



VOTE

August 3, 2021

2021 Nonpartisan City of Lansing Primary Election Voter Guide

This is a
Primary Election
which means
your vote will
determine who
appears on the
November 2nd
General Election
ballot.

- The primary ballot includes the following items.
- City of Lansing Mayor
 - City of Lansing Council Member At-Large (two positions)
 - City of Lansing Second Ward Council Member
 - City of Lansing Essential Services Millage Restoration Program

The decisions our leaders make in office will influence public policy for years to come. **Each vote - YOUR vote - determines who represents us to make decisions** about our **city**: the taxes we pay, our roads and sewers, public safety issues, housing availability, local parks and economic development.

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

The League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area is working tirelessly to break down that barrier with our on-line voting resource, **www.VOTE411.ORG** and printed voter guides, which provide information about candidates and ballot proposals. You can even print out your sample ballot to take to the polls. Voting is our power to shape our future as a community, as a state, and as a nation.



Thank you for reading the League of Women Voters of the Lansing Voter Guide for 2021

The League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area offers this Voter Guide that includes biographical information about the candidates and their answers to questions about current issues. In addition to candidate information, local ballot proposals are listed.

The Voter Guide: The information in this publication is printed as submitted by the candidates and edited only when the answers exceeded the character limit. The League of Women Voters does not take responsibility for the views or facts as stated by the candidates. The words “Candidate did not reply” after the candidate’s name indicate that no response was received by the deadline. The names of the candidates for each office appear in alphabetical order.

The League is a national organization, working for 100 years to encourage citizen participation. It never supports or opposes any political party or candidate but it does take a position on issues after careful study by the membership.

Donna Mullins, President, League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area
Joanne Winkelman, Director - Voter Services, League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area

Absentee Ballots

All registered voters in Michigan can now request an absentee ballot without having to give a specific reason. In 2018, voters overwhelmingly approved the constitutional amendment to allow no reason absentee voting.

It’s a safe way to vote and protect your health. The process is secure and accurate.
How do I request an absentee ballot?

- To request an absentee ballot, complete an online application at Michigan.gov/Vote or request an application from the City of Lansing clerk.
- Requests for an absent voter ballot must be received by the city clerk no later than 5 p.m. the Friday before the election. If you’re already registered at your current address, you can request an absent voter ballot in person at the clerk’s office anytime up to 4 p.m. on the day prior to the election. If you’re registering to vote or updating your address by appearing at your clerk’s office on Election Day, you can request an absent voter ballot at the same time you register. If you request your AV ballot the day before the election or on Election Day, you must vote the ballot in the clerk’s office.
- The League of Women Voters recommends requesting your absentee ballot as early as possible.

Where do I return the ballot?

- The LWV recommends mailing it in with the proper postage 10-14 days prior to the election.
- If there is a drop box located in your local jurisdiction, you may place your ballot in the box. Dropbox locations may be found at <https://lansing.maps.arcgis.com>.
- Your completed absentee ballot must be received by the City of Lansing clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Did my ballot arrive?

All registered voters can track their ballot by looking up their information at <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>.

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CITY OF LANSING ESSENTIAL SERVICES MILLAGE RESTORATION PROPOSAL

Vote YES or NO

Shall the authorized charter millage for the City of Lansing, established at 20 mills (\$20.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and reduced to 18.8658 (\$18.8658 per \$1,000 of taxable value) by the millage rollbacks required under the Michigan Constitution, be restored to 20 mills (\$20.00 per \$1,000 of taxable value), which is an increase of 1.1342 mills (\$1.1342 per \$1,000 of taxable value) over the reduced millage, for the next five (5) years (from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026 inclusive), for the purpose of funding essential services, including police protection, fire protection, and local road and sidewalk maintenance?

If approved and levied, this restored and increased millage would generate approximately \$2,770,894 in its first year.

CANDIDATES FOR CITY OF LANSING MAYOR

MAYOR • Non-partisan • Term - 4 years • Vote for 1

Lansing citizens adopted a City Charter that established a strong mayor form of government. The mayor is directly elected and does not serve as a member of the council. The mayor appoints and removes key administrative officials, has veto power, receives a salary and is expected to devote full time to the role.

