



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
DEARBORN / DEARBORN HEIGHTS



Dearborn Heights Voter Guide

November 7, 2017 General Election



Mayor	pages 2–3
City Clerk	page 3
City Treasurer	page 3
City Council	pages 4–8

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The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 as a nonpartisan political organization to encourage informed and active participation in government, to increase understanding of major policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy. The League never supports or opposes a political party or candidate. Membership in the League is open to all men and women aged 16 years or older. Funding for the printed voter guides depends upon generous civic-minded donors.

For more information, contact the Local League at info@lwvddh.org or (313) 278-6476, or visit the website at www.lwvddh.org.

President: Mary Jo Durivage

Voter Service Chair: Betsy Cushman

Voter Guide Editor: Jennifer Oliver

The Mayor serves as the City's chief executive. Among the duties are enforcing all laws and ordinances, preparing / administering budgets, hiring / firing the appointed positions, creating / maintaining relationships with local businesses, maintaining city parks and city roads.

4-year term ending December 31, 2021

Vote for 1

<p>There are 2 candidates listed in alphabetical order.</p> <p>(625-character limit for each response to the 4 questions)</p>	<p>What is your background and how will it help you to serve the City as Mayor?</p>	<p>What are your priority issues, and how will you address them?</p>	<p>What progress is being made to protect residents from the recurrent flooding issues in our City?</p>	<p>Rental properties can be an enormous asset, but may also bring challenges. What do you see as some of the key rental issues in Dearborn Heights?</p>
<p>Lisa Hicks-Clayton</p> <p>Retired Educator/ City Councilwoman</p> <p>Education: Cartersville Community High School- Graduate; University of Florida- Bachelor Degree in Political Science, Teaching endorsements (U.S. Army/ Schoolcraft College), Legal Mediation; Monterey County</p> <p>Campaign web site: http://lisahicksclayton.com</p> <p>Facebook campaign name: Lisa Hicks-Clayton for Mayor @lhicksclayton</p> <p>Campaign email: LHC4Mayor@gmail.com</p>	<p>I am running for Mayor because I want Dearborn Heights to be the best place to live, work, and raise a family. As former Mayor of Ft. Ord, CA and current member of the Dearborn Heights City Council, I have dedicated myself to listening and responding to residents' concerns to build consensus with diverse groups throughout the community. As Mayor, I would offer a comprehensive economic development plan focused on growing our business districts, revitalizing our neighborhoods, and emphasizing a greater role with public safety to ensure our officers have the resources and tools they need to protect our community.</p>	<p>Currently, there is a fundamental lack of communication between City Hall and the residents of Dearborn Heights. As Mayor, I would create a Citizen Advisory Council focused on inclusive community outreach to help solve our city's problems. Public safety is also an area of concern. Plans to outsource our 911 dispatch services to the City of Dearborn are deeply troubling, especially since we paid \$750,000 to update our dispatch equipment within the last decade. We need to find a better solution which includes additional staffing.</p>	<p>The August, 2014 flood was devastating to the community. I walked neighborhoods and brought valuable resources to the residents of our City. Currently, the City of Dearborn Heights has received a Flood Mitigation FEMA grant, which allows for the purchase of homes along Hanover. It is imperative we actively pursue funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a \$260 million retention basin project along Ecorse Creek. The North Branch Ecorse Creek Flood Mitigation project features five to six retention basins that will be added throughout the communities affected by flooding, one in Dearborn Heights.</p>	<p>Regulating the condition and operation of rental housing is a major challenge facing many municipalities. Along with widespread foreclosures and loss of property values, many municipalities have seen increasing numbers of single family homes move from owner-occupied to absentee ownership and rental homes. The responsibility for making sure that landlords maintain and manage their properties well falls to the municipality. The City has the authority to enforce codes and take a variety of other legal actions, which are applied through code enforcement and operating practices.</p>



