

A PUBLICATION OF THE MONROE NEWS & BEDFORD NOW



OCTOBER, 2014

GENERAL ELECTION 2014

A GUIDE TO THE ISSUES AND CANDIDATES RUNNING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION

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PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO RETAIN PROBATE JUDGE CHERYL LOHMEYER P. O. BOX 2014 MONROE, MI 48161



Here's where to vote Nov. 4; polls open 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

CITIES

City of Flat Rock

Precincts 1 and 4 — Old Flat Rock High School, 28639 Division St., Flat Rock

Precinct 2 and 5 — Flat Rock Community Center, 1 Maguire St., Flat Rock

Precinct 3 — Flat Rock Public Library, 25200 Gibraltar Rd., Flat Rock

City of Gibraltar

Precincts 1 and 2 — Gibraltar Community Center, 29340 S. Gibraltar Rd., Gibraltar

City of Luna Pier

Luna Pier Fire Hall, 4268 Luna Pier Rd., Luna Pier

City of Milan

Precinct 1 and 2 — Milan Senior/Community Activity Center, 45 Neckel Ct., Milan

City of Monroe

Precinct 1 — Woodcraft Square, 800 W. Seventh St.

Precinct 2 — St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 201 S. Monroe St.

Precincts 3N and 4 — Grace Lutheran Church, 630 N. Monroe St.

Precinct 3S — Navarre Branch Library, 1135 E. Second St

Precinct 5 — Monroe Family YMCA, 1111 W. Elm Ave.

Precinct 6 — First Baptist Church, 1602 N. Custer Rd.

City of Petersburg

Petersburg Municipal Building, 24 E. Center St., Petersburg

City of Rockwood

Rockwood Community Center, 32001 Fort St., Rockwood

VILLAGES

Village of Carleton

Village Municipal Building, 1230



Monroe St., Carleton

Village of Dundee

Dundee Middle School, 420 Ypsilanti St., Dundee

Village of Estral Beach

Village Hall, 7194 Lakeview Blvd., Estral Beach

Village of Maybee

London-Maybee-Raisinville Fire Hall, 8755 Baldwin Rd., Maybee

Village of South Rockwood

Village Hall, 5676 Carleton-Rockwood Rd., South Rockwood

TOWNSHIPS

Ash Township

Precinct 1 — Carleton Branch Library, 1444 Kent St., Carleton

Precincts 2 and 3 — Ash Township Hall, 1677 Ready Rd., Carleton

Bedford Township

Precincts 1 and 2, 11 — Lambertville United Methodist Church, 8165 Douglas Rd., Lambertville

Precincts 3 and 13 — Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, 8330 Lewis Ave., Temperance

Precincts 4 and 9 — Bedford Library, 8575 Jackman Rd.,

Temperance

Precinct 5 — Compelled Church, 8970 Jackman Rd., Temperance

Precincts 6 and 10 — Northwest Christian Church, 1590 W. Temperance Rd., Temperance

Precincts 7 and 14 — St Luke's Lutheran Church, 1690 W. Sterns Rd., Temperance

Precinct 8 — Christ the King Church, 2843 W. Sterns Rd., Lambertville

Precinct 12 — Assembly of Christian Church, 3619 W. Sterns Rd., Lambertville

Berlin Township

Precinct 1 — Lajiness Park, 9550 Brandon Rd., Newport

Precinct 2 — Berlin Township Fire Station 2, 12226 N. Dixie Hwy., South Rockwood

Precinct 3 — Estral Beach Village Hall, 7194 Lakeview Blvd., Estral Beach

Precinct 4 — Berlin Township Fire Station 1, 8473 Swan Creek Rd., Newport

Brownstown Township

Precincts 1 and 9 — Community Center, 21311 Telegraph Rd., Brownstown Township

Precincts 2 and 3 — Gudith Elementary School, 22700 Sibley Rd., Brownstown Township

Precinct 4 — Wegienka Elementary School, 23925 Arsenal Rd., Brownstown Township

Precincts 5 and 10 — Woodhaven High School, 24787 Van Horn Rd., Brownstown Township

Precincts 6 and 7 — Hunter Elementary School, 21320 Roche Rd., Trenton

Precincts 8 and 11 — Barrow Elementary School, 33211 McCann Rd., Brownstown Township

Dundee Township

Precincts 1, 2 and 3 — Dundee Middle School, 420 Ypsilanti St., Dundee

Erie Township

Precinct 1 — Morin Point Fire Station, 6333 Summit St., Erie

Precinct 2 — Erie Township Hall, 2065 Erie Rd., Erie

Exeter Township

Precinct 1 — Exeter Township Hall, 6158 Scofield Rd., Maybee

Precinct 2 — Exeter Township Fire Hall, 11120 Sumpter Rd., Maybee

Frenchtown Township

Precincts 1 and 5 — Grace Baptist Church, 7447 N. Telegraph Rd.

Precinct 2 — Frenchtown-Dixie Branch Library, 2881 Nadeau Rd.

Precincts 3 and 8 — Jefferson High School gym, 5707 Williams Rd.

Precincts 4 and 9 — Stewart Road Christian Ministries, 1199 Stewart Rd.

Precinct 6 — Jefferson Schools Administration Building, 2400 N. Dixie Hwy.

Precinct 7 — Frenchtown Township Hall, 2744 Vivian Rd.

Huron Township

Precinct 1 — Miller Elementary School, 18955 Hannan Rd., New Boston

Precinct 2 — Krzyske Senior Center, 28245 Mineral Springs Rd., New Boston

Precinct 3 — Kirby Church, 2773 Will Carleton Rd., Flat Rock

Precincts 4 and 5 — Huron High School, 32044 Huron River Dr., New Boston

Precinct 6 — Summit High School, 18601 Middlebelt Rd., Romulus

Ida Township

Precincts 1 and 2 — Ida Township Hall, 3016 Lewis Ave., Ida

LaSalle Township

Precincts 1 and 2 — LaSalle Township Hall, 4111 LaPlaisance Rd., LaSalle

London Township

London Township Hall, 13613 Tuttle-Hill Rd., Milan

Milan Township

Milan Township Hall, 16444 Cone Rd., Milan

Monroe Township

Precincts 1 and 2 — Redeemer Fellowship Church, 5305 Evergreen Dr.

Precincts 3 and 4 — Monroe Missionary Baptist Church, 14260 S. Dixie Hwy.

Precincts 5 and 6 — Monroe Township Hall, 4925 E. Dunbar Rd.

Raisinville Township

Precincts 1 and 2 — Raisinville Township Hall, 96 Ida-Maybee Rd.

Summerfield Township

Summerfield Township Hall, 26 Saline St., Petersburg

Whiteford Township

Precincts 1 and 2 — St. Michael Lutheran Church, 5790 W. Temperance Rd., Ottawa Lake

U.S. House of Representatives

Each candidate for the two-year term in the U.S. House of Representatives was asked to answer these questions and limited on number of words:

Question 1 (100 words): Hundreds of unaccompanied undocumented immigrant

children are being housed in Michigan and elsewhere in the country. What is your opinion of this policy?

Question 2 (75 words): What would be your top priority if elected?

DISTRICT 7

PAM BYRNES

Party: Democrat

Age, date, place of birth: 67; June 25, 1947; Cincinnati

Address: P.O. Box 485, Dexter

Spouse: Kent Brown

Children: Katie and Jodie

Occupation, employer: Former attorney, state representative and university administrator

Education: Bachelor of arts, University of Michigan; juris doctorate, University of Maryland School of Law

Memberships: Farm Bureau, Sierra Club, former Rotary Club member

Length of residency: More than 20 years in Chelsea, nearly 40 in Washtenaw County

Public offices held or sought: Washtenaw County road commissioner, 2000-2004; state representative, 2005-2010

1. The crisis at the border is another example of how the gridlock in Washington is failing our country. This problem could have been avoided through comprehensive immigration reform that started with securing our borders.

The situation with these children is a humanitarian crisis, which is why we need to act quickly to wade through these cases while costing American taxpayers as little as possible.

2. My top priority will be to bring accountability to Congress. I announced my Government Accountability Agenda with specific steps on how to reform



Congress, including an automatic 10 percent pay cut, no future pay raises without a balanced budget and an end to the perks of elected office.

This is how voters can hold me accountable — this is what I will do because now we have a Congress more focused on Washington than Michigan families.

DAVID SWARTOUT

Mr. Swartout of 1308 Westlane St., Jackson, who is running as an independent (no party affiliation), did not submit biographical information or answer the questions.

KEN PROCTOR

Party: Libertarian

Age, date, place of birth: 63; March 16, 1951; Lansing

Address: 111 W. Needmore Hwy., Charlotte

Occupation, employer: Retired machine repair/machinist, General Motors

Education: Associate's degree in industrial technologies

Military service: Bronze Star recipient, Vietnam War, infantry combat tracker team

Memberships: Mackinac Center, Cato Institute, National Rifle Association life member

Length of residency: Lifetime

Public offices held or sought: Libertarian candidate for governor 2010

1. I believe many of the policies of our government and its corporate sponsors are directly responsible for many of the terrible conditions in the countries that these immigrants are fleeing from. It is a shame that these immigrants have become political pawns by both the Democrats

and the Republicans.

One solution to our present and future immigration problem is to review all U.S. policies and trade practices that keep poor countries poor, including the actions of the World Bank and the World Trade Organization.

2. It is frustrating knowing that the people of our state and this nation could be so much happier, healthier and prosperous than what we are, but both the Democrats and Republicans in Washington, including our representative in Congress and our senators, have sold us out to wealthy and powerful special interests.

Like the government of Michigan, Washington spends too much money on things it shouldn't and far too little on things it should.

TIM WALBERG

Party: Republican

Age, date, place of birth: 63; April 12, 1951; Chicago

Address: Tipton

Spouse: Sue Walberg

Children: Matt, Caleb and Heidi

Occupation, employer: U.S. House of Representatives

Education: Wheaton College, Ill., 1978, master of arts in communications; Moody Bible Institute, Chicago; Taylor University, Fort Wayne, Ind., 1975, bachelor of science in religious education; Western Illinois University

Memberships: National Rifle Association, Boy Scouts of America (past district chaplain), Right to Life of Michigan, Ducks Unlimited, American Motorcyclist

Association

Length of residency: 36 years

Public offices held or sought: U.S. House of Representatives 2007-09, 2011-present; Michigan House of Representatives 1983-99.

1. The president's immigration policies have only intensified our immigration challenges. My colleagues and I in the House have already acted to address the immediate needs at the border and provide assistance for the care and removal of unaccompanied minors already here.

The president has a responsibility to work with Congress to help address this crisis and prevent similar situations from happening in the future.

2. Creating long-term job growth is my top priority in Congress.

I will continue working, listening and learning from my constituents and taking our values and principles to Washington to help our families and communities.

I have consistently worked to help our agriculture sector, stop tax increases, expand America's domestic energy production, make health care more affordable and defend our traditional values and constitutional rights.

RICK STRAWCUTTER

Party: U.S. Taxpayer Party

Age, date, place of birth: 64; July 5, 1950; Lansing

Address: 3770 Sharp Rd., Adrian

Spouse: Betty

Children: 2 grown children

Occupation, employer: Minister; senior pastor at the Church on Bent Oak, Adrian

Education: Bachelor of science in holistic nutrition, naturopathic doctor, Clayton College of Natural Health

Length of residency: Lifelong in state, 38 years in Adrian

1. This is a clever, devious and cruel act of invasion and occupation, intended to drain and if possible breakdown our already weakened republic.

I love kids and I hate evil adults who would organize and perpetrate such a scheme and use children to accomplish it.

Actually, the kids are not the problem. Who is going to train and indoctrinate them is my question. Will they grow up like Obama, and hate America or be patriots and love its history and legacy?

2. Vote in favor of everything that enhances personal freedom. Vote to repeal anything that impinges against personal freedom.

Seek to abolish IRS, CIA, NSA, TSA, and investigate and prosecute criminally all those involved, apply the Nuremberg standard.

Join forces with an effort to impeach and then prosecute Obama for treason.



Exercise your brain.
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Michigan Senate

Each candidate for the four-year terms was asked to answer these questions and limited on the number of words:

Question 1 (100 words): Charter schools have come under scrutiny recently over management

and transparency issues. Are there rules governing charter schools that need to be changed?

Question 2 (75 words): What would be your top priority if elected?

DISTRICT 7

Neither **Dian Slavens** of 6000 Hidden Ct., Canton, the Democratic candidate, nor state Sen. **Patrick Colbeck**, R-Canton, submitted biographical information or answered the questions.

DISTRICT 17

DOUG SPADE

Party: Democrat

Age, date, place of birth: 63; Feb. 11, 1951; Hillsdale

Address: 768-2 West Maple Ave., Adrian

Spouse: JoAnn

Occupation, employer: Partner, Integrity Communicators LLC

Education: Bachelor of arts in communication arts, Adrian College

Memberships: Adrian Breakfast Lions Club, First Presbyterian Church, Adrian

Length of residency: 45 years in Adrian

Public offices held or sought: Candidate state representative, 57th District, 1996; state representative, 57th District, 1998-2004; candidate state Senate, 16th District, 2010

1. The rush to expand the number of charter schools has occurred without ensuring they are being run properly, while also diverting badly needed funding from traditional public schools.

We need to require those who authorize and run charter schools to meet stronger accountability standards and change current practices, under which more than 80 percent of charter schools in Michigan are

operated by for-profit management companies.

Educating and properly preparing students for fulfilling careers — not making profits on them — should be the prime motivating factors for any educational organization.

2. My top priority as state senator will be the same as it was as Lenawee County's state representative: serving the people and being their voice in Lansing.

I've talked with thousands and thousands of people during the campaign — on their porches, on the phone, and at local gatherings — seeking their opinions on the important issues the Legislature needs to address.

It's what I'll continue to do if elected. No one will work harder for you.

DALE W. ZORN

Party: Republican

Age, date, place of birth: 60; Dec. 31, 1953; Monroe

Address: 7498 Ida East Rd., Ida

Spouse: Cindy Zorn

Children: Jason, Holly, Kylie, Skylar

Occupation, employer: Owner Zorn's service, automotive and truck repair facility

Education: Ida High School, Monroe County Community College

Memberships: Monroe County Chamber of Commerce, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 142, Ducks Unlimited, Christmas in Ida, National Rifle Association.

Length of residency: Lifelong
Public offices held or sought:

State representative, 56th District, 2011-present; Monroe County commissioner, chairman, 1991-2010; Raisinville Township trustee, 1984-90; Raisinville Township constable, 1980-84

1. Charter schools must be held to the same accountability as all public schools. Since they are a public school, they must provide the same level of education, and transparency as all Michigan public school systems.

Charters, like virtual schools, provide education options for families much like schools of choice did several years ago. Education is not a one size fits all.

I believe in education at any time, any pace or any place. Educational opportunities are absolutely critical for today's young people to be able to compete in the global economy.

2. My top priority is simple, jobs and creating economic stability.

Jobs provide food and shelter for families, revenue to fix roads, hire police to protect our neighborhoods, and teachers for our classrooms.

Additionally, I support setting road repair priorities using surplus money from the general fund rather than creating new taxes. I support dedicating 1 cent of the current sales tax to fund roads, bidding road construction, and increasing road authority to local government.

JEFF ANDRING

Mr. Andring of 3081 Post Rd., Newport, a U.S. Taxpayers Party candidate, did not submit biographical information or answer the questions.

Michigan House of Representatives

Each candidate for the two-year terms was asked to answer these questions and limited on the number of words:

Question 1 (100 words): Charter schools have come under scrutiny recently over management and transparency issues. Are there rules governing charter schools that need to be changed?

Question 2: What would be your top priority if elected?

DISTRICT 23

DAVID HAENER

Party: Democrat

Age, date, place of birth: 44; Jan. 1, 1970; Ypsilanti

Address: P. O. Box 92, New Boston

Occupation, employer: Technology consultant, nonprofit agency

Education:

Bachelor of science in mathematics, Detroit Mercy College, concentrations in economics and education

Memberships: Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club trustee, 12th District Democrats, St. Stephen Catholic Church Parish Council, Sons of the American Legion, Yankee Air Museum

Length of residency: 40 years

Mr. Haener did not answer the questions.

PAT SOMERVILLE

Party: Republican

Age, date, place of birth: 34; April 11, 1980; Dearborn

Address: 17319 S. Lucille Circle, New Boston

Occupation, employer: State representative, State of Michigan

Education: University of Michigan, aerospace engineering

Memberships: Woodhaven Kiwanis, Downriver West Kiwanis, Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber of Commerce, National Rifle Association, Berean Baptist Church

Length of residency: Lifelong

Public offices held or sought: State representative, 2011-present

1. I am open to any suggestions on improving transparency and accountability for all public schools (public and charters).

We must remain diligent in providing greater choice in education so parents and students have opportunities to make decisions on which schools are best for them. One size doesn't fit all in education.

2. The top priority continues to be the economy and jobs.

We must continue to work together to focus on fostering a competitive business environment that is conducive to growth.

I will remain steadfast in my pursuits to reduce spending, taxation, and regulations so that small businesses can expand and grow.



Michigan House of Representatives (cont.)

Each candidate for the two-year term was asked to answer these questions and limited on the number of words:

Question 1 (100 words): Charter schools have come under scrutiny recently over man-

agement and transparency issues. Are there rules governing charter schools that need to be changed?

Question 2: What would be your top priority if elected?

DISTRICT 17

BILL LAVOY

Party: Democrat

Age, date, place of birth: 46; Nov. 26, 1967; Toledo

Address: 225 Maywood Ave.

Spouse: Michelle

Children: Grace, Carolyn

Occupation,

employer: State representative, State of Michigan

Education: Christiancy Elementary School, St. Michael Catholic School, Monroe Catholic Central High School, Monroe County Community College, University of Michigan

Memberships: Rotary Club of Monroe (past president), St. Michael the Archangel parish, life member Monroe County Historical Society, Monroe County Rod and Gun Club, ABATE Region 18.

Length of residency: Lifelong

Public offices held or sought: State representative 2013-present

1. Charter schools should be held to the same standards as all schools that receive taxpayer money to operate. This includes elected boards instead of appointed boards and a full accounting of where funding comes from and what it is spent on.

Traditional public schools already do this. Close to 80 percent of charter schools in Michigan (the most in the U.S.) are run

by for-profit corporations.

I support a moratorium on any new charter schools until transparency and accountability are increased. Our taxes should be used to educate our children, not increase profits and line the pockets of wealthy CEOs.

2. My top priority would be to continue representing the people of the 17th District. Helping people to understand and interface with their government is very important.

It also means making decisions on a broad variety of issues that will affect all of those directly represented in HD17 as well as all citizens of the state.

Stimulate economic development, ensure fiscal responsibility, protect the Great Lakes and support education funding.

CHARLES A. LONDO

Party: Republican

Address: 9521 Lazy Oak Dr., Carleton

Spouse: Frances Londo

Children: Bradley

Occupation, employer: Part-time city administrator, City of Luna Pier

Education: Bachelor of science, accounting major, Northern Michigan University; master's degree in public administration, Central Michigan University; John F. Kennedy School of Government, Senior Executives in State and Local Government.

Military service: Army, December, 1968-September, 1970

Memberships: Monroe County Community Mental Health Board; first lieutenant, Civil Air Patrol; Flat Rock Elks, Luna Pier Post 193, American Legion; ABATE of Michigan

Length of residency: Monroe County resident since 1994

Public offices held or sought: Monroe County administrator, 1994-2009; Midland County administrator/controller 1977-94

1. I am not sure what management and transparency issues are being referred to. However, according to the Michigan Association of Public School Academies, charter schools are held to the same standards as public schools and are also required to follow additional standards not required of public schools.

Because parents want the best education for their children, regardless of where they are educated, any rule changes should be applied equally to all schools.

2. My top priority when I am elected is to seek appointment to the House Appropriations Committee so that I can apply my experience in balancing bipartisan budgets and commit to allocating funding to high priority issues.

Our constituents need someone who can find solutions, other than taxing our citizens and retirees, in order to balance the state's budget.

DISTRICT 56

TOM REDMOND

Party: Democrat

Age, date, place of birth: 65; July 13, 1949, Middlesboro, Ky.

Address: 6818 Brentridge Lane, Lambertville

Spouse: Darlene Redmond

Children: Kelly Struth, Ashley Sutter, Amber Redmond, and Jennifer Redmond

Occupation, employer: Retired from Monroe County Sheriff's Office, currently sergeant with the Dundee Police Department; varsity softball coach, Summerfield High School

Education: Graduate Monroe High School, attended Michigan Christian College, Monroe County Community College, Wayne State University.

Memberships: Dundee Sportsman's Club, Monroe County Democratic Party, Monroe Fraternal Order of Police

Length of residency: Monroe County, 64 years; Bedford Township, 20 years

Public offices held or sought: Candidate for Monroe County sheriff, 2012

1. Charter schools in Michigan receive \$1 billion in public funding. As such, they should be transparent and accountable to the public in the same way as traditional schools.

We must be sure that children who attend charter schools are getting the best education possible and not simply filling the coffers of management companies.



I support requiring financial disclosure from all companies that operate charter schools and a mandate that all money charters receive from the School Aid Fund be reasonably associated with education expenses.

2. There is no better investment we can make than education. Public schools have lost roughly \$3 billion since 2011 to pay for massive tax cuts for big corporations. Instead, we must reinvest in education at all levels.

This will help our children prepare for college and the workforce, lessen the burden of student loan debt on graduates, create an attractive talent pool to lure businesses and entice young families to put down roots in Michigan.

JASON SHEPPARD

Party: Republican

Age, date, place of birth: 36; Aug. 25, 1978; Toledo

Address: 7235 Bentcreek Dr., Temperance

Spouse: Melissa Sheppard

Occupation, employer: Monroe County commissioner (two-terms); owner of Husky Snow Removal; commercial real estate agent with Signature Associates

Education: Some college

Memberships: Monroe County Exchange Club, National Rifle Association, Right to Life of Michigan,

Length of residency: Ottawa

See **HOUSE**, Page 7

DISTRICT 55

Neither incumbent Democrat **Adam Zemke** of 120½ E. Washington St., Ann Arbor, nor Republican challenger **Leonard O. Burk** of 775 Judd Rd., Saline, submitted biographical information or answered the questions.

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House (cont.)

Lake native; Bedford Township, six years.

Public offices held or sought: Two-term Monroe County commissioner

1. I support the charter schools in coming forward with a proposal regarding the management and transparency issues that recently have been brought forth.

I am not only concerned with charter schools but all schools, in making sure that are held to the same accountability and our children receive the best education that they deserve.

2. We are dealing with a failing infrastructure. One of the first steps to rectifying this situation is to change the road funding system. Act 51 bases road funding off miles of roads versus use. Some counties like Monroe are in the top 10 counties in terms of use but in the bottom 10 for funding.

We need to rework this without adding new taxes so that counties can give their residents the roads they deserve.

R. A. L BAIN

Mr. Bain of 3501 N. Otter Creek Rd., a candidate with the U.S. Taxpayers Party, did not submit biographical information or answer the questions.



Monroe County Board of Commissioners

Each candidate for the two-year terms was asked to answer these questions and limited on the number of words:

Question 1 (100 words): With the county budget limited due to budget constraints and cost controls, what can the board do to

increase public safety?

Question 2 (75 words): What would be your top priority if elected?

DISTRICT 1

JEREMY MCBEE

Mr. McBee, a Democrat, of 17388 Cake Rd., Dundee, did not submit biographical information or answer the questions.

