



**League of Women Voters
of Dearborn – Dearborn Heights**
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**Non-partisan Voter Guide
for the City of Dearborn
Primary Election
August 4, 2009
7 a.m. – 8 p.m.**

ABOUT THIS ELECTION 25 candidates are running for 7 seats on Dearborn’s City Council (4-year terms). The 14 top vote-getters in the August 4 Primary will move on to the November 3 General Election ballot. The top 7 in November will be elected. **Please vote – every vote makes a difference.** Local elections are often decided by very low numbers. Higher voter participation makes the election a truer reflection of the community’s voice. **YOU MAY VOTE FOR 7 OR LESS CANDIDATES.**

ABOUT THE GUIDE The League of Women Voters of Dearborn-Dearborn Heights contacted all 25 candidates for the answers to two questions (see page 2). Their responses are printed *exactly as submitted* except for some abbreviations due to space considerations and an ellipsis (...) when replies exceeded the 100-word limit. Publication of this Voter Guide 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. The League takes no responsibility for any of the views or facts stated by the candidates. Candidates who participated are listed in alphabetical order. Those who did not reply before the deadline are listed on page 7 under “Did not respond.”

ABOUT THE LEAGUE The League of Women Voters is a national nonpartisan organization established in 1920 to encourage citizen participation in government. It never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. Membership is open to all citizens of voting age, both men and women. For information, call 313-278-6476 or www.lwvddh.org. Voter Guide Editor: Betsy Cushman

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Are you ready to vote?

Not sure if you’re registered? Call the City Clerk’s office to check or go on-line to www.sospublius.org.

Bring your picture ID & proof of address. If you don’t have it with you, you may sign a statement.

Common question: Do I have to vote for 7 or may I vote for fewer? You may vote for 7 of 25 candidates, but you are not required to vote for 7. (Over 7 will invalidate your ballot.)

NEED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

**Contact the City Clerk’s office
(313) 943-2010**



Mark Your Ballot

Vote for (up to) 7 of 25 candidates

- Robert A. Abraham**
- Joseph Agius**
- David W. Bazzy**
- Terry Burke**
- Khalil Dakhlallah**
- Patrick D'Ambrosio**
- George T. Darany**
- Mark J. Dawdy**
- Stephen S. Dobkowski, Jr.**
- Sharon Dulmage**
- Rabih Hammoud**
- George Hart**
- Nancy A. Hubbard**
- Patrick M. Kiernan**
- Scott J. Marquette**
- Brian C. O'Donnell**
- Suzanne Sareini**
- Ali Sayed**
- Molly Sharp**
- Mark C. Shooshanian**
- Nancy Siwik**
- Hussein Sobh**
- Thomas Patrick Tafelski**
- Doug Thomas**
- Adrenne Wygonik**

QUESTIONS

- 1. Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for City Council. What relevant qualities, skills and experience would you bring to the position?**
- 2. What are the top two or three priority issues facing the City of Dearborn, and what actions would you take to address them if elected?**

