



Oak Park-Huntington Woods- Royal Oak Township Meeting Notes

September 15, 2022, 7 p.m.

- I. **Welcome: Mary Ann Fontana** began the in-person meeting at 7:00 PM in the Huntington Woods Library with a warm welcome to members, new and continuing. She called on several new members to introduce themselves. Door hangers have been created to include names of all state-wide candidates and proposals across our three cities. In addition, there will be postcard mailings across our three cities to 2000 addresses.
- II. **Treasurer's Report: Andrew Cissell** encouraged folks to pay their dues. Status of finances: Soft money accounts have been closed. \$3673.30 (checking account); \$1000.00 (savings account).
- III. **Erica Peresman**, Voter Protection Director for the MI Dem Party, provided a comprehensive history of her work in this area and the critical importance of continued vigilance as we approach November 8. The Republican Party mission is to subvert elections, voter rights, and democracy are afoot, and we must counter it at every turn. Critical need for volunteers to be poll workers and poll challengers. Trainings are available on Zoom. A few reported their experiences as poll challengers. Natalie Price especially expressed gratitude for the VP hotline to report problems, seek solutions, etc.
- IV. **State Board of Education Candidates: Dr. Pamela Pugh** is running for re-election. She led a lively conversation about all the reasons that it is so important to be in public education at this time. **Mitchell Robinson**, also running for the State Board of Education, could not be present but hopes for our support. Equitable funding, fair and equal educational policies, and countering prejudice, hate, and injustice are just some of the issues at hand that need to be addressed.
- V. **Judge Marilyn Kelly** and **Danielle Atkinson** are the two Dems running for the **WSU Board of Governors**. Both are deeply committed to WSU and request our support so that they can work on behalf of WSU students to help improve educational policies and programs, including increasing interdisciplinary programs. Both have vast experience in their respective work and are choosing to be on the Board because they believe that WSU is an excellent institution, especially for first-generation college students.
- VI. **Renee Jefferson** is running for the **MSU Board of Trustees**. Her commitment is to accountability in governance, campus safety, keeping tuition affordable, increasing diversity, equity, and a sense of belonging, and supporting extension programs throughout the 83 MI counties.

VII. **Judge Michelle Appel** is running to re-election, has lots of experience and expertise, and endorsements.

Charlie Cavell is running for re-election as County Commissioner. He is committed to building thriving communities—strong businesses, healthy citizens, happy people. Sharing info with as many people as possible and across orgs as to how to do this is key.

Natalie Price is running for State House (District #5) and welcomes support, especially to join her in knocking doors in flippable districts in MI.

George Lundgren (Campaign Manager for Haley Stevens) said that Stevens is working on issues benefitting the district and needs volunteers to assist. Stevens is grateful for support in the primary and looks forward to November 8.

Yolanda Charles was supposed to be with us but had a family emergency. She is running to retain her seat in District #17 on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

VIII. **Good and Welfare: Mary Ann** urged us to help with door hangers as we are able and also to write postcards. She thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:38 PM.