

League of Women Voters
of the Lansing Area

PO Box 971
E. Lansing, MI 48826
517-624-9224
lansing.mi.lwvnet.org

2018 Nonpartisan
Clinton County
Voter Guide



Cast YOUR Vote on November 6!

This election is important to each of us. It's about:

- ✓ our jobs
- ✓ our health
- ✓ our communities
- ✓ our security
- ✓ our future



The decisions our leaders make in office will influence public policy for years to come. Each vote - YOUR vote - decides who represents us to make those decisions.

On November 6, 2018, Michigan citizens will choose the person who will serve as our governor, the people who will represent us in the U.S. Congress, on the state board of education, and on three university boards of trustees, our state senators and our representatives in the Michigan House, and judges.

We will vote on state and local ballot proposals and for people who directly serve our local communities--positions that affect our lives on a daily basis. Those elected officials make decisions about the taxes we pay, the roads we drive on, the water we drink and the schools our children attend. They affect our communities' safety and well-being today and for the future.

A reason people give for not voting is that they don't have enough information.

The League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area is working tirelessly to break down that barrier with our on-line voting resource, www.VOTE411.ORG, and printed voters' guides which provide information about candidates and ballot proposals. You can even print out your sample ballot to take to the polls.

Voting is our power to shape our future as a community, as a state, and as a nation.

Have your say by voting on November 6th.

INDEX	
Michigan Senate	2
Michigan House of Representatives	5
Clinton County Commission	7
Lansing Community College	12
Dewitt Public Schools.....	13
Proposals	13



Thank you for reading the League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area

Voter Guide for 2018

The **League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area** (LWVLA) prepared this Voter Guide with biographical information about the candidates and answers to questions about issues.



The LWVLA does not take responsibility for the views or the facts as stated by the candidates. The words “candidate did not respond” after the candidate’s name indicate that no response was received by print deadline. The names of the candidates for each office appear in alphabetical order with the political party of the current Secretary of State (Republican in 2018) always appearing first on the ballot.

A publication by **League of Women Voters of Michigan** includes candidates for congress and for statewide elected positions. The League is a national organization, working since 1920 to encourage citizen participation in government. It never supports or opposes any political party or candidate but does take action on issues after careful study by the membership.

Beth Moore and Margo Smith, Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area

Michigan Senate District 24

Duties: The Michigan Senate shares responsibility with the Michigan House of Representatives to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws.

Qualifications: State Senators may serve a maximum of two full terms. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 38 State Senate districts which are re-apportioned after each census.

Term: 4 years

Candidates - Choose 1

Tom Barrett (REP)

Website: tomformichigan.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/tomformichigan>

Occupation / Current Position: State Representative, Michigan House of Representatives

Education: B.A. Western Michigan University, Cum Laude 2007

Qualifications / Experience: I have been a soldier in the Army for my entire adult life, and have deployed to Iraq, Kuwait, Guantanamo Bay, and South Korea. I still serve part time as a helicopter pilot in Grand Ledge. When I was first elected as a State Representative I became the only Iraq War veteran in the Michigan House. I also served as an Analyst for the State Treasurer and was a board member of the Michigan Land Bank.

Kelly Rossman-McKinney (DEM)

Website: <https://www.kellyforstatesenate.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/KellyForStateSenate/>

Twitter: twitter.com/rossmanmckinney

Occupation / Current Position: Retired CEO of Truscott Rossman

Education: Macomb Community College, AA '75; Wayne State University, BA '77 Psychology; Radio/TV/Film

Qualifications / Experience: I have been a small business owner/job creator since 1988, when I started my first business as a single mom sitting down at my kitchen table. I knew it was more important to pay my employees and suppliers first, even if it meant taking nothing for myself. I have built success on my “people before profits” attitude, strong work ethic and commitment to problem-solving.

Katie Nepton (LIB)

Candidate did not respond.

Matthew Shepard (UST)

Candidate did not respond.

Candidate Responses

Priorities

1. *What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?*

Tom Barrett (REP): My biggest priority is to lower the out of control cost of auto insurance. One third of Michigan drivers do not carry insurance. I will reduce rates by attacking the fraud and waste and preventing medical providers from gouging auto accident victims. Next is roads. I supported our most recent balanced state budget that increases road funding to the highest level in state history. Veteran issues will always be a passion of mine. We have too few voices in the legislature who have served in the military, and I have sponsored 6 veteran specific bills that have been signed into law with overwhelming bipartisan support.

Kelly Rossman-McKinney (DEM): Introducing The People's Price Tag legislation to require a price tag on every bill that is introduced. This will ensure that taxpayers know exactly how much a proposed new law will cost, how it will be paid for, who will pay, and who benefits. B) Working collaboratively to solve the state's problems, including but not limited to: infrastructure; attracting and retaining talent – including ensuring affordable secondary education & training; addressing our failing education system; etc. c) Ensuring quality & affordable physical and mental healthcare for Michigan's citizens

Katie Nepton (LIB): Candidate did not respond.

Matthew Shepard (UST): Candidate did not respond.

EDUCATION

2. *What measures do you support/propose to achieve improved educational outcomes and accessibility for Michigan students from early childhood through post-secondary education?*

Tom Barrett (REP): I have introduced a constitutional amendment that would equalize per-pupil funding across the state of Michigan so that all of our kids would have an opportunity to succeed, not just those in affluent neighborhoods. I also have opposed and consistently voted against any effort to strip resources out of our K-12 education fund. This year alone I have already voted against stripping almost \$1 billion in school aid resources out of our classrooms. Until we elect more legislators who oppose this practice we will continue to see money diverted from classrooms.

