



Dearborn Heights Voter Guide

August 6, 2019 Primary Election

City Council Candidates

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Crestwood School District Ballot Proposal

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Dearborn Heights City Council

This is 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 and 4 seats up for election 2 years later.

4-year terms, ending December 31, 2023.

VOTE FOR UP TO 3 CANDIDATES

The candidates' responses to all questions have been limited to 750 characters (including spaces) and have NOT been edited for spelling, punctuation or grammar.

Dave Abdallah



Biographical Info

Education: High School Diploma from Fordson High School, 1984. Associates Degree from Oakland Community College, 1986. Bachelors Degree in Finance and Marketing from, University of Michigan Dearborn, 1989.

Campaign web site: <http://www.daveabdallah.com>

Facebook campaign name:

www.facebook.com/councilmandaveabdallah

Campaign email: info@daveabdallah.com

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Q: 1. *What is your background, and how will it help you to serve the city as Councilperson?*

A: I'm a devoted husband and father of 3 children. I am an active caretaker of my elderly parents, who also live in Dearborn Heights. I'm a graduate of the U of M-Dearborn in Finance and Marketing. I've spent my entire career in the Dearborn Heights area, proudly earning the title of top producing realtor for 31 years. I know the issues that residents face. It is vibrant neighborhoods and bustling economies that attract people to our city. I take my robust experience as a resident and as a realtor into consideration when making decisions that impact our neighbors. In addition to serving on council for 4 years, I serve on state boards, volunteer with many civic organizations also lending to my broader perspective making me uniquely qualified.

Q: 2. *What are your top two priority issues, and how will you address them?*

A: The top priority issues for me are to continue and expand the economic development that has commenced in Dearborn Heights, which includes the Van Born Corridor and development in North Dearborn Heights. My professional experience has taught me that most often the improvement and attraction of economic development into our city, attracts jobs, increases property values and benefits our residents overall. My other top priority is to continue to maintain water rates and taxes, not burdening on our residents with increased fees, and without compromising funding for police and fire services.

Q: 3. *What do you consider the role of a city council?*

A: City Council is the legislative body of our local government. In addition to checks and balances, it is the duty of the council to hold our administration and other government entities accountable, always acting in and serving in the best interests of all of Dearborn Heights' residents. The city council creates laws, rules and ordinances, designed to improve city efficiencies ensuring that we are improving the quality of life for all of our residents.

Q: 4. *How might the city address serious flooding concerns?*

A: Natural disasters are out of our control but government has an obligation to step up when they occur. Federal aid is often needed for these efforts. Our council immediately got to work with Congresswomen Tlaib and Dingell, and the Army Corp of Engineers to discuss the installation of a basin, to prevent floods. Unfortunately, the cost would exceed our entire city budget by 5 times. We are still working on creative solutions and researching grant opportunities while solving for this problem. The state and federal authorities take lead on this but as a council we are an active partner in the process. We continue to hear from residents and take into account their concerns while assisting homeowners the recovery of damages, when possible.

Q: 5. *What are your views regarding government transparency?*

A: Elected officials are public servants, we work for the people. Openness, integrity, and accountability are obligatory functions of government. I am a strong advocate of making information accessible to everyone. Information should be accessible through FOIA and/or the city website, providing minimal barriers to access for our residents. Providing our residents with information that is readily available ensures accountability for all branches of government.

Q: 6. *Do you think that sharing services with other cities (e.g., current sharing of library services) is an effective way to control costs and maintain high-quality services? Why or why not?*

A: I approach shared government services like I do any other proposed idea, with an open mind. I have one goal when making a decision or casting a vote: will this serve the best interest of the residents of Dearborn Heights? I have always been open to looking into shared government services. I would approach each service independently, and if we could maintain or improve our quality of service to our residents while cutting costs, then I am fully supportive.

Ned Apigian



Biographical Info

Education: Bachelor of Architecture; Master of Urban Planning; Associate of Liberal Arts; Associate if Science

Campaign web site: <http://NedAoigian.com>

Facebook campaign name: CTENed Apigian

Campaign email: ned.council@me.com

Email address: nishannishan@mac.com

Q: 1. What is your background, and how will it help you to serve the city as Councilperson?

