

2026 WCDP Endorsement Questionnaire Responses

Responses are listed in order from State Senate to Ypsilanti City Council, Ward 2. Responses from school board and other nonpartisan candidates not participating in the August 4 primary will be published on August 7.

Office: Michigan State Senate, District 14

Candidate: Sue Shink; votesueshink@gmail.com / Info@VoteSueShink.com

More Information: <https://www.votesueshink.com/>

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

Economic justice for working families. I championed prevailing wage, repealed Right to Work, fought to phase out the retirement tax, support increasing affordable housing options across our state, and have been a sponsor or cosponsor of every energy affordability package introduced in recent years because I believe the cost of living is a justice issue. I fight for clean land, air and water because in addition to affecting quality of life and our economy, our health relies on it. I fought for our landmark Clean Energy laws and made sure environmental justice and worker protections were included for the first time in Michigan's history. Finally, I believe in democracy and the principle that the government should be accountable to people, not special interests. I support the state's Voting Rights Act and believe we need to reduce the influence that utility companies and other big corporate interests have in Michigan's politics.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I have, over many years, built the relationships, expertise and track record that this seat requires. I know Michigan's economic and environmental challenges from the inside and I know what it takes to move major legislation through a difficult political environment because I have done it. And I know this district — its communities, its priorities, and its people — because I have been showing up here for decades, long before any campaign. There is no learning curve for me and I am ready to keep delivering on day one.

"If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?"

In my first term, I was instrumental in moving Michigan's historic Clean Energy and Jobs Act through the Senate, securing a 100% clean energy future while creating good union jobs. I sponsored data center accountability legislation to protect ratepayers and communities from bearing the costs of unchecked energy and water consumption. I led the fight to extend prevailing wage to wind and solar projects, championed PFAS warning label legislation, worked to deliver the biggest tax cut for working families in a generation, phased out the retirement tax, and fought to hold utilities accountable for high rates and poor reliability. I have brought millions to our communities for parks, roads, the B2B Trail, healthcare, and brownfield cleanups. I have consistently prioritized the most vulnerable residents of District 14 from weatherization funding for low-income households, increased affordable and attainable housing, to broadband expansion in underserved communities.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

My connection to Washtenaw County and the WCDP predates any campaign. I have served on the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners for years, led the county's climate action plan, championed the Natural Areas Preservation Program millage, and worked with local organizations on everything from environmental remediation to historic preservation to affordable housing. I have attended Democratic party events, supported candidates up and down the ballot, and remained an active presence in county civic life throughout my career — not just during election seasons.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

Throughout my career I have mentored younger attorneys, environmental advocates, and public servants entering the policy space. I have supported the campaigns of Washtenaw County colleagues, providing guidance and resources as they have worked to build their own records of service. I have also invested in developing the next generation of leaders by hiring young people as interns and employees, through my work with conservation organizations and my involvement in local civic institutions, always making time to connect emerging leaders with the networks and knowledge they need to be effective.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

Washtenaw County is the heart of the community I have served my entire career. The WCDP's endorsement reflects my values and the values and priorities of the people I represent, and I am proud to seek it. I have worked alongside Washtenaw Democrats for decades — not just as a candidate but as a colleague, a neighbor, and a partner in building the kind of progressive, accountable government our community deserves. I want to carry that relationship into my second term with the full support of the party I have given so much of my career to advancing.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

I am a conservationist and a longtime Washtenaw County resident with deep roots in the civic life of this community. I have served on the board of Ann Arbor SPARK, Northfield Township Historical Society, Pilar's Foundation and the Washtenaw County Agricultural Lands Preservation Advisory Board, Huron River Watershed Council and led the county's Environmental Council, championed the Natural Areas Preservation Program, and implemented a conservation easement on our family farm. When my children were in school, I was active in supporting the schools they attended. I am involved in local environmental and civic organizations, attend community events across the district from Ann Arbor to the rural townships, and have maintained an active presence in neighborhood and civic life throughout my years in public service.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

I have been an active Democrat and supporter of progressive candidates throughout my career. I have contributed nearly \$50,000 to the Democratic Senate Caucus in the past quarter, helping grow our coalition of strong leaders. I have endorsed and supported, with dollars and time, candidates at every level — from local township races to statewide campaigns — and have used my platform and relationships to help build Democratic power in Washtenaw County and across Michigan. I have contributed to campaigns, attended party events, and worked to elect Democrats who share our values of supporting families, environmental protection, worker rights, reproductive freedom, and democratic accountability.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No

Office: Michigan State Senate, District 15

Candidate: Felicia Brabec; teambrabec@gmail.com

More Information: <https://www.feliciabrabec.com/>

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

Healthcare as a human right is the value that drew me to public service and has defined my career. As a practicing psychologist, I see every day what happens when people cannot access the care they need — and I have used every tool available to close those gaps, from telehealth reimbursement parity to mental health screeners for juveniles to the ban on conversion therapy for minors. I also believe deeply in equity and justice — that our systems should work for everyone, not just those with power and resources. I championed legislation creating Washtenaw County's first Racial Equity Officer, fought racial disparities in maternal health, and have worked to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline. Finally, I believe in protecting our democracy and the rights of all Michiganders — from reproductive freedom to voting rights to LGBTQ+ protections — because without those foundations, nothing else we fight for is secure.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I bring a combination of clinical expertise, legislative experience, and a deep commitment to our community that is genuinely unique in this race. Having spent nine years on the County Board and two terms in the State House, I understand how to move policy from idea to law — and I have the relationships and record to prove it. I've sponsored and co-sponsored over 1,200 bills on a wide range of issues, from reproductive freedom to environmental protections, criminal justice reform, and more. I have a proven ability to deliver for constituents across a wide range of issue areas. I also bring something no other candidate can — thirty years of sitting with people at their

most vulnerable and understanding what they actually need from their government. That clinical grounding makes me a more effective, more empathetic, and a more accountable legislator.

"If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?"

In two terms in the State House, I passed legislation banning conversion therapy for minors, secured telehealth reimbursement parity, implemented mental health screeners for juveniles, and championed juvenile justice reform. I helped pass abortion protections, the Earned Income Tax Credit expansion, and the repeal of Right to Work. As Chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, I worked to pass mandatory background checks, safe storage laws, and red flag laws. I secured funding for permanent supportive housing, a Saline water treatment facility, and Ypsilanti public schools. I also volunteer twice monthly at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility — because my commitment to constituents extends beyond my role as an elected official.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

Washtenaw County has been the center of my civic life for decades. During my nine years on the County Board, I was deeply embedded in the fabric of county governance and community life — attending meetings, engaging with residents, and working with local organizations year-round. I have served on the boards of Creative Washtenaw, Our Community Reads, the Washtenaw Community Mental Health Board as Chair, and Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels as Vice Chair. I have supported Democratic candidates and causes throughout the county in non-election years and maintained active relationships with party leadership and grassroots organizers alike. I am a regular WCDP meeting attendee and have eagerly supported your work for many, many years. Throughout my tenure, I have also been an active member of the Washtenaw County Democratic Party Black Caucus.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

Mentorship has been central to how I approach leadership. I have hosted interns and emerging advocates in my legislative office, connecting them with the policy work and relationships they need to build careers in public service. I have also invested in supporting candidates across the county and state — sharing what I have learned about running, governing, and building coalitions with candidates — many of them women or people of color — who are considering or beginning their own runs. The Women's March

I attended in 2017 deepened my commitment to supporting women in leadership, and I have tried to pay that forward in concrete, practical ways throughout my career. I currently regularly mentor newly elected officials.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

The WCDP represents the community I have served and called home throughout my time in Michigan and public career. I am seeking this endorsement because I believe my record, my relationships, and my values align with what Washtenaw Democrats stand for — and because I want to carry the full weight of party support into what will be an important race. I have been an eager WCDP participant in non-election years, supported candidates up and down the ballot, and worked to build Democratic power in this community.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

My community engagement is woven into my daily life, not reserved for campaign season. I volunteer twice monthly at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility. I serve on the boards of Creative Washtenaw, Our Community Reads, the Washtenaw Community Mental Health Board, and Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels. As a small business owner and practicing psychologist with thirty years in this community, I am embedded in the civic and professional life of Washtenaw County in ways that go far beyond my elected roles. I hosted regular coffee hours and community listening sessions because I believe the best governance starts with genuine connection to the people you serve.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

I have been an active supporter of Democratic candidates and causes throughout my career — contributing to campaigns, knocking thousands of doors, attending party events, and using my platform to help elect Democrats who share our values. As former Co-Chair of the House Finance Committee, I helped raise over \$37 million on behalf of Democrats statewide even though I myself wasn't running for re-election, demonstrating a sustained and significant commitment to building Democratic electoral power. I have endorsed and supported candidates at every level of government and will continue to do so as State Senator. I have contributed the maximum amount to the House Caucus

each cycle I was in office, and have pledged to do so for the Senate Caucus this year as well.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No

Office: Michigan State Senate, District 15

Candidate: Michael White; electmichaelwhite@gmail.com

More Information: electmichaelwhite.com

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

Three Democratic values define my public service: economic opportunity, educational access, and community responsibility.

I believe every worker deserves dignity, fair wages, and the freedom to organize because I've lived it. As a union member before spending 20 years in AT&T leadership, I've experienced both labor and management and understand the importance of creating opportunity for working families.

I believe education changes lives. Through Connecting Academics, I've partnered with my fraternity to help raise more than \$500,000 in scholarships benefiting over 300 students. As President of Educate Youth, I continue creating pathways to education and workforce success.

Finally, I believe strong communities are built through service. As an Army veteran, elected Precinct Delegate, Vice Chair of the Washtenaw County Black Caucus, and community leader, I've dedicated my life to expanding opportunity. That's what Real People. Real Progress. means to me.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

Because I've lived the life many District 15 families are living.

I grew up working class. I've driven a school bus, sorted mail, worked on an auto parts assembly line, and spent 20 years at AT&T, starting as a union member and advancing into leadership. I'm also a U.S. Army veteran and hold advanced degrees in Educational Technology and Leadership.

I know what it means to balance work, school, and family while trying to build a better future. Those experiences shaped my commitment to working families, seniors, veterans, and young people seeking opportunity.

I bring real-world experience in labor, education, technology, military service, nonprofit leadership, and community organizing. I've built coalitions, negotiated solutions, and delivered results throughout my career. District 15 deserves a senator who's lived the life and will fight every day for Real People. Real Progress.

"If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?"

I plan to serve District 15 the same way I've served every community I've been part of: by listening, being accessible, and delivering results.

I'll maintain a visible district presence across Washtenaw, Lenawee, and Monroe counties with regular office hours, community forums, and responsive constituent services. I believe representation means showing up, hearing people's concerns, and following through.

In Lansing, I'll focus on practical solutions that strengthen working families by expanding economic opportunity, increasing affordable housing, improving access to healthcare, supporting public education and workforce development, protecting our environment, and honoring our commitments to seniors and veterans.

I'll also lead with transparency by communicating regularly with constituents, reporting on my work, and remaining accountable to the people I represent. Public service is about earning trust every day through results, not just promises.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

My commitment to Washtenaw County didn't begin with this campaign. For more than a decade, I've worked year-round to strengthen our communities and Democratic values.

I serve as Vice Chair of the Washtenaw County Black Caucus, an elected Precinct Delegate, and a leader in the Eastern Washtenaw Democratic Club, helping organize voters, support and manage Democratic candidates, and build local party infrastructure.

Since 2013, through Connecting Academics and community partnerships, I've helped register voters, expand civic engagement, and create educational opportunities for local residents. As President of Educate Youth and founder of Connecting Academics, I've worked year-round to connect students and families with scholarships, mentoring, and workforce opportunities.

Whether through community service, voter engagement, or nonprofit leadership, I've always believed that showing up between elections is what builds trust and strengthens our democracy.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

Mentorship is central to my leadership. Through Connecting Academics, I've partnered with my fraternity to help raise more than \$500,000 in scholarships benefiting over 300 students, providing both financial support and encouragement to pursue higher education.

As President of Educate Youth, I help connect young people to mentoring, academic resources, and career opportunities. During my 20-year career at AT&T, I intentionally developed future leaders by coaching employees, creating growth opportunities, and advocating for advancement.

I've also mentored civic leaders, serving twice as campaign manager for a first-time candidate for Washtenaw County Commissioner who won election both times. Through Kappa Alpha Psi and my community work, I continue mentoring emerging leaders, encouraging civic engagement, public service, and leadership that strengthens our communities.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

I'm seeking the WCDP's endorsement because my record reflects the Democratic values of service, opportunity, equity, and community. My commitment to the party spans more than a decade, including serving on the WCDP Executive Board in 2009. Since then, I've remained active year-round through voter engagement, nonprofit leadership, and community service—not just during election season.

District 15 spans Washtenaw, Lenawee, and Monroe counties, and winning requires a candidate who can unite voters across the entire district. As a veteran, union member, educator, nonprofit leader, and community advocate, I've built coalitions that deliver results.

The WCDP's endorsement would demonstrate confidence in a candidate committed to working families, transparency, and Democratic values. I'll work to elect Democrats at every level while serving District 15 with integrity, accessibility, and accountability.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

Community engagement isn't something I do on the side, it's the foundation of my public service. I serve as Vice Chair of the Washtenaw County Black Caucus, Vice Chair of the Eastern Washtenaw Democratic Club, President of Educate Youth, President of the Ford Lake Village Property Owners Association, and an elected Precinct Delegate.

Since founding Connecting Academics in 2013, I've helped expand educational access, workforce development, and scholarship opportunities. I've also led voter registration efforts that have engaged hundreds of Washtenaw County residents.

