

RECLAIM YOUR VOTE

2026 COMPLETE CANDIDATE & ISSUES GUIDE

City • County • State • Federal • Courts • Schools
Grand Rapids & Kent County, Michigan • November 3, 2026

NONPARTISAN PURPOSE: This guide is designed to help voters understand who is on the ballot, what each office does, and what candidates have publicly said about issues within the authority of the office. It does not endorse, oppose, rank, score, predict, or recommend any candidate, party, judicial philosophy, or ballot proposal. Where no reliable 2026 position was found, the guide says so rather than inferring a position from party affiliation.

Prepared for the Urban League of West Michigan • Reclaim Your Vote initiative

How to Use This Guide

IMPORTANT BALLOT NOTE: There is no single identical “Kent County ballot.” Your address determines your city or township, congressional district, Michigan Senate district, Michigan House district, court district, community-college district, school district, and local proposals. Use this guide as a research handbook, then verify your exact sample ballot at the Michigan Voter Information Center (Michigan.gov/Vote / mvic.sos.state.mi.us).

Step	What to do
1. Verify your ballot	Enter your address in the Michigan Voter Information Center and confirm your precinct-specific sample ballot.
2. Learn the office	Read what the office actually controls before comparing candidate promises.
3. Compare equally	Use the same issue categories and questions for each candidate in the same race.
4. Check the source	Candidate platforms explain what a candidate says they would do. Government records and voting records show documented actions. News reporting may add context.
5. Decide for yourself	This publication provides information; the voter makes the choice.

Election Dates

Item	Date / Information
Election Day	Tuesday, November 3, 2026
Absentee ballots available	September 24, 2026
Early voting period	October 24-November 1, 2026
Mail/online registration deadline	October 19, 2026
In-person registration	October 20-November 3, 2026 with local clerk and proof of residency
Kent County candidate list used	Official Candidates and Proposals List, updated September 10, 2026

Office & Issue Scope

Office	Issues commonly within authority
Governor / Lt. Governor	State budget, agencies, executive orders, economic development, education, health policy, infrastructure, appointments, vetoes.
Secretary of State	Elections administration, voter files, campaign-finance administration, driver and vehicle services, branch-office operations.
Attorney General	State legal representation, consumer protection, civil rights enforcement, environmental enforcement, criminal investigations/prosecutions within legal authority.
U.S. Senator / U.S. Representative	Federal budget/taxes, health care, labor, defense, immigration, trade, environment, federal civil rights, federal education policy.
Michigan Senator / Representative	State taxes/budget, schools, housing law, criminal law, labor law, health policy, roads, local-government rules, utilities and environment.
City Commission	City budget and policy, zoning/land use, housing, public safety funding, streets, parks, local business/economic development, city services.
City Comptroller	Financial oversight, accounting, auditing/financial reporting and charter-defined checks and balances; not a general policy-making office.
Judges	Interpret and apply law. Compare legal experience, judicial philosophy, ethics, access to justice, court administration, and public written record rather than legislative campaign promises.
School / college boards	Superintendent/president oversight, budgets, policy, facilities, academic priorities, student services, governance, labor/administrative accountability.
Library Board	Library policy, budget, governance, access, collections and community service priorities within statutory/local authority.

FEDERAL

United States Senate - Michigan

Abdul El-Sayed (Democratic)

U.S. Senator

Health care: Supports a Medicare for All / single-payer approach and has centered health-care affordability in his campaign.

Cost of living / housing: Campaign emphasizes reducing household costs and making housing more affordable.

Labor / economy: Emphasizes wages, worker power, affordability, and reducing the influence of large corporate interests.

Campaign finance / democracy: Supports reducing large-donor and outside-spending influence in politics.

Civil liberties / immigration: Has addressed due process and immigration enforcement concerns in the 2026 campaign.

Sources: Bridge Michigan 2026 U.S. Senate issue coverage; candidate campaign materials.

Mike Rogers (Republican)

U.S. Senator

Taxes / economy: Supports tax relief and manufacturing growth; campaign emphasizes jobs, skilled trades, and Michigan industry.

Housing: Has proposed tax-advantaged first-time homebuyer tools, regulatory changes, and builder incentives.

Health care: Opposes a single-payer system and emphasizes alternatives intended to lower costs without a government-run universal plan.

Energy / data centers: Has addressed energy costs and called for a temporary pause on new data-center development while concerns are addressed.

National security / foreign policy: Campaign highlights defense and national-security experience; in September 2026 he called for a swift end to the Iran war, citing economic and fuel-cost impacts.

Sources: Bridge Michigan issue comparison; Reuters Sept. 21, 2026; candidate materials.

Lydia Christensen (Libertarian)

U.S. Senator

2026 issue platform: Candidate is on the official ballot. A sufficiently detailed, current issue-by-issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition. Voters should review candidate materials and voter-guide questionnaires if published before Election Day.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review through Sept. 23, 2026.

Tim Long (U.S. Taxpayers)

U.S. Senator

2026 issue platform: Candidate is on the official ballot. A sufficiently detailed, current issue-by-issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition. Voters should review candidate materials and voter-guide questionnaires if published before Election Day.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review through Sept. 23, 2026.

Douglas P. Marsh (Green)

U.S. Senator

2026 issue platform: Candidate is on the official ballot. A sufficiently detailed, current issue-by-issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition. Voters should review candidate materials and voter-guide questionnaires if published before Election Day.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review through Sept. 23, 2026.

Walter P. Kristy (Natural Law)

U.S. Senator

2026 issue platform: Candidate is on the official ballot. A sufficiently detailed, current issue-by-issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition. Voters should review candidate materials and voter-guide questionnaires if published before Election Day.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review through Sept. 23, 2026.

U.S. House - District 2 (parts of Kent County)

Ben Ambrose (Democratic)

U.S. Representative - District 2

Affordability / economy: Supports lowering essential costs, strengthening workers' rights, small-business tax incentives, "Buy American" manufacturing, and job training.

Health care: Supports rural health providers, lower prescription costs, expanded ACA assistance and Medicare for All.

Education: Supports expanded Pell Grants, vocational/apprenticeship programs, and increased federal support for public schools.

Trade / agriculture: Opposes trade policies he says harm local producers and supports farm disaster assistance and market stability.

Government / war powers: Supports stronger congressional oversight of war powers and greater political-donor transparency.

Sources: Ben Ambrose campaign priorities; Sept. 2026 candidate questionnaires reported by Our Midland/Oceana County Press.

John Moolenaar (Republican)

U.S. Representative - District 2

Taxes / budget: Supports lower taxes, reduced federal spending, and measures aimed at debt reduction.

Agriculture: Emphasizes farm policy, rural economic needs, and reducing labor/regulatory burdens on agriculture.

Health care: Opposes a government takeover of health care; emphasizes rural health access and patient safety.

Energy: Supports U.S. energy development and Line 5; emphasizes energy security.

National security / China: As House Select Committee on China chair, advocates tighter technology controls and a hard line toward the Chinese government.

Immigration / border: Supports stronger border enforcement.

Sources: Official congressional issue pages; Moolenaar 2026 campaign; Sept. 2026 questionnaire coverage.

Charlotte Magoon (Green)

U.S. Representative - District 2

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; Michigan candidate listings.

Richard Sills (Natural Law)

U.S. Representative - District 2

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; Michigan candidate listings.

U.S. House - District 3 (Grand Rapids-area)

Hillary Scholten (Democratic)

U.S. Representative - District 3

Health care: Supports lower prescription and health-care costs, protections for pre-existing conditions, and paid family/medical leave.

Reproductive health: Supports legal access to abortion and reproductive health care.

