

VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER ELECTION
CITY of FARMINGTON HILLS

Tuesday, November 3, 2009
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

Go to www.LWVOA.org and Click on ‘Candidate Forums’ for 10/14 forum information.

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.

Questionnaires were NOT sent to Candidates UNOPPOSED on the Ballot:

For **MAYOR** for 2-year term:

JERRY ELLIS 29832 High Valley Ct. Farmington Hills, MI 48331.

8 Candidates for CITY COUNCIL for THREE 4-year terms

CANDIDATES for CITY COUNCIL	Question 1 (150 Words or less): Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for City 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 the city should address and what actions would you take regarding each of them?
<p>THREE 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than THREE</i></p>		
<p>NANCY BATES 32153 Red Clover Ct. Farmington Hills, MI 48334</p>	<p>I was first elected to City Council in 1989 and selected by Council to serve as mayor in 1993. I was elected by the voters with huge margins to serve as mayor from 1999 to 2003.</p> <p>While I was mayor I initiated the Commission for Children Youth and Families resulting in securing a \$387,000 grant for the after school programs at no additional cost to local taxpayers. I initiated the Mayor’s Youth Council, the Citizen’s Corps Council for Emergency Preparedness, the Community Volunteer Center, and was a founder of the Community Foundation that has awarded thousands of tax-free dollars to local worthy causes. I believe in citizen involvement.</p> <p>I have extensive legislative background and was called to Washington to testify about the value of after-school programs. I chaired the Transportation Committee for SEMCOG, served on two National Committees. I have proven leadership skills and valuable experience in problem solving strategies.</p>	<p>We have a serious fiscal challenge created by lower property values resulting fewer property tax dollars being collected while operational costs increase. The budget must maintain the best possible services at the lowest possible cost to taxpayers. With my eighteen years of budget experience I’ll be a strong voice for fiscal responsibility.</p> <p>Road conditions are terrible. It is an issue of public safety and economic development. New policies need to be developed that will fund necessary road improvements. I would press for more cooperation among all governmental agencies and work to have more tax dollars returned locally.</p> <p>Public transportation also impacts citizens daily. It is vital for economic development, for environmental issues, for senior citizens and for our youth. It is crucial for employees to get to their jobs and for businesses to have adequate staff. The current opt-out plan for SMART is unfair. I would work to change it.</p>

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS (Continued)

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<p>MICHAEL BRIDGES 35251 Old Timber Farmington Hills, MI 48331</p>	<p>I have extensive involvement in community service in the City of Farmington Hills. I have served on the area on aging commission where I learned about senior issues. I also served in the Farmington Public Schools as the vice chair of the legislative affairs committee where I tracked educational issues for the PTA Council. In addition, I have served on Financial Strategies Committee for the Farmington Public Schools where I monitored and made suggestions on cost reductions. Currently I serve on Crime Prevention Advisory Council, Farmington YMCA Board of Directors and I am the Council Liaison to the Pension Board.</p> <p>I am married to Deborah and we have two sons who are enrolled in the Farmington Public Schools. I received my Bachelor of Arts Degree with a Major in Business Administration from Spring Arbor College.</p>	<p>The three top issues facing the City of Farmington Hills are Financial, Social and Environmental Sustainability and all are interrelated and the successful implementation of all will result in a sustainable city.</p> <p>Financial Sustainability for Farmington Hills can be achieved by employing internal operating strategies and external economic development strategies. This is essential like most communities we are experiencing significant drop in property values. Also with the state current fiscal situation the city can expect e continue reduction in its state share revenue.</p> <p>Environmental Sustainability- Citizens of Farmington Hills have express concern for the environment. The impact that Farmington Hills can make on the global environment is minimal. However in order for us to do our part we need to think globally and act locally. The promotion of environmentally sensitive projects for public infrastructure, and by the private sector and by our residents will be a joint effort to reduce ...</p>
<p>AKIL HASHIM 22139 Malden St. Farmington Hills, MI 48336</p>	<p align="center">DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</p>	

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS (Continued)

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<p>MARY M. JOHNSTON 25311 Harcourt Farmington Hills, MI 48336</p>	<p>My advocacy for environmental issues began 30 years ago and is primarily the reason for my candidacy on the Farmington Hills City Council. I believe that my background provides a much needed outlook on the city council.</p> <p>My environmental/community work: Treasurer, Earth Alive of Farmington/Farmington Hills Co-director Safe Energy Coalition of Michigan Founding member Don't Waste Michigan Council watcher City of Farmington Hills Director, Voter Information Project Personal: A 38 year resident of Farmington Hills. B.A. Sociology/History Oakland University. Married mother of 2 and grandmother of 2. Interests reading history/politics, writing, hiking.</p>	<p>The top priority issues are the master plan, green space and taxes. The master plan is a massive reinvention of this city that includes the addition of 8 story buildings. The revision of the master plan, required every 5 years, has resulted in a plan for Farmington Hills that will fundamentally alter life in this community.</p> <p>The master plan fails to adequately save green space and instead provides incentives for too much development. The planning commission and the council are not committed to protecting the environment as a crucial aspect of city planning. The financial affairs of this city are inadequately presented and decisions are made without adequate input from the community. The \$8 million city hall project has taken large amounts of public monies with very little transparency.</p> <p>Other decisions are taken to the Consent Agenda or New Business and voted on unanimously without debate.</p>

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS (Continued)