A: I was elected to two Council terms (one partial and one full ending in 2015). My professional background is in design and physical planning. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Architecture, and Master's degree in Architecture, and a Master's degree in Urban Planning as well as two Associates degrees in Science and Liberal Arts. I am licensed by the State of Michigan in 3 disciplines: as an architect; professional community planner and a resident builder. Cities are comprised of streets, roads, parks, sewers, houses and commercial buildings. All require knowledge of State of Michigan rules, codes and ordinances that I deal with on a regular professional basis. I can offer very meaningful contributions to the decision making process.

Q: 2. What are your top two priority issues, and how will you address them?

A: Many of our current city ordinances require immediate improvement. This will require the addition of new ones, the alteration of some existing ones, and perhaps eliminating some all together. I will identify a few of them as follows: Our present tree ordinance is a problem as far as I am concerned for a place called an "Arbor City." Trees are cut down on the weekends without a permit. Major branches of trees are removed under the guise of tree trimming. Our fence ordinance is also a real problem as 50% are in violation of our present ordinance! The last issue is that we do not require house-site review plans for new houses. The second priority is the revision of our present 1963 City Charter which will solve many present issues.

Q: 3. What do you consider the role of a city council?

A: The Council has three primary functions: First, to adopt the City's Annual Corporate Budget as presented by the Administration/Mayor and the various Department Heads -- with the opportunity to alter any and all department budgetary requests. The second primary function is at the bi-monthly meetings where the Council reviews for approval, all requests by Department Heads for payment which can be viewed at any Council meeting or on television. These Council transactions are 100% transparent on the actions taken by the Council. All new and proposed City Ordinances are presented to the Council for

review/approval on a first, second, and third reading process. Any existing ordinance can be altered or eliminated following the same process.

Q: 4. *How might the city address serious flooding concerns?*

A: The Corps of Engineers has a plan for the Western Watershed affecting S. Dearborn Hts. When funds are available, it will be a major solution but not a panacea. All homes should have a "Back Water Valve." This device is located outside of the house on the House Foul Sewer line preventing foul sewer backups into your basement. All "Sump Pumps" must not discharge into any sewer but must discharge up and away from the house. Foundation drains should be located on both sides of footings to the sump pump to prevent water collection. You should not have a basement below the water table! The major problem is we have combined storm and foul sewers. When streets are flooded, water can backup into home basements without a back water valve.

Q: 5. *What are your views regarding government transparency?*

A: The primary issues regarding transparency concern the roles of the City Administration - the Mayor and the department heads. We need a Charter revision to answer these legitimate issues! The Council is subject to the State of Michigan "Open Meetings Act." All Council meetings are public and televised. All study sessions are public and may not be televised but they are open to the public. Council meetings are 100% transparent. Council members cannot meet in groups of three or more to discuss City business! The Council will only meet in private to discuss and approve law suits and other private, personal, and personnel issues including employee assignments, retirements, pensions, and other similar issues.

Q: 6. *Do you think that sharing services with other cities (e.g., current sharing of library services) is an effective way to control costs and maintain high-quality services? Why or why not?*

A: Currently, the City has several sharing relations with adjacent cities that are very useful to all cities involved! For those who do not know, we share more than library memberships with Dearborn. We use the Dearborn IT Department. We have collaborative agreements with other adjacent communities including our Fire Rescue Units which is a very serious revenue income producer which actually makes money for us. All of our police departments also cooperate with each other. Recently we did not succeed in combining Emergency 911 Services with Dearborn which presumably was to save \$140,000 which the Council did not approve. A few years ago, we had a serious discussion with Garden City to share our court facilities which did not materialize.

Jamal Bazzi



Biographical Info

Education: Fordson High School Henry Ford Community College

Q: 1. *What is your background, and how will it help you to serve the city as Councilperson?*

A: I have developed strong leadership skills throughout my career as a business owner. In my time working in the fuel and electric industries, I have acquired skills that will translate into the City Council. Our elected representatives are expected to lead initiatives and ensure that all proper avenues are explored in order to see these initiatives come to fruition. I will set measures in place, including but not limited to, setting up ad hoc committees, consulting with experts, and organizing Townhalls/Forums. I also believe a leader must be assessed by his or her principles. I have always held myself to a standard of honesty, integrity, and communication. These values, although very simple, are necessary for our City Council to develop.