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<p>Daniel S. Paletko</p> <p>Mayor</p> <p>Education: Crestwood Highschool Graduate, Associates at HFC, BA University of Michigan-Dearborn, MBA at UD Mercy, Masters in Tax at Wayne State University.</p> <p>Campaign web site: http://FB Dan Paletko for DH Mayor</p> <p>Facebook campaign name: Mayor Dan Paletko for Dearborn Heights</p> <p>Campaign email: danpaletkofordhmayor@gmail.com</p>	<p>I have lived, worked, volunteered, raised my family, practiced my faith and truly have Dearborn Heights in my heart. I am a CPA and a retired finance manager from Ford Motor Company. I have a bachelor's and two master's degrees in business, finance and tax from local universities. I am a parishioner and usher at St. Linus and a Knights of Columbus member. I served as a City Councilman and Chair, a State Representative and Mayor. I bring a strong financial and institutional knowledge, an extensive education and dedicated work ethic that helps me to lead Dearborn Heights as a strong and vibrant model city.</p>	<p>My priorities remain the same since I first became the Mayor of Dearborn Heights. I believe in maintaining the best essential services while keeping taxes low, and I have successfully accomplished this in my tenure. Using my education, work experiences and connections on the local, state and federal levels, I have been able to access grants and other funding sources to keep our costs down. With these grants, we have also been able to increase our firefighter personnel. Seeing an increased need, we have responded with a model Ordinance and Animal Control Department that is now being used throughout the state.</p>	<p>I have been a flood victim and understand our residents' concerns. In 2004, I filed a petition under Chapter 8 of the Drain Code forcing the County to address and find a solution to the regional flooding issue. The Army Core of Engineers did a study and is proposing a regional solution that addresses the flooding concerns in all of the 13 communities along the Ecorse Creek. This solution relieves a majority of our residents from the burden of flood insurance. Under my leadership, the City is the closest it has ever been in achieving a permanent solution to the recurrent flooding along the Ecorse Creek.</p>	<p>I have a good working relationship with the majority of the landlords and tenants in Dearborn Heights and commend their willingness to work together along with both our Building and Ordinance Departments. While not always an issue, there can be concerns with property owners and renters who do not maintain their property. This can not only decrease home values, but actually invite crime into the neighborhoods. In addition, I believe it is important for an elected official to own a home. This ensures there is an investment and makes them a stakeholder in the community they represent.</p>

<p>Walter J. Prusiewicz</p> <p>City Clerk</p>	<p>Running unopposed for a 4-year term ending December 31, 2021.</p>
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<p>John J. Riley II</p> <p>Treasurer</p>	<p>Running unopposed for a 4-year term ending December 31, 2021.</p>
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Acting as the legislative branch of city government, the 7-member city council sets policies, adopts budgets and enacts legislation. Positions are overlapping with 3 seats up for election one year, 4 seats up for election two years later.

4-year term ending December 31, 2021

Vote for 4 (or fewer)

<p>There are 8 candidates listed in alphabetical order. (625-character limit for each response to the 4 questions)</p>	<p>What is your background, and how will it help you to serve the City as Councilperson?</p>	<p>What are your priority issues, and how will you address them?</p>	<p>How would you ensure that all areas of the City receive equal representation by the City Council?</p>	<p>What are your views on the possible need for City ordinances regarding medical marijuana, as well as hookah lounges?</p>
<p>Mo Baydoun Entrepreneur Education: Masters of Public Administration- Central Michigan University Bachelor of Arts- Wayne State University Campaign email: Mob4dhc@gmail.com</p>	<p>My name is Mo Baydoun and I am running for Dearborn Heights City Council. Growing up I was one of six children. My parents always promoted the values I live by today. The importance of hard work, honesty, and commitment to community are the values I live by and are the reason I have the privilege to seek public office. As a candidate for City Councilman and resident of Dearborn Heights, I am committed to working to create a safer, cleaner, and stronger community for all of us. Both at City Hall and in our neighborhoods, my priority will always be serving you and your family.</p>	<p>Our city continues to grow every year and with that the stresses on our public safety system become greater and greater. I would like to make sure our fire and police departments are given the adequate resources to keep response times within an acceptable range to residents. I feel that there are many roadblocks put up for small businesses wanting to open shop or expand and would like to make this process easier and faster to help foster greater business development in our city.</p>	<p>Response not received prior to deadline.</p>	<p>Response not received prior to deadline</p>

