

PARTICIPANT NAME: _____



PRIMARY CANDIDATE FORUM

AGENDA

July 20, 2017

DINNER

WELCOME:

Dr. Irvin D. Reid & Sheila Cockrel

OPENING CLICKERS

PRE-FORUM ACTIVITY:

Sizing Up Candidate Speech

PRIMARY CANDIDATE FORUM

At-Large City Council & City Clerk
Candidates

CLOSING CLICKERS

GET INFORMED. BE ENGAGED.

SIZING UP CANDIDATE SPEECH:

FORUM RESPONSES, DEBATES, SPEECHES, COMMERCIALS

Common strategies to watch for:

Pander – To tell people what they want to hear to gain their votes, even if unreasonable or not within the authority of that office. Can appeal to people’s prejudices or fears.

Pivot – To build a verbal bridge from one topic to a different topic. There can be good pivots (that respond to the question but drive home the candidate’s priorities) and bad pivots (that completely avoid the question).

Platitude – A moral statement so overused that it doesn’t add anything meaningful, and doesn’t offer any solutions. It can sound good, but doesn’t specify what actions the candidate will take.

Potshots – A criticism, especially an unfounded or irrelevant one. Usually when the target doesn’t have an opportunity to defend him- or herself.

Pertinent – Responds to the question asked, takes a clear position, and demonstrates meaningful, accurate knowledge about the issue that justifies that position,



EVALUATING YOUR CANDIDATES

1. Evaluate campaign speeches, literature and advertisements:

- Separate fact from opinion
- Identify propaganda
- Detect bias
- Evaluate the sources

2. Assess the candidate’s leadership abilities

- Look at background and experiences: how well prepared are they for the job?
- Observe campaigns: do they accept invitations to debate? Do they attend diverse events?
- Review campaign materials for insights into leadership qualities and priorities

3. Learn how others view the candidate

- Seek the opinions of others you trust. Look into campaign contributions
- Understand what endorsing groups stand for and why they endorse the candidate
- Examine opinion polls: Who sponsored the poll? How many people were included?

4. Be wary of distortion techniques:

- Name calling or attacks on characteristics that will not affect performance in office such as race, ethnicity, gender or marital status
- Catchwords/phrases that are designed to trigger a knee-jerk emotional reaction
- Passing the blame, where a candidate denies responsibility for an action or blames an opponent for things over which he or she had no control.
- Promising the sky or making unrealistic promises

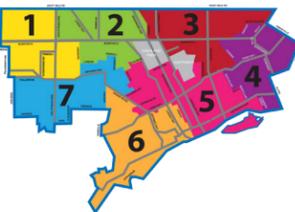
5. Finally, ask yourself:

- Which candidate’s view on the issues do you agree with the most?
- Which candidate demonstrated the most knowledge on the issues?
- Which candidate has the leadership qualities you are looking for?

