finance Committee 2005-2008. Served on Board of TechTown and Board of Detroit Receiving Hospital. Served on Lt. Gov. Cherry's Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth. Adjunct Professor, UDM School of Architecture (urban politics and policy). Owns PEM Consulting (community development and governmental affairs). Retired UAW official. Married to Marya Sieminski, father of two...

1. This university should intensify its role in research as it has by partnering with U of M and MSU in what is called University Research Corridor where discoveries through research can be translated into products and jobs in the new economy in health, engineering and other high tech products. WSU's Research Park (TechTown) is a manifestation of our efforts in economic development. Our public private partnerships and our work in Midtown also illustrate our effort.
2. As chair of Budget & Finance Committee I have pressed administrators to provide to Board clear, accurate information in order to reduce expenditures in non-academics keeping tuition increases as low as possible and sustaining quality. Over 8 years we have cut more than \$50 million in the

face of state funding cuts. This requires hard work of study, persuasion and standing up for affordability.

3. We have to fight against Michigan's historic disinvestment in higher education. It is a severe impact on WSU. Prior to 2001 the state provided 61% of general fund budget and now only 41%. With the trend continuing it becomes extremely difficult to sustain quality. Higher tuition precludes more working families from higher education. If WSU was funded at its 1998 rate (never mind inflation) tuition would be \$2400 per year less for a full-time student.

Gary S. Pollard

Democrat

Gary S. Pollard is a life long Detroiter, Pollard attended Detroit Public Schools. He holds a BA in Business Administration from Ferris State University. He has served the last six years as Chief of Staff to State Senator Irma Clark-Coleman. Pryor to his work in the Senate, Gary was Chief of Staff to State Representative Fred Durhal and Executive Assistant to former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer. Gary Pollard is a U.S. Navy veteran who has ...

1. The Michigan economy has changed, in response to a global technological revolution. For Michigan to compete, we must ensure that our residents are the best educated in the world and that they are prepared for a "lifetime of learning". We must offer them with access to a wide variety of learning options. Many will require a wide array of certificate, degree and advanced degree programs vital to Michigan's economic future, as outlined by the Cherry ...
2. We must not put college education out of the financial reach of our residents. We must stay committed to affordable tuition for working families and their children. My wife and I have three children in college this year and our family knows the value of a good education at affordable cost.
3. We must build community partnerships between WSU and organizations like the Detroit Medical Center to build a better future. I will work to ensure this fine university will be proactive in creating and strengthen its community partnerships. Also, we must increase Wayne State's Ability to be a powerful economic engine for our region. I am committed to make WSU a job creator by increasing funding to get research out of the lab and into the...

Dan Keizer

Libertarian

Dan Keizer is a 28 year old auto worker from Warren, MI. He has been involved with the Libertarian Party since 2006. His political philosophy stresses protection of personal rights and freedoms, limited role of government and fiscal responsibility.

1. Wayne State University's impact on Michigan's current economic climate and its future is huge. It will provide the educated, qualified and skilled workforce that businesses look for when developing. The school also produces business-minded entrepreneurs who can potentially bring new commerce and industry to the state. The school's goal towards the economy should be to continue producing graduates that meet the demands of business.

2. Given the current economic climate, what measures will you support to make education more affordable for students and their parents without sacrificing quality?

3. What is the most important issue facing this public university today and what is your position on that issue?

2. The way to keep tuition down as low as possible is to focus the university's budget on maintaining the quality of curriculum and the learning environment. Expenditures not directly related to those goals should be reduced or eliminated. Another way the school can help the situation is by facilitating the availability of tuition assistance and loans, both public and private, for the student.
3. Along with cost of education, the biggest hurdle facing the university is staying on the forefront of educational curriculums. A college must do this to continue producing the highest quality graduates. I believe that the simplest and most effective way a school can keep up is by not limiting itself, taking advantage of all technologies available and using the most modern class curriculums and teaching methods.

Nicole Michalak

Libertarian

Did not respond in time for publication

Rick Butkowski

US Taxpayers

I am a lifelong citizen of Michigan. I am a Vietnam Era Veteran of the USAF, honorably discharged in 1968. I graduated from EMU with Business Management degree. I've been married to Marie for 40 years and have three children and four grandchildren. I am retired after 32 years at Ford Motor Company as an Information Technology manager. I am active in church, the K of C and BSA.

1. WSU is a territorial college and has a constitutional obligation to prepare its citizens for the professions to the betterment of themselves and the state. WSU already provides these services to an excellent degree and must continue to do so. WSU will facilitate the growth of the local and state economy while providing an affordable program of education and research.
2. I would encourage the President of the WSU Board to focus university assets more intently on basic academics and research, and eliminate non-academic, social engineering aspects of university programs. I would encourage the development of business-oriented cooperative programs for students and the university where possible. I would encourage university partnerships with Michigan businesses, including stock ownership and profit-sharing where possible. Returns on these could be held in a university held Trust Fund.
3. Absolutely the single most important issue is the university's economic health in the context of the current and forthcoming social and economic market. It must remain viable while delivering its constitutionally required services. All other issues must take a back seat. WSU's existence is intertwined with the health of the state and local communities. It must maintain its professional value to its graduates, the professionals it helped create and to the state.

Wayne State University Governors, continued

Terry Haines

US Taxpayers

Graduate of Central Michigan University. BS in Sociology and Psychiatry. Background in business and security. I have been married to Debby for 35 years. Together we home-schooled three children from kindergarten through high school.

1. WSU needs to encourage the auto industry to manufacture vehicles that are fully flex-fueled, able to use either gasoline or ethanol or methanol or any combination of the three. It's a realistic goal. Methanol, in terms of energy produced, is less than half the price of gasoline. The Michigan economy, as well as the US economy, will improve. Pollution will be lessened. This project will eventually destroy OPEC and de-fund Islamic terrorists.
2. WSU should develop fully transferable long-distance learning classes through use of the Internet and taped DVD lessons with test sites in various Michigan cities. Include college prep courses and

ESL courses. WSU should completely eliminate all short-term and long-term debts. I would support WSU offering specialized educational packets where the student earns a certificate in a specialized subject, not a degree.

3. People of the Abrahamic faiths—Jews, Christians, and Moslems—find most universities hostile to their sexual beliefs. I will support the institution of the family. It is the tendency of state-funded universities to believe that things are good only if the state defines them to be good. That is not the American experience or our historical belief system. I will defend those oppressed because of their Abrahamic faiths.

Margaret Guttshall

Green

I have spent my adult life fighting against war and for economic and social justice. I am a graduate of Wayne State's School of Library Science and worked at Wayne

State's Law Library and later at the Cooley Law Library.

1. Economic development is based on healthy, well-educated people, not on catering to whatever the billionaires want. The universities can play a key role in economic development by teaching people to grow their own food, develop a public transportation system, a public housing system, and all the other things people want and need.
2. Bring all U.S. troops home now and use the billions of dollars saved to make universities free to everyone.
3. Do we want a university that caters to the billionaires—doing research for wars, orienting education towards serving corporate needs? Or do we want a university that provides education for people? That teaches how to cooperate in the production of water, food, housing, transportation, health care, sports, art, music, dancing, literature, science ...? I am for the second alternative and have devoted a good part of my life to fighting for it.

Justice of the Supreme Court

Eight-Year Term — Vote for 1

Candidates were asked to summarize their backgrounds in 75 words and were allotted 75 words to answer each question. If the candidate did not reply by the required date for publication, the words, "Did not respond in time for publication" appear under the candidate's name.

1. What criteria will you use to disqualify yourself in cases where there

is a real or perceived conflict of interest?

2. What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to justice, if any?
3. What is your vision for the future of our judicial system? What changes would you advocate and why?

Diane Marie Hathaway

While growing up as the daughter of a Detroit Police Officer, I learned the values of hard work and integrity. After I had my children I went back to school to get my law degree. While I was a Macomb County Assistant Prosecutor I took on drug dealers and put hardened criminals in jail to keep our community safe. As a Circuit Court Judge, I gained a reputation of being an independent judge, always putting ...

1. I have, and I will continue to disqualify myself whenever there is the appearance of impropriety. As I have for the last 15 years as a Wayne County Circuit Judge, I will be fair and impartial, putting the law above special interests and those who endanger families.
2. Currently, the greatest obstacle facing the court is the rights of ordinary citizens not getting a fair hearing. Our constitution guarantees a right to trial by jury. The Supreme Court often denies standing, never hearing the merits of the case. These rulings are then binding on lower courts, and many individuals are never afforded the right to have their case heard. In order to have justice, one must have their case be heard.
3. My vision is to have a supreme court that is fair and impartial and where justices do not decide cases based on the party name who brought suit, and instead apply the law to the facts, respecting the rights of the individual. As a Supreme Court Justice I will bring fairness and integrity back to our Supreme Court. We need a Justice who is impartial, and not one who only looks out for his own interest.

Robert W. Roddis

I am a lifelong resident of metropolitan Detroit. I have been an attorney since 1980 and a civil litigator for much

of that time. I am a strong advocate of the Austrian School of Economics as exemplified by the Nobel Prize winner in economics Friedrich Hayek and by Congressman Ron Paul, who has been an inspiration to me. I believe that individuals have a constitutional and natural right to personal liberty and financial liberty.

1. If I were to own stock in an entity that was a party before the court, I suspect that this would be an appropriate situation for disqualification.
2. The greatest obstacle to justice is the almost universal belief that government has magical healing powers when, in fact, government is the primary cause of our current social and financial collapse. This "Mary Poppins" theory of government encourages judges to override essential liberties and approve government programs that are not only unconstitutional, but which lead inevitably to more crises and more unconstitutional programs. Judges have an essential duty to strike down such unconstitutional laws.
3. My vision for the future is that judges might understand and enforce the written Constitution. For just one example, the Constitution clearly states: "No State shall ... make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts". If this provision had been properly enforced, there would have been no unconstitutional creation of the Federal Reserve, no Great Depression, no recent housing bubble and no unconstitutional bailout of Fannie, Freddie and AIG.

Cliff Taylor

I have served on the Supreme Court since 1997. Previous experience included over 5 years on the Court of Appeals, 20 years in private legal practice (Lansing), nearly 2 years as an Assistant County Prosecutor, and 4

years as an officer in the U.S. Navy. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and my law degree from George Washington University. My wife Lucille and I have two sons.

1. I follow the system that has been used by all Michigan Justices since statehood, which is the same one used by the US Supreme Court. Michigan Court Rules define the situations or relationships that require disqualification. For situations falling outside the Rules, a very rare circumstance, the individual Justice looks to his conscience to decide. Appeals of such decisions go to the US Supreme Court, which has never found this process wanting.
2. The judicial system is a 19th century institution in a 21st century world, in which relatively quick and certain decisions—whether personal or corporate—are imperative. Using available technology to address these issues and equally important ones related to the cost of the litigation process—like attorney fees, and discovery costs—can make the judicial system more relevant and accessible to Michigan citizens.
3. We must "right-size" our judiciary due to dramatically fewer lawsuits being filed. I recommended, and the Supreme Court agreed, to eliminate by attrition, twenty-four judgeships. The Governor and Legislature should stop stalling and change the law to do this and thus save millions for our citizens. This is the kind of stewardship our citizens expect, just as last year, when I led our justices and judges to give up state-paid cars.

Michigan Court of Appeals, 3rd District

Six-Year Term — Vote for 2

Candidates were asked to summarize their backgrounds in 75 words and were allotted 75 words to answer each question. If the candidate did not reply by the required date for publication, the words, "Did not respond in time for publication" appear under the candidate's name.

1. What criteria will you use to disqualify yourself in cases where there is

a real or perceived conflict of interest?

2. What do you perceive as the greatest obstacles to justice, if any?
3. What is your vision for the future of our judicial system? What changes would you advocate and why?

Richard A. Bandstra

Chose not to reply.

Jane E. Markey

Did not respond in time for publication

3rd District Partial Term ending 1/1/2013 Vote for One (1)

Jane M. Beckering

Did not respond in time for publication

State House of Representatives

Two-Year Term — Vote for 1

1. Do you support or oppose each of the two state ballot proposals? Why? [100 words]
 - a. Legislative initiative to allow under state law the medical use of marijuana.
 - b. Proposed constitutional amendment to permit with certain limitations stem cell research in Michigan.
2. What can be done to improve the effectiveness of the legislature? [100 words]
3. What legislation is needed to further a sustainable state energy policy? How will that legislation affect Michigan's economic situation? [100 words]

60th District

Townships: Cooper, Kalamazoo [precincts 1, 10-14]. **City:** Kalamazoo.

