

Mayor of Dearborn– vote for 1

4-yr. term

1. Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Mayor. 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?

John B. (Jack) O'Reilly Jr.

I am the third generation of my family to live in Dearborn. I have three post-secondary degrees. This includes a Law Degree and I have been a member of the Michigan Bar Association since 1980. My wife and I have raised our three children in Dearborn and have been active with Dearborn Schools. Serving this community in a number of ways has prepared me to fully understand the challenges and opportunities facing Dearborn. 17 years on Council and 10 years as a CEO of a Corporation have provided me with the Administrative experience necessary to be a “hands on” Mayor.

The priority issues for Dearborn are declining property values and tax revenues, loss of customer base in our business districts and vacant and unkempt properties. We have begun to stabilize home values by eliminating the most distressed homes, going after homes that are not maintained and marketing Dearborn to attract more home buyers. We must work to bring more businesses and homebuyers to Dearborn. This can be done by working with landlords, especially Ford Land, to fill vacant commercial properties. Thousands are no longer employed here so we must recruit new people through transit connections, hotel conferences and new development.

Michael J. (Mike) Prus

Prus' skills and experiences are: •15 year public servant •State Fidelity Bonding Coordinator who coordinates, administers, budgets, and promotes the Fidelity Bonding Program for the entire State of Michigan. Prus' educational background includes: •Divine Child High School—Diploma. •Henry Ford Community College, two Associate degrees—Commerce (Accounting) and Liberal Arts. •Wayne State University, double Bachelor degree—History and Political Science. •Eastern Michigan University, two Master degrees—Leadership (Administration) and Secondary Teaching. As Mayor: Stop the corruption in Dearborn and revitalize the city's businesses and neighborhoods.

•Corruption in the City Hall— 1. Replace all management and staff personnel that were responsible and involved in the places where the corruption occurred. 2. Switch the accounting technique used now to Zero-Based Budgeting. 3. Place stringent checks and balances methods in the accounting procedures. •Corruption in the Police Department—Necessary Disciplinary Actions and Prosecution for individuals involved. •The revitalization of Dearborn's businesses and neighborhoods— 1. Implement the Business Incubator Program. 2. Introduce the Dearborn City Lottery. 3. Develop the Dearborn Stimulus Coupon Program. 4. Broker Residential homes for rent to UM students.

Dearborn City Clerk – vote for 1 (unopposed)

4-yr. term

1. Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for City Clerk. What relevant qualities, skills and experience would you bring to the position?

2. What are the top two or three priority issues facing the Clerk's office, and what actions would you take to address them if elected?

Kathleen Buda

Dearborn has been my home for most of my life. Education: 12 years at Sacred Heart, 2 years HFCC and B.A. from Mercy College. I am seeking my first unopposed and fourth consecutive term. Experience includes receiving Certified Municipal Clerk status in 2005 and President of the Wayne County Clerks Association from 2007 to 2009. As Clerk I reduced the number of precincts from 74 to 63 in 2002 and again from 63 to 50 in 2005, making elections more manageable. Memberships include International Institute of Municipal Clerks and Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks.

The top issue is elections. I have long been a proponent of “No Reason Absentee Voting” and will continue in those efforts. Showing identification when voting has been helpful but voter registration has become far too convenient. Although convenience may be good, results have sometimes been questionable. That responsibility should return to our Clerks. Learning elections is ongoing. Having administered 24 since becoming Clerk has been an education in itself. Customer service remains a priority. My office will continue to offer courteous assistance to all who ask. Thank you, Dearborn, for the honor of continuing as your City Clerk.

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

Councilman Robert Abraham has served his hometown since January 2002 and remains committed to delivering first rate public services. He is a third generation, lifetime Dearborn resident and a 1985 Fordson High School graduate. He is CPA with a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and Computer Science from Hillsdale College (1989) with All-American honors in track. Bob has worked diligently over the years to help make improvements in Dearborn and his primary goal remains to balance public services and safety with the City's financial challenges. Bob and his wife, Mary Ann, have three children: Brandon, Jared, and Mary Kate.

