



League of Women Voters – Troy Area November 8, 2016 General Election Polls Open 7 A.M. to 8 P.M.



For registration information, please contact the city clerk's office at 248-524-3316 or use the Michigan Voter Information Center <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/MVIC/> to confirm registration, get polling locations, and print a sample ballot.

View replays of Candidate Forums as follows:

Oakland County Board of Commissioners Districts 11, 16, 20 Forum

CMNtv Public Access: Monday at 5:00pm, Wednesday at 9:30pm
From Clawson City Cable you can get the above candidate's night on video on demand:
http://clawson.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=706
http://clawson.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=707

State Representative District 41 Forum

CMNtv Public Access: Wednesday at 11:30am, Friday at 6:30pm
from Clawson City Cable, you can get the above candidate's night on video on demand:
http://clawson.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=706
http://clawson.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=707

Troy School Board

CMNtv Public Access: Fridays starting October 7 at 9:30am and Saturdays starting October 8 at 9:30pm
TS-TV Comcast channel 19 and WOW channel 15: Monday, October 3 and Wednesday, October 5 noon and 7pm and Friday, October 7-Sunday, October 9 at 12:30pm and 7:30pm.
There will be more airtimes on both the TS-TV channel and the CMNtv Public Access channel shortly.
Video on demand via Vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/184906147>

Voter Guide for Troy School District - Board Member

Vote for not more than two (2). Six year term.

Kumar Bhatt



Occupation: Management Consultant/ Investor-Startups
Education: MBA (U of Chicago), MS - Materials Eng (Ohio State U), BE-Met E (Baroda)
Family: Married. Son: Athens, U of M. Daughter: Athens, Jr. in college-dual degree
Length of Troy Residency: 25 years
Prior Community Involvement: (Ex Volunteer) (i) Troy School Building Rationalization Committee. (ii) Athens Robotics (iii) Marching Band. (iv) Treasurer for City Library Millage
Campaign Phone: (248) 250-4506
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Questions:

Q: *There is a lot of divisive rhetoric today about people of different races, religions, and cultures. How can school board members help our students to value diversity and feel a sense of community in the Troy School District?*

A: Outreach efforts should be increased to seek and recruit world class school teachers and administrators that reflect the ethnic diversity of the community. Positive, diverse role models for the students will go a long way in dispelling half-truths and divisive rhetoric. It will be helpful to have local celebrities & alumni provide inspiring talks to reinforce the benefits of diversity. Why not make civic education the center piece of education thereby help our students learn about their roles and responsibilities as productive citizens of our society? Besides such an education will ease the process of assimilation and promote understanding through friendly dialogues. Having a liaison at each school can help with orientation of new (diverse) parents & their children. This upcoming School Board election is a chance for our electorate to effect positive changes.

Kumar Bhatt (cont'd)

Q: *Government spending levels continue to be a sticking point for many people, and the structure of our property tax system means that tax revenues increase slowly after an economic downturn. What ideas to you have to make the Troy schools more efficient while maintaining quality?*

A: 1. Publicity: The School District needs to quantify and publicize tangible and intangible benefits. For example, AP college credits are available. A simple chart that shows the grades obtained in AP subjects and the likely \$ value of college credits at various Michigan universities can be helpful for parents and students in estimating college expenses & understanding the value provided by our schools (e.g. smaller class sizes!). 2. Alumni Services for Alum & parents - Fund Raising, Internships, College Search. 3. ↑Resource utilization: (i) Price competitively / Make it easy to rent (play grounds/rooms/ auditoriums). (ii) Explore offering Summer sessions for overseas students. 4. Volunteer Tutoring system 5. For AP level, leverage IT for hybrid model of teaching. 6. Long Term: Sync school & city boundaries. Coordinate with City council

Q: *How can the Troy School District best ensure that all students achieve at a level that maximizes their potential?*

A: 1. Under-performing students: Identify comparative patterns of under-performance, either due to learning disabilities, lack of access to proper resources (teachers, technology, etc.), family's socioeconomic background, or a combination of all of the above. Together with teachers, parents, children and administrators develop cost effective solutions. Establish roles and responsibilities for each stakeholder. Adult Volunteers can provide after-hours coaching at TP Library. Monitor for success. 2. Gifted: Provide opportunities for extra learning to keep students challenged while allowing for normal childhood of exploration, growth and fun. 3. Regular students: proven best practices to encourage deep learning, curiosity & critical thinking.