Charles Ybema

Republican. Age 34. City of Kalamazoo resident. Full-time graduate student, WMU. B.B.A., finance, Grand Valley State U, 1997; M.A., applied economics, WMU, expected Dec. 2008. Previously in investment management, worked with individual, corporate and foundation/non-profit clients, 10 yrs. www.ybema60.com.

1. a) I do not have a problem with medical marijuana. I have never participated in nor do I condone recreational drug use, but I nonetheless believe that soft drugs such as marijuana should be legalized. In far too many instances possession laws start the cycle to economic hardship. Legislators need to recognize that the time cost of drug usage will better regulate usage. (b) I do not support embryonic stem cell research, I do support adult stem cell research. I do not support Proposal 2.
2. The agenda needs to be focused. The Michigan legislature has taken the position that it must provide oversight to far too many areas of citizen's life—i.e., regulating the authorized monopolies, the enormous amount of government-owned land in Michigan, etc. We need to encourage private ownership of more of these resources which will reduce the size and scope of the legislature's responsibilities. Markets, prices and informed consumers can provide their own oversight to many of these issues.
3. Alternative energy production needs to find its own way. I will support tax incentives for production, research and development. A better long-term solution is to allow consumers to opt for some percentage of energy from alternative sources. Recently passed energy mandates will require alternative production to increase by 10x by 2012, 25x by 2015 and 50x to get to Mr. Jones 20% goal. We must remember that alternative sources cost 2.5-3 times as much as traditional sources. My fear is that these mandates will lead to massive mal-investment and put Michigan further behind. We must remember the solar panel liquidation of 1980s.

Robert B. Jones

Democrat. Kalamazoo City resident. Representative, Michigan State House, 60th District. Retired from working in business and management with 28.5 yrs at the Upjohn Co., now Pfizer. Business owner. City of Kalamazoo, Mayor, 4 terms. If re-elected I will carefully evaluate each issue and make the best public policy decision for all the citizens of Michigan. I will continue to be a proactive leader—facing, addressing and solving the problems of our state.

1. (a) I support the state allowing, under medical supervision, marijuana for patients where this use is an effective therapy. (b) I support the effort to allow controlled research utilizing stem cells.
2. The effectiveness of the Legislature could be improved by extending term limits from 6 to 10 years in the House and from 8 to 12 years in the Senate, with combined service therefore a maximum of 22 years.
3. We passed a comprehensive package which begins to address the complex issues of energy conservation, while maintaining a focus on job creation and overall quality of life.

61st District

Townships: Alamo, Kalamazoo [precincts 2-9, 15], Oshtemo, Prairie Ronde, Texas. **Cities:** Parchment, Portage

Larry DeShazor

Republican. Age 49. Portage resident. Team Manager, State Farm Insurance. B.S., U of New Orleans. Currently Portage City Councilmember. Chamber of Commerce Business and Community Development Committee. Portage: Economic Development Corporation; Planning Commission; Community Survey Committee; 2025 Visioning Project. Kalamazoo County: Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Directors; Environmental Health Advisory Council. Leadership Kalamazoo, Advisory Board. Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association, pilot/member; Rotary International, member; Boost Michigan Kids Coalition, chair; attends Saint Catherine of Siena and Kalamazoo Valley Family churches. www.votedeshazor.com

1. (a) Oppose. FDA has stated that there is no health benefit to smoking marijuana. Instead, marijuana smoke contains hazardous chemicals and impurities. In addition, there is potential for abuse and criminal activity. Instead, patients can be treated with synthetic (and legal) marijuana . . . (b) Oppose. Language in this proposed constitutional amendment is deceptive and does not allow for regulatory oversight of this industry. State legislature would not be able to pass any laws to protect consumer. Nor does this proposal protect State's ban on human cloning. While it does not change current statutory law, it does open the door to future statutory changes . . .
2. A part-time legislature would create a more effective government by reducing its size, eliminating lifetime retirement and health benefits, and reducing pay. A shorter work year will force the legislature to approve the budget by June, which improves stability in the budget process for schools and municipalities that rely on state funding. Lastly, Michigan should eliminate term limits, which force out experienced lawmakers who possess the expertise, a deeper understanding of the process, and the long-term relationships necessary for effective governance.
3. For Michigan to become an alternative energy research and development center, lawmakers must reform the regulatory bureaucracy and unfriendly attitude toward business that currently exists at the Department of Environmental Quality. Such reform is vital because most alternative energy development will involve the use of natural resources. The Energy Package (SB 213 and HB 5524), currently awaiting the governor's approval, addresses some of these regulatory reform needs and is a vital first step.

Julie M. Rogers

Democrat. Age 33. Kalamazoo Township resident. Physical Therapist. Master's degree, physical therapy, Marquette U. Federal Affairs Liaison, American Physical Therapy Association (advocate for seniors' healthcare); Kalamazoo County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board, Public Relations Chair; Kalamazoo County Economic Development Council member; Bronson Family Advisory Council member; Girls on the Run coach; Kalamazoo Junior League member; Portage Chapel Hill United Methodist Church member; I-94 Adopt-A-Highway volunteer. Additionally, I ran for this seat in 2006 and received 49.4% of the vote. www.juliemrogers.com

1. (a) Oppose. I have witnessed patients in pain and believe all people have a right to good pain management. However, this bill is unnecessary. A pill form of medical marijuana, Marinol, already exists and can be legally prescribed. Ultimately, this is a federal issue and medical marijuana will remain illegal regardless of how Michigan votes. (b) Support. This proposal is limited, morally responsible, and promises to help millions of people with severe diseases. At the same time, it would open up new opportunities in biotechnology, create hundreds of highly skilled jobs, and move Michigan forward.
2. (a) First, we need to elect leaders who will work together. The state government shut-down was evidence of the partisanship and gridlock that exists in Lansing. I have a proven record as the Federal Affairs Liaison for the American Physical Therapy Association, working in a bipartisan manner with Representative Upton and Senator Stabenow to pass Medicare legislation to enhance therapy services for seniors. (b) Constituents also need greater accessibility to their legislators. If elected, I pledge to create a local office that will allow people to talk with someone face-to-face about their concerns and problems right here.
3. I am excited that our legislature passed an initial energy bill that takes a step in the right direction of energy independence. Future renewable energy portfolio standards could be taken further (currently at 10% by 2015). Additionally, I will fight for increased funding for renewable energy programs at WMU and KVCC. By promoting such environmental policies and legislation, Michigan could be a major player in the energy efficiency and renewable energy industries. We have the skilled talent and technology. With the leadership and will, we can create an enormous number of highly paid, rewarding jobs right here in Southwest Michigan.

63rd District

Townships: Brady, Charleston, Climax, Comstock, Pavilion, Richland, Ross, Schoolcraft, Wakeshma. **City:** Galesburg.

James Bolger

Republican. Age 37. Marshall resident. County Commissioner. Started a business in Kalamazoo 12 yrs ago that competes every day to bring work back to Michigan that is otherwise done somewhere else in the country, or even somewhere else in the world. Bachelor's degree, finance and political science, WMU. As Commissioner, I have demonstrated bi-partisan results to improve government while saving taxpayer money and putting people first. www.ElectBolger.com

1. (a) I am neutral on this issue. (b) I oppose this issue. I believe in the preciousness of life. I have personally met children born from these embryos and when I see their eyes I do not see someone that should have been discarded or destroyed for research.
2. (a) The legislature needs to be sure to put getting the job done above partisan politics. Although I understand many people say this in a campaign, I am proud that I have demonstrated my ability to do so. The legislature needs to focus on our biggest priority: jobs for our community. (b) The state must balance the budget with priorities.

State Representatives, continued

They cannot help job seekers by hurting small businesses owned by families in our communities. (c) We must also work to increase innovation and creativity throughout our state. We must attract opportunity for our families, for our kids and for our grandkids.

3. The legislature recently passed bi-partisan legislation regarding this issue. In this they did the right thing in working to increase our production of energy while looking for reasonable ways to add alternative sources of energy production. Affordable, clean energy is vital to our economic environment. As we are currently seeing, high energy bills impact our struggling families but also drive up costs of other essentials like groceries and clothes. Affordable energy is also vital to our ability to attract jobs to our community.

Phyllis Smith

Democrat. Age 62. Vicksburg and long-time 63rd District resident. Retired. H.S. graduate. Background well qualifies me to do work that needs to be done in Lansing amidst the current economic downturn. United Food and Commercial Workers Local 951, Executive

Officer, 24 yrs; negotiated contracts with large corporations, organized people to better their economic opportunities, worked on budgets and supervised employees. I believe that these negotiating skills are necessary in getting legislation passed. Single parent, two grown children; six grandchildren. . . .

1. (a) I believe marijuana should be legal for medical purposes only and under strict controlled guidelines. I believe that a medical doctor should specify in writing the reason for prescribing the marijuana use by their patient. (b) I have researched the issue of stem cell research. I do not believe the Michigan constitution is the place to resolve the issue of stem cell research.
2. I believe the way to improve the effectiveness of the legislature is to reach across the aisle. Both sides of the aisle need to pull together if we are serious about turning the economy around in Michigan. I believe my negotiating skills will be of great use to me in Lansing.
3. We need to turn Michigan into a green-collar state. We can lead the way into the future by attracting business and industry that research and

produce products such as solar power, wind power and bio fuels. By attracting new business and industry into our state, we put people to work and we turn the tax users into taxpayers.



Kalamazoo County Commission

Two-Year Term — Vote for 1

1. What is your vision of Kalamazoo County in twenty years? What role should the Commission play in realizing that vision? [125 words]
2. If you could redesign the Kalamazoo County government structure, what would you change? Explain your response. [100 words]
3. What essential talents and skills do you bring to the Commission? [75 words]

District 1

Kalamazoo City [precincts 2, 20, 21, 24]

Steve Sessions

Republican. Age 23. Full time student, WMU. Computer information systems major with a business minor. Programs Vice-Chairman, WMU College Republicans.

1. I would like to see the Kalamazoo County government become an economically booming area. Kalamazoo County would be a place where businesses from all over the world would want to come to. Taxes should be low and the budget should be effectively allocated. I would like the people to fully support their elected officials and feel like they have been given fair representation.
2. I would like to cut down on wasteful spending. I believe that the best way to help the economy here is to have low taxes. The current trend for Kalamazoo County is to raise taxes year after year. It is unfair to have people shell out their hard-earned cash at a time when the economy is doing so poorly both locally and nationally. One specific thing I would like to cut completely is the elimination of Kalamazoo Metro Transportation. Currently services are only offered to Kalamazoo and Portage, but the entire county has to pay for it.
3. I would like to bring some fresh ideas to the county. As a student at Western Michigan University, I understand the concerns of my peers and would make sure that their voice is heard. The county has been raising taxes for too long and I want to step in to do something about it.