The top priority as a Councilperson is to "listen" to the voters and take action! Given the economic uncertainties and financial challenges, the power and voice of the people is now more important than ever. The leaders of our community must have the political will power to make the most difficult decisions and prioritize our services, while we try to balance the budget. With two full terms on the Council I have the knowledge, professional background, education and experience to provide Dearborn with strong leadership when it is needed most. Please vote for Councilman Robert Abraham.

David Bazy

4-25-58 Highland park, Michigan; 51 year Dearborn resident; Edsel ford high school "76"; Wayne state university MBA 1990; President COO Kenwal steel company and Kenwal pickling company; Recreation commissioner 8 years; Commissioner zoning board of appeals 5 years; Chairman Dearborn charter commission 2 years. I am running for city council because I love this city and believe I have the skills to help return Dearborn to the vibrant community I grew up in. I believe my background in both the public and private sector affords me the ideal experience to deal with the difficult environment facing Dearborn in the...

Foreclosed and vacant properties; The amount of foreclosed and vacant property within the city boundaries is astonishing. Even during the recession of 1980-82, we did not see this type of vacancy rate. As a member of the city council we must seek low cost loans and federal dollars to create residential home buying which is key to neighborhood stabilization. This can also apply to the business sector and unlike the food court we have created on Michigan avenue, it is critical that we work on bringing in businesses that complement one another not cannibalize each other. Lower revenue streams...

Patrick D'Ambrosio

I'm a 40 year Dearborn resident engaged to Kitty Shooshanian. I have four children who have graduated from Dearborn high schools. I am past president of the Dearborn Exchange Club, member of Dearborn Divine Child, Dearborn Goodfellows, Italian American Club, Friends of the Dearborn Animal Shelter, Boy Scouts, Optimists and Elks. I have worked with the Senior Outreach Program for years. I'm a small business owner automotive supplier who works with the big three. I'm experienced in budget planning and contract negotiations. This will help when painful decisions need to be made in the best interests of the citizens.

One of the top priorities facing the city of Dearborn are the vacant and foreclosed properties - both residential and commercial. We need to create incentives to attract both residential and commercial buyers back to our city. Enforce maintenance of properties to maintain property values. By doing this we will solidify and increase our tax base, which in turn helps all aspects of the city budget. We need to help create new jobs in our city. We need to restore our recreation program back to past levels for the betterment of our children.

George T. Darany

Dearborn resident: 50 years; Education: U of M – Dearborn; BA – Economics; Work Experience: Dearborn Councilman since 1-9-07, 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.

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.

Dearborn City Council – vote for 7 (or fewer) of 14 candidates

4-yr. term

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?

Sharon Dulmage

47 year resident of Dearborn, married to Jim, a lifelong resident. Served 22 years as Trustee, Dearborn Board of Education and Henry Ford Community College with 99 % attendance at Board meetings. Attended HFCC, Detroit College of Business and CMU. Service to the community includes Rotary, Dearborn Chamber of Commerce, Goodfellows, AAUW, Oakwood Ethics Committee, Dearborn Education Foundation, HFCC Foundation and many years in leadership positions with PTA. I want to continue serving Dearborn as a member of the City Council. My experience, dedication to Dearborn and commitment to moving Dearborn forward make me a qualified candidate.

Growing the business districts and stabilizing the neighborhoods are top priorities and go hand in hand. Neighborhood stabilization is tied to attracting people to Dearborn and retaining our current residents. In order to attract people to Dearborn we must grow the business districts by actively recruiting small retail shops and businesses and help them be successful by nurturing and shopping at them ourselves. Growth of the business districts, public safety through support of our fire and police departments, continuation of our great city services and schools, resolving the paid parking concerns and close monitoring of vacant property will stabilize neighborhoods...

George Hart

I have dedicated my life to the service of the People of Dearborn and believe that I can still contribute value in these difficult times. I have served as City Councilman, County Commissioner and State Senator. I have a Bachelors degree from Wayne State University and have taken additional trainings over the years. Most importantly, I have served Dearborn through trying times before and I know what worked and what to avoid. There is no substitute for experience. The most important quality I bring to Council is my knowledge of, and true care for, the people of Dearborn.