	What special qualifications would you bring to the office of Lansing City Mayor?	What issues do you want to address, if you are elected as Mayor?	What would you see as priority recommendations for how the city utilizes federal stimulus funds?
<p>Kathie Dunbar</p> <p>Occupation: Lansing City Councilwoman</p> <p>Email: kathie4mayor@gmail.com</p> <p>Website: kathiedunbar.com</p> <p>Education: BA in History and Philosophy of Law, Michigan State University.</p>	<p>Sixteen years I've served on the Lansing City Council, and still, no one mistakes me for a "typical politician." I'm known for being funny, outspoken, sometimes brash, and unconventional, also honest, hard-working, extremely knowledgeable, and very effective. As both a nonprofit director and a councilwoman, I have successfully advocated for resident-driven community and economic development, social equity and human rights initiatives, green infrastructure, and fiscal responsibility. I dig deep and get things done. Most recently, I helped restructure the Lansing Lugnuts contract renewal, saving taxpayers \$2M in the process. During the day, I'm privileged to work with our most vulnerable residents, helping them navigate systems that weren't designed for them. As a councilmember, I'm well-acquainted with city staff, city operations, and the budget process. I'm the only candidate who brings this unique combination of municipal experience and grassroots perspective to the Mayor's Office.</p>	<p>I gave up my council seat to run for mayor because Lansing deserves a leader with vision and purpose. We need a mayor willing to explore bold initiatives to address the challenges facing our city. We need a different approach to governance, led by a mayor who demonstrates compassion and empathy and doesn't shy away from accountability. Under my administration, the organizational culture of City Hall - including our relationships with employees, retirees and the community - will be centered on collaboration, transparency and trust. I will lead by example, empower our employees to innovate, and involve stakeholders in decisions that impact their lives. My priorities are a) post-pandemic economic recovery, b) healthy communities with safe and affordable housing, c) reducing epidemic levels of gun violence and refocusing our priorities for public safety, and d) using integrated technology to improve efficiencies, facilitate information sharing, and foster systems and service innovation.</p>	<p>ARP funds should be used to provide immediate economic relief for residents and small business owners AND to make strategic investments in city operations and community services that pave the way for transformative and equitable economic growth. I wouldn't presume to dictate where and how \$51M is allocated without input and collaboration from city staff, the business community, nonprofit partners, and our residents. Throughout this process, though, we should all be mindful that not everyone fared equally under prior stimulus initiatives. The pandemic exacerbated existing inequities; the same barriers that impede minority businesses owners' access to resources and capital also hindered their access to stimulus funds. Less than one half of 1% of Black businesses received pandemic benefits, compared to 9% of non-Black businesses. It's not enough to make funds available; we have a moral obligation to disburse them equitably.</p>

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<p>Melissa Huber</p> <p>Occupation: Community Psychologist; Community, Youth, and Economic Deveopment specialist</p> <p>Email: MelissaForLansing@gmail.com</p> <p>Website: melissaforlansing.com</p> <p>Education: PhD and MA in Community Psychology from Michigan State University BA Psychology, Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana</p>	<p>We need an entirely different kind of leader to solve the range of social, financial, and ethical problems our community faces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I have professional expertise collaboratively building better communities across Michigan as a 25-year Community Psychologist working in community, youth, and economic development.• I have grassroots expertise bringing positive change for Lansing as a 15-year neighborhood and community leader working with many partners.• I have management and business experience running a non-profit, research project teams and budgets, and participating in a family business.• I have access to a vast local network and nationwide experts to support to support my team.• I emphasize listening to and engaging residents, including vulnerable and marginalized groups. <p>My collaborations are extensive and include departments in the City of Lansing, Lansing Township, Eaton County, Ingham County; many non-profit and faith-based groups; CATA; BWL; Lansing School District; MSU. Change the culture of city hall.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Change the culture of city hall.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Focus on Serviceb. Address neglected areas of diversity, equity and inclusion in policies, practice, and fundingc. End ethical violations and ordinances that put too much power in the hands of the city attorney to ignore complaints of residents and city employeesd. End influence of special interest moneye. Bring people together instead of promoting division2. Reprioritize Funding<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Focus on neighborhoods and quality of lifeb. Limit subsidies that do not directly impact quality of lifec. Be wise stewards and maintain what we have before building new3. Build City, County, and statewide collaborations<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. To improve education, health, and well-beingb. To address systemic social issuesc. To impact state and national policy impacting our city4. End our system of strongmayor leadership and encourage our residents to move to a City Manager system	<p>I would suggest these guiding principles for funding decisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How does the funding support long-term changes, rather than just short-term fixes?2. How does the funding directly impact those most vulnerable, rather than contributing to budgets of organizations serving people?3. How is the funding distributed across the most vulnerable groups and neighborhoods? <p>For specific recommendations we would need a full community engagement process. However, based on my professional opinions, I would suggest using funds to create sustainable and renewable resources for low- and moderate income residents. These are some examples:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Purchase of community land trusts to ensure a continual supply of affordable housing.2. Develop Individual Development Accounts that match savings 2:1 for residents saving up to buy a home, repair a home, pay for education, etc.3. Development of business incubators and start-up funds to encourage development of local entrepreneurs and expand small businesses.
<p>Larry James Hutchinson Jr.</p> <p>Occupation: Candidate for Mayor of Lansing, Michigan 2021.</p> <p>Email: hutchforcouncil@mail.com</p> <p>Education: Anthropology Major</p>	<p>As it relates to any “special qualifications,” I’d have to say I don’t possess any other than any other candidate for office. I am a registered voter, a resident of Lansing, Michigan, a citizen of the United States of America and the world, ..., and if that is not enough I’m a human being, an artist, an author, a father, a son, a brother, cousin and friend, candidate for Mayor of the most beautiful place in the world to live and raise a family, Lansing, Michigan USA. What Mr. Hutchinson brings to Lansing is his “God-givin-gifts.” According to the Holy Bible, “Your gifts will make way for you.” The special qualification Mr. Hutchinson has is that he had to scratch and claw to be in contention among such a fine group of candidates. I never dreamed in a million years that I’d be a world wide public figure were people could google my name and see little old me on Wikipedia. Larry brings to this race, a love for his City, his State, his Country, our World.</p>	<p>Mr. Hutchinson has pledged not to seek re-election if elected. Mr. Hutchinson distaste for incumbents has been widely expressed. Mr. Hutchinson believes that the reason for the gridlock..., not only at the local levels of government, but all the way up the trough through to the state and federal halls of justice. Too much time is spent on seeking re-election after re-election, after re-election..., no wonder nothing gets done? No wonder there is always a 50/50 vote on this and that bill of major importance. The house sends the bill to the senate, and the senate sends it back to the house with all types of red marks and pet projects and “pork barrel spending.” An arduous and obfuscatory task indeed. I suggest we band “dark money,” not only here in Lansing, Michigan..., but all over this great country of ours. If elected, Mr. Hutchinson will go about the people’s business making voting easier and not harder. Mr. Hutchinson believes in “publiclyfunded-elections.” We need reform.</p>	<p>I’d love to see any federal funds going towards, not only making, the State of Michigan and the rest of America..., see Lansing, Michigan as I do., as the most beautiful place in the World to live and raise a family. 70% will go towards eradicating poverty in our city and seeing to it that, there is a “chicken in every pot.” We want to put residents of Lansing first. First in hiring. First in all that Lansing, Michigan has to offer. We want people to feel home, and wanted, and loved. We want all our citizens to be able to walk with dignity and pride to live here. The remainder will go into a “rainy-day-fund.” I’d love to see any federal funds going towards, not only making, the State of Michigan and the rest of America..., see Lansing, Michigan as I do., as the most beautiful place in the World to live and raise a family. 70% will go towards eradicating poverty in our city and seeing to it that, there is a “chicken in every pot.” We want to put residents of Lansing first.</p>