Source: Adapted from League of Women Voters Education Fund

CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

*TOP VOTE-GETTING TABLE QUESTIONS FROM 5/25/17 DINNER 7 DIALOGUE

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE QUESTIONS	TOPIC BACKGROUND NOTES
<p>1. Council Candidate Question - Neighborhoods: How will you engage residents to improve neighborhoods and measure the outcomes?</p> <p>Table discussion question: In your neighborhood have you seen impacts of the demolition program? Do you believe your neighborhood is getting proper attention for city services?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the City Charter, except for inquiries and investigations, City Council may not give orders to any city officer or employee of the Mayor. (sec 4-113: Prohibition on Interference in Administration) • City Council must approve Mayoral appointments of: Chief of Police, Fire Commissioner, Director of Planning, Human Resources, Corporation Counsel • City Council must approve the sale or disposition of any City-owned property • Council has standing committees. The Neighborhood and Community Services committee, chaired by Councilmember Sheffield, covers Arts, Library, Youth, Seniors, Human Services, and Recreation, among others. <p><i>Sources: Detroit City Charter, City of Detroit website</i></p>
<p>2. Council Candidate question - Jobs & Housing: How would you ensure contracts and development agreements bring jobs and other benefits, such as affordable housing?</p> <p>Table discussion question: What specific community benefits are most important in your neighborhood?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracts for property or services requires City Council approval by resolution • All Council-approved contracts must be filed with the City Clerk and published on the City’s website including: contractor name, description of goods/services procured, total dollar amount, amount and date of all amendments • The Planning and Development standing committee, chaired by Councilmember Leland, covers Workforce Development and economic development. <p><i>Sources: Detroit City Charter, City of Detroit website</i></p>
<p>3. Council Candidate question - District and City at Large: How do you see your role as different from a district-based candidate and why is it necessary?</p> <p>Table discussion question: What has been your experience with district vs. at-large city council members? What is the responsibility of a district councilmember to a citywide issue like bankruptcy or the police department budget?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Until 1918, the Council had 42 elected aldermen, 2 from each ward. From 1919 to 2012, voters elected 9 at-large members. From 2013 on, per the new Charter, voters elect 2 at-large and 7 district members. • At Large: Each at-large council member represents the whole city. In larger cities, at-large members may be less responsive to localized issues. Also, a majority of members could live in the same area of the city. • District: Minority members are more easily elected in districts, leading to more diverse councils. Voters often feel closer to district members. However, district members may neglect citywide issues, and some may have more effective representatives than others. • Potential pitfall of hybrid systems: at-large members can consider their positions superior to district members, be perceived as rivals to the mayor. <p><i>Source: Citizens Research Council of Michigan</i></p>

<p>4. Council Candidate question - Water Shut-offs/Water rates: In the context of water shutoffs, how would you balance the responsibility to fund citywide water infrastructure with the responsibility to ensure resident health and welfare?</p> <p>Table discussion question: How do you balance the rights of those (some with fixed incomes) paying their water bills with those who cannot or will not pay?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unpaid bills (\$122 million) represent about one-third of the department's entire \$364 million budget. When more accounts are paying, the rates can be reduced overall. When more accounts are delinquent, the burden is passed to customers in the following year's rates. Detroit Water & Sewerage Department resumed residential water shutoffs in April 2017. A combination of water assistance funds and payment plans has reduced delinquent accounts from 40,000 in 2014 to 9,000 as of May 2017. City disconnects accounts more than 60 days behind and \$150 delinquent. A proposal to prevent shut-offs for expectant mothers, children under 18, seniors and those with disabilities is under review by the city's law department. <p><i>Sources: Detroit News, Bridge/Detroit Journalism Cooperative</i></p>
<p>BONUS: What advice would you give to your 18-year-old self?</p>	

CITY CLERK CANDIDATE QUESTIONS	TOPIC BACKGROUND
<p>1. Candidate question - Voting Process: How will you use technology and poll worker training to improve the voting process?</p> <p>Table discussion question: What has been your experience at the polls? What measures would you like to see taken to improve voting?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Michigan Bureau of Elections' audit of Detroit's 2016 election largely found that human error caused mismatches in the number of ballots and recorded voters, not illegal activity or widespread equipment failure. Recommendations include increasing knowledge of provisional ballot procedures and increasing the pool of workers with computer experience. After the 2016 election, the Michigan Legislature approved funding for new voting equipment, and Detroit will receive 700 machines in time for the 2017 August primary election. <p><i>Source: Michigan Secretary of State, Detroit News</i></p>
<p>2. Candidate question - Voting Rights: How would you ensure that voters, especially young voters and those from historically disenfranchised communities, have equal access at the ballot box?</p> <p>Table discussion question: What do you believe are the key barriers to getting people to vote? Many of the typical voting reforms require changes in state law. What would you be willing to do to assist the City Clerk in changing state law?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reforms to increase voter access include early voting, online registration, pre-registration, election-day registration. California allows 16- and 17-year-olds to pre-register online so they can vote once they turn 18. In Michigan, if you are not 18 by the registration deadline (Oct. 10, 2017), you cannot vote in the November election. Michigan requires a photo ID to vote. Voters without a photo ID can still cast a vote, but must sign an affidavit, and their ballots are counted on Election Day. Half of the 18,388 who voted in this manner in Michigan in 2016 were from Wayne County, including 5,834 in Detroit. Local issues include transience of renters - voting locations are based on residence, which is not always updated in registration records — and transportation to the polls. President Trump's Advisory Commission on Election Integrity requested, and then rescinded, from all 50 states, voter records, including social security numbers, felony records, and birthdates. <p><i>Sources: California Secretary of State, Detroit Free Press</i></p>