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<p>Bill Bazzi</p> <p>Retired Marine / Ford Engineer</p> <p>Education: Master's and Bachelor's Degree in Aeronautical Engineering from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University</p> <p>Campaign web site: http://www.facebook.com/BillBazziForCit</p> <p>Facebook campaign name: Bill Bazzi</p> <p>Campaign email: BillBazziForCityCouncil@gmail.com</p>	<p>I retired from the Marine Corps after 21 years of service, I have worked for Boeing as a Manager and an Auditor, and currently work at Ford Motor Company as a design and release engineer. I have both a Master's and Bachelor's Degree in Aeronautical Engineering. I serve on multiple community service and advocacy boards. I am an effective leader, listener, analyzer, problem solver, and advocate for the people. As a City Councilman, I would utilize my education and real world leadership experience from my work in government, corporations, and community service/advocacy boards, to serve the people of Dearborn Heights.</p>	<p>The issues include: (1) the disconnect between the City and residents, including the lack of protocol and accountability in resolving residents' issues; (2) the deficiency in maintaining our parks, recreation and senior centers; (3) the substandard City services impacting our streets, while incurring an increase in taxes; (4) the lack of transparency, accountability, and hasty decision making; and (5) the red tape in business development. I would listen to the voice of residents, who reside in every area of the City, and both establish and implement effective measures to address and resolve issues in a timely manner.</p>	<p>First, I would foster community trust by treating our residents with equal respect, regardless of where they reside in the City. I would also initiate community town hall forums to address pressing matters impacting our residents, at alternating locations throughout the City. In addition, I would engage all residents including youth, veterans, and senior citizens, in citywide community educational events, activities, and City beautification initiatives. Furthermore, I would ensure that effective protocol is followed and all residents receive equal attention to concerns, access to information and City services.</p>	<p>Potential medical marijuana ordinances should include comprehensive strict regulations to ensure the safety of residents and neighborhoods. Regulations should be closely monitored, with ongoing assessments, to prevent abuse and illegal activity. The City should ensure residents are well informed about both the facts and risks, in addition to being included in discussions about placement/distribution/processes. The City should ensure that hookah lounge ordinances are closely monitored and enforced, and keep residents informed about the facts and risks, and included in discussions about their presence in the City.</p>
<p>Thomas A. Berry</p>	<p>Response not received prior to deadline.</p>	<p>Response not received prior to deadline.</p>	<p>Response not received prior to deadline.</p>	<p>Response not received prior to deadline.</p>

Voter Guides from the League of Women Voters are a unique and valuable service in our communities. VOTE411.org and the printed Voter Guides available in our libraries, city halls, and other locations are made possible by donations from civic-minded individuals and organizations and by the dedicated volunteers who give their time and talent to provide these services. Please show your appreciation by sending a check of any amount to the League of Women Voters of Dearborn-Dearborn Heights Education Fund, 120 N. Military, Dearborn 48128. Your support is needed.