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Andy Schor Occupation: Mayor of Lansing Email: andy@andyschor.com Website: andyschor.com Education: BA in Political Science & History from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor	<p>I am currently serving as the 52nd Mayor of Lansing. Under my leadership, Lansing has grown significantly. Lansing was named the number one affordable city to live in the US, as well as one of the top cities to live in after the COVID-19 pandemic. We have approximately \$2 billion in projects both completed and in progress, including the Capital City Market, the downtown hotel, new parks, and housing for all incomes. We also provided significant relief for small businesses and families while promoting safety through COVID-19 testing and vaccine centers.</p> <p>Racial justice and equity continue to remain a focus. I added the first social worker to a police department in Michigan, and have proposed three more. I also prohibited police pullovers for pretextual offenses such as broken tail-lights. I created racial bias training in our local government and increased transparency within LPD. My Racial Justice and Equity Alliance is a leading effort to ensure equity for all in Lansing.</p>	<p>I invite folks to view my plan (andyschor.com) for Lansing, which focuses on neighborhood revitalization, community and economic development, infrastructure and city services, equity, and regionalism. My administration will continue to create safe, walkable neighborhoods, ensure properties are safe for homeowners and renters, provide neighborhood grants, and more. We'll address legacy costs while fixing roads, sidewalks, and bridges, filling potholes, separating sewer and water pipes, and updating infrastructure. Lansing continues to attract development opportunities, helping our city grow with new businesses, restaurants, art, and facade improvement. Equity will continue to play a critical role in how we grow Lansing in housing, policing, social services, financial empowerment, and other areas. And I will further strengthen relationships with the Lansing School District, higher education, the State of Michigan, local governments, nonprofits, and others for the Greater Lansing Region.</p>	<p>The American Rescue Plan federal stimulus will allow Lansing to regain its financial footing investing in our community. The first traunch of dollars will be used to backfill the dollars that Lansing spent to help people during the pandemic. We will promote financial stability while examining partnerships with others for economic development, neighborhood work, vibrancy efforts, human services, rental and mortgage assistance, and other community needs.</p> <p>We are also working with Congresswoman Slotkin to bring in dollars for infrastructure for several of our corridors, and we will continue to use federal Emergency Service Grants for homelessness and other basic human needs. And we will use the federal economic development dollars for our Lansing CARES program, which will assist small businesses. I will continue to work on these priorities in my second term as Lansing's Mayor.</p>
Farhan Sheikh-Omar Occupation: No response Email: ofarhan27@yahoo.com Website: farhanforlansing.com Education: No response	<p>By so many measures, our city is weaker and less prosperous than it was four years ago. Our local government has been too disconnected from us for too long. Lansing needs a leader that listens to the needs of our community and stands with the people to find solutions. Farhan has always been a tireless advocate for families and communities who feel unheard and unseen. He will always protect public trust and manage from a place of integrity. Lansing desperately needs strong leadership from a mayor with vision, drive, and unquestionable personal integrity. Nine Black current and former city of Lansing employees are currently suing the city for racial discrimination and race-based retaliation. Moreover, the Hulon family has filed a lawsuit against the city for the wrongful death of Anthony Hulon. Farhan will usher in a new era in Lansing that provides bold leadership and puts the needs of Lansing residents first. He will unite and heal our community.</p>	<p>The level of crime in our city is unacceptable. We need to be creative and deploy community-led violence intervention programs to help target and disrupt gun violence. Farhan will secure more funding for community programs that protect at-risk youths. He will create a mobile crisis response unit; hire mental health counselors, social workers, and crisis deescalation professionals.</p> <p>Neighborhoods: Our community is suffering from systemic disinvestment. Lansing must develop thriving and livable neighborhoods with walkable sidewalks, affordable housing, and accessible transportation. We need sidewalks that provide pedestrians the opportunity to safely reach families, jobs, and local destinations on foot. Farhan will also address Covid-19, Lansing's unfunded pension and retiree healthcare liability, and homelessness.</p>	<p>We will use the federal stimulus funds to support vulnerable residents, public health, local services, social programs, and infrastructure.</p>