My advocacy extends beyond organizations. I founded the #EqualAtTheBox initiative to advance environmental justice and fair-chance hiring, and I continue partnering with faith-based and community organizations, including Christian Love Fellowship, to expand affordable senior housing.

I don't just participate, I organize, lead, and serve year-round.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

My support for Democratic candidates and causes has been consistent, year-round, and grounded in service. Since 2013, I've helped register hundreds of voters through Connecting Academics and community partnerships because expanding participation strengthens our democracy.

I've served as Chair of the Eastern Washtenaw Democratic Club, an elected Precinct Delegate, a twice past member of the WCDP Executive Board, and Vice Chair of the Washtenaw County Black Caucus, helping organize voters, support Democratic candidates, and strengthen local party infrastructure. I've canvassed, made phone calls, managed campaigns, and supported candidates at every level, including serving twice as campaign manager for a first-time Washtenaw County Commissioner who won both elections.

I'm a Democrat because I believe in opportunity, fairness, and a government that works for working families. Those values have guided my service long before I became a candidate.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No

Office: Michigan House of Representatives, District 23

Candidate: Jason Morgan; jtmorgan07@gmail.com / votejasonmorgan@gmail.com

More Information: <https://www.votejasonmorgan.com/>

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

Economic justice brought me to public service and still drives me every day. I grew up in a household where every dollar mattered. In Lansing, I've focused on lowering costs, defending workers' rights, expanding affordable housing, and standing up to corporate interests that are making it harder for people to build a stable life.

Freedom is also deeply personal to me. Growing up LGBTQ+ in a small rural town while living with a progressive neuromuscular disease shaped how I see the world. It matters to have people willing to fight for your dignity when the world can make you feel invisible. That's why I've fought so hard for reproductive freedom, LGBTQ+ rights, voting rights, and equal opportunity for all.

Finally, I believe in community — nobody should have to navigate life's challenges alone. Some of my most rewarding moments are helping constituents, from receiving healthcare to cutting through bureaucracy and making them feel heard. To me, that's what public service is about.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I've shown that progressive leadership and effective governing can go hand in hand. In just two terms in the Legislature, we repealed Right to Work, protected reproductive freedom, expanded gun safety laws, lowered costs for seniors and working families, and made historic investments in public schools, mental health, infrastructure, and clean energy. In three years, we nearly quadrupled the state's housing investment from \$756 million to a record \$2.61 billion. I also fought for universal free school meals to ensure no child goes hungry, and we've achieved real results on longstanding community challenges including getting the Gelman dioxane plume listed by the EPA to protect our water, securing funding to build the Eastern Washtenaw Rec Center and pay off Ypsilanti School Debt, and record funding to repair our neighborhood roads. I've stayed deeply rooted in our community through environmental action, labor advocacy, party meetings, and ongoing coalition-building.

"If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

As a legislator, I've focused on lowering costs, expanding opportunity, protecting people's rights, and delivering tangible results for the communities I represent.

Beyond the legislative accomplishments, I've worked to make government more accessible, responsive, and accountable to the people it's supposed to serve. This has meant helping constituents cut through bureaucracy, navigate state agencies, access services, and make sure their concerns are taken seriously. We've elevated local priorities to bring resources back to our district, including investments in public transit, roads and water infrastructure, environmental cleanup, elections administration, and community spaces that improve people's daily lives.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I've been an active member of the WCDP and Ann Arbor Democrats for 15+ years. Running for office myself was never part of the plan, but I always believed I could make a difference by showing up, organizing, and being involved in the party. I've spent more than 18 years working to elect Democrats and build progressive power in Michigan, starting as a Northern Michigan College Democrat, Obama campaign volunteer, and young congressional staffer in the UP. Since then, I've worked on local, state, and federal races across Michigan. I've attended party events, knocked doors, made calls, supported local organizing efforts, and helped strengthen our party locally and statewide. Today, as Recruitment Chair for the Michigan House Democratic Caucus, I help recruit, support, and mentor candidates running in some of the most competitive districts in the state because I believe building strong, progressive, Democratic leadership is one of the most important ways we move our values forward.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

Part of leadership is helping prepare the next generation to step up and lead. I try to instill in them the same lesson Congressman Dingell espoused: "Always remember who you work for — the people." Hiring, training, and supporting young staff in public service is incredibly rewarding to me, especially because so many, including Congressman Dingell, invested their time and trust in me early in my career. Through my recruitment role, I support candidates running in some of the most competitive districts in Michigan. I stay involved throughout their campaigns, helping them navigate challenges, connect with resources, and build the confidence and skills needed to succeed. I've also mentored interns, young advocates, and LGBTQ+ people interested in public service, sharing what I've learned about organizing, coalition-building, and governing effectively. I know how important it can be to have someone who believes in you early on, and I try to be that person for others whenever I can.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

I'm seeking the endorsement of the WCDP because this party and this community have been a meaningful part of my life for a long time. I've spent years organizing alongside Washtenaw Democrats, supporting candidates, showing up in non-election years, and working to build the kind of Democratic leadership our communities deserve.

I believe my record, my values, and my approach to public service reflect what Washtenaw Democrats care about: protecting people's rights, standing up for working families, investing in our communities, and delivering real results.

I'm proud of what we've accomplished together, and I'm asking for the WCDP's support as we continue building on that progress and fighting for the future our communities deserve.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

Community engagement is not something separate from my public service, it's how I approach the work every day. I attend nonprofit events, environmental actions, neighborhood meetings, and community forums year-round, because I believe representation starts with listening and showing up consistently. I've also spent more than 10 years volunteering at a summer camp for children with muscular dystrophy, an experience that has deeply shaped my understanding of empathy, mentorship, and community. I serve in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and have stayed actively involved with local organizations and advocacy efforts across the district. Whether through public service, volunteer work, or community organizing, I've always believed strong communities are built through relationships, trust, and people willing to show up for one another.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

I've been an active member of the WCDP and Ann Arbor Democrats for 15+ years. Running for office myself was never part of the plan, but I always believed I could make a difference by showing up, organizing, and being involved in the party. I've spent more than 18 years working to elect Democrats and build progressive power in Michigan, starting as a Northern Michigan College Democrat, Obama campaign volunteer, and young congressional staffer in the UP. Since then, I've worked on local, state, and federal races across Michigan. I've attended party events, knocked doors, made calls, supported local organizing efforts, and helped strengthen our party locally and

statewide. Today, as Recruitment Chair for the Michigan House Democratic Caucus, I help recruit, support, and mentor candidates running in some of the most competitive districts in the state because I believe building strong, progressive, Democratic leadership is one of the most important ways we move our values forward.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No

Office: Michigan House of Representatives, District 31

Candidate: Shannon Dare Wayne; info@shannondarewayne.com

More Information: shannondarewayne.com

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

Three Democratic values that mean the most to me are opportunity, inclusion, and community. First, I believe everyone deserves a fair opportunity to succeed. I grew up in a blue collar union family and understand how access to good schools, affordable healthcare, and good paying jobs can change the trajectory of a family's life. Second, I believe in inclusion and respect for all people. As a first generation American, I understand the importance of feeling welcomed and valued in your community. I have worked to represent everyone in Milan. Third, I believe in the power of community. My commitment to public service comes from a desire to improve the lives of my neighbors. I have always believed that we are strongest when we work together to solve problems and support one another. These values guide my approach to leadership: expanding opportunity, respecting every person, and building stronger communities where everyone has the chance to thrive.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I offer public service, private-sector leadership, and educational experience to be an effective state representative. Voters of Milan trusted me twice to serve on City Council. As Mayor Pro Tem, I balanced budgets, improved services, and supported economic development. I serve on Michigan Technological University's Board, strengthening my understanding of higher education and workforce development. With 28 years at Ford, managing projects and global teams, I focus on results. My PhD and MBA show my commitment to learning and problem-solving. I've worked with diverse backgrounds, knowing progress requires building coalitions. Families in District 31 deserve a representative who listens, works hard, and delivers on issues like schools, healthcare, infrastructure, and opportunity. My record proves I have the experience and leadership to meet these goals.

"If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?"

Serving on Milan City Council has shown that listening leads to results. The State House's broader role still requires understanding community needs, building relationships, and delivering solutions. On City Council and as Mayor Pro Tem, I helped secure over \$7 million in funding—\$3.6M for wastewater, \$1M for Wilson Park, \$700K for the community center. I seek new funding; taxpayers deserve leaders who maximize resources. Public service means being present—volunteering and talking with residents. As Chair of Downtown Development, I've worked on parking, economic growth, and a community square. These efforts improve quality of life. District 31 deserves the same hands-on approach. Regular office hours and town halls will give residents a voice. Every call and email deserves respect. Every vote should ask: will this improve lives? I will bring people together, practical solutions, and results every day in Lansing.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

While I have not been involved directly with WCDP, I have worked at the local level with non-partisan city council and school board races and Indivisible groups to support likeminded candidates.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

Mentoring has been central to my career and community service. At Ford, I led Women of Product Development mentoring circles, helping employees build leadership skills and expand networks. I continue this work on the Boards of Women in Engineering Leadership at Wayne State and Women Officials Network Foundation, supporting women in leadership. I also work with students at Lawrence Tech, Wayne State, and

Michigan Tech, discussing career planning, leadership, and STEM opportunities. Many conversations focus on building confidence and connecting classroom learning to real-world paths. The most rewarding part is seeing others succeed. Supporting engineers, students, or women in leadership helps create stronger organizations, communities, and future leaders.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

I seek the endorsement of the Washtenaw County Democratic Party because I share its goals of expanding opportunity, strengthening communities, and supporting working families. As a Milan City Council member, Mayor Pro Tem, and Chair of the Downtown Development Authority, I've helped secure over \$7 million for community projects. I believe progress comes from listening, partnering, and focusing on results. I support Democratic priorities like strong schools, healthcare, economic opportunity, and environmental stewardship. Winning District 31 requires energizing voters and earning trust from independents. My community engagement and problem-solving experience position me to do both. I would be honored to earn the party's endorsement and work for a stronger future.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

Milan City Council; 2021 - Present, 2023 - 2024 as Mayor Pro Tem
Milan Downtown Development Authority 2018 - Present, Currently serving as Chair
Michigan Technological University, Board of Trustees, 2025 - Present
Milan Area Fire Board, 2026 - Present
Community Relations Board Member, Milan Federal Correctional Complex, 2024 - Present
Lasagna Love Volunteer Chef, feeding over 1,000 people with food deliveries, 2021 - Present
Milan Beautification Commission, 2014 - 2026, Former Chair
Milan Seniors for Healthy Living, City Council Liaison, 2022 - 2026
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Parish Council, 2019 - 2025, Former President"

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

Democratic values have shaped my civic engagement. My first political speech was in elementary school supporting Michael Dukakis. In high school and college, I

volunteered for Democratic candidates, including the Oakland County Democratic Party. While in college, I ran for Oakland County Commissioner to make a difference. As my career and family grew, I continued public service through community leadership, local government, and volunteering. Serving on Milan City Council, as Mayor Pro Tem, and Chair of the Downtown Development Authority, I helped bring over \$7 million in funding for infrastructure, parks, and community projects. Now, with my children older, I'm ready to serve as a Democratic candidate for the Michigan House, advocating for opportunity, public education, healthcare, economic security, environmental stewardship, and respect for all.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No

Office: Michigan House of Representatives, District 32

Candidate: Jimmie Wilson, Jr.; jwilson4staterep@gmail.com

More Information: JimmieWilsonJr.com

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

I believe the values of the party should flow from the people, not from the party. I'm proud to be part of the workers' rights, universal healthcare, pro-environment, pro-choice, pro-LGBTQ+ wing of the democratic party that believes in justice, equity, and sustainability. I believe in people over profit. I practice it in how work in Lansing, the legislation I sponsor, co-sponsor, and vote for. I practice it in my community by being open to conversations with and input from all people, and by always trying to find ways to meet their needs, and connect them to others in the community who share their

values. I practice my principles by fulfilling my duties in a spirit of connection and service to the community I was born and raised in.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I'm the only candidate in the race who has served in public office. I have been vetted and am known by the community. I have four years of law-making experience in Lansing (half in the majority.) I know how to get things done even when we don't have a majority.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

With the community I serve, my office has been able to bring historic funding to the district, including our schools, infrastructure, and more. I have strong working relationships with other Democratic stakeholders, including unions, environmental groups, LGBTQ+ advocacy groups, and more.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

When I was serving on the Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees, I was also an active member of the Black Caucus of WCDP, including serving as Chair until my 2022 election to the State House.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

I feel that good relationships and real learning is mutual. I work with local schools, visiting the schools, and hosting school visits in Lansing. I've encouraged other members of the community to seek public office, especially minorities and always give advice when asked. I often have adult students and professional shadow me in Lansing, inviting activists like Andrea Pierce and others to join me on the House Floor for session and for State of the State

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

I've been a democratic voter my entire adult life, I believe in the power of coalitions, and I believe in making it clear to voters where and with whom I stand so that they can make an informed choice.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

I support local and state organizations that serve our community and do my best to highlight their work and help them make the connections they need to make their work more accessible to the community. I think my efforts are revealed in the endorsements of groups like the UAW, AFSCME, SEIU, Clean Water Action, the League of Conservation Voters, the Sierra Club, the Jane Fonda Climate PAC, Planned Parenthood of Michigan, We the People Action Fund, Equality Michigan, the Peoples' Coalition, and more. In addition to receiving the pro-voter designation from Voters Not Politicians.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

In addition to everything I have described, I have served as precinct delegate for the party for 10 years, endorse candidates I believe in, and am always available to provide support and share my perspective.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No

Office: Michigan House of Representatives, District 33

Candidate: Morgan Foreman;
teamforeman@forwardwithforeman.com

More Information: [Forward with Foreman](#)

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

As a former educator, I recognize the critical importance of investing in PK-12 education. It is essential that we continue to prioritize resources to support students' academic recovery, including targeted tutoring, mental health services, high-quality childcare, and technology access. In the past two years, I fought against Republican budget cuts and refused to support any measure that will harm our students and teachers

I believe our government should also ensure access to healthcare for everyone. As a member of the Health Policy Committee, I am working every day to ensure our healthcare policies will have a positive impact on the people of Michigan. I have supported several bills that will make healthcare more accessible. This should also include elder care for our aging population. As a caretaker of my grandmother, I am committed to addressing the pressing need for policies and programs that support aging in place within our communities.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

As the current State Representative for House District 33, I have spent the past two years fighting for the people of Washtenaw County against the chaos of the Republican Majority and their MAGA Speaker Matt Hall. I am also the only Democrat in the race, which I hope is a testament to my work so far and my constant engagement with my constituents.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

I have spent my time during my first term advocating for our communities against legislators who support the President's fascist takeover of our country, as well as

powerful interests that seek to circumvent the will of the people. I have been critical of DTE Energy and the MPSC for how they fast-tracked the data center in Saline Twp without approval or comment from the people of that community.

