

VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION
NOVI 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

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Go to www.LWVOA.org and Click on ‘Candidate Forums’ for 10/11 forum information.

4 Candidates for School District Board Member for TWO 6-year terms

<p>CANDIDATES for SCHOOL BOARD</p> <p>TWO 6-year terms <i>Vote for no more than TWO</i></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>PUNITA S. DANI 41294 Carriage Hill Dr. Novi, MI 48375</p>	<p>I have a unique set of skills and experiences having worked in public education for over 12 years. We have lived in Novi for 7 years, raising our 3 children who attend 3 different NCSd schools and I have an extensive track record of involvement in our schools and district. In fact, I was appointed to the Novi school board in 2014.</p> <p>I worked as a senior leader in a large, urban school district for five years and have experience in how districts and schools operate, namely school budgets, funding and policy. Over the past seven years, I have been deeply steeped in Michigan education policy and priorities locally and nationally am currently the Education Program Director at the Skillman Foundation, a statewide leader and voice on children’s issues. I have an MBA from Duke University and a BBA from the University of Michigan.</p> <p>I served as PTO president at Village Oaks and held various committee positions. Currently I am a trustee at the NEF and chair the grants committee. My husband I manage multiple Destination Imagination and FLL Robotics teams</p>	<p>Novi is a strong school district with many positive outcomes. And every district has room for improvement. Here are 3 areas that I would like to see prioritized:</p> <p>1) BETTER CONNECT w/AN EVER-CHANGING COMMUNITY - Novi is a community rich with diversity—culturally, ethnically and economically. Our board, must be both more representative, and proactively willing to connect with families to build trust. I would advocate for more transparent communication, more actively tap into all parents.</p> <p>2) EXPAND OUR VISION OF SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS: A culture of success that honors the importance of test scores and recognizes that students need to build a wide range skills to be successful for a lifetime. I would advocate for a broad measure of student success and resources to build teacher skill, to develop student leadership and flexible pathways.</p> <p>3) ASK QUESTIONS AND BE A TRUSTED STEWARD OF OUR RESOURCES. The board must ensure that our resources are wisely aligned to community priorities, short & long term. I would ask important questions and monitor impact and outcomes.</p>

NOVI SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

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<p>BHAVANI KONERU 24330 Saybrook Ct. Novi, MI 48374</p>	<p>I have been living in Novi for the past 20 years with my husband Srinivas and am a proud mother of two kids in the High School. I am currently working at Wayne State University as a Senior Director for Information technology. I had the opportunity to volunteer my time in the schools and the community for the past 10 years, working with many parents, teachers and administrators. As a leader in higher education industry for the past 15 years with Masters in Computer Science and Business Administration, I intend to learn from and work with my peers in advocating policies that cultivate leadership skills in our kids to prepare them for the future.</p>	<p>Sustaining Academic Excellence while providing equal opportunities to every student and minimizing achievement gaps is my top priority. I will work with the administration to develop programs that will continuously minimize the achievement gaps while exceeding the academic targets for the school district.</p> <p>The change in demographics of Novi has an impact on the philosophy that parent involvement in the school system has positive impact. I will promote awareness on the need for parent involvement in the schools for continued success and influence people with varying backgrounds to get more engaged in the school system.</p> <p>Recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers that provide effective teaching conditions has been linked to strong academic performance of the students. I will advocate policies that ensure ongoing professional development for the teachers and adoption classroom technology to provide world class education to the students.</p>

NOVI SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

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<p>MARY ANN RONEY 40701 Mill Rd. Ct. W. Novi, MI 48375</p>	<p>Mary Ann Roney is a 33 year Novi resident. I have been married to my husband, Edward Roney for 33 years. I have two grown children, Tori and Edward, and one grandson, Edward. Both of my children attended Novi Schools from Pre-K through graduation. I am employed as an Office Manager of a small IT firm in Livonia. I also am a licensed Realtor.</p> <p>I am running for the Novi School District Board of Education because I would like to see the Novi School District continue to be a destination for young families. Focusing on providing the best well rounded education possible for our children.</p> <p>I have taken an active role in the Novi Schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Member of VOICE (Village Oaks PTO) 1995-2002 • Active part of the Spring Fling Fundraiser • Member of the PTO at Meadows Elementary School 1999-2001 • Active part of Family Fun Fair Fundraiser • Member of the Novi Athletic Boosters 2003-2012 • Helped start the Novi TasteFest. 	<p>School Safety: We have to balance desires for physical protection against such relatively rare events with other serious considerations, including cost and maintaining an environment that doesn't frighten students or detract from their ability to learn. Strengthening and securing, all school entrances, Installing One Way Ballistic Glass are a few examples to help ensure our school safety.</p> <p>Further Develop Career Education: The need is great in the State of Michigan to prepare our Students for the careers of today and tomorrow. We need to form partnerships with industries that are in need of skilled and talented workers. Offer the skills through classroom and hands on training, allowing the students to earn industry recognized credentials.</p> <p>Financial Responsibility: The School Board must exercise Financial responsibility in the operation of the Novi School District. It needs to make a priority in keeping the classroom sizes at it's lowest possible and ensuring the teachers have the resources they need to perform at their highest ability. To spend the wisest ways possible.</p>