<p>3. Candidate question - Voter Registration: Online voter registration, available in 34 states, plus DC, is not offered in Michigan. Do you support making this available to voters? If so, how?</p> <p>Table discussion question: Do you believe online voter registration would be helpful? What would you be willing to do to help the City Clerk get online voter registration?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Michigan, one must register at least 30 days before the election date by mail or in person. If one registers by mail, their first vote must be in person. A 2014 Michigan survey found that 25% of 18-29-year-olds were not registered, the highest of any age range. Arizona, the first state to introduce online registrations in 2002, reduced registration costs from 83 cents for a paper form to 3 cents for an online form. Most states have spent less than \$300,000 to build online voter registration systems, and California saved ~\$2 million in making the switch. A change to online voter registration would require the state legislature to change state law. <p><i>Source: "Online voter registration in Michigan" Roosevelt Institute, University of Michigan, 2017</i></p>
<p>4. Candidate question - Online Presence: What changes or enhancements would you make to the City Clerk's web and social media presence?</p> <p>Table discussion question: How do you currently access City Council meeting agendas and policy reports? What do you think could make access more convenient? How important is it to you that voting results are available on election night?</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election officials in North Carolina, California, Colorado, and Connecticut are using technology to provide real-time, dynamic voter information online. In addition to running elections, the City Clerk is the official keeper of records for City Council - ordinances, resolutions, proceedings, etc. The City Clerk is responsible for maintaining "reasonably accessible" voter registration sites throughout the city on a year-round basis. Pursuant to Michigan law, the City Clerk is <p><i>Sources: Detroit City Charter, Center for Technology and Civic Life</i></p>
<p>BONUS: What advice would you give to your 18-year-old self?</p>	

ARTICLES REFERENCED IN BACKGROUND NOTES:

- Ferretti, Christine. "Nearly 18k at risk as Detroit water shutoffs begin." *The Detroit News*. 4/19/2017
- Kurth, Joel. "Detroit cites progress, but water shutoffs actually rose last year." *Bridge Magazine/Detroit Journalism Cooperative*. 5/2/2017.
- Laitner, Bill. "Detroit getting new voting machines, bound statewide." *Detroit Free Press*. 4/9/2017.
- "Bureau of Elections releases Detroit precinct audit findings." *Election News, Michigan.gov*. 2/9/2017.
- Oosting, Jonathan. "Strict voter ID law approved in Michigan House." *The Detroit News*. 12/7/2016.
- Eberhardt, Robin. "Trump's voter fraud commission tells states to hold off on sending data." *The Hill*. 7/12/2017.

AT LARGE CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE	BIO	YOUR NOTES
 Janeé L. Ayers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current at-large City Council member • Former Vice President of Metro Detroit AFL-CIO • Union member since 1999 • Former DPS science teacher • Former Detroit Recreation Department employee 	
 Brenda Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current City Council President • Serving 3rd term on Council • 30 years at Michigan Bell • Small business owner • Former President of local Communication Workers of America 	
 Beverly Kindle-Walker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently Legislative Assistant to Wayne County Commissioner Tim Killeen • Former Neighborhood City Hall Manager • Former Legislative Assistant to Council members Brenda M. Scott and Clyde Cleveland 	
 Alisa McKinney	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30-year small business owner • Real estate experience • Blue Cross Blue Shield Community Navigator 	
 Mary Waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not submitted 	