Kelly Rossman-McKinney (DEM): The constant churn of demands has made it hard on educators & we need to strengthen their ability to get back to basics. That means letting teachers teach critical thinking vs. "teach to the test." Michigan is starting to address the need for early childhood ed. but we're not reaching our goals. Many schools are in need of modernization and don't even have enough classrooms, so they've added modules. Buildings are old and need upgrading. I want students to have the best and safest environments to learn. We also need increased funding for community and four-year colleges, as well as skilled trades training.

Katie Nepton (LIB): Candidate did not respond.

Matthew Shepard (UST): Candidate did not respond.

ECONOMY

3. *What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?*

Tom Barrett (REP): Michigan has the lowest unemployment rate in decades. Having a fiscally sound and disciplined state budget that invests in infrastructure and reducing debt shows competence and stability to businesses that are considering investing in our state. Lowering auto insurance costs would stimulate our economy by allowing people to keep and spend more of their own money. Parts of Michigan also have some of the highest energy costs in the nation and we need to become more competitive with energy rates to improve life for residents and create a more attractive location for businesses to invest

Kelly Rossman-McKinney (DEM): is one of the most important reasons I am running and is a serious issue in my district, where we see some residents living well above the state's average household income while others live well below. I want every area of my district to thrive. Seeing abandoned store fronts and people moving away is heartbreaking. There are many steps we must take to address this. Like better access to skilled trades training – making sure that whether people are four-year, community college, or skilled trades school bound they have affordable and accessible options. This can help us attract great paying jobs to Michigan.

Katie Nepton (LIB): Candidate did not respond.

Matthew Shepard (UST): Candidate did not respond.

ELECTIONS

4. *What state policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*

Tom Barrett (REP): I support the right to participate in free and accurate elections, and I have fought for that right in other countries. I sponsored a bill that was just signed into law that requires the use of paper ballots in Michigan, a critical election integrity protection in case of a recount or to examine any voter anomalies. I have also sponsored legislation that would permit military members overseas to return their ballots electronically using their DOD email if their absentee ballot would not return home in time to be tabulated in the election.

Kelly Rossman-McKinney (DEM): A transparent and honest government starts before those who hope to be in office are elected. That is why I support an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission and I support no-excuse absentee voter registration, early voting in Michigan, Election Day voter registration, and complete disclosure of all political campaign expenditures by for-profit and non-profit corporations and all political action committees.

Katie Nepton (LIB): Candidate did not respond.

Matthew Shepard (UST): Candidate did not respond.

ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY

5. *What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations, while meeting the state's energy needs? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of Enbridge Pipeline 5.*

Tom Barrett (REP): I support the plan to place a utility tunnel buried beneath the straits to contain any pipeline as well as an electricity transmission line to link the upper and lower peninsulas. Our current grid has almost no ability to transfer electrical generation between the two peninsulas and that contributes to the energy rates in the UP being the highest outside of Hawaii. Pipelines have been shown to be the safest way to transport material and by placing the pipeline in a tunnel that can house other utility lines it will accomplish the goal of allowing the flow of energy while also providing protections to our Great Lakes.

Kelly Rossman-McKinney (DEM): We have a responsibility to protect our natural resources – like our Great Lakes and there is a lot we can do. Like supporting pilot projects for conservation. For example, the Michigan Farm Bureau has partnered with The Nature Conservancy, local governments and others for a Conservation Innovation Grant by the US Dept of Agriculture to develop systems to promote conservation practices near public drains. Although it is still early, there is potential to help public county drain officials improve water quality.

Katie Nepton (LIB): Candidate did not respond.

Matthew Shepard (UST): Candidate did not respond.

JUSTICE

6. *What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?*

Tom Barrett (REP): I support the rule of law to apply equally to everyone in our state regardless of race or social status. I have consistently opposed crony political deals that advantage elitists who can afford to pay high priced lobbyists to execute their political desires. All of us deserve equal treatment from the government, and I have stood in firm opposition to special political deals that only benefit the wealthy and well connected. My background is in the Army, not as a Lansing insider or lobbyist. I treat everyone fairly and I am proud of my legislative accomplishments working with colleagues from all political parties.

Kelly Rossman-McKinney (DEM): I support justice and equality for all in our country and I am deeply concerned that racial and social injustice are becoming an insidious undercurrent – not just in our state but in our country. I will do everything in my power to ensure that the policies before the legislature are fair to all and do not have a more negative impact on people who are already struggling.

Katie Nepton (LIB): Candidate did not respond.

Matthew Shepard (UST): Candidate did not respond.

Michigan House District 93

Duties: The Michigan House of Representatives shares responsibility with the Michigan Senate to enact new laws and amend or repeal existing laws.

Qualifications: State Representatives may serve a maximum of three full terms. They must be at least 21 years of age and a registered voter in their district. There are 110 State House districts which are re-apportioned after each census.

Term: 2 years

Candidates - Choose 1

Graham Filler (REP)

The candidate did not respond.

Dawn D Levey (DEM)

Teacher/Director

Website: e-mail: leveyforhouse@gmail.com

Facebook: <http://LeveyForHouse>

Occupation / Current Position: Ovid-Elsie Alternative High School Teacher/Director

Education: Central Michigan University - BS 1990 (K-12 Certified/Core Curriculum 9-12); Master's Equivalent; Montcalm Community College Assoc. Degree- Social Work - 1975

Qualifications / Experience: Ovid-Elsie Alternative High School - teacher 28 years; Village of Elsie Zoning Board of Review - approx. 10 yrs.; Clinton County Community Corrections Advisory Board - 4 yrs.; Past President Michigan United Conservation Clubs - advocate for conservation at the state and federal level; National Wildlife Federation - Delegate

Tyler Palmer (LIB)

Entrepreneur

Website: www.VoteTylerPalmer.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TylerPalmerForMichigan/>

Occupation / Current Position: Own/Operate Family Auto Body Shop

Education: Lansing Community College, No Degree Saint Johns High School, Class of 2009

Qualifications / Experience: Years in business management and entrepreneurship. Not a politician or office-holder, which I believe is my highest qualif.