I've sponsored many pieces of legislation. From environmental protection, to preventing gun violence, to expanding healthcare access. I have used my office to elevate issues that directly impact the health and quality of life of our community. As Chair of the Emerging Contaminants Task Force for the GLLC Legislative Caucus, I am leading an effort focused on PFAS, microplastics, and other threats to our water supply. This is especially important to Washtenaw, where many continue to live with the legacy of contamination from the Gelman plume.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I have been a member of the WCDP since 2020. I also previously served as treasurer of the WCDP Black Caucus, and served as an elected precinct delegate in Washtenaw County in the past.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

Mentorship has been a consistent part of my work, both before and during my time in public office. As State Representative, I regularly open my office to students and young professionals interested in government and public service through job shadow opportunities, internships, and career conversations. I have mentored emerging leaders by helping them understand the legislative process, connect with community leaders, and explore careers in public service.

As a 2023 graduate of the Michigan Political Leadership Program (MPLP), I have remained actively engaged with the program, returning to share lessons learned, participate in panels, and offer advice to future cohorts considering careers in public service and elected office.

I believe leadership is about creating opportunities for others to succeed. Throughout my career in education, advocacy, and government, I have tried to leave every space with more leaders than I found.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

Washtenaw County is my home. It is where I was raised, where I built my career, and where I have dedicated my life to serving others. The Washtenaw County Democratic Party has played a vital role in building the strong Democratic infrastructure that allows leaders like me to serve our communities, and I am proud to be part of that tradition.

I am seeking the endorsement of the WCDP because I share its commitment to expanding opportunity, protecting fundamental rights, strengthening public education, and building a more equitable future for everyone. The endorsement would reflect not only my record of service, but also our shared belief that effective leadership starts with listening to the community and delivering results that improve people's lives.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

My office has helped constituents navigate state agencies, resolve issues with unemployment benefits, Medicaid, licensing, and other government services, while also connecting residents with resources during times of crisis.

I have hosted several community events to engage with my community as an elected official. I hosted coffee hours where anyone is welcome to share their thoughts and ask questions. I also have held a senior townhall and women's health symposium to bring state resources directly to where people are.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

Before I even ran for office, I have been helping candidates get elected for years, especially in the State House when I was a staffer there and during my time with the WCDP. As an elected official, I am now at a better position to endorse and support candidates. This is an important year for Michigan and I am absolutely committed to electing Democrats up and down the ballot. Especially in the State House where we need to get back our majority and also maintain the Senate majority and Governor's office to have a solid trifecta and get our priorities done.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

Nope. I take my position seriously and I will stand against corruption and wrongdoing.

Office: Michigan House of Representatives, District 46

Candidate: Jan Maino; jan@mainoformichigan.com

More Information: <https://mainoformichigan.com/>

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

Compassion for the underserved is a major value of the Democratic Party that I share. I began my career supporting families involved in the child welfare system, and I have continued that commitment through behavioral health leadership and my current work as a clinical therapist. I have seen firsthand how barriers to mental health care can affect individuals and families. These experiences have strengthened my commitment to ensuring that everyone, regardless of socioeconomic background, has access to the support and opportunities they need to thrive.

As a daughter of a Vietnamese immigrant, I was raised to appreciate the strength that comes from diversity in communities, a value that has remained in the forefront of all my work. Throughout my career, I have worked with people from many different backgrounds, and those experiences have only strengthened my belief that our communities thrive when everyone has a seat at the table.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

For my entire career I have either served as a voice and advocate for the disadvantaged and underserved or taught others' how to advocate for themselves and access the resources they need to live a productive life. I am seeking this office because I want to continue serving my community and advocating for policies that improve people's lives at a higher level. I bring a unique combination of social work experience, direct state systems knowledge, nonprofit leadership, policy expertise, and a deep commitment to the people of my district.

My experiences have given me a practical understanding of the issues facing Michigan families, particularly the need for affordable mental health care, strong public schools, and comprehensive economic development policies. I have seen firsthand what

happens when systems work—and when they fail—and I am committed to finding solutions that put people first.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

As President of the East Jackson School Board, I prioritize listening to parents, students, and educators to ensure their voices are reflected in board decisions. By fostering collaboration and maintaining a focus on student success, I have helped support initiatives that improve educational resources and prepare students for life after graduation.

As new regulations arise or policies are proposed, I always do my homework by connecting to qualified individuals, reviewing written materials, and analyzing data to ensure a broad understanding of the impact of any change. This approach allows me to fully understand how any decisions I make carry over to our families and educators, and I will carry this policy forward as a State Representative.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I want to answer this question honestly. Because I have lived, worked, and volunteered primarily in Jackson County for most of my life, my involvement with the Washtenaw County Democratic Party and Washtenaw County is indirect, if any, as compared to my involvement in Jackson County. My professional, civic, and volunteer commitments have centered on serving the community where I reside, including public education, nonprofit leadership, behavioral health, and family services.

As the representative for HD 46, I am committed to being present, engaged, and responsive to the City of Chelsea and Western Washtenaw County communities, just as I have been throughout my years of service in Jackson County.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

Throughout more than thirty years in social work, nonprofit leadership, and behavioral health administration, I have invested in helping people develop skills to become effective leaders themselves. A particularly meaningful mentoring experience involved an employee I supervised during my time in the private sector. She struggled with difficult client communications and often avoided sharing bad news with customers. Through consistent coaching, constructive feedback, and encouragement, I helped her develop stronger communication and leadership skills. Over time she learned to

approach challenging conversations directly and confidently, strengthening client relationships and becoming a more effective professional. Today, she serves successfully in a director-level position, a growth journey that remains one of my proudest mentoring accomplishments. My goal has always been the same: help people discover their potential and create positive impact with their organizations and communities.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

I am seeking the endorsement of the Washtenaw County Democratic Party as we are aligned in our commitment to put people first and build a resilient democracy. I am committed to working alongside party members, local leaders, and community stakeholders to advance policies that enrich the lives of working families and improve participation in our democracy.

Furthermore, House District 46 is the only part of Washtenaw county that is currently represented by a Republican in our state legislature. To flip this competitive seat, we will need all hands on deck, and I know this can be accomplished with the support of the WCDP.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

I have maintained a longstanding commitment to civic leadership and volunteer service in my community. I have served on the East Jackson Community Schools Board of Education since 2013 and currently serve as Board President, helping guide strategic planning, policy development, and educational opportunities for local students. I currently serve as President of the John George Home Foundation and have held volunteer leadership positions with organizations including the Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Florence Crittenton Services, Aware Inc.; Big Brothers Big Sisters, Project Access, the Jackson Symphony Guild, United Way of Jackson County, and the Great Start Collaborative. Throughout these roles, I have worked alongside volunteers, community leaders, educators, and nonprofit professionals to improve educational outcomes, support vulnerable populations, strengthen families, and expand access to community resources.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

My support for Democratic candidates and causes has been expressed through both volunteerism and financial contributions over many years. I have contributed financially to Democratic candidates at the local, state, and national levels because I believe in electing leaders who prioritize opportunity, fairness, strong public education, accessible health care, and the well-being of working families.

In addition to financial support, I volunteered my time during the 2024 election cycle. I hosted a postcard writing event in support of Vice President Kamala Harris's presidential campaign, bringing community members together to encourage civic participation and voter turnout.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No

Office: Michigan House of Representatives, District 47

Candidate: Carrie A. Rheingans; Carrie@CarrieRheingans.com

More Information: www.CarrieRheingans.com

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

I value protecting individual rights and increasing access to healthcare. Since first being elected, I have introduced and voted for bills that protect individual rights in the civil rights, reproductive health, and voting rights areas. In addition, I've pushed multiple bills addressing healthcare access, including Michigan's bill to establish a state-level, universal healthcare payment system called MiCare.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I represent my district well, having a small-town background and having lived in the Ann Arbor area for 26 years. My 4 years in office have helped me understand the district in a much deeper level from conversations in each township, village, and city in the district.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

I have been able to secure funding for the Dexter Multi-generational Center, as well as for state and local parks in our district, and I have regular constituent engagement hours across the district. I have supported multiple bills protecting my constituents' rights, expanding voting access, restoring workers' protections, putting money back in working families' pockets, and being a voice in Lansing to ensure that our state-funded and -regulated services maintain consistency.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I've participated in multiple WCDP events as a speaker or sponsor.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

I have helped local candidates for local offices and state-level offices by answering questions about campaign strategy, vendors for mail/t-shirts/yard signs, and helping canvass for multiple local candidates. I also help recruit volunteers for Washtenaw Democratic candidates.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

The WCDP endorsement carries a lot of weight in our Democratic-heavy community, and I value the high-quality work that WCDP does across the county.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

I have volunteered at multiple events for my daughter's Ann Arbor public elementary school, and I speak on multiple educational panels and events annually. I also help support with strategy, funds, connections, or advocacy multiple nonprofits annually.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

Before first being elected in 2022, I was an active campaign volunteer for multiple Democratic candidates' campaigns and causes, including doing door-to-door donation solicitation for raising the minimum wage in Michigan in 2010. I've collected ballot signatures for multiple initiatives endorsed by Democratic electeds and parties.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No

Office: Michigan House of Representatives, District 48

Candidate: Jennifer Conlin; jenaconlin@gmail.com

More Information: <https://www.conlinforstaterep.com/>

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

1. Equality - everyone deserves to be treated equally regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion, etc. In 2023, we expanded the Elliot Larsen Civil Rights act which explicitly prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
2. Access to Healthcare - Every Michigander deserves access to quality, affordable healthcare. No one should go bankrupt or ration medication, which is why I am working on legislation to cap the copay on insulin and inhalers.

3. Environmental Conservation - Clean air, water and land are essential. I have prioritized PFAS clean up, passed Polluter Pay Legislation, and worked to help farmers impacted by PFAS contamination.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

Over the past four years, I have had the opportunity to meet constituents from every corner of HD 48 and hear what they are struggling with, what they are happy about, where they think there is room for improvement in our community and our government, and so much more. My previous work as a journalist prepared me to connect with people and hear many different viewpoints on topics. In order to make lasting, meaningful change that supports every resident of House District 48, we need a leader who is willing to listen and work with everyone. We need someone who can craft legislation or sort out district-specific concerns by bringing people to the table and engaging with them. I believe my previous experience and my accomplishments from my first four years in office make me the best candidate for this position. I also believe that the priorities I have laid out are a clear vision for the district, one in which every Michigander is put first.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

During my four years in office I have passed four bills into law.

HB 4199 (PA 33 of 2023) - allows eligible National Guard members to transfer their Michigan National Guard State Tuition Assistance Program benefits to an eligible spouse and/or dependent.

HB 4343 (PA 46 of 2024) - requires DIFS to submit an annual report on payday lending to the Legislature and post it on the department's website.

HB 4062 (PA 199 of 2024) - prohibits landlords from attempting to bar tenancy based on a prospective renter's source of income like veterans benefits, child care or state assistance.

HB 5211 (PA of 28 of 2024) - gives legal protection in the Michigan Family Protection Act to children born through assisted reproduction or surrogacy.

I have also been able to help support projects in District 48 through state funding. These are direct investments in our communities, our economies, and our residents. During my three years in office, I have brought back over \$20 million to the community.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I have been an active member of the WCDP during non-election years by attending meetings, annual gatherings, and I have participated in panels hosted by the WCDP like the one hosted in 2025 about the lessons we have learned from the November 2024 election, and recommendations for improving our performance in 2026.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

I have supported other candidates running for office by being a mentor and a resource for them while they decide if they would like to run for office, as well as during. Many current and former candidates have called me asking for advice, guidance and friendship and for everyone that calls or doesn't, I have always made myself available to support them through this process. Additionally, I have advocated alongside democrats for our shared platform and values throughout my time in office.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

The WCDP is a strong and powerful organizing force within Washtenaw County. Having their support would be extremely beneficial to my re-election efforts, specifically their volunteer network and voter education efforts.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

I work and interact closely with Pinckney Community Youth Development Center, Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body and the organizations that make up the group. I have volunteered during Livingston County United Ways Day of Caring to support and give back to community members in need.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

I have long supported other Democratic candidates by being an active member of the Democratic party and participating in party events/elections. As mentioned earlier in this form, candidates often call me for advice and I have mentored local candidates in my district.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future

cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No

Office: Ann Arbor City Mayor

Candidate: Yousef Rabhi; yousef@voteyousef.com

More Information: voteyousef.com

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

The Democratic Party is the party of the people and of unions. We are about fighting to make sure the wealthy pay their fair share. I have introduced several bills to even the playing field including legislation to tax companies that have high CEO to worker pay disparity and a bill to set up a benefit fund for gig workers.

