

# VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION **BLOOMFIELD HILLS 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](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 10/9 forum information.**

### 6 Candidates for School District Board Member for FOUR 4-year terms

<b>CANDIDATES for SCHOOL BOARD</b>  <b>FOUR 4-year terms</b> <i>Vote for no more than FOUR</i>	<b>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</b> <b>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.</b>	<b>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</b> <b>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?</b>
<p><b>HOWARD BARON</b> 1355 Juniper Ln. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302</p>	<p>SB, MIT–1978, MBA, University of Chicago–1982, Master Diamond (Level 5 of 7) and Advocacy Skills Award-MI Assoc. of School Boards, 2018-Certificate of Recognition: BHS Parent Teacher Org. Council, 2015-Outstanding Volunteer Award: Accounting Aid Society, Prepares tax returns &amp; provides financial coaching to low/moderate income people. 2014-National volunteer service recognition, Lobbies state and national elected officials on educational issues, With his wife Nancy, 27 year BHS district resident.</p> <p>Since my election in 2012, I've made sure that BHS continues to be one of MI's leading school districts. Staffed by exceptional teachers and administration, we provide a top-notch education, including the visual and performing arts, to all students.</p> <p>But much still needs to be done. Using my philosophy of "Educational Excellence and Fiscal Responsibility", we must continue to help all BHS children to be successful, especially those not achieving to their highest potential. We must work to update the way we fund our public schools by increasing local control and equity in the funding model.</p>	<p>Maintaining High Quality Education – BHS has a well-deserved reputation of providing its students with an education designed to help them develop individual excellence. Continue to provide all children the greatest educational opportunities possible by offering our exceptional comprehensive curriculum, including the visual and performing arts.</p> <p>Unleashing Excellence through Equity – BHS must accelerate its work to close the achievement gap by strengthening the district's equity focus so that all children are able to achieve to their highest potential.</p> <p>School Finance Reform – BHS should continue to support and lobby to implement the recommendations of the late State Supt. Brian Whiston to make Michigan a Top 10 Education State in the next 10 years. This includes the recommendations of the School Finance Research Collaborative to return local control of school funding and to bring equity into K-12 funding and the efforts of Launch Michigan, a coalition of business, education, and philanthropic leaders to develop a legislative roadmap designed to make Supt. Whiston's plan a reality.</p>

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<p><b>JENNIFER COOK</b> 3856 Normanwood Dr. West Bloomfield, MI 48323</p>	<p>I am a native of Syracuse NY, with higher education in the Ivy League and three graduate degrees (I love school!). I am a veterinary pathologist/lab quality assurance expert and mother of two BH-ers. I have been active in the district since arriving (room mom, PTO exec board, robotics, word masters, global education team) and have been repeatedly inspired by what I see. I seek the board position because I am indebted to an excellent public education, which I believe is the cornerstone of a free and just society. I would like to be of service in helping to provide the joys of a rich, fulfilling education to all. The qualities/skills I bring are a friendly, open, cooperative attitude; excellent critical thinking, research, and organizational abilities; an objective, scientific approach to problem solving; and a translational skill set in the realm of quality assurance (e.g. analyzing key indicators, planning corrective actions, timelines for re-evaluation). I would tenaciously apply these qualities for researching issues/fostering an accountable system of continuous quality improvement</p>	<p>1- Digging deeper into thorough, more honest discussions about our current achievement status and where we should be. We cannot rest on laurels/reputation. I seek high expectations for all, research into root causes of lower performance, and work to align with the best practices of very high performing districts. The board and the administration need to be more firmly accountable for realization of the consensus goals/strategic plan.</p> <p>2- Improving achievement gaps--we need to take our solid start on equity/inclusion to the next level, aligning the curriculum with the work of the global education team to increase every student's engagement. As for all initiatives, broad strategies should be focused on the classroom.</p> <p>3- Resisting a zero-sum attitude by assuring resources/options for strong students &amp; raising the bar for all. Students learn from each other; we can leverage a culture of progress and post-12 preparedness. Students should be included in a team-leaders model, with more intra-district tutoring and more externships/internships that show value for the community and our youth.</p>

**BLOOMFIELD HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)**

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<p><b>LISA EFROS</b> 5437 Lahser Rd. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304</p>	<p>My husband and I are parents of four, all educated in the BHSD. One now attends MSU and one UM! I am a tax attorney, a stay at home mom, and an active community volunteer.</p> <p>BA in English and BA in Psychology - University of Michigan; JD - University of Detroit Law School; MBA - University of Detroit Business School; LL.M in Tax Law - Wayne State.</p> <p>I have made a career out of volunteering. I have been a room parent over 20 times, a PTO President 7 times, and a member of over 10 district wide focus or leadership committees. I have volunteered at and served on the Board of several community organizations, such as Bloomfield Youth Assistance and Bloomfield Baseball League. My knowledge of the tax and legal system will be an important addition to the Board of Ed.</p> <p>3. Teacher shortages: We face a national crisis of qualified teachers. We must ensure that teachers earn enough to provide a decent living for their families. But we must also end the increasingly unreasonable demands put upon teachers to manage large classes with diverse levels of learners, limited support, resources and time.</p>	<p>1. Funding. Michigan ranks in the bottom third of our nation’s schools and spends below the national average per pupil. Money does not always equate to quality when it comes to educating children but wise allocation of resources does. BHSD spends more than almost any other district in Michigan yet classroom teachers lack the time and resources to provide the best and most appropriate environment for students. We must analyze high administrative costs and assure that monies are directed to classroom related instructional services.</p> <p>2. Testing. National and state governments hold public schools accountable through mandatory compliance testing that neither measures what it purports to nor aligns with curriculum proven to best serve our students. There are tests that are more useful to teachers, students and parents which would also meet state and federal compliance standards. Tests like NWEA, for example, allow students to move on to more challenging material once they demonstrate a mastery of basic concepts. We need to reduce the epidemic of ineffective, non-curriculum based testing.</p>