PRIORITIES

1. *What are your top three state legislative priorities and how would you address them?*

Graham Filler (REP): The candidate did not respond.

Dawn D Levey (DEM): I have been an educator for 28 years and have seen the impact of budget cuts on our schools. I am committed to re-investing in our kids, pre-K through college, to make sure they get the experience they need and deserve. I am a licensed EMT and know that well-trained first responders can mean the difference between life and death. We must prioritize state funding to support municipal firefighters, police officers and EMTs. Plus Michigan workers must be protected from unfair legislation. As the Past President of MUCC, I am committed to championing issues critical to our natural resources, green spaces and economy.

Tyler Palmer (LIB): 1. Lower auto insurance costs by eliminating no-fault mandate and allowing motorists to purchase insurance across State lines. 2. Eliminate income tax, replace with state-wide "Fairtax." A sales tax proposal to replace the current income tax structure. It abolishes all personal and corporate income taxes. It also ends all taxes on gifts, estates, capital gains, alternative minimums, Social Security, Medicare, and self-employment. 3. Encourage greater fiscal responsibility among our State Gov't by introducing legislation to lower Michigan's spending cap. Re: Richard Headlee's Amendment. Drop the cap from 9.49% to 8

EDUCATION

2. *What measures do you support/propose to achieve improved educational outcomes and accessibility for Michigan students from early childhood through post-secondary education?*

Graham Filler (REP): The candidate did not respond.

Dawn D Levey (DEM): As an educator, I do not believe that more standardized testing improves academic achievement, nor do test scores serve accurately as an evaluation tool for teachers. In order to improve educational results, we must refocus or continue to focus on developing fluent, literate students, and require reading and writing across the curriculum. In the elementary levels, we must stress the basic math skills and the steps necessary to master those concepts, and encourage students to be active learners focusing on higher level thinking skills, problem solving, project and interest based educational experiences.

Tyler Palmer (LIB): More competition in education... higher school choice and higher teacher pay.

ECONOMY

3. *What policies do you support to increase jobs and help Michigan residents improve their economic positions?*

Graham Filler (REP): The candidate did not respond.

Dawn D Levey (DEM): Job creation involves bringing employment opportunities to Michigan that support a living wage for men and women alike. It is time to bring business, agriculture, labor, education and the legislators to the table to brainstorm an economic plan for the State of Michigan. Together, the stakeholders have the expertise to offer viable solutions for economic prosperity. In addition, the stakeholders have a vested interest in this state, it is time to tap into that expertise—in the end everyone wins. Michigan has a skilled work force that is worthy of protection from detrimental legislation.

Tyler Palmer (LIB): Lower taxes for all. From rich to poor. Make Michigan a great business climate and a creator of jobs.

ELECTIONS

4. *What state policies do you support regarding campaign funding and voting rights?*

Graham Filler (REP): The candidate did not respond.

Dawn D Levey (DEM): I advocate for campaign finance transparency and the elimination of dark money and undisclosed corporate contributions. Regarding voting, the more that participate in the democratic process the more voices that are heard. It is time to pass legislation that supports early voting, equal access to early voting (absentee ballots), automatically register to vote when business is conducted at the Secretary of State's Office, create fair rules the remove as many barriers regarding voting as possible, and maintain straight party voting.

Tyler Palmer (LIB): I fully support the "voters not politicians" initiative which is seeking to have a non-partisan commission for redistricting voting districts. This will help the very bad issue of gerrymandering. Further, I support a ranked-choice voting system where voters can select all their preferred candidates rather than just the top one. This will eliminate the "wasted vote" fallacy that is perpetuated by the old, establishment parties.

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

5. *What actions or policies do you support to protect Michigan's water, air and land for current and future generations, while meeting the state's energy needs? Explain how those actions or policies would affect the future of Enbridge Pipeline 5.*

Graham Filler (REP): The candidate did not respond.

Dawn D Levey (DEM): I support the growth of renewable energy; if you take a close look at the 93rd District you will see expanded use of wind energy, increased solar energy production, agricultural, and other innovative renewable energy sources. Michigan has an opportunity to be a leader in renewable energy innovation and must take advantage of the possibilities. Regarding the future of Enbridge Line 5, in its current state it is not safe and the environmental culture of the Straits is at stake, there are a number of options: remove the line, relocate line 5 or encase it under the Straits to eliminate the possibility of a disaster.

Tyler Palmer (LIB): core principle of libertarianism is the "non-aggression principle." Basically, this means that gov't force cannot be used unless there is a threat to the life, liberty or property of another individual. I firmly believe that the potential risk caused by Enbridge Line 5 is one that could have disastrous effects on the property and life of many Michiganders. As such, I believe that Enbridge should be required to find an alternative above-water route for the pipe-line to run (perhaps directly under the Mackinaw Bridge?), that can be easily inspected and repaired as necessary.

JUSTICE

6. *What policies will you pursue to promote social and racial justice in our state?*

Graham Filler (REP): The candidate did not respond.

Dawn D Levey (DEM): In the United States all individuals are to be equal under the law. As a life-long resident of the State of Michigan I celebrate the diversity that we embrace in this State. I have a long standing commitment to social justice for all and I am committed to fighting for equality. It is important that we protect and support the LGBTQ community by expansion of the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act and Michigan's Intimidation Act. In addition, this State must continue to oppose all forms of discrimination and the use of religious freedom to discriminate.