Jack Urban

Democrat. Kalamazoo County Commissioner. B.S.Ch.E, Lehigh U, 1963; Ph.D., U of Maryland, 1967. Resident of Kalamazoo, 41 yrs. Chemical engineer and production manager, the Upjohn (Pharmacia) Company, 30 yrs. Part-time chemistry instructor, KVCC, 5 yrs. Founding member, Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (1-yr term); member, then chair, Kalamazoo City Zoning Board of Appeals (approx. 2 yrs); formerly

treasurer and task force co-chair, ISAAC (Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy and Action in the Community). jackurb@mac.com

1. In 20 years I see Kalamazoo County functioning effectively as a single metropolitan area with mutually enhancing urban, suburban and rural parts, all prospering on the realization that a well-educated workforce is a great resource that attracts and holds our population. To realize that vision, the county, through its mandate to promote public health and to administer the criminal justice system, should provide the infrastructure for delivering quality preschool care, promoting public safety and alleviating the conditions that prevent people from reaching their productive and fulfilling potential. The County Commission should provide discipline and focus for meeting objectives in these areas, and to further them, act to promote collaborations and partnerships with other governmental entities, non-profits and the business sector.
2. I would take the number of County Commissioner districts down from 17 to 9. The new districts should be wedge-shaped, all having urban, suburban and rural components, each having no extensive boundary that parallels existing jurisdictional boundaries. This action would have the demographic, political and symbolic effect of helping the voters and their representatives understand that we prosper or decay as *One Community*. The present 17-member commission is an artifact of the last redistricting process, one that was driven strongly by partisan considerations. And as such, it has not been nearly as effective as it might have been.
3. My talents and skills lie in the realm of ideas and concepts. I am able to combine, shape and order ideas gained from others to create formulations that have broader appeal or at least fewer objections than if they stood separately. I am analytical, and enjoy gathering, studying and presenting quantitative data, drawing conclusions from them and communicating information to others. I can relate to others' premises and point of view

District 2

Kalamazoo City [precincts 7, 8, 9, 11, 27]

Carolyn G. Alford

Democrat. Age 58. KVCC, Payroll Specialist, 17 yrs. B.A., public service administration, Siena Heights U; A.D., business administration, KVCC. Incumbent Kalamazoo County Commissioner, District 2; member of Galilee Baptist Church, past employment at the Family Health Center, Finance Department, 16 yrs; Kalamazoo School Board Trustee, 16 yrs. I have had the wonderful privilege to serve in many leadership roles on numerous boards and committees in the Kalamazoo area.

1. I envision Kalamazoo County having a strong economic base that is second to none. A strong economic base depends on a strong people base. Economic empowerment comes by putting people first. We know investing in people yields exceptional returns. It is imperative that the county takes the leadership role to ensure that people are trained and prepared to enter the workplace. The County Commission has a unique ability to bring all stakeholders to the table to set a common vision and to address our many challenges.
2. I view the county as one government and one community. It is my desire to continue to work diligently toward this goal. To attain this goal will require much dialogue.
3. Faith, hope, trust, integrity, accountability, respect and a servant leader are a way of life for me. These talents and skills have provided numerous rewarding opportunities to work with a variety of people with different backgrounds and experiences in a most positive manner. Anyone who knows me would say that I am a team builder, problem solver, flexible, compassionate, sincere and provide a unique viewpoint.

Kalamazoo County Commission, continued

District 3

Kalamazoo City [precincts 1, 3, 13, 14, 23];
Kalamazoo Township [precinct 11]

Robert M. Barnard

Democrat. Age 42. Kalamazoo County Commissioner, District 3. Independent Licensed Contractor; Certified Green Professional. Lakeview H.S. graduate; aviation engineering, minor in business management, WMU. Community Builders graduate. Current Boards and Committees: Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission, Kalamazoo County Parks Commission, Edison Business Association, Brownfield Redevelopment and Economic Development. Previous: Edison Neighborhood Association, Board President and Treasurer; Edison Weed and Seed, Steering Committee Member, Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing Services, Building Blocks of Kalamazoo Site Supervisor (7 yrs), Additional Edison community activities. . . .

1. Kalamazoo County has all of the elements necessary to become an economic model for the State of Michigan. The County Commission needs to pursue as many leads as possible to procure new employment opportunities for all levels of educational experience. Through the use of Brownfield Redevelopments and cooperative efforts with other local municipalities, we can guide the reuse of underdeveloped and underutilized facilities to preserve our farmlands and green spaces. We must all strive to move forward in a stagnant economic environment; by doing so, we can continue to progress ahead of the curve for all of our citizens.
2. The county needs to focus its efforts on becoming more effective at collaborating. More effort needs to be made to eliminate duplication of services. To have this happen, all municipalities need to be at the table, partnering with each other and keeping the lines of communication open. County resources must be used as a tool to leverage other resources that will improve all areas for a healthy, thriving community.
3. Having worked at the grassroots level of community development for several years as a neighborhood leader, I am accustomed to working with diverse groups of people to develop a cohesive plan with obtainable goals. As a small business owner, I understand how tough it is to make a living in today's economy. It is important that we focus our efforts on encouraging new businesses to stay and expand in Kalamazoo, while supporting the survival of our established businesses.

District 4

Kalamazoo City [precincts 4, 5, 12, 22, 26]

Cassandra Basore

Did not respond in time for publication.

John Patrick Taylor

Democrat. Age 29. Public servant, landlord, investor. Psychology, WMU.

1. I envision Kalamazoo County to be a community growing economically with a high quality of life. As county commissioners, we need to maintain our county parks and provide means to those in poverty to assist them in becoming self-sufficient. We also need to take advantage of the tremendous opportunity the Kalamazoo Promise affords us, by providing our youth with opportunities to become active members in our community. Organizations like 4-H help to build personal responsibility in the younger members of our community.
2. We need to find more ways for citizens to get involved with county government. We need to be more active in recruiting citizens to take part in advisory boards and councils
3. I have served as County Commissioner for 6 years and have fostered positive working relationships with members on both sides of the aisle. I also have experience in the inner workings of county government.

District 5

Kalamazoo City [precinct 6];
Kalamazoo Township [precincts 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 15];
Oshtemo Township [precinct 6]

Kimberly Suchyta

Republican. Age 21. Retail Sales Representative, T-Mobile. Full-time student, general science, WMU, senior year. H.S. graduate. At WMU, I served as a Student Senator in the WSA and was the Campus Concerns Chair, a position that handled environmental concerns on campus, on the WSA cabinet, 1 year.

1. In 20 years Kalamazoo County should be expanding economically, while adding jobs in lucrative fields such as health care, alternative energy research, and biomedical research. Kalamazoo County should also strive for a "AAA Bond Rating." As a county we should also promote for greater cultural unity.
2. Only a few changes need to be made to the county structure of government. First, I would look into privatizing the bus system, K-Metro. I would also support renovation of current jail facilities, without raising taxes. Finally, I would do away with the ability of appointed boards to propose millages.
3. While at Western Michigan University, I was the Campus Concerns Chair where I handled environmental issues on campus, as well as corresponding with WSDP. I also bring a unique perspective since I am a working student with new ideas for Kalamazoo County.

Brian Johnson

Democrat. Age 57. Consultant, B R Johnson Corp. County Commissioner, 6 terms; CEO, B R Johnson Corp, 8 yrs; legislative staff for Michigan House, 10 yrs; Lansing consumer advocate, 2 yrs; insurance and investment business, 7 yrs.

1. Kalamazoo County should grow into a stronger university community with more graduate programs, more high-tech employers and jobs, more redevelopment of the urban core, and reduced poverty. We commissioners can help our community realize that vision with continue support of economic development initiatives, brownfield redevelopment, more effective prevention and treatment programs, better law enforcement and poverty reduction. The Board of Commissioners must provide the leadership that brings local jurisdictions, school districts and other community partners together to realize a sense of community and cooperative problem solving. Our children are our future, and Kalamazoo County government plays a key role in helping them become productive members of society.
2. For the most part, the structure of county government is defined and limited by state law. The barriers to Kalamazoo County government's effectiveness are directly related to lack of resources, primarily due to loss of revenue sharing from the state. One option that we commissioners do have that should be explored is to create a public defender's office similar to Washtenaw County since 1971 or more recently Kent County. At the present time, the court appoints attorneys to represent the accused when they cannot afford them. Evidence suggests that the present system is not working properly.
3. I have a strong financial background with the ability to analyze budgets, pensions and employee benefits. I have a strong institutional memory, having served two tenures (1986-1992, 2003-present) as a County Commissioner as well as ten years experience on legislative staff. My 22 years of government experience combined with my service on numerous local and statewide boards and committees provides a solid toolkit for solving problems in Kalamazoo County.

District 6

Kalamazoo City [precinct 10];
Kalamazoo Township [precincts 1, 2, 9, 10, 13, 14]

Franklin C. Thompson

Democrat. Age 82. Kalamazoo County Commissioner, District 6. Plainwell H.S. graduate, 1943. Short courses at Kalamazoo College, WMU, MSU, Northwestern U, Oakland Community College. U.S. Navy, 1944-47. Police officer, Kalamazoo City, 25 yrs, until 1973.

1. To be a leader for southwestern Michigan. To establish a county land use plan. To work with all other units of government. Establish and build a regional jail; could build on northwest area, Checker Motors and Eaton property. Build BL 131 through area and return Kalamazoo city one-way streets back to two-way. Work to get people to move back into the city. More jobs for youth, etc. Additional suggestions: (a) That county administration improve ways on how elected officials can get better acquainted with each other. (b) Improve on informing the public and citizens on what the county is working on, not hidden surprises which makes the public lose faith in the system. Example: When voters turned down needed millage for the law enforcement, new jail, etc.
2. (a) Establish a public defender's office to save money and give the defendants a better chance in court. (b) Re-establish the committees; go back to the system in 1979 and 1980; have just four. (c) Presently the committee of the whole takes too much time. (d) Establish an employee suggestion plan. How to improve services and save monies. (e) Establish a merit plan for employees.
3. Born and raised in this area. Worked on farms as a youth. Worked at Sutherland Paper Co. Worked at Checker Motors. I'm an extrovert and can talk with anyone, can listen to citizens' concerns and follow through on complaints, etc. Can work with other people and elected officials.

District 7

Kalamazoo City [precincts 15, 16, 17, 18, 19]

David Buskirk

Democrat. Electrician, Project Manager, Executive Vice President of major electrical firm in Kalamazoo County. High school graduate, some college, 4 yrs trade school. Member IBEW local 131, 35 yrs; past President. County Commissioner, 7 terms; Vice-Chair, 1 term; Chairman, 3 terms.

1. To continue to be a place where people chose to live because of our values and quality of life here. Through support of neighborhoods, family, economic development, education and job development, we can and will continue to grow into a community that our children and their children will continue to call home.
2. While each of the 17 County Board members are fine people and great representatives, the number is sometimes more often than not unwieldy. The board should be reduced to seven or nine members at our next reapportionment.
3. My commitment to bi-partisan decisions, and my 14 years on the County Board, serving as vice-chair and current chair have taught me that this is about representation of the people. I strive to include all in our decision-making process and always look for consensus.

District 8

Portage City [precincts 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 17]

John W. Zull

Republican. Age 67. Retired educator, PPSD. B.A., M.A., political science, WMU. Taught government classes for 37 yrs in high school; always taught a unit on all local governments. Appointed to several local advisory boards, including the Planning Commission of the city.

Kalamazoo County Commission, continued

Portage City Councilman, 13 yrs; presently serving 8 yrs as County Commissioner. Helped bring back the 4th of July fireworks in Portage as a Portage Rotary Club member. Presently serving on the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission Board.

1. Wow, this is hard to predict, of course. However, I would hope that WMU would have become an equal with the big three universities with a medical school. That our economic base would by then include many start up medical and otherwise high tech companies. I'm sure we will see some employers leave the area (perhaps Pfizer will have no presence or a much smaller one in Kalamazoo County). We must by then have a state of the art jail and be known across the nation for our restorative justice programs. As County Commissioner I can tell you we dream big and have been responsible for partnering with Southwest Michigan First to grow our potential for development with the Innovation Center on Western's campus and MidLink industrial park. . . .
2. I would reduce the elected administrators to only the Judges, and the Prosecutor. All others would be appointed by the County Administrator, as such positions are always appointed in other local governments, such as cities. I would keep an elected County Board who appoints a County Administrator. Not that our elected administrators are not highly qualified public servants who work well together with the BOC; but if you look generally at county governments this practice of too many chiefs and too few Indians (so to speak) makes for less unity and more infighting and even unqualified public servants.
3. I refer you to my background and experience.

Alan Sprague

Democrat. Age 61. President, Teamsters Local 164. Gull Lake H.S. graduate; trained at KVCC, MSU. Have worked as a mechanic and truck driver, and now work with 33 companies on contracts, arbitrating grievances, and ensuring compliance with collective bargaining agreements. I'm accountable for all the books, and supervising the staff, just like a business, and I have to answer to an executive board as well. Website: <http://www.spragueforkalamazoo.com>.

