

**VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION**  
**CITY OF SYLVAN LAKE**

**Tuesday, November 6, 2018**  
**POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OAKLAND AREA**

Website: [www.lwvoa.org](http://www.lwvoa.org)      E-mail: [contact@lwvoa.org](mailto:contact@lwvoa.org)      Phone: 248-594-6602

**Go to [www.LWVOA.org](http://www.LWVOA.org) and Click on ‘Candidate Forums’ for 9/17 forum information.**

**5 Candidates for CITY COUNCIL for THREE 4-year terms**

<p><b>CANDIDATES for CITY COUNCIL</b></p> <p><i>THREE 4-year terms Vote for no more than THREE</i></p>	<p><b>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</b></p> <p><b>Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for City Council, including relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</b></p>	<p><b>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</b></p> <p><b>What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your city and what actions would you, as a city official, take regarding each of them?</b></p>
<p><b>BEN CLARKE</b> 1520 Benvenue Sylvan Lake, MI 48320</p>	<p>My name is Ben Clarke and I am 34. I grew up in West Bloomfield, MI. I graduated from Brother Rice High School. I have a Bachelors in Sociology from Oakland University. In 2007, I purchased a house in Sylvan Lake on Benvenue. My wife Jessica and I have 2 children (Hendrik, 10 and Colette, 7). Jessica is on the Sylvan Lake Parks and Rec. committee and a PTO president at Roosevelt Elementary. In 2010, I opened People Skate and Snowboard, a retail store in Keego Harbor. I regularly attend council meetings and volunteer at parks and rec. events.</p> <p>Running a small business and family has made me judicious and adaptable. I wear a lot of hats. Sales has taught me how to listen to individual needs and be empathetic. Marketing has taught me the importance of communication. We all “sell” ideas. It is important to build trust and work hard to maintain that trust. In the current retail climate, it is imperative that you communicate clearly and create a great customer experience or you will not last.</p>	<p>We need young residents involved in local politics now. In the not too distant future, the torch will be passed. We need to learn the process and keep the council running smoothly. As a local business owner and a Sylvan Lake advocate ensures I will be here for the long haul.</p> <p>Sylvan Lake City Council needs to have a more forward-facing interactive public voice. I have grown up with the internet and social media being an ever present part of life. It's a wonderful tool to communicate and when used correctly, can strengthen community, build awareness and trust. I will work to improve communication.</p> <p>We need to hire a qualified police chief who can enhance our well-being and safety through a community policing model. Voters have unanimously supported our local police and it is imperative we have a chief at the helm who understands our unique community. Having an academic background in Sociology provides me with perspective on social theory relative to policing and will prove valuable.</p>
<p><b>BRIAN D. ETTER</b> 2043 Pontiac Dr. Sylvan Lake, MI 48320</p>	<p><b>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</b></p>	

**CITY OF SYLVAN LAKE (Continued)**

<p><b>CANDIDATES for CITY COUNCIL</b></p> <p><i>THREE 4-year terms Vote for no more than THREE</i></p>	<p><b>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</b></p> <p><b>Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for City Council, including relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</b></p>	<p><b>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</b></p> <p><b>What are the top 3 Priority Issues facing your city and what actions would you, as a city official, take regarding each of them?</b></p>
<p><b>STEVEN PETERSEN</b> 1565 Lakeview Sylvan Lake, MI 48320</p>	<p><b>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</b></p>	
<p><b>JOSEPH SALEMI</b> 1359 Avondale Sylvan Lake, MI 48320</p>	<p>As a 18 year resident of Sylvan Lake, I believe in the concept of giving back to the community. In addition, I believe it is the right time for a new outlook and perspective. As a business leader and previous business owner, I am particularly interested in the long term and sustainable growth of our city, fiscal responsibility and general safety of our community. I am confident to be one of five decision makers, who develop the future for our community, ensure its alignment with our core values, and support the vision that all citizens of Sylvan Lake have for the future of our city.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Government must live within its means, and I am committed supporting that model. Balanced budgets, paying down debt, prioritizing services and reducing legacy costs - I will support these priorities to keep Sylvan Lake fiscally sound.</li> <li>2. Water - Our city has seen significant increases in our water bills over the last few years. Many residents, including our retired and senior resident have voiced their concerns over the continuing rise in cost.</li> <li>3. City Services - I have spoken to many who are concerned about our roads and current city services which seem to have been lacking. Sylvan Lake residents enjoy many wonderful services however do not appreciate when paid services are not fulfilled by the city.</li> </ol>

## CITY OF SYLVAN LAKE (Continued)

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<b>MICHAEL ZUBRZYCKI</b> 2160 Avondale Sylvan Lake, MI 48320	<p>I was born in Michigan, attended public schools, earned a bachelor’s degree from Central Michigan University, a master’s degree from Wayne State University and have been working in the automotive industry ever since. My professional career spans multiple business disciplines; including Finance, Information Technology, Human Resources and Employee Benefits and Strategy. This broad-based experience gives me a unique perspective when addressing the challenges facing the City of Sylvan Lake.</p> <p>I was first elected to City Council in November 2008, was Mayor in 2012, and previously served on Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Committee. During my time on City Council, I have gained the knowledge necessary to read governmental accounting documents and make recommendations that ensure Sylvan Lake operates with a balanced budget. My wife and I have lived here for 24 years, and we both agree that there is no better place than Sylvan Lake to live and raise our two children</p>	<p>Sylvan Lake is a great community, and I will work hard to make sure residents continue to receive the highest level of public service while maintaining a balanced budget. It is also important to recognize that the City has an obligation to all residents, from children to seniors regardless of their economic standing.</p> <p>My priorities will be focused in the areas of public safety, infrastructure (roads, water and sewer) and quality of life amenities (including the waterfront and parks). Because each resident may place a different value on each of the aforementioned public services, I am open to considering alternative viewpoints and will execute my civic duties with the highest level of integrity.</p> <p>With your vote, we can work together to help keep Sylvan Lake great!</p>

**THERE IS 1 PROPOSAL ON THE BALLOT.**

<b>CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSAL 1</b>	<p>Shall the Charter be amended to delete Sections 13.5(b) and 13.5(c), which currently allow the levy of millages in the amount of 1.8711 mills and 4.6778 mills, respectively, and replace them with a new Section 13.5(b) establishing a single new additional millage of 7.0 mills for public safety purposes, from 2019 to 2028 inclusive? It is estimated that if levied, 7.0 mills would raise approximately \$662,970 when first levied in 2019. This would be in place of the approximately \$620,246 that the two millages being repealed would have raised. The City’s other Charter authority to levy taxes would be unaffected.</p>
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