Tyler Palmer (LIB): The most pressing issue facing minorities and people of color is the failed war-on-drugs. There is no justification for aggressive laws that dictate free choice in the United States of America. I will seek to nullify any existing law which seeks to do so.

Clinton County Commission

The Board of Commissioners is the policy-making body for county government, with broad budget powers to provide public services. The board may create boards and commissions, make appointments for administrative positions, buy and sell land for county use, build facilities, borrow money and equalize property tax assessments. They set the salaries for most county employees.

Term: 2 years

Partisan

Candidates: Choose One

District 1

Biographical Information

Kam Washburn (REP)

No questionnaire was sent.

Unopposed

District 2

Biographical Information

David Pohl (REP)

No questionnaire was sent.

Unopposed

District 3

Biographical Information

Bruce DeLong (REP)

Candidate did not respond.

Eunice Link (DEM)

Web Administrator

Campaign Web Site

<http://www.vote4eunice.com>

Facebook page

Eunice for Clinton County Commissioner

Education

St. Johns High School, Lansing Community College and Siena Heights University

Campaign Phone

989-224-2580

1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences, and explain why you are running for the Clinton County Board of Commissioners.

Bruce DeLong Candidate did not respond.

Eunice Link

I'm a mom, a wife, a friend, a relative, a neighbor, an employee and a 4th generation St. Johns resident. I care about my community. For a community to thrive it needs to recognize the opportunities for growth. It needs diversity, creativity, inclusion and a vision to adjust.

The 2016 election was my wake up call. I participated in the Women's March in Washington DC. Trying to make a difference in my community I joined Indivisible, Moms Demand Action and other local groups, I called representatives, marched, went to townhalls and community prayer services.

Politically in my previous life, I had worked for Jennifer Granholm's campaign from pre-primary, to general election and through the transition. I remained with her till the end of her second term as governor.

Today I continue working for the state of Michigan. I am honored to call myself a civil servant for the past 19 years. We must seize this moment and encourage those with the drive to move us forward.

2. What are the priority issues facing the Clinton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them, if elected?

Bruce DeLong Candidate did not respond.

Eunice Link St. Johns and Bingham Twp. need representation in Clinton County government.

Our community is more diverse than ever. Bringing their backgrounds, ideas, strengths to our community; citizens deserve to have their representatives reflect them.

Citizens deserve representatives that work with their other governments. As your county commissioner I will have a working relationship between you, the city and township as well as on the state and federal levels.

3. Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?

Bruce DeLong Candidate did not respond.

Eunice Link Water. Safe reliable drinkable water.

Living in St. Johns we are fortunate to have a reliable Public Works Department. They monitor and test the water continuously.

Outside of the city a majority of residents have well water. They rely on water coming from deep below the surface to be safe and plenty. There are many ways to contaminate water, and very few options for replacing it. As your county commissioner I must be aware of a new/old business' environmental impact on the land and water table. I must also be vigilant to other possible contamination. I will vote in favor of environmental safety when presented and work with residents with their concerns.

District 4

Biographical Information

Kenneth Mitchell (REP)

County Commissioner

Campaign Web Site <http://www.facebook.com/KenForCommissioner/>

Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/KenForCommissioner/>

Education Everett HS, LCC, GM Tecnical Center, School Hard Knocks.

Campaign Phone 517-899-5334

Johanna Balzer (DEM)

retired

Campaign Web Site <http://none>

Facebook page [Johanna-Balzer-for-Clinton-County-Commissioner-4th-District-1454956884609253/?modal=admin_todo_tour](https://www.facebook.com/Johanna-Balzer-for-Clinton-County-Commissioner-4th-District-1454956884609253/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

Education Bath Community Schools, Lansing Community College, Michigan State University - BA. in Social work

Campaign Phone 5174843273

1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences, and explain why you are running for the Clinton County Board of Commissioners.

Kenneth Mitchell

As current Commissioner, I have a proven 20 yr voting record to demonstrate that I take my votes seriously. I have passion for this office. I am Chairman of the Clinton County Public Safety Committee and Community Corrections, Vice Chair Tri County of Aging Admin Board, Member of Child Abuse & Neglect Council, Central Dispatch Admin Board, Capital Area Community Services, Building Stronger Community's Council, Substance Use Disorder Oversight Policy Board, Clinton County Local Emergency Planning, American Jail Association, Department Health & Human Services Liaison, Clinton Task Force on Employment, Michigan Sheriff's Association Local Corrections Officer Training Advisory Board, Michigan Association of Counties Judiciary & Public Safety, Tri County Office on Aging Grievance & Personnel Committee, Clinton County RESA Post Secondary Success Network and a Deputy with the Clinton County Sheriff's Office Mounted Division. Why am I running? Because I live here, it's my home for over 36 yrs.

Johanna Balzer

Serving as a DeWitt Charter Township Trustee from 2012 to 2016, gave me many opportunities to learn about how local and county government interface. During those years, I also served on the Building Stronger Communities Council and its steering Committee. This experience made me familiar with human needs and the agencies that address them in the county. Regional cooperation was often on the township agendas and in our plans. I've been interested in inter-county drain issues and follow the actions of two inter-county drain boards. Still serving on the DeWitt Charter Township Corridor Improvement Authority for Business 27, gives me the opportunity to stay on top of actions along the corridor. Over my work career, I've been employed by the City of East Lansing, State of Michigan, and 25 years with a non-profit organization. I'm running for this position, as a citizen who's willing to take another turn at serving Clinton County residents.

