

**VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION**  
**SOUTHFIELD 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

**5 Candidates for School District Board Member for TWO 6-year terms**

<p><b>CANDIDATES for SCHOOL BOARD</b></p> <p><b>TWO 6-year terms</b> <i>Vote for no more than TWO</i></p>	<p><b>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</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.</p>	<p><b>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</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?</p>
<p><b>MICHAEL BENESON</b> 19310 Hilton Dr. Southfield, MI 48075</p>	<p><b>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</b></p>	
<p><b>DENNIS L. COTTON</b> 18421 Saratoga Blvd. Lathrup Village, MI 48076</p>	<p>My name is Dennis L. Cotton and I'm 54 years old. I am a resident of Michigan and have been one all my life. I am a 17-year teaching veteran in public schools. This fact alone, I believe makes me qualified for the position for which I seek. As a teacher, I'm in the business of communicating and teaching of academics, new ideas and thought.</p>	<p>I'm running for the position of school board for three primary reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To bring diversity to the Southfield student body: I would do this busing advertising and other forms of media.</li> <li>• Putting God back into the classroom through a combined study: This would be accomplished by introducing a curriculum that equally shares information about the four major religions of this country; Christianity, Judaism, Catholic and the Muslim religion. Students will learn about the origins of each religion. They will learn about the history of each religion. Students will learn about the ages of each religion and most importantly, the ideas that each religion expresses. This is not proselytizing but teaching.</li> <li>• The teaching of morals and values:</li> </ul> <p>Through the combined studies curriculum, students will also learn about the morals and values that each religion expresses. Upon a deeper study, students can learn that there is commonality between the four. The</p>

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<p><b>ERIC D. JENKINS</b> 29999 Marigold Dr. Southfield, MI 48076</p>	<p>Eric D. Jenkins is a concerned Southfield resident for over 11 years. I have been married for 10 years and have enjoyed living in our condominium community where I have served in various capacities on our Homeowners Association Board of Directors. I am a retired franchise automotive dealer and am currently employed under contract with General Motors. I am running for the School Board to provide my solid business acumen, available time and to share my concerns for our area youth while charting a plan for their strong development. Schooling today is vastly different than during my time. Today, with the advent of social media, technology, extra-curricular activities, and advanced teaching techniques, I feel students have much more to be concerned with in the 24-hour days that we all share. Schools should be a safe haven and a place to allow creativeness to flourish. As someone who grew up in public schools across the country, the concept is not lost on me that a quality education develops an outstanding work force, economic desire, and improved property values.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Per Pupil Spending: One of the key functions of a School Board is to set the direction of the curriculums offered system-wide. I want to bring my professionalism, even temper and altruistic willingness to serve to the Board table to ensure our students are getting the most benefits from our available sources of funds, including tax revenues.</li> <li>2. Inclusion of Lathrup Village: Effective governing boards learn to collaborate with all interested parties and ensure voices and relevant opinions are vetted for the benefit of the communities served. It appears, that Lathrup Village does not have a seat at the table and I am willing to be that voice while ensuring that both communities feel engaged and connected to their School Board.</li> <li>3. Maintaining Operational And Safe Facilities: With the historical exodus of servicing community pupil headcount to surrounding districts, it would be good know if our current structures are adequate for our students that allow them proper spaces to feel safe and develop positive outcomes for their futures.</li> </ol>

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<p><b>DARRELL B. JOYCE</b> 18711 Hilton Dr. Southfield, MI 48075</p>	<p>I Darrell B. Joyce, have been a resident of Southfield MI, for the past 30 years. I am the father of six children, five are graduates from Southfield High, and one is still currently attending. I was appointed to the Board of Education as a Trustee on September 19, 2014, and elected on November 4th, 2014. I am now serving as Vice President of the Southfield School Board. I am a PTA member for both Southfield High and Adler Elementary and previously, I served as a PTA Board Member at Adler. I was Co-Chair of the Millage Campaign Committee in 2013, and I coordinated an event called the Adler Dad (Cool Dads) Taste Fest; which started in 2007. I was a recipient of the PTA Founders Day Distinguished Service Award twice. I am a true advocate for Southfield Public Schools; as well as the Southfield Bussey Head Start Program.</p>	<p>There are several issues facing our school district today, and some of these issues consist of not having a solid strategic plan. Others consist of issues effecting our curriculum development; as well as our schools building infrastructure, and the professional development for our teachers and staff. If elected, I Darrell B. Joyce Sr. would work closely with the rest of the Board Members to continuously align a better strategic plan for our district. We would collectively work together to improve our curriculum development. We would improve our school system infrastructure as a whole; which includes roofing, plumbing, HVAC and other interior and exterior problems. As well as improving upon more professional development options for all staff members.</p>

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<p><b>LESLIE LOVE SMITH</b> <i>Formerly: Timinica Tyisha Smith</i> 19718 Melrose Ave. Southfield, MI 48075</p>	<p>I am an Educator with over 10 years of service to children and families. Over the years I have held positions of advocacy, administration, support staff and teacher. My experience spans across multiple counties and with different organizational structures. Currently, I'm a 4th-grade Teacher with Detroit Public Schools Community District. I hold a Masters of Education, K-8 Teaching certification, early childhood credentials, as well as nonprofit administration certification.</p> <p>I'm seeking re-election to the Southfield Public Schools Board of Education because I bring a voice of representation for our Teachers, parents, students and community members. As a parent in the district, and a vested member of the Southfield community not only can I relate to the needs of parents, but I also understand the need for quality educational experiences for all children. Serving on the Southfield Board of Education is a labor of love and one I am purposefully committed to.</p>	<p>The top three priority issues facing our district include funding, student achievement, and student enrollment. Given the current state of underfunding, many districts are faced with the challenge of doing more with less. This requires districts to be intentional about prioritizing allocations. Imperative to this factor is adopting policy and practices of equity in order to address the areas of greatest need with appropriate resources for meeting the need.</p> <p>Secondly, student achievement, and how it is defined must be addressed and revised to align teaching and learning with 21st century standards; which extends beyond assessment scores to the development of the whole child.</p> <p>Lastly, student enrollment continues to be a statewide issue. With educational options expanding beyond the traditional schoolhouse, we have to be more creative in our student retention efforts, more customer service friendly with meeting the needs of our parents, and more engaging in our community relation efforts.</p>

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