

**VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION
BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**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 ‘Candidate Forums’ for 10/24 forum information.

7 Candidates for School District Board Member for THREE 6-year terms

<p>CANDIDATES for SCHOOL BOARD</p> <p>THREE 6-year terms Vote for no more than THREE</p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for School Board and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position that you are running for.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top three (3) Priority Issues facing your school district and what actions would you take to address them if elected to the school board?</p>
<p>LORY DOLAN 19053 Riverside Dr. Beverly Hills, MI 48025</p>	<p>I have been an attorney for 25 years and, for the majority of those years, I advised Boards of Directors for governmental entities on various legal issues. In addition, I was the Beverly Elementary School PTA President, Berkshire Middle School Co-President, District PTA Vice-President, Education Council Member, member of a number of additional committees for BPS, and The ARC of Oakland County Board Member. I believe that my experience as an attorney along with my years of volunteer work with the District make me uniquely qualified to be a member of the Board of Education. As an attorney, I have learned how to use my advocacy skills to further my clients’ goals. In addition, over the years I have had the pleasure of working with BPS parent groups, administrators and teachers, all working together to provide our children with the best education, facilities, and resources available. As a Board Member, I would combine my legal background and District service together to achieve the best results for the entire BPS community.</p>	<p>I believe the top three priorities for Birmingham Public Schools are addressing the deficit, addressing equity in learning, and providing a clear instructional plan across all subject matter areas on how to best educate all children. Since 2009, the state has been diverting money from K-12 education to community colleges and universities. Without the necessary funding, school districts often must eliminate programming, which clearly affects student learning. Moreover, it is difficult to attract and retain talent absent funding to compensate teachers appropriately. Electing officials that prioritize K-12 education and the funding of K-12 education would help BPS address the deficit, achievement issues and equity in learning. In addition, the district needs a clear instructional plan. Particularly, the district’s position regarding honors level classes needs clarity and consistency, including an initiative to increase the number of students from under- represented student populations in honors and AP courses.</p>

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS (Continued)

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<p>AMY HOCHKAMMER 1504 Birmingham Blvd. Birmingham, MI 48009</p>	<p>I have a BA in English from Lawrence University in Appleton, WI. I've lived in Birmingham with my husband and two children for more than 20 years. I am an enthusiastic volunteer and my experience extends throughout BPS and the broader Birmingham community. I have served on numerous BPS School PTA boards including as President of the BPS PTA Council (2017-2018), President of Seaholm High School PTA (2015-2017), and as Legislative Chair of Derby Middle School PTA (2013-2014). I am currently Co-President of Seaholm Offers Support (SOS). Within the wider community, I have been a member of the Birmingham Family YMCA Board of Managers since 2007 and I served as Chair of the Board in 2013-2014. My volunteer career began with the Junior League of Birmingham in 1997 where I served in various positions. I believe my 20 plus years of experience as a community volunteer provides me with unique insight into the people and values that are present in our community. It is my goal to continue to promote those values within Birmingham Public Schools by serving on the Board of Education.</p>	<p>Fiscal Responsibility – I would ensure that the board approves a balanced budget and I would pledge to hold administration accountable to that budget, thereby minimizing fiscal year-end deficits.</p> <p>School Safety – I would research and vote to adopt emergency plans that are age and building specific to ensure that students, staff and parents believe in the safety of our public schools.</p> <p>Curriculum Review Process - I would mandate that all curriculum changes be researched thoroughly and beta tested in multiple settings prior to being rolled out. In addition, any curriculum changes adopted need to be in alignment with the goals of the district's strategic plan.</p>