Economy / small business: Emphasizes good-paying jobs, manufacturing, small-business support, Social Security and Medicare.

Environment: Supports renewable-energy investment, PFAS cleanup, climate policy and Great Lakes protection.

Voting / democracy: Supports federal voting-rights protections and restrictions on partisan gerrymandering.

Gun policy: Supports universal background checks, safe-storage laws and red-flag laws.

Sources: Hillary Scholten campaign priorities; VOTE411.

Terri DeBoer (Republican)

U.S. Representative - District 3

Health care: Supports competition, Direct Primary Care, Health Savings Accounts, price transparency and patient/doctor control of decisions.

Economy: Supports tax cuts, lower federal spending, deregulation and policies aimed at small-business/job growth.

Energy: Supports an “all-of-the-above” strategy, nuclear expansion and grid modernization; opposes mandates she says increase costs.

Immigration / border: Supports stronger border enforcement, removal of dangerous criminal offenders who entered illegally, and asylum-process changes.

Government accountability: Supports reducing waste/fraud/abuse and restrictions on congressional insider trading.

Sources: Terri DeBoer campaign priorities; VOTE411.

Joe Jock (Green)

U.S. Representative - District 3

Health care: Candidate-submitted materials identify universal health care as a priority.

Labor / economy: Emphasizes workers' rights, worker ownership and reducing corporate/special-interest influence.

Environment: Identifies environmental protection as a priority.

Foreign policy: Candidate materials emphasize diplomacy, human rights and limits on unconditional military aid.

Sources: Michigan Bureau of Elections candidate listing; candidate-submitted voter-guide materials.

STATE - EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Governor / Lieutenant Governor

Jocelyn Benson / Winnie Brinks (Democratic)

Governor / Lieutenant Governor

Affordability / housing: Benson has proposed an affordability agenda addressing housing costs, economic development and household expenses.

Economy / jobs: Emphasizes economic diversification, workforce growth and policies intended to attract and retain residents and employers.

Education: Has proposed measures focused on literacy, school performance and workforce preparation.

Health care: Emphasizes access, affordability and state responses to Medicaid/mental-health pressures.

Elections / transparency: Supports expanded public access to government records, election access and limits on political influence.

Energy / utilities / data centers: Has proposed utility reforms and, like James, supported a temporary pause on some data-center development while state rules are addressed.

Sources: Bridge Michigan 2026 governor issue series: economy, affordability, schools, health care, elections/transparency, data centers.

John James / Jay DeBoyer (Republican)

Governor / Lieutenant Governor

Taxes / affordability: Supports tax reductions and lower government costs; has proposed repealing or sharply reducing Michigan's 24% wholesale marijuana tax.

Economy / jobs: Emphasizes business growth, manufacturing, workforce development and changes to economic-development policy.

Education: Has proposed changes aimed at literacy, school performance and education accountability.

Health care: Defends his federal health-care record and opposes policies he characterizes as government expansion; favors cost and access reforms.

Energy / utilities: Proposes limiting utility rate increases, more electricity-market competition and repeal of renewable-energy standards.

Elections / transparency: Supports tighter voting rules than Benson and has also endorsed broader government-transparency changes.

Sources: Bridge Michigan 2026 issue series; Bridge Sept. 9 and Sept. 17, 2026 reporting.

Anthony Hudson / Beau Parmenter (Libertarian)

Governor / Lieutenant Governor

2026 issue platform: Official general-election ticket. A sufficiently detailed current statewide issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; statewide public-source review.

Donna Brandenburg / Robert Donald Cowper II (U.S. Taxpayers)

Governor / Lieutenant Governor

2026 issue platform: Official general-election ticket. A sufficiently detailed current statewide issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; statewide public-source review.

Douglas Campbell / Bobbie Clay (Green)

Governor / Lieutenant Governor

2026 issue platform: Official general-election ticket. A sufficiently detailed current statewide issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; statewide public-source review.

Secretary of State

Garlin Gilchrist II (Democratic)

Secretary of State

Voting access / citizenship verification: Supports prosecuting illegal voting but opposes new documentary requirements he says would burden eligible voters; argues existing safeguards should be strengthened without creating barriers.

Election administration: Campaign emphasizes election security, voter access and protecting election workers/local administration.

Branch services: Proposes modernization and efficiency improvements for licensing and vehicle services.

Political spending / transparency: Supports additional disclosure of political spending and transparency measures.

Sources: SBAM 2026 Secretary of State questionnaire; VOTE411; candidate materials.

Anthony G. Forlini (Republican)

Secretary of State

Citizenship verification: Supports stronger verification of citizenship in voter registration and expanded access to federal verification databases.

Voter identification: Supports photo-identification requirements for voting.

Election transparency: Advocates publishing ballot images, demonstrating tabulator processes, watermarked ballot paper and software-verification tools.

Branch services: Points to Macomb County customer-service metrics and proposes faster statewide Secretary of State services.

Sources: SBAM questionnaire; 2026 candidate interviews and voter-guide reporting; Michigan SOS public dispute records regarding voter-roll claims.

Christine Sloan (Libertarian)

Secretary of State

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

Scott E. Aughney (U.S. Taxpayers)

Secretary of State

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

Eric Borregard (Green)

Secretary of State

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

Attorney General

Eli Savit (Democratic)

Attorney General

Public safety: Emphasizes prosecution and prevention of serious crime, including sex crimes, domestic violence, child abuse and gun violence.

Consumer protection: Supports aggressive enforcement against deceptive practices, price gouging and consumer abuse.

Civil rights: Campaign emphasizes voting rights, education rights and reproductive freedom.

Workers: Supports enforcement against wage theft, payroll fraud, labor trafficking and unsafe working conditions.

Environment: Supports state legal enforcement to protect clean air, water and healthy living conditions.

Justice reform: Supports community-based prevention and criminal-justice reforms alongside prosecution.

Sources: Eli Savit campaign issue pages; SBAM Attorney General questionnaire.

Doug Lloyd (Republican)

Attorney General

Law enforcement: Campaign emphasizes more than 30 years of prosecutorial experience and a law-enforcement-centered approach to the office.

State legal authority / business: Candidate questionnaires address regulatory, legal and small-business concerns within the Attorney General's authority.

Position-detail note: A comprehensive candidate-authored issue platform comparable in detail to Savit's was not located in the reliable sources reviewed. Voters should examine Lloyd's full questionnaires and campaign statements before publication.

Sources: SBAM 2026 Attorney General responses; candidate materials; public reporting on prosecutorial record.

Jason Dye (Libertarian)

Attorney General

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current issue-by-issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

John Perry Ludtke Jr. (U.S. Taxpayers)

Attorney General

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current issue-by-issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

Jeff Polonowski (Green)

Attorney General

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current issue-by-issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

Doug Dern (Natural Law)

Attorney General

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current issue-by-issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

STATE - MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE (KENT COUNTY DISTRICTS)

Only one Michigan Senate district and one Michigan House district will appear on an individual voter's ballot. This section includes the state legislative districts listed by Kent County so the guide can be used across the county. Detailed issue summaries are strongest where candidates published current 2026 platforms; otherwise the guide identifies the information gap.

Michigan Senate District 18

Anthony Pennock (Democratic)

State Senator - District 18

Workers / wages: Supports “just cause” protections, paid family/parental leave, living-wage policies and stronger retirement security.

Education: Supports increased public-school funding, reduced high-stakes testing, universal meals and stronger special-education funding.

Housing / utilities: Supports rent stabilization, utility-rate restraints, first-time-buyer protections and housing assistance.

Infrastructure / environment: Supports union-built infrastructure, water protection and long-term infrastructure planning.