“We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate.”

— Thomas Jefferson

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<p>Patricia Spitzley</p> <p>Occupation: Director of Government Relations - RACER Trust</p> <p>Email: patriciaspitzley4lansing@gmail.com</p> <p>Website: patricia4lansing.com</p> <p>Education: BS CMU, JD MSU College of Law</p>	<p>I bring the experience of being a City Council At Large member for 6 years. I have served on various committees including Ways and Means, Public Safety, Development & Planning, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. I bring to the table the experience of working both i the public and private sector. I have balanced budgets and supervised staff. My career has focused on identifying the issues, working together with diverse groups to develop recommend-ed solutions and then implementing those solutions. My current career requires travel to a number of local communities similar to Lansing so I am uniquely qualified to assess challenges and bring forth solutions.</p>	<p>1. Transforming how we implement public safety - transformation of the way the police department interacts with the citizens of Lansing.</p> <p>2. Re-investing in neighborhoods 3.Providing support to neighborhood organizations and community groups currently working the the youth of the City to make sure they are able to continue their important work</p> <p>4. Bringing back confidence in City govern-ment - practicing transparency and account-ability in all aspects of city government</p> <p>5. Addressing long-term deficiencies in the City finances. Addressing material deficien-cies in the City's annual audit so we have a clear accounting of resources</p> <p>6. Continue to investigate ways to pay down the legacy costs for retirement and health-care</p>	<p>1. Addressing the loss income tax revenue</p> <p>2. Addressing critical infrastructure deficien-cies such as local roads</p> <p>3. Replace reserve “rainy day” funding depleted as a result of the pandemic</p> <p>4. Providing assistance to Lansing residents by way of rental assistance, food assistance, utility assistance</p> <p>5. Upgrading City offices to make sure they are safely opened.</p>

LANSING CITY COUNCIL - AT LARGE • Non-partisan • Term - 4 years • Vote for 2

The eight-member Lansing City Council is the legislative and policy-making body for city government. Elections are held in odd-numbered years and four members are elected at-large and four represent wards. They serve staggered four-year terms. The Lansing City Council sets policies, approves budgets, determines tax rates and adopts ordinances and resolutions to gov-ern the city. The council also confirms citizen volunteers to a number of boards and advisory posts.

	What special qualifications do you bring to the role as a member of the Lansing City Council?	What issues do you want to address, if you are elected to the Council?	What do you see as the priorities for how Lansing utilizes the federal stimulus funds?
<p>Linda D. Appling</p> <p>Occupation: Retired</p> <p>Email: drwho721@yahoo.com</p> <p>Website: No response</p> <p>Education: No response</p>	<p>Up on graduating from Michigan State University, I choose to make Lansing my home. I have lived here for 40 years and been active in a number of areas. I am President of The Lansing Eaton Neighborhood organization. I am a member of the Citizens Climate Lobby. I previously served on the Cities Memorable Review board. I also served on the Board of what is now called the Eaton County Health and Rehabilitation Services. As a Council Person I will serve as a trusted steward of the public's financial,environmental,social,and physical resources.My goal will be to pro-vide affordable, high-quality city services, responsive accessible local government and ensure all persons have the opportunity to enjoy being a part of the Lansing communi-ty.</p>	<p>A key component to people working is being able to get to the job. Public trans- portation needs to address this issue. Education needs to recognize that college is not the only way to advance. Greater emphasis should be given to skilled trades. Issues involving public safety need to be addressed. Public safety involves police and their actions under stress. Police must be held accountable for their behavior. The increased episodes of violence by individu-als should be addressed. The public should feel safe walking down their street, stand- ing in front of their house, and having their child outside. New affordable housing stock needs to be developed. Homelessness should be addressed.</p>	<p>Funds should be used to address the impact of Covid -19 relief to residents. Enhanced broadband services should be provided. Gyms should be open for evening basket- ball. Students should be provided with tutor- ing to help overcome problems associated with Covid-19. Money should be allotted for new housing stock. City monetary reserves should be increased.</p>