2. What are the priority issues facing the Clinton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them, if elected?

Kenneth Mitchell

Through sound financial practices and good business decisions, Clinton County is one of the few financially solid counties in the state. Our Pension Fund is 95% funded and Health Care Obligations (OPEB) are 113%. We have no debt. Our buildings are new and we have the lowest operating millage in the Tri-County region. I've been part of that decision making process that keeps us moving in the correct direction and I will continue to monitor our fiscal positions to maintain our financial strength. I voted to create a partnership with Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties, the LRCC and Michigan State University called The Capitol Council of Governments (CAPCOG). The mission of CAPCOG is to work collaboratively between parties to support regional economic development and growth opportunities for the Greater Lansing region at the State Legislature. My part in this made possible the Coleman Road Extension along with many other positive things to be announced.

Johanna Balzer

Regionalism is a top priority. Sharing resources and personnel with other governmental units saves on duplication of efforts and consequently reduced costs. The sheriff’s department and emergency services need support as they come face to face with the results of accidents, poor choices and errors of the public. I am supportive of the class action suit that the county has joined against drug manufactures because of the opioid crisis. Affirmation for these departments and adequate funding would be a priority for me. We need more road funding from the state and federal government. I would advocate for increased funding, joining with other governmental units and our elected state officials. Continuing smart development studies and creativity in the southern tier of the county, will lead to more economic prosperity for the area. Sound financial management through the county offices deserves affirmation and encouragement.

3. Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?

Kenneth Mitchell

The Looking Glass River has always been a notable feature by my home. Keeping this river in good health is important. I have been part of the Clinton County Community Cleanup. I have voted to support this as a Commissioner and I volunteer my time working there too. We collect tires, trash, metal, oil and very importantly medicine. Each year we collect at least 1 55 gallon drum of medicine that otherwise might have been flushed down a toilet and ended up in our water system. I believe that efforts like this are critical to our environment. When zoning issues come before me I make sure that my vote will best represent the residents of our county. As a board member of the Clinton County Health Department, I made decisions that strengthened rules to eliminate health threats and to protect the members of our community. Safe water and a clean environment are issues that I strongly support.

Johanna Balzer

The Looking Glass River is one of our greatest treasures. Keeping it cleared of major log jams, debris, and pollution is important for recreational use, as well as the health of plants, animals, and humans in its channel and along its banks. Securing grants, working with the DEQ, Conservation District, and Health Department while providing adequate local funding to the drain commission are imperative. Septic systems need to be checked to keep waste from the river and its tributaries. Another area of concern is closed gravel and sand pit property restoration. A good example of the county addressing this are Clinton Lakes, north of St. Johns. These closed pits have been turned into recreational areas. Of course this is not possible for all pits. Enforcement of mining special use permit regulations is necessary while operating. Detailed restoration wording needs to be in the permits, so the land is returned to safe, functional use after mining is completed.

District 5		
Biographical Information		
Robert Showers (REP) Retired Insurance Executive Education BBA Western Michigan University Class of 1971 Campaign Phone 1 517 648 8129		Unopposed

1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences, and explain why you are running for the Clinton County Board of Commissioners.

Robert Showers

I have been a Clinton County Commissioner for 17 years as of July. I have been the Board Chair for 6 years. Your fellow Commissioners elect you as the Chair. I helped to create CAPCOG the Capitol Council of Governments. A body consisting of Clinton County, Eaton County and Ingham County, Michigan State University and the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce. It's mission is to Lobby the State Legislature for economic projects specifically for the City of Lansing primarily and the Tri-County area secondarily. Clinton County has no Physical Plant debt. All County buildings are paid off. Our pension plan is funded at 95%+ and our OPEB is funded at 113%. Our property tax rate is the lowest of the three counties in the Capitol region. Ingham County residents pay 10.2 mills, Eaton County residents pay 7.25 mills and Clinton County residents pay 5.8 mills.

2. What are the priority issues facing the Clinton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them, if elected?

Robert Showers

We have no pressing issues. Good financial management has kept us from experiencing major problems. Being proactive has kept us from having to enact radical cost reduction measures. Our priority is to continue to maintain financial flexibility

3. Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?

Robert Showers
Smart growth. I define this term as taking serious planning measures to protect valuable farm land and natural resources from harmful urban sprawl.
Thank you for allowing me to participate in the League of Women Voters Lansing Area Voter Guide

District 6

Biographical Information

Dwight Washington (DEM) Sustainability Practitioner Campaign Web Site http://www.DwightWashington.com Facebook page Re Elect Dwight Washington Clinton County Commissioner Education MSU Bachelors of Psychology; Harvard University Masters of Education; MSU PhD Natural Resources Campaign Phone 260-577-7168	Unopposed
--	------------------

1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences, and explain why you are running for the Clinton County Board of Commissioners.

Dwight Washington
I am honored to currently serve the people of the 6th District on the Clinton County Board of Commissioners. I'm seeking re-election to continue providing our county with a balanced economic, environmental, & community perspective. I was raised in Clinton County on a 120-acre Clark Road farm that has been home to my family of farmers, educators, GM workers, and State of Michigan employees for three generations. My professional work and PhD in Natural Resources has built my capacity to work across political party lines with my fellow commissioners. Currently, my board & committee work contribute to the mid-Michigan region with critical & quality services. I have developed strong relationships with other local units of government to foster positive intergovernmental relations between & across federal, state, city, and local government. Clinton County residents have my commitment to build healthy relationships, develop sensible public projects, and forge new pathways to access resources.