Steve Gottlieb



Occupation: Retired Troy Teacher, 41 years; Realtor

Education: MA Central Michigan, Educational Administration; BA University of Michigan

Family: Wife, Jennifer; Four children: Allison, Jason, Sara, and Rachel

Length of Troy Residency: 38 years

Prior Community Involvement: Troy City Council, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Planning Commission, Athens HS Continuous Improvement Chair, Troy EA Officer, SODA Chair

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Email: mrgottlieb@gmail.com

Questions:

Q: *There is a lot of divisive rhetoric today about people of different races, religions, and cultures. How can school board members help our students to value diversity and feel a sense of community in the Troy School District?*

A: One of Troy's greatest strengths is the diversity in our schools. One way that school board members can help students value diversity is to involve students, families, and the community in this conversation. School board members can empower educators to work with these groups to define issues and work collaboratively to address them. To ensure success with this plan, professional learning for educators can be provided by the District so that they understand how to facilitate this work. Another approach is to encourage the hiring of diverse educators. To this end, school board members might work with our schools to put systems in place to ensure a rich pool of diverse candidates, such as teacher cadet or internship programs.

Q: *Government spending levels continue to be a sticking point for many people, and the structure of our property tax system means that tax revenues increase slowly after an economic downturn. What ideas to you have to make the Troy schools more efficient while maintaining quality?*

A: The Troy School District has worked hard to trim the budget for the past decade. In order to gain greater efficiencies and maximize resources further, we must encourage innovative thinking. Earlier this year I participated on the City's Financial Information Team (FIT) where a group of diverse stakeholders met to review the budget and offer suggestions. Engaging the community in this process allows for new perspectives on budgetary issues, and the District might benefit from such an analysis. Another idea is to provide our employees, students, and community members with an incentivized vehicle for thinking creatively about ways to reduce spending and increase income.

Q: *How can the Troy School District best ensure that all students achieve at a level that maximizes their potential?*

A: The Troy School District can maximize learning for all students by ensuring that systems work together using the district values as a lens for all decisions: deepening learning, cultivating a collaborative culture, and focusing direction. Research in education (Dufour, 2006) points to a few simple things we can do to ensure success for all students; basically, educators work collaboratively and continually to develop a shared understanding of what we want all students to learn, how we will know if they've learned it, what we will do if they haven't learned it yet, and what we will do if they've learned it already. As a District, we need to make sure that the opportunity for this collaborative work is a priority.

Elizabeth Lynn Hammond



Occupation: Owner and President of Contract Direct

Education: Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Michigan

Family: Husband Christopher Hammond Sons Kaiden & Kameron - Hamilton, Ethan (2 yrs)

Length of Troy Residency: 36 years

Prior Community Involvement: Wyngate of Troy Home Owners Association - President Hamilton Elementary PTA, Board Secretary

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Questions:

Q: *There is a lot of divisive rhetoric today about people of different races, religions, and cultures. How can school board members help our students to value diversity and feel a sense of community in the Troy School District?*

A: Troy is a very diverse community encompassing people of different races, religions, cultures and socioeconomic levels. As a community, we have a responsibility to promote kindness and inclusion. As a board, we will set district policy and in doing so have an opportunity to reinforce acceptance. We set the tone for students to feel either threatened or safe in our schools. As a board member, I will do my part to ensure that all students and their families are recognized, heard and valued as members of the community. As a school board member, I will have an open door policy. I plan to participate in our classrooms, meet with parents and take the time to fully understand the issues facing our District.

Q: *Government spending levels continue to be a sticking point for many people, and the structure of our property tax system means that tax revenues increase slowly after an economic downturn. What ideas do you have to make the Troy schools more efficient while maintaining quality?*

A: Troy schools can become more cost efficient and improve the overall quality of education through a reallocation of resources. Studies have shown that school efficiency and educational productivity can be increased by shifting resources toward those inputs that aid in increasing achievement and away from those unproductive inputs. In short, we need to evaluate where and how we have traditionally allocated our funds and the impact those funds have on the quality of education provided to all students. Through a reallocation of funds, the Troy School District can improve the quality of education provided without increasing overall spending.

Q: *How can the Troy School District best ensure that all students achieve at a level that maximizes their potential?*

A: The Troy School District can ensure that all students achieve at their maximum potential by not subscribing to a "one size fits all" educational philosophy. While I know that teachers are keenly aware that every child learns differently, as a district we need to provide them with the resources that will better enable them to teach each child. This starts with smaller class sizes! Further, teachers need to be empowered to tailor curriculum in a way that will speak best to their students' unique needs and learning styles. The goal of the teacher should not be to teach as much as they can. The goal of the teacher should be to help the students learn as much as they can. I know that Troy teachers are working hard to do this every day.

Bernard T. Lourim



Occupation: General Counsel - FANUC America Corp.