Robert A. Abraham	David W. Bazzy	Khalil Dakhllallah	George T. Darany
<p>1. Councilman Robert Abraham has served as his hometown since January 1, 2002 and remains committed to delivering first-rate public services. A third generation Dearborn resident, graduate from Fordson High School (1985), and a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and Computer Science from Hillsdale College (1989) with All-American honors in track. Robert Abraham has worked diligently over the years to help make improvements to the City of Dearborn. Bob's primary goal remains to balance public services and safety with the financial challenges of the city. Bob and his wife, Mary Ann, have three children: Brandon, Jared, and Mary Kate.</p>	<p>1. 51 years old lifelong resident. President and COO Kenwal steel company AND Kenwal pickling company. Married 25 years Cherie, 3 children JAMES NICHOLAS and JAKE. Highest Education Level MBA Wayne State University. Past chairman Dearborn charter commission. Commissioner of zoning board of appeals 6 years. Commissioner on Dearborn recreation commission 6 years. It is my belief that my background in business combined with my political background in different faucets of the city government culminating in the successful passage of a new city charter in 2007 gives me the optimum experience fro being on the city council today. Being a lifelong ...</p>	<p>1. Age: 53; Time in the city: 33 years; Family: Married with four grown children and one grand child. Education: BBA in Management. Occupation: Dearborn Public Schools/ Student Services Liaison. City of Dearborn Recreation Dept. (Park Ranger/ Manager). 19th District Court Work Program Supervisor. Served 5 years as a volunteer Dearborn Police Reserve Officer. In listening to the people in this community, the thing they're most afraid of is losing the small town feel. Making sure we get appropriate infrastructure and growth in a way that preserves quality of life and small- town feel is very important, and it's something i'm ...</p>	<p>1. Dearborn resident: 50 years Education: U of M – Dearborn; BA –Economics Work Experience: City of Dearborn Consultant, Former owner–Classic Trolley, Realtor. Community Service: 2008-09 Dearborn Rotarian of the Year, Dearborn Goodfellows President 2008-09, many others. Volunteer: Dearborn Firefighters Burn Drive, Dearborn Public Schools, Meals on Wheels, Usher - Sacred Heart. I believe my work experience, community service, being a hard worker and independent thinker, and experience as a Councilman qualifies me to continue representing resident's interests on the Dearborn City Council. I have the desire and commitment to work with Dearborn residents to make this great city even better.</p>
<p>2. The top priority as a City Councilperson is to listen to the Dearborn Voters. Given the economic uncertainties and financial challenges, the power and voice of the people is more important now than ever. The leaders of our community must have the political will-power to make the must difficult decisions and prioritization of services, while we try to balance the budget. With two full terms on City Council I have the knowledge, professional background and experience to provide Dearborn with strong leadership when it is need most. Remember "Robert Abraham" on Election Day!</p>	<p>2. The top 2 priorities facing the city today are interrelated.</p> <p>1.The number of vacant and foreclosed properties both business and residential are the single most pressing issue.</p> <p>2.The reduction in property values across the city resulting in a lower tax base and therefore a significantly lower future revenue stream for the city.</p> <p>The city needs to take a proactive stand to encourage business development while at the same time working with the local lenders to roll out a plan to help encourage home ownership in the city. This would be a key to relieving the vacant housing situation and stabilizing ...</p>	<p>2. a. Budget shortfall. One strategy I would decide on is to engage an expert on exploring new revenue source and continue to keep a microscopic veiw of the budget, monitor it every month, come back every quarter and ask the question: Have we reduced enough, so we're not ignoring the problem and taking catastrophic action later?</p> <p>b. Council Members working as a team. This election year, Dearborn will have a new council representatives. I feel it is important that everyone begin to work as a team, instead of pondering to certain interest groups. Dearborn needs to see leadership working toward...</p>	<p>2. Balancing next year's budget (2010-11) will be challenging. Lower property values, coupled with less state revenue sharing and rising costs of employee and retiree health benefits will require serious discussions about our City Services and their costs. I have the experience, knowledge and commitment to engage the tough questions that lie ahead and to meet the challenge head on. Foreclosures have become widespread. I've backed the City's efforts to purchase these homes for demolition. This helps keeps neighborhood values from falling. More grant money is needed to continue this project so vandalism and looting don't become commonplace, like other cities.</p>