DAVID C. HOFFMAN

Party: Republican

Age, date, place of birth: 63; Sept. 19, 1951; Monroe

Address: 12877 Bigelow Rd., Dundee

Children: Joseph, Gabriel, Kara

Occupation, employer: Contractor, David C. Hoffman Inc.

Education: Monroe Catholic Central High School, 1970; continued education at Monroe County Community College

Memberships: Life member National Rifle Association, Monroe County Farm Bureau, Ducks Unlimited

Length of residency: Lifelong

Public offices held or sought: Current Monroe County commissioner (two terms).

1. We've worked intensely maintaining the budget so all departments in this county can survive. We have put three more sheriff deputies on the department.

Collecting old prescriptions, getting them out of the wrong hands through the Red Box program and collection days set by the health department have been aggressive steps.

Educating all ages about the severe heroin/alcohol problem and working together to get heroin off the streets. Eliminating drug dealers is urgent.

We continue working diligently

to upgrade roads. Working with the townships having more authority on their repairs is proving to be very effective.

2. Continuing to put citizens first, to help all needs as possible.

As commissioner, I have focused on the safety and welfare of the public. We've put more officers on the roads. We're aggressively working to destroy the drug problems in our county.

I will keep pushing to improve the roads we drive on every day to/from work, school, recreation. This is vital in maintaining growth, bringing new businesses and residents to our beautiful county.



DISTRICT 2

RICO PEREZ

Party: Democrat

Age, date, place of birth: 68; Jan. 30, 1946; Texas

Address: 10548 Bitz Rd., Maybee

Spouse: Susan

Children: Anna-Marie, Enrique II, Alejandro, Brian, Angela

Occupation, employer: Retired

Education: High school diploma plus completed several specialized college courses

Memberships: Michigan Democratic Party, Axemen M/C, ABATE, AMA, HOG

Length of residency: 18 years

Public offices sought or held: Monroe County Board of Commissioners candidate

1. Safety is not free. It costs money to run the police and fire departments, hospitals, road maintenance, 911 emergency service, etc.

Without additional funding, we



should encourage more volunteer programs to assist wherever able.

Also, research state and federal grants to see if there is any funding available to assist our county.

2. What would be my top priority if elected in 75 words or less? Can I say ROADS 75 times?

MARK BRANT

Party: Republican

Age, date, place of birth: 58; July 2, 1956; Monroe

Address: 4929 Blue Bush Rd.

Spouse: Karen Brant

Children: Aja, Adam, Sarah

Occupation, employer: Self-employed, real estate development

Education: St. Joseph Catholic School, Maybee; Dundee High School, 1974

Memberships: Lifetime member Ducks Unlimited, Monroe County Republican Party, National Republican Party, National Rifle Association

Length of residency: Lifelong

Public offices held or sought: Monroe County commissioner, 2012-14; Monroe County Planning Commission, 2000-present; Monroe County Board of Commissioners Human Resources and Judiciary committees, 2012-present; Raisinville Township supervisor, 1996-2004; Raisinville Township Zoning Board of Appeals, 1986-96; Raisinville Township Planning Commission, 1984-96.

1. After six years of painful cost cutting and shared sacrifice, the county budget is currently relatively stable.

Sheriff Malone and his staff instituted some welcome cost-



containment measures that will allow more of his budget to be redirected to increased deputies on the road as evidenced by the recent approval by the county board adding two new full time deputies.

This year's budget is designed to add even more deputies along with updating some public safety equipment, vehicles and buildings.

County employees and staff have all made significant sacrifices for the greater good to make increasing public safety possible.

2. My top priority should I be re-elected will be to continue to work in the bipartisan manner that the current board has demonstrated.

To spend every taxpayer dollar with conservative intent and common sense.

The current board has worked extremely well together because we respect the diverse opinions that we each bring to the table.

I intend to continue to represent the county and my district with that same conservative and cooperative attitude.

DISTRICT 3

AL POTRATZ

Party: Democrat

Age, date, place of birth: 70; April 30, 1944; Wyandotte

Address: 4848 S. Huron River Dr., Flat Rock

Spouse: Julie

Children: Two

Occupation, employer: Retired teacher, coach, Airport Community Schools

Education: Airport High School; Eastern Michigan University, bachelor's degree and graduate

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County (cont.)

State of Michigan vocational certification

Memberships: Elks, Rotary Club, National Education Association, Michigan Education Association

Length of residency: 65 years
Public offices held or sought: Monroe County Board of Commissioners, 2006-10, 2012-present; Berlin Township Zoning Board of Appeals chairman, 1974-76

1. Provide funding for more road patrol deputies.
2. Top priorities:
 - Public safety.
 - Provide educational information about our drug problem here in Monroe County. Set up a plan for schools, health-care providers, parents and most importantly our youth. Make it very tough for those who are preying on our people.

■ Balance our budget; to be careful so as to not impede or curtail county services to Monroe County citizens.

DAWN A. ASPER

Party: Republican

Age, date, place of birth: 60, Michigan

Address: 5594 Kathy Ct., Newport.

Spouse: Bill

Children: Four adult sons

Occupation, employer: Self-employed chiropractic physician (licensed in 1981)

Education: Bachelor of science degrees in zoology and in biopsychology, University of Michigan; advanced EMT, Madonna University; bachelor of science in human biology and doctorate of chiropractic, National College of Chiropractic, Lombard, Ill.

Memberships: Newport Community Church, Monroe County Historical Society, Monroe Women's Republican Club of Monroe County, Conservative Caucus of



Monroe County, Campaign for Liberty

Length of residency: 32 years
Public offices held or sought: Republican precinct delegate, 2010, 2012, 2014

1. Neighborhood Watch groups can save tax dollars.

I am also a strong proponent of the Second Amendment and the ability of residents to defend themselves and their families. This is especially important if law enforcement response is delayed.

Grant money is tempting, but commissioners must be particularly discriminating, rejecting matching grants that require — through their purpose or language — use of our trained law enforcement professionals for seat belt enforcement.

It is sad, given crime problems like human trafficking, that federal funds promote state seat belt enforcement grants (redistributed tax dollars), undermining the taxpayers' desired use of resources.

More at <http://facebook.com/ElectDawnAsper>

2. When the board of commissioners meets, many issues have already been settled and are just formalized through vote.

Minutes, while available on the Internet, have a lag time of about a month.

Therefore, I will plan for monthly town halls for District 3 residents, announced through our own social media page. That way I can remain current with their concerns, keep them informed and encourage attendance at board meetings of particular concern to our District.

DISTRICT 4**ROBERT LAMBERT**

Party: Democrat

Age, date, place of birth: 42; Monroe

Address: 2980 Promenade Rd.

Occupation, employer: Crane operator, International Union of Operating Engineers

Education: Coastal Carolina University

Memberships: Chairman Monroe County Democratic Party 2010-12

Length of residency: Lifelong

Public offices held or sought: Current Monroe County commissioner; chairman, Monroe County Board of Commissioners finance and personnel committees, member physical resources committee; trustee Monroe County Retirement Board

1. Public safety is a priority. We allocate 47 percent of the budget to public safety.

We added three deputies in February and funded additional efforts fighting drug problems, including drug take-back events and more staff prosecuting offenders.

The sheriff is restructuring operations, saving jail overtime that is being allocated to direct citizen services.

We are using our reserves to bolster other efforts, including capital equipment for the sheriff and upgrading 911 phones and radio systems using efficient technologies to get the most out of our resources.

The partnership with local units to contract for deputy sheriffs is something I support.

2. Continued fiscal responsibility of the taxpayer's money to ensure citizens get the most from their government, allowing them to spend more of their own hard-earned dollars for their families.

I have led the budget and we have a well-structured plan.

Cost controls have built reserves for investments.

I will continue public safety priorities, getting in front of the drug problem.



We've built a good team of local leaders and community groups and are making progress.

DANIEL J. DONAHUE

Party: Republican

Age, date, place of birth: 63; Grand Rapids

Address: 732 E. Hurd Rd.

Spouse: Christine

Children: Two

Occupation, employer: Owner and optician, Donahue Eyecare

Education: Catholic Central High School, Grand Rapids; American Board certified optician, Ohio licensed optician

Military service: Army National Guard, 1970-1976

Memberships: National Rifle Association, Monroe Exchange Club, Trinity Lutheran Church, AMVETS, Monroe County Chamber of Commerce

Length of residency: 42 years

Public offices held or sought: Monroe County commissioner 2011-12; Monroe County Board of Commissioners 911 Board, personnel committee, Economic Development Corp. Board

1. Property invasions continue to increase. Escalation of drug problems make our children at risk and decrease public safety. Funding for a sufficient amount of deputies for road patrol must be a top priority.

Thankfully, revenue sharing from the state has been increased and I am hopeful it will continue.

I support funding additional resources for crime prevention and add detective personnel for crime solving.

Proper management of the budget and effective cost control is key to having funds available for public safety. The county government must live within its means, eliminate waste and continue to look for new revenue.

2. Transparency. No self-



serving agendas, eliminate back-room deals and restore the compensation commission to give the power back to Monroe County residents.

Allow local county retirees and workers to share in the control of their pension system.

Back-room appointments to numerous committees have become political appointments instead of working with the committee to find the right person for that open position. Transparency equals public trust and confidence in our Monroe County commissioners.

DISTRICT 5**JASON R. TURNER**

Party: Democrat

Age, date, place of birth: 44; April 11, 1970; Monroe

Address: 297 Pebble Beach Dr.

Spouse: Danielle Turner

Children: Kayla, Jaden, Raelyn, Alexa

Occupation, employer: Mortgage banker, Acceptance Capital Mortgage

Education: Monroe High School, 1988

Memberships: St. Michael Catholic Church

Length of residency: Lifelong

Public offices held or sought: Current Monroe County commissioner

Mr. Turner did not answer the questions.

**NORM MATTHES**

Party: Republican

Age, date, place of birth: 64; Aug. 16, 1950; Adrian

Address: 1208 McCormick Dr.

Occupation, employer: J.D. Mellberg Financial

Education: Ida High School, Monroe County Community

See **COUNTY**, Page 9

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County (cont.)

lege, Michigan State University
Memberships: Monroe County Chamber of Commerce, Redeemer Fellowship Church. National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, National Rifle Association

Length of residency: 61 years

Public offices held or sought: Precinct delegate

1. The first thing I would do is to look for waste in the budget. We can encourage neighborhood watches. We need to operate under a "top priority first" philosophy.

2. I have three priorities: government waste, roads, and drugs and quality of life.

DISTRICT 6**JERRY OLEY**

Party: Democrat

Age, date, place of birth: 49

Address: 3333 S. Custer Rd

Spouse: Stacy

Children: Megan and Lucas

Occupation, employer: Director of operations, Monroe Public Schools

Education: Monroe High School; Monroe County Community College, associate degree in applied science; attending Siena Heights University.

Length of residence: Lifelong

Public offices held or sought: Monroe County Board of Commissioners, 2000-present, current chairman; Monroe Public Schools Board of Education, 1991-98

1. We must maintain an adequate level of public safety services to the citizens. As board chairman, I have led and supported several enhanced public

safety initiatives:

■ Led the efforts with the sheriff and board to fund three additional sheriff deputies.

■ Built a state-of-the-art 911/emergency operations facility.

■ Implemented a state-of-the-art public safety communication system throughout Monroe County.

I am committed to working together in finding solutions when it comes to our first responders' serviceability levels.

I am committed to evaluating department requests that come before the board and render the best decision based upon what the taxpayers have afforded us.

2. My platform for the future is to continue strengthening public safety to benefit all citizens, building a stronger collaborative approach with community agencies fighting drug abuse, adopting budgets that contain costs while prioritizing the most important public services for our community.

My leadership efforts have also returned the county's finances to a stable position that allows us to think outside the box and provide opportunities to continue strengthening public safety to benefit all citizens.

DISTRICT 7**MIKE MILLER**

Party: Democrat

Age, date, place of birth: 32; March 7, 1982; Toledo

Address: 4695 LaPlaisance Rd., LaSalle

Spouse: JoAnna Thomason-Miller

Children: Noah, 9; Delaynee, 4

Occupation, employer: Social studies teacher, Monroe County Middle College; owner, Infinity Spa & Salon

Education: Monroe High School 2000; associate of science,

Monroe County Community College, 2003; bachelor of science, double major in history and social studies, Eastern Michigan University, 2009

Memberships: Michigan Education Association, Michigan Council for the Social Studies, Michigan Democratic Party, National Council for the Social Studies, American Football Coaches Association

Length of residency: Lifelong

1. Roughly 47 percent of the county budget is committed to public safety. The majority of the public safety budget is managed by the county sheriff. The sheriff department operates with a high degree of autonomy from the county board of commissioners and is directed by its own elected official.

Some other public safety programs of the county are emergency management and animal control. But I think the concerns of the residents are largely addressed by the operations of law enforcement agencies such as the Monroe County Sheriff Department and not by the county board of commissioners.

2. Many voters are concerned by allegations of government waste and perhaps there is some merit to those concerns but I am more concerned that programs are underfunded and that commissioners are under pressure to maintain operations without the money needed to do it.

I will not just "follow the pack." I will ask tough questions and cast my own votes based on what I feel will meet the needs of the people who elected me.

GARY WILMOTH

Party: Republican

Age, date, place of birth: 68

Address: 3635 Luna Pier Rd., Erie

Spouse: Sandra

Children: Chris, Mary and Joe

Occupation, employer: Founder

of small business and farming

Education: High school

Memberships: Knights of Columbus Council 7413; Erie Post 3925, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Men's Auxiliary; life member National Rifle Association; Monroe Chamber of Commerce; St. Joseph Catholic Church, Erie

Length of residency: 15 years

Public offices held or sought: Erie Township Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Review; Monroe Whiting Plant Steering Committee

1. We really need more patrol cars in the county for our safety. With the county budget limited due to budget constraints and cost controls this is difficult. How we will get there is by becoming more responsible with the taxpayer's money.

2. My priorities are:

■ Assist in aiding an appropriate business into the Consumers Power plant property to shore up the tax base in Erie and Luna Pier.

■ Aggressively pursue the reasons why Monroe County roads are in such poor condition and work to create a timely solution.

■ Help our elderly not be overtaxed or overlooked.

■ Ensure Monroe County is using taxpayers' monies responsibly.

■ Make sure property taxes and assessments are fair and reasonable.

DISTRICT 8**R. MARK ELLSWORTH**

Party: Democrat

Age, date, place of birth: 57; Sept. 6, 1957; Saginaw

Address: 1421 Winding Way, Temperance

Spouse: Denise K. Ellsworth

Children: Alexander, 30; Zachary, 27; Cole, 17

Occupation, employer: Owner, DaCapo Coffee; retired, GM Willow Run plant, 2009

Education: Associate in applied science (culinary arts), Schoolcraft College

Length of residency: 27 years in Bedford Township

Public offices held or sought: Bedford Township trustee candidate, 2012

1. I would promote and initiate more neighborhood watch programs. I would also encourage citizens in our community to be their brother's keeper. Let's create a safer environment for our children, enabling our senior citizens and retirees to watch, nurture, educate and interact with children in the parks, neighborhoods and schools, redirecting our law officers to patrols and crimes. Let the people take their community back.

2. To promote the southern area of Monroe County as a place where businesses would want to locate and grow. We have great schools and talented people in Bedford Township and we need to fill our business parks and community with good paying jobs.

WALT WILBURN

Party: Republican

Age, date, place of birth: 67; April 19, 1947; Tennessee

Address: 51 E. Erie Rd., Temperance

Spouse: Sue Wilburn

Children: Julie (Wilburn) Faunt and Stacie Wilburn

Occupation, employer: Sales agent, Coldwell Banker/Haynes real estate

Education: Business administrator, Monroe County Community College; licensed mechanical contractor, licensed Realtor; licensed property and casualty agent, on-the-job training with

See **COUNTY**, Page 10A



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County (cont.)

20 years' experience as a small business owner and employer.

Military service: Navy, 1965-68 in Vietnam

Memberships: Bedford Business Association, Bedford Lions Club, Bedford Goodfellows, American Legion Post 192, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9656

Length of residency: 37 years

Public offices held or sought: Bedford Township supervisor 2004-12.

1. As for public safety, I feel that the best thing the board can do is listen to Sheriff Dale Malone and his recommendations as far as public safety.

As previous Bedford Township supervisor, I have worked closely with Mr. Malone in the past. He was the supervisor of the Bedford substation



while I was Bedford Township supervisor. When it comes to getting the most for the least, he is the best at it. Therefore I would want to know what his thoughts and needs are before I could honestly answer this question.

2. My top priority would be to make sure that Bedford gets and continues to get its fair share of services and monies from the county. Roads, law enforcement, senior services and a balanced budget are all my top priorities.

DISTRICT 9

J. HENRY LIEVENS

Party: Republican

Age, date, place of birth: 39; Nov. 25, 1974; Toledo

Address: 11021 Sylvania-Petersburg Rd., Riga

Spouse: Betzi Lievens

Occupation, employer: Attorney, Law Office of Paul E. Braunlich

Education: St. Mary Catholic Central

High School; University of Michigan; juris doctorate, University of Toledo College of Law

Memberships: National Rifle Association, Farm Bureau, Exchange Club, Monroe County Rod and Gun Club, Bedford Business Association

Length of residency: Lifelong

Public offices held or sought: Monroe County commissioner, 2005-present

1. Putting more boots on the streets has been a near impossible challenge in recent years. But we have been able to do just that in the past year by reigning in costs in all possible ways: health-care cost savings, utilizing technology and right-sizing. Additionally, the sheriff's department has always been able to win grants.

2. I am running for re-election to continue making Monroe County a great place to live, work and raise a family. To do this, my top priorities continue to be public safety, fixing our roads and fiscal responsibility.

Monroe County Circuit Court

Judge Daniel S. White is unopposed in his bid for re-election to a six-year term. The election is nonpartisan. Judge White was asked to answer two questions. Answers were limited to 100 words

Question 1: What is your opinion of how Monroe County's court system is divided: circuit, district, and probate? Should it remain as such or should it be changed to a trial court system as in Washtenaw County, where a chief judge can assign the judges to any type of case?

Question 2: What is your opinion of the current court-appointed attorney system?

DANIEL S. WHITE

Age, date, place of birth: 58; May 23, 1956; Monroe

Address: Monroe

Children: Alexander J. White, Lauren A. White

Occupation, employer: Circuit court judge

Education: Monroe Catholic Central High School,

See **CIRCUIT**, Page 11



MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Passage of MCCC's Millage Request is vital to:

- Making critical repairs to facilities, such as fixing leaking roofs and flooding basements
- Keep tuition affordable
- Update aging computer technology and equipment
- Maintain high-quality academic programs and student support services

MAIN CAMPUS

1555 S. Raisinville Rd.
Monroe, MI 48161

WHITMAN CENTER

7777 Lewis Ave.
Temperance, MI 48182

For all the details about
MCCC's Millage Request,
please go to
www.monroeccc.edu/millage.



Paid for by: Citizens for MCCC
310 Payson Ave., Monroe, MI 48162

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Circuit (cont.)

1974; Monroe County Community College, 1976; University of Michigan, 1978; University of Toledo College of Law, 1981

Memberships:

Michigan Judges Association, Monroe County Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition, former board director, Family Counseling and Shelter Services, Monroe Senior Citizens Center

Length of residency:

Lifelong
Public offices held or sought: Circuit judge, 2012-present; Monroe City Council 1984-1988

1. The Monroe County Court System is comprised of three different courts, district, probate and circuit. Each court deals with a very different area of the law and judges in those areas are uniquely qualified to address those particular types of cases.

While Monroe County has adopted a concurrent jurisdiction plan allowing all judges to act in any capacity when the need arises, our current system allows judges to be elected or appointed based on their particular skill set and legal experiences.

2. Monroe County's court-appointed attorney system utilizes private attorneys to represent indigent defendants in criminal cases. Interested lawyers are placed on a list and chosen in order provided they have the requisite experience to handle the particular case.

The system works because it is fair to both the attorneys and the defendants and provides a large pool of lawyers who are ready to go on a moment's notice, reducing delays and additional expense.

Alternative methods such as a public defender's office have been suggested but seem a costlier alternative.



Two seats are available: Judge Frank L. Arnold is unopposed in his bid for a full six-year term. A four-year term is being sought by Judge Cheryl Lohmeyer, who was appointed to the bench in February, and attorney Jill M. LaVoy. The elections are

Full term

FRANK L. ARNOLD

Age, date, place of birth: 45; June 5, 1964; Toledo.

Address: Monroe

Occupation

employer: Senior probate judge; chairman of Elections Commission, Drain Commission and Boundary Commission.

Education: Trinity Lutheran School; St. John Elementary School; Monroe Catholic Central High School, 1987; bachelor of arts in political science, Michigan State University, 1991; juris doctorate, University of Detroit Mercy, 1994

Memberships: Child Advocacy Council; co-chairman of Governor's School Justice Task Force; co-chairman of Monroe County Anti-Bullying Task Force; Human Services Collaborative Network Board; vice president of Southeast Michigan Probate Judges Association

Length of residency: Lifelong

Public offices held or sought: Assistant city attorney and prosecuting attorney, 1997-2003; probate court judge, 2010-present; chief/senior probate judge, 2013-present

Judge Arnold was "unavailable to comment" on the questions.

Partial term

JILL M. LAVOY

Age, date, place of birth: 45; Jan. 21, 1969; Monroe

Address: 13542 Venetian Dr.,

Occupation, employer: Attor-



ney, Jill M. LaVoy, PLLC

Education: St. Mary Academy, 1987; University of Michigan, bachelor of arts, 1990; University of Toledo College of Law, juris doctorate, 1994

Memberships:

Retired Senior Volunteer Program Advisory Council Board; Monroe Public Access Cable TV, 1997-present; Monroe County Opportunity Program Board of Directors 1999-2002; Family Counseling and Shelter Services Board; Monroe County United Way co-chairman of Legal Division, 2006-2008, distribution panel, 2008-2012.

Length of residency: Lifelong
Public offices held or sought: Candidate Probate Court judge, 2012

1. Michigan law determines the jurisdiction of each court. I believe that there are efficiencies that could be implemented to streamline dockets and ensure on-time productivity in our courts.

Our legal system demands that people be judged by a jury of their peers. I want the court to be respectful of each citizen's time, effort and energies. I would like to see the court more customer-service oriented.

2. Our Constitution provides for a right to counsel. When I was president of the Monroe County Bar Association, I initiated a top-to-bottom analysis of our court-appointed attorney system and fee schedule.

As president of the bar association, I lobbied the county

nonpartisan. Each candidate was asked to answer these questions and limited to 100 words.

Question 1: What is your opinion of how Monroe County's court system is divided: circuit, district, and probate? Should it



commissioners for a change in the hourly fee to bring our fee structure in line with the statewide hourly rates.

During my tenure as president, Monroe County commissioners, local attorneys, and consultants from other counties reviewed our system and recognized it to be a model program.

CHERYL (WERNER) LOHMEYER

Age, date and place of birth: 43; June 13, 1971; Fort Wayne, Ind.

Address: 1609 Northridge Dr.

Spouse: Loren J. Lohmeyer III

Children: Lukas, Chloe

Occupation, employer: Judge of probate and presiding judge of the Juvenile Section of the Family Division of the 38th Judicial Circuit Court for Monroe County

Education: Bedford High School, 1989; University of Michigan, bachelor of arts in English and political science, 1992; University of Toledo College of Law, 1996; specialized judicial education

Memberships: Michigan Probate Judges Association; State Bar of Michigan Family Law, Children's Law, and Probate and Estate Planning Sections; St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church; Girl Scouts of the USA, leader of Girl Scout Troop 71020; Monroe County Community College Symphony Band

Length of residency: More than 37 years

Public offices held or sought:

remain as such or should it be changed to a trial court system as in Washtenaw County, where a chief judge can assign the judges to any type of case?