Q: 2. *What are your top two priority issues, and how will you address them?*

A: Ecorse Creek Flooding – For decades, the Ecorse creek has generated many issues for the residents of Dearborn Heights, especially those living closer to the Creek. It is time to put forward a plan to construct a basin. We will need to bring in the Army Corp of Engineers to survey the Creek and the streets surrounding it in order to find out how we can best construct this basin. Raising funds for this program will require the Dearborn Heights City Council to seek out grants from the federal and state governments. Van Born Corridor Economic Development – Given that Ford Motor Company will be opening up on the Taylor city side of Van Born Street, there will be a great opportunity for us to develop our business and housing infrastructure on our

Q: 3. *What do you consider the role of a city council?*

A: A city council's role is to provide stewardship over the community based upon the interests, expressed preferences and needs of its constituents. By staying focused on the facts and actual circumstances surrounding the issues and challenges shared by the community at large, the City Council can adhere to a blue print that will address the aforementioned in an efficient manner. A City Councilor's role is to collaborate with his or her colleagues – fellow council members, appointed officials, staff members, and residents – to explore, develop and decide upon the best course of action to take and then execute it.

Q: 4. *How might the city address serious flooding concerns?*

A: Developing a basin will help to alleviate the major flooding issues in our city. Please refer to my answer for the Ecorse Creek flooding issue under Question 2.

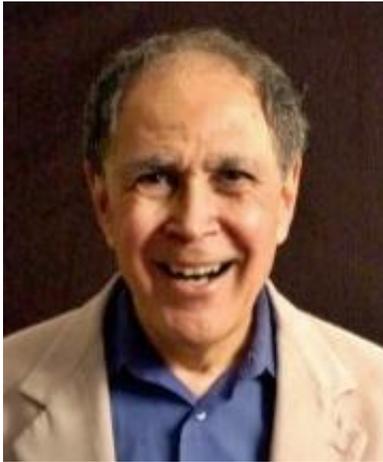
Q: 5. *What are your views regarding government transparency?*

A: I am an advocate of transparency in all government operations and this is especially true for all Dearborn Heights City Council activities. Transparency lends itself to efficiency. When residents have access to what's being discussed and explored throughout the process, the government – national, state and local – is provided with the opportunity to address and incorporate the valid input of its citizenry during the legislative process. Those citizens who follow and engage in city council activities and initiatives should be encouraged, not frustrated, in their efforts to show their support or dissatisfaction with their government. In addition, I believe that the channels of communication should remain open so our constituents have avenues

Q: 6. *Do you think that sharing services with other cities (e.g., current sharing of library services) is an effective way to control costs and maintain high-quality services? Why or why not?*

A: I am opposed to shared city services due to no conclusive data being present at the moment in support of the initiative in Dearborn Heights. However, we can consider the idea if experts conduct a study and present their findings at a Council meeting. We will then be able to weigh in on the pros and cons of shared city services. If it is economically sound, we can host Townhalls and Forums for the residents in order to get their input. If it attracts enough momentum, we can push "Shared City Services" to a proposal spot on the ballot.

Larry Henney



Biographical Info

Education: Business degree at Highland Park Community College. Attended the Detroit College of Business.

Campaign web site: <http://LarryHenneyForCouncil.Com>

Facebook campaign name: COMING SOON

Campaign email: LarryHenney@Comcast.net

Email address: LarryHenney@Comcast.net

Q: 1. *What is your background, and how will it help you to serve the city as Councilperson?*

A: I have worked as a self-employed Realtor for the past 31 years. I have brought thousands of people together to solve issues. I have assisted the cities of Livonia, Westland and Redford in implementing their Neighborhood Stabilization Programs in response to the housing crises. I can work together with my colleagues in city government.

Q: 2. *What are your top two priority issues, and how will you address them?*

A: (1) FIX THE DAMN FLOODING. It's going to take more than our city, more than the 4 cities that are affected to fix it. It will also take the county, state and federal government to tackle this problem. We need to take the recommendations of the Army Corp of Engineers. This is my top priority. If we can put a man on the moon, we can fix this. (2) DEMAND GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY. The Council and the Mayor fight and sue each other while the South end of our city is under water. I can work with the Council and Mayor to resolve problems. Transparency is the first step.

Q: 3. *What do you consider the role of a city council?*

A: The City Councils most important duty is to scrutinize and ultimately enact a balance budget. City Council must work in concert with the other branches of government to ensure that government operates efficiently.