Our party stands with immigrants, the LGBTQ community and for reproductive freedom. I passed the strongest ICE-free zone policy in the state, expanded LGBTQ protections and voted to protect funding for Planned Parenthood.

Our party believes the government should change lives for the better, reduce costs and make life easier for everyone. I introduced Michigan's first single payer universal healthcare bill and secured millions of dollars for affordable housing in Ann Arbor.

We are the party of clean air and water and combating the climate crisis. I introduced "polluter pay", a resolution to shut down Line 5 and a bill to enforce a 100% renewable energy portfolio.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

The stakes are too high for incremental leadership. I am the best candidate because I bring a proven record of delivering results and the experience needed to make government work more effectively for our residents.

As a Washtenaw County Commissioner, I led the adoption of the county's first balanced four-year budget and secured a AAA bond rating for the first time in the County's history. I also helped create programs like the Washtenaw ID and the Washtenaw Dental Clinic that directly expand access to essential services.

At the state level, I secured funding for affordable housing, passed bipartisan criminal justice reform, and advanced environmental and transparency initiatives that put residents first.

Ann Arbor needs leadership that can deliver high quality services to the community, meet the moment on housing and affordability, and ensure the government is responsive and accountable. My record shows I have done that consistently.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

As a County Commissioner, I spearheaded the creation of the Washtenaw ID program, expanding access to identification and services, and helped establish the Washtenaw Dental Clinic for uninsured and Medicaid-eligible residents. I secured millions of county road millage dollars for non-motorized trails, helped to build the framework for the RTA and lead the expansion of AATA. I led a resolution that ensures greater transparency over millages and secured funding to create the County Resiliency Office.

At the state level, I secured millions of dollars of funding to build and upgrade affordable housing in Ann Arbor. I sponsored bills that were signed into law including landmark criminal justice reform and a law increasing environmental clean-up funds for landfills. I also sponsored legislation to ban income-based housing discrimination, prohibit conversion therapy, codify the legalization of same-sex marriage and protect workers.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

For nearly two decades, I have attended local WCDP and Ann Arbor Democratic Party meetings, fundraisers and community gatherings, staying involved in county-level activities, and contributing financially to support Democratic candidates and organizing efforts.

I previously served as a Democratic precinct delegate and a delegate to county, state and national conventions. I also served on the Ann Arbor Democratic Party executive board. I have spent years attending monthly meetings, building volunteer capacity, and helping coordinate voter outreach efforts. As a student I was a member of UM College Dems and continued to attend for many years providing successive groups with mentorship, volunteer and internship opportunities, funding and support. In non-election years I knocked thousands of doors for vulnerable Democratic incumbents all across Michigan and in Washtenaw County and spent many many hours raising money to help support Democratic candidates.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

For over a decade, I have provided advice and mentorship to candidates across Michigan who have become some of Michigan's most prominent Democratic leaders including dozens of current and past members of the Michigan House and Senate, as well as dozens of local officials across the state. That support has included helping to navigate campaign strategy, connecting them with volunteers and donors, and assisting them with grassroots outreach efforts as candidates and elected officials.

Over many years, I have also worked closely with first-time volunteers, precinct delegates, and organizers, helping them learn how to engage voters, organize canvasses, and build meaningful relationships in the community.

I have also helped newer public officials and community advocates, particularly around coalition-building, and effective governance. I have always believed mentorship means not just advising others, but actively investing time and trust to help them grow.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

I am seeking the endorsement of the WCDP because it has an outstanding reputation for supporting strong Democratic candidates and building effective grassroots engagement in Washtenaw County. I would be honored to earn the endorsement because of our aligned values around affordability, equity, environmental stewardship, and accountable government.

If endorsed, I would proudly display the support of the WCDP in campaign materials to reinforce my strong Democratic track record to the electorate. In a city like Ann Arbor where voters strongly identify with Democratic values, the WCDP's endorsement carries real meaning and helps communicate shared priorities and trust with the community. Ultimately, I see the WCDP endorsement as a reflection of shared commitment to building a stronger, more inclusive, and more responsive local government.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

Current

Legislative Director, Michigan Nurses Association

Dues-paying member of the United Association Employees union

Democratic Socialists of America, Huron Valley Chapter

Current board member and immediate past Chair of the Sierra Club Michigan Chapter

Buhr Park Wet Meadow Project

Public Safety Millage Advisory Committee

Wash. County Statutory Drainage Board
Wash. County Parks and Recreation Commission
Wash. Environmental Council

Previous

Chair, Washtenaw Urban County Executive Committee
Wash. County Agricultural Lands Preservation Advisory Committee
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
Wash. Area Transportation Study Committee
Wash. County Board of Public Works
Wash. County Food Policy Council
Huron River Watershed Council
Coalition for Action on Remediation of Dioxane
Inter Cooperative Council
Ann Arbor Spark Board of Directors
Michigan Peaceworks
Regional Partners Advocating Transit Here
Ann Arbor Host Lions Club
Religious Action for Affordable Housing"

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

I have spent nearly 20 years supporting Democratic candidates and causes at every level of government, both as an organizer and as an elected official.

I have personally knocked more than 20,000 doors and organized my team of staff and volunteers to reach over 60,000 voters across Michigan, from the Upper Peninsula to the Michigan-Ohio border, at significant personal time, vehicle miles and expense.

These efforts contributed to flipping key seats in 2018 and 2020 and helping Democrats regain the majority in 2022. I have also raised and donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to support Democratic candidates directly and to support the Democratic Caucus and party. I established a PAC focused on supporting Democratic campaigns and infrastructure across the state. I have also served on the House Democratic Caucus Campaign Committee, participated in statewide candidate recruitment and served as a mentor and advisor to Democratic candidates.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future

cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

As a freshman University of Michigan student, I was arrested during a peaceful nonviolent sit-in advocating against sweatshop labor and in support of workers' rights. My record was ultimately cleared.

Office: Ann Arbor City Mayor

Candidate: Christopher Taylor; taylorforannarbor@gmail.com

More Information: [Reelect Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor](#)

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

The Democratic values that resonate most strongly with me are inclusion, opportunity, and good governance. I believe government should work for everyone, not just those with wealth, privilege, or political influence. As Mayor, I have worked to expand affordable housing, strengthen tenant protections, and advance climate action because everyone deserves access to safe housing, a healthy environment, and economic opportunity. I also believe Democrats must govern responsibly. Progressive goals require competent administration, sound budgeting, and public trust. Throughout my time in office, I have worked to deliver excellent city services while making historic investments in housing, sustainability, roads, and infrastructure.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I have a proven record of delivering progressive results for Ann Arbor, and I am the only candidate endorsed by a broad coalition of labor unions, local organizations, and elected & community leaders, including Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan.

I understand the importance of being accountable to Ann Arbor residents. I have never ducked or left the room for uncomfortable votes, and I have always voted YES for public and other housing to end our affordability crisis. I am the only candidate in this race to NOT take thousands of dollars from Corporate PACs.

During my tenure, we have made transformational investments in affordable housing, expanded climate action from a modest initiative into the nationally recognized A2ZERO program, accelerated infrastructure improvements, strengthened renter protections, and improved public safety services. We have accomplished these goals while maintaining the city's strong financial position and commitment to excellent basic services.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

As Mayor, I have focused on improving quality of life and ensuring city government delivers for residents. Under my leadership, Ann Arbor has accelerated road and infrastructure investments, expanded affordable housing opportunities, strengthened renter protections, created innovative public safety programs, and made nationally recognized commitments to climate action. We have utilized our Affordable Housing Millage, which I was the only candidate in this race to endorse, for more than 1,200 units of permanently affordable housing, established dedicated funding streams for housing and sustainability, and worked to make our community more inclusive and accessible.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I have worked alongside Democratic elected officials, local activists, labor leaders, neighborhood advocates, and community organizations to advance shared priorities across Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County. I regularly participate in Democratic Party events and meetings, policy discussions, community forums, and more. Whether supporting affordable housing, climate action, voting rights, civil rights, or public education, I believe our party is strongest when we remain engaged year-round in the work of building stronger communities and advancing Democratic values.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

The clearest example of mentorship is my work with former Councilmember Ackerman. I met with him as a teenager numerous times to go over Council agendas because he was interested, valued him as a campaign worker in 2014, worked for his election to City Council in 2015, and then continued to engage and support him as a young person and colleague in service through his departure from office in 2020. I have since continued to talk with him and help him think through career and educational choices and paths. He is now in Washington DC training to serve as a FSO.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

I am seeking the endorsement of the Washtenaw County Democratic Party because I share the Democratic Party's commitment to inclusion, opportunity, fairness, environmental stewardship, and effective government. I am proud of the progressive record I have built as Mayor, and I believe that record demonstrates our shared values.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

My contributions to the community have been extensive, and during the last 18 years primarily in my capacity as an elected official, with the last 12 years as mayor. Aside from this work, I spend my time performing my day job (small business/estate planning attorney) and being with my family. Before my service as an elected official, I served on non-profit boards, coached youth sports teams, and performed with local choir and theatrical organizations.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

I have been a lifelong Democrat and have supported Democratic candidates and causes up and down the ballot. In 2024, I championed the YES-YES-NO-NO stance to the Ann Arbor Ballot Proposals alongside the Washtenaw County Democratic Party, races in which my opponent took no stance. In that election cycle, I worked tirelessly alongside the WCDP to canvass, talk to voters, and advocate for Democratic candidates and causes, as I have done for decades.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No.

Office: Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 1

Candidate: Cynthia Harrison; votecynthiaharrison@gmail.com

More Information: <https://www.votecynthiaharrison.com/>

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

Equity, opportunity, and community.

I believe that government should help create opportunities for everyone, regardless of their income, race, neighborhood, or background. That's why I've supported policies that expand housing opportunities, strengthen public transportation, and invest in human services.

I also value justice and inclusion. My work on police oversight and criminal justice reform has been guided by the belief that public institutions should earn trust through accountability and transparency.

Finally, I believe in community. Democracy works best when people are engaged, heard, and respected. I strive to be accessible to residents, attend community events, and ensure that decisions reflect the voices of those who are often overlooked.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I bring a combination of lived experience, policy knowledge, and a proven record of getting things done. As a lifelong Ann Arbor resident, I understand both our community's strengths and its challenges. As a Councilmember, I have worked collaboratively to advance policies that expand housing, strengthen public services, and make our city more inclusive.

I believe leadership means listening first, building consensus where possible, and standing firm when core values are at stake. My focus has always been on improving people's lives, and I am running to continue delivering thoughtful, effective leadership for Ann Arbor.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

I have worked to ensure that residents have a voice in City Hall and that city policies reflect the needs of working families, renters, seniors, students, and longtime residents alike.

My office has focused on housing affordability, equitable access to city services, public safety accountability, and investments that improve quality of life. I have helped connect residents with city resources, advocated for neighborhood concerns, and supported policies that make Ann Arbor more affordable and accessible. I have also worked to ensure that city investments advance fairness and opportunity throughout our community.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

My involvement has extended well beyond election cycles. I have participated in county-level boards and commissions, worked with community organizations focused on justice and equity, attended Democratic events and issue forums, and supported efforts to build a stronger Democratic infrastructure throughout Washtenaw County.

I believe that organizing, relationship-building, and community engagement are year-round responsibilities, not activities that happen only during campaign season.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

In my role as Director of Innovative Reentry at the WCSO, I regularly mentor justice-impacted individuals, helping them navigate systems that were not designed with their success in mind. Watching someone move from incarceration to stable housing, employment, and civic engagement is the most profound form of mentorship I know.

Most recently, I spoke at a local middle school and had the privilege of encouraging a young Black girl to run for student council when she enters high school. That moment mattered to me deeply, because someone has to look her in the eye and tell her that her voice belongs in the room.

I have mentored emerging leaders stepping into advocacy and public service for the first time, sharing lessons about building coalitions, staying grounded in your values when systems push back, and leading with both conviction and humility. I do that work privately and without fanfare, because real mentorship is about the person you are investing in.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

The Washtenaw County Democratic Party has long played a critical role in advancing Democratic values and electing leaders who improve people's lives.

I am seeking the Party's endorsement because my record reflects our shared commitment to equity, affordability, inclusion, and effective government. I value the trust Democratic voters place in the endorsement process, and I would be honored to continue working alongside the WCDP to build a stronger and more inclusive community.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

Beyond City Council, I have served on police oversight and accountability bodies, participated in community conversations on justice and equity, and volunteered my time to support local organizations and initiatives.

As a lifelong Ann Arbor resident, I am deeply invested in the future of this community. I regularly attend neighborhood meetings, local events, cultural celebrations, and community forums. I believe strong communities are built through relationships, and I make it a priority to stay connected to residents from every walk of life.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

I have been a lifelong Democrat because I believe in expanding opportunity, protecting civil rights, strengthening public institutions, and ensuring that government works for everyone.

Over the years, I have volunteered for Democratic candidates, participated in voter outreach efforts, supported issue advocacy campaigns, and worked alongside fellow Democrats to advance policies that promote fairness, inclusion, and economic opportunity. My own service on City Council reflects those values, and I remain committed to electing Democratic leaders who will continue moving our community and our country forward.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future

cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No.

