

VOTER GUIDE –BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION CLARKSTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Tuesday, May 6, 2008
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: 248-548-1097

Go to www.LWVOA.org and Click on Candidate Forums for 4/10 forum information.

School District Board Member - 5 Candidates for 2 Seats

CANDIDATES for SCHOOL BOARD TWO 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than TWO</i>	Question 1 (200 Words or less): Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for School Board and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position that you are running for.	Question 2 (200 Words or less): 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?
SUSAN BOATMAN 7932 Woodview Road Clarkston, MI 48348	<p>I am running for School Board Trustee because I am deeply interested in education and, as a critical thinker, believe I can effectively participate in the decision making process the School Board employs in setting policy. During 15 years of volunteering in the Clarkston school district, I have served as treasurer and other positions on the PTA Boards of Bailey Lake Elementary, Sashabaw Middle School, Clarkston High School, and the Clarkston PTA Council. I served 2 years as president of the Clarkston PTA Council. I was a member of the Parent Advisory Team for 8 years with Superintendent Dr. Roberts. I have sat on various district committees including the Field Trip Task Force, the Fundraising Task Force, the CHS Blue Ribbon Committee, and the Facilities Committee. In 2007, I received the Outstanding Service Award from the Administration Building. I have 19 years of work experience in Information Technology, including 11 years as a department manager. I have experience in developing work plans, preparing annual budgets, conducting performance appraisals, and hiring and firing staff - skills relevant to being a School Board Trustee. I am married with two sons, both of whom are attending Michigan State University.</p>	<p><u>Uncertain school funding</u> - This issue is currently being addressed by the school board and the administration. Cuts are being made in next year's budget and new sources of revenue are being explored in order to deal with Michigan's economic uncertainty. This will be an ongoing issue and I will strive to keep cuts as far away as possible from the district's core mission - educating students.</p> <p><u>Trimester implementation</u> - In response to the more rigorous high school graduation requirements passed by Congress, the district will implement a trimester scheduling model next year. Oversight of the implementation and ongoing assessment of student learning will need to occur and be monitored by the school board to insure that trimester scheduling is right for Clarkston schools.</p> <p><u>Changing High School Model</u> - The school board faces many decisions on how our high school will function. In 2011, the attendance requirement for passing a class will be eliminated. High school may become more like a college campus. Oakland Early College opens next year, where high school students attend 5 years, but graduate with an Associates Degree. How we look at high school is changing and careful review must be given to any future changes.</p>

CLARKSTON School District (Continued)

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<p>JEFF BROUGHTON 5870 Pine Knob Road Clarkston, MI 48346</p>	<p>A 20-year resident of Clarkston, I have two children who have attended Clarkston schools throughout. I have achieved success as a Global Program Manager for EDS, and as a Colonel in the Michigan Army National Guard. These positions have given me valuable experience leading large, complex organizations similar to the Clarkston School District. I have also gained the know-how with budget management and strategic planning that will serve the Board and the community well.</p> <p>I am running for the School Board because I have a great passion for the children of this community, and the education they receive from the Clarkston schools. I am grateful that my children have received a world-class education from the teachers and administrators of this district. Election to the Board of Education allows me to serve the District and the community in a way that best leverages my leadership, management and communication skills.</p>	<p>Budget Management - In a time of uncertain state funding and flat revenue, management of district finances is the key issue facing the Board. The Board will have to make some difficult choices about what we can afford to pay for in the coming years. I will work towards a balanced budget that ensures the district maintains its elite standard of education.</p> <p>Community Involvement - I support increased parental involvement in district activities, and will look for innovative ways to constructively involve the community. I will keep the community informed about the key issues facing the district, and what is being done to resolve those issues. I will be a visible, approachable representative of the Board that is willing to listen to the concerns of all members of the community.</p> <p>Effective Use of Technology – When applied effectively, technology can be a resource multiplier for our educators. When poorly applied, technology simply becomes a distraction and a drain on the valuable resources of the district. I will take advantage of my many years of technology experience to help the district apply technology in a way that helps our teachers do what they’re best at – educate our children.</p>

CLARKSTON School District (Continued)