Question 2: What is your opinion of the current court-appointed attorney system?

Appointed Monroe County probate judge, 2014; assistant prosecutor, Monroe County, 1998-2006; precinct delegate, 2012-14; state boundary commissioner, 2013-14

1. While we should always be vigilant about ways to improve, I believe our current system serves Monroe County well. Specialized courts were created so judges could develop expertise in specific areas.

In some counties, however, strict adherence to specialization caused backlogs.

Monroe County has adopted a plan, approved by the Supreme Court, that preserves the benefits of specialization while adding flexibility and efficiency. According to this plan, the supreme court "cross assigns" judges to other courts and types of cases when doing so will avoid backlogs. This allows us to both specialize and use our resources efficiently.

2. In Monroe County, private attorneys accept court-appointed cases at fees much lower than private practice rates. Their bills are reviewed before payment. Still, these fees are a large budget item.

My predecessors have, in conjunction with county commissioners, researched other methods for providing these services, such as creating a public defender's office. However, they found that the expense did not justify changing the current arrangement which does fulfill the constitutional mandate and ensures that those needing legal representation are served by dedicated attorneys.



First District Court

Attorney Jarod M. Calkins is vying for a six-year term on the bench that was vacated in July by Judge Mark S. Braunlich but whose name still will appear on the ballot.

Judge Braunlich, who had been a district judge, was appointed to fill a vacancy on the circuit court bench after the filing deadline. Although he had sought the ap-

pointment, he didn't know if he would get it so he filed for re-election to the district court bench. The circuit court appointment came too late for him to take his name off the August primary ballot.

Despite Judge Braunlich's announcement that he did not intend to return to district court, he won the primary with Mr. Calkins coming in second in a field of four.

The pair's names will appear on the Nov. 4 ballot.

If Judge Braunlich wins this election, the governor will appoint someone to the post. Mr. Calkins will not automatically assume the seat.

The elections are nonpartisan.

Each candidate was asked to answer these questions and limited to 100 words.

Question 1: What is your opinion of how Monroe County's court system is divided: circuit, district, and probate? Should it remain as such or should it be changed to a trial court system as in Washtenaw County, where a chief judge can assign the judges to any type of case?

Question 2: What is your opinion of the current court-appointed attorney system?

MARK S. BRAUNLICH

Judge Braunlich did not submit biographical information or answer the questions. See explanation above.

JAROD MICHAEL CALKINS

Party: Nonpartisan
Age, date, place of birth: 37; Feb. 27, 1977; Monroe
Address: Carleton
Spouse: Jill Renae (Ankrum) Calkins

Children: Isaac, 14 months
Occupation, employer: Attorney, Calkins Law Offices
Education: Jefferson High School; University of Toledo bachelor of education degree in secondary education, comprehensive social studies with concentration in political science; UT College of Law, juris doctorate
Memberships: Monroe County Bar Association, Better Business



Bureau, National Rifle Association, Monroe County Chamber of Commerce, ABATE
Length of residency: Lifelong
Public offices held or sought: Former member and chairman of Monroe County Compensation Committee and City of Monroe Recreation Advisory Commission; case evaluator for the Monroe County Circuit Court; 2012 candidate for Monroe County Circuit Court judge
1. The current division of duties in the Monroe County Court system allows for each judge to

specialize in a particular arena of legal topics.

Broadening the scope of a judge's docket to include additional case types would give up this specialization for convenience.

The public is better served by its judiciary where the judge is well versed in the areas of law before him or her.

2. Each indigent defendant facing jail has a constitutional right to a court-appointed attorney. However, individual counties in Michigan have the ability to de-

cide, on their own, how that defense is provided. Some counties opt for a public defender office, which comes at a great expense to the county taxpayers, while others choose to pay individual attorneys by the case or by the hour for their services.

Considering we must balance our obligation to uphold the constitutional rights of our citizens with the burden on the county taxpayers, the hourly approach is most effective means of accomplishing our goal.

Townships (Berlin, Erie, Huron)

Voters in three local townships will be asked to decide races in which the candidates are seeking partial terms to fill the remainders of full terms that were vacated.

Each candidate was asked to answer one question: If elected, what is your top priority? Answers were limited to 75 words.

BERLIN TOWNSHIP
Supervisor
(Partial term expiring 2016)
KARL REAUME

Party: Democrat
Age, date, place of birth: 54; Aug. 12, 1960; South Rockwood
Address: 4590 Sigler Rd., South Rockwood
Spouse: Lisa
Children: Quentin, Alyse
Occupation, employer: Supervisor, Berlin Township
Education: Airport High School
Memberships: MDP, Farm



Bureau, MTA
Length of residency: Lifelong
Public offices held or sought: Supervisor, Jan. 12-present; township trustee, 2012-2014
My top priority is becoming a "people's" supervisor, with an open door policy. Reassuring township residents I'm always here for them.
Treasurer (Partial term expiring 2016)
DEBORAH MASSERANT
Party: Democrat
Age, date, place of birth: 54; June 16, 1960; Monroe
Address: 8396 Strong Rd.,

Newport
Spouse: Mark
Children: Edward, Rebecca, Gregory, Tracy
Occupation, employer: Treasurer, Berlin Township
Education: Jefferson High School, attended Monroe County Community College
Memberships: MMTA, Farm Bureau, MTA, MDP, St. Charles Catholic Church
Length of residency: 50 years
Public offices held or sought: Treasurer, 2013-present.
Ms. Masserant did not answer the question.



Trustee (Partial term expiring in 2016)
DAVE REAUME
Party: Democrat
Age, date, place of birth: 59; April 25, 1955; Monroe
Address: 8889 U.S. Turnpike, Newport
Spouse: Denise (Beaudrie) Reaume
Children: Stephanie, Stacey
Occupation, employer: Retired May 1 after 34½ years with Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, as a supervisory budget analyst; lifelong farmer



Education: Monroe Catholic Central High School, Monroe County Community College
Memberships: St. Charles Catholic Church, St. Charles Ushers Club, Monroe County 4-H, Stepping Stones Therapeutic Riding, Friends of the Newport Library
Length of residency: Lifelong
Public offices held or sought: Berlin Township trustee 1976-80
My top priority as a Berlin Township trustee would be to always formulate conscientious, level-headed and knowledgeable decisions that strive to make Berlin Township the best place to live and raise our children.

See TOWNSHIPS, Page 13

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Townships

(cont.)

ERIE TOWNSHIP**Trustee****(Partial term expiring in 2016)****SHAWN M. COUSINO**

Mr. Cousino of 11166 Minx Rd., Erie, did not

submit biographical information or answer the question.

HURON TOWNSHIP**Trustee****(Partial term expiring in 2016)****CLAUDE E. WRIGHT**

Mr. Wright of 36820

Violet St., New Boston, a Democrat, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

MICHAEL STACH**Party:** Republican**Age, date, place of birth:** 54, Detroit**Address:** 22601 Willow Rd., New Boston**Spouse:** Married 24 years**Children:** Four daughters**Occupation, employer:**

Network services technician

Education:

Henry Ford Community College, associate degree



in electronics; Wayne State University, bachelor's degree in economics

Memberships: Huron Township Rotary**Length of residency:** 21 years**Public offices held or sought:** Huron Township Local Development

Finance Authority 2008-13

To deliver the level of public safety that the community deserves. Without quality public safety, a community will soon degrade, which I don't want to happen in Huron Township.

Villages**(Carleton, Dundee, Estral Beach, Maybee, South Rockwood)**

Voters in Monroe County's village will be asked to decide leadership posts, ranging from president to council trustee.

Some seats will have to filled by write-in

candidates because not enough people filed to run. Each candidate was asked to answer one question: If elected, what is your top priority? Answers were limited to 75 words

CARLETON**Council****Three four-year seats****CHARLES COLLERT**

Mr. Collert of 12725 Crane St., Carleton, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

Write-in candidates**GLENN J. GOODNIGHT**

Mr. Goodnight of 12397 Oak St., Carleton, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

JON M. MCSHOSH**Age, date, place of birth:** 73; April 11, 1941; Detroit**Address:** 12388 Oak St., Carleton**Children:** Two girls, three boys**Occupation, employer:** Retired**Education:** Sacred Heart High School, Dearborn**Military service:** Navy**Memberships:** Elks, American Legion

To help the Village of Carleton and the people who live there and the businesses in the village.

One two-year seat

No candidates

Treasurer**(two-year term)****CATHY COLEMAN**

Ms. Coleman of 12962 Crane St., Carleton, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

DUNDEE**President (four-year term)****TED NORRIS****Age, date, place of birth:** 58**Address:** 746 Falcon Dr., Dundee**Occupation, employer:**

Power train experimental engineering, General Motors

Spouse: Alice Norris**Children:** Bo, 26; Mick, 20; Alex, 19

Memberships: President, Bikers Against Child Abuse, Wayne County Chapter; president, Dundee Sportsman's Club; president, Dundee Sportsman's Club

See **VILLAGES**, Page 14A**Dan Donahue**

**For
Frenchtown
Commissioner
District 4**

**Transparency • Integrity
Community Involvement**

"My experience on community boards, my business experience, and as a former County Commissioner has provided me with positive traits for this public service position. I arrive at decisions using good listening skills, and common sense. I will govern, using unwavering principles, with transparency, and will be a voice for all Frenchtown residents."

~ Frenchtown Business Owner 40 years

~ NRA Member

~ Army National Guard 1970-1976

~ AMVETS Member

~ Monroe Exchange Club, Director

~ Family Counseling & Shelter Services

~ Finance Fundraiser for Paula's House

~ Member of Trinity Lutheran Church

~ Endorsed by Right to Life

**My commitment is serious, and would appreciate
your vote on November 4th.**

Paid for by the committee to elect Dan Donahue, District 4, Monroe County Commissioner -
732 E. Hurd Rd., Monroe, MI 48162.

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Villages (cont.)

Foundation; executive director, Dundee Boy Scout Troop 511 and Cub Scout Pack 511.

Length of residency: 14 years

Public offices held or sought: Current village president; Brownfield Redevelopment Authority; Downtown Development Authority; Economic Development Corp.; Local Development Finance Authority

Top priorities:

■ Continue to lower our residential tax burden by beating the competition and bringing in new industry and much needed new good paying jobs to our community.

■ Promote our village to encourage newly wanted businesses to locate here so that we may travel less and keep our local dollars here in our community. These new businesses will open new opportunities for our families as well as our children with their first job.

THOMAS ROHRBACH

Mr. Rohrbach of 523 E. Monroe St., Dundee, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

Council (three four-year seats)**JANET L. BUNCH**

Ms. Bunch of 503 Brooks Hollow Ct., Dundee, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

PENNY L. GUTIERREZ

Ms. Gutierrez of 588 McBride St., Dundee, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

MICHAEL SALIB

Mr. Salib of 828 Plank Rd., Dundee, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

Partial term expiring in 2016**KARLA MILLS**

Age, date, place of birth: 54; Nov. 8, 1959; Dundee

Address: 126 Mechanic St., Dundee

Children: Jessica Lovell, 33; Steven, 20; Brian, 18; Brett, 16

Occupation, employer: Self employed; Kroger part time

Education: High school

Length of residency: Born in Dundee, moved as a child, cmae home 14 years ago

Public offices held or sought: Dundee Zoning Board of Appeals, member 2012-present, chairman four months

I don't have one issue that is more important than another.

My priority is to take feedback from the citizens of Dundee and work along with my fellow council members to implement changes and improvements that will benefit the community.

ESTRAL BEACH**Clerk (two-year term)****CAROL VANDERCOOK**

Age, date, place of birth: Detroit

Address: 7196 Lakeshore Dr., Newport

Spouse: Vance

Children: Nadine Rzadecki, Annette Kozlowski; stepchildren, Lisa Vandercook, Tracie Cameron

Occupation, employer: Johnson Control Interior Manufacturing

Education: High school

Membership: Clerk association

Public offices held or sought: Clerk 1991 to present; deputy treasurer, 1993 to 2013

I have been the village clerk for many years. I have always served the village residents with dignity, respect and honesty. This has always been my top priority.

Treasurer (two-year term)**KRISTINE LEDGER**

Ms. Ledger of 6821 Lakeshore Dr., Newport, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

Council (three four-year terms)**JESSICA ANGLIN**

Age, date, place of birth: 34; Nov. 28, 1979; Michigan

Address: 7438 Lakeshore Dr., Newport

Spouse: Chris Anglin

Occupation, employer: Internal auditor, AAA Life Insurance Co.

Education: Hope College, bachelor of arts in accounting

Length of residency: Six years

My top priority would be to rebuild the boat launch in Estral Beach.

Overall, I want to do whatever is necessary to continue to make our village a great place to live.

DEBBY DARE

Age, date, place of birth: 62; Sept. 24, 1952; Detroit

Address: 7448 Lakeshore Dr., Newport

Spouse: Bill Dare

Children: Bill Jr., Mark, Jeff

Occupation, employer: Retired mortgage loan officer.

Education: St. Andrew High School, Detroit, 1970

Length of residency: 33 years

Public offices held or sought: Estral Beach council 2013-present

My top priority will always be to do what's in the best interest of the residents of Estral Beach.

ELIZABETH H. MILLAR

Ms. Millar of 7664 Lakeshore Dr., Newport, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

JOSEPH E. PROVOST

Age, date, place of birth: 64; Detroit

Address: 7442 Lakeshore Dr., Newport

Spouse: Susan

Children: Joseph, Christine

Occupation employer: City of Dearborn Fire Department, retired 2002); Village of Estral Beach assistant fire chief, 2002-07; Michigan Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division, Pointe Mouillee, 2002-07

Education: St. Brigid Elementary, Detroit; Mackenzie High School, Detroit; University of Michigan Extension Institute, fire science degree; National Fire Academy; Henry Ford Community College.

Military service: Air Force, 1968-72

Memberships: Grandparent Read Program, Jefferson North Elementary School; St. Charles Catholic Church Ushers; St. Charles Breakfast Committee; life member Vietnam Veterans of America, James Huard-Chapter 267, Dearborn; life member Monroe Post 1138, Veterans of Foreign Wars

Length of residency: 17 years

Public offices held or sought: Council 2010-present

If elected, I will continue working to make the necessary improvements and upgrades to the infrastructure of this community.

JIM WIEGAND

Mr. Wiegand of 6928 Lakeshore Dr., Newport, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

MAYBEE**President (two-year term)****LEONARD GAYLOR**

Mr. Gaylor of 8172 Blue Bush Rd., Maybee, did not submit biographical information or answer

the question.

Council (three four-year terms)**NICK ARCHER**

Mr. Archer of 956 Center St., Maybee, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

LARRY GRAMLICH

Mr. Gramlich of 7584 Blue Bush Rd., Maybee, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

MARVIN B. (BRAD) ROGERS

Age, date, place of birth: 63; Sept. 28, 1951; Monroe

Address: 7992 Blue Bush Rd., Maybee

Spouse: Tona Rogers

Children: David, Daniel

Occupation, employer: Retired, Transportation Rail and Truck

Education: Huron High School, New Boston, 1972

Length of residency: Eight years

My top priority would be to improve the infrastructure while keeping property taxes reasonable.

SOUTH ROCKWOOD

Offices up for election are president (two-year term) and council (three four-year terms). None of the candidates submitted biographical information or answered the question. They are:

President: Daniel Tilley of 13240 Gildersleeve St., South Rockwood

Council: Tom Bondy of 7595 S. Huron River Dr., South Rockwood; Lavonna Cox of 13368 Gildersleeve St., South Rockwood; Clive Forrest, 5976 Carleton-Rockwood Rd., South Rockwood; Matheau L. VanWas-sehnova, 7577 S. Huron River Dr., South Rockwood.

Monroe County Community College Board of Trustees

Three six-year seats are up for election on the Monroe County Community College Board of Trustees. Each candidate was asked answer two questions with word limits for each one.

Question 1 (100 words): What role should the Community College play in Monroe County?

Question 2 (75 words): What would be your top priority if elected?

WILLIAM H. BRAUNLICH

Age, date, place of birth: 60; Feb. 3, 1954; Monroe

Address: 12192 N. Lakeshore Dr., LaSalle

Occupation, employer: Attorney, Braunlich, Russow and Braunlich PC

Education: University of Michigan, bachelor of arts; Washington and Lee University, doctorate of jurisprudence

Memberships: Director, The Foundation at Monroe County Community College; chairman, River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation; life member and past president, Monroe County Historical Society; Monroe County Bar Association

Length of residency: Lifelong

Public offices held or sought: MCCC board, 12 years, current vice chairman, chairman of 2013 presidential search committee in 2013

1. The continuing core mission of MCCC as a comprehensive community college is to provide excellent, highly affordable, accessible higher education opportunities for students seeking transfer to a four-year institution and students pursuing a two-year career program at MCCC (for example, nursing, respiratory therapy, culinary arts, welding).

MCCC also has been a leader in creative educational partnerships, community cultural enrichment and economic development.

Due to the decline in operational revenues from local property taxes and the State of Michigan, these important roles

can only be continued with additional financial support from the citizens of Monroe County.

2. Achieving financial stability, predictability and sustainability that allows MCCC to maintain tuition affordability for students, minimize student debt, maintain the level of excellence in current programs, develop and launch new programs that are responsive to student needs and current employment opportunities, expand student success services (internships and mentoring), purchase state-of-the-art technology and equipment for students, and address a significant backlog of needed improvements and maintenance issues in MCCC's physical facilities.

IGNAZIO CUCCIA

Age, date, place of birth: 42; Aug. 18, 1972; Monroe

Address: 216 Eagle Ct.

Spouse: Barb Cuccia

Children: Maria, Rosa and Ana

Occupation, employer: Insurance agent and owner, Nationwide Insurance; Cuccia Insurance Agency

Education: Monroe County Community College, associate's degree; Siena Heights University, bachelor of arts

Memberships: President-elect, Kiwanis Club of Monroe; building chairman, Monroe County Chapter, American Red Cross; vice chairman finance, St. Michael Catholic Church; Foundation at Monroe County Community College director

Length of residency: Lifelong

Public offices held or sought: Frenchtown Township Planning

Commission chairman; Frenchtown Township Zoning Board of Appeals

1. The community college role in Monroe is to educate the community to a higher degree. Whether that be to receive an associate degree and move on to a bachelor's or to get a welding certificate to advance within one's community.

Also through their Lifelong Learning program, an adult could learn a skill or an art just to mark it off their "bucket list." A higher education leaders to a better community.

2. My top priority when elected would be to continue the path of financial responsibility of the college. And to make a higher education affordable for everyone.

LYNETTE M. DOWLER

Age, date, place of birth: 51; Dec. 14, 1962; Monroe

Address: 7227 Mentel Rd., Newport

Spouse: Jeff Dowler

Children: Camden, Chelsea, Chase

Occupation, employer: Director, DTE Energy

Education: Monroe County Community College, associate's degree; University of Toledo bachelor of science and master of science

Memberships: Monroe County Community College, Foundation Board, 2010-present; DTE Energy Women's Advisory Committee, 2009-present; Elevate Church Mission Team to Republic of Honduras, 2013, and Republic of Moldova 2012

Length of residency: Lifelong

1. Monroe County Community College should provide quality education to a broad range of students.

It should support and encourage our local residents' attendance and learning throughout their life span.

In addition, through technology and outreach, the college should create flexibility that invites non-traditional students into a productive learning environment.

Ultimately, MCCC should strengthen the fabric of our residents and create and enhance the work force of the future. MCCC should be the cornerstone of growth and advancement for our community.

2. My top priority if elected as a Monroe County Community College trustee would be to enhance enrollment through excellence in program offerings, affordability and embracing a "student first" philosophy.

MCCC has an outstanding faculty, state-of-the-art facilities and is located in proximity to several major communities.

My priority is for students to consider MCCC as their No. 1 choice.

JACK SCHWAB

Age, date, place of birth: 68; Nov. 10, 1945; Toledo

Address: 47 Linswood Dr., Monroe

Spouse: Anne Gensler Schwab
Children: Erica Ann (Schwab) Sottile

Occupation, employer: Planner, Flagstar Bank

Education: Divine Word College, Epworth, Iowa, bachelor of arts in

sociology; DePaul University, Chicago; master of arts in theology; master of urban planning, Wayne State University

Memberships: American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP retired), Monroe Family YMCA, Grace Lutheran Church Praise Band

Length of residency: 37 years

Public offices held or sought: Executive director, Monroe County Opportunity Program, 1976-87

1. The community college can serve various roles in Monroe County depending on the student's state in life.

For recent high school graduates it is a local, affordable source of advanced education. They can begin a degree here and/or gain a professional credential and then either transition to a four-year college or enter the work force with valuable skills.

For Monroe County residents who are working and raising a family, it is a convenient place to advance a career or learn a trade.

For retirees and those in later life, it offers an opportunity for lifelong learning that enriches life.

2. Continue the tradition of excellence and quality education by ensuring that the facility is maintained properly and that classrooms and laboratories have the most updated technology.

Ensure that sufficient revenue is available to attract and retain excellent faculty and support staff by offering competitive



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College (cont.)

salaries and benefits along with quality working conditions.

Become familiar with all regulations related to accreditation.

Study the needs of local businesses and respond with appropriate class offerings and programs.

MARY KAY THAYER

Age, date, place of birth: 68; Sept. 9, 1946; Pittsburgh, Pa.

Address: 4189 Little Streams Trail, Lambertville

Spouse: Jack Thayer

Children: Jackie Ball, Vicky Hovinen.

Occupation, employer: Chief executive officer, Thayer Consulting Inc. Engineering Services

Education: St. John High School, Jackson; Jackson Community College

Memberships: Whitman Center Advisory Committee chairman; Michigan Community College Association Board of Directors, past Chairman; American Community College Trustees Coordinator to Michigan; Bedford Township Lions Club, past president

Length of residency: 39 years

Public offices held or sought: MCCC Trustee 1990-present; Monroe County Commissioner District 8 1986-1990; Bedford Township trustee 1984-86; Bedford park commissioner 1980-84; Candidate for 55th District state representative 2010

1. MCCC plays numerous roles in the county, including, post-secondary education, career education plus business and industry assistance.

More high schools are using dual enrollment with MCCC to enhance student options.

The La-Z-Boy Center and Meyer Theatre provide the community with top quality programs and entertainment.

The opening of the Career and Technology Center has expanded our ability to offer new academic programs.

In 2014 dollars, the college accounted for more than \$830 million in economic impact in Monroe County. MCCC offers high-quality higher education at an affordable price and contributes greatly to the success of our students, businesses and community-at-large.

2. My priority has always been providing high-quality academic programs at affordable prices.

Twenty percent of incoming students need some remedial assistance. Expanding staffing in our

Learning Assistance Lab is critical. No student should fall between the cracks.

We must increase programs and student attendance at the Whitman Center.

Sadly, a drop in state revenue and local home values led to increased tuition. I am committed to delivering a superior education at affordable prices, close to home.

BARBARA J. VERRAN

Age, date, place of birth: 54; June 1, 1960; Monroe

Address: 5365 N. Dixie Hwy., Newport

Occupation, employer: Retired director of Michigan Works! Monroe County Employment and Training Department

Education: Monroe County Community College, associate of science; Eastern Michigan University, bachelor of business education, master of arts in guidance and counseling, college and personnel; Dale Carnegie Training, Monroe

Memberships: Chairman, Monroe County Human Services Collaborative Network; member, Monroe County Economic Development Corp. Board of Directors; treasurer, Monroe County Community Corrections Advisory Board; counselor/group facilitator, Gabby's Ladder

Length of Residency: Lifelong

1. Monroe County Community College must be the highway for students to obtain a degree, a certificate, or a transfer program that lends itself to obtaining employment in a demand occupation within Monroe County or Michigan.