1. The commission should be working cooperatively for the best interests of all, including attention paid to clean air and water, accessible public services, and a leadership body of a reasonable size, focused on fiscal responsibility. Those who have been blessed by the Kalamazoo Promise should return here to invest their education in the community. I'd like to see partnerships between our colleges and the county to better prepare kids for college. We also need to build awareness that the Promise supports vocational education. College isn't for everyone, and excellent, well-paying careers are available in the building trades, which help build the infrastructure of our county. The building trades should be more involved in the schools to let students know about those career paths.
2. Our last redistricting led to an increase in payroll of nearly \$100,000 to pay eight more commissioners. We have one of the largest boards in the state at 17, and that's just irresponsible. I will work toward being positioned to respond to the redistricting that will follow the 2010 Census, and reduce the body to a more reasonable and efficient size. Partnerships will be vital in meeting the challenges of the future. The "this is mine, not yours" attitude, and our culture of partisanship and personalities is highly divisive, and serves no one.
3. In representing 33 companies of diverse industries in my present job, I have to be intimately acquainted with operations of each and every company—from bakeries to nursing homes. My skills and accountability are at work each day in the areas of negotiation, staff supervision, problem solving, budgeting, compliance, bookkeeping, and

knowledge of pension and health care plans. I am elected to serve in this position, and my ongoing reelection attests to my success in these areas.

District 9

**Kalamazoo City [precinct 25];
Portage City [precincts 7, 8, 11, 15, 20]**

Nasim H. Ansari

Republican. Age 61. Instructor/Consultant. Master's degrees in chemistry and business administration. Portage resident, 31 yrs. Kalamazoo County Commissioner. Portage City Councilman. Local Emergency Planning Committee; local government employee. Kalamazoo County Environmental Health Advisory Council. Portage Lions Club; Portage Groundwater Commission. Conventions and Visitor's Bureau Board of Directors. Local Development Finance Authority. Vice-Chair, Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee. Appointment Committee, Aeronautics Board. Married, four children.

1. I picture an improvement in the health and quality of life of our community. I see a healthy, vibrant local economy that is diverse and innovative and one that attracts and maintains a highly educated and skilled workforce. I would like county residents to always feel safe and secure in their homes and as they travel throughout the County. I will promote policies that retain existing and attract new businesses to the County. Favorable taxes, skilled workforce and necessary infrastructure—plus good transportation, water and sewer would be incentives to prospective investors and contribute to the growth and retention of existing businesses. I will make sure that revenues are used as efficiently and effectively as possible.
2. (a) Now that the Office of Drain Commission is assisted by a Deputy, I feel we would benefit from its soil conservation side being reverted back to the Drain Office. The Drain Commissioner should be appointed based on his or her qualifications and experience rather than solely on the basis of an election. (b) Encourage more intergovernmental cooperation to achieve economies of scale through a cooperative consolidation of governmental purchasing and service provision where feasible. Also, the Planner's Office, having jurisdiction over GIS, could be a one-stop shop to help in locating information and maps necessary for development purposes.
3. Experience on the Kalamazoo County Commission, Portage City Council and various county and city boards are an asset to the County Board. As a retired local government employee, a small business owner and an adjunct professor, I am fortunate to have the leadership, administrative and personal relations skills needed to serve on the Board. I am compassionate and a good listener, continuing to serve the County with the integrity, pride and leadership it deserves.

E. Dorphine Payne

Democrat. Age 61. Attorney at law. B.S., Spring Arbor College; J.D., Notre Dame Law School. Law practice includes criminal, family, juvenile and probate law. Prior work experience comprises: WMU Student Affairs and the Division of Minority Affairs; IBM; and Director of the Center for Leadership Options for Community Kids (C.L.O.C.K.), an award-winning juvenile diversion program. Also served on Lakeside Home for Boys and Girls, Board of Directors. Married, three children and six grandchildren.

1. A fully employed, educated workforce with safe streets and thriving green neighborhoods. A legal system that works for all of its citizens; and a community that is environmentally conscious and energy independent. To accomplish this, the County can begin now to establish a county wide strategy to become energy independent; continue to explore and expand entrepreneur opportunities and attract businesses to the community that are willing to remove the barriers to employing our citizens.

2. Establish a Public Defenders Office to operate independent of the Circuit Court. Currently the indigent defense budget is included in the County Court budget. Judges allocate funding and determine criteria for hiring attorneys. As the County Prosecutor has sole responsibility for his office, indigent defense decisions should reside in an office with the singular purpose of providing all citizens their constitutional right to a vigorous defense. Many existing problems of indigent defendants could be alleviated. County dollars paid to attorneys would remain in the County and the attorneys would be readily available to their clients.
3. I have a legal mind and common sense. As an attorney I have daily contact with constituents, providing me the unique opportunity of hearing the needs of citizens from myriad circumstances and socio-economic levels: those facing criminal trials, those who are probating the will of a loved one; or those ensuring their financial future by establishing a trust. I fight for them as I will vigorously advocate for the citizens in the 9th District.

District 10

Portage City [precincts 1, 9, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21]

James Graham

Republican. Age 44. Business owner. Law enforcement degree. Former Portage City Councilmember; Mayor Pro Tempore and Mayor. I was born and raised in Portage. I am proud to have raised my two children with my wife, Brenda, of 24 yrs in a wonderful community with outstanding public schools. I am a local business owner of Crossroads Expert Auto Service and Graham's Towing.

1. I see Kalamazoo County reshaping itself and diversifying its job and tax base after the loss of the Upjohn Company. This experience has been painful for the community but we have responded well and will continue to respond well by bringing in new employers and increasing our educational opportunities. The County Commission needs to be a catalyst to bring the various municipalities together to better serve the respective constituents.
2. The County Board of Commissioners needs to be reduced in size to nine commissioners after the next census. Services and facilities need to be significantly consolidated to reduce expenses and to improve service. Currently, Kalamazoo County government utilizes too many buildings and expensive redundancies exist.
3. I have significant experience in business as well as local government having served in a progressive city. During my term as Mayor I was successful in creating new jobs, tax base, infrastructure improvements and quality of life improvements. I have the ability to communicate in a straightforward way and I avoid being "political." I have always attempted to work for substantive change and I am results oriented.

Michael Quinn

Democrat. Age 61. Statistician, Summit Polymers, R&D and Engineering. B.A., applied mathematics, WMU, 1991; M.S., applied statistics, WMU, 1998. Veteran, U.S. Marine Corps, Sergeant, active 1966-69, served 1 tour in Viet Nam. Peace Corps Volunteer, Nicaragua, 1975-77, communications systems advisor for a reforestation project. Owner (with my wife) of Shamrock Montessori Center. Member: St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Southern Michigan Gun Club, Irish-American Club of Kalamazoo, and the American Statistical Association.

1. Environmental contamination in the creeks and river will be cleaned up, the site of Allied Paper will have been bioremediated and turned into a public park. A Local First movement will have supported a great variety of homegrown and locally-owned independent enterprises that are a pillar of the county economy. Mass transit is greatly expanded, nearly free and widely used. With the Kalamazoo

Kalamazoo County Commission, continued

Promise, a clean, friendly, and interesting environment, companies with high-paying, high-tech jobs are clamoring to relocate here. The commission can put more energy into healing the land and water, contribute a larger share to mass transit, give more help to local entrepreneurs.

2. The 17 commission districts were drawn by 4 Republicans and 1 Democrat to ensure Republican control of the commission. The gerrymandering is obvious, and does not serve the people well. Eleven districts would be plenty, and they should be redrawn by disinterested parties, even if we have to hire them from Finland and Costa Rica. The districts should be drawn to be competitive, and as geographically convex as possible. (My district looks on the map like a jigsaw puzzle piece!)
3. [Did not reply to this question.]

District 11

**Portage City [precinct 10];
Texas Township [precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]**

Grady G. Biby

Republican. Age 68. Production Manager, Allen Edwin Homes. Co-owner, Custom Surfacing Ltd. Kalamazoo County Commission. Mechanical engineer, Bachelor of Business Administration. U.S. Navy Submarine Service, retired; Consumers Energy, retired. Texas Township ZBA and Township Committees, Kalamazoo County Commissioner serving on Intergovernmental Governmental Cooperation Committee, Housing Committee, Local Development Finance Authority for the WMU Business, Technology & Research Park, Fairgrounds Focus Group, Kalamazoo County Committee Interview and Recommendation Committee, Human Resources Committee.

1. By 2028, Kalamazoo County will be into full utilization of the "Promise." Humans outperform the other species because we communicate and educate. Education and retention of the current local youth and those who come to Kalamazoo County to be educated at our universities, along with the scientific and medical business incentives provided by local visionaries will propel Kalamazoo County into an economic leadership position in the state. Already there are spin-offs from the Innovation Center located in the WMU BTR that promise to equal or surpass locally-owned international businesses. The recent initiative of the Kalamazoo County Commission to provide true authority to the "Housing Authority" along with monetary support will lead the County toward elimination of the county "homeless."
2. The Kalamazoo County government structure is correct. The current County Administrator has and will continue to rearrange the duties and responsibilities of the various department heads for greater accountability and efficiency. Installation of the current Treasurer and Drain Commissioner made tremendous strides forward in supplying the leadership and expertise needed in those departments. The Kalamazoo County Commission created an Airport Authority to aid in the expansion of the airport, a Transportation Authority to improve the ability to seek funds for the public transportation system and was instrumental in the change allowing five County road commissioners.
3. I have excellent analyzing and problem-solving skills. I believe being fair, honest and pleasant with people will lead to mutual respect and allow those involved to reach amicable end results. I believe the County Commissioners owe the residents of the County a financial responsibility to be frugal with their money while achieving mandated and elective services. I am experienced on many boards which serve the citizens of the County.

Calvin James Everly

Did not respond in time for publication.

District 12

Oshtemo Township [precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9]

Christopher T. Haenicke

Republican. Age 42. Attorney and Trust Relationship Officer, Greenleaf Trust. B.A., philosophy, OSU, 1989; J.D., U of Cincinnati College of Law, 1993. Engaged member of our community. Served on numerous boards: Guardian, Inc.; Optimist Club of Kalamazoo; Kalamazoo County Bar Association; Selective Service Local Board; Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra; Rotary Club of Oshtemo; and Heritage Community of Kalamazoo. Leadership Kalamazoo, graduate. Experience in solving complex legal and financial issues. Good understanding of local needs and issues.

1. Our County has a long history of fostering achievement in academic, business, civic, cultural and humanitarian areas. There is no reason to believe this trend will cease. My vision is of a County that will lure businesses with an educated workforce and business-friendly environment, and attract workers with good-paying jobs and an exceptional quality of life. The Commission is but one of the many public and private community stakeholders that has a role in realizing such a vision. While the Commission may have less legislative and regulatory power than the cities, townships and villages to affect the realization of such a vision, the Commissioners can use the bully pulpit of the Commission to encourage collaboration, coordination and cooperation by the various stakeholders.
2. I would start by taking a thorough look at the size of the County Commission. While spreading committee work amongst 17 commissioners certainly lightens the workload of the individual commissioners, one has to wonder about the efficiency of a 17-member body. Moreover, the demographic characteristics of the districts are not so different that some of them could not be fairly and adequately represented by a single Commissioner. The County could also look at making the Drain Commissioner and Surveyor appointed, rather than elected, positions. Doing so would save the expense associated with holding elections for these positions every four years.
3. As for talents, I am by nature a person who seeks agreement and cooperation, rather than conflict, and who includes people, rather than exclude them. While I enjoy communicating with others, I am also a respectful, tolerant and an attentive listener. I have a generally positive disposition and a sense of humor. Skills gained in my personal and professional life include analyzing problems, public speaking, conflict resolution, administrative oversight, budgeting and fiscal management.

John A. Nieuwenhuis

Did not respond in time for publication.

District 13

**Alamo Township [precincts 1, 2];
Cooper Township [precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5];
Parchment City [precinct 1]**

Deb Buchholtz-Hiemstra

Republican. Age 41. Business manager and consultant. M.B.A., concentration finance and business policy, U of Chicago; B.A., economics and political science, U of Michigan; Parchment H.S. graduate. Incumbent Kalamazoo County Commissioner in 8th year; chairman, 2 yrs; vice chairman, 2 yrs. Small business background with ongoing business consulting and community-building project experience. Helped establish and expand international carbon-based commodity broker business, currently the company's chief financial officer.

1. I believe our entrepreneurial and innovative spirit

of the past and present are positioning Southwest Michigan for a prosperous future. Kalamazoo County's strong commitment to education, coupled with a creative and philanthropic business community, and local government geared toward efficiency, will enable us to grow a diversified economy of opportunity. County government has a natural position from which to help lead and coordinate these efforts, but must exercise this leadership to a greater extent through trust-building and action.