One of the key issues for Dearborn and its people is surviving this economic downturn. We need to cut costs without giving up essential services. We must look for ways to share costs and purchasing with other government entities and work smarter to be more productive in everything we do. We must also halt property value decline and protect owner occupied homes. This can be done by strict enforcement of codes and holding the line on rentals. We also need to let new businesses know that they are welcome in Dearborn and create incentives to keep our current businesses here.

Nancy A. Hubbard

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. 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.

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. 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. 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.

Patrick M. Kiernan

46 years old. Lifelong resident of Dearborn. Co-Owner and Vice President of Kiernan's Steak House. Served our country in the United States Marine Corps. Dearborn public schools graduate. Member of Dearborn Chamber of Commerce, Elks and American Legion. Proud father and grandfather. I have over 30 years experience dealing with the public. I believe that the leadership skills that I learned as a Marine and my experience in operating my own business combined with good common sense makes me a great candidate for council. I take great pride in being fair, honest, and loyal. A man of my word.

(1) The number of foreclosed, vacant homes and businesses are of great concern to me. It lowers our property values and the purchasing of these homes for rentals, I feel, doesn't help the situation. We must encourage the selling of foreclosed homes to people who will own and occupy them. I would like to waive a buyer having to put money in the city escrow account to people who will buy these homes to own and occupy them. (2.) Maintain the physical responsibility of providing a balanced budget with the least inconvenience to tax payers and city employees.

Dearborn City Council – vote for 7 (or fewer) of 14 candidates

4-yr. term

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?

Brian C. O'Donnell

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. 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.

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.

Suzanne Sareini

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 challenging times ahead. My record shows that I care about public safety, our senior citizens, business districts, our schools and strong 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.

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. It is about achieving balance without increasing taxes.

Ali Sayed

Ali was born on January 2, 1981 in Dearborn. Raised among eight siblings and two loving parents, Ali came from humble beginnings. Ali graduated for Dearborn High School on 1999. Ali Is currently pursuing a degree in Public Administration. Since 2001, HYPE has given Dearborn youth the opportunity to excel in various sports, acquire discipline and work as a team in a fun and safe atmosphere. It is obvious where Ali Sayed's devotion lies. Devotion, however, is not enough. A plan for action needs to be put in place. Ali Sayed's plan includes having a voice for the future.

Job Growth, Business Retention, Economic Development - Dearborn must work towards partnerships with corporations and organizations alike to encourage new businesses in Dearborn. Family Services, Youth Prevention Services, Crime Prevention Services - I would 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. City Management, Communication, Reform - I want to help develop a more effective management system to relief the burden on tax payers. Increase communication efforts with departments and residents. I would work hard to institute leadership reform and improve in appropriate decision making.

Mark C. Shooshanian

I am a lifelong resident of the city of Dearborn. My family and children are products of Dearborn schools. I graduated from Edsel Ford High School, received a Bachelor Degree from Western Michigan University and a Masters Degree from Eastern Michigan University. I've 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.

The biggest issue Dearborn faces is balancing the budget during this economic crisis. I will listen to the citizens of Dearborn and prioritize the services they feel are 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 development properties and create affordable housing. I will continue to strive to make Dearborn the great city it has always been.

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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?

Thomas Patrick Tafelski

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.

Since 2001, and heading into the election for 2009, my priorities 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.

Doug Thomas

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.

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.



**League of Women Voters
Dearborn – Dearborn Heights**

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ABOUT THE GUIDE The League of Women Voters of Dearborn-Dearborn Heights contacted all candidates for the answers to two questions. 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 as “Did not respond.”

ABOUT THIS ELECTION. This is your opportunity to vote for your elected city officials, some of the local school board members, and the ballot issue(s). In addition to the information contained in this voter guide, you can go on-line to www.lwvddh.org, your city’s website, or local public access cable television station to watch candidate forums sponsored by the non-partisan organization, the League of Women Voters.