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Grant M Blood II Occupation: Safety & Security Professional Email: votegblood@gmail.com Website: No response Education: No response	I have worked as a Safety & Security Professional in the Lansing area for almost 14 years, 10 with Peckham Inc. and 2 with MSUFCU. In my career at both organizations, I have specialized in security design, CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), De-Escalation tactics and active violence response training. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree from Ferris State University in Criminal Justice and multiple safety and security professional certifications. I am the current young professionals' liaison with the ASIS (American Society for Industrial Security) Mid-Michigan Chapter and an active member in numerous other security groups. I believe that my knowledge of criminal justice and de-escalation could be invaluable as well as my knowledge as a project manager in large scale construction projects and other corporate projects I have taken a lead role in.	The lack of trust between the public and law enforcement is a top issue. There is an outcry by the Lansing citizens for extreme change to the criminal justice system and law enforcement. If we work together as a community to find alternatives to defunding and look more at reallocation or reorganization of law enforcement we could have a very positive outcome. I plan to work with our County leaders on the development of a Metropolitan law enforcement agency that would absorb all agencies within the county of Ingham and thus creating an agency that is run by an elected position (Sherriff). This extreme measure would force officers at the agencies that are absorbed to reapply for positions within this newly formed department, and this would free money up for the city of Lansing for more social service programs with the wages that were used on Police.	Lansing should be using all Federal Stimulus money on what is needed most by the community. There are different issues that could be addressed, but it will be my job as a city council person to listen to those constituents and allocate where it is needed most.
Jeffrey Brown Occupation: Business Owner Email: vote@jeffreybrown-forlansingcitycouncil.com Website: No response Education: No response	I bring a listening ear, problemsolving mentality, a desire to work collaboratively, and most importantly, a love for our community. I want nothing more than to see our city grow and prosper in the years to come. Being a business owner, I understand the importance of seeing the big picture and identifying serious and wide-reaching problems, however, I also know that helping to solve what some may consider as smaller and less significant issues can have a tremendous impact on people.	Addressing our unfunded legacy costs and increasing revenues are critical to many of the needs in our city. Many have been working on reducing legacy costs, but this is a challenge that remains and deserves our full attention and effort. Increasing revenues by creating new jobs, encouraging businesses to open and stay in our city, attracting and retaining residents, and making Lansing the strongest and most dynamic Lansing it can be is paramount. These revenues translate to helping solve problems in neighborhoods and enhancing our commercial corridors and districts. Neighborhoods, their sustainability, and attractive and diverse corridors and districts are what make Lansing unique. Whether we are working to improve the housing stock, fixing streets and sidewalks, maintaining neighborhood parks, or improving the corridors that are entrances into our neighborhoods, we must be relentless as we work collaboratively to address these aspects of our community.	I wish I, as a private citizen or as a Council Member, had the ability to determine how to spend the federal stimulus funds. Unfortunately, I don not. The U.S. Treasury Department is determining how these funds can be spent. They cannot be used to pay down legacy costs, nor should we use them to hire more employees, which is a long-term cost, without revenue to sustain the positions. These funds are one-time stimulus dollars and must be used by 2024. Infrastructure is an allowable expenditure and we should look to improving our roads and sewer system. It is my understanding that the City is reviewing these options now. As for the State stimulus dollars of approximately \$6 million, I believe the City should consider a onetime payment into the Retiree Health Care fund that would help to decrease legacy costs and ensure that those who gave so much to this city are taken care of well into their senior years.
Claretta Duckett-Freeman Occupation: Firefighter-EMT Email: clarettaforlansing@gmail.com	I am a member of the working poor. I do not volunteer for my people but with my people. I have suffered shut offs and foreclosures, food insecurity and discrimination. I've worked low paying jobs. I'm a veteran, a mother of 5 children in Lansing Public School District and a college graduate of Michigan State University. I've had many experiences that help me connect to different types of people. I've listened to those	I would like to address discrimination and sexual harassment being allowed in places of employment. I would like to address eroding rights of workers in the city of Lansing. I would like to address gentrification. I would like to address the defunding of the city police and funding community needs. I would like to address creating space for citizens to make direct decisions and have	The small local businesses in Lansing that suffered losses should get relief using the federal stimulus funds.
See next page			