Q: 4. *How might the city address serious flooding concerns?*

A: City government must continue to work with Wayne County and state government to fix this problem. I have addressed this issue in question #2 as one of my top priorities.

Q: 5. *What are your views regarding government transparency?*

A: One of my top priorities. City government must be transparent so that taxpayers know how their tax dollars are being spent.

Q: 6. *Do you think that sharing services with other cities (e.g., current sharing of library services) is an effective way to control costs and maintain high-quality services? Why or why not?*

A: Partnering with neighboring communities and sharing services makes perfect sense. We need to look outside the box. Library, Police, Fire, garbage pickup, water, housing and more are areas to explore. We can increase productivity and quality while eliminating duplicate spending.

Stephen Henry



Biographical Info

Education: Graduate Cherry Hill High School - Inkster Michigan

Campaign web site: <http://na>

Facebook campaign name: Committee to Elect Steve Henry

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Email address: info@electstevehenry.org

Q: 1. What is your background, and how will it help you to serve the city as Councilperson?

A: Dearborn Heights Business owner, Leader Printing, Veteran Owned, Union Shop. Dbn Hgts Chamber Member, 38 years. Board of Directors, Current Board of Director, DACC, Carl E. Stitt Post 232 Member, 24 yrs, Crestwood Football Coaching Staff, 2001-2016. Dearborn Heights Relay for Life Chair, 4 years, member St. Sabina's Parish, Rotary Club of Dearborn Heights Member, 38 Years, Past President (2) Board of Directors 37 years, Vocational Service Chair 14 yrs, Scholarships, 22 yrs. Resident / Homeowner / Taxpayer. Vietnam Vet, USN, Married to Pam 45 yrs, widower. four daughters. I believe my business experience, service to several organizations and the USN have taught me the teamwork needed to solve problems and nurture fresh new ideas.

Q: 2. What are your top two priority issues, and how will you address them?

A: 1) Upgrade our Parks, specifically the small neighborhood parks. We need safe, clean outdoor space. Basic activities offered. A storage box with some board games, puzzles, balls, picnic tables, playscape. Dog run, walking paths. Inexpensive options. Summer Interns / volunteers to help. Our baseball diamonds are in serious disrepair, we have Little League teams who need our support as a viable option to travel teams and encourage younger boys, girls and seniors to participate. Restore our adult Softball Leagues to provide revenue. 2) Establish a Dbn Hgts Business Development Authority to work with the DACC promoting our local business community. Street Fairs, a Farmers Market, summer concerts w local vendors? Both promote Community.

Q: 3. What do you consider the role of a city council?

A: Represent the residents in matters related to city government. Also requires an ability to work with the Administration to establish budgets, manage assets, employee relations / benefits and overall goals and community improvement.

Q: 4. *How might the city address serious flooding concerns?*

A: The flooding problem with Ecorse Creek is regional Issue which effects several communities. We need to keep pressing for a resolution in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers, Wayne County and our Municipal neighbors. I understand were able to utilize some city resources to provide temporary assistance recently. I can appreciate the frustration of the residents effected as I have been a victim as well.

Q: 5. *What are your views regarding government transparency?*

A: I'm all for it. I appreciate that we have access to important documents on the City Website. I review the minutes and resolutions of Council meetings every month as well as the Budget.

Q: 6. *Do you think that sharing services with other cities (e.g., current sharing of library services) is an effective way to control costs and maintain high-quality services? Why or why not?*

A: I think in the case of the Library its a win/win situation. It gives our residents access to resources they would not otherwise have. I would encourage any means of reducing cost and increasing benefit wherever it could be realized.

Lisa Hicks-Clayton



Biographical Info

Education: Bachelor's degree- Political Science Michigan Municipal League Elected Officials Academy- Level 1(Education), Level 2 (Leadership) and Level 3 (Governance) Monterrey Community College- Mediation

Facebook campaign name: Lisa Hicks-Clayton, Dearborn Heights City Council

Campaign email: hicksclayton4dhcitycouncil@yahoo

Email address: hicksclaytonlisa@yahoo.com

Q: 1. What is your background, and how will it help you to serve the city as Councilperson?

A: I bring over 30 years of community advocacy and leadership. I have served as a Dearborn Heights City Council member for eight years. During my tenure, I have been active with Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, serving on the Executive Board and the Michigan Municipal League Municipal Services Committee. I am the only candidate to achieve three levels of education with the Michigan Municipal League for elected officials. I have developed relationships with all levels of government leadership, positioning me to be effective and efficient at addressing the needs of our citizens. In addition, I develop community partnerships with local leaders, the business community and non-profits, bringing valuable resources to our community.

