

# VOTER GUIDE – AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION OAKLAND COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

**Tuesday, August 4, 2020**  
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

You may VOTE in ONLY ONE PARTY'S PRIMARY - either Democratic or Republican – for ALL partisan offices on ballot.  
**Note: Candidates are ordered within each office by party with Democrats preceding Republicans.**

### 3 Candidates for PROSECUTING ATTORNEY for ONE 4-year term 2 Democrats and 1 Republican are running for this office

| CANDIDATES for<br><u>PROSECUTOR</u><br><br>ONE 4-year term<br><i>Vote for no more than ONE</i>         | Question 1 (150 Words or less):<br>Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for county office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.  | Question 2 (150 Words or less):<br>What are the top 3 Priority Issues that this county office should address and what actions would you, as an elected official, take regarding each of them?  |
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| <p><i>Democrat</i><br/><b>JESSICA R. COOPER</b><br/>31115 Stafford St.<br/>Beverly Hills, MI 48025</p> | <p>Elected Oakland County Prosecutor in November of 2008. First woman to ever hold that position and the first Democrat in 40 years. 8 years as a District Court Judge, 14 years as a Circuit Court Judge, and 6-1/2 years as a Judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals.</p> <p>The role of the prosecutor is to do justice. Being a trial judge has taught me to be fair and measured. As an adjunct professor of law at both MSU and U of M law schools helped me create and continue a renowned in-house training program for my prosecutors. My experience as an appellate judge has been invaluable in analyzing cases that affect the practice of criminal law.</p> <p>Oakland County's crime rate is down 34% &amp; juvenile petitions are down 63%.</p> <p>I run a professional, non-political, efficient, and extremely effective Prosecutor's Office.</p> | <p>1. The proliferation of Hate crimes<br/>The paramount issues always involve the safety of the community, while maintaining an ethical and professional office that is concerned with fundamental fairness and justice<br/>change the ethnic intimidation statute from a 2 year high misdemeanor to a felony:<br/>establish regular and permanent community meetings with community leaders and law enforcement: enhance certification requirements for licensing.</p> <p>2. The after effects of the pandemic as we try to reopen the courts and reduce the backlog of cases that have accumulated over these months.<br/>legal analysis of balancing the life and death situation of the pandemic with due process of law; and as always emphasizing ethics, justice and fairness in all case dispositions</p> <p>3. The grave financial difficulties experienced by the people of this county and the attendant severe cuts to public resources .<br/>Cut expenses without cutting personnel to maintain productivity and safety for the community.</p> |

## OAKLAND COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY (Continued)

| <p><b>CANDIDATES for<br/><u>PROSECUTOR</u></b></p> <p><b>ONE 4-year term</b><br/><i>Vote for no more than ONE</i></p> | <p><b>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</b><br/><b>Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for county office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</b></p>  | <p><b>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</b><br/><b>What are the top 3 Priority Issues that this county office should address and what actions would you, as an elected official, take regarding each of them?</b></p>  |
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| <p><b><i>Democrat</i></b><br/><b>KAREN<br/>MCDONALD</b><br/>P. O. Box 1750<br/>Birmingham, MI 48009</p>               | <p>Over the past twenty years, I have served Oakland County as a Circuit Court Judge (2012-2019), assistant prosecutor (1999-2004), and private practice attorney (2004-2013). I have seen firsthand that our broken criminal justice system is failing Oakland County residents—especially poor people and people of color. I stepped down from the bench in 2019 because we need a prosecutor who will actively work to implement progressive criminal justice reform that will reduce mass incarceration and create a fair system for all people. With my background as a judge, assistant prosecutor, and attorney, I am uniquely qualified to lead the Prosecutor’s Office in this pursuit with experience and understanding in all areas of the court.</p> | <p>Despite the availability of treatment programs in Oakland County, our current prosecutor refuses to participate in treatment courts. If elected, I will not only commit to participating in these life-saving treatment courts, but will also implement additional progressive criminal justice reform policies to reduce mass incarceration in all areas of the justice system. As Prosecutor, I will uphold the Supreme Court’s decision to resentence juvenile lifers, treat children like children, and hold youth accountable without unnecessary incarceration. Finally, I will form a senior advisory board to give assistant prosecutors discretion to reduce or amend charges by eliminating the requirement of cash bail and putting an end to coercive plea bargaining. By lessening prosecution of nonviolent offenders, we will not only reduce mass incarceration, but also save county resources that can then be used to strengthen Oakland County schools and communities.</p> |

## OAKLAND COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY (Continued)

| <b>CANDIDATES for PROSECUTOR</b><br><br><b>ONE 4-year term</b><br><i>Vote for no more than ONE</i>                                       | <b>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</b><br><b>Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for county office and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</b>   | <b>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</b><br><b>What are the top 3 Priority Issues that this county office should address and what actions would you, as an elected official, take regarding each of them?</b>   |
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| <p><i>Republican</i><br/> <b>LIN GOETZ</b><br/>                     2936 Riverside Dr.<br/>                     Lake Orion, MI 48359</p> | <p>I am an attorney with 28 years of extensive experience in the practice of Criminal law, both as an Assistant Prosecutor in Oakland County, and as a Criminal Defense Attorney. I have considerable courtroom experience, which extends from initial client meetings, to research of constitutional issues through trial and appeal. I have not only handled complex litigation but have often offered my assistance to help others navigate their case through the court system, declining compensation for my time for those with a limited income. In addition to trying misdemeanors and felonies, I have substantial experience in the Juvenile Justice system, and family courts. My experience includes helping protect children from Neglect and Abuse, helping reunify families, and have fought to protect our elderly citizens who were more vulnerable to predators.</p> <p>I want to make Oakland County the safest county in Michigan through my lifelong commitment to the protection of others. I AM TOUGH BUT FAIR TO ALL.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public Integrity Unit- Implement a review procedure whereby convictions would be re-examined when new evidence comes to light such as DNA evidence, new scientific evidence or additional witnesses become available. This will ensure that convictions are based on all available evidence and to ensure that guilty persons are punished while innocent individuals do not remain in custody..</li> <li>2. Training and re-assignment of Assistant Prosecutors to substantially improve overall services to the community. Training has been sorely lacking over the last 12 years and I intend to give the assistants every opportunity to keep abreast of all current trends in the law.</li> <li>3. Increase involvement in Treatment Courts and other jail diversion programs for non-violent offenders, and increase community outreach to ensure that citizens of Oakland County will have their voices heard and have ongoing line communication with the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office.</li> </ol> |

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