Its role should encompass partnering with economic development entities to bring employers into Monroe County and with K-12 school districts to ensure that students are prepared to successfully complete coursework needed for that degree, certificate or transfer program.

Monroe County must continue to embrace and support MCCC as it is fundamental to local economic development and to building a marketable work force and healthy community.

2. To ensure that students receive a quality education while remaining affordable. It must be affordable for the unemployed and underemployed in order to upgrade their skills or prepare for a new career.

The value must go beyond low tuition fees. Quality and training in demand occupations that land our students in today's competitive work force is second to none and will lead to a strong local economy, healthy families and additional local and state income.



Boards of education

Dozens of seats on the Monroe County area's 13 public school boards are up for election. Some seats will have to be filled by write-in candidates because not enough people filed for the seats.

Each candidate was asked to answer this question and limited to 75 words: What would be your top priority if elected?

AIRPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**Two six-year terms****JANICE M. DOEDERLEIN**

Age, date, place of birth: 53; Feb. 14, 1961; Monroe

Address: 4780 Scofield-Carleton Rd., Carleton

Spouse: Kenneth

Children: Philip, Hannah, Noah

Occupation, employer:

Director of religious education, Divine Grace Parish, Carleton

Education: Airport High School; Monroe County Community College, associate of applied science in business

Memberships: Divine Grace Parish, Monroe County 4-H, Airport District 4-H Leaders Association, Detroit Society of Catechetical Leaders.

Length of residency: Lifelong resident of Monroe County, 40 years in Airport district

Public offices held or sought: Airport school board, 2012-present.

My priority for the district is to continue to provide our children with a quality education and also meet the needs of our families.

I will work to keep our district financially stable, maintain our facilities and strive for continued academic success for all learners.

As a longtime volunteer for our district, I have seen firsthand the improvements we have made and I am seeking re-election to continue this progress.

WILLIAM GRETZLER

Age, date, place of birth: 29; Jan. 15, 1985; Michigan

Address: 5151 Mattison Rd., South Rockwood
Spouse: Heather Gretzler

Children: William Gretzler, 2 weeks

Occupation, employer: IT project manager, Ford Motor Co.

Education: Bachelor of business administration

Length of residency: Lifelong

As a lifelong resident and a graduate of Airport High School, I have heard the voice of my fellow community members. My top priority is to bring the focus and goals of the district back to the true meaning of the education system, our children.

Even though my son is years away from entering school, I want to ensure that he and all our children are getting the best education possible in a safe environment.

BART F. STASA

Age, date, place of birth: 50; Dec. 16, 1963; Monroe

Address: 14462 Maxwell Rd., Carleton

Spouse: Roseanne

Children: Ryan, 30; Bart, 19; Caitlin, 17

Occupation, employer: Chief legal officer, SmithGroup Companies Inc.



See **SCHOOLS**, Page 17A

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Schools (cont.)

Education: Airport High School, 1982; Michigan Technological University, bachelor of science in electrical engineering, 1986; Michigan State University, juris doctorate, 1998

Memberships: State Bar of Michigan; Detroit Bar Association; Professional Engineering Society of Michigan

Public offices held or sought: Airport school board, 16 years

My primary focus as a school board member has been the education of our children. This is the single most important reason that our school district, as well as any school district, exists.

I am running for the school board to ensure that the education of our students remains a priority throughout our district.

Two four-year terms

ALLEN JOSEPH BURGER

Age, date, place of birth: 53; Aug. 19, 1961; Trenton

Address: 13285 Armstrong Rd., South Rockwood

Spouse: Debbie

Children: Emily, Chelsea, Matthew

Occupation, employer: Specialist, Department of Homeland Security

Education: Airport High School, 1979; bachelor of science, Michigan State University, 1983

Memberships: Monroe Council 1266, Knights of Columbus; Grayling Aerie 3465, Fraternal Order of Eagles

Length of residency: Lifelong

Public offices held or sought: Airport school board, 2005-present

My top priority is to continue improving the quality of programs so that all of our students can achieve their maximum potential while maintaining the financial stability of the district.

JAMES M. GEIERMANN

Age, date, place of birth: 48; Sept. 29, 1965; Monroe

Address: 232 Monroe St., Carleton

Spouse: Michele C. Geiermann

Children: Chelsey, Lindsey, Jacob

Occupation, employer: City assessor, City of Royal Oak

Education: Monroe County Community College, associate of science

Memberships: Monroe Knights of Columbus; Flat Rock Elks; Ash Township Park Committee; Michigan Assessors Association

Public offices held or sought: Airport school board, 1996-present

To continue the district's vision for an educational environment where students experience opportunities to achieve high academic success.

BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Three four-year terms

DR. TIMOTHY BRAKEL

Age, date, place of birth: 55

Address: 8420 Wolverine Rd., Temperance

Spouse: Lisa

Children: Wayne, Brammer

Occupation, employer:

Associate professor of music education, University of Toledo

Education: Doctorate in Music Education, Indiana University

Memberships: National Association for Music Education, Ohio Music Education Association, College Music Society, Society for Research in Music Education

Length of residency: 14 years

Public offices held or sought: Bedford school board, 2005-present

Students' academic achievement is my top priority.

My experience as a college professor of education requires me to be familiar with academic standards, state and national requirements, special education regulations, school administration, state and local budgets, and other issues. I am aware of national trends that are likely to impact the local school district. I will draw upon this knowledge to create effective board policy and to assist the board in making informed decisions.

TODD C. BRUNING

Mr. Bruning of 2980 Consear Rd., Lambertville, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

JOE GORE

Mr. Gore of 3200 White St., Lambertville, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

LISA BEINS-MCCAIG

Address: 6780 Lockmill

St., Temperance

Occupation, employer:

Sales, marketing, project management, American Red Cross

Education:

Bedford High School, 1988; Michigan State University, 1993

Length of residency: 33 years

Public offices held or sought: Bedford school board, 2013-present.

My No. 1 priority is to ensure Bedford Public Schools are the first choice for education in Bedford.

This will be accomplished through the development of a focused and targeted strategic plan. The strategic plan would include specific objectives,



targets, success measurements and routine communication of progress.

DUNDEE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Two six-year terms

SCOTT GIZZI

Mr. Gizzi of 17060 Day Rd., Dundee, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

TERESA LYNN MARINO

Ms. Marino of 7822 Dixon Rd., Monroe, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

Two four-year terms

JACEY L. CLEVENGER

Age, date, place of birth:

35; Sept. 28, 1979; Dearborn

Address: 1491 Muehleisen Rd.

Spouse:

Engaged to Aaron Carner

Occupation, employer: Owner, Farm Bureau Insurance Office-Jacey Clevenenger Agency, Dundee

Education: Bachelor of business administration, Cleary University

Memberships: National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors

Residency: Monroe County and Dundee school district, 12 years

If elected to the Dundee Community Schools Board of Education, I would like to continue the positive

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 18



A community leader and former State Representative who will:

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► FROM PAGE 17

Schools (cont.)

progress the district has experienced over the last few years and to continue to foster positive relationships between the community and the school district.

GREGG KEITH

Mr. Keith of 1971 Wells Rd., Dundee, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

FLAT ROCK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**Three six-year terms****AMY L. CARTER**

Ms. Carter of 29619 Sussex Ave., Flat Rock, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

FRANK HAMET

Mr. Hamet of 25565 Gibraltar Rd., Flat Rock, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

DR. DAVID PATTERSON

Age, date, place of birth: 46; southern Illinois

Address: 25214 Hunter Lane, Flat Rock

Children: Four, ages 19, 16, 13, 11

Occupation, employer: Self-employed, Flat Rock Physicians; chief of family medicine, Oakwood Southshore Hospital for 2 three year terms (still serving).

Education: Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill, bachelor of arts; A.T. Still University, Kirksville, Mo., doctor of osteopathy, 1994; teaching fellowship, Michigan State University, 1996-97.

Military service: Navy Reserves, serving as a hospital corpsman attached to Marine Corps, 1986-1994.

Memberships: Flat Rock Rotary
Length of residency: Flat Rock since 2000.

My top priority in this position is to provide ideas to enhance the education of the pupils in the Flat Rock School District.

GIBRALTAR SCHOOLS**Four four-year seats****CURT BOLLER**

Age, date, place of birth: 73; Detroit

Address: 20280 Indiana St., Brownstown Township

Spouse: Yvonne

Children: Christian, Jennifer

Occupation, employer: Retired

Education: Eastern Michigan University, bachelor of science and master of science in education; American College of Metaphysical Theology, Ph.D. in philosophy

Memberships: Applewood Nursing Home Board of Directors; Trilium Performing Arts Academy Board; chairman, Detroit Area Council Boy Scouts of America; American Heritage Rivers Executive Board

Length of residency: 20 years

Public offices held or sought:

Brownstown Township supervisor 1974-84, 1992-2002; Brownstown Township treasurer, 1991-92; Wayne County commissioner, 1985-88

To continue to support quality education in the Gibraltar school district.

JAMES A. CRAPKO

Age, date, place of birth: 65

Address: 14851 Stuart Ct., Gibraltar

Spouse: Mary Ellen Crapko

Children: Matthew, 33; Jeffrey, 27

Occupation, employer: Retired

Education: Wayne State University, bachelor of arts; Eastern Michigan University, of master of arts in curriculum development and master of science in organizational development

Length of residency: 35 years

Public offices held or sought:

Gibraltar school board, 2005-present

If elected, my top priority is to maintain all educational programs while balancing the district's budget with continuing declining state funding.

LISA M. DARVILLE

Age, date, place of birth: 39; Trenton

Address: 31765 Hazel St., Rockwood

Spouse: Pete Darville

Children: Zachary, 16; Katelyn, 14; Nathan, 11

Occupation, employer: Stay-at-home mom

Education: Davenport University, associate's in business management

Memberships: Michigan Association of School Boards, Woodland Church in Brownstown

Length of residency: 11 years

Public offices held or sought: Gibraltar school board, 2011-present.

Over the last few years, the State of Michigan has continuously made cuts to our foundation allowance. We need to figure out how to streamline our budget, but not at the expense of educating our children.

MARSHA KOZMOR

Age, date, place of birth: 53; Riverview

Address: 14165 Navarre St., Gibraltar

Spouse: John Kozmor

Children: Joshua, Sara, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Mary

Education: Schafer High School, 1979; Henry Ford Community College, associate's degree, 2012

Memberships: Boy Scouts, Woodhaven Baptist Church, Band Boosters president

Length of residency: 20 years

Public offices held or sought: Gibraltar school board, 2005-present, have served as secretary, treasurer and vice

president

My top priority: the students.

HURON SCHOOLS**Three six-year terms****MILOS VLADIMIR MILACIC**

Age, date, place of birth: 47; April 2, 1967; Belgrade, Serbia

Address: 36700 Elizabeth Lane, New Boston

Spouse: Vesna Milacic

Children: Mitar, 9; Milica, 8

Occupation, employer: Engineer, Ford Motor Co.

Education: Michigan Technological University, bachelor of science in electrical engineering and master of science in electrical engineering; University of Kentucky, Ph.D.

Military service: Foreign compulsory

Memberships: Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, senior member

Length of residency: 12 years

I will advocate two things — all-year school with 250 days and greater use of technology.

The first is the reason our schools are lagging behind.

Technology does not mean more computers, but for example during snow days, students should have online school with teachers. If a student has to write a report, it can be graded twice, once for accuracy and presentation and second for writing. Students should be encouraged to learn and work online.

JACK THOMAS RICHERT

Age, date, place of birth: 49

Address: 19601 Clark Rd., Belleville.

Spouse: Christina

Children: Elizabeth, 19; Jacob, 15; Anna-Marie, 11

Occupation, employer: Vice president and director of referrals, Special Tree Rehabilitation System

Military service: Navy

Memberships: St. John's Lutheran Church, Huron Sportsman Association

Education: Eastern Michigan University, bachelor of science in business administration and human behavior; Concordia University, master of science in organizational leadership and administration.

Public offices held or sought: Huron school board, incumbent, 12 years

The biggest issue facing education is funding; the state-directed funding system is broken. With the current state of the economy, our commitment to our students will continue to be challenged.

Sustaining the strong relationships within the district is central to success. The commitment our staff has shown is beyond description. Our job is to educate children. All stakeholders — parents, teachers, support staff, coaches, drivers, custodians, administrators and students—are partners in our students' futures.

TRENA L. SZAWARA

Ms. Szawara of 29702 West Rd., New Boston, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

ALICE A. WHITED

Age, date, place of birth: 49; May 9, 1965; Trenton

Address: 28333 Grix Rd., New Boston

Spouse: Michael Whited

Children: Gibson, Gabrielle

Occupation, employer: Account representative, MGIC

Education: Trenton High School

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 19



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Schools (cont.)

Memberships: Michigan Mortgage Lenders Association, Flat Rock Elks

Length of residency: 19½ years

Public offices held or sought: Huron school board, 2010-present; Huron Township Planning Commission, 1999-present

My top priority would be to continue to provide a strong, well-rounded educational program that provides a safe, caring, respectful and productive atmosphere.

IDA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Two four-year terms

W. DALE HEIL

Age: 48

Address: 12337 Strasburg Rd., LaSalle

Spouse: Debra L. Heil

Children: Grant, Chad, Elizabeth, Emily

Occupation, employer: Data and analytics manager, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

Education: Bachelor of arts in mathematics

Length of residency: 19 years

Public offices held or sought: Ida school board, 2006-present; vice president, member of board technology and policy Committees

Devotion to serving the Ida Public Schools community should be the top priority of a school board trustee.

I have been committed to researching, analyzing, and providing solutions to the issues for the benefit of the students. The policies and decisions made have focused on providing a consistent level of opportunities for all students during a difficult economic atmosphere.

I will continue to listen, ask questions, research, and consider alternatives to select the

best direction.

JODY L. HOFFMAN

Age, date, place of birth: 56; Oct. 9, 1958; Monroe

Address: 6006 W. Dunbar Rd.

Spouse: Lisa Hoffman

Children: Rebekah, Adam, Elizabeth, Joshua, Sarah

Occupation, employer: Mechanic, Green Meadows Golf Course

Education: High school, some college

Length of residency: Lifelong

Public offices held or sought: Ida school board, 2005-present

Keeping the board of education working together for the best school Ida can be.

MARK MATHIS

Mr. Mathis of 8481 S. Custer Rd. did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

DR. KRISTY REEVES-TAYLOR

Age, date, place of birth: 37; Dec. 1, 1976; Trenton

Address: 12603 Todd Rd. Ida

Spouse: Matt Taylor

Children: Reeves Taylor, 9; Davis Taylor, 8; Pearson Taylor, 5; Brock Taylor, 4

Occupation, employer: Professor, University of Toledo

Education: Ida High School; associate's degree, Monroe County Community College; bachelor's degree in communication, Grand Valley State University; master's degree in business, Cornerstone University; doctorate in education, University of Toledo

Memberships: Director of recreation board in Ida, volunteer for Ida Lightning Football, Volunteer for Kids at Compelled Church.

Length of residency: 35 years.

I am always willing to put learning first and give primacy to what's best for the children.

JEFFERSON SCHOOLS

Three six-year terms

RICK KULL

Mr. Kull of 3009 Mentel Rd. did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

THERESA-ANN G. SONORAS

Age, date, place of birth: 44; Sept. 9, 1970; New Orleans

Address: 5450 Spitfire Dr., Newport

Spouse: Scott Sonoras

Children: Amanda, Zachary

Occupation, employer: Owner, TLC Services of Monroe, LLC

Education: Theodore Roosevelt High School, Wyandotte, 1990

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 20



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Endorsements:

Michigan Farm Bureau Agripac - "Friend of Agriculture"
Michigan Association of Police Organizations
UA Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 671
Michigan Bankers Association
League of Conservation Voters
SMART Union Transportation Division
Michigan Townships Association
Monroe/Lenawee Central Labor Council
Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce
Service Employees International Union Michigan State Council
Michigan Association of Realtors
Southwestern Wayne (County) Democratic Club
National Rifle Association
ABATE of Michigan
Michigan Retailers Association - "Friend of Retail"
County Road Association of Michigan
Technical and Professional Officeworkers Association of Michigan
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 8
Michigan AFL-CIO
Laborers' Local 499 (LIUNA)
Small Business Association of Michigan
United Auto Workers CAP
Michigan Doctors' Political Action Committee
Michigan Education Association
Michigan Coalition For Responsible Gun Owners
Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM)
Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters & Millwrights
Michigan Manufacturers Association
Monroe County Democratic Party
Congressman John Dingell

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Schools (cont.)

Memberships: Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan, Detroit Beach Boat Club

Length of residency: 22 years

If elected, I believe, I would be an asset to the school board.

I support bringing back programs for students and more ways of funding for special classes. We need the programs to teach students how they can be successful and find their own path after high school.

I have a 12th-grader and second-grader in the Jefferson Schools.

Write-in candidates

JACQUI HOLZWORTH

Age, date, place of birth: 44; Dec. 9, 1969; Monroe

Address: 7376 Canal St., Newport

Spouse: Erik Holzworth

Children: Ashleigh and

Morgan Carroll

Occupation, employer: Financial manager, Harnish Fireproofing

Education: Jefferson High School, 1998; University of Phoenix, associate's

degree in accounting

Length of residency: Lifelong

Ensuring that all aspects of the district are treated and handled equitably. This includes students and education first, supplemental and beneficial programs, teachers, buildings and the community at large. All areas need to succeed in order to build and sustain a successful and prosperous district.

MARK WAHLIE

Age, date, place of birth: 53; Nov. 25, 1960; Lima, Ohio

Address: 3320 Beechwood St.

Occupation, employer: Field claims manager, AAA

Education: Attended Monroe County Community College, University of Toledo,

Length of residency: Since 1999

Public offices held or sought: Jefferson school board, 2006-present

If re-elected my goal is to serve the Jefferson community in protecting the student body and developing each child in a learning environment.

**MASON CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS****Four six-year terms**

MIKE GINTHER

Mr. Ginther of 2856 Morin Point Rd, Erie, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

BRUCE STIEBEN

Mr. Stieben of 2310 Lotus Dr., Erie, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

TARA TUBBS

Ms. Tubbs of 2751 Luna Pier Rd., Erie, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

Two two-year year terms

ANDREA DUSSEAU MCGARRY

Age, date, place of birth: 54, Toledo

Address: 3375 Swartz Rd., LaSalle

Spouse: Tom

Children: TJ, Andy, Maggie, Jimmy

Occupation, employer: Property appraiser, City of Monroe

Education: Siena Heights College, bachelor of arts

Memberships: St. Joseph Catholic Church, Erie

Length of residency: 14 years in school district, lifelong in county

Public offices held or sought: Mason school board, January-present

Ms. McGarry did not answer the question.

JERRY YANAK

Address: 7264 Suder Rd., Erie

Spouse: Barb Yanak

Children: Jerry J. Yanak

Occupation, employer: Transportation manager

Education: High school

Length of residency: 14 years

To help the students get the best education possible.

Write-in for two-year term

CHANDRA FOWLER

Ms. Fowler of 2299 Manhattan St., Erie, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

MILAN AREA SCHOOLS**Three six-year terms**

ANDREW CISLO

Age, date, place of birth: 40; July 26, 1974; Ann Arbor

Address: 1228 Daisy Lane Milan

Spouse: Kari Cislo

Children: Madelyn, 14; Benjamin, 10

Occupation, employer: Preventive maintenance planning supervisor, University of Michigan

Education: Milan High School; University of Michigan, bachelor of science in biology; coursework toward master of science in environmental science

Memberships: Grace United Methodist Church, Britton, Staff Parish Relations Committee chairman, lay servant leader; Milan Youth Soccer Club president; Michigan State Youth Soccer Association Discipline and Appeals

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 21A

SHEPPARD

For State Representative

*Republican*

- ✓ Life-long Monroe County Resident
- ✓ Two-term Monroe County Commissioner
- ✓ Right to Life Sole Endorsed Candidate
- ✓ Small Business Owner
- ✓ NRA "A" Rated Member

TAXES – Michigan families have been tightening their belts for awhile now, it is time our government took the same approach.

ROADS – Roads are critical to our economic growth and public safety. They need to be funded more efficiently so that we get the most out of our current tax dollars without adding more.

EDUCATION – Students deserve our tax dollars going directly to them, not a bloated bureaucracy. We need to improve education quality through better money allocation and more vocational programs for our kids.

NO-FAULT INSURANCE – Michigan is at a competitive disadvantage with neighboring states. We need to reform no-fault to keep more money in Michiganders' pockets.



(734) 625-4630



sheppard4rep@gmail.com



sheppardforrep.com



Jason Sheppard



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Schools (cont.)

Committee; Michigan Marching Band alumnus
Length of residency: 15 years

I will be an active listener of all Milan Schools stakeholders: students, parents, teachers, staff, administrators and community members.

My experiences as a former Milan student and as a parent of current Milan students provide a valuable perspective. As a third-generation student, I appreciate what Milan was. As a parent of fourth generation students, I recognize what Milan is now. As a citizen, I want to contribute to what Milan Schools will be.

MICHELLE ROBBINS HEIKKA

Ms. Heikka of 1230 Beavertail Lane, Milan, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

RITA VERSHUM

Ms. Vershum of 11277 McCrone Rd., Milan, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**Three four-year year terms****JUNE KNABUSCH-TAYLOR**

Address: P.O. Box 2348
Spouse: Dan
Children: Six
Occupation, employer: Co-owner of two marinas
Education: Bachelor of

science, additional study
Memberships: Lifetime member of Sawyer

House; Monroe County Chambe of Commerce,
Length of

residency: Lifelong (except four years)
Public offices held or

sought: Monroe school board incumbent

Being part of many committees and holding many offices has allowed me to keep up with continued changes in education.

Born and living in Monroe almost all of my life allows me to know the needs of our students, what it takes to graduate and prepare for the many choices thereafter. My concerns are always about helping to motivate students in their education. That's what it's all about – kids.

CYNTHIA L. TAYLOR

Age, date, place of birth: 64; Dec. 18, 1949; Detroit

Address: 934 St. James Ave.

Children: Jillian, 32; Garrett, 29

Occupation, employer:

Retired educator: teacher 20 years, elementary principal five years, middle school principal seven years

Education: Michigan State University, bachelor of arts in elementary education; Eastern Michigan University, master of science degrees in teaching of reading and in educational leadership

Memberships: Meadow



Montessori School Board of Trustees, United Way of Monroe County volunteer, Habitat for Humanity Women's Leadership Initiative

Length of residency: 11 years

Education is the key to improving our world. We need to return to the basics, value our teachers and provide an atmosphere of trust in which all Monroe Public Schools employees can work.

As a state, we need a viable way to fund our educational system.

Write-in candidate**FLOREINE M. MENTEL**

Age, date, place of birth: 78; May 14, 1936; Monroe

Address: 1731 Roman Dr.

Spouse: William M. Mentel

Children: Jeffrey W. Mentel, Jennifer Margaret Mentel-Weichel

Occupation, employer: retired educator

Education: Attended Concordia College, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Eastern Michigan University, Monroe County Community College

Memberships: Michigan Week Committee chairman; fair board superintendent of the Little Red Schoolhouse; president of Monroe High School Alumni Association; volunteer at River Raisin Battlefield National Park; Area Agency on Aging 1-B advisory board

Length of residency: Lifelong

Public offices held or sought: County commis-



sioner 1997-2010

I would offer my 50-plus years of educational experience to create a safe learning environment for all students.