CITY CLERK CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE	BIO	YOUR NOTES
 Ronald Creswell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently serves as Recruiter & Administrative Support Clerk for Wayne State University's Veterans' Educational Opportunities Program • 10+ years as Precinct Supervisors • US Air Force Veteran 	
 Garlin Gilchrist II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-ever Director of Innovation & Emerging Technology for City of Detroit • Former National Campaign Director, MoveOn.org and Director of New Media, Center for Community Change • 2008 Obama campaign Social Media Manager for state of Washington • Software engineer for Microsoft 	
 Cynthia Johnson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not submitted 	
 Faustine Onwuneme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not submitted 	
 Heaster Wheeler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past Executive Director, Detroit NAACP • Former lobbyist for Detroit Public Schools • Past President, Black Fire Fighters Association • Former member of Detroit Fire Department 	

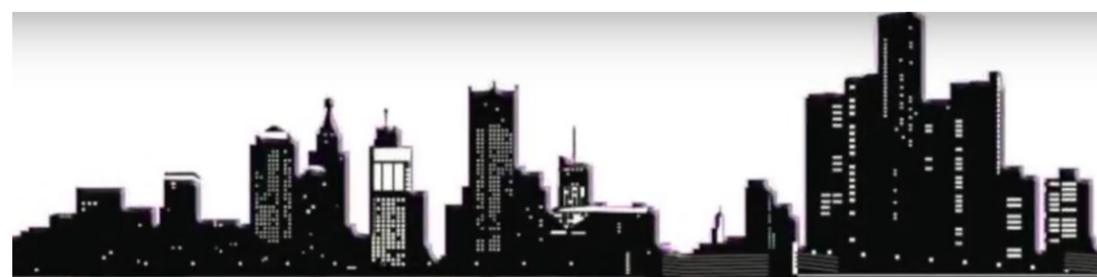
CITY CLERK CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE	BIO	YOUR NOTES
 D. Etta Wilcoxon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President & CEO, DEW's Consulting Agency and Wilcoxon Enterprises, Inc. • Former Government/Community affairs Manager, 3M National • Former Executive Director, Northend CDC • Former administrative aide to Detroit Common Council • Former city magistrate, Birmingham, Alabama 	
 Janice Winfrey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current City Clerk, first elected 2005 • Administers \$11 million budget for Office of City Clerk • Member of National League of Cities and Michigan Municipal Clerks 	

CANDIDATE VIDEOS

For more information about the candidates, check out CitizenDetroit's Youtube page for 5-minute candidate videos for every office - Mayor, City Council, City Clerk, and, for the general election, Police Commission.

 <https://tinyurl.com/citizendetroit>



WHO WILL RUN THE CITY?



Get to know your candidates!

City of Detroit Municipal Primary
August 8, 2017

These videos are not an endorsement of any candidate.
 Vote August 8, 2017 in the city of Detroit Municipal Primary Election.

OFFICES UP FOR ELECTION IN 2017: ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

MAYOR	The Executive/Manager. 4-year Term 2013 voter turnout for Mayor: 25%* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoints department directors, deputy directors, executive branch officials • Negotiates development agreements, selects contractors • Implements service programs and manages day-to-day operations
CITY COUNCIL TONIGHT'S CANDIDATES! (At Large)	The Legislative/Oversight Body. 4-year Term 2013 voter turnout for City Council: 24% for district seats overall** <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approves the city budget, sale of city property, Mayoral appointees • Approves development agreements and contracts • Exercises oversight and investigatory power over all city departments • Adopts ordinances and resolutions 2 at-large members and 7 district members. Elected council members vote on Council President
CITY CLERK TONIGHT'S CANDIDATES!	Runs Elections. 4-year Term 2013 voter turnout for City Clerk: 24%* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervises all aspects of elections • Supervises voter registration and certification of candidates for office • Serves as official clerk for City Council • Maintains records of all City Council ordinances, resolutions, meetings
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS	Civilian Supervisory Control & Oversight over Detroit Police Dept. 4-year Term 2013 voter turnout for Police Commission: 16% overall** <p>Charter purpose is "to increase public confidence and trust in the Detroit Police Department by providing competent, objective, and effective civilian oversight."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversees investigations of civilian complaints against police • Develops policies for police department with Mayor and Police Chief 7 elected district-based members and 4 at-large members appointed by Mayor for 5-year terms
	*Total number of votes for that office/total number of registered voters **Combined number of votes for all district offices/total number of registered voters Source: Detroit Office of the City Clerk

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY



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