NOVI SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

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<p>TOM SMITH 26625 Glenwood Dr. Novi, MI 48374</p>	<p>I have lived in Novi for 20 years. I have 3 children in our district's school; they are in the 11th, 9th and 7th grade. All three attended Deerfield elementary K-4, and all three also attended both years at Meadows. I was an active parent with both of those schools as a volunteer and my spouse was the treasurer for the PTO.</p> <p>I have served these past 6 years as a Trustee for the Novi Educational Foundation, and was President the past 4 years with my second term ending 6/30/18. As the leader of that organization we raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to support teacher grants, provide scholarships and pay for developmental programs like The Leader in Me.</p> <p>Finally, as the owner of a couple of businesses here in Novi, I've had the opportunity to employ dozens of Novi HS students and graduates, and that has provided a valuable and unique insight into our students strengths and areas of improvement as future employees and community leaders. My personal leadership skills will continue to bring harmony to the Board. As a current Trustee, I hope to continue to make NCSD even better.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student Growth Model - this issue requires consistent monitoring and progress. NCSD receives scores that are some of the best in our state, yet I believe there are areas for improvement. Engaging are gifted students, and helping our students at the bottom of our scoring are two specific areas I will work to improve by petitioning for more resources for those students. 2. Superintendent Objectives - Our Board has one employee, our Superintendent. I believe it is our leadership of the Superintendent and their cabinet that gets things done. Objective standards, specific goals, measurement and timeliness regarding the Superintendent's execution of their objectives are critical to the development of our students. 3. Talent within our Staff - I am committed to attracting and maintaining exceptional teachers and staff. I support teachers who continue to develop, improve and provide the "top of class" experiences to our students and parents. I support working with the in an effort to have all of our teachers, TRULY, Highly Effective in their roles.

NOVI SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

3 Candidates for School District Board Member for ONE partial term ending 12/31/2020

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<p>GEORGE KORTLANDT 40471 Franklin Mill Rd. Novi, MI 48375</p>	<p>#Have served on Board of Education for 21.5 years: 4 as Board President, 2 as V P, 5 as Treasurer, 2 as Sec'y.</p> <p>#Have chaired following committees: Finance, Curriculum, Capitol Expenditures, Buildings and Facilities</p> <p>#Attend 250-300 mtgs, concerts, games, and events in our district per year.</p> <p>#Oversaw the following new programs or teams: International Baccalaureate Diploma Program, Advanced Placement Capstone Program, Orchestral/Strings Program, High School/Middle school/Elementary Robotics Clubs, Full Day Kindergarten, Field Hockey, Equestrian, Pom Pon, Competitive Cheer, Skiing, Bowling, Figure Skating, Hockey, Gymnastics, and Lacrosse athletic teams.</p> <p># Have overseen the building or remodeling of all current facilities</p> <p>#Hired two Superintendants</p> <p>#Balanced 21 annual budgets without suffering program losses nor increased class sizes.</p> <p># Protected Special Education funding by suing State of Michigan twice.</p> <p># Recognized for supporting our children by;Athletic Booster, Band Boosters, First Robotics Club/Mentors</p> <p>#Active in community and church</p> <p>#Proud parent of three Novi Grads</p>	<p>There is one critical issue for every public K-12 School District in Michigan. "How do you get the funding to create outstanding programs, provide a safe atmosphere, and keep limited class size?"</p> <p>The answer is to have a product that families recognize as quality and are willing to move to Novi for.</p> <p>Steps to accomplish this:</p> <p>1-Board leadership/Vision for the District- Currently our board looks to the administration for a vision ignoring the voice of our parents, businesses and community. The board must lead with a solid vision for our children's future.</p> <p>2-Create and market a comprehensive STEM Education program that is recognized in the state as the leader in the field. This program must start in the youngest ages and excite and prepare our children for a global workplace that rewards them for their abilities to perform.</p> <p>3-Fiscal Responsibility-spend budget dollars where our children get the impact from them</p> <p>4-Valid Merit Pay program-Establish a valid program that will reward our high performing staff and attract more of them.</p> <p>5-Develop and build a Skilled Trades/Robotics Facility</p>

NOVI SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

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<p>DANIELLE RUSKIN 50819 Chesapeake Dr. Novi, MI 48374</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</p>	
<p>TRACEY L. STEVENSON 21138 W. Glen Haven Cir. Northville, MI 48167</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educational Professional for 19 years. - Served on the Novi Board of Education for 6 years (2012-2018), currently serving as Vice-President. - Graduate of Michigan State University with a B.A. in Business Administration. - Graduate of Siena Heights University with an M.A. in School Counseling. - Graduate of Madonna University with an M.A. in Educational Leadership. - Wife and mother of two Novi graduates. - Novi resident for 13 years. - Founder of NPAAS (Northville Parents of African American Students) - 9th Grade Dean at Huron High School in Ann Arbor <p>I am seeking to serve again on the Novi School Board because I have a genuine and sincere concern about our students and school district. I have a desire to continue work with the Novi Board of Education that continuously strives for equity and excellence. I am knowledgeable about the educational process and the roles of a school district's board of education. I will continue to be a valuable asset to our prestigious school district.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mental Health - Educating families and students about mental health and the early signs of this illness, providing community resources for mental health, and creating partnerships with local medical professions to address mental health issues. 2. School Safety - Creating a strategic school safety plan with the input of the community, local law enforcement, and other educational stakeholders to ensure the most efficient means of safety for our students. For example, investing in metal detectors, random school sweeps, continuous ALICE training for students and staff, etc... 3. Access and Equity - Building positive and productive relationships with all cultures living within the Novi Community. This can be achieved by hosting various community, educational, and resource forums; to ensure all students and their families have equal opportunities to enhance and advance themselves. In addition, providing cultural sensitivity training to educate stakeholders with preparing all students to be productive members of an ever-changing global society.

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.