

VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER ELECTION
CITY of PLEASANT RIDGE

Tuesday, November 7, 2017
POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OAKLAND AREA

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Go to www.LWVOA.org and Click on ‘Candidate Forums’ for 9/26 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.

1 Candidate for MAYOR for ONE 2-year term

CANDIDATES for <u>Mayor</u> ONE 2-year term <i>Vote for no more than ONE</i>	Question 1: Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Mayor and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.	Question 2: What are the top 3 Priority Issues that the city should address and what actions would you take regarding each of them?
KURT METZGER 28 Sylvan Ave. Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069	<p>Armed with degrees in experimental psychology and sociology/demography, I moved to the Detroit area from Cincinnati, Ohio in 1975 to work for the Census Bureau. Over the next 40 years, I have applied my demographic research interests to the Census Bureau (15 years), Wayne State University’s Center for Urban Studies (15 years) and the United Way for Southeastern Michigan (3 years). In 2008, I was awarded a grant of over \$1 million by the Skillman and Kresge foundations to create a “center” that would collect, process and disseminate detailed data on the City of Detroit and the metropolitan region. Data Driven Detroit (D3) was officially launched in 2009 and continues to be the information hub in the city. Though retired from D3, I continue to consult, speak and serve as a go-to person for the media on population-related stories.</p> <p>I have had the good fortune to work with a wide variety of organizations and individuals over this time and, as I contemplated retirement in 2013, I was encouraged to run for Mayor of Pleasant Ridge, which I won. I want to continue this work in 2017.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communities throughout Michigan are facing fiscal challenges, due to reduced state revenue sharing, legacy pension and health care costs for retirees and the Headlee/Prop A combination. Maintaining a strong fiscal bottom line, while increasing the general fund is the top priority. 2. Maintaining a strong infrastructure – streets, sidewalks, parks and tree canopy – while increasing recreational opportunities for all residents, regardless of age, through park improvements and increased programming. 3. Continuing to explore new avenues for improving communication between the city and residents and increasing the involvement of residents in community activities.

CITY OF PLEASANT RIDGE (Continued)

4 Candidates for CITY COMMISSION for TWO 4-year terms

<p>CANDIDATES for City Commission</p> <p>Two 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than TWO</i></p>	<p>Question 1: Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for City Commission and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2: What are the top 3 Priority Issues that the city should address and what actions would you take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>SEAN CAMPBELL 58 Sylvan Ave. Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069</p>	<p>I grew up in Canton, MI with my mother a nurse, my father a police officer, and my sister. I graduated with a Bachelors of Mechanical Engineering from Lawrence Tech in 2005 and earned by Juris Doctor from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law in 2014. I worked in engineering before and during law school and now work at GM as a Government Contracts Manager. My wife Megan and I met at LTU, were married in 2009 and lived in Royal Oak, Detroit, and Ferndale before purchasing our home on Sylvan Ave in 2010. We have a pug named Gatsby and are expecting our first child in early December.</p> <p>I'm running for City Commission because I've been looking for ways to get involved since graduating from law school. After attending several city commission meetings and being part of an ordinance committee, I realized that being a City Commissioner would allow me to participate in Pleasant Ridge in a way that involves my skills and my interest. I've spent my career working in diverse groups, building consensus to solve problems and I think those skills would serve me well in city government.</p>	<p>Education, Environment, and Public Safety. Education: I think that the PR city government has established a good relationship with the Ferndale school board and has done a good job communicating the district's activities to Pleasant Ridge residents. I would like to see that relationship continue and if elected, I would like to be the commission liaison to the school district. Environment: the actions our city government has taken to reduce our carbon footprint while cutting costs have been great. I want to make sure that the city commission continues to gather ideas from residents about other ways Pleasant Ridge can go green and encourage city staff to seek out new opportunities to reduce waste, reduce water and energy usage, and increase recycling. Public Safety: Managing police retirement funding is critical. I've seen how police pension issues harm cities and officers. I'm glad that our city government has made the tough, but fair retiree pension and health care plan decisions to improve the long-term financial health of our police department so that it's around for a long time.</p>
<p>ALEX LENKO 61 Wellesley Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069</p>	<p>Visit www.alexlenko.com for details on priorities and background.</p>	<p>Visit www.alexlenko.com for details on priorities and background.</p>