Rights / elections: Supports voting access, reproductive freedom and expanded FOIA/transparency.

Sources: Pennock campaign “Working People’s Priorities.”

Michigan Senate District 18

Thomas A. Albert (Republican)

State Senator - District 18

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current 2026 issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

Michigan Senate District 20

Dale Murney (Democratic)

State Senator - District 20

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current 2026 issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

Michigan Senate District 20

Chris Moraitis (Republican)

State Senator - District 20

Economy: Supports reducing taxes and regulation to encourage small-business and manufacturing growth.

Gun policy: Supports Second Amendment protections and enforcement of existing laws rather than new restrictions on lawful owners.

Sources: Chris Moraitis campaign issues page.

Michigan Senate District 20

Shamara Clay (Green)

State Senator - District 20

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current 2026 issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

Michigan Senate District 29

Abbie Groff-Blaszak (Democratic)

State Senator - District 29

Economy / labor: Supports higher minimum wages, paid family leave, universal childcare, union protections and a progressive tax structure.

Housing: Supports zoning reform, more “missing middle” housing and repeal of Michigan’s ban on local rent stabilization.

Education: Supports higher educator pay, smaller classes and increased School Aid Fund investment.

Health care: Supports a public/single-payer health-care system and reproductive autonomy.

Public safety / justice: Supports gun-violence reduction and ending cash bail.

Environment / infrastructure: Supports clean energy, safe drinking water and people-centered transportation.

Sources: Candidate platform; BallotReady; Voters Not Politicians questionnaire.

Michigan Senate District 29

Brady A. Middleton (Republican)

State Senator - District 29

Economy / housing: Supports small-business growth, anti-waste/fraud efforts and addressing Kent County housing shortages.

Justice: Emphasizes restitution, victim accountability and reducing repeat cycles of crime.

Health: Supports school nutrition, physical education, healthy-food access and parent involvement.

Transparency: Proposes disclosure of lobbying/influence contacts connected to legislative votes.

Governance: Campaign stresses bipartisan cooperation and institutional reform.

Sources: Brady Middleton campaign “Five Commitments.”

Michigan Senate District 30

Carol Glanville (Democratic)

State Senator - District 30

Education: Supports early childhood education, school meals, school health clinics, higher education and skilled-trades training.

Affordability / small business: Supports tax relief for working families and measures supporting local small businesses.

Health care: Emphasizes medical-debt relief, medical research, school health services and affordable care.

Environment: Supports water-quality protection, parks, trails and Great Lakes policy.

Labor / safety: Campaign highlights prevailing wage, right-to-work repeal and gun-safety laws supported during her legislative service.

Sources: Carol Glanville campaign priorities.

Michigan Senate District 30

Mark E. Huizenga (Republican)

State Senator - District 30

Economy: Supports small-business growth, lower government barriers and job creation.

Mental health: Highlights funding for mental-health treatment, school counseling and treatment capacity.

Education: Supports education investment and workforce preparation.

Veterans: Supports veterans' services, property-tax relief, job training and mental-health resources.

Infrastructure: Emphasizes road, bridge and interchange investment.

Environment: Campaign lists conservation as a policy priority.

Sources: Mark Huizenga campaign issues page.

Michigan Senate District 33

Stan Opal (Democratic)

State Senator - District 33

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current 2026 issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

Michigan Senate District 33

Gina Johnsen (Republican)

State Senator - District 33

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current 2026 issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

Michigan House District 78

Rachel Gross (Democratic)

State Representative - District 78

Health care: Supports evidence-based nurse staffing standards and expanded mental-health access.

Education: Supports limits on cell-phone use during instructional time and student-focused school policy.

Housing: Supports rural homeownership and rental-housing investment, including support for smaller community-scale projects.

Sources: Rachel Gross campaign issues; BallotReady.

Michigan House District 78

Brandon L. Strong (Republican)

State Representative - District 78

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current 2026 issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

Michigan House District 78

Ben DeJong (Libertarian)

State Representative - District 78

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current 2026 issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

Michigan House District 79

Zach Abbott (Democratic)

State Representative - District 79

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current 2026 issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

Michigan House District 79

Angela Rigas (Republican)

State Representative - District 79

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current 2026 issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

Michigan House District 80

Lily Cheng-Schulting (Democratic)

State Representative - District 80

Economy / wages: Supports living wages, closing the tipped-wage gap, targeted tax relief, affordable child care and small-business capital access.

Health care: Supports MiCare/Medicare-for-All approaches, disability services and expanded mental-health care.

Education: Supports equitable school funding, special education, early learning, trades and affordable higher education.

Environment: Supports closing Line 5 and investment in renewable/community-owned energy.

Infrastructure: Supports clean transit, efficient schools and housing retrofits.

Sources: Candidate materials; BallotReady/Branch summaries.

Michigan House District 80

Doug Lee (Republican)

State Representative - District 80

2026 issue platform: VOTE411/Branch reported no detailed platform response or issue information in the sources reviewed. This guide does not infer positions from party affiliation.

Sources: Official candidate list; VOTE411/Branch.

Michigan House District 81

Stephen Wooden (Democratic)

State Representative - District 81

Housing: Supports increased housing supply, affordable housing, first-time homeownership and limits aimed at large investor purchases.

Child care: Supports expanding affordable child care.

Education / workforce: Supports public-school resources, Pre-K, higher education and job training.

Environment: Supports polluter accountability and clean-energy transition.

Health care: Supports additional prescription-drug price limits.

Reproductive health: Supports abortion, contraception and IVF access.

Sources: Stephen Wooden campaign priorities.

Michigan House District 81

Holly DeBoer (Republican)

State Representative - District 81

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current issue-by-issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Official candidate list; public-source review.

Michigan House District 82

Kristian C. Grant (Democratic)

State Representative - District 82

Housing: Supports a statewide Housing Readiness Package, lower barriers to housing and more supply.

Development: Supports community-centered development and investment shaped by neighborhood needs.

Education / youth: Lists education and youth investment among 2026 priorities.

Small business: Lists economic development and small-business growth among priorities.

Civil rights / safety: Lists civil rights and public safety among priorities.

Sources: Kristian Grant campaign "The Work Ahead."

Michigan House District 82

Ryan Malinoski (Republican)

State Representative - District 82

2026 issue platform: VOTE411/Branch reported no detailed response or platform in the sources reviewed. This guide does not infer positions from party affiliation.

Sources: Official candidate list; VOTE411/Branch.

Michigan House District 83

John Fitzgerald (Democratic)

State Representative - District 83

Housing: Supports building more housing and rehabilitating existing homes while considering neighborhood character.

Economy: Emphasizes good-paying jobs and job/skills training.

Education: Supports attracting teachers and providing schools and educators with resources.

Public safety: Identifies support for first responders and community services as priorities.

Sources: John Fitzgerald campaign priorities; Michigan House biography.

Michigan House District 83

Cindy Ramirez (Republican)

State Representative - District 83

Public safety: Campaign materials emphasize community safety and trust between law enforcement and residents.

Education: Supports investment in schools and student opportunity.

Health care: Supports policies aimed at affordable health care.

Infrastructure: Supports roads, broadband and clean-water infrastructure.

Economy: Supports local businesses and good-paying jobs.

Sources: Candidate materials summarized by BallotReady.

Michigan House District 84

Khristian Silvis (Democratic)

State Representative - District 84

Economy / family: Supports paid family leave and expanded child-care access.

Public safety: Supports resources and support for police officers.

Education: Supports increased per-pupil funding and affordable college, community college and skilled trades.

Veterans: Supports veterans' mental-health resources and education assistance.

