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Royal Oak Review (MI)

Voters to decide local races

2009 Voter Guide

Published: October 21, 2009

Voters in Royal Oak and **Clawson** will hit the polls on Nov. 3. Local candidates were asked, in a 150 words or less, to state the top items they would wish to accomplish if elected and how they would go about accomplishing them. If a candidate went over their word limit, (...)replaced the rest of their answer. (I) indicates the candidate is an incumbent. The answers are printed verbatim. Mayor, Royal Oak One candidate is running for one two-year position. James Ellison (I) did not return his questionnaire to C & G Newspapers by deadline.

City Commissioner, Royal Oak Four candidates are running for three four-year positions.

Andrew Androff Age:31 Occupation:Co-owner of Professional Movers, Inc.

Resident of:Royal Oak Resident of municipality for:6 years Previously held elected offices:Elected Precinct Delegate to County Convention
Education:Oakland University - B. S. Marketing; Wayne State University - MBA, Business Management Top three things you wish to accomplish if elected:Ensure Public Safety:Police, Fire, and EMS must be available to service our neighborhoods, not just our downtown. I will proactively manage risk and use smarter planning, such as voting yes to limit "Mega" bars and ensure our Public Safety resources are allocated to our neighborhoods where our residents need them the most.

Achieve Financial Stability:As a business owner, I know how to reform city hall and bring it in line with the private sector. I am against a property tax increase. I will provide more focused and tougher budgeting, elimination of wasteful expenditures and better utilization of revenue.

Protect Neighborhoods:I will enforce the maintenance of foreclosed homes and vacant school properties to protect our property values. I will only pursue developments that are consistent with the Master Plan. Projects must offer balance and must preserve and enhance our existing neighborhoods.

I am committed to preserving every park. Patricia Capello Age:62 Occupation:Retired Resident of:Royal Oak Resident of municipality for:37 years Previously held elected offices:City of Royal Oak City Commissioners 2004-2007 Education:1965 Berkley High School -Magna cum laude; 1968 Oakland University BA - Cum laude; Many managerial, marketing, and technical training classes as part of the Bell System employment.

Top three things you wish to accomplish if elected:1) Operating Budget - We need to find new sustainable sources of revenue to maintain our current force levels. We need to be friendlier to businesses looking to locate in Royal Oak, and begin a serious recruitment program for new businesses, targeting desirable industries.

Otherwise, personnel and service cuts will be necessary.

2) Building partnerships with the employees - The only way for us to get through these bad economic times is for all of us to work together. We need to do a better job of communicating with our employees, both the good news and the bad. We need to listen attentively, and determine if employees may be open to new ideas we have not explored.

3) Consistency -I have heard so many complaints about inconsistent application of ordinances, policies, and practices. We need to insure consistency by establishing decision parameters, and making certain that they are communicated and followed.

Dave Poulton Age:37 Occupation:Attorney Resident of:Royal Oak Resident of municipality for:5 years Previously held elected offices:None
Education:Bachelor's Degree:University of Michigan; Law Degree:Michigan State University College of Law Top three things you wish to accomplish if elected:1) Transparent and Accountable Government:I want to make all city budgets and public records easily accessible on the city's website, so residents can find the information used to make city decisions.

Our next City Commission must adhere to the highest ethical standards.

2) Budget:I will bring our city government in line with the private sector by eliminating wasteful expenditures and making better use of our revenue. I will prioritize the budget to fund city services in the most efficient manner possible. I will cut red-tape at city hall to allow new businesses to open more quickly and create jobs for our residents.

3) Protection of our Neighborhoods:We need smart development for a balanced downtown with a mix of residential, retail, office, and entertainment, which will protect our property values. We must also protect our citizens by ensuring the fire and police departments have the appropriate staffing levels.

James Rasor Age:46 Occupation:Owner, Senior Trial Counsel of the Rasor Law Firm Resident of:Royal Oak Resident of municipality for:16 years Previously held elected offices:None Education:BA, James Madison College at Michigan State University, 1985. JD, University of Detroit School of Law, 1989.

Top three things you wish to accomplish if elected:1. Jobs-I will seek out and recruit business to locate and create jobs in Royal Oak. I will require developers to use local content when possible. These businesses will eliminate the blight of empty buildings in our commercial corridors and enhance our revenue.

2. Budget-I will restore appropriate levels of service to our residents and businesses so that we can provide police, fire and code enforcement to the four corners of the City.

I will enhance our recreational facilities to include a network of non-motorized transportation trails and a community pool.

3. Ethics-I fight for transparency in government, ethical actions from our leaders, and accountability by our employees. I will establish a way for citizens to make their complaints known and will enact a method to resolve them so that our leaders, volunteers and employees will exceed citizen expectations.

Ballot questions Royal Oak voters have two issues on the ballot Charter Amendment Currently, the Charter at Chapter 5, Section 5 (a), requires publication of ordinances in full within one week of adoption in a newspaper printed and circulated in Royal Oak. The proposed changes, if adopted, would allow the summary publication of ordinances within one week in a local newspaper printed or circulated in Royal Oak and in full on the Internet.

Shall the proposal be adopted? Proposal to Amend the Liquor Control Ordinance Should the City of Royal Oak's liquor control ordinance be amended to limit the authority of the City Commission to approve new applications for the transfer of liquor licenses from outside the city into the city for a period of two years? Mayor, **Clawson** Two candidates are running for one twoyear position.