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Claretta Duckett-Freeman, continued Website: No response Education: No response	who suffer things I don't and I believe people should be allowed to speak for themselves. I'm not middle class and I'm not afraid of losing what I have to stand up for what is right. I've served on the Michigan Board of Licensed Midwifery and Willow Tree Family Center but I'm most at home being amongst my people. I look forward to the day we can all enjoy liberation from oppression.	direct control of funding. I would like to address the police focusing on solving murders and no longer overpatrolling our streets. I would like to address corporations investing into the southside and westside of Lansing. I would like to address legacy costs and valuing our city workers.	
Linda Keefe Occupation: Substitute Teacher Email: keefeight@gmail.com Website: No response Education: No response	Serving as a county commissioner in Ingham and Eaton counties, as well as extensive experience in nonprofits, gives me the edge in making Lansing a more equitable, prosperous and sustainable city. When the Lansing Public Library was set to close, I enlisted fellow commissioners and the city of Lansing, and we created the Capital Area District Library (CADL). Our county's housing commission applied for HUD's Section 8 housing vouchers after I informed them of the opportunity. When Eaton County's only Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site was set to close, I opened and ran the site. As executive director for Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems, Michigan Alcohol Policy honored me with their Advocate of the Year award in 2012 for my work opposing the deregulation of Michigan's Liquor Control Board.	Ending systemic racism by meeting with, and following the guidance of, those most affected by racism is a top priority. I want to create an environment of inclusion in which all groups are represented and treated equitably. I support restructuring the police budget by taking some of the money, and some of the responsibilities, away from the police and giving it to people who are uniquely qualified and have the tools to deal with non-law enforcement issues. Addressing issues that impact the most vulnerable is top priority. Families should not suffer an electricity shutoff, as do about 17,000 Lansing residents each year. I am advocating for a Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) where low-income families pay about 5% of their monthly income on their electric and 5% on their heat. Lansing's most cash strapped citizens could benefit from this program that has been successful in eight other states. I intend to address all issues in an inclusive, equitable and sustainable way.	Rebuilding a stronger, more equitable economy while addressing the systemic public health and economic challenges of low-income communities and people of color in Lansing is a primary goal. Constituents should be engaged in developing these plans to assist households, businesses, and non-profits that have been most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Assistance to households may include food, rent or mortgage assistance, and utility assistance. Loans or grants may be given to small businesses and nonprofits to mitigate the revenue losses suffered during the pandemic.
Peter Spadafore Occupation: City Council Member At-Large and Deputy Executive Director, Michigan Association of Superintendents & Administrators Email: peter@peterspadafore.com Website: No response Education: No response	I have a long track record of making a difference in the city of Lansing. As President of the Lansing School Board, I led the district to a successful school bond issue in 2016 – taxpayers voted for hundreds of millions of dollars to be invested in our local schools under my leadership. I have put the same passion to work for our city during my first term on the Lansing City Council, working toward better governance and inclusive growth for all residents. I have been recognized as a leader and consensus builder by my colleagues on City Council, having been elected Vice President my second year and serving two terms as President, navigating Council through the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual meetings, and unprecedented financial challenges. I believe my leadership skills, my ability to listen and build consensus, and my experience in my first term qualify me for a second term on the City Council.	I believe we must continue to work toward better governance and collaboration, particularly in the context of recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. While mask mandates and gathering restrictions will soon be behind us, the impact of the virus will continue to be felt by our residents and our region. We need to work together to build a better recovery and that collaboration begins on Council. I also want to focus on shared economic opportunity. While hotels, grocery stores and breweries are a part of our economic development strategy, they are not the only part. We need to ensure economic opportunity reaches every neighborhood in our city, benefits all residents, and supports small businesses.	The major priority for Lansing's federal stimulus funds must be the continuation of essential city services. As a city that hosts so many visitors during the work day, we have been uniquely challenged by work from home orders. From parking revenue to income tax revenue, the City has taken a major hit. The federal stimulus dollars that have been sent to Lansing to plug those holes will go a long way to stabilizing the bottom line and ensuring that residents are well served. We are constrained by federal law on how these dollars may be used, but as more clarity comes from Washington, we can look to expand how those funds are used.