<p>Mark J. Dawdy</p> <p>1. Lifelong (45 years) Dearborn resident. Alumnus of Fordson, HFCC and Lawrence Tech. Lifelong member of St. Barbara Parish where I serve as President of Ushers and Lectors Club and as a Eucharistic Minister. I am married 20 years to my wife Diane, and we have two wonderful children through adoption, Adam, 12, and Ashlynne, 8</p> <p>Community involvement through Fr. Patrick O’Kelley KofC, St. Barbara Parish, Lindbergh PTA, and Coach for both Dearborn and Sacred Heart Baseball, and former Scout Leader.</p> <p>Employed as Operations Manager for Ambit Land Surveyors, Inc. Also Licensed Builder and co-owner of Dawdy Designs and Construction, L.L.C.</p>	<p>Stephen S. Dobkowski, Jr.</p> <p>1. Lifelong resident of Dearborn -Son of the late Stephen S. and Josephine Dobkowski -former elected Dearborn City Charter Commissioner -former member of the Wayne County Social Service Board -founding Chairman, Polish/American Congress Michigan Political Action Committee -Graduate of St. Barbara’s Grade School and Orchard Lake St. Mary’s High School -attended Henry Ford Community College and graduated from Michigan State University with a BA in Political Science with emphasis in economics, history, geography, and Secondary Education - Member of St. Barbara’s Catholic Parish. Former business owner - presently a printing salesman. Reads the New York Times and Wall St. Journal daily.</p>	<p>Sharon Dulmage</p> <p>1. 47 year resident of Dearborn and married to Jim, a lifelong resident. Served 22 years as Trustee of the Dearborn Board of Education and Henry Ford Community College. Attended HFCC, Detroit College of Business and CMU. I have 47 years experience SERVING Dearborn through service organizations and in my previous elected position. I want to continue to SERVE the community as a member of the City Council. I have 22 years experience with public funding and over 99% attendance at Board meetings including special meetings. I am dedicated to Dearborn, committed to moving Dearborn forward, while preserving tradition and services.</p>	<p>Rabih Hammoud</p> <p>1. I was raised in the beautiful city of Dearborn. I am very proud of the city and its people. I intend to run for city council to introduce my new ideas and try my very best to improve the overall circumference of the city. The country, state, and city are in an economic crisis. With your support for Dearborn City Council, you can guarantee that I will enforce my ideas and plans on the issues our city is facing. I want my little girls to be raised in the most beautiful, safest city in the world and that is Dearborn.</p>
<p>2. Dearborn needs new leadership with strong business background and community involvement working closely with the people and businesses here. Dearborn needs a council that can plan for its future with the ever-changing economy and that listens and responds to the needs of its residents and businesses. My goals will be to improve our business climate by finding incentives to keep existing businesses and draw new ones; find solutions to problems from paid parking and our decreasing tax base; and improve Dearborn’s image by highlighting our assets like our strong neighborhoods, parks, Ford Motor Company, and Greenfield Village.</p>	<p>2. Top 3 issues are: City of Dearborn’s financial crisis, refusal by city to comply with Sections 10.16, 10.17 of Chapter 10 of the old and new City Charter, (Police-Fire Department manning levels), thus putting families and neighborhoods of Dearborn in danger in order to balance the budget, failed parking structures and paid parking which destroyed W. Dearborn’s business district and its tax values while forcing Dearborn taxpayers to pay Construction Bond payments for 20 years. All 3 problems require the election of 4 new, strong city council members who will not “rubber stamp” every goofy proposal from the Mayor’s Office.</p>	<p>2. Stabilizing neighborhoods and growing the business districts are top priorities and go hand and hand. Neighborhood stabilization is tied to attracting people to Dearborn and keeping the residents we have. I am committed to recruiting small retail shops to the business districts by seeking them out. I have visited many communities and have found unique shops that I believe would do well in Dearborn. Growth of the business districts, public safety through support of our police and fire departments, continuing our fine city services and resolving the paid parking concerns through compromise will stabilize the neighborhoods and business community.</p>	<p>2. a. Maintain our high level of City Services: Police, Fire, Parks and Recreation, Public Service Departments are what our city has been known for and should remain at the level that we have come to expect. b. Support local businesses. Easing restrictions businesses may be struggling with to keep businesses growing in our city. Provide numerous avenues (web, newspaper, newsletters, etc) for Dearborn residents and our guests to know what Dearborn has to offer (attractions, restaurants, events, etc). c. Embrace the diversity that exists in our city; Diversity gives us an opportunity to set us apart from other cities</p>