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. President: Mary Bugeia, Voter Guide Editors: Judy Carty, Betsy Cushman, Dianne Locke.

1. Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for School Board. What relevant qualities, skills and experience would you bring to the position?

2. What are the top two or three priority issues facing the Schools, and what actions would you take to address them if elected?

Pamela Adams

I have been a trustee since 1995. I am a product of the Dearborn Schools, attended HFCC, and am a lifelong resident. This is a crucial time. We are working with a new Superintendent with many promising initiatives. The college President is looking at new, innovative career paths for students. I support them both. My experience knowing how cuts impact students is important. We must find ways to keep good programs, raise achievement, maintain salaries and benefits for employees, and taxes in check with much less revenue. I believe my experience can help make that happen.

Funding cuts are the major issue. Like everyone, we have less money to work with. We must find ways to consolidate services with others, assess the effectiveness of programs, look at new efficiencies, and implement what is most effective. Secondly, we must raise student achievement. With a committed and educated professional staff, ample resources, and supportive families, it is not acceptable that our test scores are in many cases below the state average. We must implement the most effective programs and have higher expectations for all to make this happen. The Dearborn community deserves no less.

Hussein Berry

I am a thirty seven year resident of Dearborn and a product of Dearborn Public Schools. As a Real Estate Broker, I have been self employed for sixteen years. I am currently serving as a trustee on the Dearborn Area Board of Realtors and served as President in 2008. My wife, Nada, has been teaching for fourteen years in the Dearborn Public Schools where our children attend. My family has a great deal of respect and value for teaching and learning. My business background gives me the experience to deal with the financial challenges we are facing.

Budget, quality education and parent involvement are some of the top issues facing our district. Financial challenges continue to be our top priority issue. As the state continues to cut revenues, we have to reduce unnecessary spending in order to provide the best possible education for our students. During these challenging times, we have to reach out to our local businesses and support them. I have coordinated an “adopt a school” program for a local business. Parents from that school are encouraged to patronize the business. This program is rewarding for both the school and the business.

John C. Corbin

I am a 44 year old, life long Dearborn Resident. I have been married for 23 years, I have three children two boys age 22 and 20, a 17 year old daughter and a 4 year old grandson. I am a Fordson graduate, and have two degrees from HFCC. I care about education. Parent, business owner, and the belief in a well rounded education, is all I have to offer. As a school board member, I will work to make sure that the tradition of an outstanding education in Dearborn continues for our future generations. Teamwork Today for Tomorrow’s Successes.

I feel we need to listen to our front line managers, the teachers. If we determine a program isn’t working and the teachers have a more logical idea we need to listen. In these trying times we need programs that are beneficial not detrimental to the education process. We must be a team if Dearborn is to maintain its high quality education status. I also feel that community input is very important in major board decisions. I don’t know if one school board member can begin a movement of pride and teamwork from pre-K through HFCC, but let’s try.

Roxanne McDonald

I graduated from DHS, earned two Associate Degrees with honors from HFCC, then a Bachelors from LTU, also with honors. My husband is a member of IBEW Local 58 and my oldest son is serving in Iraq. I’m running because I’m a proud product of the DPS and have a vested interest as two of my sons attend district schools. I’m serving my second term as Dearborn PTSA Council Vice President. I’ve also served four years on Nowlin PTA Executive Board including two as President. I’m creative, intelligent, resourceful, responsible, diplomatic and was raised with a very strong work ethic.

I believe our top issues are budget cuts and increasing student performance. We need to get creative, do more with less and look for new funding ideas such as grants. I’d like to request hiring a grant writer or encourage staff to learn that skill. We need to look at possibly revamping current educational programs so that we are using our resources more effectively. By doing this, we can improve our student performance results. It’s our duty to help all children succeed. They’re our future and any investment in them is an investment in the human potential of Dearborn.

Mayor of Dearborn Heights – vote for 1 (unopposed)

4-yr. term

1. Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Mayor. 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 Heights, and what actions would you take to address them if elected?