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<p>Bob Constan</p> <p>Attorney and Counselor at Law</p> <p>Education: Graduate of Dearborn Heights Public Schools, the University of Michigan (B.A.) and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law with a Juris Doctorate Degree. Licensed Michigan Attorney for 30 Years.</p> <p>Campaign web site: http://RobertConstan.com</p> <p>Facebook campaign name: Robert Constan</p> <p>Campaign email: rkconstan@comcast.net</p>	<p>I am a lifelong resident of Dearborn Heights. I am an honors graduate of Dearborn Heights Public Schools. I hold a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Michigan, and a Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Detroit School of Law. I am an Attorney licensed to practice law, I practice with the Law Firm of Rock and Borgelt, in the Rock Professional Building in Dearborn Heights. I served three terms as the 16th District State Representative from Dearborn Heights. Four of the Bills I drafted were signed into Law. I was elected Chair of the City Council in 2014. I have 100% perfect attendance and voting record.</p>	<p>The City of Dearborn Heights is an older, inner ring suburb. The issues facing Dearborn Heights are issues facing older suburban communities; ageing housing stock, reduction in the funding the City receives, cuts to state shared revenue, and providing the same level of city services with fewer tax dollars. I advocate partnering with neighboring communities to share in the cost of city services. The City of Dearborn Heights entered into an agreement with Garden City for joint fire protection, for example. Dearborn Heights was part of a five community study to merge our District Court with a neighboring District Court.</p>	<p>All residents of Dearborn Heights deserve a safe place to live, and good quality police and fire protection. All the neighborhoods in the City must be patrolled and protected. The City infrastructure must be maintained. The City of Dearborn Heights must also provide protection from basement flooding, and low cost water and sewer service. Recently, the City created a separate ordinance enforcement department to insure commercial and residential properties are kept up. Residential and commercial properties in Dearborn Heights must be maintained, particularly in the south end of our City.</p>	<p>Dearborn Heights already has ordinances in place regulating the various types of medical marijuana uses including dispensaries and grow operations. I initiated the effort to have the medical marijuana ordinances updated in Dearborn Heights. The state laws and regulations allowing for the sale and use of medical marijuana in Michigan are constantly changing. The use of hookah pipes at restaurants or bars in Michigan is governed by state law. As long as the Hookah lounges comply with Dearborn Heights city ordinances and with state law, they must be allowed. I believe that smoking the Hookah pipe is a health hazard.</p>
<p>Jeff Mallad</p> <p>Senior Manager</p> <p>Education: Masters of Business Administration University of Detroit Mercy Bachelor of Administration and Organization Central Michigan University</p> <p>Campaign web site: http://www.jeff4dearbornheights.org</p> <p>Facebook campaign name: Jeff Mallad for Dearborn Heights City Council</p> <p>Campaign email: jeffmallad4dhcc@gmail.com</p>	<p>I am a husband and proud father of four children, as well as a longtime resident and homeowner in the City of Dearborn Heights. I hold a B.S. in Administration from Central Michigan University and an M.B.A. from the University of Detroit Mercy. I am a seasoned leader with over twenty years of experience in the healthcare industry and a former small business owner. I firmly believe that my leadership experience, dedication to hard work, commitment to personal integrity, and my ability to make tough decisions when necessary will serve as a solid foundation to support my efforts to represent and serve our residents.</p>	<p>My top priorities will be maintaining fiscal responsibility and transparency, strengthening and protecting our neighborhoods, providing high quality city services, and increasing economic growth in our City. I will work with my peers on the Council and the Administration to ensure that we responsibly allocate and manage the City's limited financial resources in order to effectively spend the taxpayer's dollars. Additionally, I will encourage our leaders to think differently about ways to generate revenues or control costs rather than just simply increasing taxes or cutting city services.</p>	<p>If elected, I pledge to do my very best to represent all residents in the City of Dearborn Heights as I view our City as one large community. I will regularly reach out to engage residents throughout the City to learn more about their issues and concerns in an effort to develop practical solutions that will improve upon the things that will make our City a great place to live, raise a family, or do business. Most importantly, I will work hard to ensure that our City Government provides the necessary services and support to protect and strengthen all of the neighborhoods that make up our great City.</p>	<p>I will maintain the highest ethical standards while conducting the City's business, enacting ordinances, or passing resolutions. My view is that we need to take action and decide if these types of businesses achieve our goals of long-term economic growth and further enhancing our business community. The question I would ask with any newly proposed ordinance is..."do the benefits outweigh the risks, and will it add value to our residential and business communities?" If the proposed ordinance will have a positive impact on our City, then I would support it. If not, then I would oppose enacting the ordinance.</p>