2. Starting at the top, the size of the board must be decreased to improve group dynamics and issue discussion. We need to continue to prioritize and define goals, and hold staff accountable for attainment while giving them the latitude to creatively manage day-to-day affairs guided by board policies. County government has tremendous responsibility, but little direct authority. In the ideal world, we would evaluate the functions of local government and determine how the public could be most cost effectively and efficiently served without regard to departmental or jurisdictional lines. In the real world, such change is frustratingly slow and challenging.
3. I am recognized as a hard-working commissioner who is well prepared, well informed and dedicated to our community and its improvement. I am a consensus builder who regularly reaches out to other governments, business and community leaders for input in decision-making. My experience in business has focused my attention on measurable results and accountability. I am a detail-oriented fiscal conservative who challenges assumptions and the status quo in seeking better alternatives and processes.

Michael Seals

Democrat. Age 47. Retired. A.D., business management major, marketing and communication minor, Davenport College, 1996; plan on returning to finish. Family moved to Parchment, MI, in 1967 from Wisconsin. In 1969 moved to the Westside, until 1979. Served in U.S. Navy, 1981-89; worked at Consumers Energy, line worker, 1990-2005. President, local Chapter of A. Phillip Randolph Institute; United Way Board of Directors, 9 yrs, representing labor; Eastside Neighborhood Association Board of Directors, Treasurer; Kalamazoo River Clean Up Coalition, Treasurer.

1. My hope is that we will be working together to provide good-paying jobs to its citizens. That co-operation is the most common word. We provide fair wages, responsible contracting and policies that benefit all its residents. New transportation infrastructure that meets the needs of all our residents. A justice system that treats our citizens fairly. Education is key to growth and economic stability of the County.
2. I would like to see the number of commissioners reduced to 9, 11 or even 13. It just seems to me that there are too many. It makes it difficult when trying to come to a consensus. It would also save the county money.
3. Having volunteered/worked with non-profits for the past 18 years in Kalamazoo, I bring a lot of experience in networking with partners in the community. I understand the importance of cooperation and working to achieve goals that benefit our community as a whole.

District 14

**Charleston Township [precinct 1];
Richland Township [precincts 1, 2, 3];
Ross Township [precincts 1, 2]**

Jeff Heppler

Did not respond in time for publication.

Kalamazoo County Commission, continued

Michael Liepman

Democrat. Age:62. Addiction Psychiatrist, Educator, Scientist. U of Michigan Medical School. Medical educator: MSU/KCMS Professor; 84 publications; journal editor. Physician: Medical Director, Community Healing Centers; 38 yrs addiction work. Community leadership: addiction services for Ann Arbor; VA Addiction Treatment Program Director; services for pregnant addicts; millions of grant dollars; Worcester Fights Back against Alcohol & Drugs; Healthy Babies Healthy Start; Mother's Mind Matters; Family Matters Project; Kalamazoo County Substance Abuse Task Force; Michigan Psychiatric Society, Vice-President.

1. A multicultural community exercising tolerance and celebrating our diversity. Economic prosperity with diverse employment opportunities for all including agriculture, research and development, manufacturing, education, health care, services, business, recreation, arts and culture. Access to excellent health care, education and housing without barriers. Low prevalence of crime and substance abuse. Healthy respect for the environment with renewable energy, conservation and recycling.
2. No response.
3. My background is in health care, education, public health, families, social systems. I understand organizations and the way in which changes in one part of a system can affect other parts. No one on the Commission has a background in health, yet the Commission is responsible for the Health Department, Kalamazoo Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Drug Courts, etc.

District 15

Comstock Township [precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8]; Galesburg City [precinct 1]

Ann Nieuwenhuis

Republican. Age 55. My current role as Michigan State University Extension Emergency Planning Specialist gives me a state-wide perspective that complements my 34 years as the Kalamazoo County MSU Extension Director/Educator. I have been a catalyst and successful facilitator for community and economic development within SW Michigan, consistently identifying and implementing common sense solutions. I bring first-hand county issues expertise, education (B.A. and M.A., WMU) and administration experience to the County Commission. Visit my website at www.electann.com.

1. Kalamazoo County's cities, townships and neighborhoods will be a seamless metropolitan region that provides residents with the best of city life and the friendly, familiarity of small Midwestern living; accessible by walking, biking, affordable public transportation and by car. Its industry will be led by life science, advanced agriculture and manufacturing while supported by complementary industries that draw on a pool of local talent and provide employment choices. It will be known for generating and implementing creative and cooperative intergovernmental solutions led by a County Commission that leverages its access to federal dollars against state and local investment to stretch every tax dollar raised—a commission with a balanced budget and a record of setting and meeting goals that match the priorities of its citizens.
2. The County Commission has significant structural latitude, which it can, and has used to make arbitrary changes. While voter approval should not be a requisite, voter involvement must be. Efficiencies must be balanced by voter representation, and commissioners must be actively engaged in community—regularly attending local municipalities', school and citizens group meetings. The board should also establish a strategic plan with clear, measurable goals around operational efficiencies. Such benchmarking allows departments to improve their service delivery, identify ways to reduce expenses and maximize taxpayer buying

power in a transparent arena that fosters citizen-driven current and future decision making.

3. As a County department head, I applied *common sense solutions* to make county government more effective, efficient and accountable for 34 years. I acquired expertise in the areas of agriculture and the environment—two issues essential to our region's economic future. Within the state and local government, I am recognized for my ability to bring diverse groups together to build bridges and create unique community partnerships, a strength I believe vital to a County Commissioner.

Leroy Crabtree

Democrat. Age 43. Business Manager, Local Union 131 IBEW and Kalamazoo County Commissioner, District 15. A.D., electronic engineering technology, ITT Technical Institute, 1983–85; NJATC Electrical Apprenticeship, 1985–89; pursuing Bachelor's degree, Employee Safety and Health, National Labor College, 2005–present. I have 2 yrs experience serving as a County Commissioner and nearly 20 yrs negotiating contracts, resolving disputes, and maintaining harmony between employees and employers.

1. I have a vision of a vibrant community that retains not only our educated youth but also our manufacturing base. I see both a top-notch university and a community college that is responsive to the needs of the employers in our County. I see many abandoned manufacturing sites being rebuilt and refitted to accommodate new industries who move into Kalamazoo to take advantage of our skilled manufacturing workforce. The role of the County is one of support and leadership. We support by providing infrastructure, promoting collaboration between municipalities, and by brownfield and economic development. We lead by looking forward, learning about what is working elsewhere, and making decisions that move the strategic plan of the County forward.
2. (a) I would make the offices of Drain Commissioner and Treasurer appointed by the Board of Commissioners. These positions require a high level of skill and training and should be filled only after a thorough interview and vetting of qualifications. (b) I would change the way county districts are determined so the demographics of the people in the County are considered above political party preference.
3. I bring experience as a negotiator and consensus builder to the commission. I have earned the trust and respect of both labor and employers by building bridges between the two for nearly 20 years. It is essential that a bi-partisan commission find ways to work together and stay on task without being distracted by political or emotional influences. I will continue to work with the whole committee to serve the people of Kalamazoo County.

District 16

Climax Township [precinct 1]; Comstock Township [precinct 5]; Pavilion Township [precincts 1, 2, 3]; Wakeshma Township [precinct 1]; Portage City [precinct 2]

Jeff Balkema

Did not respond in time for publication.

Thomas Post

Democrat. Age 60. Expediting Manager, Clausing Industrial Inc. B.S., geography, Eastern Illinois U. Over 40 yrs experience working for multi-national corporations and, as a result, experiencing work with a diverse group of people.

1. I would like to see two major changes in Kalamazoo County in the coming years. First, I would like to see our county develop as a leading center for product distribution. A key ingredient will be development of an intermodal rail/

highway terminal for distribution and collection of containerized freight. Development will be coordinated through the County Commission. I would also like to see the County promoted as an attractive place for active retirees to live. We have good recreation, transportation and health care facilities. Our lower cost of living and higher quality of life can be attractive to people moving from urban and suburban areas.

2. I am not in favor of great changes in the structure of our county government. I would like to see a concerted and coordinated effort to foster conditions in the County to retain and develop high-quality jobs in the county. Infrastructure development, tax incentives, educational programs and improved quality of life factors will play important roles in attaining these jobs.
3. I believe that through my years of experience in the business world and my experience working with non-profit groups, I have developed an ability to work well with people who not only share my opinions, but people I may differ with too. I am willing to listen to other people and work with them. I feel that this is important when working with 16 other commissioners and the many other people involved in county government.

District 17

Brady Township [precincts 1, 2]; Prairie Ronde Township [precinct 1]; Schoolcraft Township [precincts 1, 2, 3, 4]

David C. Maturen

Republican. Age 60. Real Estate Appraiser. Bachelor of Business Administration, Master of Public Administration, WMU. Small business owner as a real estate appraiser for the last 20 yrs. Township Trustee, 14 yrs; County Commissioner, 6 yrs. I serve on several state and national committees in the real estate and governmental arenas.

1. To be the economic engine of southwest Michigan while retaining its natural features which make it a great place to live. County government can play a role in caring for those in need with a hand up—not a hand out. It must strive to provide the necessary services to the public at a price they can afford.
2. Much of the framework we deal with is set by the state constitution so there is little ability to change it—though “change” seems to be the mantra for the current national election. Though I like the idea of authorities and commissions running various aspects of the county government as the members can focus their expertise on a single issue, I am somewhat concerned about the potential for a lack of responsiveness relative to the public. With appropriate safeguards and oversight that should not be a problem.
3. My experience in the private and public sectors on the local, state and national scenes. My job gets me into many county buildings, planning departments and municipal halls which affords me the opportunity to view various methods of and approaches to governance. My business owner status makes me cognizant of the burdens that government can place on job providers.

Kalamazoo County Officials

Prosecuting Attorney

Four-year term — Vote for 1

1. What strategies would you use to improve the effectiveness of the office in which you hope to serve? [100 words]
2. What strategies would you use to remain responsive and accountable to the public between elections? [100 words]
3. What changes, if any, would you advocate in local and state approaches to the problem of illicit drug use? Explain your response. [100 words]

Jeffrey R. Fink

Republican. Age 53. Kalamazoo County Prosecuting Attorney. WMU; U of Toledo School of Law; National College of District Attorneys. Joined the Kalamazoo County Prosecutor's Office in 1980 as an Assistant Prosecutor; over 25 yrs of experience handling the toughest of cases. Have prosecuted cases involving child abuse, robbery, home invasion and murder. Served as the Chief Assistant Prosecutor and as the Elected Prosecutor; currently oversee the entire office that handles several thousand cases each year. Further information: www.JeffFinkProsecutingAttorney.com.

1. The Kalamazoo County Prosecutor's Office is currently recognized as a leader in criminal justice both on a state and national level. Victims and their families have referred to the office as "world class." We encourage our staff to continuously make improvements in our service to the community. We have recently reorganized our office to allow vertical prosecution in District Court cases. This allows a victim to be served by the same Assistant Prosecutor throughout the court process. We are currently working on a pilot project using technology to speed up the transferring of investigative reports between the police and our office.
2. The Prosecutor's Office has two Assistant Prosecutors and a Victim Advocate on duty Monday thru Friday to personally respond to citizens' and victims' needs. We have one Assistant Prosecutor available on weekends and holidays to handle any cases when the defendant is in custody. I am always available to personally meet with citizens. I attend neighborhood association meetings, township meetings and other functions in the community to answer citizens' questions. We maintain a working relationship with the media to provide information to the public. We also have a website that allows citizens to contact me and the office staff.
3. The state could provide additional funding for prevention activities and drug treatment. In Kalamazoo County our office has partnered with the Courts and treatment professionals to create a Juvenile Drug Treatment Court, an Adult Drug Treatment Court and a Sobriety Court. These are programs that both hold offenders accountable and provide intensive treatment. These programs are extremely effective, but only become available upon a criminal case referral. Increased collaboration between schools, law enforcement and treatment providers would also benefit the community.

Robert A. Champion

Democrat. Age 53. Attorney. A.D., Delta College; Bachelor's degree, Ferris State U; J.D., U of Denver. Criminal defense attorney; attorney, City of Plainwell. Served in the criminal justice system since 1978: Police Officer, Kalamazoo Township Police Department; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Kalamazoo and Allegan counties. Former School Board President, Parchment School District. I understand the importance of the criminal justice system and understand how education can reduce the number of individuals involved in criminal activities and justice system.