Daniel S. Paletko

I am a product of the local schools and have a AA degree from Henry Ford College, a BBA degree from University of Michigan-Dearborn, a MBA degree from University of Detroit-Mercy and a MST degree from Wayne State University. I have used my financial skills as a Certified Public Accountant and retired manager at Ford Motor Company to make sure our City budgets have been balance every year! I pride myself on having cost savings ideas like reducing our telephone costs in half and working with DTE Energy to reduce costs by \$40,000 annually.

The biggest issue facing our City is the collapse of the Michigan economy and the huge increase in unemployment coupled with the decline in home values and tax revenues. Rather than recommending a tax increase, I have addressed this problem by making the City more efficient and absorbed the decrease in revenues. Also, the City has been utilizing Federal Housing Programs to keep our neighborhoods viable and partnered with Mission of Peace to assist families dealing with their own financial crisis. We have increased our efforts to work with businesses to bring jobs into the City and making them successful.

Dearborn Heights City Clerk – vote for 1

4-yr. term

1. Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for City Clerk. What relevant qualities, skills and experience would you bring to the position?

2. What are the top two or three priority issues facing the Clerk's office, and what actions would you take to address them if elected?

Judy Dudzinski

I'm a 30 year resident of our City and a 17-year employee of the City of Dearborn Heights – serving 13 of them in the Clerk's office. I was appointed as Clerk in 2003, then elected to the position in 2005. I am a member of the Wayne County Clerks Association and Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks. I am proud of the many accomplishments I have achieved throughout my first term, including the transformation of our voting process from (manual) punch card to the automated optical scan system. With your support, I look forward to building on these successes.

My highest priorities are ensuring we operate as efficiently as possible to maximize the effectiveness of our taxpayers' investment. The speed and accuracy of our work, which reflects directly on the integrity of my office, is another high priority. If re-elected, I will continue to build on the base we began during my first term toward automating many of our department's processes. This not only helps reduce costs and increases staff efficiency, but it also plays an important role in helping increase the accuracy of our work – particularly relating to our pre-election processes and post-election results.

Mario Nesr Fundarski

U.S. Navy veteran, served 2 years on the U.S.S. Boston (CAG-1), flagship of our Atlantic fleet. Bachelor of Arts degree, Michigan State University, Political Science, History. Graduate studies in education, University Las Vegas, Nevada. Former – substitute school teacher, material foreman, Ford, General Motors, Chrysler, ongoing foster care worker State of Michigan Wayne County. Trained as a union organizer, Michigan State Employee's Association. Terminated for union organizing. Current owner-manager, Mario Fundarski Enterprises. One annual investment, 10% return in 4 hours. Author, "Looking for Love in Poland." 10,000 sold 1993-94. Widower, excellent health!

Implement a year round voter registration plan, to empower each resident eligible to vote. Extensive promotion of all elections, especially school elections. Continuous hiring and training of poll workers eliminating subjective hiring. Eliminate ludicrous \$5 and \$7 licensing fees to register our beloved dogs. Personally lobby in Lansing, hire lobbyist – work together for: two week early voting for all elections, move August Primary to the second Tuesday in September. Eliminate current discrimination of men full time paid staff. My paid staff will be hired equally between women and men.

Dearborn Heights Treasurer – vote for 1 (unopposed)

4-yr. term

1. Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for Treasurer. What relevant qualities, skills and experience would you bring to the position?

2. What are the top two or three priority issues facing the Treasurer’s office, and what actions would you take to address them if elected?

John J. Riley II

I’ve been the elected Treasurer for the City of Dearborn Heights since 1994. I received my Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting from MSU in 1988 and a Masters Degree in Finance from Walsh College. Also, I am a Certified Public Accountant. I am the past president of the Wayne County Treasurers’ Association, a member of the Michigan Municipal Treasurers’ Association, the Michigan Government Finance Association, and the Michigan Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems. I’m active with the Dearborn Heights Goodfellows and the Golfview Manor Civic Association. I am seeking reelection to continue to serve the residents of Dearborn Heights.