Q: 2. What are your top two priority issues, and how will you address them?

A: My top two priorities include: Improve quality of life and create a place where families wish to live and our elderly can retire. while attracting families and retaining families by offering a healthy business district, valuable and vital resources, offer key city services, including public safety and public services, as well as offer recreation opportunities for all ages. This includes clean and safe neighborhoods. This is done by developing community partnerships, seeking support grants and engaging our residents in visioning sessions, as they should have input. Restore trust in local government through open and honest dialog, town hall meetings, constituent service days and office hours. Restore civility in government.

Q: 3. What do you consider the role of a city council?

A: The City Council's role includes: Stewards of the taxpayers' dollars, fiscal oversight and approval of spending, approval of the City budgets, water budget, General Government, Roads/ Highway. In addition, the City Council approves all contracts, including labor union contracts. City Council may adopt resolutions , legal opinions, and pass new or amended ordinances. The City Council is the legislative branch and is the check and balance for the executive branch (Mayor and Administration). In addition, City Council members should actively seek resident input on issues important to them, assist with seeking solutions for

issues, and actively advocate for our community, including in Lansing and Washington on impacting the community.

Q: 4. *How might the city address serious flooding concerns?*

A: I have been working with Congresswomen Tlaib and Dingell (office). Recently, meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a time line has been developed for federal appropriations with a proposed shovel date of 2-3 years. Currently, phase 1 has been completed and phase 2 will begin with proposed federal appropriations in the FY 19/20. In addition, by working with Wayne County, seeking support for the 2010 Consent Judgement to be fully executed and dredge and widen the creek, brings more efficient flow to storm water run-off. The proposed incinerator plant conversion into a catch basin can significantly reduce flooding liability. Seeking a line item be added to the State of Michigan general budget FY 19/20 for flood victim support.

Q: 5. *What are your views regarding government transparency?*

A: Transparency promotes accountability and provides an opportunity for residents to be better informed about what is going on in their communities. A better informed constituency helps create a better dialogue between residents and government officials and results in better policy decisions. Transparency is also a time saver – having an existing method of being able to push information out means governments spend less time on public disclosure. It's also a time saver in terms of public knowledge and discussion. With the public being aware of existing policies and background to how and why decisions are made, city staff and officials can spend less time on the "history" of issues and more time on "what should we do next".

Q: 6. *Do you think that sharing services with other cities (e.g., current sharing of library services) is an effective way to control costs and maintain high-quality services? Why or why not?*

A: I support some shared services. This includes the library system and IT, as long as it meets the needs of our citizens and service is not compromised. I do not support outsourcing of vital city services, including public safety. Municipal government must seek solutions and streamline services, which would results in costs savings. However, a full analysis and input from professional consultants is key to establishing best practices.

Nadine Jones



Biographical Info

Education: BA in Sociology- Master's Degree in Public Administration and Public Policy

Campaign web site:

<http://www.facebook.com/NJonesforDearbornHeights/>

Facebook campaign name: Nadine Jones for Dearborn Heights City Council

Campaign email: Loveamichiganvet@yahoo.com

Email address: Loveamichiganvet@yahoo.com

Q: 1. *What is your background, and how will it help you to serve the city as Councilperson?*

A: I have volunteered for years at many organizations, giving my time to assist children, the elderly, animals and veterans. I served two terms for AmeriCorps assisting veterans and then started my own nonprofit, Love A Michigan Vet Project. I am very active on campus, including running my student organization The Associations of Women Veterans at the University of Michigan Dearborn. I will complete my Master's degree in Public Administration and Public Policy at the end of this year. I am a flight attendant and have been flying for 16 years, I am well-traveled and appreciate the differences of other cultures. I have a passion for serving and want to make a difference in my community and be able to help on a greater scale.

Q: 2. *What are your top two priority issues, and how will you address them?*

A: My first issue is transparency, as a current resident I am concerned with the problems our city is dealing with. I am not pleased with some of the things that have been going on. The administration must give the citizens a better outlet to voice their concerns. I feel that the administration must do a better job of listening to what the citizens want and assisting them. Doing this while being more open to the public and them allowing me to advocate on their behalf. Second issue is the flooding, I myself have personally been affected, and this is a major issue that needs to be rectified.