I would also protect the financial resources of the district and strengthen the district's relationship with the community.

Additionally, it is crucial that Monroe County renews the technology enhancement millage and I would play a vital role in making that happen.

Finally, I would make sound research-based decisions that are in the best interest of students.

SUMMERFIELD SCHOOLS**Three six-year terms****PETE BOSS**

Age, date, place of birth: 52

Address: 2740 Summerfield Rd., Petersburg

Spouse: Janel Boss

Children: Jakob, Jessica, Jenna

Occupation, employer: Planning and construction administrator, Metroparks of Toledo

Education: Bachelor of business administration

Length of residency: 20-plus years

If elected, my top priority would be to ensure the tax dollars allotted to the school are spent wisely and that the students receive the best education a school of our size can provide.

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BRIDGET CORIE

Age, date, place of birth: 32

Address: 56 W. Walnut St., Petersburg

Spouse: Jeffrey Corie

Children: One

Occupation: Teacher, Saline Area Schools

Education: Bachelor of science with secondary teaching endorsement; master of arts in educational leadership

Length of residency: 15 years

As an educator myself, I have experience in the field and understand the challenges that face our schools.

I feel that it is my time to give back and serve the school district that gave so much to me.

When decisions need to be made, I will consider all factors and always side on the best interest of the children, while honoring the interests of the community.

REBECCA CURLEY

Age, date, place of birth: 56; Oct. 30, 1957; Ypsilanti

Address: 16990 Dixon Rd., Petersburg

Spouse: Dan Curley

Children: Daniel, Bobbi, Courtney

Occupation: Customer service manager, Trinity Health, St. Joseph Mercy Healthy System, Ann Arbor

Education: Summerfield High School; Eastern Michigan University, bachelor of business administration

Length of residency: Lifelong

Public offices held or sought: Summerfield school board, three terms; Monroe County Planning Commission

To maintain a stable, if not an increased budget, to enable the district to provide the programs and resources necessary for our students to be competitive and successful.

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 22

DALE W. ZORN
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Schools (cont.)**CLINTON H. FORD JR.****Age, date, place of birth:** 82; Dundee**Address:** 3842 Forrest Ave., Petersburg**Spouse:** Barbara**Children:** Michelle, Lynette, Craig**Occupation:** Retired owner of Ford Builders**Military service:** Air Force 1951-55**Memberships:** St. John Lutheran Church, past president, trustee, treasurer; past president of Kiwanis club.**Length of residency:** Lifelong**Public offices held or sought:** Summerfield school board, 50 years

If elected, my top priority

is to ensure that children have the educational resources needed to succeed as adults.

EMILY L. HAMILTON**Age, date, place of birth:** 33; Nov. 8, 1980; Toledo**Address:** 15173 Cortz Rd., Petersburg**Spouse:** James Hamilton**Children:** Derek, 8; Blake, 4**Occupation, employer:** Research director, University of Michigan, Department of Surgery**Education:** Summerfield High School, 1998; bachelor business administration, University of Toledo, 2002; master of business administration, Eastern**Michigan University, 2008**
Length of residency: 31 years

To carry out the mission of the board in a fair and honest way, with quality of education as the first priority.

I believe that students should be part of an environment where they are treated equally, are provided with opportunities to build themselves as individuals and are given the skills to become leaders of the future.

I take great pride in the school, and would fully embrace the opportunity to serve the community.

WHITEFORD AGRICULTURAL SCHOOLS**Three four-year terms**
CHRISTINE**BISCHOFF****Age, date, place of birth:** 52; Toledo**Address:** 5258 Consear Rd., Ottawa Lake**Spouse:** Brian**Children:** Austin, Evan**Occupation, employer:** Deputy clerk, Whiteford Township**Education:** Whiteford High School, University of Toledo**Length of residency:** 43 years**Public offices held or sought:** Whiteford school board incumbent

My top priorities would be keeping costs down and attracting students while providing them with the best education possible.

DOUG BULMER

Mr. Bulmer of 5208 Consear Rd., Ottawa Lake, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

DAVE DIXON

Mr. Dixon of 5255 Consear Rd., Ottawa Lake, did not submit biographical information or answer the question.

Temperance man vies for UM board

BY CAITLIN VANOVERBERGHE
caitlin@monroenews.com

A Temperance man is running to secure a seat on the University of Michigan Board of Regents, hoping his voice will help uphold the university and its spirit of education.

John Jascob of 7074 Jackman Rd. is a 1987 graduate of UM and is running for the board as a member of the Libertarian party.

There are nine candidates seeking two eight-year seats.

"I've always felt a deep commitment to the university and I understand the value of a liberal arts education," he said. "I want to preserve that and make it more accessible."

This is the first time Mr. Jascob has attempted to seek an elected of-

fice.

If he should acquire that position, he said his goal on the board would be to redirect the university's thinking back to academics.

He'd also work to maintain freedom of speech on campus and cut the costs of secondary education.

"UM is well endowed. Rather than spending all our money on athletics, we should be focused on academics," he said.

The extra fees tacked onto tuition have made a university education "unreachable" for many, he said. He believes certain support programs could be privatized in order to save money.

Board members are elected at large in biennial statewide elections. The UM president is an ex officio member. Regents are not paid.

THE CANDIDATE

According to the Web site democracy.com, John Jascob received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Michigan in 1987, with a concentration in classical archaeology.

He earned a master of arts degree in teaching Latin and classical humanities from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in 1990 and a juris doctorate from Concord University School of Law in 2002.

He is enrolled at the University of Alabama School of Law, expecting

to receive his master of laws degree in business transactions in 2015.

He is a securities law editor at a legal publisher.

Other candidates are Republicans Rob Steele of Ypsilanti and Ronald Weiser of Ann Arbor; Democrats Mike Behm of Grand Blanc and Kathy White of Ann Arbor; Libertarian James Lewis Hudler of Chelsea; U.S. Taxpayers party members Joe Sanger of Lansing and Christine C. Schwartz of Dorr, and Green Party member Ian Swanson of Grand Rapids.

Re-Elect Mary Kay Thayer

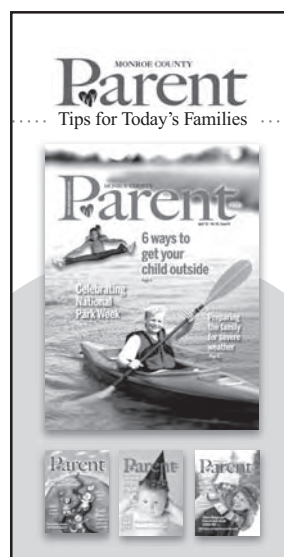
Monroe County Community College Trustee

**We Must:**

Keep MCCC affordable and Student debt low.
Maintain our High Quality academic programs.
Implement new academic programs that prepare students for employment in fast growing fields such as health care, computer technology and career and technology assuring student success and retention.

Resident of Bedford Township Monroe County since 1973

Paid for by Committee to Elect Mary Kay Thayer



School millage issues (Bedford, Flat Rock, Gibraltar)

Bedford Schools seeks sinking fund renewal

■ The money would be used for building projects that need immediate attention although the district still plans to ask voters to approve a bond issue next year.

BY CAITLIN VANOVERBERGHE
caitlin@monroenews.com

The Bedford Public Schools Board of Education is asking voters to approve a five-year, .5-mill sinking fund renewal on the Nov. 4 ballot.

If passed, the levy would generate about \$484,000 in its first year and would be used to correct some critical maintenance and infrastructure issues the district's facilities are facing, school officials said.

Since this question is a renewal of the district's current sinking fund, district residents will not see a change in their taxes.

The request comes after the



— Monroe News file photo

The district plans a "scaled-back version" of projects it had planned to do with a \$70 million bond issue voters defeated in May.

school board's bid for a \$70.35 million bond project failed in May.

Supt. Mark Kleinhans said sinking fund dollars will go to complete a "scaled-back version" of many projects requested in the May bond proposal.

The district still plans to seek

a bond issue and is working on a proposal to put to the voters next year.

The sinking fund renewal is called a stop-gap measure to finance work that needs to be done.

Their to-do list for the next five years includes parking lot

patch work, adding safe entryways to every school in the district, replacing the track at Bedford Community Stadium and making facilities more accessible to students with disabilities.

Following is a list of projects, their costs and a tentative timeline.

YEAR 1

- Safety entry at high school, junior high — \$150,000 each
- Repair front parking lot at junior high — \$80,000

YEAR 2

- Emergency notification system at high school (original building) — \$150,000
- Emergency notification system at junior high — \$170,000
- Replace track — \$100,000

YEAR 3

- Americans with Disabilities Act

upgrades at junior high (elevator and music room) — \$70,000

- Replace junior high bleachers — \$140,000
- Safe entry at Monroe Road Elementary School — \$40,000
- Install restrooms at new Monroe Road kindergarten rooms — \$70,000

YEAR 4

- Replace roof on Smith Road Elementary School — \$400,000

YEAR 5

- Repair parking lots at Douglas Road Elementary School — \$100,000
- Safety entry at Douglas Road and Jackman Road Elementary Schools — \$60,000 each
- Emergency notification system at Douglas Road, Jackman Road and Smith Road — \$100,000 each
- Safe entry at Smith Road — \$35,000

Non-homestead levy on Flat Rock ballot

BY DEAN COUSINO
dean@monroenews.com

FLAT ROCK — A request to continue an 18-mill property tax levy on non-homestead land at Flat Rock Community Schools will be decided Nov. 4.

The proposal seeks renewal of 18 mills for 10 years, through 2025. The current five-year levy expires Dec. 31.

The new levy, which would run from 2016 to 2025, pro-

vides vital funds for operating and does not affect homeowners' main residences and agricultural land, school officials said.

The district anticipates receiving about \$1.52 million in revenue in 2016, the first year of the millage.

It will be used to fund all of the district's instructional programs and most of its budget, Supt. Joan Donaldson said.

Two tax issues on Gibraltar ballot

BY DEAN COUSINO
dean@monroenews.com

GIBRALTAR — Gibraltar Schools has two millage issues on the ballot, including a renewal of an 18-mill property tax levy on non-homestead property for another 10 years.

The renewal is part of the first proposal that voters will see when they cast ballots, said Supt. Bruce Burger.

The question is whether to renew the current levy of 17.937 mills in property taxes that expires Dec. 31.

The tax vote will not affect homeowners of principal residences. It affects only businesses,

rental homes, apartments and commercial and industrial land.

The second proposal is a request from the school district to levy up to 3 mills in taxes for the next 10 years if the non-homestead levy is reduced by the Headlee Tax Limitation law.

The district would levy only what is needed for instructional programs and to bring the millage up to the 18-mill level. Without the referendum, the district would lose money under Headlee.

The district has done a good job of protecting education funding and the 18 mills will help continue providing money for classrooms, Mr. Burger said.

Municipal millage issues (Erie, Estral Beach)

Erie seeks full tax levy

■ If passed, the township will be able to levy a full 1 mill for operations. If not, the tax rate will have to be reduced because of the Headlee Amendment.

BY CAITLIN VANOVERBERGHE
caitlin@monroenews.com

ERIE TOWNSHIP — Erie Township voters will be asked to approve a full 1-mill tax levy to help cover operating costs within the township.

Because of the Headlee Act, the levy would be rolled back this year to .8046 mill. If the request is approved, the township would be allowed to collect the full mill.

Supervisor Bill Frey said this millage had been on the books in Erie for

many years. The township would lose about \$124,000 in annual income if voters don't override the rollback. It would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home \$50 a year.

Mr. Frey said the township has never asked its residents for more than 1 mill, despite the fact that operating costs have increased.

"We collect about 80 percent of what we collected 20 years ago," he said.

The money can be used for "any lawful means," Mr. Frey said, from paving roads to covering bills at the township hall to helping cover police and fire department costs.

Residents in Erie pay an additional millage for their police and fire departments, but the township picks up a fraction of those costs as well.



— Courtesy photo

Volunteers came together to rebuild one of Estral Beach's pump house for less than \$2,500 after bids came in for up to \$50,000

Charles LONDO

State Representative



- ✓ THIRTY-FIVE YEARS DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT.
- ✓ COMMUNITY LEADER AND VOLUNTEER.
- ✓ SOLUTIONS TO BUILD MICHIGAN.
- ✓ ROADS-IMPROVING GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY WITH NO TAX INCREASE TO FUND ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR.
- ✓ JOBS-CONTINUE GROWTH OF STATE ECONOMY TO LIFT PEOPLE OUT OF POVERTY AND LOW PAYING JOBS.
- ✓ SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS-AS SOMEONE WHO HAS HAD WEAPONS CONFISCATED, I WILL SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO POSSESS FIREARMS FOR SPORTING AND PERSONAL PROTECTION.

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Paid for by Friends to Elect Charles Londo. 9521 Lazy Oak Dr. Carleton, MI 48117

Estral Beach to vote on tax renewal for dikes

BY DEAN COUSINO
dean@monroenews.com

ESTRAL BEACH — Village of Estral Beach residents will decide renewing a 2-mill property tax levy for dike maintenance.

The renewal for another four years is used to remove trees and shrubs, clear drainage paths and rebuild the pump houses, said Danny Swindle, president of the village.

About 1.75 mills are used for maintaining the shoreline protection measures built earlier under an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers while .25 mill is used for

drainage, Mr. Swindle said.

The owner of a \$100,000 home would pay about \$200 a year on the millage, but it could be lower due to Headlee Tax Rollback, he said.

"What it means to a person in the lower-lying area of the village is that there is money to rebuild the pump houses and to try to get the clay dikes back into compliance with (Army Corps) requirements," he said.

"Hopefully if the lake level comes back up, the dikes will hold and the dewatering pumps will work," he said

The north pump house near the end of Michael St. was insulated for winter recently.

Assisting with the effort were local residents Rob Huffman, Joe Provost and Betty Alley.

The south pump house is scheduled to be rebuilt in the spring or summer, Mr. Swindle said.

The village council has awarded a contract to bush-hog the dikes to keep the growth of weeds and small trees in check, the president said.

Money from the millage will cover the cost.

West county millage issues

(Summerfield Township, City of Petersburg, Britton Deerfield Schools)

Petersburg asking voters to renew police millage

■ The city contracts with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office for deputies to patrol rather than operate its own police force.

BY RAY KISONAS

rayk@monroenews.com

For 40 years the City of Petersburg has had an agreement with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office to have a deputy assigned to the community to help protect the citizens and act as a deterrent to crime.

Mayor James Holeman is hoping that tradition continues. Residents next month are being asked to renew a millage and continue the contract with the sheriff's office to have a deputy's presence in Petersburg on a regular basis.

"If we don't get this renewed, police protection will be limited," Mayor Holeman said. "As a resident, I welcome police presence."

The ballot states that the community is seeking an additional 5 mills, but the mayor stressed that the proposal is a renewal; it will not increase taxes for Petersburg residents.

"It isn't going to cost any more in taxes," Mayor Holeman said. "It's a renewal."

The 5-year renewal would extend the millage from June 30, 2015, through 2019. It would cost the owner of a home with a market value of \$100,000 about \$500 a year.

Petersburg has had its own assigned deputy for 40 years beginning in 1974 when voters first approved the 5 mill levy. The same levy had

been renewed in 1979, 1984, 1990, 1995, 1999 and 2004.

Monroe County Sheriff Dale Malone urged residents to support the issue.

"Throughout the years the Monroe County Sheriff's Office has addressed the needs of the community," the sheriff said. "As the economy continues to struggle, taxpayers are more vigilant on how their tax dollars are being spent. As sheriff I want to assure the community that their tax dollars are being spent wisely and I would ask for their continued support by voting 'yes' on the police millage renewal."

With the millage, the sheriff's office assigns a deputy specifically to the City of Petersburg for eight hours a day, 20 days a month.

If the renewal fails, then residents requiring a police officer must rely on the first available unit to respond based on the seriousness of the incident. Mayor Holeman fears that because of the city's western rural location, not having a contract deputy within the community would slow response time.

"I would expect a delay," he said.

The mayor added that having a patrol unit assigned to Petersburg not only protects citizens but also acts as a deterrent to crime.

Other Monroe County communities, such as Bedford and Frenchtown townships, have similar contracts with the sheriff's office to provide assigned deputies to those areas. Other communities like Luna Pier, Milan, Monroe and Dundee, have their own police departments.

Summerfield wants to boost road millage

■ The proposed tax is an increase of what township residents now pay for roads but would fund more projects, officials say.

BY RAY KISONAS

rayk@monroenews.com

Summerfield Township has many miles of really bad roads, so the township is looking to its residents to help improve those crumbling, pot-holed pathways.

Voters are being asked to support a request for up to 3 mills for 10 years to repair miles of bad roads.

"Something needs to be done," said township Supervisor John Chandler.

Currently the township has 1 mill dedicated for road repairs but that will expire next year, said Clerk Trudy Goodin. If the proposal passes, it would raise \$382,183 annually for road repaving and repairing. It would cost the owner of a house with a \$100,000 market value up to about \$150 a year.

Mr. Chandler said around 70 to 75 percent of the township's roads are in poor condition. He said when they were constructed 30 years ago or longer, such factors as frost, drainage and truck weights were not taken into consideration.

"Now we have to start all

over," Mr. Chandler said.

So far about eight miles of roads have been rebuilt. They include Summerfield Rd. between the KOA campground south to Rauch Rd.; Ida Center Rd. from Summerfield west to Sylvania-Petersburg Rd., and Sylvania-Petersburg from Rauch north to Lulu Rd.

Those roads are in beautiful condition, Mr. Chandler noted, and more can be accomplished if the voters support the proposal.

If the measure fails, additional road rebuilding probably won't be happening in the near future because the chances for money for such projects coming from outside sources will be "slim to none," Mr. Chandler said.

"If the (millage fails) we're out of business for a while," he added. "I don't see any money coming down the line."

If voters support the issue, then it gives the community the power to make its own decisions regarding road repairs and which roads to repair.

Priorities, Mr. Chandler said, would be primary roads, such as Teal Rd. Many improvements can be made for the next 10 years if the ballot is supported.

"We're trying to do what we think is best for the township," Mr. Chandler said. "If it passes, we will do a good job for the residents."

Britton Deerfield Schools seeks 18.5-mill renewal

SUMMERFIELD TOWNSHIP — Some residents in Summerfield Township will be asked to vote on a Britton Deerfield Schools millage request.

The district is seeking re-

newal of the property tax on non-homestead land for four years, through 2018. The current levy of 18.5 mills expires Dec. 31. The tax does not affect homeowners' main residences

and agricultural land and provides the bulk of the school district's operating funds.

The district will collect about \$318,306 in 2015 from the tax if it is approved.

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Monroe County Community College millage

MCCC seeking first increase in decades

■ College officials say the institution has been hurt by declining revenue from the state, a reduced tax base and fewer students.

BY DANIELLE PORTEUS
dportteus@monroenews.com

It has been more than three decades since Monroe County Community College has come to voters.

Yet, after nearly a decade of “treading water” financially, the college is seeking a 1-mill property tax Nov. 4.

If it passes, the tax would cost the owner of a \$100,000 home about \$48 dollars annually. The additional funding would generate \$5 million annually for the college’s general fund.

The college levies 2.1794 mills. Officials said the college does not hold any debt for its buildings and is not in debt, but needs the boost from the community.

“We don’t ask very often,” said Dr. Kojo Quartey, president of the college. “It’s been 34 years since we asked for an operational millage.”

Officials say the request is prompted by declining enrollment and decreased revenue from property taxes and state funding.

The revenue generated from the millage would be used to keep tuition low, maintain existing programs, expand student services, update technology and equipment and address facility need, Dr. Quartey said during a meeting at The Monroe News.



— Monroe News file photo

Monroe County Community College offers a culinary arts program, but officials say they could expand that to a hospitality curriculum with the additional millage. Other programs also could be expanded and added, they said.

AFFORDABILITY

“The challenge we have with students is to make college affordable and attainable for all,” Dr. Quartey said. “We are the only college in this community. We have to remain reliable and affordable.”

William Bacarella, chairman of the college’s board of trustees, said MCCC consistently has remained among the most affordable community college options in the state. The \$95 a contact hour fee is below the state average of \$98.13 for community colleges.

PROGRAMS, SERVICES

The increased revenue will afford the college the option to bring in-demand programs to the school, including majors

such as hospitality, tourism or entrepreneurship, Dr. Quartey said.

“We want to keep students here and give them what they want,” he added.

Student services like tutoring, mentoring and internship programs need to be expanded to meet the demand, officials said.

FACILITIES

Suzanne Wetzel, vice president of administration, said the college has “significant” maintenance issues that need to be addressed.

“We have no capital outlay budget,” she said. “We have set money aside for maintenance, but now we have zero.”

Dr. Quartey said many of the

buildings are in need of roof repairs and floor replacement.

“Our roofs are leaky, our floors need to be replaced,” he said. “Our chiller plant is 35 years old and it had a 20-year life expectancy.”

The cost to replace a chiller is between \$2 million and \$2.5 million, he said.

“We have \$10 million in deferred maintenance,” Mrs. Wetzel added. “We can’t patch and band aid anymore.”

William Braunlich, vice chairman of the board of trustees, said he understands people see the newer buildings like the Career and Technology Center and even the La-Z-Boy Center, but do not travel elsewhere on campus to understand the need.

“People see those buildings and they look great, but they don’t go into the areas where we really need work,” he said.

TECHNOLOGY

More than 80 percent of the computers on MCCC’s campus are four years old or older, officials said.

“Our students coming to campus have better equipment than we do,” Mr. Bacarella said.

The technology infrastructure needs an upgrade as well.

THE FUTURE

Mr. Braunlich said the college has been fiscally responsible but operating costs continue to rise.

“We have been responsible, but we have a lot of work we need to do and we aren’t able to afford it without some sort of revenue increase,” he said.

If the millage fails, officials will have to take some bold moves to fend off continued financial struggles, they said.

“We’ll have to cut programs and raise tuition,” Dr. Quartey said. “There will probably be layoffs, too.”

Ultimately, if the millage fails, the college might not be able to fulfill one of the facets of its mission.

“We can’t deliver on the promise for the next generation,” Mr. Bacarella said.



Additional information about the proposal can be found at www.monroecc.edu/millage.

Municipal fire millages (Ash Township, Exeter Township)

Fire special assessment on Exeter ballot

■ The loss of the Stoneco quarry to the Village of Maybee has cut the amount of money the township receives for the fire department.

BY DEAN COUSINO

dean@monroenews.com

Exeter Township residents will decide a special assessment on the Nov. 4 ballot to fund operations and equipment needs for the Exeter Township Volunteer Fire Department.

The question will ask if a special assessment of up to \$100 a year a parcel should be spread for five years to pay for fire protection. A simple yes or no answer is required.

The assessment would be spread townshipwide, but would exclude the Village of Maybee, which is covered by the London-Maybee-Raisinville Volunteer Fire Department.

The proposal was requested by a citizens' petition this summer seeking a referendum after the township board proposed to create a fire special assessment district by a resolution.

Under a 1989 state law, residents can petition for a ballot measure on the issue if owners of more than 10 percent of the land in question want



— Monroe News file photo

Exeter Township volunteer firefighters help each other adjust breathing equipment while fighting a house fire.

it. Two dozen property owners representing almost 4,400 acres signed the petition. That is about 21 percent, or double the amount of acreage, needed to hold a referendum, Clerk Billie Iott said.

Supervisor Cheryl Baltrip said the assessments are "extremely important" for the fire department to continue operating.

