

VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE – District 48
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 **E-mail:** contact@lwvoa.org **Phone:** 248-594-6602

Go to www.LWVOA.org and click on ‘Voter Guides’ then scroll down to ‘Judges’ for a link to additional candidate responses on www.OCBA.org website.

Go to www.LWVOA.org and Click on ‘Candidate Forums’ for 10/10 forum information.

2 Candidates for DISTRICT JUDGE for ONE 6-year Term; *Vote for no more than ONE*
District 48 includes the Charter Townships of Bloomfield and West Bloomfield and the Cities of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake Village and Sylvan Lake.

<p>Question 1: Summarize your biography, including your education (degrees conferred, colleges and law school), career and employment experience, elected offices held, community service activity, organizational affiliations, and other pertinent information. (Word Limit=125)</p>	<p>Question 2: Describe the general nature of your law practice or other legal work you have done, the typical clients you have represented, areas of specialty or concentration, and the geographic region of your practice. (Word Limit = 125)</p>	<p>Question 3: Why should voters elect (or re-elect) you to judicial office; what qualities (e.g. temperament, diligence, etc.) and experiences do you have that commend you to the judicial office you seek? (Word Limit = 125)</p>
<p>DIANE D'AGOSTINI</p> <p>Elected in 2000 as a District Judge and reelected in 2006 and 2012. Graduated cum laude from Detroit College of Law, presently Michigan State University College of Law. As a Judge, I have made rulings at criminal arraignments, preliminary examinations, sentencing, evidentiary hearings, bench trials, jury trials, civil motions and trials, probation violation hearings, traffic infractions, performed weddings and am on call 24 hours a day for search warrants, totaling thousands of cases over the last 18 years.</p> <p>I am actively involved with our children and teens by teaching them about the dangers of substance abuse and hosting field trips to court.</p> <p>Please go to www.votejudgediane.com for more information.</p>	<p>As a Chief District Judge, I preside over criminal, civil, landlord-tenant and traffic cases and make daily rulings on criminal cases involving drugs, drunk driving, assault, domestic violence, theft, embezzlement, etc. and civil cases up to \$25,000. I have managed the Court’s budget and staff, in addition to presiding over a court that has had filings of approximately 33,000-54,000 cases yearly.</p>	<p>Dear Neighbor,</p> <p>Eighteen years ago, I came to you seeking your trust and confidence in electing me as your District Judge. I told you that I would follow the law and rule fairly, hold criminal offenders accountable, and I would build partnerships with our schools to educate our kids about the dangers of substance abuse and consequences for bad choices. I have been tireless in my mission to keep kids away from the grips of drug addiction thru my court programs. I am uplifted by the many examples of recovery that I witness thru my court ordered drug and alcohol treatment sentencing. Additionally, my work as Chief Judge has saved taxpayers in excess of \$1.7 million. I hope to maintain your trust again as I seek reelection.</p> <p>Diane D’Agostini, Chief Judge-48th District Court</p>

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE - District 48 (Continued)

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<p>AMY WECHSLER</p> <p>I earned my BA at University of Michigan-Dearborn and JD at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. While in law school, I interned at the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office and Attorney General’s Office Abuse and Neglect Division. I also interned/clerked for a Judge.</p> <p>In 2000, I opened my own law practice, handling a variety of cases. From 2003- 2005, I worked for Neil Rockind as an associate attorney. I went back to private practice in 2005 - Present.</p> <p>I am helping to spread the addiction treatment program, Hope Not Handcuffs across Oakland County. This volunteer-based program assists local police departments in helping their addicted citizens receive treatment.</p> <p>I am a licensed commercial real estate broker. I draft and negotiate purchase agreements and leases.</p>	<p>I specialize in adult and juvenile criminal defense, handling both misdemeanors and low-level felony cases. I also serve as a court appointed attorney guardian (LGAL), protecting the interests of children in abuse and neglect cases. I primarily practice in courts across Oakland County.</p> <p>I primarily represent people with addictions, especially those addicted to opioids and heroin. I am a strong supporter of treatment court programs, as an alternative to jail, for the health and welfare of our community. Currently, the 48th District Court does not have any treatment programs that are certified and monitored by the State of Michigan. These programs are proven to reduce recidivism rates, increase the likelihood of sobriety increase employment, and they save taxpayers money.</p>	<p>My broad range of experience has given me the unique understanding that there has to be a balance between being tough and being compassionate. It is not the role of the Judiciary to be an extension of the prosecutor's office or the police department. Likewise, judges are not defense attorneys and must hold people accountable for their actions. It is imperative that a judge applies the law in a fair, unbiased and impartial manner with the community foremost in mind. Because the needs of our community are constantly changing, judges must be willing to adapt to those changing needs, and not be set in their ways. I have the experience, leadership, and passion to be that judge.</p>

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan national organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party. Candidate responses are included as submitted and have not been edited except in cases where the replies have exceeded the stated word limitations. **Spelling and Grammar were not corrected.** The inclusion of candidates’ statements and opinions is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters which takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by the candidates.