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<p><b>PAUL KOLIN</b> 4297 Sunningdale Dr. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302</p>	<p>I bring both the professional and personal skills necessary to help lead the district toward the three main goals: academic achievement, financial sustainability, and trust and communication. I have a recent graduate, and a daughter in the high school. My professional / Educational experience are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I am the current Vice President of the Bloomfield Hills School Board</li> <li>• Award recipient for Michigan school board course work (took courses to help understand best practices)</li> <li>• Parent teacher organization liaison to the school board (work with the PTO presidents on district initiatives)</li> <li>• Executive Board member of Bloomfield Youth assistance (Chair of the recognition and enrichment Committee's)</li> <li>• Executive Board member of Birmingham Bloomfield Community Coalition</li> <li>• Education council for the Southeast Michigan Board of governance</li> <li>• Host of BHHS high school radio show PK sports (Talking about student recognition and concerns)</li> <li>• I have a BS from Binghamton University</li> <li>• I have an MBA from Baruch College</li> <li>• I am currently a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) working for Ernst&amp;Young</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Academic Achievement - Provide a premium educational experience for ALL students that challenges all of them to achieve at his/her highest level. This includes our highest achievers, as well as those counting on their educator to build and implement the supports of an IEP or 504.</li> <li>2. Financial Sustainability – Continue to look at ways to increase revenue and/or streamline costs as long as they do not negatively impact our students. Maintain a balanced budget that will continue to fund the district's short and long term goals. In order to obtain this, we as a district need to focus on those students that could potentially come into the district and those that are leaving the district.</li> <li>3. Trust and Communication - The education of our students is a joint mission between the district and the families we serve. It is important that we develop our relationship with the community and tap the expertise of our residents. In order to work collaboratively as a team for the success of our children, we need good communication and trust.</li> </ol>

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<p><b>JASON PAULATEER</b> 1651 Hunters Ridge Dr. Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304</p>	<p>I was born and raised in Detroit. I am a proud graduate of Cass Technical High School. I received my bachelor's and master's degrees in business from Grand Valley State University. As a parent with eight children in the district, I have a vested interest in the current and long-term success of the district and all of its students. Having been appointed to the board last July and even having had a long history of board service in the community, I immediately began taking courses through the Michigan Association of School Boards in order to become a certified school board member. As of this writing, I am one class shy of that certification. I am committed to community service and continue to believe as Shirley Chisolm that "service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth." Finally, I am a product of public education and believer in public education as a basic right of all children.</p>	<p>First, the District must ensure that our students remain safe, so safety is our number one priority. Second, the District needs to do its part to improve Michigan's literacy ratings/rankings through a continued increased focus on literacy, which began last school year. third, the District embarked on a process of making diversity and inclusion second nature and part of its core competencies several years ago and should go deeper in that work developing excellence in this area of focus. Fourth, if we are to enable students to be architects of their future, we must understand each learner's individual strengths and areas of improvement by growing into the district-wide profile of a learner. Finally, the district must maintain sustainability while accomplishing these top priorities for our students by operating on a balanced budget. I plan to work collaboratively with the other 6 members, district administration, staff, students, their families and the community at large to support thoughtful policy informed by well researched best practices for the betterment of our community.</p>

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<p><b>ANJALI PRASAD</b> 264 Pine Ridge Drive Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304</p>	<p>I grew up in Bloomfield Hills, attended University of Michigan and then Emory Law School. I served as an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia for many years, and ultimately returned to Michigan to accept an appointment as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of Michigan. I now run my own law firm. When I came home eight years ago, I chose Bloomfield Hills School District for my two young children, who started in kindergarten and first grade at Way Elementary. They now attend Bloomfield Hills Middle School. I am an advocate by training and have built a career representing others. I want to use the skills I have acquired in the courtroom to represent our students as we navigate this era by working with the community to make our school district the best in the nation. I am now in my eighth year as a Bloomfield Hills School District parent and I have seven more years to go. Between my passion for our students and my legal background, I am in a great position to serve this community as an able and engaged advocate for our kids and our school district</p>	<p>ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT. I would like to see an integrated effort between educators and our community to shift the balance of priorities back to literacy. As our students read less, they read less well. This means we are never going to lead the state or nation in academic achievement if our students are not reading for its own sake.</p> <p>SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. We need to be proactive, not reactive, in identifying opportunities to promote a safe and caring environment for our students. We can do this by collaborating with our parents and our educators because they are the ones with an ear to ground.</p> <p>COMMUNITY COLLABORATION. We need to engage with our alumni to understand our district's successes and failures. If our students chose college, what skills did we teach (or not teach) to prepare them? If they chose to enter the workforce, what life learning did they acquire from our district to help their transition? Statistics alone won't give us the data we need. We need to collaborate with our community, alumni especially, if we expect to be the best school district in America.</p>

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