1. As Prosecutor I will set fiscal priorities. I will focus on preventing crimes in our community while protecting the most vulnerable members of society. My staff and I will be active in the community. The current office is more concerned with appearance

rather than substance. I would not waste scarce resources on appearances that could be better used pursuing real criminals, educating our community and making a real impact on the safety and welfare of our community. The community should know that the Prosecutor's Office is concerned with growing and supporting local communities and their endeavors as a whole.

2. The Prosecutor needs to appear and handle cases on a regular basis in court so that he may truly understand the issues facing the criminal justice system and the victims, witnesses and defendants. In addition, the Prosecutor needs to be involved in community prosecution where he is meeting with the general public on a regular basis. Finally the Prosecutor must have an open door policy.
3. The problem of illicit drugs needs to be addressed first through education and prevention, second through treatment and diversion and finally, and only as a last resource, incarceration. It is better to spend our resources on violent criminals and those who prey on our youth than to fill our jails with those with a substance abuse problem.

Sheriff

Four-year term — Vote for 1

1. What strategies would you use to improve the effectiveness of the office in which you hope to serve? [100 words]
2. What strategies would you use to remain responsive and accountable to the public between elections? [100 words]
3. What is the role of the sheriff in ensuring that all persons detained in the county jail are "treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person," as required by the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights? [100 words]

Michael Anderson

Republican. Age 67. Sheriff. Master's degree, public administration, WMU; Bachelor's degree, criminal justice, MSU; Southern Police Institute, police admin., U of Louisville. Sheriff, 5 yrs; Undersheriff, 17 yrs; Michigan State Police, Major (Retired). See website: www.sheriffmikeanderson.org.

1. I will continue to: (a) Emphasize that the citizens we are sworn to serve and protect are the only reason for our agency's existence. (b) Explore every opportunity to partner with our community in using agency resources to maximum advantage for the right purposes. This includes meeting regularly with community leaders regarding services provided by the Sheriff's Office. (c) Seek opportunities to conserve tax dollars through consolidation of police services. Past examples include a joint crime lab with the City of Kalamazoo and a co-located/integrated dispatch center. (d) Strive for the highest possible achievement in training and equipping our employees.
2. Strategies I would use to remain responsive and accountable to the public—I will continue to: (a) Respond forthwith and openly to all media and citizen inquires; (b) Regularly attend community and governmental meetings where issues involving the Sheriff's Office may be of concern; (c) Partner with community organizations and other governmental entities to forge solutions to public safety problems; (d) Never waiver from absolute integrity as the cornerstone for maintaining trust with the community we serve; (e) Quickly acknowledge and correct errors that do occur.
3. The Sheriff's role is embodied in the agency's official mission statement wherein it states jail functions shall be performed "in a humane manner which reflects sensitivity to the dignity and equal rights of all citizens and reinforces the values of our community." Our jail staff is to be highly commended for the manner in which they fulfill this mission. A major obstacle to humane treatment,

however, is the structure of the current jail itself. It is antiquated and analogous to being a human warehouse, a situation that needs to be corrected.

Richard Fuller

Democrat. Age 44. Sergeant, Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Dept. Currently Coordinator of AED/CPR Instruction, Methamphetamine Clandestine Laboratory Unit, Project Life Saver Unit; A Child Is Missing Instructor, Sergeant, Uniform Services Section; Supervisor, Field Training Officer Operations. Associate Applied Art Law Enforcement, Kellogg Community College; 800 plus hours of continuing education certificates in Law Enforcement. Sergeant, Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department; Police Officer, Homer, Michigan; Police Dispatcher, Reserve Officer, Marshall, Michigan; EMT / Fire Fighter, Marshall, Michigan.

1. I will work with regional governmental agencies to create a co-op for purchasing of goods and services. I will look to cut overhead operating cost. I will examine strengths of current employees, placing them in positions that best fit them and the needs of the agency. I will work with employees to create a program that will involve them more in project designs and ideas; encouraging employees to become partners and offering ownership in goals we set as a group. By utilizing the knowledge and experience of our number one asset, the employees, we will save time, energy and money.
2. I will make the Sheriff's Department more transparent to the community. They will get to know us better through a new interactive website. There will be community meetings with deputies who work their streets and walk the halls of their jail. I want to provide monthly Community Access Television programs addressing various issues of citizens by answering questions of importance to them. This program could be a teaching tool for the community as well as an up-to-date learning device for the Sheriff to find out what is of concern to the citizens he serves.
3. The Sheriff must implement safeguards designed to protect inmates' physical well being from themselves as well as others. There must be procedures in place that allow the inmates the rights of law and protection of discrimination based on gender, religion, race or other. Inmates' individual freedoms allowed by the law shall be protected. A procedural fairness is required allowing inmates rules of law, rights upon arrest, rights to a lawyer and impartial process in trial. Mechanisms for inmates to launch complaints must be provided. Employees receive training, support and supervision necessary to keep the jail a safe and professional environment.

Clerk & Register of Deeds, Treasurer, Drain Commissioner, Surveyor

1. What strategies would you use to improve the effectiveness of the office in which you hope to serve? [100 words]
2. What strategies would you use to remain responsive and accountable to the public between elections? [100 words]
3. What essential talents and skills would you bring to this office? [100 words]

Clerk & Register of Deeds

Four-year term — Vote for 1

Timothy A. Snow

Republican. Age 49. Kalamazoo County Clerk & Register of Deeds. B.S., education, Central Michigan U; additional coursework at WMU; Certified Municipal Clerk from International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Kalamazoo County Clerk & Register of Deeds, 12 yrs; Comstock Township Clerk, 12 yrs.

1. (a) Technology has been a top priority throughout my service as Clerk & Register of Deeds. In 1999,

Kalamazoo County Officials, continued

the office was the first in the County to begin digitizing records for preservation and access to the public. (b) A new vendor is currently preparing to install new software which will make more of the public records available on the internet.

(c) The many new pieces of election equipment require effective management and planning. The department has been successful in this effort. (e) A highly trained staff is ready to provide friendly, quick and responsive service to the public.

- (a) The Clerk & Register of Deeds Office is the most personal of County offices as we maintain records of peoples' lives. We continue to improve access to the public by making information available on the internet on all aspects of the office. The department has saved dollars in order to fund digitization of paper and microfilm records for permanent retention and accessibility. (b) I continue to plan for additional ways to improve customer service in the future, primarily by using the internet. New software will be introduced in the near future to assist the public with even better access to the Clerk/Register's Office.
- (a) I am a professional clerk and regularly attend training in all aspects of the Clerk & Register of Deeds offices. I work closely with other Clerks and Registers throughout the state and am interested to see how other counties operate. I have gained much by my involvement with the Michigan Association of County Clerks and Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds. (b) Prior to coming to the County, I served as Comstock Township Clerk. That experience assisted me greatly and prepared me for my role at the County. It also gave me insight to needs, wants and desires of the public and their records.

David Kinsey

Democratic. Age 49. Head of Shipping/Receiving, D&R Sports Center. Attended Wittenberg U, Springfield, OH. Currently attending KVCC, focusing on computer information systems. Current Board President, Edison Neighborhood Association. Member and past Chair of the City of Kalamazoo's Community Development Act Advisory Committee. I've lived in the Kalamazoo area my whole life. I've owned a home in the Edison neighborhood since 1997.

- (a) The Clerk's office needs to make as much information as possible available on-line. Birth certificates, property records and DBA's on-line will be a great convenience for our citizens. (b) I will strive to reduce the lines at polling places on Election Day. Voters should not have to wait two hours to cast their ballots. (c) Some voters continue to feel uneasy about going to the polls because of persistent rumors of background checks for things like outstanding warrants and unpaid child support. The Clerk needs to take a pro-active approach to reassure all voters that they will not be arrested at their polling place.
- I don't anticipate any difficulty remaining responsive. The Clerk is a public servant with a very open, public place of business. If the public is dissatisfied with my performance or responsiveness I expect their views will be communicated immediately.
- I am very detail oriented and have perfectionist tendencies. I think these are desirable qualities in a County Clerk.

Treasurer

Four-year term — Vote for 1

Mary Balkema

Republican. Age 41. County Treasurer. B.A., accounting, WMU. Fifteen yrs experience in banking in the Trust Department, Accounting Department and Brokerage and Financial Services Division. Elected to the Kalamazoo City Commission, 2001–06. Serves on Retirement Investment Committee, County Plat Board, County Apportionment Commission and Election Commission.

1. Maximize Investment Income, Tax Foreclosure Forums and Education Awareness, Land Bank Strategy
2. Model best practices in cash and financial management through effective internal controls and a cohesive, knowledgeable team. I will fulfill customer service through communication, outreach and education.
3. Financial and banking experience—15 years in financial sector, management experience, political experience.

Julie Kaufman

Did not respond in time for publication.

Drain Commissioner

Four-year term — Vote for 1

Patrick Krause

Republican. Age 59. Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner. B.S., environmental health, Ferris State U; M.P.A., WMU. Director of Environmental Health and Laboratory Services, 18 yrs. Initiated numerous environmental programs in community including Groundwater Protection Program, Household Hazardous Waste Program and Surface Water Monitoring. Recipient of Chamber of Commerce Environmental Award. Inaugural member, MDEQ Environmental Advisory Council. Have worked with all local units of government in County on environmental issues. Drain Commissioner since September 2007.

1. Continue to build infrastructure of the office to meet needs of community and drain districts. Continue to be responsive to requests and inquiries from public. Work on building trust in the office with the community. Develop drain maintenance program in accordance with Drain Code. Meet all conditions and requirements of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Storm Water permit which includes addressing water quality issues within drain districts. Seek grant funding when possible to assist in drain projects and initiatives.
2. First, continue the practice since I have been in office of returning calls within one working day. Second, continue to network with community groups such as Michigan Association of Townships, Farm Bureau, Conservation District, township boards and officials. Third, hold public input meetings on proposed drain projects to seek comments and concerns. Last, and most important, respond in person and discuss face-to-face issues with residents of County regarding drain issues.
3. A year of experience working as the Drain Commissioner and making a number of improvements in the office in this short time. Proven environmental leadership skills to the community as evidenced by past experience as Director of Environmental Health and Laboratory Services. Demonstrated management and financial skills as exhibited in position listed above. A thorough knowledge of local government operations and a positive working relationship with all local units of government. Demonstrated ability to seek cost-effective solu-

tions to problems. Last, passion for public service and a desire to improve the quality of life for all community residents. See www.electkrause.com.

Patricia A.S. Crowley

Democrat. Age 54. Environmental Scientist. Ph.D., Agricultural Technology and Systems Management (Soil and Water Conservation Engineering), Biosystems Agricultural Engineering Dept, MSU. M.S., Water Resources Management (Small Watershed Engineering, Environmental Monitoring), UW-Madison. B.S., Biology, SFSU. Agricultural/Environmental Consultant, 2001–present, American Farm Environment. Hydrologist, 1997–2000, Kalamazoo River Water Quality Trading Project. Environmental Quality Analyst, 1991–97, Remediation Redevelopment Div., Michigan Dept of Environmental Quality. Soil and Water Specialist, 1983–91, MSU. Researcher, Lecturer, Editor, 1978–83, UW-Madison. U.S. Peace Corps, W. Samoa, 1976–78. www.pat-crowley.com

- (a) *Keep the basements dry, the crops growing, the wetlands wet, and the water clean!* (b) Prioritize and communicate the goals of the Drain Commissioner to the public. (c) Launch plans to address current projects while steadily working towards the establishment of long-term cost-effective flooding and storm water pollution prevention strategies. (d) Streamline in-house services such as permit review and reporting. (e) Form strong relationships with other public offices and community groups, and invite all stakeholders to seek solutions to immediate and long-term challenges. (f) Inspire public interest and involvement in caring for our water resources.
- (a) Establish a stakeholder's advisory board. (b) Seek public participation in decision-making. (c) Promote ongoing conversations between stakeholders within watershed districts. (d) Discuss ongoing projects in public forums. (e) Encourage local residents, students, and scientists to contribute articles to public forums about interesting local hydrologic features. (f) Continually seek ways to inspire stewardship.
- Besides 30 years of education and experience in soil and water engineering and science, I have a strong education and experience in management and a style that welcomes innovation and working together with a wide range of personalities and circumstances. I have a talent for continuously seeking ways to improve systems and a determination and faith that moves around obstacles like water moves around rocks in a stream. I am balanced, broadly competent, honest and approachable. I am fiscally conservative, careful in accounting, yet always mindful that wise water resource management is an investment in our economy and our future.

