

VOTER GUIDE – AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION OAKLAND COUNTY TREASURER

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 E-mail: 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.

4 Candidates for TREASURER for ONE 4-year term 2 Democrats and 2 Republicans are running for this office

CANDIDATES for <u>TREASURER</u> ONE 4-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i>	Question 1 (150 Words or less): 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): 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?
<p><i>Democrat</i> ROBERT J. CORBETT, JR. 29294 Tessmer Ct. Madison Heights, MI 48071</p>	<p>- Education: Bishop Foley High School, Madison Heights; University of Detroit Mercy, Detroit, MI (Major in Honors Economics) - 21 years member of Madison Heights City Council, 5 years serving as Mayor Pro Tem - 34 year member Madison Heights Zoning Board of Appeals, 2 years as Chairman - 20 terms Democratic Party Precinct Delegate, 4 years member of Executive Committee</p> <p>I was an influential voice on my community's City Council guiding Madison Heights through the Great Recession from 2008 through 2013. Like many local communities Madison Heights and it's residents were economically devastated by the financial collapse. We did however as a community emerge strong and viable with a credit rating slightly higher than during the recession. Unfortunately I suspect that experience, unique among the candidates currently vying for Treasurer, may well be needed in the months and years to come. Our ability to maintain liquidity, preserve local police and fire services while emerging with a quality credit rating and virtually no debt was an outstanding achievement for our community.</p>	<p>1.) Continue the work of the current Treasurer in modernizing department. Monitoring and constantly reviewing best practices will continue to be a top priority.</p> <p>2.) Maintain an open and transparent investment policy for the Treasury and County as a whole. Working in conjunction with the County Executive and the Board of Commissioner Treasurer need to foster and recommend practices that reflect the highest ethical and financial standards.</p> <p>3.) Improve public access to Treasurer records and County documents related to finance. Reaching out to local cities and communities for advice and guidance will continue to be a priority for Treasurer's Office during my tenure.</p>

OAKLAND COUNTY TREASURER (Continued)

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<p><i>Democrat</i> ROBERT WITTENBERG 13302 Borgman Ave. Huntington Woods, MI 48070</p>	<p>I currently serve as a third term state representative in southern Oakland County. I've also worked as a licensed life & health insurance agent for 15 years helping thousands of individuals & businesses navigate their insurance & employee benefits. In the legislature, I served as the top-ranking Democrat on the Financial Liability Reform Committee & on the House Tax Policy & the Financial Services Committees.</p> <p>I love helping people, that is why I am in public service, & I believe an effective public servant should be both fiscally responsible & socially conscious. My professional & legislative experiences helped me develop the skills needed to serve as Treasurer. I'm a proven, trustworthy leader whose track record of fighting for Oakland County residents' financial wellbeing is strong. My wife & I grew up in Oakland County, & we're raising our family here because we love this community & want to ensure that Oakland County remains a place where everyone can be proud to live.</p>	<p>1) Fighting for the financial security & well-being of all residents - For most people, their home is the largest investment they make. I will ensure that people are able to stay & thrive in our neighborhoods. I'll be a compassionate steward of resources for all residents across the county. I will actively engage with residents facing financial challenges to help address their needs & set them up with plans to prevent foreclosure.</p> <p>2) Recruiting new businesses while supporting existing ones - I will lead on innovative policy solutions to boost our local businesses. I'd leverage the county's relationships in the private sector to implement public-private partnerships creating small business/homeowner relief funds that will address the impact of COVID-19.</p> <p>3) Maintaining our AAA bond rating - We want our county dollars to be invested wisely & we want the best rates on public bonds. Our communities & schools benefit from our rating, directly contributing to our strong quality of life.</p>

OAKLAND COUNTY TREASURER (Continued)

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<p>Republican SUSAN E. ANDERSON 2602 Vinsetta Blvd. Royal Oak, MI 48073</p>	<p>I am the Founder and Owner of SE Anderson & Associates, a professional firm providing quality and efficient computerized accounting, bookkeeping and tax services to small and medium sized businesses. I believe my responsibility to my clients include ensuring an effective system of controls designed to safeguard their assets and income, assure the integrity of my clients' financial statements, compliance with all ethical standards, applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, and regulations.</p> <p>I am a Graduate of Walsh College with a Master of Science Degree in Accounting and a BBA. I am an Enrolled Agent with the IRS.</p> <p>I was elected to the Oakland Community College (OCC) Board of Trustees in 2016. I was appointed Treasurer of OCC by my fellow Trustees and serve as Chairperson of the Audit Committee for the College.</p> <p>I currently serve on the Board of Directors of OUR Credit Union. I was appointed by my fellow board members to serve as the organization's Secretary.</p>	<p>Incorporating over 30 years of accounting, tax, financial and investment experience, I would be a dependable and effective administrator of Oakland County funds and resources. My top priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing our financial future • Protecting our property values • Maintaining Oakland County's AAA bond rating <p>I will continually study and monitor county investments and banking functions to achieve maximum efficiency in the Treasurer's office. I will look at ways to improve office functions to provide an even higher level of customer service to the citizens of Oakland County. Everyone is challenged with limited budgets. This is true for individuals as well as government operations. Safety of fiduciary funds is critical especially in a low interest rate environment we are experiencing today. The Treasurer's Office collects over 1.4 billion dollars every year, and these funds must be handled responsibly. I have the experience to successfully manage the Oakland County Treasurer's office.</p>

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<p><i>Republican</i> JOE KENT 5195 Hosner Rd. Oxford, MI 48370</p>	<p>This is my 25th year as a self-employed tax accountant. I'm licensed by the US Treasury. I hold an MBA from the University of Michigan and a bachelor's degree from the MSU College of Business. I'm the only Oakland County Treasurer candidate to sign the Americans For Tax Reform pledge not to support tax increases. I've knocked on thousands of doors supporting better tax policies for homeowners. I'm an appointed church leader. I serve on the board of directors of Crossroads For Youth which provides foster care and therapy. I'm past president (and a Paul Harris Fellow) of my local Rotary Club, which provides beds to disadvantaged children. Lastly, I'm a past district finance chair for scouting. I'm running because we need a treasurer who will be an advocate for the people of Oakland County, protect L. Brooks Patterson's legacy of financial stewardship and be a strong voice against higher property taxes. My wife, teen children and I feel blessed to call Oakland County home.</p>	<p>First is the public's access to information. In 2019 a curtain was drawn around the county's books by eliminating "fiscal notes" that disclose the impact of changes to the county's budget. I will advocate for the reinstatement of this practice and make additional financial data public. Second is the protection of property rights. Aggressive foreclosure practices recently landed Oakland County in front of the MI Supreme Court when a home was seized and sold because of \$8.41 in unpaid interest. I will conduct a thorough and impartial review of foreclosure policies. Third is securing the future. Oakland County residents will face higher taxes if the county loses its AAA bond rating. This is a risk due to rising discretionary expenditures and the previously mentioned lack of transparency. I seek to return Oakland County to the fiscal conservatism and cautious investment policies that made the L. Brooks Patterson administration the nation's standard for excellence and stability.</p>

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