

**VOTER GUIDE – BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION**  
**FARMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**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](http://www.LWVOA.org) and Click on 'Candidate Forums' for 10/5 forum information.*

**Questionnaires were NOT sent to Candidates UNOPPOSED on the Ballot:**

**For SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER for TWO 6-year terms**

**SHEILAH P. CLAY** 24376 Millcreek Ct. Farmington Hills, MI 48336

**GARY D. SHARP** 37744 Cherry Hill Farmington Hills, MI 48331

**6 Candidates for SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER for TWO 4-year terms**

| <b>CANDIDATES for<br/>SCHOOL BOARD</b>   | <b>Question 1 (150 Words or less):<br/>Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for School Board and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</b>   | <b>Question 2 (150 Words or less):<br/>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>   |
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| <p><b>TWO 4-year terms</b><br/><i>Vote for no more than TWO</i></p> <p><b>PRISCILLA BROUILLETTE</b><br/>26105 Hidden Valley Dr.<br/>Farmington Hills, MI<br/>48331</p> | <p>Elected to the Farmington Board of Education in 1996, I'm in my 13th year of board service. I've held the office of President, VP and Treasurer each for three years. I earned a BA in English from Butler University. I bring technical and communication skills gained working for AT &amp; T and serving as Oswego Software vice president. I serve on the board of Neighborhood House, and the Galileo Institute for Teacher Leadership. I have lived in the district for 29 years and have two daughters who are graduates of Farmington Public Schools.</p> <p>I am running for the Board because I believe public education is the bedrock of our democracy and its strength and success is essential in building a strong future for our country. My leadership experience is invaluable as our district works to provide an exceptional education for all of our children despite reduced financial resources.</p> | <p>The priorities of our district are providing high quality teaching and learning to prepare our students to be successful in a global economy. I support policies to recruit and retain competent, excellent staff. I encourage opportunities for professional development recognizing that all staff must be given tools to ensure high academic achievement for all students.</p> <p>Our state's budgetary crisis necessitates ever more careful board review of all spending commitments. As a board member I request evidence that our educational strategies are working and data to support our investment. I require that we spend money where we need it most and are being fiscally responsible. I work to see that the district's budget priorities are consistent with our community's educational priorities. I look for evidence that all children are being well served and reaching their maximum potential. And I verify that our facilities and vehicles are safe and well-maintained.</p> |

## FARMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

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| <p><b>CINDY E. FLYNN</b><br/>                     25689 Blue Creek Ct.<br/>                     Farmington Hills, MI<br/>                     48336</p> | <p>With most of my background working in a business, I believe that the customer is everything and is the top priority. Our Customers is our children. With the chances of an additional cut to our districts budgets, my knowledge of cost cutting and conforming practices will be beneficial, our children should feel the least impact of any cuts or changes, and they are our purpose as a board. Also, I believe that to many times we look at everyone as a simple package, where actually no one person learns or acts the same. I have experienced this while teaching youth group; substituting and volunteering in the classrooms; and coaching T-ball and soccer, no one child learns the same way, therefore we should not depend on just test scores. Test are essential to make sure “No child is left behind”, but should not be the only focus of a class.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When cuts are to occur to our budgets, our children should be the last one impacted. We need to look at avenues that least impacts our children, the non-essentials in education. We should look for contracting services. We should be targeting buildings without classrooms. We should be using spaces in underutilized building or combining buildings. We should look at our transportation budget and see if changing bus routes or school zones can impact our budget.</li> <li>2. Listening to other experts, our Parents. As a PTA President, I believe that our expertise reside in our own district, we need to listen to them.</li> <li>3. We should be making sure that all of our schools have the same reputation, since we are one district. We should look into scorecards to make sure each school is accountable and make our schools all be top notch.</li> </ol> |

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| <p><b>UMESH GANDHI</b><br/>28159 Secluded Ln.<br/>Farmington Hills, MI<br/>48331</p>                      | <p>Biographical information:<br/>Name: Umesh Gandhi<br/>Education: Ph. D. Engineering, University of Michigan<br/>Current position: Research scientist at Toyota Technical center<br/>Family: Wife and two daughters, have lived in Farmington Hills for past 11 years<br/>I was born and brought up in India and have lived in US for more than 25 years.</p> <p>I am running for school board because I would like to help school system in two areas,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make best use of every dollar our school system is spending. It is very important to maintain quality of education in this tough economy as the revenues are dropping.</li> <li>2. Prepare our children to succeed in high tech, global, multicultural competitive world of tomorrow.</li> </ol> <p>I work on advanced technology, in multi cultural global environment everyday. My years of experience, strong analytical skills, common sense and practical approach will be a great asset to Farmington Public school system.</p> | <p>My top 3 priority are as follows,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I would like to make the best use of every dollar we spent to balance the budget while maintaining the quality of education. I would take following steps, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce non instructional expenses by 10% to match US average.</li> <li>• Listen to students, parents and teachers, who have first hand experience of effectiveness of different school programs to decide which area should receive cut.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. I will add emphasize in math and science area particularly in primary and middle school. I believe strong foundation is necessary for success in future. We may have to offer after school support if necessary.</li> <li>3. I will add courses in high school to educate recent changes in global economy and increasing cultural diversity. I believe it is important to prepare our children for the changes they will face in world of tomorrow.</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>DENNIS HOMANT</b><br/>29187 Birchcrest Way<br/>Farmington Hills, MI<br/>48331-2429</p>              | <p><b>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</b></p>  |   |
| <p><b>FRANK L. REID</b><br/>21690 Beauford Ln.<br/>Northville, MI 48167</p>                               | <p><b>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</b></p>  |   |

## FARMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

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| <p><b>STEVEN STIMSON</b><br/>28287 Montpelier Ct.<br/>Farmington Hills, MI<br/>48334</p>                          | <p>I have been a lifelong resident of the area, growing up and attending public schools in Southfield. I have an engineering degree from Oakland University and a MBA from the University of Michigan. My wife Gaby and I have lived in Farmington Hills for over 12 years. We have three children attending elementary and middle schools in FPS. I am an owner of a software and technology consulting company in Ann Arbor. I want to bring my experiences, especially those as a small business owner, and my education to benefit Farmington Public Schools. As a school board member I would bring my skills as an entrepreneur to help find innovative ways of improving our school system while providing strategies to improve function, cost savings, efficiency, and public relations. I also bring a high degree of technical skills that can be utilized when evaluating issues and solutions to problems facing FPS.</p> | <p>The number one issue facing FPS is the budget. The state is consistently reducing per pupil funding while costs continue to rise. We need to be extremely aggressive in keeping costs down. FPS needs to be innovative and look at ways of being more efficient and explore cost sharing opportunities with other districts. Our aging schools and administrative buildings consume a significant portion of the operating budget. It is imperative that the Facilities Team currently evaluating the district come up with opportunities to consolidate buildings to reduce costs.</p> <p>My children have had some excellent teachers but I always believe there can be improvement. FPS needs to ensure that teachers are provided the tools and environment to give a best in class education.</p> <p>Finally, FPS needs to have a strong technology strategy to both improve the education students receive and streamline operations to lower costs.</p> |

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