Infrastructure / economy: Supports infrastructure investment and local economic opportunities.

Sources: Candidate materials summarized by BallotReady.

Michigan House District 84

Drew Jake Robbins (Republican)

State Representative - District 84

Taxes / economy: Supports lower taxes on working families, less regulation and a small-business-friendly environment.

Budget / government: Supports reducing waste and prioritizing public safety, infrastructure and education.

Public safety: Supports funding, training and equipment for law enforcement and first responders.

Education: Supports strong schools and practical/hands-on curricula tied to the job market.

Environment: Supports clean-water and sustainability investments.

Sources: Branch candidate profile based on campaign materials.

Michigan House District 89

Meegan Zickus (Democratic)

State Representative - District 89

Affordability: Campaign emphasizes household stability, housing, utilities, child care and transportation costs.

Education: Supports multiple career pathways including CTE, Early College, apprenticeships and college.

Health care: Emphasizes access, mental health, caregiving, prescriptions, elder care and disability services.

Infrastructure / growth: Emphasizes responsible growth, roads, water/sewer and long-term planning.

Sources: Meegan Zickus campaign issue library.

Michigan House District 89

Joe Moss (Republican)

State Representative - District 89

Taxes / budget: Supports lower taxes, fees and fines and stronger fiscal discipline.

Parental rights / children: Emphasizes parental control in child-rearing and opposition to policies he views as government overreach.

Government / DEI: Highlights elimination of Ottawa County's DEI department and opposition to DEI policy.

Energy / land use: Supports local control of energy siting and keeping the J.H. Campbell plant open.

Health policy: Campaign emphasizes individual health-care decisions.

Sources: Joe Moss campaign materials.

Michigan House District 90

Rachel Crowther (Democratic)

State Representative - District 90

Data centers / environment: Supports a 12-month statewide moratorium on new data centers while guardrails are developed; emphasizes water, farmland and community input.

Campaign finance / transparency: Rejects corporate PAC money and supports reducing money's influence in politics.

Government accountability: Emphasizes transparency and local/community voice.

Environment: Identifies clean drinking water and PFAS concerns as top priorities.

Sources: Rachel Crowther campaign; Planet Detroit candidate survey.

Michigan House District 90

Lynn Afendoulis (Republican)

State Representative - District 90

Taxes / budget: Campaign emphasizes tax cuts, fiscal discipline and reducing the size/cost of state government.

Government accountability: Campaign emphasizes oversight and challenging the political establishment.

Parental rights: Identifies parental rights as a campaign priority.

Sources: Lynn Afendoulis campaign announcement and materials.

Michigan House District 91

Frank Lafata (Democratic)

State Representative - District 91

Economy / cost of living: Emphasizes high food, gas, health-care and insurance costs and state support for residents facing financial hardship.

Infrastructure: Campaign emphasizes building roads, hospitals, schools and energy infrastructure.

Agriculture: Campaign identifies farming and support for farmers as district issues.

Sources: Frank Lafata campaign issue pages.

Michigan House District 91

Pat Outman (Republican)

State Representative - District 91

2026 issue platform: Official candidate and incumbent. A sufficiently detailed current 2026 general-election issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

STATE - EDUCATION & UNIVERSITY BOARDS

These boards govern statewide education policy or public universities. Because current 2026 candidate issue material is uneven, this section lists every official candidate and records whether a detailed candidate-specific platform was located. The guide does not substitute a party platform for a candidate's own position.

State Board of Education

Candidate	Party	Issue-information status
Judith Pritchett	Democratic	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Tiffany Tilley	Democratic	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Terence Collins	Republican	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Bree Moeggenberg	Republican	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Charles Essner	Libertarian	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
William Mohr II	U.S. Taxpayers	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Christine C. Schwartz	U.S. Taxpayers	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Wissam Charafeddine	Green	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Mary Anne Hering	Working Class	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Kelli Monroe	Natural Law	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.

University of Michigan Regents

Candidate	Party	Issue-information status
Paul Brown	Democratic	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Amir Makled	Democratic	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Lena Epstein	Republican	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Michael Schostak	Republican	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Andrew Chadderdon	Libertarian	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Kyle Maas	U.S. Taxpayers	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.

Michigan State University Trustees

Candidate	Party	Issue-information status
Brianna Scott	Democratic	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Kelly Tebay Zemke	Democratic	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Julie Maday	Republican	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Roger Victory	Republican	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Daniel R. Patterson	Libertarian	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Will Tyler White	Libertarian	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Janet Sanger	U.S. Taxpayers	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
John Sanger	U.S. Taxpayers	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
John Anthony La Pietra	Green	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Yaz Ozbek	Working Class	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.

Wayne State University Governors

Candidate	Party	Issue-information status
Shereef Akeel	Democratic	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Richard Mack	Democratic	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Andy Anuzis	Republican	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Christa Murphy	Republican	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Alex Avery	Libertarian	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Jami Van Alstine	Libertarian	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Jeff McDonald	U.S. Taxpayers	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Paul M. Ragan	Green	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
Suzanne Roehrig	Working Class	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.

Kathleen Oakford	Natural Law	Official candidate. Detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue platform not uniformly available in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare governance experience, budgets/tuition, academic policy, student safety, free speech, workforce preparation, research and institutional oversight using candidate questionnaires and public forums.
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COURTS

Judicial candidates are not evaluated here as legislators. The relevant questions are legal experience, approach to interpreting law, ethics, courtroom administration, access to justice, temperament and written/public record. "Incumbent" is a ballot designation, not an endorsement.

Michigan Supreme Court - Vote for up to 2

Megan Kathleen Cavanagh (Nonpartisan ballot)

Michigan Supreme Court

Status / experience: Incumbent Chief Justice; previously practiced appellate law before joining the Court in 2019.

Judicial approach: Public 2026 candidate forums emphasize judicial independence and the courts as an independent branch of government.

Sources: Michigan Public Sept. 23, 2026 candidate coverage; candidate biographies; official candidate list.

Noah P. Hood (Nonpartisan ballot)

Michigan Supreme Court

Status / experience: Incumbent justice; previously served on the Michigan Court of Appeals and Wayne County Circuit Court.

Court-system concerns: Has highlighted unequal resources among courts and disparities in access to legal representation.

Sources: Michigan Public Sept. 23, 2026; VOTE411; official candidate list.

Thomas W. Howe (Nonpartisan ballot)

Michigan Supreme Court

Judicial-position information: Official candidate. Detailed judicial-philosophy information should be taken directly from the candidate's VOTE411 response, legal record and public forums; a sufficiently detailed verified summary was not located for this edition.

Sources: Official candidate list; VOTE411 roster.

Casandra Morse-Bills (Nonpartisan ballot)

Michigan Supreme Court

Experience: Presiding judge of the 23rd Circuit; previously served as Oscoda County prosecutor.

Judicial philosophy: Has stated that judges should apply the law rather than impose personal beliefs or a political agenda.

Courtroom approach: Campaign materials emphasize temperament and respectful courtroom conduct.

Sources: Michigan Public Sept. 23, 2026; candidate materials; VOTE411.

Michael Warren (Nonpartisan ballot)

Michigan Supreme Court

Experience: Oakland County Circuit Court judge since 2002 with criminal, civil and business-case experience.

Judicial philosophy: Campaign materials emphasize interpreting the law as written.

Sources: Candidate biography; Michigan Public; VOTE411.

Jody White (Nonpartisan ballot)

Michigan Supreme Court

Judicial-position information: Official candidate. Detailed current judicial-philosophy information was not sufficiently available in the reliable sources reviewed for a substantive summary.

Sources: Official candidate list; VOTE411 roster.