George Hart	Nancy A. Hubbard	Scott J. Marquette	Brian C. O'Donnell
<p>1. I am George Hart, a former Councilman, County Commissioner and a State Senator for 20 years. I would like to continue maintaining Dearborn as a Premier City as I have always known it.</p>	<p>1. I'm running for City Council for one main reason and that's to help people. I know others look for authority, recognition, and a sense of importance when running for political office. But I've always believed that public service is about one thing—serving the public.</p> <p>That's why over five terms I've worked hard every day on behalf of our residents. Wherever I have to go and whatever I have to do I'm going to listen to people, take a personal interest in their concerns, and keep trying to find ways to resolve their issues in a fair and balanced way.</p>	<p>1. Personal Info: •Married to Lauren (Drouillard) Marquette •Pets:2 Labs, 2 Cats. Education: • Divine Child Alum 2000 •UM- Dearborn B.S.- Biology, B.A.- Psychology 2005 • UM - Ann Arbor Master's in Health Services Administration (MHSA) 2007. Previous Community Involvement: • Delonis Homeless Shelter •Huron Valley Humane Society •Ronald McDonald House •Captain 2008 Walk to Cure Juvenile Diabetes •Manager Howell's Dearborn Coed Softball Team. Relevant Skills/ Experience: •7 years Health Care Experience (3 yrs Admin Leadership- Quality Improvement) •Invested in Future of Community & Needs of Residents •Mutual Gains Approach to Conflict Resolution</p>	<p>1. I am thirty six years old and have been married for five years. We have one son and another child on the way. I have lived in Dearborn for my adult life, and we are happy to be raising our family and living here. I grew up in Dearborn Heights, I am in the healthcare industry; I have a BS and an MBA.</p> <p>I bring my educational training, experience in working with diverse populations, business acumen, and a sympathetic understanding. Additionally, I bring a fresh new perspective on city issues gleaned from my diverse civic endeavors supporting council deliberations.</p>
<p>2. Operating a budget with certain priorities such as continuing good services as well as safe neighborhoods. This is very important. The budget is very critical and realizing the cutbacks on certain priorities definitely has an impact on all of us in Dearborn. Emanating cutbacks from the State of Michigan have had an effect on all of us.</p> <p>I will always do THE GREATEST GOOD FOR THE GREATEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE. I have lived in Dearborn all my life.</p>	<p>2. Since serving people is my main focus, strengthening the places they live—our neighborhoods—is my first priority. Our Neighborhood Stabilization Program has been very successful. We must continue developing programs like this to protect the places we call home.</p> <p>We also have to keep working to attract different growth industries to Dearborn. The Oakwood project on Michigan Avenue and the proposed conference center will bring us new spending and new jobs.</p> <p>At the same time, we'll have to make the tough budget decisions in order to live within our means without changing what makes Dearborn so special.</p>	<p>2. Lack of Jobs that Support Middle Class Family:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Develop new industries •Attract relocating businesses •Build relationships with current businesses •Create career opportunities for new grads <p>Relationship Between City & Residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase communication with residents • Listen to concerns & take action • Better publicize available services • Engage residents in city decision-making <p>Improve Home Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New jobs & strong community will increase demand for homes & increase value • Help residents avoid foreclosure • Retain high standard of Dearborn homes and neighborhoods • Work with Realtors to increase "sell factor" of homes 	<p>2. The biggest issues facing the city are financial. Property values and tax revenues are down; there are many vacant and foreclosed properties. Once elected, my first priority is to forego 25% of my base city compensation to demonstrate my commitment and to do my part to get things moving again. Neighborhoods are in peril and need to be stabilized utilizing enforcement of ordinances and use of our superior city services; specifically police and fire. New initiatives need to be taken to retain and increase business development (i.e. fix paid parking). Doing more with less has to be the new standard.</p>