Office: Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 2

Candidate: Sandy Aldrich; info@votesandyaldrich.com

More Information: votesandyaldrich.com

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

The Democratic values that drive me most are keeping the American Dream alive and lowering costs for essential needs like housing, healthcare, and groceries. As an immigrant and child of a war refugee, I hold the right to pursue this dream in high regard. My family arrived in 1970 with little knowledge of English, but through the support of neighbors and my parents' incredible hard work, we found success through education. Because of their sacrifices, my siblings and I earned three U-M undergrad degrees, two MBAs (including a Michigan Ross MBA), and an MD.

I am running for City Council because I want to ensure every neighbor has the opportunity to not just survive, but thrive. This requires making sure the basics of life are affordable for working families and small businesses. I am dedicated to contributing positively so that our neighbors can pursue their own American Dream in the Ann Arbor community my family has called home for 28 years.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I have lived in Ann Arbor for 28 years and am a proud mom of three AAPS students. I'm running for City Council to ensure our teachers and the next generation have the same opportunities my family had to thrive here. I bring my authentic self as an immigrant, child of a war refugee, "Double Wolverine," and a business leader with 30 years of experience to this role. I will apply management rigor to our city's \$600M+ budget. Trust is earned through action: I co-led the successful campaign to relocate the U-M bus yard away from residential streets and organized the movement to save MD Bagel Fragel.

For Ward 2, I will advocate for a multi-pronged housing strategy to address our affordability crisis. I'll prioritize reliable energy through the Sustainable Energy Utility while avoiding unproven debt, and work to make our streets safer for drivers, pedestrians, and bikers. I have the life experience and deep roots to reliably represent our neighbors

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

I will reliably show up with humility, audacity and compassion to serve my constituents. My role is to listen, learn and do my due diligence while setting my own bias aside. I believe we must understand the overarching vision and goals for our city. If there is fundamental disagreement on vision and goals, the smaller issues are more difficult to address and find common ground. I will plan monthly in-person Lunch and Learns rotating through Ward 2 neighborhoods, alternating with Zoom sessions so participation isn't limited by schedule or geography. Weekly coffee shop office hours (by appointment) for substantive conversation. An active social media presence for real-time updates. A bi-weekly or monthly newsletter with honest reporting on City Hall. And most importantly: I will return emails and calls. When a neighbor reaches out, they will hear back from me and not a form letter.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

Beyond volunteering to distribute voting guides in previous elections, I have maintained deep ties to the Washtenaw County community through sustained civic advocacy and education. In 2018, I graduated from the Ann Arbor Citizens Academy, where I gained a deeper understanding of how our local government functions to better serve my neighbors. My commitment to the county is also reflected in my professional work; I have over 30 years of business experience with global corporations, local companies, non profits as well as having co-founded a startup at Ann Arbor SPARK . Additionally, I have consistently supported local institutions by serving as President of the Huron Music Association and Treasurer for the Clague Middle School PTSO, roles that require year-round dedication to our students and families regardless of the election cycle

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

Mentoring has been a cornerstone of my 30-year career in global boardrooms and local startups. Through my firm, Aldrich & Associates, I have coached nonprofit directors and organization heads to lead effectively and implement standard practices that empower

their teams. In 2008, I was nominated at Borders Group for a development group designed to mentor managers for advanced leadership roles. More recently, I facilitated Equity Focus Groups in the Saline community following a period of racial tension. In this role, I created a safe space for dialogue using a process I call collaborative synthesis, the belief that even in deep conflict, we must treat every neighbor as a legitimate stakeholder to find a path forward together.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

I am seeking the WCDP endorsement because my vision for Mindful Growth is fundamentally rooted in Democratic values of inclusivity, equity, and shared prosperity. I am running to ensure Ann Arbor becomes a place where all families and workers can afford to stay and thrive, which aligns with the party's commitment to a fair and inclusive community. My candidacy is already supported by a broad coalition of Democratic leaders, including Mayor Christopher Taylor, State Representative Jennifer Conlin, and several current City Council members, because they trust my ability to "show up and do the work". An endorsement from the WCDP would signal to voters that my platform, which balances housing density with active guardianship of our infrastructure, is the responsible, progressive path forward for Ward 2.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

My community involvement is defined by a "neighbor-who-jumps-in" approach. As co-president of the Northeast Ann Arbor Community Coalition (NEA2CC), I co-led the 2016 campaign that convinced the University of Michigan to relocate a proposed \$38.5 million bus yard to a more appropriate industrial site. Driven by the belief that local shops are the soul of our community, I served as the primary architect of the "Save Bagel Fragel" movement in 2018, launching a GoFundMe campaign that raised nearly \$12,000 to help this local institution survive a sudden eviction and eventually reopen. My commitment to education and the arts is reflected in my service as President of the Huron Music Association and Treasurer for the Clague PTSO. Additionally, I have consistently engaged in civic service by volunteering for many local charities and organizations in addition to supporting causes with financial donations.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

I have a proven history of standing up for Democratic ideals, prioritizing education, culture, and social justice as the foundations of a thriving city. I view unions and

collective bargaining as the bedrock of shared prosperity; on City Council, I will stand with workers on picket lines and ensure city contracts prioritize local, skilled tradespeople. My commitment to the environment is equally firm. I fully support the wide adoption of Ann Arbor's Sustainable Energy Utility (SEU) and advocate for "gentle density" and transit-oriented development as essential climate and affordability imperatives. Finally, my platform and public statements reflect an uncompromising stance against anti-democratic movements, rooted in a dedication to preserving the core values and stability of our community. I don't just talk about progressive values; I show up and do the work.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No.

Office: Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 3

Candidate: Ryan Bartholomew

More Information: <https://www.ryanbforward3.com/>

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

The major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to me are: advancing civil and human rights and fighting for working-class people.

In terms of equity, I've been working on policy to advance civil and human rights during my time in the legislature. I was so proud to be working for my boss during trifecta as we codified LGBTQ+ rights, reproductive freedom, the CROWN act, and other protections into our state's civil rights law. The Democratic Party at its best is one that fights to ensure that all people, regardless of their background or identity, live in a city, state, and country that not only cares about them and their rights, but celebrates their diversity and how they enrich our society.

The Democratic Party has been the party that has historically fought to make life better for working-class people through big systemic reforms like Medicare and Social Security. I spend my day job working to ensure all Michiganders have universal healthcare.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I am the best qualified candidate for this position because of my lived experience as part of a working family in this city. My wife is an AAPS teacher, and we've seen working-class people, families, and seniors be pushed further away from Ann Arbor because it has become too expensive. The people who serve our city – our teachers, nurses, municipal employees – deserve to not only live here, but thrive here. I will be a council member that ensures they have a seat at the table.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

In my boss, State Rep. Rheingans' office, we take our constituent services very seriously. Every month, we hold a coffee/happy hour at a different place in her district so we can hear from folks about what issues are top of mind for them.

Being a public servant means making yourself available to your constituents and actually listening to their concerns. Many folks across Ward 3 have told me that they have not felt heard by their elected officials for some time. My pledge to Ward 3 is that I will hold monthly coffee/happy hours, answer emails, and send out regular correspondence about what is going on in city hall.

For the faith and trust folks are putting in me to represent them on city council, it is the bare minimum that I could do.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I'm the Vice Chair of Programming for the Ann Arbor Democratic Club and I have attended WCDP meetings and functions whenever I can make it over the last several years. I'm also a precinct delegate.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

In my boss's office, we have social work interns to help do largely constituent services work. I've mentored several interns, helping them to grow their skillset and in the social

work competencies while in our office, and have worked to see how I can help them advance in their careers after leaving Rep. Rheingans' office.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

I'm seeking the endorsement of the WCDP because in addition to being a member of the organization, I love the work that the county party does to bring folks together in community and mobilize as many people as possible to vote. What the WCDP does is crucial now more than ever as we try to turnout as many people as we can in the midterm to help Dems regain trifecta at the state-level, keep the U.S. Senate seat, and flip the House back. More than that though, the community that the WCDP fosters is so important, especially at a time when the federal government is trying to tear communities like ours apart. I would be honored to have your endorsement as I seek to foster a stronger community here in Ann Arbor and stand up to the forces that would tear us apart.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

Beyond the engagement with the community I do in my job helping to represent the City of Ann Arbor in my boss's office in Lansing, I'm the Vice Chair of Programming for the Ann Arbor Democratic Club where I run our meetings and work on programming to help our community have the conversations that are top of mind for them.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

The 2012 Obama campaign was the first campaign that I volunteered with, registering people to vote in my dorm room in college. From there, I went on to intern at the DNC and in the Obama White House and was the healthcare lead for President Obama's political advocacy organization in the state of Michigan during the rollout of the ACA. More recently, I served as State Rep. Carrie Rheingans campaign manager and legislative director, State Rep. Conlin's field director in 2022, and have knocked and called into state house districts all over the state to get folks elected.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

N/A

Office: Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 3

Candidate: Ashley Hall; ashleyforannarbor@gmail.com

More Information: ashleyforannarbor.com

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

Defending democracy is foundational. Throughout my career in public service, I have worked to make government more transparent, accountable, and accessible, ensuring residents have meaningful opportunities to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

Promoting human thriving is central to why I entered public service. As a first-generation college student raised in a working-class household, I understand the importance of opportunity. My work has focused on supporting older adults, housing stability, food access, public health, and community services that help people live with dignity and security.

Addressing climate change is both an environmental and economic responsibility. I support practical investments in sustainable infrastructure, energy efficiency, and resilient communities that protect our environment while maintaining a strong quality of life for future generations.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I believe I am the best candidate for this position because I bring a unique combination of professional experience, public service, and a deep understanding of how local government works. I have spent my career building coalitions, navigating difficult challenges, and turning ideas into action. My experience at the local, federal, and nonprofit levels has taught me how to bring people together around shared goals and deliver results.

Most importantly, I am running to serve. I will approach every issue with curiosity, listen carefully to residents, and focus on practical solutions that make Ann Arbor more affordable, sustainable, and welcoming for everyone. My commitment to collaboration,

transparency, and effective governance is what I believe makes me the strongest candidate for City Council.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

I plan to serve constituents in the same way I have for the past 13 years: by being accessible, responsive, and focused on solving problems. Throughout my career in public service, I have worked directly with residents to help navigate government, address concerns, and connect people with resources. I believe elected officials have a responsibility to listen first, communicate clearly, and follow through on their commitments.

If elected, I will be available through regular office hours, community meetings, newsletters, and direct constituent outreach. I want residents to know they can reach me, be heard, and receive honest answers. My approach to public service has always been rooted in building relationships and helping people navigate complex issues, and that is exactly how I will serve as a City Council Member.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I have been actively involved in the Washtenaw County Democratic Party during non-election years. From 2016 through 2020, I rarely missed a WCDP meeting and was a regular participant in Party activities and discussions.

Today, I serve as Director of Board Operations for the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and am pursuing a Master of Public Affairs at the University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy. My work is deeply embedded in the community and regularly brings me into contact with residents and local governments across Washtenaw County.

In the course of my role, I attend community meetings, public forums, nonprofit events, and collaborative initiatives focused on issues such as housing, economic development, public health, transportation, and sustainability. Building relationships, engaging stakeholders, and helping address community challenges are central to both my professional responsibilities and my commitment to public service.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

Mentorship has been one of the most rewarding parts of my career. Throughout my organizing and public service work, I have supervised, trained, and mentored interns, fellows, and early-career staff, helping them develop professional skills, confidence, and pathways into public service.

I am particularly proud that several individuals I mentored early in their careers have gone on to hold leadership and policy positions within the Whitmer Administration and other public sector organizations. Providing people with their first opportunity to engage in political organizing and public service is a responsibility I take seriously.

In my current role, I continue to mentor staff by helping them navigate government, develop leadership skills, and identify opportunities for professional growth. I believe strong organizations are built by investing in people, and I am committed to helping the next generation of public servants succeed.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

Seeking the endorsement of the Washtenaw County Democratic Party feels like a full-circle moment for me. My involvement with the Party began in 2016 as an organizer for Hillary Clinton's campaign. At the time, I was a working-class kid fresh out of college who could hardly believe I had the opportunity to organize in a community as engaged as Ann Arbor.

Over the past decade, I have watched the WCDP grow into one of the strongest local Democratic organizations in Michigan. The Party has played a vital role in electing Democratic leaders, advancing our shared values, and fostering civic engagement throughout the county.

The values of the WCDP have guided my own career in public service. It would be a tremendous honor to earn the endorsement of a Party that I care so deeply about and that has meant so much to my personal and professional journey.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

Much of my community involvement occurs through my professional and academic work. In my role, I regularly engage with residents, nonprofits, neighborhood organizations, businesses, labor groups, educational institutions, and local governments throughout Washtenaw County. I also staff several community-focused boards and councils, including the Commission on Aging, the Council for Reparations, the Criminal

Justice Collaborative Council, and the Environmental Council. These roles allow me to work directly with community members and stakeholders on issues ranging from aging services and racial equity to environmental sustainability and criminal justice reform.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

From the moment I interned on Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign, I have been a committed Democrat and have dedicated much of my professional and volunteer life to advancing Democratic candidates and causes. Over the past 18 years, I have worked at the federal, state, and local levels to organize, mobilize voters, engage communities, and help elect Democratic leaders who share our values.

My involvement has included campaign organizing, voter outreach, volunteer recruitment, and supporting candidates up and down the ballot. Throughout my career, I have remained committed to the core Democratic values of protecting democracy, expanding opportunity, promoting equity, and ensuring government works for everyone.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No

Office: Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 4

Candidate: Aidan Sova; info@voteaidansova.com

More Information: www.voteaidansova.com

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

Because I grew up weathering poverty in a single-parent household, I am most driven by the Democratic values of economic justice, inclusion, and the protection of the public good. I practice these values as President of the Ann Arbor District Library Board by

ensuring our libraries remain vital, accessible sanctuaries for every neighbor, just as they were for my mother and me. My work on the Human Rights Commission and the Legal Services Corporation Emerging Leaders Council allows me to advocate for those currently overlooked by our housing and legal systems. On City Council, I will continue this work by championing policies that prioritize affordability and ensure our community's growth remains inclusive for all families.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

Ann Arbor is defined by its progressivism, but the true measure of our city is whether that progress reaches everyone. I am running for City Council to bridge the gap between our high-level values and the lived realities of our residents, ensuring every neighbor can live with dignity and security.