2021 Nonpartisan City of Lansing Primary Election Voter Guide

	What special qualifications do you bring to the role as a member of the Lansing City Council?	What issues do you want to address, if you are elected to the Council?	What do you see as the priorities for how Lansing utilizes the federal stimulus funds?
<p>D. Taft</p> <p>Occupation: Founder of Mitttown Made</p> <p>Email: dtaft@votedtaft.com</p> <p>Website: No response</p> <p>Education: No response</p>	<p>Lansing City Council would benefit from my role as a member because I think open-minded which allows me to honestly explore all sides of issues. I'm a true independent that likes to consider all perspectives and truly believes that we; including my opponents want what is best for the City of Lansing and it's residents but have different ideals to accomplish this. I've been on both sides of the tracks and have worked and lived around rich and poor, black and white and those in between. This experience has revealed to me that we as human beings share more in common than we often realize. I will find common ground as much as possible and agree to disagree when it's not.</p>	<p>Public Safety is the main issue because crimes are effecting all of our residents by creating fear and panic that impact our physical, mental and financial health. I want all residential streets to have working LED lighting at night. I will call on the community to take responsibility by implementing operation, "Tell the Truth" which will counter the Stop Snitching culture that plaques our community. I will compartmentalize the Police Department creating specialized units and task forces that will focus on gangs and social media activity. I will implement operation, "Peace before War" that will work towards creating truce(s) thru alternative dispute resolution. I will implement operation, "Clean Streets" that will work with our shelters and homeless residents to stop the panhandling and littering on our city streets.</p>	<p>The federal stimulus funds should be utilized from the bottom up to create a flea market and swap meet where local residents and vendors can buy, sell and trade goods and services.</p>
<p>Rachel R. Willis</p> <p>Occupation: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director of Division of Child Welfare Licensing</p> <p>Email: friendsofrachellewis@gmail.com</p> <p>Website: No response</p> <p>Education: No response</p>	<p>I am running for Lansing City Council because Lansing is my hometown. I believe that Lansing is a city where anyone can succeed. I have dedicated the past 9 years to serving on the Lansing School District Board of Education because I am passionately driven to act as a positive influence for the students of the Lansing School District. I am who I am because of the opportunities afforded to me in this community, and I see that glimmer of hope and optimism slipping away from folks in the community. 2020 was a rough year for everyone, I am running for city council because I see this as an opportunity to use my skills, knowledge and passion to build cohesion, collaboration and success for the city and its citizens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Master of Art, Social Work, May 2015•Bachelor of Science: Family Community Services, August 2010•Bachelor of Art: Psychology, August 2010 <p>Community Involvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Lansing School District Board of Education- 2012- Present•Capital Region Community Foundation 2014-2020	<p>My top priorities are- in no particular order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic Development- this includes supporting/sustaining existing business and bringing in more diverse economic drivers, this lead to goal of financial stability• Community cohesion and collaboration- this includes addressing the divide between the community and police, support of local public schools, health, welfare and community wellbeing through quality services. o I would include placemaking in this goal• People over politics- the wellbeing of people and the community should take precedence over any individual political motivations- we need to hear from the community and govern in a way that makes people feel valued and heard <p>If successful in my campaign, I plan to attain my top priorities by working with my colleagues on the council to assess the programs that we already have in place and determine what is working and what may needs to change. I welcome the voice of the business community into each step of my process.</p>	<p>As difficult as it is, the City needs to comb back through some legacy cost/encumbered expenses that were designed to be sustained with a tax base that no longer existthere are two options to close the gap, eliminate the expenses or earn the revenue to cover the expenses. We need to take a deep look at real, tangible revenue options that do not include increases taxes. The use of federal stimulus funds could be used to allow the city to fund immediate tangible needs for the city that address support the employment opportunities for citizens. Stable employment and income opportunities leads to stable health and wellbeing, which leads to stable education, which leads to stable long-term success. Supporting employment opportunities could mean a lot things from grants, infrastructure investments, stipends and other incentives to employee individuals.</p>

League of Women Voters Mission, Vision, and Value

Mission: Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

Vision: We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

Value: We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

Join the League of Women Voters of the Lansing area by visiting

<https://www.lwvlansing.org/join-lwv>

2021 Nonpartisan City of Lansing Primary Election Voter Guide

LANSING CITY COUNCIL - 2ND WARD • Non-partisan • Term - 4 years • Vote for 2

The eight-member Lansing City Council is the legislative and policy-making body for city government. Elections are held in odd-numbered years and four members are elected at-large and four represent wards. They serve staggered four-year terms. The Lansing City Council sets policies, approves budgets, determines tax rates and adopts ordinances and resolutions to govern the city. The council also confirms citizen volunteers to a number of boards and advisory posts.