Other Kent County Judicial Races

Court / term	Candidates	Issue / record guidance
Court of Appeals - 3rd District, 6 years	Mark T. Boonstra (incumbent); Daniel S. Korobkin (incumbent)	Both are listed as incumbents. Review published opinions, official biographies, State Bar resources and court administration records.
17th Circuit Court, 6 years	Maureen A. Gottlieb; Scott A. Noto; Clay M. West - listed as incumbents	Uncontested incumbent seats. Review courtroom experience, docket administration, written rulings where public and official biographies.
Kent Probate Court, 6 years	David M. Murkowski (incumbent)	Review probate/family-court administration, access to justice and official biography.
61st District Court, 6 years	Kellen A. Dotson; Angela T. Ross - listed as incumbents	Grand Rapids district court. Review official biographies, court administration and public legal record.
62A District Court, 6 years	Pablo Cortes (incumbent)	Relevant to Wyoming jurisdiction, not every Kent County voter.
62B District Court, 6 years	Amanda H. Sterkenburg (incumbent)	Relevant to Kentwood jurisdiction, not every Kent County voter.
63rd District Court, 6 years	Jeffrey J. O'Hara (incumbent)	Relevant to 63rd District jurisdiction.
63rd District Court partial term ending 1/1/2029	Kirsten L. Holz (incumbent)	Relevant to 63rd District jurisdiction.

COUNTY - KENT COUNTY

The official November 3, 2026 Kent County list reviewed for this guide does not show a countywide elected-candidate contest such as County Commission for Grand Rapids voters in this cycle. Countywide ballot questions do appear. The guide therefore treats county proposals as the principal countywide November 2026 choices and directs voters to their sample ballot for any jurisdiction-specific items.

Kent County Ballot Proposals

Proposal	What approval would do	Financial information from official ballot language
Corrections & Detention Facilities Millage Renewal and Increase	Authorize 0.98 mill for 2026-2045 for adult and juvenile corrections/detention facilities, including expansion, remodeling, equipment, operations, maintenance and debt service.	Kent County estimates \$37,326,699 in first-year revenue. County materials show an example of \$98/year for \$100,000 taxable value versus \$74.17 at the 2026 certified rate.
Zoo & Museum Millage Renewal	Renew dedicated funding for John Ball Zoo and Grand Rapids Public Museum for animal/artifact care, exhibit repair/improvement and educational programming.	Official language: 0.4086 mill for 2026-2035; estimated first-year revenue \$15,562,948.

Statewide Proposals

Proposal	Neutral description
Proposal 2026-1 - Constitutional Convention	Asks whether a convention of elected delegates should be convened in 2027 to draft a general revision of the Michigan Constitution. Any proposed revised constitution would later be presented to voters for approval or rejection.
Proposal 2026-2 - Campaign Contributions / Political Communications	Would prohibit certain regulated utilities, large government contractors and connected persons/organizations from direct or indirect campaign contributions to officials/candidates who affect them, and expand campaign-finance disclosure rules to additional political communications, including internet communications.

CITY - GRAND RAPIDS

City Comptroller

David Bulkowski

City Comptroller

Financial oversight: Describes the comptroller as an internal financial watchdog focused on whether city money is spent appropriately.

Transparency / public education: Emphasizes explaining financial oversight to residents and making the office's work understandable.

Role of the office: Describes the office as a nonpartisan oversight function rather than a general policy-making position.

Sources: Grand Rapids Herald candidate interview, Sept. 15, 2026; official candidate list.

Max Frantz

City Comptroller

Transparency: Campaign priority: public visibility into government spending "down to the penny."

Checks and balances: Emphasizes independence of the Comptroller's Office and voter-approved financial safeguards.

City Charter: Campaign emphasizes enforcing the charter-defined role of the office.

Experience: Current comptroller; City biography lists finance, treasury, planning/analysis, risk-management and internal-audit experience.

Sources: Max Frantz campaign; City of Grand Rapids official biography.

City Commission - Ward 1

Lindsey Perez-Plescher

City Commissioner - Ward 1

Public-service background: Was among the finalists in the City's 2026 process to fill the vacant First Ward seat.

2026 issue platform: A sufficiently detailed, candidate-authored issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed. Use the standardized Reclaim Your Vote questionnaire and recorded forums to complete an equal comparison before mass printing.

Sources: City of Grand Rapids appointment materials; Kent County official candidate list.

Steve Tibbe

City Commissioner - Ward 1

Housing: Supports zoning reform, greater mixed-use development and density, mixed-income housing, anti-displacement approaches and homeownership policies.

Small business / jobs: Supports making city contracting more accessible to local small businesses, corridor grants and workforce/trades partnerships.

Public safety: Supports neighborhood/community policing with accountability and relationship-building.

Parks / public space: Supports investment in safe, maintained parks and public spaces.

Transportation: Supports improved bus access, walkable streets and bicycle infrastructure.

Sources: Steve Tibbe campaign policies; Grand Rapids Herald Aug. 27, 2026.

City Commission - Ward 2

Bryan Cody

City Commissioner - Ward 2

Housing: Identifies housing as his top issue; has discussed permitting, small-builder/duplex costs and review of city housing policy.

Parking / streets: Has raised concerns from small businesses about parking and street-design changes.

Governance: Argues commissioners should listen, set policy direction, act and hold implementation accountable.

Sources: Grand Rapids Herald Sept. 10, 2026; candidate materials.

Lisa Knight

City Commissioner - Ward 2

Status / public record: Incumbent commissioner; voters can compare her City Commission votes, committee work, budgets and public meeting record.

2026 campaign platform: A sufficiently detailed current campaign issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed. Review City records, recorded forums and candidate questionnaire responses for an equal comparison.

Sources: City of Grand Rapids official profile; official candidate list.

City Commission - Ward 3

Kelsey Perdue

City Commissioner - Ward 3

Housing: Supports housing-for-all policies, zoning reform and smart-growth strategies intended to expand options while protecting existing residents.

Community engagement: Emphasizes transparency, regular updates and accessible participation in city decisions.

Business / economic development: Supports neighborhood business corridors, local developers and community-benefit approaches intended to build local wealth.

Community safety: Supports prevention, community-led strategies, violence-prevention investment, accountability and stronger relationships.

Public health / equity: Her background and campaign frame city policy through long-term community-health and neighborhood-outcome considerations.

Sources: Kelsey Perdue campaign priorities; City of Grand Rapids official profile.

Grand Rapids Public Library Board - Vote for up to 3

Kelly Boston

Library Commissioner

Status / governance: Current Board Vice President/Secretary; voters can review board minutes, budget votes and library policy decisions.

2026 campaign issues: A detailed current issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed. A local "Meet the Ballot" introduction is available.

Sources: Grand Rapids Public Library Board roster; local candidate-introduction resources.

Maggie Johnson

Library Commissioner

Candidate information: Official candidate; local "Meet the Ballot" introduction available.

2026 issue platform: A sufficiently detailed written issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; GRTV/The Rappahannock candidate introduction.

Gregory Garner

Library Commissioner

Candidate information: Official candidate.

2026 issue platform: A sufficiently detailed written issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

Grand Rapids Community College Board of Trustees

Jamie Gordon

GRCC Trustee - 6-year term

Status / background: Current trustee; public biographies describe education/administrative experience.

2026 issue platform: A separate detailed 2026 issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed. Compare board record, tuition/budget decisions, workforce programs and student-support governance.

Sources: GRCC Board of Trustees; public candidate resources.

Brandy Lovelady Mitchell

GRCC Trustee - 6-year term

Background: Current trustee and education administrator with experience in counseling, school leadership and student support.