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<p>MIKE LEWIS 944 Kennesaw St. Birmingham, MI 48009</p>	<p>I have two kids in the district. My wife is a public school teacher. I am general counsel for a non-profit that helps families save money for college or trade school. Education is one of the focal points of my life. I can't think of a better way to harness all of that energy than to run for the school board. I believe in public service. Good people have to step up and serve. It's just that simple, and right now I figure it's my turn to take a swing. My legal background fits nicely with the job because there are tricky legislative issues that all school districts will have to grapple with in the years ahead. I think I'm pretty good at figuring out complicated problems and I know I'll be able to work well with my colleagues on the board because I enjoy working in groups to find solutions. There is a lot of talent on the board but we are also losing a lot of talent this time around. I think it's important that voters identify candidates like myself who want to serve out of a sense of obligation - not because they have a grievance to air. There's a big difference.</p>	<p>Teacher retention, community outreach and competition. Remarkably, even destination districts like Birmingham are losing teachers. This is unacceptable. It is difficult to maintain continuity in a school district when teachers are coming in and out of a revolving door. We have to do whatever we can to find and keep top talent. We should be able to do that in a district as attractive as BPS. Teachers are the lifeblood of a school. We have to pay them fairly and support them. Otherwise, the talent drain will continue. We also have to do a better job of engaging the community. Many parents are upset about the integrated math program when they should't be. The roll out was weak; the program, however, is good. It takes a long view and I think that's the right approach with education. Finally, BPS is surrounded by many strong parochial/private schools. There is a lot of competition here. We have to continue to grow as a district in order to stay one step ahead. Public schools are the glue that holds communities together. If we grow, we know we're on the right track.</p>

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<p>NICOLE MCKINNEY P. O. Box 760586 Lathrup Village, MI 48076-9998</p>	<p>I am a nonprofit professional with more than 20 years experience. In my current role at United Way, I connect businesses with schools to provide students with college readiness and career exploration opportunities. I have been an active member of the PTA as Legislative Chair, Room Parent Co-Chair, Gator Fundraising Committee, and other activities in the District. In June of this year, Beaumont Teen Health Center-River Rouge named an award in my honor, "The McKinney Award", for helping to establish a school-based health center. I have served on several nonprofit boards, and hold a master's degree in business administration. I am a graduate of the Detroit Regional Chamber Leadership Detroit Class XXXVI (2016). I am also a proud mother of a student in the district. I have been endorsed by State Representative, Jeremy Moss, who is a graduate of Groves High School.</p> <p>I'm running for the school board because I have a proven track record working with youth as a long-time advocate, and my experience closely aligns with the role of a Trustee, to ensure academic success for all students.</p>	<p>As a school district, our first priority should be to provide a quality education to all students and prepare them for the future as they transition from high school. As a Board candidate, my top three priorities for our district would include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improving test scores. There is an achievement gap for students who perform less than proficient and we have an opportunity to close it. 2) Provide college and career exploration opportunities, by allowing students to learn outside the classroom in partnership with businesses. 3) Balance the budget. <p>To address these issues I would review the current strategic plan and curriculum to adopt a new plan that would address these goals, as well as adjust instructional practices and academic supports where needed. I would also leverage the many resources in our community to expand learning opportunities for students through partnerships. To eliminate the budget deficit, I would explore ways to diversify our funding through new grant dollars, and/or consider where we could eliminate non-essential budget items for cost savings.</p>

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<p>MIKE NUMMER 611 Westwood Dr. Birmingham, MI 48009</p>	<p>I hold a BS in Business from Miami University. I began my career as a CPA with PricewaterhouseCoopers and I am currently the Managing Principal of an investment management firm. My wife and I have lived in the district for 25 years and have four children who have attended BPS. We also have 9 nieces and nephews who have attended BPS schools and both my mother and my wife’s mother graduated from Birmingham High School (later renamed Seaholm). Our family has benefited immensely from our superb district and I would like to make BPS a model for public education in Michigan. I believe that the Board is in need of trustees who have a strong understanding of finance especially given the current deficit that the district is facing. I believe that my background in finance and accounting and my family’s history in BPS schools distinguishes me from the other candidates.</p>	<p>New Superintendent Search - The most immediate issue facing the district is the selection of a new superintendent. Filling that position quickly is desirable, but we need to be thoughtful and methodical in the choice of the new leader for BPS.</p> <p>Financial Discipline – The district has done a commendable job in navigating the fiscal challenges over the past decade. In the past few years though the prior leadership neglected to prioritize financial discipline and we now have a significant deficit that needs to be remedied. I will work to return the district to sound financial practices.</p> <p>Teaching and Learning – The BPS community expects excellence in the core role of ensuring learning for all members of the school community. I will advocate for the new Superintendent to hold the assistant superintendents to higher levels of performance. This would especially include the heads of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning and Specialized Instruction.</p>