The only reason the board sought a district by resolution was to assure the assessments would be spread this year on the winter tax bills, which are mailed around Dec. 1, Mrs. Baltrip said.

If voters approve the proposal, the township will have a

short "window of opportunity" to collect the assessments in 2014. Otherwise, they would have to wait until 2015 to collect them.

"There's only a short time between the election and the time we mail the tax bills," she noted.

The fire department, which has almost 30 members, has an annual operating budget of about \$129,000.

For many years, much of the department's money came from the Stoneco quarry, which donated a nickel for every ton of product sold from the Maybee quarry. Since the Village of Maybee annexed the quarry,

the township "no longer receives these donations," Mrs. Baltrip said.

"This major budget loss makes it impossible to continue funding the fire department at the expense of road improvements," she said.

With about 1,700 parcels in the township, the assessment could bring in up to \$169,300 a year, she said. That is enough to fund the basic fire department budget and save toward future equipment needs, she added.

The total assessment amount needed for each fiscal year would be determined at the annual budget workshops.

Fifteen years ago, Exeter residents supported 1 mill in taxes to build a new fire station. That money was placed in a special account and "used exactly for the purpose for which it was intended," the supervisor said.

"Voters have the assurance that the revenue from the fire special assessment would be handled the same way. All funds collected by the special assessment would be placed in a special account and used exclusively for" the department, Mrs. Baltrip said.

If the district is approved Nov. 4, the board will hold a public hearing to officially create the district.

State issue



— AP file photo

The question of hunting gray wolves is on the ballot.

Voters to weigh in on hunting wolves

BY JOHN FLESHER

AP environmental writer

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — It may be merely symbolic, but Michigan voters will get a chance during the Nov. 4 election to send a message about whether hunters should be permitted to target the gray wolf, a hardy predator staking a new claim to the Upper Peninsula a half-century after being shot, poisoned and trapped into statewide oblivion.

The general election ballot will ask voters whether they approve or disapprove of laws allowing wolf hunts that the Legislature enacted in 2012 and 2013.

Opponents gathered enough petition signatures to force statewide referendums on both, although not quickly enough to head off a hunt last year, during which 22 wolves were killed — fewer than the authorized maximum of 43.

See **WOLVES**, Page 28

Ash Township voters to decide fire levy renewal

CARLETON — Ash Township residents will decide a renewal Nov. 4 of a half-mill property tax levy to fund operations of the fire department.

The millage, which expires this year, is being renewed for another four years.

It is needed to continue paying for fire-fighting equipment, training and maintenance of trucks.

"It's the same millage that has been out there," said Ash Township Manager Jim Vaslo. "The voters have always supported

it and we anticipate they will again."

The levy, which was last renewed in 2010, will raise \$133,000 the first year, according to the ballot question.

The township board opted in July to place the matter on the ballot.

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Wolves (cont.)

Lawmakers this summer approved a third measure initiated by pro-hunting groups that will remain in effect regardless of how the statewide votes turn out. It empowers the state Natural Resources Commission, a seven-member panel appointed by the governor, to designate game species and set hunting and fishing policy.

Lawmakers attached a \$1 million appropriation to the bill, making it referendum-proof under state law.

Opponents contend the latest measure is unconstitutional and may challenge it in court. Meanwhile, they're campaigning hard for "no" votes on the other two, hoping that a successful lawsuit and victory at the ballot box would convince lawmakers to back off.

"It's very critical to send a strong message to the Legislature that the public does not want to see the wolf listed as a game species," said Nancy Warren, Great Lakes regional director of the National Wolf-watcher Coalition.

Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management, an alliance of sporting groups whose petition drive put the most recent measure before the Legislature, says it's encouraging people to vote in favor of retaining both laws but won't pump additional money into the effort. The organization had spent \$714,030 through the end of July, according to reports filed with the Secretary of State's office.

"Legally it's a moot point," spokesman Drew YoungeDyke said.

Even if the two laws are voted down, he added, it won't necessarily prove that most Michigan residents oppose wolf hunts.

"All it would say is if you spend more than \$1 million

in political advertising on something that legally has no significance, you can get the outcome you want," YoungeDyke said.

Opponents are preparing a \$1.5 million TV ad blitz in key media markets, said Jill Fritz, director of a group called Keep Michigan Wolves Protected, which is sponsoring the campaign with the Humane Society Legislative Fund.

YoungeDyke's coalition contends the push to stop wolf hunts is driven largely by out-of-state animal rights activists, but Fritz noted that the pro-hunting side drew support from Safari Club International and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Wolves once roamed all of Michigan but had all but disappeared by 1960, when a state bounty program ended. Two decades later, with state and federal protection, they began migrating back to the Upper Peninsula from Minnesota and Wisconsin. Their numbers rose rapidly and were estimated at 636 last spring.

The Natural Resources Commission has ruled out another hunt for this year, whether or not voters endorse the practice. But the Department of Natural Resources, which advises the commission, is updating its wolf management plan and likely will continue supporting hunting and perhaps trapping as a means of defusing conflicts between the animals and people in certain areas, said Russ Mason, wildlife division chief.

"The function of the commission is to weave together the best available science and the preferences of the public," Mason said. "We'll see how that plays out."

Fritz said the commission isn't an honest broker.

"Totally beholden to trophy hunters and their lobbying groups," she said.

BALLOT WORDING

Proposal 14-1: a referendum of public act 520 of 2012, establishing a hunting season for wolves and authorizing annual wolf hunting seasons.

Public Act 520 of 2012 would:

■ Designate wolf as game for hunting purposes and authorize the first wolf hunting season.

■ Allow the Natural Resources Commission to schedule annual wolf hunting seasons.

■ Provide criminal penalties for the unlawful possession or taking of wolves, but shield a person who lawfully captures or destroys a wolf from prosecution.

■ Require a person who wishes to hunt wolves to obtain a wolf hunting license.

■ Create a Wolf Management Advisory Council for the purpose of making nonbinding recommendations to the legislature regarding the proper management of wolves.

Should this law be approved?

Proposal 14-2: a referendum of public act 21 of 2013, granting the natural resources commission the power to designate wolves and certain other animals as game without legislative action

Public Act 21 of 2013 would:

■ Allow the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to designate certain animals as game for hunting purposes and establish the first hunting season for game animals without legislative action.

■ Continue the NRC's designation of wolves as game and allow the NRC to set a wolf hunting season.

■ Grant the Legislature sole authority to remove a species from the list of designated game animals.

■ Eliminate the \$1.00 hunting and fishing licensing fee for members of the military, whether stationed inside or outside of Michigan, subject to any lottery.

■ Give the NRC sole authority to regulate fishing.

Should this law be approved?

Secretary of state candidates stress easy office trips

■ Incumbent Republican Ruth Johnson says much has been done to make visits easier. Her Democratic opponent Godfrey Dillard says more can be done.



GODFREY DILLARD



RUTH JOHNSON

BY DAVID N. GOODMAN
Associated Press

DETROIT — Republican Secretary of State Ruth Johnson and Democratic challenger Godfrey Dillard seem to agree on one thing: Michigan motorists dread dealing with the state's motor vehicle registration and driver's license system.

In her campaign for another four years in office, Johnson talks about how hard she worked to improve service at Department of State branch offices even as her budget shrank. She also talks about expanding her pilot programs to cut the wait time and improve service.

Dillard, a prominent civil rights lawyer, focuses on what's still annoying about getting a new license or plates and says he doesn't want to see people spend so long waiting that they "get parking tickets while you wait to be served."

Others appearing on the ballot are James Lewis of the Libertarian Party, Jason Gatties of the Natural Law Party and Robert Gale of the U.S. Taxpayers Party.

Johnson, a former Oakland County register of deeds and 2006 candidate for lieutenant governor, said

she seeks to "continue to build on our success in improving Michigan elections, fighting fraud and delivering faster, more convenient customer service."

"Today customers have more options, 24/7 online service, shorter lines and a better experience," she told The Associated Press in an e-mail. "I've tripled online services with ExpressSOS.com with 5.5 million transactions since its 2011 launch. With a new system in our busiest branch offices, customers can make appointments electronically and run errands while they wait."

Johnson said she did this despite a 25 percent drop in the size of the department's staff since 10 years ago.

Dillard said service remains far short of what it needs to be and vowed to create "respectful, speedy, efficient and quality service" if he's elected.

"No longer will you be subject to the stress of hour-long delays, long lines, insufficient seating, single or no bathrooms and parking tickets while you wait to be served," Dillard said in his acceptance speech after delegates nominated him at the state Democratic Party con-

See **SECRETARY**, Page 29

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Secretary (cont.)

vention Aug. 24 in Lansing.

“I will establish supercenters with more lines and employees than necessary. We will have free parking and service employees will greet you with, ‘Yes, ma’am’ and ‘Yes, sir,’ and ‘How may I serve you.’,” he said.

Dillard, who represented University of Michigan students in a successful defense of affirmative action before the U.S. Supreme Court, said

he wants to expand turnout and fight efforts to suppress voter participation through increased early voting and expanded and simplified registration.

Johnson said she was “proud of our efforts to engage voters and strengthen campaign finance laws.”

She said she would “continue to work so every voter has the opportunity to cast a ballot on Election Day using a system with integrity, transparency and accountability.”

JOHNSON, DILLARD ON THE ISSUES

Customer service

Incumbent Ruth Johnson says she is committed to building on what she said are improvements to the service that Michigan motorists receive when they renew or apply for driver’s licenses, car registrations and titles.

She says her department now has 24-hour online services and has shortened lines despite a 25 percent cut in staff in the past decade.

She says she will seek to expand on pilot programs to speed service. One allows customers to make appointment online and then come in as scheduled. Another offers service at AAA Michigan offices.

Godfrey Dillard says he is committed to provide “respectful, speedy, efficient and quality service” and eliminate what he said are sometimes hour-long waits and less-than-friendly service.

Voter registration and participation

Johnson says she will “continue to work so every eligible voter has the opportunity to cast a ballot” in a system that operates “with integrity, transparency and accountability.”

She says she has engaged in drives to send birthday reminders to 18-year-olds to register and has smoothed the processing of the 600,000 in-state address changes in Michigan each year.

Dillard says he would make sure that voter suppression efforts don’t take place in Michigan.

He says he would “increase early voting, expand and simplify registration” and make sure votes are tabulated fast and accurately.

Consumer protection

Dillard says he would take steps to prevent the sale of private driver information to private companies strengthen the consumer protection functions of the department.

Johnson says she would build on her Fighting Auto Insurance Rip-offs Task Force targeting sale of bogus auto insurance policies, as well as the Michigan Child Protection Registry that seeks to block the sale or marketing of prohibited products to people who are under age.

— The Associated Press

WHO’S WHO ON THE BALLOT

GODFREY DILLARD

Age, date of birth: 66; Sept. 8, 1948

Residence: Detroit

Party: Democratic

Education: Attended Vanderbilt University; bachelor’s degree, Eastern Michigan University, 1970; law degree, University of Michigan, 1973; master’s degree, George Washington University, 1985.

Political career: Democratic primary candidate for U.S. House, 15th District, 1996.

Professional career: Attorney in private practice specializing in civil rights law, former U.S. State Department foreign service officer.

Personal: Married, two children.

Online: www.godfreydillard.com

JAMES LEWIS

Age, date of birth: 65

Residence: Grand Rapids

Party: Libertarian

Education: Studied political science at Grand Rapids Community College, Western Michigan University

Political career: No answer

Professional career: Press operator, Cascade Printing and Graphics

Personal: No answer

Online: http://democracy.com/Jamie-Lewis/default.aspx

JASON ROBERT GATTIES

Age, date of birth: 39; June, 1975

Residence: Dowagiac

Party: Natural Law

Education: St. Joseph High School

Political career: Third party candidate for Lake Michigan College Board of Trustees; Berrien

County Board of Commissioners; 6th District U.S. House, 2012

Professional career: Security industry manager, freelance writer

Personal: Married, two children

Online: www.democracy.com/gatties

RUTH JOHNSON

Party: Republican

Age, date of birth: 59; Jan. 8, 1955

Residence: Oakland County’s Groveland Township

Education: Associate’s degree, Oakland Community College; bachelor’s degree in education, Oakland University; master’s degree in clinical social work, Wayne State University.

Political career: Secretary of state, 2011-present; Oakland County clerk-register of deeds, 2005-10; ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor as Dick DeVos’ running mate, 2006; state representative, 1999-2004; Oakland County commissioner, 1989-98.

Professional career: Clinical social worker at Oakland County’s Children’s Village, 1985-88; co-owner of Clarkston printing store, 1980-81; student teacher in Clarkston school district, 1977-79.

Personal: Married, one child.

Online: www.rj4mi.com

ROBERT GALE

Age, date of birth: 56

Residence: Sterling Heights

Party: U.S. Taxpayers

Education: No answer

Political career: No answer

Professional career: No answer

Personal: No answer

Online: www.ustpm.org

— The Associated Press

Voter records list 73-year-old woman as 164

NEWYORK (AP) — A 73-year-old New York woman has discovered her official voter registration card lists her birth year as 1850, aging her by a whopping 91 years.

Luz Pabellon tells the New York Post she’s been voting for years but never knew city Board of Elections records misstated

her age by nearly a century.

Election officials tell the newspaper origins of the mix-up can be traced to 1978, when Pabellon registered to vote, listing “18+” in the date-of-birth section of her voting card.

Years later, the board entered those cards electronically and

the Bronx resident’s birthdate was somehow entered in as 01/01/1850 by default.

The registered Democrat was actually born in 1941.

Some officials tell the Post they worry that election records might similarly misstate voters’ birth years.

Priority of duties issue in attorney general race

■ Incumbent Republican Bill Schuette says he's been tough on crime. His opponents say he only goes after cases that will help his career.

BY COREY WILLIAMS
Associated Press

DETROIT — Bill Schuette campaigned before his 2010 victory in the Michigan attorney general race that he would use the office to fight crime across the state.

He has championed testing thousands of ignored rape evidence kits in Detroit, targeted human trafficking and pushed Michigan lawmakers to pass a school safety program.

"I'm tough as nails on crime," Schuette said. "I do my job. Public safety is written in the Michigan Constitution."

But some opponents in the

upcoming Nov. 4 election say he's been selective about which types of crime he goes after and who he defends.

"Crime ... also happens in corporate board rooms and on Wall Street," said Democrat Mark Totten, who accuses Schuette of not being aggressive enough in pursuing predatory mortgage lenders.

"We need an attorney general to protect pocket books, as well. Other attorney generals have gone all the way to Wall Street," he said.

In addition to Totten, who is a Michigan State University associate law professor and

former special U.S. attorney, other candidates are the Green Party's John Anthony La Pietra, Libertarian Justin Altman and Gerald T. Van Sickle of the U.S. Taxpayers party.

They face one of the most recognized names in Michigan politics and a candidate with deep pockets, said T.J. Bucholz, president and chief executive of Lansing-based Vanguard Public Affairs.

"Mark Totten is not a lightweight," Bucholz said. But "Schuette is as well-liked and well-known as the sitting governor."

Schuette, a former congressman, state lawmaker and state appeals judge, has been front and center in a number of high-profile legal cases.

He appealed a federal judge's ruling that Michigan's gay marriage ban is unconstitutional and supported a U.S. Supreme Court decision in April that up-

held the state's ban on using race as a factor in college admissions.

He also opposed cuts to Detroit employee pensions during the city's historic bankruptcy on the grounds that they are protected by state law.

"An attorney general is not an optional exercise where you pick and choose like some salad bar," Schuette said. "You defend the (state) constitution."

"On gay marriage ... the sooner the U.S. Supreme Court makes a decision, I will honor respect and defend whatever decision the high court makes."

Totten believes it's clear that Michigan's ban violates the U.S. Constitution.

"There was nothing that required him to take that position," Totten said of Schuette's appeal.

It's time to drop the appeal, said La Pietra, an attorney who unsuccessfully ran for Michi-

gan secretary of state in 2010.

"Prosecutors at all levels do have some discretion over which cases they take on," he said. "The incumbent's priorities, and possibly his partisanship, may be seen from how much time, energy, and other scarce publicly funded resources he has devoted — and is still devoting — to defending that ban."

The top priority for Michigan's attorney general should be "limiting and eliminating corruption from public officials and not getting in the way of free enterprise," said Altman, an Ypsilanti attorney making his first run for public office.

"Schuette is interested in using the law to further his personal and political goals rather than what would be best for the people of Michigan," Altman said.

THE CANDIDATES ON THE ISSUES

Crime

Republican Attorney General Bill Schuette says fighting crime across the state is a major part of his duties as attorney general. He helped spearhead an effort that led to a state law cracking down on human trafficking.

Schuette also has opposed opening up parole for juvenile lifers in Michigan.

He also prosecuted a freeway shooting case in the Detroit area and pushed for funding to process untested rape kits in Detroit.

Democratic challenger Mark Totten says the attorney general's office also should prosecute corporate crime, like predatory mortgage lending.

Libertarian Justin Altman says one of the top priorities should be eliminating public corruption.

Gay marriage ban

Schuette says one of his duties is to protect the Michigan Constitution and that's why he has appealed a federal judge's ruling that the state's gay marriage ban is uncon-

stitutional.

Schuette says that he will honor whatever decision is made by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Totten says Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage violates the U.S. Constitution.

"There was nothing that required him to take that position," Totten said of Schuette's appeal.

Green Party candidate John Anthony La Pietra says such battles are a waste of time and resources and that the appeal should be dropped.

Energy and environment

Totten says the attorney general has a critical role in enforcing laws aimed at protecting Michigan's natural resources and that polluters should be held accountable.

Schuette is co-chairman of a state government task force looking into pipelines carrying petroleum products through and across the state.



BILL SCHUETTE



MARK TOTTEN

WHO'S WHO ON THE BALLOT

MARK TOTTEN

Party: Democrat

Age, date of birth: 40

Residence: Kalamazoo

Education: Bachelor's in communications, Cedarville College, 1996; doctorate in ethics and law degree, Yale University, 2006.

Political career: Kalamazoo School Board, 2011-February, 2014

Professional career: Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, 2006-07; judicial clerk, 2007-08; federal prosecutor, U.S. Department of Justice, 2011-13; law professor, Michigan State University, 2008-Present

Personal: Married to Kristin, two children

Online: www.marktotten.com

JOHN ANTHONY LA PIETRA

Party: Green Party

Age, date of birth: 56; Dec. 31, 1957

Residence: Marshall

Education: Bachelor's degree in planning and public administration, Macalester College, St. Paul Minn., 1978; law degree, Cooley Law School, 2008

Political career: Unsuccessfully ran for Michigan secretary of state in 2010

Professional career: Attorney

Personal: Married to Jennifer

Online: www.facebook.com/jalp4the-People

JUSTIN ALTMAN

Party: Libertarian

Age, date of birth: 33; Feb. 5, 1981

Residence: Ypsilanti

Education: Bachelor of science in mathematics, University of Michigan,

See **ATTORNEY**, Page 31

— The Associated Press

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Attorney (cont.)

2001; masters in mathematics, UM, 2002; law degree, Michigan State University College of Law, 2011

Political career: First time seeking public office

Professional career: General practice attorney

Personal: Married to Justine, 2-year-old daughter

Online: www.facebook.com/AltmanForAG

WILLIAM D. SCHUETTE

Party: Republican

Age, date of birth: 61; Oct. 13, 1953

Residence: Midland

Education: Bachelor's degree in foreign service, Georgetown University, 1976; law degree, University of San Francisco School of Law, 1979

Political career: Michigan Court of Appeals, 2003-08; Michigan Senate, 1995-2002; director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, 1991-94; U.S. House of Representatives, 1985-90. Unsuccessfully ran for the U.S. Senate in 1990

Professional career: Lawyer with Warner Norcross & Judd in Lansing, 2009-present; private law practice, 1981-84

Personal: Married to Cynthia; two children, Heidi and Billy

Online: www.billschuettem.com

GERALD T. VAN SICKLE

Party: U.S. Taxpayers

Residence: Wellston

Mr. Van Sickle did not submit biographical information.

Three supreme court seats up for vote

■ While the nominees are chosen at party conventions, the races are nonpartisan.

BY ED WHITE
Associated Press

DETROIT — Knocked for years as deeply divided, the Michigan Supreme Court lately is shaping up as a court of comity with a majority of opinions this year drawing little or no public dissent among the seven justices.

Next on the docket: An election with three seats up for grabs.

Justices David Viviano and Brian Zahra, nominated by the Republican Party, want to keep their robes. They're joined on the GOP ticket by James Redford, a Kent County judge seeking a promotion to the state's highest court.

The Democratic Party has nominated appeals Judge William Murphy, Wayne County

Judge Deborah Thomas and Detroit-area lawyer Richard Bernstein.

No party affiliations are on the ballot, although political parties pick the candidates.

Viviano and Zahra will be labeled as current members of the court.

Justices backed by the Republican Party currently have a 5-2 edge on the court.

"There is greater collegiality," said Zahra, who Gov. Rick Snyder appointed in 2011 and won election the following year.

"What we have are seven people who are incredibly passionate about the law, hard-working, bright and open," he said. "We start exchanging memos well before a case comes to conference. There's thoughtful consideration given to everyone."

Viviano and Zahra describe themselves as "rule of law" judges who don't make policy but strictly interpret laws approved by the Legislature.

"A rule of law judge isn't selling

a message that benefits any particular group," Viviano said.

Murphy is chief judge at the Michigan appeals court and has served on that court since 1988. At 69, he can serve only one term if elected to the Supreme Court.

"I have some gray in my hairs and my eyebrows but that comes with wisdom," Murphy said.

"With my background and experience ... I felt there was something I could add," he said of his decision to run. "I saw this as a final chapter" in a long public career.

The Grand Rapids area hasn't produced a Supreme Court justice in decades, but Murphy or Redford could break that streak. Both live in East Grand Rapids.

"What's important is we have the best possible justices on our court. What makes them the best might involve geographic diversity," said Redford, a former federal prosecutor and Navy judge.

Bernstein, who is blind, probably is best known for TV ads featuring his family's Detroit-area law firm. His campaign slogan: "Blind Justice."

"Blind justice means fairness for all people," Bernstein said. "The court should be blind to special interests, blind to partisan politics, blind to political ideology."

Bernstein declined to offer much criticism of the court, although he disagrees with a long line of opinions that makes it harder to win slip-and-fall lawsuits.

Thomas, a Wayne County judge for 20 years, said she would like to become a Supreme Court justice partly to promote local specialty courts for defendants who are veterans, addicted to drugs or mentally ill.

"I would like to expand those courts across the state," she said.

Doug Dern of the Natural Law Party and Kerry Morgan of the Libertarian Party also are on the ballot.