<p>Jeremy A. Garza</p> <p>Occupation: Union plumber</p> <p>Email: garzaforcouncil@gmail.com</p> <p>Website: votejeremygarza.com</p> <p>Education: Sexton High school graduate; five-year LCC Plumber/ Pipefitter apprenticeship program graduate; five-year UA Instructors Training Program at Washtenaw Community College</p>	<p>I'm not a typical politician. I'm a union plumber with a young family, and I'm committed to improving the quality of life for South Lansing families, seniors and children. I've represented 2nd Ward residents on the Lansing City Council since 2018. I'm running for re-election to continue serving as a strong voice for working families, who far too often are overlooked by politicians and special interests. I was born and raised in Lansing, the son of a UAW General Motors worker. My wife, Alicia, is a registered nurse at McLaren Greater Lansing, and we've lived in the 2nd Ward for nearly 20 years.</p>	<p>I'm a strong advocate for getting back to basics and spending taxpayer dollars wisely on infrastructure improvements that improve the quality of life for everyone. We must invest in South Lansing's priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">—Fixing our roads—Improving public safety—Maintaining our parks—Cleaning up our neighborhoods. <p>I'm also working hard to create good-paying jobs for local residents. For example, wealthy developers receiving city tax incentives should be required to give local workers the first shot at any jobs that their own tax dollars help create — and those jobs must provide workers a living wage and dignity at work.</p>	<p>I'm looking forward to moving past the pandemic and putting people back to work. Over the course of the pandemic, Lansing has lost many small businesses, which are the backbone of our local economy. Helping save our small businesses and helping them rebuild will be our biggest challenge on the City Council. The federal government has appropriated a lot of money, both to cities directly and to programs that support small businesses. I'm committed to making sure that those funds are spent wisely, and that our small business owners and local workers get access to any and all types of relief that are available to them.</p>
<p>Oprah Revish</p> <p>Occupation: LGBTQA+ Inclusion Educator</p> <p>Email: info@voteoprah4ward2.com</p> <p>Website: voteoprah4ward2.com</p> <p>Education: University of Arizona- Bachelor's Degree Major: Creative Writing Minor: Linguistics; University of Kansas- Master's Degree Degree: Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration</p>	<p>I have been working in higher education for 16 years. As an educator, I believe in each person's ability to change and grow. This requires patience and persistence and the belief that we can do better. I am qualified to educate my colleagues on the City Council and Lansing citizens about inequity and to uplift the voices of folks experiencing homelessness, our elderly, refugee populations, LGBTQIA+ communities, and people marginalized by their racial identity. I am ready to have hard conversations and to be solution oriented.</p>	<p>Once I am elected, I plan to meet regularly with Ward 2 citizens so that I can speak knowledgeably about their concerns. I want to reimagine Ward 2 with the people who call it home like I do. I will ensure Ward 2 streets and parks are upgraded and maintained regularly. We need to divest from the police and invest in our communities. I plan to work using research and working with community members to be proactive in our public safety. Divesting from the police means we can put money into our schools to ensure students have access to technology and experiences that grow their minds.</p>	<p>I would love to see Lansing utilize the federal stimulus funds to change the lives of our most marginalized citizens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Free Childcare-Will allow parents and guardians to work without having the majority of their income go to childcare.-Housing People-We could easily renovate vacant buildings into shelter and give people the opportunity to change their lives.-Free Healthcare Clinic (Carefree Clinic)- If someone gets sick or feels pain, they should not have to decide between paying their rent and seeking medical care.-More Robust Community Mental Health Programs-Upgrades to CATA stations and bus stops

2021 Nonpartisan City of Lansing Primary Election Voter Guide

<p>Nicklas Zande</p> <p>Occupation: Election Inspector</p> <p>Email: nwzande@gmail.com</p> <p>Website: nwzande.wixsite.com/picknickforsouthside</p> <p>Education: Wexford Montessori Academy Everett High School Lansing Community College</p>	<p>I have spent my upperclassman years in YMCA's Youth in Government, I have written bills to varying success. I have also served as a delegate for the Ingham County Democratic Party, and have fought for progressive policy ideas. I've also served in the Lansing City Clerk's Office as both a volunteer and an Election Inspector all throughout my high school years, and have voted in every single election I was eligible to vote in.</p>	<p>First and foremost, I want to address the city's ever-increasing police budget, and how it's negatively affecting our city. It currently takes up more than 1/4 of our city budget. Housing, which is way more important than public safety, as it gives people a place to live, takes up only 1% of the budget. So, therefore, the police budget needs to be cut by 45%, and that money must be distributed evenly to other departments, including the DNCE. I also want to change the city charter, making it legal for the City Council to kick out Councilmembers who have rendered themselves obnoxious.</p>	<p>I think increasing spending for the DNCE is a first priority, since it takes up the lowest share of the City Budget, at just 1%. I also think it's important to spend more money on infrastructure, and on social programs. Because they have been cut significantly thanks to the city's ever-increasing police budget. Using federal money for other departments will officially cancel it out, and will make us rely less and less on policing over the years, to the point it becomes irrelevant. If the city decides to use it entirely for policing, then the problem will be so much worse, and we'll be in a fascistic state. And.....</p>
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How can I vote?

In Person:

- Election Day is Tuesday, August 3, 2021
 - Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time.
- You have the right to vote if you are in line by 8 p.m.

Absentee Ballot:

- Directions are inside and at www.VOTE411.org



*Who is eligible to vote?

- A United States citizen
- A Michigan resident (at the time you register)
and a resident of your city or township for at least 30 days (when you vote)
- At least 18 years of age (when you vote)
- Not currently serving a sentence in jail or prison

*To ensure accuracy, voting information has been copied with only minimal editing from the Michigan Secretary of State's website