The most important issue facing the Treasurer’s Office and all of the other city departments is to continue to look for ways to cut costs to offset the reduction of tax revenues and the decline of the state shared revenues. Additionally, new accounting standards will require the City to footnote their financial statements with the unfunded health care liabilities for current and retired employees. I am currently working on a method for the City to begin pre-funding for this liability, similar to how the pension obligations are pre-funded. Finally, we strive to keep up with the advancements in technology..

Dearborn Heights Council – vote for 4 (or fewer)

4-yr. term

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 Heights, and what actions would you take to address them if elected?

Kathleen Abdel-Hak

I have been married 25 yrs and am a mother of 4, grandmother of 2 and have been a resident of Dearborn Heights for the past 17 yrs. I own and operate N.J. Diamonds jewelry store in Dearborn for the past 12 years. I am running for City Council of Dearborn Heights because I would like to make a difference in our city. I am a creative thinker, a problem solver and having run a successful business. I think I can bring some new ideas to the city.

The top issue facing our city is the budget and how to keep it balanced, finding new ways to do this - one that does not include giving unjustified traffic tickets. City services - keeping the ones we have, and trying to bring back those that have been cut. This can be done with creative thinking, better management of our city programs and making sure that all revenues available to the city are collected in a timely manner. Teaming up with neighboring cities to buy products in bulk that are used by both cities, such as road salt.

Ned Apigian

I am a design and physical planning professional by education and licensure that the city needs. I earned my Bachelor’s Degree in Architecture from the University of Detroit in 1966 and a Master’s Degree in Urban Planning from Wayne State University in 1969. Subsequently by 1999 I earned two Associates Degrees from HFCC in Liberal Arts and Science. I am licensed by the State of Michigan to practice: Architecture in 1971; Professional Community Planning in 1975; I am also a (NCARB) National Council of Architectural Registration Boards Certified Architect in 1976; and a licensed Residential Builder in 1991.

Foul sewer overflows are caused by old undersized and/or combined storm drainage systems. Solutions to rebuild new separate systems which will involve city, county and state government would require special taxation. Homeowners can correct these problems reasonably by installing a back flow preventer valve on your sewer outlet. Basement flooding due to heavy rains in flood plains with high water tables will require installing a foundation footing drain tile system. In new construction an interior footing tile system should be required as well as parging the exterior foundation wall with an asphaltic application as if a bituminous roof.

Janet S. Badalow

Divine Child ‘88; BSBA -Accounting Lawrence Technological University; MBA -Finance Wayne State University. 31-year resident (North & South ends). Member of: Goodfellows, SEMCOG Budget & Finance Committee, Kiwanis, CERT, Library Advisory Board, & the Disability Commission. I want to continue representing my community so I can: support improvements to our services & infrastructure, increase communication with residents & advocate on their behalf, and keep the City within its budget. I bring over seven years of experience, dedication, and integrity to the City Council. If I were re-elected, I would continue to scrutinize our City’s Budget and assist residents.

Foreclosures and rentals are on the rise; I will support our neighborhoods so they may retain their value, suggest changes to our current ordinances, and put more budget dollars towards ordinance enforcement. Family budgets are stretched; I will support low cost alternatives for recreation and easier access to assistance programs. Our business districts need tenants; I will encourage businesses to move to our area, which will improve our tax base and give us all more options. The City budget is declining; I will support cost saving measures whenever feasible and look for Federal & State grant opportunities.

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 Heights, and what actions would you take to address them if elected?

Thomas A. Berry

My name is Tom Berry and I’m an incumbent City Council person running for reelection. The question is interesting as I’m completing my first term. The first time around it was to impress upon you years of dedication to my Wife of 29 years, our two children and my 20 plus years of business experience. Now having spent four years as a council person and knowing the intimates of our cities operations; relevance takes a different perspective. These are extraordinary times, the budget is being strained, yet in order to increase property values and create an interest in home ownership...