Education priorities: Official biography emphasizes student opportunity, culturally responsive practice, social-emotional wellness, attendance, early-college credit, scholarships and industry credentials.

Sources: GRCC official biography.

Tim Russ

GRCC Trustee - 6-year term

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current campaign issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

Adriana Almanza

GRCC Trustee - partial term ending 12/31/2030

2026 issue platform: Official candidate. A sufficiently detailed current campaign issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review.

Grand Rapids Public Schools Board - 4-year term, Vote for up to 5

School-board profiles focus on student achievement, literacy, attendance, safety, mental health, special education, educator recruitment/retention, facilities, family engagement, governance and budgeting. Mitchell Nelson is marked withdrawn on the official candidate list and is not treated as an active candidate.

Antoinette Chapman

GRPS Board - 4-year term

2026 issue platform: Official active candidate. A sufficiently detailed current issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review through Sept. 23, 2026.

Tommy Doles

GRPS Board - 4-year term

Student focus: Campaign says every board decision should begin with whether it helps students learn, grow and flourish.

Community partnerships: Emphasizes collaboration around poverty, housing instability, anxiety and other barriers affecting students.

Governance: Frames board service around service, collaboration and making GRPS a stronger institution for the city.

Sources: Tommy Doles campaign site.

William Hugh Dykstra

GRPS Board - 4-year term

2026 issue platform: Official active candidate. A sufficiently detailed current issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review through Sept. 23, 2026.

Amaad Hardy

GRPS Board - 4-year term

Background: City of Grand Rapids Business Developer; official candidate.

2026 issue platform: A sufficiently detailed current school-board issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: City of Grand Rapids business-development page; official candidate list.

Robert Hovenkamp

GRPS Board - 4-year term

Literacy / achievement: Campaign emphasizes measurable student growth and has highlighted low third-grade reading proficiency as a major concern.

Data / accountability: Brings an education-data and state-budget background and emphasizes using data to guide decisions.

Educator support: Says educators need strong support so students can make meaningful growth.

Equity / ownership: Campaign language emphasizes growth, equity and ownership for students.

Sources: Hovenkamp campaign site; Grand Rapids Herald Aug. 24, 2026.

Carlos Kulas-Dominguez

GRPS Board - 4-year term

2026 issue platform: Official active candidate. A sufficiently detailed current issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review through Sept. 23, 2026.

Lisa Lint

GRPS Board - 4-year term

Community connection: Public district materials identify Lint as a Parent Action Leader at C.A. Frost Middle/High.

2026 issue platform: A sufficiently detailed current candidate platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: GRPS Parent University PAL roster; official candidate list.

Ismalis Nuñez

GRPS Board - 4-year term

Family/community engagement: Supports regular forums, advisory committees, transparent communication, interpretation/translation and greater access to board information.

Discipline / restorative practices: Supports restorative practices and addressing racial disparities in discipline, especially for Black boys.

Mental health: Supports trauma-informed care, stronger social-worker/counselor capacity and social-emotional learning.

Black student achievement / equity: Supports culturally responsive curriculum, targeted academic supports and staff training on bias/cultural competency.

Staff recruitment / retention: Supports competitive compensation, inclusive working conditions and pipelines to diversify educators.

Sources: 2024 Michigan Education Justice Coalition candidate questionnaire (prior publicly stated positions, included for context pending a 2026 questionnaire); 2026 campaign/video materials confirm current candidacy.

Diana Riley

GRPS Board - 4-year term

2026 issue platform: Official active candidate. A sufficiently detailed current issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review through Sept. 23, 2026.

José Rodriguez

GRPS Board - 4-year term

Student success: Campaign emphasizes scholar success as GRPS enters a superintendent search and new strategic-planning period.

Experience: Cites nearly 10 years of GRPS service as a paraprofessional, youth advocate and behavior interventionist.

Governance: Current Board President; voters can compare board votes, superintendent-search decisions and strategic-plan oversight.

Sources: José for GRPS campaign; GRPS Board records.

Tino Scott

GRPS Board - 4-year term

2026 issue platform: Official active candidate. A sufficiently detailed current issue platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed for this edition.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review through Sept. 23, 2026.

Josh Sherry

GRPS Board - 4-year term

2026 issue platform: Official active candidate. Public profile sources reviewed did not contain a substantive current platform; the candidate had not completed the profile available in one voter-guide source.

Sources: Kent County official candidate list; public-source review through Sept. 23, 2026.

Aarie Wade

GRPS Board - 4-year term

Students first: Campaign emphasizes student-centered decision-making.

Quality / opportunity: Supports safe schools, excellent educators and access to opportunities regardless of ZIP code, background or ability.

Transparency / accountability: Campaign emphasizes transparent, accountable board leadership and listening to families/educators.

Early childhood / community: Brings nearly 30 years of early-childhood experience and community-board service.

Sources: Wade4GRPS campaign; GRPS Board records; Grand Rapids Herald Sept. 3, 2026.

Diana L. Wallace

GRPS Board - 4-year term

School choice / district quality: Public reporting says her own experience moving her child through Schools of Choice shapes her concern about why families leave GRPS and how to make district classrooms more engaging.

2026 issue platform: A complete written platform was not located in the reliable sources reviewed; use candidate forums/questionnaire for fuller comparison.

Sources: Grand Rapids Herald Aug. 25, 2026.

Kimberley Williams

GRPS Board - 4-year term

School safety: Supports safe, welcoming schools and student physical, emotional and mental well-being.

Academic opportunity: Supports academic excellence and expanded student participation/opportunity.

Student/parent advocacy: Emphasizes equitable access, family engagement and stronger student/parent voice.

Community / school-to-prison pipeline: Campaign links supportive schools and opportunity to reducing pathways into the justice system.

Sources: Kimberley Williams campaign site; GRPS Board records.

GRPS Board - partial term ending 12/31/2028

Erika VanDyke

GRPS Board - partial term

Status / experience: Appointed to the GRPS Board in February 2026 after service in education, nonprofit and philanthropic organizations.

Family / staff voice: Campaign emphasizes amplifying what students, families and front-line staff say they need.

Community collaboration: Emphasizes schools as community institutions and shared responsibility for student success.

School support / resources: Background includes school/community partnerships, education funding and resource connection.

Sources: Erika VanDyke campaign; GRPS appointment announcement.

APPENDIX A - KENT COUNTY SCHOOL CANDIDATE ROSTER

The following roster reproduces school-board contests appearing on the Kent County official list. It is included so the guide covers school voters across the county, even though the detailed issue research above focuses on GRPS/GRCC and candidates with accessible 2026 platforms. For candidates below without an individual profile, "not researched in depth" means this edition did not locate and verify an equal, candidate-specific 2026 issue platform; it is not a statement about the candidate's views.