WHO'S WHO ON THE BALLOT

RICHARD BERNSTEIN

Age, date of birth: 40; Nov. 9, 1973

Residence: Birmingham

Party: Democrat

Education: Law degree, 1999, Northwestern University law school; bachelor's degree, 1996, University of Michigan

Professional career: Private law practice; member of Wayne State University Board of Governors, 2002-10

Personal: Single

Online: www.bernsteinforjustice.com

DOUG DERN

Age, date of birth: 53; Oct. 2, 1961

Residence: Highland

Party: Natural Law

Education: Law degree, 2002, Cooley Law School; bachelor's degree, 1999, Oklahoma University

Professional career: Private law practice

Personal: Single

Online: www.facebook.com/votedern

KERRY MORGAN

Age, date of birth: 59

Residence: Redford Township

Party: Libertarian

Education: Master's degree, 1985, Regent University; law degree, 1981, Detroit College of Law; bachelor's degree, 1977, Michigan State University

Professional career: Private law practice. Author of book "Real Choice, Real Freedom in American

Education"

Personal: Married, five children

Online: <http://pview.findlaw.com/view/2750666-1>

WILLIAM MURPHY

Age, date of birth: 69; April 10, 1945

Residence: East Grand Rapids

Party: Democrat

Education: Law degree, 1970, Wayne State University law school; bachelor's degree, 1967, Michigan State University

Professional career: Michigan Appeals Court judge since 1988; private law practice, 1971-88

Personal: Married to Paula; four children

Online: www.electjudgemurphy.com

JAMES REDFORD

Age, date of birth: 54; Oct. 8, 1960

Residence: East Grand Rapids

Party: Republican

Education: Law degree, 1985, University of Detroit Mercy law school; bachelor's degree, 1982, John Carroll University

Professional career: Kent County judge, 2003-present; private law practice, 1998-2002; assistant U.S. attorney, Grand Rapids, 1990-98; Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps, 1984-2012

Personal: Married to Dianne; three children

Online: www.judgeredford.com

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Supreme (cont.)**DEBORAH THOMAS****Age, date of birth:** 61; Feb. 2, 1953**Residence:** Detroit**Party:** Democrat**Education:** Law degree, 1977, Valparaiso Univer-

sity law school; master's degree, 1976, University of Detroit Mercy; bachelor's degree, 1973, Western Michigan University

Professional career:

Wayne County judge 1995-present; private law practice, 1984-94; assistant general counsel, Southeastern Michigan

Transportation Authority, 1983-86

Personal: Divorced; two children**Online:** www.judgedeborahthomasforjustice.com**DAVID VIVIANO****Age, date of birth:** 42; Dec. 18, 1971**Residence:** Sterling Heights**Party:** Republican**Education:** Law degree, 1996, University of Michigan law school; bachelor's degree, 1994, Hillsdale College**Professional career:**

Michigan Supreme Court justice 2013-present; Macomb County judge, 2007-13; private law practice

Personal: Married to

Neran; three children

Online: www.vivianoforjustice.com**BRIAN ZAHRA****Age, date of birth:** 54; Jan. 9, 1960**Residence:** Northville Township**Party:** Republican**Education:** Law degree, 1987, University of Detroit Mercy law school; bachelor's degree, 1984, Wayne

State University

Professional career:

Michigan Supreme Court justice 2011-present; appeals court judge, 1998-2011; Wayne County judge, 1994-98; private practice, 1989-94.

Personal: Married to Suzanne; two children.**Online:** www.zahraforjustice.com

—The Associated Press

Republican Leadership Endorsed by
The Republican Women's Club of Monroe County

GUBERNATORIAL
 Rick Snyder - Governor
 Brian N. Calley - Lieutenant Governor

SECRETARY OF STATE **ATTORNEY GENERAL**
 Ruth Johnson Bill Schuette

CONGRESSIONAL U.S. SENATOR
 Terri Lynn Land

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS 7TH DISTRICT
 Tim Walberg

LEGISLATIVE
 Dale W. Zorn - **State Senator - 17th District**
 Jason Sheppard - **State Representative - 56th District**
 Charles Lando - **State Representative - 17th District**

STATE BOARDS
State Board of Education
 Maria Carl - Jonathan Trade Williams
University of Michigan Board of Regents
 Rob Steele - Ronald Weiser
Trustee of Michigan State University
 Melanie Foster - Jeff Sakwa
Governor of Wayne State University
 Michael Buscuto - Stish Jasti

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
 Dist. #1 Dave Hoffman Dist. #2 Mark Brant
 Dist. #3 Dawn Asper Dist. #4 Dan Donahue
 Dist. #5 Norm Matthes Dist. #7 Gary Wilmoth
 Dist. #8 Walt Wilburn Dist. #9 J. Henry Lievens

NONPARTISAN CANDIDATES

JUDICIAL
Justice of Supreme Court
 James Robert Redford Brian Zahra
Justice of Supreme Court (Partial Team)
 David Viviano
Judge of Court of Appeals
 Karen Ford Hood - Christopher M. Murray - Michael J. Talbot
 Daniel S. White - **Judge of Circuit Court**
 Cheryl Lohmeyer - **Judge of Probate Court**
Community College Board of Trustees Members
Monroe County Community College
 Mary Kay Thayer - Ignazio Cuccia

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 Not Authorized by any candidate. Jean Guyor, President - 303 N. Macomb St., Monroe, MI 48161.

Race to replace Levin in Senate hotly contested

■ The outcome could mean the difference between whether Democrats retain control of the Senate or hand it over to the Republicans.

BY JEFF KAROUB
 Associated Press

DETROIT — Two veteran politicians are vying for a U.S. Senate seat occupied by the same man since the Carter administration, and both believe they have a credible shot at filling it — with a great deal of outside support.

Democrat Carl Levin's retirement after 36 years gives Republicans an opening in the Nov. 4 election to capture a Senate seat for the first time in two decades in a state where they have struggled in presidential and Senate races.

Former two-term Republican Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land and Democratic U.S. Rep. Gary Peters are locked in a race for a seat that will help determine who controls the Senate.

The race has spurred heavy interest

and out-of-state contributions, though Peters has led Land in most polling.

Land and her allies spent \$18 million on advertising through September, while Peters and his supporters spent \$14 million, according to the Michigan Campaign Finance Network. Only two other states — North Carolina and Georgia — drew more Senate advertising than Michigan through Sept. 29, according to the Center for Public Integrity.

Land hopes President Barack Obama fatigue gives her the edge, though voters' tendency to favor the opposing party in a president's sixth year may be less a factor in blue Michigan.

A recent money move suggests the GOP is turning its focus to other states in its drive for the Senate majority: The Senate Republicans' campaign arm is canceling planned TV ads for the final two weeks of Michigan's race.

The two candidates differ on many issues and have taken divergent approaches to running.

The Land campaign did not make her available to The Associated Press for an in-person or phone interview despite several attempts, but did answer questions via e-mail after more than a week.

It fit a pattern for Land through much of the campaign: limited interviews and



GARY PETERS



TERRI LYNN LAND

See **SENATE**, Page 33

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Senate (cont.)

generally avoiding large audiences of undecided voters.

Land counters she's campaigned statewide and dismisses concerns about her low profile as "inside baseball."

Still, she's reserved most of her appearances to scripted events before friendly crowds. That was the case Oct. 2, when 2012 Republican presidential candidate and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney visited suburban Detroit to stump for her.

Land says she'll focus on economic issues if elected and her goals include voting "to repeal and replace Obamacare," the

federal health-care law, working to secure the U.S. borders and opposing amnesty for people in the country illegally.

Peters, who has been much more in the public eye and prolific in the media, said his top issue is also the economy, and for him that includes guaranteeing "access to affordable, quality health care" and the ability to "retire with dignity" with Social Security and "the promise of Medicare."

"What I'm frustrated about is this should be about ideas, what's best for Michigan families ... Yet I feel I like I'm running against outside special interests," he said. "Voters want to ultimately be able to make

that decision not based on 30-second ads financed by out-of-state billionaires."

Each side has attacked each other for their loyalties to deep-pocketed backers, and it's clear both campaigns have benefited from large sums of outside money.

According to the Center for Public Integrity, candidates, parties and organizations supporting both sides ran roughly 42,000 TV ads in the race as of Sept. 29 — and 61 percent of those ads are sponsored by outside groups.

For example, the Nextgen Climate Action Committee, formed by billionaire California environmentalist Tom Steyer,

has spent \$2.9 million to run about 4,400 ads for Peters in the race; Americans for Prosperity, the flagship group of billionaire conservative brothers Charles and David Koch, spent \$2 million to run about 4,500 ads for Land.

The resulting advertising crush could sway some voters, but not Nancy Gray. The 50-year-old community college English teacher from Traverse City said Land "has a lot of the right kind of sound bites" but Gray's Democratic loyalty and Peters' record give him the edge.

"I really do feel like I can trust him," she said, adding that one of her biggest concerns is

the disparity between rich and poor. "I see him being more in alignment than my values than Terri Lynn."

Financial analyst David Peerboom, 31, who lives in Land's western Michigan hometown of Grandville, said "she's probably closest to what I would want to see."

"Anybody that's going to stand for a smaller government, limiting their powers, influence they have over our lives — that's the person I'm going to vote for," he said.

Also running are Green Party candidate Chris Wahmhoff, Richard Matkin of the U.S. Taxpayers Party and Libertarian Jim Fulner.

PETERS AND LAND ON THE ISSUES**Auto bailout**

The federal government rescue of the U.S. auto industry was a sensitive topic in Michigan a few years back, but it reverberates still in the campaign — even as the Detroit Three automakers have recovered and returned to profitability.

As a congressman, Gary Peters supported the Obama administration's move to provide aid to General Motors and Chrysler alongside a restructuring through bankruptcy.

Terri Lynn Land has said she agreed with 2012 GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney that the automakers should have filed for bankruptcy before receiving any aid, and added General Motors was known as "Government Motors."

Land says she knew something needed to be done but wasn't convinced on the specific plan and would have preferred more private financing.

Health care

Peters supports the federal health-care law enacted in 2009 and says it has taken steps "to make sure health care is more affordable and accessible and insurance companies can no longer deny you coverage or hike rates if you have a pre-existing condition or get sick."

He adds he's frustrated by some problems since the rollout and supports bipartisan efforts to improve it.

Land takes the opposing view, arguing for repealing the law and replacing it with "market-based reforms."

She argues that the law "is based on the idea

that Washington should control your health care dollars and that government can force you to buy insurance, access your medical records, dictate your medical decisions and restrict your health-care choice."

Energy and environment

Both candidates say they support an "all-of-the-above" energy policy, shorthand for exploring and producing oil, natural gas, nuclear and renewable sources.

But they split on the proposed TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline that would carry oil from Canada to the Gulf Coast: Land is for it, Peters against.

Supporters of the pipeline say it will solve infrastructure problems and create jobs.

Critics worry it could contribute to pollution and contaminate groundwater.

Terrorism:

Neither Peters nor Land supports putting U.S. combat troops on the ground in Iraq or Syria to stop the spread of the Islamic State group.

Peters says he supports Obama's recent decision to launch airstrikes, while Land has criticized the president for delaying action and a "failed foreign policy" that allowed the influence of the extremist group and others to spread.

She supports confronting the group but says Obama needs to seek new authorization from Congress for expanding military operations.

— *The Associated Press*

WHO'S WHO ON THE BALLOT**GARY PETERS**

Party: Democrat

Age, date of birth: 55; Dec., 1, 1958

Residence: Bloomfield Township

Education: Bachelor's degree in political science, Alma College, 1980; master's degree in business administration, University of Detroit Mercy, 1984; law degree, Wayne State University, 1989; master's degree in philosophy, Michigan State University, 2007

Political career: U.S. House of Representatives 2009-present; Michigan lottery commissioner, 2003-07; state senator, 1995-2002; Rochester Hills city councilman, 1991-93; ran unsuccessfully for state Senate, 1990

Professional career: Griffin Endowed Chair of American Government, Central Michigan University; lieutenant commander, Naval Reserve; adjunct professor of finance, Wayne State University; adjunct professor of strategic management, Oakland University; securities arbitrator and vice

president-investments, UBS PaineWebber; assistant vice president, Merrill Lynch
Personal: Married, three children
Online: www.petersformichigan.com

CHRIS WAHMHOF

Party: Green Party

Age, date of birth: 36; June 24, 1978

Residence: Kalamazoo

Education: Plainwell High School, attended The Art Institute of Pittsburgh

Political career: None

Professional career: Mental health worker for a private company that contracts with the state, community organizer and activist

Personal: Married

Online: www.wahmhoffforsenate.com

JIM FULNER

Party: Libertarian

Age, date of birth: 31; May 24, 1983

See **SENATE**, Page 34

► FROM
PAGE 33**Senate** (cont.)**Residence:** Berkley**Education:** Bachelor's degree in political science, Northern Michigan University, 2005**Political career:** None**Professional career:** Automotive systems engineer**Personal:** Married, one child**Online:** www.jimfulner.com**TERRI LYNN LAND****Party:** Republican**Age, date of birth:** 56; June 30, 1958**Residence:** Byron Center**Education:** Grandville High School; bachelor's degree in political science, Hope College**Political career:** Secretary of state, 2003-10; Kent County clerk, 1993-2000; unsuccessful candidate for State Board of Education, 2000; chairwoman, Kent County Republican Committee, 1989-91; unsuccessful candidate for state House, 1982**Professional career:** Manager, LaGrande Motel in Grandville, 1989-92**Personal:** Married, two children**Online:** http://terrilynnland.com/**RICHARD MATKIN****Party:** U.S. Taxpayers Party**Age, date of birth:** 54; June 25, 1960**Residence:** Hazel Park**Education:** Bachelor's and master's degrees, University of Detroit-Mercy**Political career:** Unsuccessful candidate for U.S. Senate in 2012**Professional career:** Army**Personal:** Married, one child.**Online:** None

— The Associated Press

Snyder, Schauer at odds over recovery, major laws

■ The incumbent governor is facing a tighter race than when he won election four years ago.

BY DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

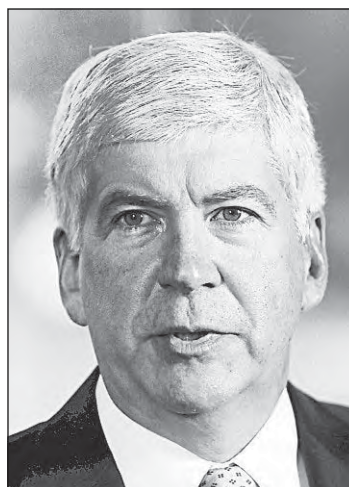
LANSING — Republican Gov. Rick Snyder says Michigan's turnaround is under way because he made long-overdue tough decisions — coming to grips with a broke Detroit, fixing an uncompetitive business tax structure and putting the state's finances in order all while retaining a "relentlessly positive" governing style after years of partisan strife.

His challenger in the Nov. 4 election, former Democratic congressman and state lawmaker Mark Schauer, counters that the governor went too far and got tough on the wrong people in his zest to radically overhaul government, departing from the pro-middle class "Michigan way."

Snyder's re-election bid has largely become a referendum on his first term, the ex-computer executive and venture capitalist's first as an elected official — a record of which he is proud and that Schauer dubs a failure.

In his town halls and other campaign appearances, Snyder, 56, likes to harken back to five years ago, when the state was teetering with the country's highest jobless rate and declining personal income and population.

"Think how broken we were. ... I really view November as an opportunity to say, 'Do we want to go back to the Michigan of 2009? Or do we want to keep



— AP file photo

GOV. RICK SNYDER

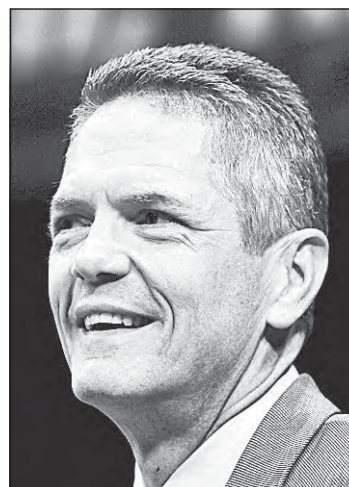
the Michigan that we're reinventing?"

He acknowledges more work must be done but says the foundation has been built for a sustained economic resurgence.

Schauer, however, tells voters that the recovery is too weak and slow and can be credited mostly to a rebounding auto industry thanks to the U.S. government's bailout loans, which he supported in Congress.

He says Snyder's tax overhaul, anti-union laws, budget decisions, and beefed-up state powers to intervene in financially distressed cities and school districts turned off many middle-of-the-road voters who previously backed him and have galvanized the Democratic Party's base.

"The public doesn't like his policies. They feel like there was a bait and switch from what he said he was going to do in 2010. There's a great sense of disappointment ... even sort of a



— AP file photo

MARK SCHAUER

buyer's remorse," said Schauer, 53.

Also running in the governor's race are Libertarian Mary Buzuma, the Green Party's Paul Homeniuk and Mark McFarlin with the U.S. Taxpayers Party.

The election promises to be tighter than four years ago, when the more moderate Snyder emerged from a crowded GOP primary and defeated Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero by 18 points.

The last three times incumbent governors sought re-election — 2006, 1998 and 1994 — were blowouts. Schauer hopes for 1990, when John Engler upended two-term Gov. Jim Blanchard by fewer than 18,000 votes, or seven-tenths of a percentage point.

Schauer agrees with a few things Snyder has done like sign a minimum wage increase and expand Medicaid to more low-income adults, a move that did not sit well with conservative activists opposed to President Barack Obama's federal

health-care law.

While Schauer voted for the legislation in Congress, Snyder — who opposed the broader law but still welcomed a key component in expanded Medicaid — has not made it a big campaign issue.

But the men differ sharply over Snyder and the Republican-controlled Legislature's cut in business taxes and elimination or reduction in exemptions or credits that individual taxpayers received on things like retirement income and property taxes.

Snyder says it made sense to eliminate the "dumb" Michigan Business Tax in favor of a simpler corporate income tax that benefits smaller companies whose owners are no longer being double taxed.

He also wiped out many special economic-development tax credits and says Michigan's tax scheme is still one of the 10 most generous to seniors, even though pensioners born after 1945 are paying higher taxes.

Schauer says he would keep intact the new business tax and give tax incentives to companies that create Michigan jobs and make them repay tax breaks if they send jobs overseas.

He wants to reinstate tax breaks for retirees, homeowners and renters, and low-income earners.

"I talk to seniors every day that are paying \$1,000, \$2,000, \$3,000 more a year ... because of the Snyder pension tax," Schauer said. "That's wrong."

Snyder defends a new right-to-work law despised by Dem-

See **GOVERNOR**, Page 36

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SNYDER, SCHAUER ON THE ISSUES

Education

Snyder's decision to cut overall education funding in his first year in office reverberates in the race.

He blames it on the loss of extra federal money the state received in the Great Recession and notes state K-12 spending — not including federal aid — has increased every year of his term.

Schauer says Snyder cut more than \$1 billion, though the actual reduction when factoring in later adjustments in tax revenue and supplemental bills was roughly \$462 million.

Snyder says he shored up the pension and health-care system for retired school employees.

Schauer says not enough money is reaching the classroom to keep class sizes in check and prevent cuts in school programs. He says if elected governor, education would be his No. 1 priority.

Business taxes

Snyder's tax overhaul is still an issue more than three years after he signed it.

He eliminated the Michigan Business Tax and replaced it with a 6 percent income tax that falls mostly on corporations with shareholders, meaning 95,000 businesses no longer pay.

Snyder says the \$1.8 billion tax cut is fairer because business owners are not being double taxed on business and personal income, and he argues it has made the state more attractive for business.

Schauer counters that job growth is slowing and much of the growth can be attributed to the rebounding U.S. auto industry.

He says he would keep intact the new corporate income tax while reinstituting tax credits for companies that create Michigan jobs and make companies repay if they ship jobs overseas.

Snyder calls business tax credits the "heroin drip" for government.

Individual taxes

Snyder partially offset the lost business tax revenue by eliminating or reducing tax exemptions on retirement income, the Homestead Property Tax Credit and tax credits for children and low-income earners.

Also gone are credits for city income taxes, college tuition, adoptions and donations to universities, public radio and TV stations, food banks and homeless shelters.

Snyder and legislators also set the income tax rate at 4.25 percent instead of letting it eventually drop to 3.9 percent in 2015 under a previous law. He says the system is simpler and fairer and that Michigan's tax scheme is still among the 10 most generous in the country for seniors.

Schauer in particular takes aim at the "pension tax" and reduction in the earned income and homestead property tax credits, saying it was unfair to give companies a break at the expense of middle- to lower-class taxpayers.

He pledges to reverse course, saying Republican lawmakers know the unpopularity of the tax increase on retirees.

Right to work

After saying it was not on his agenda, Snyder in late 2012 signed a right-to-work law making payment of union fees voluntary for unionized workers.

He says he supports worker freedom and the law made Michigan more attractive as a place to do business.

Schauer says the law is designed to destroy unions and drive down wages and job security for the middle class.

— The Associated Press

WHO'S WHO ON THE BALLOT

MARK SCHAUER

Party: Democratic

Age, date of birth: 53; Oct. 2, 1961

Residence: Battle Creek

Education: Bachelor's degree in sociology and Spanish, Albion College, 1984; master's degree in public administration, Western Michigan University, 1986; master's degree in political science, Michigan State University, 1996

Political career: U.S. House of Representatives, 2009-11; state senator, 2003-08 (minority leader, 2007-08); state representative, 1997-2002; Battle Creek city commissioner, 1994-96

Professional career: National co-chairman of Jobs211, an initiative of the BlueGreen Alliance, a partnership of union and environmental groups to expand jobs in the green economy, 2011-13; business development representative, Michigan Laborers-Employers Cooperation & Education Trust Fund (LECET), 2011-13; coordinator, Calhoun County Human Services Coordinating Council, 1992-96; executive director, Community Action Agency of South Central Michigan, 1987-92; urban planner, Calhoun County, 1984-87

Personal: Married to Christine; three children

Online: www.markschauer.com

PAUL HOMENIUK

Party: Green

Age, date of birth: 58; June 5, 1956

Residence: East Lansing

Education: Bachelor's degree, Grand Valley State Colleges, 1977

Political career: None

Professional career: Managing director, Practical Education Solutions, 2009-present; part-time faculty member, Washtenaw Community College, 2013-present; adjunct faculty, Lansing Community College, 2006-12; chief executive officer, International Bread Co., 1995-2007; education director, Junior Achievement of Mid Michigan, 1987-95; marketing program director, American Collegiate Marketing, 1982-87

Personal: Married to Lisa; one child

Online: www.paulhomeniuk.org

MARY BUZUMA

Party: Libertarian

Age, date of birth: Did not provide.

Residence: Grand Haven

Education: Bachelor's degree in political science, Kalamazoo College

Political career: Chairwoman, Libertarian Party of Michigan; secretary, Libertarian Party of West Michigan; candidate for U.S. House of Representatives 2nd District, 2012

Professional career: Intelligence specialist for 26 years in Navy

Personal: Did not provide.

Online: www.electmarybuzuma.com

RICK SNYDER

Party: Republican

Age, date of birth: 56; Aug. 19, 1958

Residence: Superior Township

Education: Associate's degree, Kellogg Community College (awarded in 2014 for classes he took as high school student in 1970s); bachelor's degree in general studies, 1977; master's degree in business administration, 1979; law degree, 1982, all from the University of Michigan

Political career: Michigan governor, 2011-present

Professional career: Founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Ardesta, an Ann Arbor-based investment firm, 2000-10; Gateway Inc. interim CEO, 2006; founder of Avalon Investments Inc., a venture capital company, 1997-2000; executive vice president and then president and chief operating officer of Gateway, 1991-97; employee and then partner at Coopers & Lybrand, 1982-91; adjunct assistant professor of accounting, University of Michigan, 1982-84

Personal: Married to Sue; three children

Online: www.rickformichigan.com

MARK MCFARLIN

Party: U.S. Taxpayers

Age, date of birth: 50; April 3, 1964

Residence: Pinconning

Education: Bachelor's degree in sociology-psychology, Central Michigan University, 1987

Political career: Candidate, Bay County executive, 2004, 2008 and 2012

Professional career: Licensed private investigator, Central Bureau of Investigation

Personal: Did not provide.