2. What are the priority issues facing the Clinton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them, if elected?

Dwight Washington
Respectfully working together to develop sustainable policies & plans is paramount for future growth & livable communities throughout the county and region. Currently, we are proud that Clinton County is a model of fiscal responsibility in the state, ranking fourth out of 83 Michigan counties on the scale of county fiscal health (Bridge Magazine, February 20, 2018). Having sound financial analysis applied to newly proposed programs and services that benefit county residents & our natural environment is the way to avoid rising debt, unfunded liabilities, as well as maintain operational flexibility. We should produce sustainable solutions to make certain we maintain & achieve our financial goals; by wisely investing in our public infrastructure & making allowances to better support quality of life factors for our communities & families. I will continue to build on our accomplishments to sustain long-term financial health, while prioritizing public health, and a healthy environment.

3. Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?

Dwight Washington
The most urgent local environmental issue we face is our capacity to think wisely about present environmental challenges, in order to systematically remediate future environmental burdens. Our present onus to clean up PFAS & PFOA is due to poorly made policy. County commissioners are empowered to make important decisions which have financial, environmental, & social costs that impact the growth & development of our community. If we can make responsible decisions with plans to improve our collective well-being, by finding common ground through win-win outcomes, we can work together on environmental issues that threaten the natural balance and build the health of our community. For example, as a board member of the Mid-Michigan District Health Department, while working in partnership with the Clinton Conservation District, commercial realtors', farmers, fishermen, & families, we developed policy to protect our community from E. coli water contamination from septic waste leakage.



District 7
Biographical Information

Adam Stacey (REP)

Research Director

Campaign Web Site

<http://www.voteadamstacey.com>

Facebook page

www.facebook.com/voteadamstacey

Education Masters in Public Administration -

Western Mich. Bachelors in Political Science - Michigan State

Campaign Phone 517-281-4515

Marie Howe (DEM)

Retired

Campaign Web Site

<http://not at this time>

Facebook page

not at this time

Education Bachelor of Arts

State University Two Associated

Degrees from LCC, Gen. Ed. & Bus/

LE

Campaign Phone 517-641-7041

1. Please describe your qualifications and experiences, and explain why you are running for the Clinton County Board of Commissioners.

Adam Stacey

I have been a strong advocate for my constituents for the past ten years. I am Chair of the Ways and Means committee and serve on several multi-county boards where I strongly represent the values and perspectives of Clinton County residents. My twenty years of service in the State Legislature has given our county board many advantages in negotiating with state stakeholders. I am seeking another two year term to maintain our county's strong financial position, increase the efficiency of our services and make long-term investments for the future prosperity of our community.

Marie Howe

As a community advocate as well as working for the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives have given me the prospective of understanding the workings of government or may how it may not be working. My formal education, Associate Degrees from Lansing Community College, and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University, and life experiences have also given me the needed understanding that may related to many in my district. As for running for the 7th District in Clinton County, I have spent time in Victor, Olive and Bath Township over the past 9 years learning how your local governments operates; for this reason I am again running for a position on the 7th District Board of Commissioners.

2. What are the priority issues facing the Clinton County Board of Commissioners and how would you address them, if elected?

Adam Stacey

Clinton County has the lowest tax rate in mid-Michigan and has zero debt. There are no building bonds to pay for. The county employee pension fund and retiree healthcare fund are fully funded. We are truly a debt free government. No other county government can make that claim. While other taxpayers pay for the shortsightedness of their elected leaders, Clinton County taxpayers are supporting investments in the future of their community. The only problem outside our control is the continuing policy of state government to pass down more and more unfunded mandates onto county and local governments and shift the cost of providing services from the state's ledger and onto local taxpayers instead.

Marie Howe

For me one priority regarding oversight, is the Tax Allocation Board or better known by its legislative legal name "Separate Tax Limitation" action or inactions. This appointed board, like all other appointed boards, should be required to meet regularly to assess how much general fund dollars are allocated through out Clinton County. Today, General Law Townships are allocated 1% of the total tax dollars. The Chartered Townships don't receive any general fund tax dollars collected to run their local government. I strongly believe this appointed board has an obligation showing "due diligence" by meeting yearly to allocate our tax dollars. A second priority, the major responsibility of the Board of Commissioners, maybe the serious review of the Clinton County Budget. I am completely supportive of a balanced budget or a budget operating in the black. However, I also support looking very closely at each expenditure to understanding exactly how YOUR tax dollars are being spent.

3. Of the many environmental issues facing our world, which do you think are most urgent locally? How do you see county government helping to solve them?

Adam Stacey

Our federal system of government means our leaders in Washington should be solely focused on national issues, our state government should be focused on state issues and your county government should be focused on local issues. When we move outside our lanes and to try tackle issues outside our sphere of responsibility, that's when government becomes overly-bureaucratic and wasteful which only burdens taxpayers more. Clinton County has a strong partnership with our curbside refuse and recycling pickup providers in our area and we are always striving to boost recycling rates by our

residents. Clinton County also sponsors several Clean Community events to get junk and hazardous chemicals out of our neighborhoods and into secure storage facilities where they belong.

Marie Howe

A very important environmental issue for Clinton County is the use of PLASTICS from consumption to disposal in our daily lives. We also need to look at our ground water with the connection to our aquifers. It appears that a number of family homes are having are looking to the expense and hardship of drilling new wells or extending short wells to deeper wells. This maybe just a cycle issue, but our leadership should be looking closer at this problem.

Lansing Community College Board of Trustees - 6 year term

Lansing Community College is directed and governed by a Board of Trustees, consisting of seven members, elected at large in the community college district on a nonpartisan basis.

Nonpartisan Term: 6 years Candidates: Choose 2

Lawrence Hidalgo, Jr. (N)
Campaign Phone (517) 455-79341.

