

**VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION**  
***WATERFORD 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</b>  <b><u>SCHOOL BOARD</u></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>  <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></p>	<p><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>
<p><b>MARGARET BRYCE</b>                  2396 Lansbury Dr.                  Waterford, MI 48329</p>	<p>My name is Margaret Bryce and I am running for a seat on the Waterford School District Board of Education. I am a lifelong resident of Waterford and a graduate of Waterford Kettering High School. I have a Bachelor’s Degree in Education from Michigan State University and a Master’s Degree in Counseling from Oakland University. I have recently retired after 30 years of service from the Waterford School District and am currently working as an Adjunct Counselor at Oakland Community College. My background in mental health as well as my experience in teaching and counseling give me an inside perspective on the current needs and climate of the school district. As an educator, I am aware of the impact a supportive board member can have on programs and services provided to students.</p>	<p>(1) Transparency and Accountability- My goal is to improve communication between administration and teachers as well as the community. An open policy with transparency is crucial to the success of a school district.</p> <p>(2) Improve K-8 services and support- If we want to improve our test scores and be competitive with surrounding districts we must increase our support in reading and math in the elementary and middle schools. Early intervention is the key to success in high school and beyond.</p> <p>(3) Retention of staff and financial support- Improve finances so that programs are available to all students throughout the district. In addition we need to invest in our current staff and improve retention of our teachers.</p>

## WATERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

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<p><b>KENT DOUGLAS</b> 2191 Kohler St. Waterford, MI 48329</p>	<p>I am a 22 year resident of Waterford Township, and I bring a large breadth of different skills and qualifications to the board. I believe I will serve the Waterford School District well, because aside from working to organize strong grassroots efforts; across the state. I can use my knowledge and experience from community organizing, social research, and experience working in governments both locally and abroad to help improve the school district.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Social-Emotional Welfare ~ I led a group of parents and community leaders to add \$100,000 of funding to fight bullying and address mental wellness in Waterford schools. I want to continue my work, engaging with the community to improve the school experience for students and educators.</li> <li>2. New Paths to Opportunity ~ I know the importance of skilled trade work and he believes Waterford schools can provide their students with an excellent opportunity to train for these in-demand jobs, by implementing test prep programs as an option for students on the path for apprenticeship.</li> <li>3. Pay Equity ~ Teachers and other employees in Waterford schools are paid less than in other Oakland County schools, I will fight to keep teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians and many other hard working district staff in our schools by seeking better pay equity for school employees to keep them in district and contributing to our community.</li> </ol>

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<p><b>JOHN HIMMELSPACH</b> 7538 Woodside Place Waterford, MI 48327</p>	<p>I have been a resident of Waterford for 40 years and a member of the Waterford School Board for 26 years. I hold a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice. I have 41 years of Law Enforcement experience as a Lieutenant with West Bloomfield Police Department, Security Manager with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and a Graduate of the FBI National Academy. I am a past recipient of the Michigan School Officer of the Year. I have been an adjunct professor for Ferris State University and presented seminars on School Safety for Michigan Association of School Boards.</p> <p>During my time on the Waterford School Board, we have built state of the art classrooms, libraries, auditoriums, pools, stadiums, and gymnasiums. We have balanced the School District budget for 26 years and have increased our fund balance by 400%. I am running for this position to continue to provide facilities, staffing and resources that allow us to continue to close the achievement gap. I'm committed to maintaining a balanced budget and providing a safe, secure environment.</p>	<p>1: Maintaining quality teachers and staff. The critical shortage of educators creates the need to be employee focused. Successful teachers develop important relationships with their students/families, and relationships are a key indicator of student success and student safety.</p> <p>2: School Safety. State of the art physical security measures, student and staff relationships, active community involvement in our schools, social and emotional support for students, and a strong relationship with the Waterford Police Department, must all work together to maintain the safety we have experienced. My 41 years of law enforcement experience will ensure we continue to keep school safety measures/ policies a top priority.</p> <p>3. Funding. Waterford residents believe that Michigan needs a new system for funding schools that is focused on equity. A bipartisan group of business and education experts released a study that calls for the state to increase the base amount it spends per pupil to \$9,950. Waterford is funded at \$7,897 per pupil. My priority is to continue to fight for equitable funding.</p>

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<p><b>JULIE JOSSELYN</b> 5570 Brunswick Blvd. Waterford, MI 48327</p>	<p>I am a mother of twin boys, who are freshman in the district, and a graduate of Waterford Mott. After issues with bullying and suicide made headlines earlier this year, I decided to run for the school board. I possess a bachelor's degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice, and I have worked as a Probation Officer for over 20 years. For the first ten years of my career, I was placed in charge of the Teen Tobacco and Alcohol Prevention Program, which provided me with the opportunity to interact with the staff from three local school districts. National issues such as alcohol, drugs, suicide, addiction, domestic violence, juvenile justice and human trafficking, are my passion. My goal is to ensure integrity, trust, transparency and discipline are a priority in our district. For more information, follow my Facebook page: Julie Josselyn for Waterford School Board.</p>	<p>Following the student code of conduct, addressing negative behavior and encouraging strong moral principles are my main priority. Every current and incoming parent in Waterford should feel confident sending their child to school, knowing they will be safe. Smaller class sizes are needed so that teachers can focus on social and emotional learning. My intention is to ensure all teachers have the resources, training and support needed to be effective. Parents should be notified about changes to programing immediately, rather than after the fact. All concerns should be addressed, publicly, preserving transparency.</p>

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<p><b>JOAN SUTHERLAND</b> 2625 Cove Bay Dr. Waterford, MI 48329</p>	<p>Waterford is not just where my home is, it is also where my heart is. I have lived in Waterford for over 50 years, and attended Waterford schools, K-12. I have been married for 32 years, and all 4 of my children recently graduated from Waterford as well. I have a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree with a concentration in finance, and bring to the position over 35 years' experience in business analytics and fiscal responsibility. I have served on the Waterford Board of Education for the past ten years, enthusiastically dedicated to our students, staff members, and the Waterford community. I believe we must maintain a precision focus on student growth and achievement, ensuring we provide opportunities for all students, and that we do so in a safe and secure environment. Working collaboratively with the community and all key stakeholders, the Waterford School District has accomplished extraordinary things! I am immensely proud of the upward trajectory we are on, and with your support, look forward to continuing this growth as we press on to even greater achievement.</p>	<p>As a society, we are not putting the emphasis on the value our phenomenal staff brings to the lives of our students and the communities we live in. Private sector salaries outpace education salaries at an alarming rate, students in our universities are not choosing to go into education, and we lose great staff to private sector and "highest bid" districts. I will continue to fight to address the funding inequities to attract and retain our top-notch staff. Waterford Schools is first-class in providing a safe, secure and nurturing learning environment. As the world changes around us, we will continue our steadfast commitment to safety and security, anticipating issues and addressing them proactively.</p> <p>Ensuring that each students' unique educational needs are met and that opportunities are made available to all students is at the forefront of our commitment. The Waterford School District does this exceptionally well, often without fanfare and often, defying the odds. Our challenge is to ensure that our remarkable progress and success is the narrative that we collectively share!</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.