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<p>BRIAN KITCHIN 4595 Pelton Road Clarkston, MI 48346</p>	<p>I am a married 52-year-old retired autoworker. I have an 11-year-old daughter, Chelsea, and my wife is Kelly. I am a Viet Nam-era Veteran of the U.S. Army. I have an Associates Degree from Oakland Community College in Mental Health.</p> <p>I feel I can bring common sense to the Board that I feel can be lacking in some fundamental issues.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The unwillingness of the administration to abide by the law and still scheduling elections other then November. The superintendent has fought the people tooth and nail on this issue. 2. To implement some of the suggestions from the Mackinaw Center such as closing the Oakland Intermediate School district and selling the building and return the annual \$280,000,000.00. 3. Return the schools to halls of education and not bastions of indoctrination for the liberal agendas pushed by Harvard Graduate School of Education and Univ. Of Cal-Berkeley. These 2 schools are responsible for much of the curriculum in our children's textbooks.

CLARKSTON School District (Continued)

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<p>JOAN PATTERSON 7284 Deerhill Drive Clarkston, MI 48346</p>	<p>I am a 21 year resident of Clarkston, married, and currently a Clarkston Community School Board Trustee. I have a 15 year old son in Clarkston schools.</p> <p>My education (MBA of Information Systems), and work as a systems analyst, consultant, and a Certified Tennis Professional trained me to identify problems, and implement solutions through both personal and community involvement. Through other elected and appointed positions I have held, such as President of the Deer Lake Farms Association, and President of Independence Elementary PTO, I have gained experience in successfully working with diverse groups of people to move toward a common goal to continually improve our schools.</p> <p>My last four years on the Clarkston School Board has given me background and the knowledge of the school system to challenge the status quo and continue to look for win/win solutions through these tough times. I believe we all need to look within ourselves to ask how we can improve our education system. I will continue to seek input from parents, teachers, students, staff, and within and beyond our community to identify opportunities to allow all our children to be successful. I welcome the challenge the school board has ahead of it.</p>	<p>Remain Competitive: As a community, we must identify the programs necessary to remain competitive. Because of financial cuts, we need to focus on our commitment to public education and utilize the available resources within our community to address areas affected by budget cuts and unfunded state mandated programs.</p> <p>Prepare Student for the 21st Century: As a Board Member who puts children first, and with my experience, I believe I have the vision to help facilitate solutions to the challenges our district faces. By working together as a team, administrators, teachers, and parents can effectively take our students into the 21st century.</p> <p>Understand and Control Costs: I believe we need to understand all costs; those that are contractually fixed; those that are state mandated; as well as all remaining costs. Rather than just focusing on direct cuts, we should emphasize efficiencies to improve processes and streamline programs and structures across the board to reduce costs. All of these changes need to be accomplished with the least amount of impact on our children. All organizations are facing the same challenges. We need to learn from their experiences and apply the best practices possible to maintain a high quality education for our students.</p>

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<p>JOE WAULDRON 6961 N Fairways Drive Clarkston, MI 48348</p>	<p>I attended UofD and received a degree in Business Adm in 1964 to classes. I served with the US Army state side; although I was classified as a Viet Nam vet I did not go overseas. During the Cuban missile crises I was alerted to go to Florida. My career after graduating from UofD was always in the business field. I owned businesses in Interior Design and in Office Supplies for around 20 years. I held positions of VP of Purchasing, President, and Purchasing Director. After I sold my office supply company, I was hired by a Canadian firm as a financial auditor which I worked for about 15 years. I retired in 2005. I am married to Beverly and have a daughter Jill who will be teaching in the Clarkston School District. She is currently student teaching until she receives her masters. I am currently President of Clarkston Area Youth Assistance, Vice Chair of Oakland County Youth Assistance Coordinating Council. I also service on the Mentor Plus committee. I am also VP of the Fairways at Pine Knob Homeowners Association. I think my experience in the financial field would help to evaluate the budget and make good financial decisions.</p>	<p>My three priority issues facing Clarkston Schools is keeping the budget in black and balanced. Our biggest assists are in our children and our teachers. Keeping the children in Clarkston during their years of education in Clarkston is a very important issue. Even after they graduate we would like to see them go to college, graduate, and then come back to Clarkston to raise a family, work here or even open a business. The teachers we have in Clarkston currently need to be told that we want them to stay. The last important issue I see is the state of the economy here in Michigan. We need to keep our avenues open to Lansing and let our legislatures our concerns with receiving revenues back to Clarkston.</p>

THERE ARE NO PROPOSALS ON THE BALLOT.

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