Shaquila Myers (N)
Legislative Director, Michigan State Senate
Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pg/shaquilamyers4lcctrustee/posts/>
Education Masters of Public Administration
Campaign Phone (313) 608-3240

Samantha Wilbur (N)
Community Organizer
Education Masters of Social Work- Clinical BA Liberal Arts- Psychology
Campaign Phone (775) 997-9464District 1

1. What special qualities do you bring to the Lansing Community College Board?

Lawrence Hidalgo, Jr. Candidate did not respond.

Shaquila Myers
I bring several qualities to the Lansing Community College Board of Trustees. I have spent the last ten years working for the Michigan legislature working on policy and budget issues for the Senate. I have an understanding and relationship with the legislature and have insight into legislation that most effects and benefit the LCC community. I have worked on a number of budgets, including the Capital Outlay budget, which handles all of the building projects for colleges and universities.

Samantha Wilbur
I dropped out of high school at 16 to attend college early. The philosophy that Simon's Rock is built on is unique. Everyone on campus is addressed by their first name because we are all equals in the pursuit of knowledge. This is vital for student empowerment. I attended graduate school at DU and completed a post-graduate certificate program at the UofM. The dual certificate on sex therapy and sexual health education gave me the opportunity to learn about educating. We learned about finding ways to make the classroom accessible for everyone. I feel my education gives me insight into helping structure Lansing Community College to become not the first stepping stone, not the fallback, but the preferred institute of higher learning in the Lansing Area. I have spent time as a member of various boards. I am currently elected to three executive boards within the Michigan Democratic Party. I am well versed in Robert's Rules and I have chaired committees in an organized, timely manner.

2. What is your vision for LCC? What do you see as the role of the community college? What are your priorities?

Lawrence Hidalgo, Jr. Candidate did not respond.

Shaquila Myers
My vision for LCC is to continue the history of serving the local community. LCC has done a great job of evolving with the changing needs and demographics of the area. From the Early College to the multitude of degree programs and continuing education options, not to mention the youth and adult enrichment, LCC offers something for everyone.

Samantha Wilbur
Learning how to learn is just as important as what you learn. I would like to see LCC focus on creative thinking, observation skills, critical analysis, how to give and receive feedback, and how to organize your thoughts in order to prepare students to

work in any and all fields. When we hoard knowledge by limiting access everyone suffers. I will work to reduce costs and fight for tuition free college for any and all that want to learn, regardless of ethnicity, orientation, identity, race, SES, age, religion or education level. LCC is a community resource and the student body should reflect the entire community. We have an obligation to teach our students how to be productive members of society, which means civic engagement. My first two actions if elected will be to include voter registration as part of student registration, and to change LCC board meetings as to not conflict with Lansing City Council meetings so that the community may attend both.

DeWitt Public Schools - 6 year term

The Board of Education is responsible for setting educational, fiscal and administrative policies of the school district. It hires the superintendent, negotiates staff contracts, and sets the budget. The board members are elected at large and have overlapping terms.

Nonpartisan	6 year term expiring 12/31/2024	Choose 2 candidates
Concha Kaye Allen (N)	Information on these candidates can be found at www.VOTE411.org	
Anthony Latunski (N)		
Veronica M. Taber (N)		
Lisa Truscott (N)		
Bradley E. Wever (N)		

PROPOSALS

CLINTON COUNTY REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MILLAGE PROPOSAL (RESTORATION OF HEADLEE REDUCTION)

This proposal requests additional millage to permit the continued levy by the intermediate school district of the maximum mills for area career and technical education previously approved by the electors.

Shall the current charter limitation on the annual property tax rate for area career and technical education in Clinton County Regional Education Service Agency, Michigan, be increased by .0464 mill (\$0.0464 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 20 years, 2018 to 2037, inclusive (this increase will allow the intermediate school district to levy the maximum rate of 1 mill previously approved by the electors that has been reduced as required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963); the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2018 is approximately \$94,500 from local property taxes authorized herein?

Yes - For the Measure No - Against the Measure

CLINTON COUNTY REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE PROPOSAL (RESTORATION OF HEADLEE REDUCTION)

This proposal requests additional millage to permit the continued levy by the intermediate school district of the maximum mills for special education previously approved by the electors.

Shall the limitation on the annual property tax rate for the education of students with a disability in Clinton County Regional Education Service Agency, Michigan, be increased by .0297 mill (\$0.0297 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 7 years, 2018 to 2024, inclusive (this increase will allow the intermediate school district to levy the maximum rate of 2.625 mills previously approved by the electors that has been reduced as required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963); the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2018 is approximately \$60,500 from local property taxes authorized herein?

Yes - For the Measure No - Against the Measure

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BONDING PROPOSAL

Shall Grand Ledge Public Schools, Eaton, Clinton and Ionia Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed One Hundred Eighteen Million Six Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$118,640,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

erecting, furnishing and equipping new school buildings; erecting, furnishing and equipping additions to school buildings; remodeling, including security improvements to, furnishing and refurnishing and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; acquiring and installing instructional technology and instructional technology equipment for school buildings; purchasing school buses; and developing and improving playgrounds, parking areas, driveways and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:
The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2019, under current law, is 1.99 mills (\$1.99 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a projected 0.89 mill increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty-six (26) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 3.56 mills (\$3.56 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$39,885,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is \$0. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.
(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

Yes - For the Measure **No - Against the Measure**

CITY OF ST. JOHNS HEADLEE OVERRIDE MILLAGE PROPOSAL-TO RESTORE AUTHORIZED ORIGINAL CHARTER MILLAGE

Shall the authorized charter millage for the City of St. Johns, established by operation of law at 10 mills (\$10.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and reduced to 9.436 mills (\$9.436 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by Headlee rollbacks, be increased in an amount not to exceed .564 mills (\$.564 per \$1,000 of taxable value) to restore the full amount (10 mills) of the original authorized charter millage rate for each year beginning in 2019, inclusive, for all City and municipal purposes authorized by law. This proposal is estimated to generate approximately \$115,000 per year, beginning July of 2019, and is perpetual, subject to any future reductions by the Headlee Amendment. Shall the ballot proposal be adopted for the purpose of levying this millage?