Surveyor

Four-year term — Vote for 1

Gary D. Hahn

Did not respond in time for publication.

Judges of the Circuit, District & Probate Courts

1. What can be done to provide individuals with better access to legal help and the legal system? [125 words]
2. Does Michigan's judicial selection process preserve judicial independence? Why or why not? [100 words]

3. What essential talents and skills do you bring to the court? [75 words]

9th Circuit Court Judge

Six-year term — Vote for 1

Gary C. Giguere, Jr.

Did not respond in time for publication.

Partial term ending 1/1/2011

Vote for one

Alexander C. Lipsey

Age 57. Circuit Court Judge. J.D., U of Michigan, 1977. B.A., Kalamazoo College, 1972. Kalamazoo Loy Norrix H.S., 1968. Practiced law, 23 yrs; bankruptcy law, 14 yrs (the last 5 yrs as a Chapter 7 Trustee). NLRB, Region 7 Hearing Officer; Kalamazoo City Commissioner/Vice Mayor; State of Michigan, Legislator, 2001–06. Grew up and raised my family in Kalamazoo.

1. Equal access to justice is the most crucial issue facing our justice system. At present Michigan falls woefully short. We need to, on a state level, comply with the ABA's standard for an access to justice system. At present Michigan falls woefully short. Our state has adopted uniform standards for jury selection and instruction. It has adopted sentencing guidelines to assure consistent imposition of sentences, but it has not taken any steps to ensure uniform, consistent representation of our citizens in our courts. We need to press our policymakers to bring our system into conformance with the national standards recommended by the ABA.
2. The present system was designed to eliminate the "backroom" judge selection process. Initially, it worked very well. Now however, our appellate courts are being sold to the highest bidder. It is very difficult to fund a nonpartisan election at any level. It is particularly difficult to do so on a statewide basis. When special interests get involved in funding the election of judges, we all are put at risk. Judges should be elected on their ability to justly decide cases, not for their position on one or two issues.
3. I am a problem-solver. I believe that if the old ways don't work, we need to develop new policies that do. On the criminal side, our top priority should be to protect our law-abiding citizens. We have found out that simply locking everyone up is not financially possible. We need to be fiscally smart and make the tough choices. I have a background that I believe gives me the tools to make the system work.

8th District Court Judge – Incumbent Position

Six-year term — Vote for 2

Robert C. Kropf

Did not respond in time for publication.

Richard A. Santoni

Did not respond in time for publication.

8th District Court Judge – Non-incumbent Position

Six-year term — Vote for 1

Bill Murphy

Age 55. Trial attorney, criminal and civil. B.S., criminal justice, honors, WMU, 1975; J.D., honors, Detroit College of Law, 1980. Tried numerous civil and criminal matters in district and circuit courts, 28 yrs. Case evaluator and mediator in Kalamazoo and surrounding counties. I have devoted countless hours to volunteer service projects; donated free legal services to Migrant Ministry; coached basketball for the YMCA and other youth programs; coordinated Food Resource projects and helmet giveaways for underprivileged children.

1. Properly fund legal aid, encourage all attorneys to provide pro bono advice and representation at free clinics, publicize and provide adequate access to law library materials for research and self-help.
2. Judges in Michigan are elected except those appointed to fulfill terms of judges who have resigned, died or left office for other reasons. Judicial canons of ethics preserve judicial independence by insisting that judicial candidates take no positions while campaigning on issues that could come before them. While there is more potential for undue influence by those who would contribute money to help fund judicial campaigns, the individual integrity of the judicial candidate, strict reporting requirements and limits on solicitations of lawyers help preserve independence.
3. For 28 years I have tried civil and criminal cases in district and circuit courts. I learned something about people and about the law from every case. I have a degree in criminal justice, and I have practiced in and observed the specialty courts in District Court. I have served as a case evaluator and mediator in multiple counties for over 20 years. I am a good listener and believe in justice for all.

Julie K. Phillips

Age 52. CEO of Law firm: Julie K. Phillips P.C. B.B.A., finance and commercial law, WMU, 1984; J.D., Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Lansing, 1991. Corporate management experience, 15 yrs: Village of Paw Paw, Fruit Belt Electric Co-Op, WW Engineering and Science. Legal experience, 17 yrs: Real Estate, Corporate, and Estate Planning. Phillips Law Office, Inc., Wright, Phillips & Sandmeyer, Inc., Wright & Phillips, Julie K. Phillips, P.C.

1. Even though Legal Aid of Western Michigan represents "indigent" individuals and families there are only seven attorneys who cover four counties and handle cases involving either housing, family law, consumers or public benefits. In addition, Kalamazoo County has 65 attorneys who volunteer time to consult with people at several "clinics" available throughout our County. I would like to see more diversified areas of the law covered by Legal Aid, to at least include bankruptcies and real estate foreclosures during these difficult economic times. I would also recommend that there be a tax deduction for the attorneys who donate their time so that they would be able to claim a "loss of income" and create a greater incentive to help others.
2. The judicial selection process for elections seems to be more fair and impartial than the appointed process. The Governor usually appoints the same

political party, instead of who may be the best candidate. As far as preservation for independence, it comes down to the integrity of the candidate. The fact that a candidate may receive up to a maximum contribution of \$1,000 from an individual or PAC may be a temptation for some candidates to return "favors" later. That is why I believe it to be important to vote for a candidate who is "independent" and is supported by diverse representation of the community.

3. I believe my broad base of experience leads to better decision-making through a deeper thought process to resolve issues that may come before me. My diverse background of 15 years of corporate management experience: municipal government, electric co-op, and engineering; plus teaching at the college level, being actively involved with various boards and committees, and 17 years of legal experience, including jury and bench trials, best qualifies me to be the next District Judge.

Probate Judge

Six-year term — Vote for 1

Patricia N. Conlon

Age 63. Probate Judge. U of Dayton, undergraduate; Wayne State U, graduate and law schools. Elementary school teacher, Detroit. Social worker, Detroit and Bronson Methodist Hospital, Kalamazoo; Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Kalamazoo County; attorney, private practice in criminal and family law; teacher, WMU, KVCC and Davenport U.

1. There is actually quite a bit being offered by both the court system and the legal community at this point. I cannot think of any additional services that could be offered. The local Kalamazoo County Bar Association offers free legal clinics in many aspects of the law, and our local Kalamazoo Public Library has a law library with a staff that is very helpful. The Family Court in which I am assigned also has forms for individuals, and we find that most individuals who use our Court are given the assistance that they need.
2. There is really no way to guarantee and preserve judicial independence at this point. Whether or not judges are elected or appointed, there's always going to be some concern about the public affect of every decision that a judge makes. Having said that, my impression of the State judicial system is that at the trial level, Michigan judges are hard-working and as fair and knowledgeable as they possibly can be.
3. As you can see from my background, I had years of experience as a teacher and social worker, in addition to extensive trial work as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney and defense attorney. My training in social work and education gave me the background for the neglect and delinquency cases that I handle, and my trial background helped me with the courtroom skills that I need.

State Ballot Proposals

Official Ballot Language PROPOSAL 08-1

A LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE TO PERMIT THE USE AND CULTIVATION OF MARIJUANA FOR SPECIFIED MEDICAL CONDITIONS

The proposed law would:

- Permit physician approved use of marijuana by registered patients with debilitating medical conditions including cancer, glaucoma, HIV, AIDS, hepatitis C, MS and other conditions as may be approved by the Department of Community Health.
- Permit registered individuals to grow limited amounts of marijuana for qualifying patients in an enclosed, locked facility.
- Require Department of Community Health to establish an identification card system for patients qualified to use marijuana and individuals qualified to grow marijuana.
- Permit registered and unregistered patients and primary caregivers to assert medical reasons for using marijuana as a defense to any prosecution involving marijuana.

Should this proposal be adopted? Yes No

YES

This November, voters will consider Proposal 1, which removes the threat of arrest and jail for suffering patients who use medical marijuana on their doctors' recommendation. Numerous studies have documented marijuana's medical value in relieving nausea and appetite loss due to chemotherapy, HIV-related neuropathy, muscle spasms, and other serious symptoms.

Proposal 1 is a compassionate, responsible measure. It requires patients to have the written recommendation of a Michigan physician and clearly defines the conditions that qualify.

It includes safeguards to prevent abuse, including establishing a statewide registry, with photo ID cards, so that police know who's protected by the law, and it establishes penalties for fraudulent cards and false statements.

It limits the amount of medical marijuana a patient can possess and cultivate, prohibits its public use, and requires facilities containing medical marijuana plants to be enclosed and locked.

It leaves intact all other criminal or civil penalties for the non-medical use, possession, and distribution of marijuana.

Michigan patients with illnesses like cancer, HIV/AIDS, and multiple sclerosis shouldn't face arrest for simply trying to alleviate their pain. By passing Proposal 1, we can extend compassion and provide peace of mind to some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

For more information, visit <http://stoparrestingpatients.org>

Provided by: Coalition for Compassionate Care

NO

The "medical" marijuana initiative permits large amounts of crude marijuana to be smoked or eaten under the guise of medicine. This undermines our medicine approval process that requires medications to meet the rigorous approval criteria of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). That process was carefully constructed over the past century to protect patients. It is dangerous to undermine it.

Marijuana legalization advocates falsely claim that marijuana is a safe treatment for nausea, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, pain and other ailments. However, numerous effective medications are currently available for these conditions.

"Medical" marijuana impacts youth. It is a step towards legalization of marijuana. Too often it is an excuse for recreational use.

"Medical" marijuana is rejected by the American Medical Association, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, American Glaucoma Society, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Cancer Society, National Eye Institute, National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and the FDA.

This initiative would allow drug users to possess 150-300 marijuana cigarettes at any given time, plus 12 plants with the ability to produce up to 57,600 cigarettes. It will put more impaired drivers on the roads and impaired employees in the workplace.

For more information, visit <http://votenoonproposalone.weebly.com>

Provided by: Save Our Society from Drugs

Official Ballot Language PROPOSAL 08-2

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ADDRESS HUMAN EMBRYO AND HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH IN MICHIGAN

The proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Expand use of human embryos for any research permitted under federal law subject to the following limits: the embryos —
 - are created for fertility treatment purposes;
 - are not suitable for implantation or are in excess of clinical needs;
 - would be discarded unless used for research;
 - were donated by the person seeking fertility treatment.
- Provide that stem cells cannot be taken from human embryos more than 14 days after cell division begins.
- Prohibit any person from selling or purchasing human embryos for stem cell research.
- Prohibit state and local laws that prevent, restrict or discourage stem cell research, future therapies and cures.

Should this proposal be adopted? Yes No

YES

Voting "Yes" on Proposal 2 makes vital components of stem cell research legal for finding life-saving cures and therapies for Michiganders.

The proposal:

- Provides for safe and ethical research as permitted under federal law;
- Keeps in force Michigan's ban against cloning; and,
- Allows medical research on voluntarily donated leftover embryos, for finding cures and treatment. These would otherwise become medical waste.

The procedure required to conduct vital stem cell research is now illegal in Michigan, even though it holds the promise of cures and treatment for deadly and debilitating diseases and conditions including Parkinson's, diabetes, Cancer, Alzheimer's, sickle cell, and spinal cord injuries. Finding cures and treatments is the right thing to do. It is time for Michigan to participate with almost every other state in the nation in the fight against debilitating disease. A small minority should not be able to keep you and your family from the best medical treatments available.

Working to cure disease is the right thing to do. Stem cell research holds the greatest hope of curing and treating deadly and debilitating diseases and conditions.

On November 4, remember Prop 2 means cures!

Provided by: CUREMICHIGAN

NO

Proposal 2 would remove state and local oversight of all for-profit corporations, public entities, and individuals involved in research on live human embryos or embryonic stem cell research. This proposed constitutional amendment provides that no state or local law may prevent, restrict, obstruct, discourage, or provide disincentives to any stem cell research. In other words, no laws apply to stem cell research. If passed, and a corporation were selling their research only to the highest bidder, the state could not step in. If a corporation were involved in stem cell experimentation that involved viruses or other risky behavior, the state could not stop it or regulate it.