CITY OF PLEASANT RIDGE (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for City Commission</p> <p>Two 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than TWO</i></p>	<p>Question 1: Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for City Commission and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2: What are the top 3 Priority Issues that the city should address and what actions would you take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>BRET SCOTT P. O. Box 808 Royal Oak, MI 48068</p>	<p>About Bret:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current member of the Pleasant Ridge City Commission. • Born in Pontiac and is a self-professed, proud Michigander. • Business and engineering degrees from Lawrence Technological University in Southfield, MI. • Over 30 years of automotive industry experience, specializing in problem solving, management, research, and globalization. • Broad exposure to other regions, both professionally and personally. • Past and present Board member of diversity teams at GM, Volkswagen and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. • Member of the Pleasant Ridge Investment Committee. • Liaison to the Pleasant Ridge Historical Commission. • Tinkerer, car nut, and techie.... Every board should have one to help get things done. <p>With the support of the community and a little bit of hard work, I would like the opportunity to use the experience I've gained serving on our City Commission, to meet the challenges we'll see ahead, while preserving the things that have always made our city a pleasant place to live.</p>	<p>Reasoning for Running:</p> <p>Let's start with a simple fact. Pleasant Ridge is a wonderful community, one that I am proud to call my home. In large and small ways, we all contribute to make our city a reference model for neighboring communities.</p> <p>Over the coming years, we will face challenges to keeping our city on the solid path that it is on. If re-elected, there are three priorities that I will continue to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively contribute to budget and investment plans that cover current needs and prepare us for future expenses, • Push for the steady maintenance of our city's assets and infrastructure, • Foster a city commission that is approachable and open to input, responsive to concerns, and cohesive. <p>Layered on top of these priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The advocacy of forward-thinking services that improve recycling, energy management, and conservation, • The evaluation of ideas that prepare us for the future, while being mindful of our history and character. <p>Thoughtful planning, consistent maintenance, and long-term strategies will help keep Pleasant Ridge on its solid footing.</p>

CITY OF PLEASANT RIDGE (Continued)

<p>CANDIDATES for City Commission</p> <p>Two 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than TWO</i></p>	<p>Question 1: Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for City Commission and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position.</p>	<p>Question 2: What are the top 3 Priority Issues that the city should address and what actions would you take regarding each of them?</p>
<p>AMANDA WAHL 3 Oxford Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069</p>	<p>I have lived in Pleasant Ridge for 16 years, and volunteered with various organizations for 10 years. My passion to make a difference is what drives me. I am running for city commission as this role will allow me to contribute to the city in a more comprehensive way. I consider this a privilege and would be honored should you choose me for this important position.</p> <p>These are the highlights of my accomplishments while volunteering in Pleasant Ridge: 10 years as a Pleasant Ridge Foundation Trustee and 5 years as Vice President Chairperson of the 2016 & 2017 Pleasant Ridge Auctions, raising over \$100,000 to support and enhance our community 6 years on the city’s Recreation Commission Served on Gainsboro Park Redevelopment Committee</p> <p>What do I do for a living? I have been in Business Development for most of my life. I currently work out of my home and promote patient engagement software in the medical industry. My background has taught me critical skills that I believe will be useful as a City Commissioner, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening Timely follow up Problem solving Tenacity 	<p>1. Ensure fiscal responsibility and maintain the programs and services that make the city unique. I will treat the cities resources with careful analysis and consideration and use them wisely.</p> <p>2. Building community Community is at the heart of everything we do in Pleasant Ridge, I will work to educate residents on the different organizations and programs in the city so residents get involved where their interests lie.</p> <p>3. Transparent Government I want to make sure that residents in the city have a voice and know the issues and proper channels to seek out.</p>

THERE IS 1 CITY PROPOSAL ON THE BALLOT.

<p>PROPOSAL 2017 – 1 POLICE PENSION STABILIZATION MILLAGE PROPOSAL</p>	<p>Shall the City of Pleasant Ridge be authorized to levy up to an additional 1.40 mills (\$1.40 per thousand dollars of taxable value), for the purposes of funding currently underfunded police pensions. The millage shall be authorized for a period of 15 years with the first levy in July, 2018, provided that the City shall not be authorized to increase such levy by more than 0.35 mills in 2018, or by more than an additional 0.35 mills each year thereafter, up to the maximum millage herein authorized. The intent of this request is to allow the partial restoration of City Charter authorized millage which was reduced by Section 31 of Article IX of the State Constitution of 1963. The initial 0.35 mill increase would raise the sum of approximately \$50,750 in 2018.</p>
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