Yes - For the Measure **No - Against the Measure**

EAST LANSING PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROPOSAL

I. OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL

This proposal will allow the school district to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance.
Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in the School District of the City of East Lansing, Ingham and Clinton Counties, Michigan, be increased by 22 mills (\$22.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2019 to 2028, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in 2019 is approximately \$9,729,657?

II. SINKING FUND MILLAGE PROPOSAL

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in the School District of the City of East Lansing, Ingham and Clinton Counties, Michigan, be increased by and the board of education be authorized to levy not to exceed 1 mill (\$1.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2019 to 2028, inclusive, to create a sinking fund for the purchase of real estate for sites for and the construction or repair of school buildings, for school security improvements, for the acquisition or upgrading of technology and all other purposes authorized by law; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2019 is approximately \$1,145,786?

Yes - For the Measure **No - Against the Measure**

**FOWLER PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROPOSAL
OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSAL**

This proposal will allow the school district to continue to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its full revenue per pupil foundation allowance and restores millage lost as a result of a reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963.
Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Fowler Public School District, Clinton County, Michigan, be renewed by 17.9892 mills (\$17.9892 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 7 years, and also be increased by .5 mill (\$.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation), for a period of 7 years, 2020 to 2026, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and 18 mills are levied in 2020 is approximately \$234,860 (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2019 tax levy and the addition of millage which will be levied only to the extent necessary to restore millage lost as a result of a reduction required by the "Headlee" amendment to the Michigan Constitution of 1963)?

Yes - For the Measure **No - Against the Measure**

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BONDING PROPOSAL

Shall Grand Ledge Public Schools, Eaton, Clinton and Ionia Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed One Hundred Eighteen Million Six Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$118,640,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

erecting, furnishing and equipping new school buildings; erecting, furnishing and equipping additions to school buildings; remodeling, including security improvements to, furnishing and refurnishing and equipping and re-equipping school buildings; acquiring and installing instructional technology and instructional technology equipment for school buildings; purchasing school buses; and developing and improving playgrounds, parking areas, driveways and sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2019, under current law, is 1.99 mills (\$1.99 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a projected 0.89 mill increase over the prior year's levy. The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty-six (26) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 3.56 mills (\$3.56 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$39,885,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is \$0. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

Yes - For the Measure

No - Against the Measure

GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BONDING PROPOSAL

Shall Grand Ledge Public Schools, Eaton, Clinton and Ionia Counties, Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed Twenty-Nine Million Four Hundred Eighty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$29,485,000) and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefor, in one or more series, for the purpose of:

remodeling, erecting, furnishing and equipping athletic fields and facilities and erecting swimming pool additions to school buildings; remodeling, furnishing and refurnishing, equipping and re-equipping, and erecting fine arts facilities additions to a school building; and developing and improving sites?

The following is for informational purposes only:

The estimated millage that will be levied for the proposed bonds in 2019, under current law, is 0.55 mill (\$0.55 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation). The maximum number of years the bonds of any series may be outstanding, exclusive of any refunding, is twenty-six (26) years. The estimated simple average annual millage anticipated to be required to retire this bond debt is 0.90 mill (\$0.90 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

The school district does not expect to borrow from the State to pay debt service on the bonds. The total amount of qualified bonds currently outstanding is \$39,885,000. The total amount of qualified loans currently outstanding is \$0. The estimated computed millage rate may change based on changes in certain circumstances.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for repair or maintenance costs, teacher, administrator or employee salaries, or other operating expenses.)

Yes - For the Measure

No - Against the Measure

To apply for an absentee ballot:

Clinton County Clerk / Register of Deeds

Diane Zuker

clerk@clinton-county.org

100 E State Street

Suite 2600

St. Johns, MI 48879

Phone: 989-224-5140

Fax: 989-224-5102

What about Absentee Ballots?

You may vote by absentee ballot if you are

- 1) unable to go to the polls without assistance
- 2) 60 years old or older
- 3) expect to be out of town on election day
- 4) in jail awaiting arraignment or trial
- 5) unable to go to the polls due to religious reasons
- 6) appointed to work as an election inspector.



Ask your city clerk for an absentee ballot application in person with a photo ID or get an application online at www.Michigan.gov/elections to submit to your clerk.

Absentee ballot applications must be submitted by 2 p.m. November 3, 2018, and the ballot must be returned by 8 p.m. on November 6, 2018.

For more information about voting and elections, go to www.vote411.org or www.michigan.gov/vote

The League of Women Voters Education Fund website has an online voters' guide with candidate



and ballot proposal information for the races applicable to every voter. All federal, state and local races are available online for the voters in the Tri-County area. Registered voters can enter their address on the site to receive personalized information about where to vote, local candidates, and what is on their ballot before they vote. An absentee ballot application is available as is a sample ballot that you can take with you to the polls. <https://www.vote411.org>



"Every election is determined

by the people who show up."

- Larry J. Sabato



Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2018.

Voting is a fundamental right and all eligible voters should have the equal opportunity to exercise that right.

We are dedicated to ensuring that our elections remain free, fair and accessible.

~ League of Women Voters of the United States



Making Democracy Work:

Membership in the League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area (LWVLA) is open to all men and women over age 16. For information about joining or donating to the work of the LWV, please visit: <http://lansing.mi.lwvnet.org>.

P.O. Box 971 East Lansing, MI 48823 517-624-9224

Copyright © 2018 League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area