As written, Proposal 2 means that any public or private individual or corporation can conduct completely unregulated and unrestricted experimentation on embryonic stem cells or human embryos. There is no other sector of society in Michigan that is completely beyond the reach of state or local laws. There is too much public and private money involved in this research for the voters to allow it to be unregulated and unrestricted.

Is this really the cure Michigan needs? Proposal 2 goes 2 far. Vote No on Proposal 2.

Provided by: MICAUSE

Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority Proposal

Shall the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority, a county-wide transportation authority, levy a tax for public transportation of up to 0.63 mills in 2008; up to 0.77 mills in 2009; up to 0.85 mills in 2010; and up to 0.86 mills in 2011? This millage shall apply to the taxable value of all taxable property within Kalamazoo County and shall be levied in December of each year 2008 through 2011. This millage is estimated to raise \$4,998,933 in its first year.

Yes No

Background

The purpose of this graduated millage is to support the countywide transportation system for the next four years.

- The Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA) was established by the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners in 2005 to create a unified county public transportation system by January 2009. In the past, the City of Kalamazoo operated Metro Transit, with other units of government providing funds to help support service to their areas.
- Public transportation includes fixed route bus service; para-transit service for persons who are unable to use the fixed route buses; an on-demand curb-to-curb service available for all county residents to travel anywhere in the county; and a community service van program that provides passenger vans for non-profit activities.
- KCTA will be funded by federal and state funds and local millage funds, in addition to farebox revenue (the cost to ride public transportation).
- Farebox revenue accounts for 18% of the funds needed to operate the system.
- Local millage funding accounts for 23% of the funds necessary to operate the system and local support required in order to receive federal and state funds.

- In November 2006 voters in Kalamazoo County approved a millage to fund a countywide transit system, authorizing KCTA to levy up to .45 mills (45 cents per thousand dollars of taxable value of taxable property) for two years. KCTA levied .45 mills in 2007 and .38 mills in 2008. This millage, which will expire at the end of 2008, supported three new fixed routes in Portage and the addition of evening and Saturday Care-A-Van service.
- Voters in the City of Kalamazoo voted in 2007 to renew a one-year millage of 1 mill in addition to the countywide millage. As a result, City of Kalamazoo residents have been paying a total of 1.38 mills during 2008 for public transportation. This millage also expires at the end of 2008.

If voters approve this request, .63 mills will be added to the December 2008 tax bill, payable by February 1, 2009, up to .77 mills payable in 2010, up to .85 mills payable in 2011 and up to .86 mills payable in 2012. Any year during the millage, KCTA may choose to levy less than the full amount of the millage if the funds are not required to sustain the system, as occurred in 2008.

- Impact on people living in the City of Kalamazoo: Their millage rate will decrease from 1.38 mills in 2008 to .63 mills—a reduction in 2009 of .75 mills or approximately \$75 less for a family with a home whose taxable value is \$100,000.
- Impact on people living in the county outside of the City of Kalamazoo: Their millage rate will increase from .38 mills in 2008 to .63 mills—an increase in 2009 of .25 mills or \$25 per year for a family with a home valued at \$100,000.

The source of this information is the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority Public Education Fact Sheet.

These statements are not intended to indicate either support or opposition to the proposal by the League of Women Voters. We encourage voters to consider the background and other information, as needed, when they vote.

Making Democracy Work

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Join us!

- ★ Encourage informed and active participation in government
- ★ Work to increase understanding of major public policy issues
- ★ Influence public policy through education and advocacy

- \$50 One-year individual membership
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- \$25 One-year student membership
- I am unable to join the League at this time, but enclosed is a contribution of \$ ____.

For more information, visit our website: www.lwvka.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Please make your check payable to League of Women Voters and return with your contact information to:

Tanya Potter
617 W. Inkster
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Polling Places

Polls Open Tuesday, November 4, 2008 — 7:00am to 8:00pm

ALAMO TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 7901 North 6th St.
Precinct 2 Township Hall, 7901 North 6th St.

BRADY TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 13123 South 24th St.
Precinct 2 Chapman Memorial Church, 7520 East U Ave.

CHARLESTON TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 1499 South 38th St.

CLIMAX TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 151 S. Main St.

COMSTOCK TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 East Fire Station, 8700 E. Michigan Ave.
Precinct 2 Township Hall, 6138 King Highway
Precinct 3 Comstock Christian Reformed Church, 5300 Comstock Ave.
Precinct 4 Northeastern Baptist Church, 6536 East G Ave.
Precinct 5 New Life Victory Church, 2775 South 26th St.
Precinct 6 Kalamazoo Community Church, 2435 North 26th St.
Precinct 7 Northeastern Baptist Church, 6536 East G Ave.
Precinct 8 Church of God Family Worship Center, 5841 East H Ave.

COOPER TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 1590 West D Ave.
Precinct 2 Fire Station #2, 3160 McKinley St.
Precinct 3 North Elementary School, 5535 Keyes Dr.
Precinct 4 North Bridge Church, 8824 Douglas Ave.
Precinct 5 Coopers Landing Apartments Community Room, 5001 Cooper's Landing

KALAMAZOO TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 1720 Riverview Dr.
Precinct 2 Northwood Fire Station, 2617 N. Burdick St.
Precinct 3 Martin Luther King, Jr. in Westwood School, 1100 Nichols Rd.
Precinct 4 West Main School Professional Development Center, 1627 West Main St.
Precinct 5 Westwood Fire Station, 1310 Nichols Rd.
Precinct 6 Indian Prairie Elementary School, 3516 Grand Prairie Rd.
Precinct 7 Hillside Middle School, 1900 Alamo Ave.
Precinct 8 Hope Reformed Church, 910 Jenks Blvd.
Precinct 9 Second Christian Reformed Church, 3013 Nichols Rd.
Precinct 10 Eastwood Fire Station, 2703 East Main St
Precinct 11 Lakewood Fire Station, 3100 Lake St.
Precinct 13 Northeastern Elementary School, 2433 Gertrude St.
Precinct 14 Sunnyside United Methodist Church, 2800 Gull Road
Precinct 15 Westland Meadows Community Room, 4300 Leisure Lane

OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 7275 West Main St.
Precinct 2 Fire House #2, 3500 South 6th St.
Precinct 3 Immanuel Fellowship Church, 6015 West H Ave.
Precinct 4 Fourth Reformed Church Fellowship Hall, 6339 Atlantic Ave.
Precinct 5 West Kalamazoo Christian Church, 454 South Drake Rd.
Precinct 6 Summer Ridge Clubhouse, 5545 Summer Ridge Blvd.
Precinct 7 Fourth Reformed Church Gymnasium, 6339 Atlantic Ave.
Precinct 8 Oshtemo Community Center, 6407 Parkview Ave.
Precinct 9 Third Reformed Church – Center Lobby, 2345 North 10th St.

PAVILION TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Lakeland Reformed Church, 10442 S. Sprinkle Rd.
Precinct 2 Scotts Community Center, 8450 South 36th St.
Precinct 3 Township Hall, 7510 East Q Ave.

PRAIRIE RONDE TWP.

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 8140 West W Ave.

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Gull Lake United Methodist Church, 8640 Gull Road
Precinct 2 Township Hall, 7401 North 32nd St.
Precinct 3 Haven Church, 5350 N. Sprinkle Rd.

ROSS TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Augusta Village Hall, 109 W. Clinton St.
Precinct 2 Yorkville Community Church, 11523 East D Ave.

SCHOOLCRAFT TWP.

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 50 East VW Ave.
Precinct 2 Ken Krum Recreational Center, 519 East Clay St.
Precinct 3 Vicksburg United Methodist Church, 217 South Main St.
Precinct 4 Ken Krum Recreational Center, 519 East Clay St.

TEXAS TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Calvary Reformed Church, 7829 South 5th St.
Precinct 2 Texas Corners Bible Church, 7780 South 8th St.
Precinct 3 M-Tec Center, 7107 Elm Valley Dr.
Precinct 4 Southridge Reformed Church, 6726 Texas Dr.
Precinct 5 Southridge Reformed Church, 6726 Texas Dr.
Precinct 6 Calvary Reformed Church, 7829 South 5th St.

WAKESHMA TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1 Township Hall, 13988 South 42nd St.

CITY OF GALESBURG

Precinct 1 City Hall, 200 E. Michigan Ave.

CITY OF KALAMAZOO

Precinct 1 Carver Center, 405 W. Lovell St.
Precinct 2 Bernhard Student Center, Western Michigan University
Precinct 3 Carver Center, 405 W. Lovell St.
Precinct 4 Bernhard Student Center, Western Michigan University
Precinct 5 Arcadia Elementary School, 932 Boswell Lane
Precinct 6 Friendship Village Community Room, 1400 N. Drake Rd.
Precinct 7 Douglass Community Center, 1000 W. Paterson St.
Precinct 8 Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 120 Roberson St.
Precinct 9 Douglass Community Center, 1000 W. Paterson St.
Precinct 10 Spring Valley Elementary School, 3530 Mt. Olivet Rd.
Precinct 11 St. Mary's Catholic Church, 929 Charlotte Ave.
Precinct 12 Oakwood Elementary School, 3410 Laird Ave.
Precinct 13 St. Joseph Catholic Church-Bennett Building, 930 Lake St.
Precinct 14 St. Joseph Catholic Church-Bennett Building, 930 Lake St.
Precinct 15 Washington Writers' Academy, 1919 Portage St.
Precinct 16 Milwood Christian Reformed Church, 3306 Lovers Lane
Precinct 17 Milwood United Methodist Church, 3919 Portage St.
Precinct 18 Milwood Christian Reformed Church, 3306 Lovers Lane
Precinct 19 Southern Heights Christian Reformed Church, 4141 East Hillendale Dr.
Precinct 20 Trinity Reformed Church, 326 W. Cork St.
Precinct 21 Girl Scouts Glowing Embers Building, 601 W. Maple St.
Precinct 22 Winchell Elementary School, 2316 Winchell Ave.
Precinct 23 Parkwood-Upjohn Elementary School, 2321 S. Park St.
Precinct 24 Girl Scouts Glowing Embers Building, 601 W. Maple St.
Precinct 25 Southern Heights Christian Reformed Church, 4141 East Hillendale Dr.
Precinct 26 Parkview Hills Clubhouse, 3707 Greenleaf Circle
Precinct 27 Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 120 Roberson St.

CITY OF PARCHMENT

Precinct 1 City Hall, 650 S. Riverview Dr.

CITY OF PORTAGE

Precinct 1 Portage Community Education Building, 1010 W. Milham Ave.
Precinct 2 Goldentree Apartments Community Room, 4795 E. Milham Rd.
Precinct 3 Portage Senior Center, 320 Library Lane
Precinct 4 Lake Center Elementary School, 10011 Portage Rd.
Precinct 5 Waylee Elementary School, 8106 Waylee St.
Precinct 6 Lake Center Elementary School, 10011 Portage Rd.
Precinct 7 Victory Baptist Church, 308 W. Milham Ave.
Precinct 8 Amberly Elementary School, 6637 Amberly St.
Precinct 9 Haverhill Elementary School, 1710 Haverhill Ave.
Precinct 10 Central Elementary School, 8422 S. Westnedge Ave.
Precinct 11 Angling Road Elementary School, 5340 Angling Rd.
Precinct 12 Central Middle School, 8305 S. Westnedge Ave.
Precinct 13 K-RESA Service Center, 1819 E. Milham Rd.
Precinct 14 Woodland Elementary School, 1401 Woodland Ave.
Precinct 15 North Middle School, 5808 Oregon Ave.
Precinct 16 Portage United Church of Christ, 2731 W. Milham Ave.
Precinct 17 Portage United Methodist Church, 8740 S. Westnedge Ave.
Precinct 18 Moorsbridge Elementary School, 7361 Moorsbridge Rd.
Precinct 19 Woodland Elementary School, 1401 Woodland Ave.
Precinct 20 Milham Meadows Community Room, 6103 Mallard Circle
Precinct 21 St. Catherine's Catholic Church, 1150 W. Centre Ave.