District / contest	Vote	Candidates
Belding Area Schools - 6 yr	Vote 2	Shannon Hummel; Lindsay M. Swanson
Belding Area Schools - partial	Vote 1	Nicki Vandenhout
Byron Center Public Schools - 6 yr	Vote 1	Jeff Black; Shannon Smith; Amber Swift; Thalia Tilma; Ashley Upchurch; Brad Wiechertjes
Caledonia Community Schools - 6 yr	Vote 2	Josh Carrasquillo
Cedar Springs Public Schools - 4 yr	Vote 4	Heidi Armock; Richard Bell; Mistie Bowser; Jenna Hess; Alexandra I. Hudson; April Patin; AnneMarie Slater
Cedar Springs Public Schools - partial	Vote 1	Brent Willett
Comstock Park Public Schools - 4 yr	Vote 4	Kevin McLellan; David M. O'Brien; Roman Rodriguez; Chad Shelner
East Grand Rapids Public Schools - 4 yr	Vote 3	Paul Bratt; David Hall; Matthew Richenthal
Forest Hills Public Schools - 6 yr	Vote 2	Claire Horlings; Maggie Terryn; Brian Spratke
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools - 6 yr	Vote 3	Tammy Schafer; Cheryl L. Slaughter; Eunice A. Villarreal
Godfrey-Lee Public Schools - partial	Vote 1	Amanda Salgado (qualified write-in)
Godwin Heights Public Schools - 6 yr	Vote 3	Megan Erskine; Allen E. Johnston; Ken Hornecker
Grand Rapids Public Schools - 4 yr	Vote 5	Antoinette Chapman; Tommy Doles; William Hugh Dykstra; Amaad Hardy; Robert Hovenkamp; Carlos Kulas-Dominguez; Lisa Lint; Ismalis Nuñez; Diana Riley; José Rodriguez; Tino Scott; Josh Sherry; Aarie Wade; Diana L. Wallace; Kimberley Williams
Grand Rapids Public Schools - partial	Vote 1	Erika VanDyke
Grandville Public Schools - 6 yr	Vote 3	Emily Berlin; Nick Brock; Amy Campbell; Gregory D. Warsen; Roger Whisman
Grant Public Schools - 6 yr	Vote 3	Ken Longstreet; Jason McKinley; Tami Roeters
Greenville Public Schools - 6 yr	Vote 3	Elizabeth Gates; Tiffany S Hall; William Zerbst (David W. Seppala withdrew)
Kelloggsville Public Schools - 6 yr	Vote 3	Marie Groters; Brittney R. Rocha; Laura Tanis
Kelloggsville Public Schools - partial	Vote 1	Saul Ivan Flores-Garcia
Kenowa Hills Public Schools - 4 yr	Vote 4	Tracey Hart; Don Munn; Danielle Roberts; Eric John Roberts; Shannon Robertson; Angela Schultz
Kent City Community Schools - 6 yr	Vote 3	Glenn A. Crabtree; Rick Stockhill; Sandra Vanderhyde-Volkers
Kentwood Public Schools - 4 yr	Vote 3	Pete Battey; Sylvia A. James; Kim Taboada-Arzate
Lakeview Community Schools - 6 yr	Vote 3	David Hansen; Brad Peasley
Lakewood Public Schools - 6 yr	Vote 3	Matthew Bulling; David Burd; Alisha DeWalt
Lowell Area Schools - 4 yr	Vote 3	Jared Blough; Jennifer Dougherty; Patrick D. Nugent; Jake Tjapkes
Northview Public Schools - 6 yr	Vote 2	Jake Conway; Valerie Endres; Matthew J. Nibbelink; William Wiarda
Rockford Public Schools - 4 yr	Vote 3	Jarrod W. Folsom; Lissa Geglio-Weidenfeller; Josh Hall; Jason P. Peterson; Miguel Quintanilla; Brian Vella; Emily Whalen (Megan Romano withdrew from this contest)
Rockford Public Schools - partial	Vote 1	Christie Ramsey; Megan Romano
Sparta Area Schools - 6 yr	Vote 3	Timothy A. Driscoll; Kim Eluskie; Julie Johnston; Mary Sanford
Thornapple-Kellogg Schools - 6 yr	Vote 3	Kate Bynski; Jim Flikkema; Mark Price
Tri County Area Schools - 6 yr	Vote 2	Heather J. Shadley
Wayland Union Schools - 4 yr	Vote 3	Aubrey Chubb; Brad Dorland; Jeff Koon; Sherry Lynn Miklusicak; Norman L. Taylor; Pete Zondervan
Wyoming Public Schools - 6 yr	Vote 3	Danielle Burzynski; Theresa Lantz; Lisa Manley; Craig P. Popma

APPENDIX B - Reclaim Your Vote Candidate Questionnaire

1. Why are you seeking this office, and what experience best prepares you for its legal responsibilities?
2. What are your three highest priorities?
3. What measurable results would you seek during the term?
4. What is your position on the major issues that fall directly within this office's authority?
5. How would you approach the public budget and stewardship of taxpayer funds?
6. How would you make your office accessible and accountable to residents?
7. What is one issue on which voters may misunderstand your position?
8. For incumbents: what votes, rulings, budgets, policies or actions best demonstrate your record?
9. Please provide your campaign website and public contact information.
10. Please identify primary sources supporting factual claims in your response.

APPENDIX C - Nonpartisan Publication Standards

- Give every candidate in the same race the same questions, deadline, word limit and editing rules.
- Separate verified biography/public record from candidate-stated promises or policy positions.
- Do not infer a candidate's views from party affiliation, endorsements, identity, occupation or supporters.
- Use "No documented position located" when research does not support a conclusion.
- Do not rank, score, label a candidate as best/worst/most qualified, or predict who will win.
- For judges, focus on legal record, experience, philosophy and court administration rather than treating the office as a legislative position.
- For ballot proposals, explain what YES and NO legally do without recommending either outcome.
- Recheck withdrawals, write-ins, ballot language and precinct sample ballots immediately before printing.
- Date every edition and maintain a correction log.

APPENDIX D - Core Sources & Verification Links

Source	Web address
Michigan Department of State - Elections	https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections
Michigan Voter Information Center	https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/
Kent County - Candidates & Proposals	https://www.kentcountymi.gov/662/Candidates-Proposals
Kent County official Nov. 3, 2026 list	https://www.kentcountymi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8870/November-3-2026-Candidates-and-Proposals-PDF
Kent County Campaign Finance	https://www.kentcountymi.gov/223/Campaign-Finance
Grand Rapids Current Election Information	https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/departments/clerks-office/elections/current-election-information/
Grand Rapids City Commission	https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/City-Commission
Grand Rapids Public Library Board	https://www.grpl.org/about/board-of-library-commissioners/
GRPS Board of Education	https://grps.org/our-district/board-of-education/meet-the-board/
GRCC Board of Trustees	https://www.grcc.edu/about-grcc/leadership-administration/board-trustees
Bridge Michigan 2026 Voter Guide	https://bridgemi.com/michigan-government/2026-bridge-michigan-voter-guide/
VOTE411	https://www.vote411.org/
Federal Election Commission	https://www.fec.gov/data/elections/
Michigan Campaign Finance	https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections/disclosure/cfr

RESEARCH STATUS: Candidate issue information in this guide is based on publicly available material located through September 23, 2026. Some candidates had extensive policy platforms; others had little or no detailed material accessible in the sources reviewed. Those differences are disclosed rather than filled with assumptions. Before public distribution, the Urban League can strengthen parity by sending the standardized questionnaire to every candidate in the same race and adding responses under a common word limit.

EXPANDED STATE EDUCATION & UNIVERSITY BOARD CANDIDATE ISSUES

Research update through September 23, 2026. The entries below replace a simple “information status” approach with the actual candidate-specific positions that could be documented. When a candidate has not answered a questionnaire or published a detailed platform, that is stated explicitly. No stance is assigned from party affiliation.