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<p>JENNIFER RASS 22076 W. Valley Woods Dr. Beverly Hills, MI 48025</p>	<p>I am a knowledgeable communications professional with more than 25 years of experience in corporate, agency, non-profit communications and media relations. I have extensive background in executing strategic communication plans, public relations campaigns and brand management. My inspiration for running for the BPS board is to give back to what has provided an amazing educational foundation thus far for my two children. I believe my business background, communication expertise and community involvement, I am qualified to serve in this role. Professionally, I am the Director of Business Operations for Duo Security where I am responsible for data, reporting, vendor management and internal events. I am actively involved in my children's lives as the past PTA President of BFE and trustee for the Birmingham Education Foundation. I am also a Board Member and Walk Chair of the JDRF Metro Detroit Southeastern Michigan Chapter. Previously I served as the President of EMU's Alumni Association and the National Vice President of Comm for Sigma Kappa's National Housing Corporation Board.</p>	<p>With a new superintendent, administrators and three new school board members bringing fresh perspectives to influence and move the district forward, I believe these are some of the areas we should focus on: Resource allocation - As stewards of taxpayers' money, we must be efficient and effective allocating resources that are most impactful for academic achievement for all students. We need to find better ways to improve how we utilize our resources</p> <p>Advocacy – Enhancing academic careers and improving all learners; all students deserve a world-class education. As a district we must provide a well-rounded educational experience for all students while helping our teachers personalize their teaching strategies to address all learning needs.</p> <p>Communication -We must continue to focus and place an emphasis on on-going, transparent communication. We have to evolve, elevate and enhance our District's communication platforms and efforts. We are a world-class district and we must showcase that.</p>

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<p>BOB SAAD P. O. Box 2391 Birmingham, MI 48012</p>	<p>First, I would like to say thank you to the LWVOA for providing a trusted means through which the community can get better acquainted with the candidates. This is a great service to the public.</p> <p>I love education and the metro-Birmingham area. My wife and I have lived in the District for 20 years, and we have 4 children in BPS, which motivates me to be active and diligent on behalf of public education.</p> <p>I have a significant background in both education and business that I believe equips me well for a position as a Board of Education Trustee. I interact regularly with the current Board and Administration, which provides me with a sound understanding of where the District is financially and academically. As well, I am a frequent contributor at Board meetings and a vocal advocate for the role and value of healthy, organized labor. I am also a founding member of the Birmingham Community Partnership for Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity.</p>	<p>Since a short paragraph really is not sufficient to explain the actions that I would take to address the complex issues that face our District, I offer a list of 8 priorities that are also addressed in greater detail on my website: https://sites.google.com/view/bobsaadforschoolboard.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Administrative and Board transparency is vital. 2. Equal opportunity and access to success for ALL students is achievable. 3. Character Education is essential and foundational for a well-rounded public school experience. 4. Recurring operational deficits are not acceptable. 5. Renewal of Board oversight of the Administrative Office is needed. 6. Open community dialogue at all open Board meetings should be a standard practice. 7. A single, Web application for all class/course communications district-wide is preferred over the ever-increasing number of blogs, websites, phone Apps, emails, etc. that are utilized daily by teachers, parents, students, and administrators. 8. Initiatives that address perceived achievement gaps must be clearly defined.

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