Q: 3. *What do you consider the role of a city council?*

A: I feel that the role of a city council member is one that represents the citizens and is able to step up and make the community better for all as a whole. To listen to the residents, put together goals and getting them executed. To bring their fellow council members, as well as the citizens together to work as a team to build a better community. Someone that steps up because they care not only about their family but their neighbors as well. I just want to make my corner of the world a better place.

Q: 4. *How might the city address serious flooding concerns?*

A: I feel that there needs to be revisions in place to finalize the flood zones along Ecorse Creek. There needs to be better mapping of where the actual flood zones are and put a plan of action in place to resolve the issue. We need to continue to reach out to the Federal government to ensure our voices are heard. In certain areas the water doesn't drain, professionals need to be called out and look into the draining system to discover why there are so many blockages.

Q: 5. *What are your views regarding government transparency?*

A: As I stated in my top priorities, I feel that a government should be transparent, especially on a local level. We live in our community, our neighborhoods thrive, and we thrive. We deal with issues that are important to us, these issues affect our family, children, neighbors and business owners. A council member should be easily approachable and honest with the residents. Concerns should be mapped out in black and white, no grey areas. The government should be open and share information of concerning issues and how they are being tackled, there needs to be trust. By being open we can work together to make our community better for us all.

Q: 6. *Do you think that sharing services with other cities (e.g., current sharing of library services) is an effective way to control costs and maintain high-quality services? Why or why not?*

A: I do not feel we should share all city services, we want the best for our city, and we deserve our own unique identity. If a service can be shared and not compromise our safety and makes sense financially, it may be something that could be considered. In an emergency, every second counts and our emergency response time could be affected. As student myself having libraries in our neighborhoods is extremely important. There are many students in our city, not all may have a computer or Wi-Fi at home. We live in a digital world, they need a safe place to be able to complete their school work. The library is also a place where people of all ages can get resources. A library is a free space where everyone is welcome.

Ray Muscat

Biographical Info

Education: Crestwood High and Ford Motor Company Apprenticeship Graduate from Henry Ford Community Collage

Facebook campaign name: Ray 4 City Council

Campaign email: Ray4citycouncil@gmail.com

Email address: rmuscatdhcc@gmail.com

Q: 1. *What is your background, and how will it help you to serve the city as Councilperson?*

A: • I have been a 50 year resident of Dearborn Heights and a graduate of Crestwood High School and a retired Ford employee of 42 years. As a Ford employee I earned a journeyman's card as a skilled tradesman. I was entrusted as a Leader with a wide range of responsibilities in maintaining of multimillion dollar equipment and building facilities. I became interested in local government and began to visit council and study sessions on a weekly basis starting in 2002. I ran for the council position at the request of many citizens and with their support I ran and was elected in December of 2015.

Q: 2. *What are your top two priority issues, and how will you address them?*

A: • I have been a 50 year resident of Dearborn Heights and a graduate of Crestwood High School and a retired Ford employee of 42 years. As a Ford employee I earned a journeyman's card as a skilled tradesman. I was entrusted as a Leader with a wide range of responsibilities in maintaining of multimillion dollar equipment and building facilities. I became interested in local government and began to visit council and study sessions on a weekly basis starting in 2002. I ran for the council position at the request of many citizens and with their support I ran and was elected in December of 2015.

Q: 3. *What do you consider the role of a city council?*

A: • The role of a City Council is no different than that of a State Rep or State Senator or even an elected official on the Federal level. Council is the legislative body of the city creating ordinances and being a go between the citizens and the administration in helping solve issues that may arise.

Q: 4. *How might the city address serious flooding concerns?*

A: • I believe that Dearborn Heights must go forth with the consent agreement with Wayne County and go forth with the recommendations from the Army Corp of Engineers.

Q: 5. *What are your views regarding government transparency?*

A: • At the present time I believe there is no transparency in any level of government. We as citizens need to demand from our elected officials that transparency is a must. Even governmental auditing standards do not allow true transparency.

Q: 6. *Do you think that sharing services with other cities (e.g., current sharing of library services) is an effective way to control costs and maintain high-quality services? Why or why not?*

A: • Shared services with other cities could be a benefit to reducing costs but only if Dearborn Heights has an equal share and ownership in any service. I am not favor of any shared services that Dearborn Heights is not a Full Partner

Rose Tripepi



Biographical Info

Education: Associates, Travel Agent License, Quality Management Certificated

Facebook campaign name: pending

Email address: rosetrip@wowway.com

Q: 1. What is your background, and how will it help you to serve the city as Councilperson?