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<p>Denise Malinowski Maxwell</p> <p>AT&T, Retired Team Leader; Real Estate Agent 1993–2012</p> <p>Education: Madonna University- Bachelors in Business Management; Henry Ford Community College- Alumnus; and Crestwood High School Graduate Class of 1974</p> <p>Facebook campaign name: @maxwell4council</p> <p>Campaign email: Maxwell4council@gmail.com</p>	<p>I have been a part of Dearborn Heights and St. Linus Church parish since 1962. I am a Crestwood High School Graduate ('78), a Henry Ford Community College Alumnus, and a graduate of Madonna University with a Major in Business Management. I spent most of my career at AT&T (1996-2000), where I held many positions in a leadership capacity. I also worked as a licensed real estate agent from 1993-2000. I formally retired from both positions. My positions at AT&T honed my ability to problem solve and work with diverse groups. Being a Real Estate agent made me aware of market trends, building codes, and zoning.</p>	<p>Our streets are badly in need of repair! I will insist that road dollars are used efficiently and grant opportunities are explored. To attract new businesses and residents, our city needs to be clean and aesthetically pleasing. I will advocate changes to our rental ordinance and make certain City owned buildings are not condemned (like Canfield Ice Arena). Residents, contractors, and city employees are all affected by our City's four day work week. I will support negotiations change this situation. Government must be transparent. I will work with all our elected officials to remedy this situation immediately.</p>	<p>We need to stop dividing our city by north and south. It causes a disconnect in our community. Personally, I have family in both the South and North end. I will do whatever it takes to make sure both ends of our City receive equal treatment.</p>	<p>There is a need for medical marijuana. City ordinances need to be in place to address this issue. This way, we can choose what our City allows and what it will not. Hookah lounges are already regulated by State and local ordinances. At this time, I do not believe any additional regulation is necessary.</p>
<p>Lisa Oshanski</p> <p>Business Development Manager</p> <p>Education: MSA - Central Michigan University in Labor Relations/HR BSA - Business Management - Walsh University</p> <p>Facebook campaign name: LisaFarrensOshanski4DearbornHeightsCityCouncil.</p> <p>Campaign email: lfarrensoshanski@att.net</p>	<p>I have obtained management positions in 3 large, local companies. Detroit Diesel, MTU America and Ford Motor Company. My primary skills sets include project management and financial analysis. These are skills that I believe we need on City Council. In addition to routine city business, there are several large issues facing the city and the ability to review the cost vs. benefit and long range impact is critical. During my tenure at MTU America I served as team lead for obtaining a 7.5 million tax abatement for retention of 245 jobs in Michigan and creation of 115 additional jobs.</p>	<p>Outsourcing 911 to Dearborn. The estimated cost savings does not make the risk worthwhile. Dearborn's 911 center is not operational even though it was supposed to be up and running months ago. We need to close this issue, do not consider it further. The development of Warren Valley Golf Course - I am against this due to the high probability of flooding it will create. We need to honor historical deed restrictions. Strong ordinances to fight blight. This includes all city owned properties, which should be inspected on 3-year schedule. Embarrassing that a city owned property (ice arena) was condemned in 2017</p>	<p>I will continue my membership in the Golfview Manor Civic Association where I live, and my Associate Membership in the Southwest Dearborn Heights Neighborhood Association. Additionally, I will commit to having "office" hours at various locations throughout the community, to make myself available to citizens. My phone number is listed and I use e-mail daily, so there are multiple ways to reach me.</p>	<p>To opt into the state licensed Medical Marijuana program, an ordinance is necessary. I believe any ordinance whether it be for a Medical Marijuana operation, or a hookah lounge needs to consider the impact to the city and it's residents. Seeking input from residents who have opinions, both pro and con concerning any ordinance is essential. It's then the job of council to analyze studies, financials...etc. and make a decision. I think each member of council should be willing to explain their vote to any resident for any issue</p>

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<p>Tom Wencel</p> <p>union plasterer</p> <p>Education: Annapolis high school graduate class of 1975</p> <p>Facebook campaign name: electTomWencel</p> <p>Campaign email: tgwencel@gmail.com</p>	<p>Lifelong resident of Dearborn Heights. Married to my childhood sweetheart for 42 years. We have 3 children and 12 grandchildren. I am a Dearborn Heights planning commissioner, Parks and Recreation commissioner, Watershed Steward commissioner. I deliver Meals on Wheels. I've been involved with City Beautiful Commission, Dads' Club (Kids sports), 20 years Habitat for Humanity volunteer. I volunteered for literally hundreds of Dearborn Heights projects throughout the city. My wife Debbie and I are raising five grandchildren ages 5 and 21 months, 4, 5 and 9 years of age. Our daughter Jaime (single parent) passed away ...</p>	<p>All issues can be addressed by one main issue and that is making Dearborn Heights a Destination City. Making Dearborn Heights a Destination City is one of my top priorities. This can be achieved by attracting young families into the city by providing top notch parks, bike paths, programs to encourage Community involvement and first class education opportunities, encourage business growth that would cater to young families, along with a "properly maned" state-of-the-art Public safety system. Middle-aged people will be attracted to Dearborn Heights by providing safe clean streets, increased involvement in neighborhood...</p>	<p>This is a no-brainer. Obviously to have equal representation you need city council members who live in all areas of the city. With only one current member of City Council living in the South Dearborn Heights it makes sense in having additional Southend representation. I am a Lifelong South end resident, making me the ideal choice to fill this void. Though I live in South Dearborn Heights I've been involved with many programs throughout the city including several in North Dearborn Heights such as the Rouge River Rescue, Dearborn Heights Spirit Festival, annual Easter egg hunt, Christmas tree lighting ceremony and ...</p>	<p>There are many layers to this issue. I will have to study this in more detail to come up with my views on many parts of this, with local, state and federal enforcement issues coming into play. I can tell you this that I am definitely opposed to growing marijuana in homes that people rent solely for the purpose of growing marijuana. We have one in my neighborhood and it is definitely not the situation that would encourage new families to move into the neighborhood and could be a factor with homeowners deciding on staying in Dearborn Heights or moving elsewhere. As far as hookah lounges go I have never been in one of...</p>



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