Education: J.D. U. of Michigan Law School/ B.A. Political Science U. of Michigan

Family: Wife: Lynne Children: Jacob (21), Harrison (19), and Emily (17)

Length of Troy Residency: 25 years

Prior Community Involvement: TSD Facilities Study Team/ TFEE-4 years/ President THS PTA/ Membership THS Boosters-8 years/ Chair THS All Night Party/ Coach-Troy P&R/ TBB-16 years

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Questions:

Q: *There is a lot of divisive rhetoric today about people of different races, religions, and cultures. How can school board members help our students to value diversity and feel a sense of community in the Troy School District?*

A: 1. Lead. All of us participate in activities and initiatives more when we feel comfortable. School board members can set the example for diversity by discovering and promoting a variety of comfort zones that reach all in our community. More involvement leads to a greater sense of community and appreciation of diversity. 2. Communicate. School board members can communicate with all parts of the Troy Community through public statements, written policies and procedures, and informal encounters. We also can initiate and publicize opportunities to connect, participate in these events, and listen to feedback, especially from new sources. 3. Learn. School board members can learn from these experiences – everyone needs to increase their cultural proficiency and the school board can lead the way. Then, we can apply what we learn with new initiatives.

Bernard T. Lourim (cont'd)

Q: *Government spending levels continue to be a sticking point for many people, and the structure of our property tax system means that tax revenues increase slowly after an economic downturn. What ideas to you have to make the Troy schools more efficient while maintaining quality?*

A: 1. We need to continue to focus on our core function – the education of our students – and scrutinize all expenses so that they are cost efficient and effectively directed at this function. Additionally, the school board can bring outside perspective and experience to offer new ideas for savings and productivity. 2. We need to take advantage of our community resources that can supplement our state funding. PTAs, PTOs, Booster groups, and the TFEE, for example, are all critical to adding value. This results in greater parent and community involvement, which benefits bond initiatives as well. 3. Technology can offer different methods to increase efficiency and put our resources to better use. Paperless initiatives, phone apps, and Internet uses can free us from redundant tasks that distract from teaching.

Q: *How can the Troy School District best ensure that all students achieve at a level that maximizes their potential?*

A: 1. We need to provide the most and the best resources that we can afford. This means teachers, staff, administration, teaching materials, and facilities. 2. Our offerings must be as diverse as our students, including special needs and gifted students, academic, athletic, and extra-curricular interests, and college and technical preparation. Our schools and community are better when all reach their potential and not just select groups. 3. We must challenge all students to achieve their potential with guidance, goals, strategies and examples. We can benchmark world class education for all of our students, research and study how that is achieved, and continuously improve our methods based on what we learn.

Sunilkumar Sivaraman



Occupation: Manager Emerging IT Ford Credit

Education: BS in Computer Science and Engineering, MS in Computer Science (pending)

Family: Married and Father of two daughters in Troy School District.

Length of Troy Residency: 11.5 years

Prior Community Involvement: Troy School Facilities Board Member, Coach for Science Olympiad & Destination Imagination, Athletic & Band Parent, Soup Kitchen & Road Clean volunteer

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Questions:

Q: *There is a lot of divisive rhetoric today about people of different races, religions, and cultures. How can school board members help our students to value diversity and feel a sense of community in the Troy School District?*

A: * During election season we see a lot of divisive rhetoric at a national level played out on TV and newspapers. While it is not possible to isolate our children from these messages, it is possible to minimize the impact of these on their young minds. * The Troy school community is already a diverse community and gives students the most important lessons in diversity and inclusion by allowing them to know, learn, and interact with people from different races, religions and cultures daily. * As a board member, I will continue to support the Diversity and Inclusion council. I will also ensure that our teachers and staff get the necessary training and professional development to work effectively cross culturally. * I will ask for a survey of parents and teachers to identify opportunities of improvement and work with school administrators to strengthen inclusiveness.

Q: *Government spending levels continue to be a sticking point for many people, and the structure of our property tax system means that tax revenues increase slowly after an economic downturn. What ideas to you have to make the Troy schools more efficient while maintaining quality?*

A: * The key is to ensure that money is spent on student learning, keep non-critical areas lean and work collaboratively with school community to continuously find ways to make our resources go further. * There are programs that have potentially outlived its utility. I will work with the board and administrators to collaborate with Teachers, Principals and Administrators to identify opportunities for cost avoidance and elimination of wasteful and redundant programs. * With the widespread availability of online education material, we have an opportunity to access those products to substitute or augment current programs without compromising the quality of education. * I will work with other school board members and administration to ensure that all dollars spent are consistent with district's strategic plan and focused on student learning.

Q: *How can the Troy School District best ensure that all students achieve at a level that maximizes their potential?*

A: * I believe our teachers are best positioned to understand and support our children in realizing their full potential. If we give them the flexibility and resources our schools will be able to support students who need more accommodation as well as the students that need to be challenged. * Technology is a tool that can influence the nature of learning, it provides new ways of tailoring schooling to suit each child. Working with the teachers and administrators I will make sure that they have access to professional development and tools to support student achievement. * As a board member we will set ambitious district vision that will encourage and support world class student activities.