Suzanne Sareini	Ali Sayed	Mark C. Shooshanian	Nancy Siwik
<p>1. I am serving my fifth term on the Dearborn City Council. I can say without hesitation that my experience and knowledge are needed more than ever to help us navigate through the difficult times ahead. My record shows that I care about public safety, our senior citizens, business districts, and strong and stable neighborhoods. We've built proud traditions, a great service mix, and a special way of life. Still, I believe that Dearborn's best days are yet to come. I have been through the good times and I promise you that I will not waver in tough times.</p>	<p>1. Ali Sayed was born on January 2, 1981 in Dearborn—the city he still calls home. Raised among eight siblings and two loving parents, Ali came from humble beginnings. A graduate of Dearborn High School, he is currently pursuing a degree in Public Administration. Ali began his entrepreneurial career by purchasing a little restaurant near Detroit Metro Airport. This small business gave Ali the opportunity to strive, learn and succeed. Being an avid sports lover and a devoted citizen, Ali found a rewarding balance through the establishment of HYPE Athletics. Since 2001, HYPE has given Dearborn youth the opportunity to ...</p>	<p>1. I am a lifelong resident of the city of Dearborn. My family and my children are products of the Dearborn School system. I graduated from Edsel Ford High School, received a Bachelor Degree from WMU and a Master's Degree from EMU. I have worked for the Dearborn School system for over 30 years. I have served on the recreation commission, a board of director of the Edsel Ford Alumni Club, a member of the Dearborn Elks, Dearborn Good fellows, Dearborn Optimist club, a Centurion and the parking task force. I have been on the Dearborn City Council for 16 years.</p>	<p>1. Lifetime Dearborn resident. Married, two children, six grandchildren. Graduate of Dearborn High. BS degree from EMU in Special Education. Masters in Learning Disabilities. Taught in Dearborn Schools until 1988. CEO of Jedtco Corporation, a manufacturer of silicone products for defense and aerospace. Community and volunteer positions include president of the Dearborn Business and Professional Women, Soroptimist, Rotary and Just for Dearborn. Served on the Zoning Board of Appeals, Historical and City Plan Commissions. I'm organized, honest, fair, dedicated and a hard worker. I believe my skills as a business owner would be beneficial to our City Council.</p>
<p>2. Maintaining our neighborhoods (vacant homes; property values), bringing new industries to Dearborn, and balancing our service mix against our budget challenges are three primary issues we must address. Fortunately, given our past efforts, we are starting from a better place than most cities in Michigan. But we will need to work hard together to leverage these advantages and secure a bright future. Other concerns that we face are the on going CSO mandates, and resolving our parking issues in the business districts.</p>	<p>2.1. Family Services, Youth Prevention Services, Crime Prevention Services: I will encourage a move that will involve families to become more involved with the neighborhoods and parks, to assist the city in maintaining the standard of living that we are so proud of. I will work hard to educate every household on city policy and security, so that we have a city that understands its residents and residents that understand their city. Crime is escalating in Dearborn. We must collaborate with the schools and recreation to offer outlets that can ensure that our youth are provided with safe, secure and ...</p>	<p>2. The biggest issue Dearborn faces is balancing the budget during this economic crisis. I will always listen the citizens of Dearborn and prioritize the services they feel are the most essential. Second, is the number of houses and/or businesses that are either up for sale or in foreclosure. As a member of city council, we are continually making sure houses and businesses are kept up to the standard the Dearborn residents are accustomed to. We are always looking for ways to either buy properties for future developments or create affordable housing. I will continue to strive to make Dearborn the ...</p>	<p>2. Neighborhoods and business districts! Dearborn today is not the city it was 20 years ago. There is significant change. Change in terms of advancement in technology or enhancement in our way of life is good, but change that threatens our heritage is not. We need to hold on to what we have, and reclaim what we've lost. Preserve this city for future generations. We have allowed our standards and values to be compromised, and the integrity of our neighborhoods have suffered. Dearborn is my hometown and I will work hard to make it a great place to live!</p>