Online: www.markmcfarlin.com

—The Associated Press

WHO'S WHO AMONG THE RUNNING MATES: LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CANDIDATES

LISA BROWN

Party: Democrat

Age, date of birth: 47; Jan. 26, 1967

Residence: West Bloomfield

Education: Bachelor's degree in psychology, Michigan State University, 1989; law degree, Detroit College of Law, 1993

Political career: Oakland County clerk and register of deeds, 2013-present; state representative, 2009-12

Professional career: Attorney, Noel Keen; Realtor, 2004-08

Personal: Married; three children.

CANDACE CAVENY

Party: Green

Residence: Lapeer

Ms. Caveny did not submit biographical information.

SCOTTY BOMAN

Party: Libertarian

Age, date of birth: 52; April 14, 1962

Residence: Detroit

Education: Bachelor's degree in physics and philosophy, Western Michigan University, 1985; master's degree in physics, Western Michigan University, 1988; master's degree in teaching, Wayne State University, 1999

Political career: Ran unsuccessfully for Wayne State University Board of Governors in 1998, the State Board of Education in 2002 and 2004, lieutenant governor in 2006, U.S. Senate in 2008 and secretary of state in 2010

Professional career: Physics instructor, Henry Ford Community College,

2014-present; physics instructor, Wayne County Community College, 2003-present; astronomy teacher, Macomb Community College, 2002-present; substitute teacher, multiple school districts, 2000-present; guest astronomy professor, Wayne State University, 2008

Personal: Single.

BRIAN CALLEY

Party: Republican

Age, date of birth: 37; March 25, 1977

Residence: Portland

Education: Bachelor's degree in business administration, Michigan State University, 1998; master's degree in business administration, Grand Valley State University, 2000

Political career: Michigan lieutenant governor, 2011-present; state representative, 2007-10; Ionia County Board of Commissioners, 2003-2006; also served on the Board of Public Works

Professional career: Commercial lender and vice president, Irwin Union Bank, 2005-06; commercial lender and assistant vice president, Fifth Third Bank, 2003-04; commercial lender and assistant vice president, Ionia County National Bank, 1995-2003

Personal: Married to Julie; three children.

RICHARD MENDOZA

Party: U.S. Taxpayers

Residence: Standish

Mr. Mendoza did not submit biographical information.

— *The Associated Press*

► FROM PAGE 34

Governor (cont.)

ocrats and initial cuts in education funding enacted in 2011 when federal aid for recession-weary states dried up.

K-12 and university spending has risen since then, though Schauer says he would have found a way to ensure

there were no funding decreases.

No first-term Michigan governor has lost re-election in a half-century. Snyder says one focus in a second term would be to better train workers for skilled trade jobs and integrate the education system from preschool through post-high school learning.

"I want to keep going. There's more to do," Snyder said.

Former New York mayor backing Snyder with ads

■ Michael Bloomberg, through his political action committee, also is supporting Democrat Gary Peters over Republican Terri Lynn Land in the Senate race.

BY DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING — Billionaire and former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg says his political action committee is spending \$2.3 million on a TV ad in support of Republican Gov. Rick Snyder, providing a major influx of outside cash into the gubernatorial race weeks before Election Day.

The buy is nearly triple the \$800,000 that Democrat Mark Schauer spent on TV ads during the entire race before Oct. 7, when he launched his second campaign ad.

He also has appeared in Democratic Governors Association ads.

Schauer's campaign did not disclose how much it spent on the 30-second ad — in which he pledges to repeal Snyder's decision to tax more retirement income — but said it has reserved \$3 million in airtime before Nov. 4.

Bloomberg spokesman Stu Loeser said Bloomberg, a political independent, admires how Snyder "executed his vision for Michigan's comeback," citing job growth and Snyder's support for immigra-

tion, charter schools and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines.

Bloomberg also is endorsing Democrat Gary Peters in Michigan's U.S. Senate race over Republican Terri Lynn Land, though Loeser stopped short of saying whether his PAC also would run an ad on Peters' behalf.

Democrats have made Snyder a top target for defeat in November, and the candidates have been locked in a tight race.

Earlier this month, polls showed Snyder leading or slightly ahead after he ran ads all last month and more aggressively defended his record at town hall-style campaign events.

The Detroit News and a Detroit TV station released a poll with Snyder leading, 45 percent to 37 percent, with a sampling error margin of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Another poll by the Detroit Free Press and TV stations had Snyder slightly ahead, 45 percent to 39 percent.

Both polls were taken before the two candidates' debate Oct. 12.

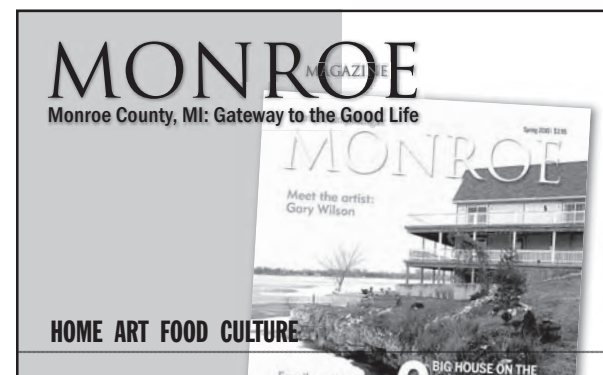
"This is just another reminder that Rick Snyder's policies work for the wealthy, but not the rest of Michigan," Schauer spokeswoman Cathy Bacile Cunningham said of Bloomberg's ad.

Bloomberg hosted a fundraiser for Snyder earlier this year and has appeared with him at immigration conferences.

Schauer's pension ad highlights one of his biggest criticisms of the governor: the 2011 decision to eliminate or reduce tax exemptions on retirement income to help offset a business tax cut.

Schauer says he would end the unfair "Snyder pension tax."

Snyder and Republican legislators have said their tax overhaul leveled the playing field regardless of whether people have government pensions, which were previously exempt from taxation, or 401(k) distributions, which were taxable before.



Democrats, GOP vie for control of state Legislature

BY DAVID EGGERT

Associated Press

LANSING — Democrats who need a five-seat swing to upend Republican control of the Michigan House face a number of obstacles: gerrymandered districts, a financial disadvantage and historical trends favoring the GOP in a non-presidential election year.

But Rep. Brandon Dillon, who's leading House Democrats' campaign to retake power for the first time since 2010, said there are "more than enough" chances to pick up seats.

The GOP's advantage in controlling the once-a-decade redistricting process "made some of their representatives irrationally comfortable in their voting patterns," he said.

Republicans, however, like

their chances to fatten a current 59-50 edge in the House, where a lone independent leans Democratic.

GOP candidates are running on a "really strong record of results over the last four years," said Rep. Aric Nesbitt, head of House Republicans' campaign efforts.

The fight for House control will determine the ease or difficulty with which Republican Gov. Rick Snyder or Democratic challenger Mark Schauer can enact his agenda in the next Legislature.

In the Senate, the best Democrats can hope for is to chip away at Republicans' 26-12 margin, as part of an uphill strategy to win control in 2018 — when many senators won't be able to run again because of term limits. The GOP has controlled the chamber for more

than 30 years.

It's the first Senate election since district boundaries were redrawn following the 2010 census, which enabled the GOP to fashion the maps to boost its electoral prospects. Democrats cut into Republicans' House majority in 2012, when President Barack Obama easily defeated Republican Mitt Romney in Michigan.

Yet voters tend to favor the opposing party in a president's sixth year, a plus for the GOP in 2014.

In the 110-seat House, there are roughly 20 competitive districts. There are about 10 competitive districts in the 38-seat Senate.

Four seats now held by Republicans are attracting the most attention in the Senate — three of them open districts in

the Kalamazoo, Saginaw and Monroe areas.

State Sen. Randy Richardville, R-Monroe, who is Senate majority leader, cannot run again because of term limits.

His seat is being sought by state Rep. Dale Zorn, R-Ida, and Doug Spade, a Democrat from Adrian and former state representative.

The dynamics in individual legislative races vary, but the broad themes echo messages in the governor's race.

Republicans are emphasizing a track record of job creation, a lower unemployment rate, on-time budgets, fewer regulations and increased spending on roads and education, especially a preschool program for low-income 4-year-olds.

Democrats are criticizing the GOP's tax overhaul that slashed

business taxes and raised taxes on seniors and others, 2011 cuts in K-12 and university funding, and the Legislature's approval of a law requiring people or businesses wanting abortion insurance coverage to buy an extra policy in advance.

Democratic consultant Joe DiSano said Democrats could win the House in the right circumstances, but realistically their ceiling is probably a net gain of three or four seats.

Another Democratic strategist, Adrian Hemond — a former top legislative aide whose firm helps GOP and Democratic candidates — said Republicans are bound to make it harder for Democrats by winning some of their seats.


"I wish them well," he said. "But I don't see how they get there."


Business as Usual? At What Cost?

I am running for County Commissioner, and I sadly realize the questionable politics in Monroe County. It has become very clear why so little is getting accomplished in our communities. It is apparent to me that there is a "good old boy" system running Monroe County. Special interest groups from within-and outside- Monroe County continue to endorse and provide financial support to some candidates. Continued endorsements and donations guarantee these special interest groups on-going financial opportunities within our county - at the devastating cost of millions of dollars to the taxpayers.


Although it is said during every campaign that "things must change" if Monroe County is going to move forward with new industry, more jobs, and better roads, things truly must change. We cannot continue to all the "good old boys" to put their personal agendas ahead of the needs and rights of Monroe taxpayers. November 4 vote smart and for the future of Monroe County.

-Gary Wilmoth






Gary Wilmoth
District 7









Norm Matthes
District 5



Dan Donahue
District 4



Sample ballot (City of Monroe Precinct 2)

OFFICIAL BALLOT General Election Tuesday, November 4, 2014 Monroe County, Michigan City of Monroe, Precinct 2		
PARTISAN SECTION	CONGRESSIONAL	STATE BOARDS
STRAIGHT PARTY TICKET Vote for not more than 1	REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS 7TH DISTRICT Vote for not more than 1	TRUSTEE OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Vote for not more than 2
 Republican Party <input type="checkbox"/>  Democratic Party <input type="checkbox"/>  Libertarian Party <input type="checkbox"/>  U.S. Taxpayers Party <input type="checkbox"/>  Green Party <input type="checkbox"/>  Natural Law Party <input type="checkbox"/>	Tim Walberg <input type="checkbox"/> Pam Byrnes <input type="checkbox"/> Ken Proctor <input type="checkbox"/> Rick Strawcutler <input type="checkbox"/> David Swartout <input type="checkbox"/> LEGISLATIVE STATE SENATOR 17TH DISTRICT Vote for not more than 1 Dale W. Zorn <input type="checkbox"/> Doug Spade <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Andring <input type="checkbox"/> REPRESENTATIVE IN STATE LEGISLATURE 17TH DISTRICT Vote for not more than 1 Charles A. Londo <input type="checkbox"/> Bill LaVoy <input type="checkbox"/> STATE BOARDS MEMBER OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Vote for not more than 2 Maria Carl <input type="checkbox"/> Jonathan Tade Williams <input type="checkbox"/> Pamela Pugh Smith <input type="checkbox"/> Cassandra E. Ubrich <input type="checkbox"/> Kimberly Moore <input type="checkbox"/> Gregory Scott Stempfle <input type="checkbox"/> John Adams <input type="checkbox"/> Karen Adams <input type="checkbox"/> Sherry A. Wells <input type="checkbox"/> Nikki Mattson <input type="checkbox"/> REGENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN Vote for not more than 2 Rob Steele <input type="checkbox"/> Ronald Weiser <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Behm <input type="checkbox"/> Kathy White <input type="checkbox"/> James Lewis Hudler <input type="checkbox"/> John Jacob <input type="checkbox"/> Joe Sanger <input type="checkbox"/> Christine C. Schwartz <input type="checkbox"/> Jan Swanson <input type="checkbox"/>	Melanie Foster <input type="checkbox"/> Jeff Sakwa <input type="checkbox"/> Faylene Owen <input type="checkbox"/> George J. Perles <input type="checkbox"/> Michael H. Miller <input type="checkbox"/> Raymond Moses <input type="checkbox"/> Crystal Van Sickle <input type="checkbox"/> Stephen J. Young <input type="checkbox"/> Adam Adrianson <input type="checkbox"/> Terry Link <input type="checkbox"/> Bridgette Guzman <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNOR OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY Vote for not more than 2 Michael Busuito <input type="checkbox"/> Satish Jasli <input type="checkbox"/> Marilyn Kelly <input type="checkbox"/> Dana Alicia Thompson <input type="checkbox"/> Dan Goebel <input type="checkbox"/> Brian Richard Wright <input type="checkbox"/> Shari A. Matkin <input type="checkbox"/> Marc Joseph Sosnowski <input type="checkbox"/> Margaret Guttshall <input type="checkbox"/> Latham T. Redding <input type="checkbox"/> Yolanda Robson <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 6 Vote for not more than 1 Jerry Oley <input type="checkbox"/> NONPARTISAN SECTION JUDICIAL JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT Vote for not more than 2 James Robert Redford <input type="checkbox"/> Brian Zahra <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Bernstein <input type="checkbox"/> Doug Dern <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Murphy <input type="checkbox"/> JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT INCUMBENT POSITION Partial Term Ending 01/01/2017 Vote for not more than 1 Kerry L. Morgan <input type="checkbox"/> Deborah A. Thomas <input type="checkbox"/> David Viviano <input type="checkbox"/>
STATE		
GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR Vote for not more than 1		
Rick Snyder <input type="checkbox"/> Brian Nelson Calley <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Schauer <input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Brown <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Buzuma <input type="checkbox"/> Scotty Boman <input type="checkbox"/> Mark McFarlin <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Mendoza <input type="checkbox"/> Paul Homeniuk <input type="checkbox"/> Candace R. Caveny <input type="checkbox"/>		
SECRETARY OF STATE Vote for not more than 1		
Ruth Johnson <input type="checkbox"/> Godfrey Dillard <input type="checkbox"/> James Lewis <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Gale <input type="checkbox"/> Jason Robert Gatties <input type="checkbox"/>		
ATTORNEY GENERAL Vote for not more than 1		
Bill Schuetz <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Totten <input type="checkbox"/> Justin M. Altman <input type="checkbox"/> Gerald T. VanSickle <input type="checkbox"/> John Anthony La Pietra <input type="checkbox"/>		
CONGRESSIONAL		
UNITED STATES SENATOR Vote for not more than 1		
Terri Lynn Land <input type="checkbox"/> Gary Peters <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Fulmer <input type="checkbox"/> Richard A. Matkin <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Wahnhoff <input type="checkbox"/>		

JUDICIAL	PROPOSAL SECTION
JUDGE OF COURT OF APPEALS 1ST DISTRICT INCUMBENT POSITION Vote for not more than 3	STATE
Karen Fort Hood <input type="checkbox"/> Christopher M. Murray <input type="checkbox"/> Michael J. Talbot <input type="checkbox"/>	PROPOSAL 14-1 A REFERENDUM OF PUBLIC ACT 520 OF 2012, ESTABLISHING A HUNTING SEASON FOR WOLVES AND AUTHORIZING ANNUAL WOLF HUNTING SEASONS Public Act 520 of 2012 would: • Designate wolf as game for hunting purposes and authorize the first wolf hunting season. • Allow the Natural Resources Commission to schedule annual wolf hunting seasons. • Provide criminal penalties for the unlawful possession or taking of wolves, but shield a person who lawfully captures or destroys a wolf from prosecution. • Require a person who wishes to hunt wolves to obtain a wolf hunting license. • Create a Wolf Management Advisory Council for the purpose of making nonbinding recommendations to the legislature regarding the proper management of wolves. Should this law be approved? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT 38TH CIRCUIT INCUMBENT POSITION Vote for not more than 1	
Daniel S. White <input type="checkbox"/>	
JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT 1st DISTRICT NON-INCUMBENT POSITION Vote for not more than 1	
Jarod Michael Calkins <input type="checkbox"/> Mark S. Braunlich <input type="checkbox"/>	
JUDGE OF PROBATE COURT INCUMBENT POSITION MONROE COUNTY Vote for not more than 1	
Frank Arnold <input type="checkbox"/>	
JUDGE OF PROBATE COURT INCUMBENT POSITION MONROE COUNTY Partial Term Ending 01/01/2019 Vote for not more than 1	
Cheryl Lehmeyer <input type="checkbox"/> Jill LaVoy <input type="checkbox"/>	PROPOSAL 14-2 A REFERENDUM OF PUBLIC ACT 21 OF 2013, GRANTING THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION THE POWER TO DESIGNATE WOLVES AND CERTAIN OTHER ANIMALS AS GAME WITHOUT LEGISLATIVE ACTION Public Act 21 of 2013 would: • Allow the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to designate certain animals as game for hunting purposes and establish the first hunting season for game animals without legislative action. • Continue the NRC's designation of wolves as game and allow the NRC to set a wolf hunting season. • Grant the Legislature sole authority to remove a species from the list of designated game animals. • Eliminate the \$1.00 hunting and fishing licensing fee for members of the military, whether stationed inside or outside of Michigan, subject to any lottery. • Give the NRC sole authority to regulate fishing. Should this law be approved? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
COMMUNITY COLLEGE	COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD MEMBER MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT Vote for not more than 3	MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADDITIONAL MILLAGE PROPOSAL
Jack Schwab <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Kay Thayer <input type="checkbox"/> Barbara J. Verran <input type="checkbox"/> William H. Braunlich <input type="checkbox"/> Ignazio Cuccia <input type="checkbox"/> Lynette M. Dowler <input type="checkbox"/>	The millage proposal would allow the Community College District of Monroe County to levy an additional 1 (one) mill in perpetuity, for general operating purposes of Monroe County Community College. Shall the total limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all taxable property in the Community College District of Monroe County, County of Monroe, Michigan, except property exempted by law, be increased by 1 (one) mill (\$1 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and levied in perpetuity, to provide funds for operating expenses of Monroe County Community College? If approved, this millage would raise an estimated \$5.5 million for the College/District in 2014. YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	
BOARD MEMBER MONROE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT Vote for not more than 3	
Cynthia L. Taylor <input type="checkbox"/> June Knabusch Taylor <input type="checkbox"/>	

Plenty of open U.S. House seats up for grabs this year

BY MIKE HOUSEHOLDER
Associated Press

DETROIT — The more things change with Michigan’s U.S. House of Representatives delegation, the more they stay the same.

The state is guaranteed to send four new faces to Congress, thanks to open seats. That number most likely will grow to five when factoring in the Detroit-area 11th District, where incumbent Rep. Kerry Bentivolio lost decisively in the Republican primary but has a declared as a write-in candidate for November.

Regardless, the current 9-5 GOP advantage appears relatively safe.

Democrats’ best chance could come in northern Michigan’s sprawling 1st District, where two-term Republican Rep. Dan Benishek is being

challenged by Jerry Cannon, a retired Army National Guard major general and longtime Kalkaska County sheriff.

The district was represented by Democrat Bart Stupak for nine terms before Benishek, a tea party-affiliated surgeon from Crystal Falls, won the open seat four years ago.

Benishek won re-election in 2012 by fewer than 1,900 votes, and the Democrats saw an opening.

Cannon, a former commander at Guantanamo Bay who later led U.S. detainee operations in Iraq, is pushing his military past as part of an effort to appeal to the nearly 12 percent of voting-age residents in the district who once served in the U.S. military.

Matt Grossmann, a political science professor at Michigan State University, says he

expects the 1st District race “should go Republican, barring changes in national conditions, unexpected campaign events or a large turnout advantage for Democrats.”

Still, Benishek is campaigning as if he’s concerned, Grossmann said.

Other closely watched contests in November include south-central Michigan’s 7th District, which features a race between three-term GOP Rep. **Tim Walberg** and former Democratic state Rep. **Pam Byrnes**; the 8th, where former state Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop and Democratic Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing are running for the seat vacated by retiring GOP Rep. Mike Rogers in a district that stretches from Lansing to the northern Detroit suburbs, and the 11th District race, which pits Republican lawyer

David Trott against counterterrorism expert Bobby McKenzie, a Democrat.

National election-watchers expect Republicans to tighten their majority grip on the House of Representatives, adding seats as President Barack Obama’s unpopularity drags down Democrats.

Plus, helpful redistricting after the 2010 census is boosting Republican prospects in the Great Lakes state and elsewhere.

McKenzie is aware of forces working against the party this year, but he believes hard work may turn the tide in his race.

“Trott is certainly going to outspend me,” he told supporters during a recent campaign rally at a United Auto Workers hall in Livonia. “I need your help to win. We’re going to win. It’s going to be door to door, city

to city. That’s how we’ll win it.”

The other three open seats in Michigan are expected to remain in the current party’s possession.

Republican state Sen. John Moolenaar of Midland is favored to defeat Democrat Jeff Holmes, a physician from Alma, for the 4th District seat held by House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp, who is retiring after 24 years in Congress.

Similarly, Southfield Mayor Brenda Lawrence is projected to take the heavily Democratic 14th District seat now held by Rep. Gary Peters, the Democratic nominee for the U.S. Senate, and Democrat Debbie Dingell of Dearborn is likely to win her husband John’s 12th District seat. John Dingell, the longest-serving member of Congress in history, is retiring at year’s end,

Make your vote count!

VOTE JAROD CALKINS
FOR DISTRICT JUDGE

YOUR CHOICE

On November 4th, you have an unusual choice for District Judge. One choice, Jarod Calkins, is an award-winning attorney who’s been working hard to earn your trust and your vote. The other choice is Mark Braunlich, who was recently appointed to the Circuit Court. However, due to the timing of his appointment, he still appears on the ballot as a candidate for District Judge.

JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT
1ST DISTRICT
NON-INCUMBENT POSITION
Vote for not more than 1

Jarod Michael Calkins

Mark S. Braunlich

On August 4th, Mark Braunlich told the Monroe News, in the race for District Judge, “I’m not an active candidate” and “A vote for me is meaningless.” Make your vote count. Vote Jarod Calkins for Judge.

Quirk in state law puts Braunlich on the ballot, but he’s not a candidate for District Judge.



THE CALKINS FAMILY

CalkinsforJudge.com

Paid for by Friends of Jarod Calkins • 53 S. Monroe St. • Monroe, MI 48161

EXPERIENCE HERITAGE & SERVICE

My family has been serving Monroe County for over 30 years.
We are passionate about public service. Teacher, prosecutor, lawyer, judge and legislator.
Please allow me to continue our family tradition of public service to this community.

Vote November 4TH

**Jill LaVoy has been endorsed by Democrats, Republicans & Independents
from Monroe County! The people we trust, trust Jill LaVoy.**

Below is a partial list of Jill's endorsements

Police Officers Association of Michigan
Deputy Sheriffs Association of Michigan
Monroe County Circuit Judge (retired) William LaVoy
Monroe County Clerk (retired) Geri Allen
Monroe County Commission Chairman Jerry Oley
Monroe County Commissioner Henry Lievens
Ash Township Trustee Larry Buckingham
State Representative Bill LaVoy
Monroe Township Supervisor Al Barron
Frenchtown Township Supervisor James McDevitt
Erie Township Trustee Michael Grodi
Monroe County Commissioner Robert Lambert

Monroe County Commissioner Jon Cook
Monroe County Commissioner Al Potratz
Monroe County Commissioner Jason Turner
Monroe Lenawee County AFL-CIO
Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters
Operating Engineers Local 324
Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 671
UAW Region 1-A
UFCW – Local 876
AFSCME Local 2071
LiUNA Local 499
IBEW Local 8

LaVoyForJudge.com

JILL **LAVOY**
FOR **PROBATE JUDGE**

PAID FOR BY JILL LAVOY, FOR PROBATE JUDGE, 27 E. FRONT ST., MONROE, MI 48161



VOTE