A: I have a long history of civic engagement and governmental service. I have been on the DH TIFA for over 15 years. I serve on the Van Born Corridor, volunteer at Eton Center and drive the bus for senior trips. I am involved with the UAW both as a former employee and screener for over 4 decades. I am a proud member of the Italian American Club and a member and active volunteer at St. Sebastian Parish. I retired from being community liaison at Ford Motor Company. After listening to so many residents, I believe that its time to stop the petty politics and move forward in ensuring the city remains a place that I am proud to live in. My job, volunteerism and dedication will make me an asset to this great city.

Q: 2. What are your top two priority issues, and how will you address them?

A: First and foremost, the bickering and finger pointing need to stop. This fighting is accomplishing nothing but placing city in a bad light. I have listened to the residents and they are sick of watching these arguments. They are also sickened in how other elected officials trip over each other in putting down the city and jumping in the lime light. My no BS approach and background in quality management will stop this propaganda and put the focus back on the important issues, where it belongs. Secondly, having lived in the South End for over 40 years, I know first-hand how badly we need a flooding solution. I understand that this issue needs to stay current and in the forefront, not just during the elections or flooding years.

Q: 3. What do you consider the role of a city council?

A: According to the charter, a City Council Person's most important roles are to approve a fiscally responsible balanced budget, pass ordinances and award contracts. I believe that this can only be accomplished by listening to the experts, the employees, the department heads and most importantly, the residents. Casting shadows on these issues, pulls those officials and the city down. Positive motions and discussions are needed to encourage new homeowners and business to come to the city as well as keep the current residents and businesses happy and successful. If elected, I plan on constantly meeting with as many groups possible to ensure that my votes are the votes of the majority, not just during the election cycle.

Q: 4. *How might the city address serious flooding concerns?*

A: The Ecorse Creek has flooded and will continue to flood unless this issue is addressed regionally. While good for the surrounding homes, buying a few dozen homes for demolition will not stop the majority of the homes from flooding. We need to keep this issue current and important. We know the solution to the problem and we know what needs to happen. The Army Corps has the solution and the funding to offset this cost. This last flood has awakened this issue in other communities. Now is the time to unite with those communities to create one voice. Pressure on the County and the Army Corps is needed to get a shovel in the ground.

Q: 5. *What are your views regarding government transparency?*

A: The term "Government Transparency" has been overused to a point where people using it don't even know the true definition. Any time I hear someone telling me that we need to be more transparent, I follow up with asking what it is they really want. To date, not one person gave the same answer. It is my understanding that council meetings, discussion and debate are held in public. If a resident would like more information on something, then it can be granted under FOIA. I believe that information should be available, but am cautious that just because a report is available, doesn't mean that the reader will understand or interpret it correctly. The best option to be "transparent" is to have open discussion and explanations on issues.

Q: 6. *Do you think that sharing services with other cities (e.g., current sharing of library services) is an effective way to control costs and maintain high-quality services? Why or why not?*

A: While I don't believe in outsourcing, I do feel that shared services is a benefit in some instances. Because I have volunteered in the senior centers so long, I know that duplicating some resources is costly and unnecessary. Dearborn Heights needs to be able to offer core services to its residents, but sharing some services may enhance a residents lifestyle while also reducing city costs that could be allocated to other areas. In order to properly decide which services should be shared, I would ask for statistics and reports and do what is best for both the residents and the city.

Ballot Proposals

CRESTWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSAL

Crestwood School District Operating Millage Proposal

This proposal will allow the school district to levy the statutory rate of not to exceed 18 mills on all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, required for the school district to receive its revenue per pupil foundation allowance.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property, except principal residence and other property exempted by law, in Crestwood School District, Wayne County, Michigan, be increased by 3 mills (\$3.00 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 16 years, 2019 to 2034, inclusive, to provide funds for operating purposes; the estimate of the revenue the school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2019 is approximately \$0.00 (this millage is to restore millage lost as a result of the reduction required by the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and will be levied only to the extent necessary to restore that reduction)?

- Yes - For the Measure**
- No - Against the Measure**