What sets me apart is a blend of lived experience and a proven track record. Raised in a low-income, single-parent household, I view every policy through a lens of equity. I understand that resilient infrastructure, reliable transit, and durable utilities are the foundation of a fair city.

As President of the Ann Arbor District Library Board and the youngest Black person elected in city history, I have managed multimillion-dollar budgets and vital public institutions. My service spans from local civil liberties to statewide leadership on the Governor's Growing Michigan Together Council and the Lt. Governor's COVID-19 Task Force on Racial Disparities. I am ready to lead from day one.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

As President of the Ann Arbor District Library Board of Trustees, I have dedicated my leadership to ensuring our system remains an essential sanctuary for every resident. Under my tenure, we have expanded critical programming and safeguarded the resources that make our library a national leader in public service. Most notably, I helped secure a path for a new, state-of-the-art downtown library without raising taxes, meeting modern community needs while maintaining fiscal responsibility. This work was especially urgent as the Trump administration repeatedly sought to eliminate federal funding for libraries and museums, making our local commitment to protecting these public spaces more crucial than ever. Prioritizing accessibility and innovation ensures that the library continues to serve as a foundation of our social fabric.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

Outside of election cycles, my commitment to Washtenaw County is defined by consistent advocacy and the governance of our shared resources. As a member of the Washtenaw County Democratic Party Black Caucus, I work to ensure our party's priorities reflect the diverse voices of our community. Beyond the Library, I have also served as a Human Rights Commissioner for the City of Ann Arbor and contributed to the state's pandemic recovery as a member of Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist's COVID-19 Racial Disparities Task Force. Whether through my appointment to Governor Whitmer's Growing Michigan Together Council or hands-on service with organizations like the Legal Services Corporation and its partners, my involvement is rooted in year-round action to strengthen our county.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

My mentorship philosophy is rooted in the belief that leadership is sustainable only if we actively build a pipeline for those historically excluded from decision-making spaces. Each year, I mentor one undergraduate student from an underrepresented community, providing direct guidance as they transition from academia to their professional goals. This pointed investment allows me to share technical and institutional knowledge, helping students overcome systemic barriers to achieve their ambitions.

Also, I focus on cultivating the next generation of civic leaders by mentoring new candidates for the Ann Arbor District Library Board of Trustees. I provide strategic support and institutional context to ensure they are prepared to uphold the library's mission of fiscal responsibility and inclusive programming. Whether I am helping a student prepare for a career or supporting a neighbor in a first run for public office, my goal is to demystify our city's systems and empower others to lead.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

My candidacy is rooted in the fundamental belief that government must be as resilient and compassionate as the people it serves. As a lifelong resident who has experienced economic instability firsthand, I understand that our community's well-being is sustained by intentional policy and a commitment to equity. My leadership on the Ann Arbor District Library Board has shown that we can deliver world-class public services and visionary facilities through fiscal responsibility and a refusal to leave any neighbor behind.

I am running to ensure that as Ann Arbor grows, it serves as an inclusive home for everyone—from first-generation students to the working families who rely on our transit and housing systems. I hope to partner with the party to champion a platform that prioritizes affordability and protects our shared resources. My track record demonstrates

that I am ready to turn our shared values into tangible progress for the Fourth Ward and the county.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

My community engagement is dedicated to civil rights, legal equity, and neighborhood empowerment. As a member of the Ann Arbor NAACP and the Washtenaw County Democratic Party Black Caucus, I work to uplift underserved residents and champion their voices in city government. My commitment to expanding opportunity also includes my work with Grow Jackson, where I served on the Board of Directors and continue to contribute as a Community Advisor to foster local resilience.

In the legal and civic spheres, I serve on the Legal Services Corporation Emerging Leaders Council, advocating for equal access to justice for low-income Americans through partnerships with the Michigan Advocacy Program. Within the Democratic Party, I am an active member at the state, county, and local levels, focusing on the grassroots organizing necessary to protect our public institutions. My work is centered on ensuring every resident has the resources and support they need to thrive.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

My support for the Party is defined by a deep commitment to electing leaders who prioritize equity, innovation, and the protection of our public institutions. I have been an active supporter of Jocelyn Benson in her gubernatorial campaign to ensure Michigan continues to be led by a champion of voting rights and democratic integrity. Similarly, I have dedicated my efforts to supporting Garlin Gilchrist for Secretary of State, building on our collaboration on the COVID-19 Racial Disparities Task Force to ensure our state services are accessible and equitable.

I am equally focused on the future of our local governance, providing mentorship and strategic support to new candidates running for the District Library Board. This work ensures our progress in fiscal responsibility and expanded programming continues. My local leadership also includes spearheading the successful advocacy for Ann Arbor District Library Proposals A and B, which secured a path for a state-of-the-art downtown library.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No, I have never been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that could cast a shadow over my campaign, my office, or the Democratic Party.

Office: Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 4

Candidate: Dave Zeglen; davez4thepeople@gmail.com

More Information: davez4thepeople.com

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

Standing up to Private Companies: I am a member of Ann Arbor for Public Power (A2P2), and I have been collecting signatures and participating in community events to educate people on the benefits of Public Power and the drawbacks of investor utilities like DTE.

Divestment from Genocide: I'm also a supporter of the Tahrir Coalition's efforts to disclose and divest the University of Michigan's endowment investments from genocide. I have spoken at several Tahrir Coalition events and participated in nearly every campus demonstration and protest they've had and done several teach-ins on campus about Palestine.

Labor Rights: I'm a life-long labor organizer who continues to support workers in many fields. I'm a former union steward of my union, and was a member of the contract action team during the last bargaining cycle where I helped organize pickets and strategized on escalation tactics. I've attended and picketed at several opening bargaining sessions, meetings, and picket lines.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I'm a Democratic Socialist who is prioritizing the real material needs of the working class. I believe ordinary people, not corporations, landlords, or the 1%, can govern themselves. My policy positions activate faith in people's power to meaningfully participate in the democratic process by protecting and expanding community ownership and public services. I have a life-long commitment to organized labor and grassroots social movements. I believe in the "whole worker perspective" that connects labor struggles to broader social issues. I also have the grassroots experience to understand that people are the experts in their own lives as the keepers of knowledge about local issues. Local experiences are what should matter most to municipal governance. Having fought for social justice my entire life, I have the courage to stand up for what's right, the commitment to improve people's lives, and the coalition-building skills that are necessary to win dignity and freedom for all.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

Serving my constituents involves three responsibilities as an elected official:

Protecting and Expanding the Public Good: oppose all privatization of city services and city land; municipalization of the electricity grid; building more publicly-owned and permanently affordable housing, making the city buses free for everyone; increasing park space for the commons; hiring more city workers for city work

Deepening Democracy: establishing neighborhood assemblies for residents in each precinct; establishing an advisory labor commission in city for the city's unions; hosting regular ward forums, town halls, and meets with residents

Promoting Transparency: budget justice that treats budgets as moral documents developed transparently with the public; working with local groups and movements to understand how city resources can be better allocated; collaborating with neighborhood assemblies on public policy

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I have historically been involved with the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and local labor organizing and look forward to meeting more people in the WCDP. It's critical at this moment that we build more networks and connections between local progressive groups so that we can form a popular front against fascism and share resources to empower our community.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

I've worked in the university system for over 15 years, and personally mentored hundreds of students. I have been a thesis supervisor many times for my program's honors thesis track where I oversee original research that students are producing. I have also been an academic advisor for students as they progress through their academic careers, and have advised students on post-graduate career options. I have also done several teach-ins at the university for student groups including SAFE, the ACLU, YDSA, Tahrir Coalition, Michigan Research Council, UAAO, and UNICEF. As a labor organizer, I have also participated in the summer fellowship program for my union, and helped recruit and mentor new members and labor organizers.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

As a Democratic Socialist living under a fascist administration at the federal level, I believe we need to build a strong democratic front to unify different progressive and leftist groups at the local, county, and state-level. I believe an endorsement from WCDP would help facilitate this front and enable more coalition-building between various grassroots organizations and the Democratic Party.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

I am an active member of my union. I've canvassed for my union to increase density and build union solidarity. I was a member of the contract action team during the last bargaining cycle, where I helped organize pickets, strategized on escalation tactics, and did outreach and information campaigns with lecturers. I also do networking for unions in the city including the nurses union, the teachers union, the transit workers union, and the city workers union. I'm a member of the Ann Arbor Tenants Union and working on having stronger regional union support across sectors. I am also a member of Ann Arbor for Public Power. I've been collecting signatures for their ballot initiative and participated in several of their events in the city. I have also demonstrated my support for campus unions including GEO, LEO, USU, PRO, UMMAP, UPAMM and UMPNC. I have also been active in the campus pro-Palestine movement, speaking at events and rallies in support of the encampment and divestment.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

I have traditionally supported the Democratic Socialist and progressive wing of the Democratic Party, including Bernie Sanders, AOC, and Rashida Tlaib. I am currently supporting Abdul Al-Sayd for Michigan Senate, and Yousef Rabhi for mayor of Ann Arbor. I was involved with Black Lives Matter for eight years in Washington, D.C. I also attended and supported the 2017 Women's March and the 2018 International Women's Strike. I fully support and have advocated for the Green New Deal, Medicare for All, the Fight for 15, and the PRO Act.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

N/A

Office: Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 5

Candidate: Jenn Cornell; jenn@a2jenn.com

More Information: www.a2jenn.com

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

Three Democratic values that guide my work are equity, opportunity, and community. On Council, I have supported policies that increase housing options and affordability, improve transportation safety, and advance our climate goals. In my professional and volunteer work, I have focused on strengthening nonprofits, supporting small businesses, and serving on boards dedicated to environmental stewardship, literacy, and economic opportunity. I strive to listen first, build consensus, and ensure that all voices are represented in decision-making.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I bring a unique combination of public service, nonprofit leadership, small business experience, and a proven record of delivering results. I am the only candidate with plans to address our climate and affordability issues, and I am the only candidate with the experience necessary to back it up.

I have worked to advance affordable housing, improve transportation safety, invest in roads and infrastructure, and support Ann Arbor's climate goals. My experience leading organizations and managing budgets helps me approach challenges pragmatically and responsibly. Effective governance requires both vision and execution, and I have demonstrated the ability to bring people together and achieve meaningful progress.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

Since taking office, I have focused on delivering tangible improvements for Ward 5 and the entire city. I have advocated for major infrastructure investments, including road, sidewalk, water, and sewer improvements; supported more than 1,200 affordable housing units currently in development; helped establish Ann Arbor's Sustainable Energy Utility and Sustainability Commission; and worked to improve transportation safety through projects like the Miller Avenue redesign. I have also prioritized constituent service by remaining accessible, responsive, and engaged with residents on issues both large and small.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I have been an active participant in the civic life of Washtenaw County for more than two decades. Beyond election cycles, I have worked with local nonprofits, community organizations, and public institutions focused on education, environmental sustainability, economic development, and the arts. My commitment to Democratic values is reflected not only in campaigns, but in year-round efforts to strengthen the organizations and partnerships that make our community more equitable, inclusive, and resilient.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

Helping people become the best version of themselves is one of the reasons why I started CrossFit Joust nearly 20 years ago, and that commitment to others persists today. Throughout my career, I have had the incredible opportunity to mentor others, and have been rewarded by watching colleagues and peers achieve success personally and professionally. And, in my role as a weightlifting and kettlebell coach, training others to not only physically but also mentally push through challenges to gain strength and

confidence was a privilege. It is humbling to know that people trusted me to help them in such a meaningful way.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

I am seeking the endorsement of the Washtenaw County Democratic Party because I share its commitment to equity, opportunity, inclusion, sustainability, and more. The endorsement helps voters identify candidates who will advance Democratic values while governing responsibly and delivering results. I am proud of my record on Council and would be honored to earn the support of Democrats who are working every day to build a stronger community for everyone.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

I have served on the boards of the Ecology Center, the Family Learning Institute, Main Street Area Association, and Destination Ann Arbor. Professionally, I have worked with nonprofits and community organizations throughout Washtenaw County. As a former small business owner, parent of Ann Arbor Public Schools students, and active community volunteer, I am rooted and active within our community.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

I believe government can be a force for expanding opportunity, protecting rights, and improving people's lives, which is why I have been a longtime supporter of Democratic candidates and causes. Over the years, I have supported Democratic campaigns at the local, state, and federal levels, while also advancing Democratic values through my professional, volunteer, and civic work. My service on City Council reflects those values in action—supporting affordable housing, climate action, transportation safety, economic opportunity, public education, and policies that serve the residents of Ann Arbor.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No

Office: Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 5

Candidate: Greg Monroe; gregforA2@gmail.com

More Information: www.gregforA2.com

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

Democracy: Too many residents feel unable to meaningfully shape local government. I began my journey into local politics when I showed up curious to a Planning Commission meeting and was compelled to advocate for residents who weren't being heard.

Economic Fairness: The middle class isn't happenstance, it's the result of deliberate policy choices made over generations. It's now under threat. Ann Arbor is the place it is today because past generations invested in public goods: parks, green space, attainable housing like co-ops. I'll ensure that continues.