Hussein Sobh	Thomas Patrick Tafelski	Doug Thomas	Adrenne Wygonik
<p>1. My name is Hussein Sobh and, for many reasons, I believe that I am an extremely competent contender for the position of city councilman. I have been a proud resident of Dearborn for over thirty-four years during which I have opened up a business which has been running for twenty-three years and have earned the majority of my education. I am a strong believer that with this position comes great responsibility and, if elected, I will put forth my best effort in making Dearborn cleaner, safer place to reside by providing an alternate perspective on a variety of issues.</p> <p>2. I believe that recently many problems have arisen in Dearborn which have been ignored for unknown reasons. One major issue facing our city is lack of support our local government places on schools. I feel that more emphasis should be placed on our children's education because they are the future leaders of our community and we must pass our responsibility down to them eventually. Another major problem that I will strive to fix, if elected, is that of crime. I have noticed an influx in crime rates and actions against crime will be one of my major focuses.</p>	<p>1. I am a lifelong Dearborn resident, having experienced the richness of both the east and west ends of our city. I attended Maples Elementary and Junior High, and Fordson High School, graduating in 1988. I earned a Bachelors of Arts degree from The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1992. Married and the father to three young sons, I have dedicated myself to making sure that Dearborn is for my family, and all who come here, a place they can always call home; and a place to live, work and most importantly raise a family.</p> <p>2. Since 2001, my priorities have always and will continue to be: 1) Ensuring that the City's budget process is efficient and wisely uses taxpayer dollars; 2) Development of strategies which enhance the City's east and west downtowns attraction of new business and reinvestment; and, most important, 3) Effective delivery of city services to every Dearborn neighborhood. The only real way to implement these and any priority is with commitment, energy and decisiveness. For me, public service is just that, service to the public with no agenda except that of taking care of the people's business.</p>	<p>1. Councilman 21 years, lifelong Dearborn resident, former owner Fairlane Travel 29 years, past President and Lt. Governor of Dearborn Kiwanis, Past Chairman Board of Directors Fairlane YMCA, President Dearborn Inter-Service Club Council two terms, two terms President Dearborn Hills Civic Association, graduate Dearborn High School, Liberal Arts Degree with major in Political Science from Bowling Green University, Veteran, United States Army attained the rank First Lieutenant. Thomas is well known for being the watchful eye over the City's expenditures and is the champion of the "Taxpayers Concerns." Has been given the title "Dearborn's Watchdog," married to Jane and 3 children.</p> <p>2. Vacant buildings on Michigan Avenue in West Dearborn caused by retail moving out, as a result of the economy, paid parking and massive lay-offs by Ford Motor. We now have a business area dominated by bars and restaurants. This can be our salvation if the emphasis is placed on tourism. Using our association with The Henry Ford changing the main entrance of The Henry Ford off of Michigan Avenue so our economy in the area is with tourism. The Henry Ford is an asset like Williamsburg is to Virginia.</p>	<p>1. Often public officials act before having all the relevant facts and without considering consequences. Professionally, I work as an anesthetist and have a MA in Public Administration. My profession and education have taught me to observe, analyze, and prioritize known facts, and ask the appropriate questions, then provide carefully considered plans and balanced advice. Additionally, I operate a small business, am active in the Dearborn community, volunteering for numerous organizations. I believe in making Dearborn a better place to live, raise a family, and work. The current economic climate requires change and vision. I want to be part of that change.</p> <p>2. My first priority is to preserve Dearborn's uniqueness and traditions. Our cityscape must be distinguishable from Detroit. Secondly, Dearborn residents' investments in the community must be protected. Property values can be fortified by economic vitality, preservation of city services, strong public safety measures, and excellent educational standards. I am concerned about families and seniors who have few assets other than their homes and neighborhoods. Third, I will support greater transparency by posting a detailed city budget on the Internet for public inspection and input. The vision of the city must be a reflection of community needs and requirements.</p>

Did not respond: Joseph Agius, Terry Burke, Patrick D'Ambrosio
Patrick M. Kiernan, Molly Sharp