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<p>JOE MANTEY 25779 Ridgewood Dr. Farmington Hills, MI 48336</p>	<p>Joe Mantey has served the City for nine years. As a Planning Commissioner, he pushed for a wetland protection ordinance. However, because the City Council has not been interested in that topic, the Planning Commission is not pursuing it. That's why Joe is running for Council. However, Joe is not a one-issue candidate.</p> <p>After graduating from the University of Michigan, Joe earned his graduate degree in economics from the University of California. He teaches economics at Oakland Community College. Joe also consults on the cost-benefit analysis of infrastructure investments. Joe has the experience needed to balance the City's budget.</p> <p>Joe and his wife, Kendra Schwartz, have been together for over 30 years. Kendra is a Professor of Medicine at Wayne State University. Their daughter, Julia, graduated from Farmington High and studies at the University of Iowa. Their son, Mitch, plays trombone in the Farmington High Marching Band.</p>	<p>1. Efficient Government. City revenues are down and projected to fall 20% or more over the next two years. We cannot raise taxes. We need to explore sharing more services with more government entities, like Farmington Public Schools. However, there is no quick, painless fix. We may need to cut some services. Joe will apply his training and experience to get the most out of your tax dollars, while reaching out to residents for their opinions and suggestions.</p> <p>2. Public Safety. This is one service we can't cut. Joe will fight to keep current staffing levels for police and fire.</p> <p>3. Protecting Wetlands. Joe has worked throughout his career in water resources. Wetlands are especially important to him. Most of our neighboring communities have adopted ordinances to protect wetlands. Joe feels strongly that Farmington Hills should do the same.</p> <p>Website: JoeMantey.org</p>

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS (Continued)

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<p>ROBERT MASON 37480 Rhonswood Dr. Northville, MI 48167</p>	<p>I have a long history of leadership success focusing on strategy, organizational development and restructuring for public and private entities. In the last 12 months, I've positively impacted the local, state and federal levels by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping families keep their homes through a \$50M stabilization fund. • Creating a plan and negotiating its acceptance with the SOM and Detroit, to eliminate a \$4.7M sewage debt as Treasury's Emergency Financial Manager. • Providing guidance to the Auto Task Force, House and Senate leaders on reconfiguring the auto industry. • Being selected to support NASA's restructuring per Presidential mandate; reinvigorating their \$18B budget. • Leading the administration of a Michigan municipality's \$27M pension fund in less than 60 days to preserve retiree's benefits. <p>This is an extremely difficult time for all levels of government. My broad sector experience, specific skills for challenging situations, and proven leadership will be valuable assets moving forward.</p>	<p>Community Engagement People need to be fully engaged with their City as every voice should be heard. I encourage citizens to create solutions from positive dialogue in the spirit of cooperation. Transparency, Collaboration and Integrity have always been my core guiding principles.</p> <p>Financial Management My focus has been to maintain our quality services at the lowest available costs. Considering revenues are declining and expenses continue to rise, Farmington Hills needs innovated ideas coupled with experienced leadership to be successful. As a community developer, municipal restructuring expert and a seasoned business executive, I create significant value in these areas.</p> <p>International Acumen I want to foster a glocal perspective (thinking globally, while acting locally) so that Farmington Hills is not just a regional consideration, but a world-wide one. To diversify of our tax base, I'll continue showcasing Farmington Hills internationally by promoting our safety, diversity and cultural arts.</p>

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS (Continued)

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<p>CHERYL OLIVERIO 22115 Malden St. Farmington Hills, MI 48336</p>	<p>I have been on the Farmington Hills city council for 16 years and a resident of the city for 22 years. I have been employed at Sellers Buick for over 16 years, and before that I was a stay-at-home mom. I have 4 sons and 4 grandchildren. The country and especially the state of Michigan are in a financial crisis and I believe my years of experience will help the city get through these difficult times. I am a very good listener. I take the time to listen to both sides of an issue, and take a very common-sense approach when making any decisions. I am also very non-partisan.</p>	<p>The #1 issue facing Farmington Hills is economic. We need to constantly look at cutting costs and changing how we do things. We need to work with other government agencies to combine our resources to save money.</p> <p>The #2 priority is to plan ahead! We need to be pro-active and try to envision how the city needs to be in the future and work towards that. We need to get citizens involved to look at all of the issues.</p> <p>The #3 issue is to be more environmentally conscious. With rising energy costs, we need to look at all city buildings to make them as energy efficient as possible. We are currently doing that with the City Hall Revitalization. We also need to educate residents and businesses because this is going to be a big expense for everyone!</p>
<p>NORENE YUSKOWATZ 28401 Lake Park Dr. Farmington Hills, MI 48331</p>	<p>I am running for Council to become more involved with city decisions. Farmington Hills is a great place to live and work. My involvement, willingness to work with others, and knowledge of the community will be an asset on the council.</p> <p>I've been on the board of the Council of Homeowners Associations over ten years including past president. I'm on the Farmington Hills/Farmington's nationally recognized Emergency Preparedness Commission (vice-chair), and the Farmington YMCA board. I'm a 31 year resident serving on many commissions and committees first in our schools, then my homeowner's association and the Council of Homeowners' Associations, the EPC, and the Y board. I've worked locally as a dental hygienist since 1985 and for the YMCA over 30 years leading classes and conducting trainings. I'm a longtime volunteer for Hospice of Michigan. Married to Mike, we have three grown children and five grandchildren.</p>	<p>Maintaining city services in a tight economy. Study all departments for consolidation and staggering days and hours giving residents more access to do city business. Audit all non-police and fire city vehicles use. Find services that could be outsourced for less money. We want to be the most desirable community in the area. Increasing property values, by maintaining services will enhance revenues.</p> <p>Communication. Being sensitive to residents in areas designated for redevelopment and overlay zoning. The city should use every means to inform the community, opening dialogue with residents, students and community groups such as COHA.</p> <p>Diversity. Using outreach and inclusion could educate our residents about our history, how we evolved, and future possibilities. This could lead to more participation in area activities and more involvement in government.</p>

THERE ARE NO CITY PROPOSALS ON THE BALLOT.