We must acknowledge that some communities were deliberately left out of the American experience of the middle class. We must ensure that this history informs our decisions and remain in dialogue with these communities on economic issues.

Economic fairness is not at work when our elected officials and senior administrators get raises without ensuring that our boots on the ground workers who make this city run have a fair living wage

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I've lived in Ann Arbor for 35 years, born and raised. I care deeply about our city's future. I'm running because every resident deserves a voice in the decisions that shape our community.

In my day job, I'm a product manager in tech at a Fortune 500 company. Things move fast. I lead with influence, synthesize multiple perspectives, work across diverse stakeholders to solve problems collaboratively, measuring success against data-driven outcomes. I'll bring that same mindset to Council.

Previous community involvement: facilitating theater and writing workshops in correctional facilities with the Prison Creative Arts Project, coaching lacrosse at Huron

High, helping bring 2,300 miles of fiber-optic infrastructure to underserved Michigan, working with the Neighbor to Neighbor program to help Kettering-neighborhood residents stay housed and avoid tax foreclosure.

I'll show up and listen. When I'm on the other side of an issue from my residents, I'll work to compromise.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

Real engagement and outreach. Listening with an open mind. I've enjoyed every conversation I've had at doors in my campaign canvassing. I'm looking forward to continuing this with listening and engagement sessions.

I'll never start with a pre-determined outcome and perform 'check-the-box' engagement.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I'm relative new to local politics. I think for the longest time I believe our City had its heart in the right place and was doing the right things. I think like many, I agree on the intended outcomes of its policies, however, I have real concerns on the means and mechanisms employed to achieve them.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

In my professional career this has been critical to my success, the engaged mentorship of others. I make it a point to be a resource for our younger generations entering the workforce and take proactive steps to engage and build relationships with them.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

I want to do my part to make our community a better place. I'm eager to establish dialogue and build relationships with groups who share a common mission.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

I've worked with the Prison Creative Arts Project at the University of Michigan, facilitating theater and writing workshops in adult and juvenile correctional facilities in

Southeast Michigan. I've coached men's lacrosse at Huron High School. I worked to bridge the digital divide, helping bring fiber-optic infrastructure to rural and underserved areas of Michigan. Later, through the Rocket Community Fund and United Community Housing Coalition's Neighbor to Neighbor program, I engaged Kettering-neighborhood residents to connect them with resources to stay housed and avoid tax foreclosure.

Most recently, I've been a regular fixture in housing discourse at Planning Commission and Council, speaking up for residents who feel left out of our decisions. I've advocated for resident voice, environmental protections, infrastructure readiness and cost analysis and raised concerns about drastic upzoning of our naturally occurring affordable housing as a mechanism of displacement.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

I've been a lifelong democrat since I came of voting age. I've devoted time to issues of fairness in our criminal justice system and education system as well as housing stability for vulnerable populations.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No.

Office: Ann Arbor Township Clerk

Candidate: Kristine Bolhuis; kristinebol@gmail.com

More Information:

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

Care for the community is extremely important to me and community starts with knowing your neighbors. I enjoy rounding up my neighborhood (I serve as president of the neighborhood association) for an annual picnic and meeting - a tradition that has continued in our neighborhood since the 1960's.

As a parent of a child with a rare genetic mutation, I also care deeply about health care affordability. A pre-existing condition can effect an individual for their entire life-span and should never disqualify someone from coverage. I have personally advocated for insurance providers to cover hearing aids.

Education is also deeply important to me. My son, received education through Michigan's Early On program, from the age of 2 months to 3 years old, in a Deaf and Hard of hearing program. Early intervention programs like this are life altering for the families who receive them, as are the special education services provided by our public school system as the children grow.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I have five years of experience with the Ann Arbor Township Clerk's department which includes election administration and the other statutory duties of the Clerk. A Township Clerk has many statutory duties that take years of training. I have completed two years of a three year program to become a certified Municipal Clerk by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC). I will complete the final year of that training in 2027. I complete continuing education for Election Officials on an ongoing basis and re-certify that training every 2 years.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

In addition to ensuring smooth and accurate elections, I have worked to digitize many Township documents and have made them publicly available on the Township website. I also initiated the design and launch of a new Ann Arbor Township website that will make it easier for residents to navigate and find the information they need. Making documents publicly available increases transparency and assists residents. We also continually try to improve our communications with residents via our website and a monthly e-newsletter.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I helped organize a petition for my neighborhood, Thornoaks, to be designated as a local Washtenaw County Historic District by partnering with the Washtenaw County

historic preservation staff. The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners voted to officially designate our neighborhood as a historic district in 2018. We became the first mid-century local historic district in the state of Michigan. I continue to work liaison with the historic preservation staff and the residents of Thornoaks.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

I enjoy training staff and election inspectors on the election process. One aspect of that training and education is the Public Accuracy Testing of ballots. At a public accuracy test, the Clerk's can demonstrate the voting equipment and the extensive testing of ballots that we do ahead of each election. People who attend that can walk away with a much greater understanding of the accuracy of our ballot and tabulation process.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

My values align with those of the Washtenaw County Democratic Party and I am committed to administering accurate and fair elections for the residents of Ann Arbor Township. I would appreciate the support of the WCDP as I seek election as Township Clerk.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

As a resident of Ann Arbor Township, I care about my community. I have been president of my neighborhood association for over a decade. I also serve on the board of a2modern, a non-profit dedicated to increasing awareness of mid-century architecture. I am a mother of two children who attended Ann Arbor Public Schools k-12 (both Community High school grads!) and would volunteer to help with events. I am also an artist and have participated annually in the Ann Arbor Art Fair (the Original) for many years.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

My upbringing in West Michigan taught me the values of volunteerism and caring for one's community by loving thy neighbor. Those values led me to vote for Democratic candidates once I became of voting age. The Affordable Care Act has been life changing for my family. We had been denied insurance coverage due to having a child with a genetic syndrome prior to the passage of that act. When the ACA went into

effect, we cried tears of joy. That is a priority issue for me that influences my support of candidates.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No

Office: Lodi Township Supervisor

Candidate: Barry Wauldron; barrywauldron@gmail.com

More Information: <http://barryforlodi.org/>

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

I think the Democratic party has prided itself on maintaining a big tent. We value inclusivity in the political process and provide opportunities and access to government participation for traditionally underrepresented peoples. Facilitating diversity, not just in race or gender, but life experience, professional experience, economic class, contributes to decision-making processes that will produce better policy.

For my part, I have a goal of creating a more transparent, inclusive process for attracting and appointing qualified candidates to serve on township boards and committees.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I have years of experience as an educator and an advanced degree in urban planning. I also have years of work experience in appointed positions within township government and understand the roll each elected and appointed official plays.

I think local government needs to communicate effectively with the tax-paying public to built trust and make important information easy to access. My teaching experience will serve us well here.

I believe the fundamentals need to be conducted competently and transparently, such as budgeting and planning. I also believe we can do more to facilitate progress on quality of life topics such as parks, recreational and commercial opportunities. I have lived in cities and have lived in rural Lodi Township for 11 years. I think I understand our location as a transitional landscape in the greater Ann Arbor area and am focused on serving both the rural and growing suburban populations.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

I ran for this position in the 2024 election cycle and nearly unseated a 30+ year incumbent. I believe I can contribute new ideas, energy and perspective to make our township government function more inclusively and effectively. I can never replace the decades of experience our former Supervisor brought to the role, but am open to listening, learning and approaching the job with integrity and respect.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I have not been active

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

I taught a class in Michigan Geography and included a section on local governmental or political geography. I taught about the history and function of cities, villages, townships, and counties. I encouraged my students to attend public meetings and learn about the functions and potential career opportunities in local government.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

It is important to have the support of your party for many reasons.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

As an assessor, I engage with property owners and community members regularly.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

I have not always liked the candidate or campaign, but have always voted democrat because the party still embodies more of my personal values like fair play, justice, education, good social services, environmental protection and affordable health care. I believe the party has been somewhat less influenced by corrupting corporate interests, though we could do a better job differentiating ourselves in this regard. I think we've allowed the platform to be pulled too far right in my adult life, and that the centrist position is uninspiring. That said, we try to make what we have better, and I think the Democratic Party will still permit someone to say this, whereas the other party is intolerant of critical voices. That's an important difference.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No.

Office: Scio Township Trustee

Candidate: Mark D. Altomare; mark.d.altomare@gmail.com

More Information: www.markdaltomare.com

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

First, I believe Democratic government means elected officials must uphold a fiduciary responsibility – using public tax dollars wisely to improve people's lives. As a corporate executive I successfully planned and executed multi-million-dollar budgets. As a Scio Trustee I will work for Common Sense budgeting, long-term planning, prudent spending, and elimination of waste.

Open and honest communication is essential for good governance. Citizen involvement is necessary for a democratic republic to ensure representative government. I will institute old-style "Town Halls" to directly involve our community.

The Township is also an employer. I will support a partnership with the newly formed Union to make Scio a safe and rewarding environment for our staff. I will promote inclusion and diversity in our government and our community. I will support development and growth of our economy, while ensuring the preservation of affordable housing, parks and preserves, and our environment.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I am the best person for this position because I am a political outsider with no baggage or preconceived alliances. The other two candidates work for the Township and have established relationships that in my view may limit their objectivity. I will not choose sides. My priority will be serving my constituents, not advancing my own political future. I will work with everyone to build coalitions around issues rather than predetermined alliances. Although I do not have government experience, I bring substantial corporate leadership experience that translates directly to governance of a Township. I have a long record of success, and I will bring that same discipline to governing Scio. I will model the behavior I expect from the Board by championing honesty, transparency, accountability, and a willingness to challenge the status quo.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

I will serve by fostering a transparent, accountable, and participatory government. Residents should have easy access to information and be encouraged to help shape the future of Scio Township.

To achieve that, the Board of Trustees must make meetings more accessible and welcoming, provide open data and regular reporting, encourage public engagement, and restore trust in Township leadership.

I will hold regular, old-fashioned town hall meetings where residents can exchange ideas respectfully and rebuild trust in leadership. I will also strive to model responsible, common-sense public service for the Board.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I have long been a registered Democrat, though my active involvement with the Washtenaw County Democratic Party is more recent.

My wife, Caroline, and I have attended WCDP meetings, made financial contributions, participated in planning meetings, and delivered voter guides.

Beyond party activities, we have marched and joined efforts such as Indivisible, No Kings, Ice Out, Mobilize, and other protests. I have also served as an election inspector during presidential election years and attended town halls and informal events hosted by Debbie Dingell, Carrie Rheingans, Sue Shink, and other elected officials.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

At Pacific Bell, I benefited tremendously from a formal mentoring program. Throughout my career I have had several outstanding managers who also became trusted informal mentors. Later, I had the opportunity to mentor many employees who reported to me. Colleagues often told me I was the best boss they ever had, and I helped several direct reports earn promotions within my organization and at other companies. To me, effective mentoring is grounded in honesty: sharing the truth whether it is encouraging, difficult, or somewhere in between; offering perspective and advice; and supporting people through both success and setbacks. Although I retired three years ago, I still maintain confidential mentoring relationships with former colleagues. I offer guidance on everything from career counseling to how to develop subordinates, to dealing with difficult bosses, or how to close a difficult sales opportunity.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

Yes, I am seeking the endorsement of the WCDP. Although the endorsement is not available until after the August primary, and that primary is effectively the general election because the winner will run unopposed in November, I believe the endorsement still sends a strong message to all voters, not just party members. As a first-time participant in the political process, I also believe it is important to engage with the party at the local, state, and federal levels. Participating in the WCDP Voter Guide is a valuable way to get involved, contribute to the larger effort, and share my message with Scio Township residents.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

Before I retired, I had little time or interest in getting involved in politics or community activities. After retiring, I began paying closer attention. My involvement started when some neighbors tried to create a Special Assessment District (SAD) to pave a road in

our neighborhood that had been unpaved for decades, without adequate communication. I stepped in to help make sure neighbors were informed. Since then, I have become active in Township politics by attending meetings, making public comments, and advocating for local issues, including Fire Department funding. I also attend town halls hosted by Debbie Dingell, Sue Shink, Carrie Rheingans, and others. In addition, I have marched in No Kings, Ice Out, and other Indivisible events. I volunteer with the American Heart Association as State Advocacy Chairperson, coach teams for Heart Walk, help raise funds for Heart Ball, and serve as a community resource for the American Cancer Society.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

My active support for Democratic candidates and causes is relatively recent, beyond my long-standing habit of voting and making financial contributions. Three years ago, my advocacy work with the American Heart Association brought me to Lansing and Washington, DC, where I met with Representatives, Senators, and their staffs. As I learned more about the political process, I became increasingly engaged. Since then, I have supported Rep. Rheingans by following and commenting on her social media, attending events, showing up at rallies and other public appearances, and contributing to her campaign. Two years ago, my wife and I also campaigned actively for now-Scio Supervisor Jillian Kerry and for other ballot initiatives.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No. Never.