Three priority issues facing our city are flooding, blight and ordinance compliance. The flooding which has taken too long to address is currently being addressed at the county level, persistence and maybe the courts are keys to resolving this issue; the blight is now being addressed through the NSP (Neighborhood Stabilization Program) both issues are frustrating and will require patience. The third issue and vitally important to maintaining property values is an operations issue that will require streamlining procedures bringing closer collaboration between departments. We must enforce our ordinances, seeing the entire process through from inspection to the courts in...

Cynthia Boguslaski

My name is Cynthia Boguslaski. I am 54 years of age and have been a resident of Dearborn Heights area for 35 years, and a active member at my local church. I am a Wayne State University graduate with a Master’s Degree in Social Work. I am seeking election to the city council because with my educational background I feel that I possess the necessary abilities required in order to be an empathic listener and an effective problem solver, qualities that are critical to the decision-making process in a community as culturally diverse as Dearborn Heights.

The top three priority issues I believe facing Dearborn Heights are: 1) Fiscal Crisis – declining revenue caused by a downturn in the economy; 2) Excessive governmental departments; and 3) Problem with foreclosed vacant homes. The actions I would recommend to resolve the above issues would be to review the budget with city council and propose ways to consolidate departments and services in order to save taxpayer dollars and keep taxes to a minimum. I would also try to implement a plan to keep foreclosed and/or vacant properties up to code according to zoning ordinances until resolution of property sale or ...

Margaret M. Horvath

I have been an active resident of Dearborn Heights for 44 years, allowing me to be a first-hand witness to our evolution from a township to a thriving bedroom community. I am the mother of six children, all of whom graduated from the Crestwood School District, and I am the grandmother of ten. My lengthy commitment to the community includes service to youth hockey programs, the Kiwanis Club and the Goodfellows Association, as well as serving on the City Council or in the Mayor’s Office for the last 16 years.

The continuing decline in local and state-shared revenues continues to squeeze all of us as taxpayers. There is a ripple effect which impacts home foreclosures, shuttered businesses, and forces us as legislators to choose between repairing crumbling infrastructure or investing in ourselves in order to improve the cost of doing business. While it may not be possible for the City Council to actually solve these problems, it is our job to see that our monetary and aesthetic issues are handled with the utmost care.

Jim Lynch

Birthplace: Asheville, NC. President and a founding member of the Military Park Neighborhood Association. I am a proud resident for 13 years. Father to Brianna (17). I have nearly 30 years of public service in and around the community including neighborhood watch programs, neighborhood clean-ups, Angels Night Out, and Dearborn Heights Goodfellows, just to name a few. Occupation: self-employed (Ashe-Combe Services); Education/Studies: Business Management/Bank Operations; Goal: With your support, I will bring open communication, team building, and leadership skills (with a “hands-on” approach) to improve the safety and quality of life in and around our community.

Foreclosures, state shared revenue cuts, and flooding are priority issues facing the city. Each having a devastating impact on the quality of life and future of our community. I planned to do the following: * Work with community groups and neighborhood organizations to reverse the effects of foreclosed/vacant homes and blight. * Help to put an end to mortgage fraud by investigating suspicious real estate transactions and foreclosures. * Support efforts opposing any additional state shared revenue cuts. * Work with area residents and government officials to find a long-term solution to flooding issues in Dearborn Heights.

Dearborn Heights Council – vote for 4 (or fewer)

4-yr. term

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 Heights, and what actions would you take to address them if elected?

Margaret M. Van Houten

Attorney, Margaret M. Van Houten, PLC, in Dearborn, handling general civil litigation, business, real estate, estate planning and probate matters. Dearborn Heights City Councilmember (1997-Present). Education: Divine Child High School; University of Michigan, B.A.; University of Detroit-Mercy, J.D. Community & Professional activities: Kiwanis Club (President), Goodfellows (Vice President), State Bar Representative Assembly, and Divine Child Catholic Church and choir. As an attorney, business owner, community volunteer, homeowner and lifelong resident of the City, I bring a variety of experiences to the Council that help me make knowledgeable and well-reasoned decisions to better serve the residents of Dearborn Heights.