Michigan State Board of Education — Vote for up to 2

Candidate	Party	Documented issue positions / response status	Source
Judith Pritchett	D	Equitable school funding; educator recruitment/retention and compensation; less overreliance on standardized tests; early childhood, literacy, CTE, special-needs/foster-youth and mental-health supports; strong student-data privacy.	VOTE411 2026
Tiffany Tilley	D	Equitable funding; competitive teacher pay; recruitment/retention; reduced administrative burden; testing as diagnostic/accountability tool rather than dominant measure; literacy, math, science, computer science, career readiness, parent engagement; AI/education-technology standards; FERPA protections.	VOTE411 2026
Terence Collins	R	Literacy and math outcomes; measurable results; evidence-based practices; resources tied to programs that demonstrate results; teacher support; transparent diagnostic testing; parental rights; limits on collection/disclosure of personally identifiable student data.	VOTE411 2026
Bree Moeggenberg	R	No candidate response located to VOTE411 questions on education quality/funding, teacher workforce, testing, priorities or student privacy as of research date.	VOTE411 2026
Charles Essner	Lib	Restraining spending; stronger vocational pathways; less reliance on tests/diplomas as sole measures; education authority centered at state/local level; federal student-data requests should generally be rejected unless legally required.	VOTE411 2026
William Mohr II	UST	No current candidate-specific 2026 education-policy response located. Reviewed questionnaire showed no answers on public-education funding, school choice, curriculum or related education questions.	Official slate; reviewed voter questionnaire
Christine C. Schwartz	UST	Previously documented support for school choice including charter/private/home-school options, vouchers and tax credits; emphasizes parental choice. Comparable detailed 2026 State Board response not located, so these are identified as prior positions.	Prior candidate questionnaire; official 2026 slate
Wissam Charafeddine	Green	Public education as civic/economic responsibility; respect for teachers; parents as partners; innovation and inclusion; preparation for technology, work and citizenship; equity, sustainability, local empowerment and public accountability.	Candidate essay, Sept. 6, 2026
Mary Anne Hering	Working Class	No sufficiently detailed candidate-specific 2026 State Board platform located in reviewed sources; no position inferred from party label.	Official slate; public-source review
Kelli Monroe	Natural Law	No sufficiently detailed candidate-specific 2026 education platform located in reviewed sources; no position inferred from party label.	Michigan BOE; VOTE411

University of Michigan Board of Regents — Vote for up to 2

Candidate	Party	Documented issue positions / response status	Source
Paul Brown	D	Incumbent with finance/venture-capital/economic-development	U-M Regents bio; Faculty Senate forum; Ann Arbor Record; VOTE411

		background. Participated in Faculty Senate candidate forum. At Sept. 2026 town hall supported reinstating gender-affirming care for minors at Michigan Medicine. VOTE411 questionnaire remained unanswered at research date.	
Amir Makled	D	Civil-rights attorney. Participated in Faculty Senate forum. At Sept. 2026 town hall supported reinstating gender-affirming care for minors at Michigan Medicine. VOTE411 university-governance questions were unanswered at research date.	Faculty Senate; Ann Arbor Record; VOTE411
Lena Epstein	R	Participated in U-M Faculty Senate candidate forum. A sufficiently detailed directly attributable written 2026 platform was not located in reviewed sources.	Faculty Senate forum; official slate
Michael Schostak	R	Proposes at least 60% Michigan-resident undergraduates; expanded Go Blue Guarantee eligibility; changes to financial-aid treatment of home equity/small-business assets; free-expression protections; more student housing; fiscal transparency and cost discipline.	Schostak campaign platform
Andrew Chadderdon	Lib	VOTE411 reported no response on governance, pressing university issues, access for Michigan residents or free speech.	VOTE411 2026
Kyle Maas	UST	Participated in Faculty Senate candidate forum; sufficiently detailed written issue platform not located in reviewed sources.	Faculty Senate forum; official slate

Michigan State University Board of Trustees — Vote for up to 2

Candidate	Party	Documented issue positions / response status	Source
Brianna Scott	D	Expand financial aid; control costs; working/middle-class access; mental-health resources; campus safety; student services; transparent governance; faculty/research/workforce investment; First Amendment protection with rules against disruption.	VOTE411; The State News
Kelly Tebay Zemke	D	Expand Spartan Advantage and financial aid; more public investment in higher education; competitive compensation/benefits; supports broader collective bargaining; accountability and campus-culture reforms; stronger response to sexual-assault survivors.	VOTE411; The State News
Julie Maday	R	Former Novi council member and MSU parent. VOTE411 reported no response to 2026 governance, pressing-issues, access or free-speech questions.	The State News; VOTE411
Roger Victory	R	Academic excellence and career-relevant degrees; agriculture/food systems/Extension; affordability and accountability; board stability and transparency; viewpoint-neutral free-speech rules.	Victory campaign; VOTE411
Daniel R. Patterson	Lib	Listed candidate; sufficiently detailed candidate-specific 2026 issue response not located in reviewed VOTE411 material.	VOTE411; official slate
Will Tyler White	Lib	Affordability of tuition/housing/food; more two-year degrees in high-demand fields; explore food-cost and housing solutions; board stability; balance free speech with students' right to learn.	VOTE411 2026
Janet Sanger	UST	VOTE411 reported no response to 2026 MSU trustee questions.	VOTE411 2026
John Sanger	UST	VOTE411 reported no response to 2026 MSU trustee questions.	VOTE411 2026
John Anthony La Pietra	Green	Transparency/open meetings; loan-free public higher education; stronger speech protections; land-	VOTE411 2026

		grant/Extension/public-service mission; opposes punishment of Gaza-related protests and supports divestment from Israeli government/weapons.	
Yaz Ozbek	Working Class	Affordable tuition and long-term free-tuition goal for Michigan high-school graduates; pro-labor; agriculture/natural resources/energy/water; opposes data centers and seeks limits on AI; stronger campus free-speech protections.	VOTE411 2026

Wayne State University Board of Governors — Vote for up to 2

Candidate	Party	Documented issue positions / response status	Source
Shereef Akeel	D	Affordability/access; student support and graduation; career preparation; academic excellence; support for faculty/staff; transparent governance and financial oversight; stronger WSU-Detroit/Michigan community and health-care connections.	VOTE411; Akeel campaign
Richard Mack	D	Affordability; fair compensation for faculty/staff; labor experience; budget scrutiny; campus free speech and academic freedom; stronger statewide connection.	Mack campaign; VOTE411
Andy Anuzis	R	Academic excellence; character development; college/career readiness; governance, budgeting and accountability. VOTE411 showed no completed issue questionnaire at research date.	Anuzis campaign; VOTE411
Christa Murphy	R	Strategic governance; audit/executive oversight; technology, cybersecurity and digital transformation; innovation and workforce change. Detailed VOTE411 issue response not located.	Murphy campaign; candidate profile
Alex Avery	Lib	VOTE411 reported no response on governance, pressing issues, access or free speech.	VOTE411 2026
Jami Van Alstine	Lib	Integrity/accountability; listening to students, faculty, staff, alumni and taxpayers; long-term stewardship; technology/problem-solving background. Detailed issue-by-issue platform not located.	Libertarian Party candidate bio; VOTE411
Jeff McDonald	UST	Official candidate; sufficiently detailed candidate-specific 2026 WSU platform not located in reviewed sources.	Michigan BOE; VOTE411
Paul M. Ragan	Green	Official candidate; sufficiently detailed candidate-specific 2026 WSU governance platform not located in reviewed sources.	Michigan BOE; VOTE411
Suzanne Roehrig	Working Class	Retired teacher/librarian and WSU alumna; candidate material discusses student debt and higher education as a pathway to economic opportunity. Complete issue-by-issue response not available in reviewed material.	VOTE411 2026
Kathleen Oakford	Natural Law	VOTE411 reported no response to 2026 university-board questions.	VOTE411 2026

NONPARTISAN RESEARCH RULE: “No response located” is not a political position. It means this edition did not find a candidate-authored or reliably attributable statement on that subject by the research cutoff. Before mass printing, candidates without documented positions should be invited to answer the same questionnaire, with the same deadline and word limit.