Office: Scio Township Trustee

Candidate: Mary Gillis; gillisforscio@gmail.com

More Information: gillisforscio.com

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

Free and fair elections: As a former deputy clerk of Scio Township, I know what goes into running an election. I have faith in the security inherent in the American, and indeed, the Michigan, way of running elections, and I take the undermining of confidence in our elections as a dangerous tendency on the part of this federal administration. Environmental Protection: As a confirmed environmentalist and a cancer survivor, I take protection of the environment, and protection of the people from the degradation and poisoning of our environment with chemicals and industrial byproducts, extremely seriously. My lifelong support of the Democratic Party is integrally tied to the support its candidates give to environmental causes and practices.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

As a longtime employee, I am well-versed in the problems, personalities, and assets of Scio Township, yet I still have energy and optimism for the sometimes difficult long-haul of government work. Working alongside other public servants since 2018, from elected officials to front office staff, I have been inspired by folks dedicated to public service.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

With honesty, creativity and action. I believe that people want to know what their government is doing for them. As Township newsletter editor I have been spreading the news about Scio government functions and endeavors since 2019. Creativity comes in seeking new solutions to old problems. And action means I am more than just talk. I like to gather people together, generate ideas, problem-solve the logistics, and set them in motion.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I have not been involved in WCDP prior to this year.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

I have not had the experience of mentoring others.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

I believe that Democratic voters want to know more about the specifics of their candidates' beliefs, experience, and values. WCDP offers a great way to reach Democratic voters through their Voter Guide.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

I have been active in local protests, including NO KINGS I - III, and led the chanting with Ann Arbor Indivisible during the 2025 4th of July Parade. As a member of my cohousing community, I engage with the Grounds Committee and Marketing and Membership, keeping the gardens in order and planning community activities.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

I have been a pro-choice / anti-war activist all my adult life, and given financial support to the ACLU, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and Democratic candidates at the local, state, and national levels for decades.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No.

Office: Ypsilanti City Mayor

Candidate: Amber Fellows; amber4thepeople@gmail.com

More Information: amber4thepeople.com

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

Community means building a multicultural sanctuary where everyone belongs. I practice this by fighting to keep public land in public hands, creating the Water Street Citizen's Committee with a principle of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent, and advancing Land Back discussions with Indigenous neighbors. I also led a Know Your Rights campaign while supporting the release of a Ward 2 neighbor from ICE detention.

Accountability in Public Service means government must be responsive, transparent, and answerable to working people. I practice this by identifying over \$1.6 million in city budget savings (FY 2025-2028) and redirecting \$1.6 million from the Public Safety & Mental Health Millage toward unarmed Community Responders, public restrooms, drinking fountains, and the Housing Trust Fund for winter sheltering. I also wrote a repeal of the state ban on rent control—endorsed by the MDP Platform—and support the YpsiBIG ballot proposal to put police budget increases to a citywide vote.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I am the best candidate for Mayor because I've delivered real results. In under two years, I identified \$1.6M in savings and redirected \$1.6M to unarmed Community Response program, public restrooms, and winter sheltering. I won the first 1-year data center moratorium, joined Mayors for Peace, and created the Water Street Committee with Free, Prior, Informed Consent. Before office, I helped pass the nation's second Community Benefits Ordinance and I wrote a repeal of the state ban on rent control adopted by the MDP platform. I defeated an appointed incumbent by 10 votes fighting for working people—not landlord monopolies or private equity interests. I led the defund ICE resolution, called to halt 165+ deportation flights from Willow Run, and secured Dorsey Estates: homes affordable for Ypsi residents that earn \$34k/year. I've stopped native tree removals. I'm ready on day one to expand community participation, build social housing, fund renewable energy, and stop ICE.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

As your Ward 3 Councilmember, I've delivered for our community. I initiated the survey for D2A2 express bus connecting Ann Arbor to Ypsilanti to Detroit. I supported road and bridge reconstructions with widened sidewalks and bike lanes on Cross St Bridge, Prospect St Bridge, and Cornell Street. I fought illegal tree clear-cutting at Water Street, protecting Paw Paw and native fruit trees. I wrote the resolution to display the Trans Pride flag in City Hall and declared Transgender Empowerment Month. I moved to address the assault of a Black woman by Beer Cooler workers and have advocated for Reparations. I worked at Planned Parenthood as a patient advocate for youth. I supported Rx Kids \$1500 prenatal cash and led the local effort to end Right to Work.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I have attended events and supported WCDP members in campaigns, and caucus efforts.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

In 2016, as member of the Ypsi Human Relations Commission, I created youth seats for that commission. Since then I have mentored at least 4 youth that have served on various commissions. I have also helped mentor WICIR youth in the creation of a public mural to explore identity and colonialism on Dos Hermanos.

More recently, I have mentored renters who are taking chair and vice-chair responsibilities for the Tenants' Rights Committee--a committee which I initiated as Councilmember.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

I am a Democratic candidate for Mayor of Ypsilanti and I believe in building out a strong coalition that can resist contemporary fascism within American right-wing movements. WCDP is a large partner in that coalition.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

I contribute my time and effort toward local organizing efforts and various DIY events in and around Ypsilanti like Totally Awesome Fest—creating spaces for local music, art, and mutual aid outside traditional institutions. Before office, I led efforts to stop an EB-5 visa scheme at Water Street and helped pass the country's second Community Benefits Ordinance. I've held Resistance Townhall to stop ICE and support rapid response efforts. When not at City Hall, you'll find me hosting shows, playing music with neighbors, tending plants, and seeking old-growth forests. I organize where people actually gather.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

I've assisted in campaigns to elect Democratic candidates in 2020, 2022, and 2024.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

Nothing legitimate that is for certain.

I do not have criminal background. I do not believe that people with criminal backgrounds are automatically invalid as political candidates but I do believe in transparency.

Since running for office in 2022 there have been occasional smear attempts to call me a landlord, an enabler of abuse, or a bully. Those attempts have not been successful because of a lack truth and evidence. I find so often that progressive candidates like myself are attacked not for our record, work, or funding sources, but for identity, distant associations, and moral purity.

Office: Ypsilanti City Council, Ward 1

Candidate: Bryan R. Foley

More Information:

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

Inclusive of all people: represent all demographics, not simply the people who look like me.

Helping the least among receive fair representation: I help those who need help the most get the most help.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

My lived experience and the work I've already done in this community. The relationships I have built with elected officials throughout Washtenaw County and the state of Michigan.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

Listen to their voices, visit their homes, hear their concerns, and represent them at council meetings and other official and unofficial gatherings.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

I supported city council members and county commissioners get resources to their constituents.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

I've mentioned you ages 13 through 26 through a nonprofit organization called Supreme Felons Incorporated.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

They best represent my values to give to support and representation our community deserves

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

I was instrumental in restoring the softball diamond, basketball court and the pavilion at Parkridge park and I volunteer

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

I've endorsed Eli Savit, Nicole Brown, Crystal Lyte, Justin Hodge, Jimmie Wilson, Roland Tooso, Annie Sommerville, Karl Barr just to name a few using my podcast Ear to the ground 197 as my platform

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No

Office: Ypsilanti City Council, Ward 1

Candidate: Me'Chelle Michelle King;
committeetoelectmechelleking@gmail.com

More Information: Kingforcouncil.com

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

A few Democratic Party values that align closely with me include open, honest, responsive, and accountable government; freedom and opportunity; fighting for fairness against inequality; and basic human dignity.

As a lifelong Ypsilanti resident, and current Council Member, I put these values into practice through my daily work in the community. I believe the government should be transparent and accessible, which is why I prioritize listening to residents, maintaining open communication, and ensuring community voices are part of decision-making.

I believe in expanding freedom and opportunity by supporting affordable housing, strengthening neighborhoods, and advocating for access to essential services for families, seniors, and youth

I also work to address inequality and uphold human dignity by treating every resident with respect, advocating for underserved communities, and focusing on fairness in how resources and services are distributed. These values guide my leadership and commitment

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

I believe I am the best candidate for this position because I am a lifelong resident of the city of Ypsilanti. I am compassionate and I understand the importance of collaboration when doing this work. I have a proven record of service to the community. I understand firsthand the challenges and opportunities facing our community.

Over the past four years in office, I have worked directly with residents to address concerns, improve communication with city government, and advocate for practical solutions to local issues. My background in social work has strengthened my ability to listen, connect people to resources, and approach problems with empathy and problem-solving skills. I am prepared to continue this work with consistency, dedication, and a deep commitment to the residents of Ward 1 and the community as a whole for the future of Ypsilanti.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

As a current officeholder, I have used my position to serve as a strong and consistent voice for my residents. I make it a priority to listen directly to community concerns and bring those issues forward in city discussions and decision-making. I advocate for transparency, responsiveness, and accountability in local government, ensuring that residents are heard and their concerns are addressed.

I have also worked to connect residents with city services, help resolve neighborhood issues, and maintain open communication between the community and city leadership. My goal has always been to make government more accessible and to ensure that the needs of the community are heard.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

During non-election years, I have stayed engaged with the Washtenaw County Democratic Party and the broader community through my ongoing service as a Council Member and through local civic involvement. While I have not attended many formal party meetings, I remain committed to staying informed about party priorities and local issues affecting our residents by communicating with members that attend regularly.

My involvement has primarily been through direct community engagement events, attending neighborhood meetings, participating in local events, and maintaining open communication with residents and community partners. This consistent connection to the community helps guide my work in office and ensures I remain responsive to the needs of the community.

Moving forward, I am committed to increasing my participation in party activities and continuing to strengthen relationships within the Washtenaw County Democratic Party.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

In the community, I have mentored residents, especially emerging community leaders, by encouraging civic engagement, directly asking residents to apply for boards and commissions, sharing how local government works, and helping them learn how to advocate for themselves and their neighborhoods. I regularly visit schools in my area because I believe it is important to engage young people early so that as they grow older, they are confident, prepared, and able to serve their communities with ease and purpose.

I believe mentorship is about listening, leading by example, and helping others build confidence in their own voice. Through one-on-one conversations and community involvement, I work to empower others to step into leadership and become active participants in shaping their community.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

I am seeking the endorsement of the WCDP because I have demonstrated my commitment to Democratic values and to serving my community through my work every day. As the current Ward 1 Council Member, I have worked hard to be a voice for residents, advocate for their needs, and help move our community forward. I am proud of the work I have done and would be grateful for the opportunity to continue serving with the support and endorsement of the WCDP.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

I engage with and contribute to my community by showing up consistently and being present when and where the residents need me. I have attended the same church Community Church of God located in Ward 1 my entire life. I have served in a few different roles within the church over the years. My faith community has given me many opportunities to support others, build relationships, and serve my neighbors.

Beyond my church involvement, I stay engaged in the community by participation in community events, neighborhood association meetings, and local initiatives. I also do civic events around the community. I believe that meaningful community involvement is

about being accessible, listening to residents, and working together to address challenges and create positive change.

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

I have supported Democratic candidates and causes by advocating for policies that improve the lives of residents and by working with leaders across Washtenaw County and other municipalities to address shared challenges. I have also traveled to the State Capitol to support issues important to our community and to ensure that local voices are represented in broader policy discussions. Through my service as an elected official, I have worked to advance Democratic values of equity, opportunity, and responsive government.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No

Office: Ypsilanti City Council, Ward 2

Candidate: Patrick A McLean; patrick.mclean.campaign@gmail.com

More Information: patrickmcleanypsilanti.org

What are 2-3 major values of the Democratic Party that mean the most to you? Please give a couple of examples of how you practice them.

1. The right to collective bargain. As an administrator, I have been engaged in multiple successful collective bargaining agreements that union members viewed as very fair. And as a staffer at the Ecology Center, I was involved in a ""blue-green initiative"" that saw us become one of the few environmental nonprofits that was organized. As part of this initiative, I am my fellow employees were briefly members of the UAW (in about 2006-2007).

2. The value of diversity and inclusiveness. I have taken pride in my hiring practices that have resulted in staffs that were diverse in terms of age, sexual orientation, sexual identity, race and gender. I have developed hiring practices that expand the pools of applicants to maximize the chances of selecting minority candidates.

Why are you the best candidate for the position you seek?

My experience in and with multiple legislative settings, and my values that include strong support for collective bargaining and strong support for the environment.

If you're a current officeholder, how have you used your office to benefit your constituents?

One recent environmental initiative is the forestry program for which I got funding in our most recent budget. The program will allow Ypsilanti to manage the trees and urban environment in a way that we have been lacking for decades. I would also note my strong record of stewardship of financial resources that, in turn, reduces the need for layoffs and benefit cuts for all employees. Finally, I am highly available to constituents, holding a coffee hour almost every Sunday.

Please tell us how you've been involved in the WCDP or Washtenaw County in non-election years.

There's always an election somewhere! I often get involved in door knocking or in promoting local Democratic candidates financially and, as time allows, as a volunteer.

Please tell us how you've mentored others, with specific examples.

I am a strong supporter of internships. I have established hundreds of internships at my various jobs, and always play a role in working directly with those interns. I am an educator at heart. In addition to teaching and leading a public policy institute at Albion College, I have served as an adjunct professor at several schools. I also have been actively engaged in philanthropy in the workplace and elsewhere, trying to establish a culture of giving.

Why are you seeking the endorsement of the WCDP?

Because being a Democrat matters and letting people know that I share the core values of Democrats matters.

In what ways do you personally engage with, and contribute to, your community (faith-based involvement is welcome, but please include other civic activities that showcase your community involvement)?

I have served on numerous boards of nonprofits, including the aforementioned Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy. I was on the Rutherford Pool Board when we were raising money and rebuilding the pool in the early 2000s. I was also on the Normal Park N'hood Assn board for several years when I first moved to Ypsilanti. I also tutor students, including right now a young Nigerian woman who was displaced while studying nursing in Ukraine. (I tutor her in German because she is a refugee in Hamburg.)

Please discuss your history of supporting Democratic candidates and causes.

Please read my "ActBlue" account for a history of contributing to Democrat candidates for decades. In addition, I have run about 30 campaigns for Democrat candidates (mostly in Ohio, but some in Michigan), everyone from neighborhood board candidates to state senate candidates and lots in between.

Have you ever been accused or convicted of any wrongdoing or character-related issues that either HAVE or COULD in the future cast a shadow over your campaign, your office (if elected), or the WCDP? If so, please describe below.

No