

**VOTER GUIDE – AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION
OAKLAND COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER**

**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 WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER for ONE 4-year term
1 Democrat and 3 Republicans are running for this office**

<p>CANDIDATES for WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER</p> <p>ONE 4-year term Vote for no more than ONE</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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>
<p>Democrat JIM NASH 27490 W. Ten Mile Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 48336</p>	<p>I have been the Oakland County Water Commissioner for over seven years, before that I was an Oakland County Commissioner from Farmington Hills for eight years. I am a veteran, husband, father of four and grandfather to three, all living in Michigan. As a County Commissioner I organized and hosted six Annual Green Building Workshops, bringing in experts to discuss the importance of sustainable development, energy conservation, alternative energy and environmental protection with Oakland County elected officials and citizens. Since becoming Water Resources Commissioner I have organized and hosted seven Regional Stormwater Summits, bringing local, state and national experts before hundreds of regional officials, to educate and develop stormwater policies to protect our water resources. I have worked hard to improve morale in the organization, develop strong connections with all our communities, lead regional and statewide environmental efforts and educate the public on water issues.</p>	<p>CLIMATE CHANGE is causing more intense storms and stormwater pollution. I am working to address Climate Change by replacing carbon use with renewable energy and designing resilient systems, using Green Infrastructure: landscaping, new technologies and flowering native plants to absorb runoff before it reaches storm drains and the environment.</p> <p>PUBLIC HEALTH issues such as lead in drinking water, PFAS contamination and toxic sites like the I-696 green ooze reinforce the need for state and federal funding and cooperation and I will continue to support and lead those efforts in Oakland County.</p> <p>AGING INFRASTRUCTURE, that causes more main breaks, leaks and other excessive costs, needs repair and replacement, without making water unaffordable for many ratepayers. Our communities continue to do their part and my office will do all it can to help them. We do all this through regional cooperation, because water follows no political boundaries, and with efficiency as our top priority.</p>

OAKLAND COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER (Continued)

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<p><i>Republican</i> ROBERT E. BUXBAUM 25451 Gardner Oak Park, MI 48237</p>	<p>I'm an engineer, PhD, professional engineer, with many years of experience and 70+ reviewed articles to my credit. I think the water engineering of the county is pretty bad in some respects, and think I could do a much better job. We have water bills that are too high, we have floods and sewer backups, and we release near raw sewage into the rivers and lakes once or twice a month. I could take care of all of this and could reduce our bills doing so.</p>	<p>Issues 1 and 2 are high water bills and sewer backups/ pollution dumps. These issues are connected because they are caused by bad, expensive engineering projects that don't solve the problems, but that you have to pay for. To site my least favorite project, the current administration has proposed to build a 4 mile long sewer containment tunnel, 16 feet in diameter that is to sit 100 feet beneath highway I-75. Tokyo built a tunnel storage of the same size and length recently; it cost them \$2 billion. Tokyo land prices make this almost worthwhile, but there are much cheaper options for Oakland county. These are far safer to build, and can be quite attractive, The most attractive of these is a Disney-style river, similar to San-Antonio's riverwalk, ruling parallel to I-75. As in San Antonio, most of the water would be carried in a culvert just below street level.</p> <p>Item 3 is to keep whats working working: upgrading pipes and water towers, keep good employees, keep doing public education.</p>

OAKLAND COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER (Continued)

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<p>Republican STEVEN L. JOHNSON 4616 Desert Bridge Ct., Highland, MI 48356</p>	<p>Steven L. Johnson has been an Oakland County resident for over 30 years. Professionally Johnson has been a small business owner and in corporate management roles where he developed strategic long-term business plans and managed the tactical execution of those plans. Additionally, planned staffing requirements, budgets/finance, marketing, and analysis of metrics.</p> <p>Academic credentials include: MBA, Plymouth State University, University System of NH + Graduate Certificate: Strategic Marketing Management, BS Business Management & Economics, SUNY- State University of New York, Harvard University JFK School, Certificate U.S. Public Policy: Social, Economic, and Foreign Policies (currently enrolled), AS, Associate Degree in Business Management - Oakland Community College + Certificate: Business Entrepreneurship, AA, Associate Degree in Liberal Arts - Oakland Community College</p> <p>"I'm running to provide leadership in securing the safety and stability our water resources for all."</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The safety and stability of the water resource infrastructure is the top priority. Developing and implementing plans for the replacement of old systems that may put residents and businesses at risk of failure of their water resources. 2. Create a plan for a minimum basic water and sewer service at no cost. This may be for all or low-income residents. 3. Develop a gray-water recycling plan for irrigation and urban agriculture.

OAKLAND COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER (Continued)

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<p><i>Republican</i> JIM STEVENS 3394 Coolidge, Rochester Hills, MI 48309</p>	<p>I want you to know some Large companies have damaged our Great Lakes, our Water drains which start off small, which over time end up in our Wonderful lakes. I have a plan to get our Lakes and water ways clean again.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We need to Educate Our Future Children to be the Gate Keepers of Clean Water. 2. From January 1 to April 18, 2018, a total of 95.4 million gallons of partially treated sewage were released into the Rouge River from retention treatment basins in Birmingham and Beverly Hills. More than another billion gallons of water were released from retention basins in Macomb County, the majority of which included wastewater discharged from the George W. Kuhn treatment basin, which collects sewage from 14 communities upstream of the Red Run Drain, including Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township, Berkley, Clawson, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Madison Heights, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, Troy and Beverly Hills... This needs to Stop..... 3. In these tough times I plan to Donate \$25,000 towards Water or Grocery Bills for Oakland County Citizens Who fell Victim of this Economy and Start a Charity which would help Families.

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