Falling property values. The City must enforce blight and rental inspection ordinances to maintain property values. I have voted to increase the number of ordinance officers and continue to seek ways to improve neighborhoods. The Council must also utilize the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program monies to acquire and rehab vacant properties. –Public Safety. I have worked to provide well-trained and well-equipped police and fire departments to protect our residents. I support implementing neighborhood watch programs to assist in crime prevention. –Aging infrastructure. The Council must provide sufficient resources to repair and maintain aging sewers, roads and facilities.

District 7 School Board, 4 yr. term – vote for 1

4-yr. term

1. Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for School Board. What relevant qualities, skills and experience would you bring to the position?

2. What are the top two or three priority issues facing the Schools, and what actions would you take to address them if elected?

Cathrine Bunker

As a resident in District #7, I have been actively involved in my children’s education, starting from Head Start to my youngest graduating this year. I have been active in a variety of volunteer service groups and have held multiple positions. I completed my education at HFCC and at WSU, obtaining my MSW. I have worked the last 10 years advocating for at-risk populations. I have extensive training and practice with crisis intervention, conflict resolution and problem solving skills. I am dedicated to helping the District maintain an increasing level of excellence for future generations.

District #7 faces many issues I am unaware of, but of those I am familiar with, through my own personal experiences and from discussions with other residents within the District, I would prioritize the following three areas: 1. Ensuring a future for our graduates by maintaining a competitive curriculum with the current and upcoming budget constraints everyone is facing. 2. Maintaining a zero tolerance for any form of violence within our schools. 3. Increasing parental involvement on all levels within the district. All three areas can be achieved through on-going research and education of staff, parents and students.

Virginia Morgan

I have lived in District #7 more than sixty years. I have served on the Board of Education unselfishly and with dedication for the past twenty-four years. I received my Bachelor & Master Degree in Education from the University of Michigan. I taught and worked for seventeen years at the elementary, adult education and college level. My husband and I are both retired. We have three grown sons, daughter-in-laws and five grandchildren. Two grandchildren graduated this year from Annapolis High and one is in the 10th grade. My strong commitment to education is evident in my personal and professional life.

With the current economic conditions at the state level, which effects school funding and employment demands for highly qualified high school graduates, I think my educational background, years of experience and knowledge, is extremely important. Facilities improvement is critical to a safe and productive school district and is a priority in District #7. The Building & Site Committee is responsible for making these new construction recommendations to Board each year. These projects have made a difference in the lives of District #7 students. I am proud to be a member of this Committee and to be the Chairperson since 2003.

Sonja A. Smith - Did not reply

Lori Fujita

6-yr term (unopposed)

Foremost, I am a parent, my children attend Pardee Elementary. Additionally, I have been a community member for 12 years, I was employed for a time in the district as a substitute teacher and I am an active school volunteer. I feel like these roles have offered me relevant perspectives on District #7. Combined with my BA from EMU and my strong belief that great schools turn out great citizens, I believe I can serve this district well. I am proud of this district, and am impressed by the passion I’ve seen in the teaching, support and administration.

There are far too many important issues facing our district, to delve into in such a small space. Basically, I am prepared for the challenge of working to meet the needs of the district on limited resources and budget. However, two things I am personally interested in: 1. Garnering stronger community relations through better communication. 2. Implementing programs for students needing extra challenges. We lack this especially at the elementary level, and adding a Talented and Gifted program would serve current students, and will make our district more attractive to School of Choice students, thus bringing in needed revenue.



League of Women Voters
Dearborn – Dearborn Heights
120 N. Military
Dearborn, MI 48124



Here's your non-partisan Voter Guide!

NEED AN ABSENTEE BALLOT?

Contact the City Clerk's office!

Dearborn: (313) 943-2010
Dearborn Hgts: (313) 791-3434

Tuesday Nov 3, 2009
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: If it says to vote for 4 candidates, do I have to vote for 4? May I vote for only the one or two that I know? Yes.

You may vote for 4 of 8 candidates, or 7 of 14, but you are not required to vote for that number. (However, voting for **more** than the number will invalidate your ballot.)