Kurt Hack Age:35 Occupation:Engineering Project Manager for Guardian Industries Corp.

Resident of:**Clawson** Resident of municipality for:11 years Previously held elected offices:City Councilman, Mayor Pro-Tem Education:Eastern Michigan University - Statistical Process Control & Lean Manufacturing; Macomb Community College - Computer Information Systems; Microsoft Certified Solutions Developer (MCSD); Microsoft Certified Trainer (MCT) Top three things you wish to accomplish if elected:"Sunlight is the best disinfectant," refers to the benefits of openness and transparency.

As your Mayor, I would shape **Clawson** into a respected and credible organization that operates in complete openness.

Our residents deserve a city they can take pride in; It is key in **Clawson's** competition for homeowners. To succeed in our downtown I would further streamline the processes involved with a opening and expanding business. Furthermore, I would aggressively address blight throughout **Clawson** and market ourselves as both business and homeowner ready.

In today's financial reality, stong economic policy is crucial. I would change our budgeting processes to forecast out three years instead of one. This allows us to be proactive instead of reactive in our financial decisions. I would also move to an activity based costing model so that we can discuss the true cost of government and how it best serves its constituents.

Penny Luebs (I) Age:55 Occupation:Social Worker Resident of:**Clawson** Resident of municipality for:30 years Previously held elected offices:City Council 2003-2007, **Clawson** Mayor 2007 - present.

Education:Master's Degree in Social Work from Eastern Michigan University Top three things you wish to accomplish if elected:We need to focus on a budget living within our means. We are experiencing a changing economic landscape where sources of tax revenue will not increase at the rates we've grown accustomed to. One goal is to explore lowering our fiscal debt to increase bond ratings which will result in lower interest rates, explore grants, and dialogue with city staff to lower operating costs.

Study land use and traffic patterns to enable **Clawson** to become a bikeable and walkable community. Utilize smart growth principal. Develop an enhanced recycling program and an energy efficient plan with public input.

Emphasize City government that is easily accessible and works in partnership with the community to maintain the character and quality of a small town atmosphere.

Recognize that our neighborhoods and local businesses remain the foundation of our community. Encourage increased growth in our business district. Promote community activities. Build on our strengths. City Council, **Clawson** Five candidates are running for two fouryear positions.

Michael Francis Bolger Age:45 Occupation:Project Manager - Synergy Group (Commercial Construction) Resident of:**Clawson** Resident of municipality for:15 years Previously held elected offices:None Education:Oakland Community College - Business Administration; Oakland University - Business Administration; Dunwoody Institute - Construction Estimating; Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP) Top three things you wish to accomplish if elected:Budget:Explore areas that can be reduced without decreasing our level of services. City services that are contracted out are areas which can be competitively bid to ensure that **Clawson** is able to receive the most service for our money. The current economic situation lends itself to a very competitive market.

Safety and Building the Community:Increase community involvement through use of volunteers and public events. There is a wealth of knowledge and expertise from people who live and work in **Clawson**. People are a valuable resource in our community and we have a sense of pride.

Recycling:Not only is recycling good for our planet, but it is good for **Clawson**.

We pay a bill to take our garbage away and are paid for what we recycle. The money we save by recycling allows us to use the money for capital improvements, building improvements, infrastructure repair, and new equipment.

Thomas Palmer (I) Age:67 Occupation:Retired from General Motors (42 years) Resident of:**Clawson** Resident of municipality for:43 years Previously held elected offices:**Clawson** City Council 34 years Education:High School Graduate Top three things you wish to accomplish if elected:1) Finances are the top priority; we must work to maintain city services with declining revenues caused by reduced state revenue sharing and lower property values.

We need to direct the administration to work with other government agencies to share services wherever possible and to continue to evaluate our operations to look for efficiency gains.

2) We must continue to work on improving and repairing our infrastructure.

We have made a good start but there is much more work to be done. We need to continue to seek grants to help stretch the limited amount of bond money we have remaining.

3) We must make sure we keep up with modern technology by being aware of, and investing in, new systems designed for municipalities.

Kathy Phillips (I) Age:51 Occupation:Self-Employed Realtor with Century 21 Town & Country & Owner of Ganci Graphics (Graphic Design) Resident of:**Clawson** Resident of municipality for:30 years Previously held elected offices:No other previously held elected offices prior to currently serving on Council now.

Education:Assoc. in Graphics Arts from OCC; 3 years at Oakland University in Business Management Top three things you wish to accomplish if elected:To continue to make fiscal responsibility my top priority, exploring grants, select shared services, and new ways to save while still growing.

Encouraging more community involvement on committees, at meetings, listening to new ideas, and representing the interests of the community and not my own personal agendas.

To entice business to **Clawson** and better assist them with a streamlined process while not compromising city and community standards. We need to have businesses that our community and surrounding areas will support, and to promote **Clawson** as a safe, clean, actively involved community.

To strengthen the avenues of communication between community, business, and city government including better communication within the council. Encourage those with an interest in this community to contact members of council, City Manager, Department heads, Police and Fire Chiefs, if they have questions or suggestions. City government is only as strong as its residents and businesses.

Ethan McClure Age:33 Occupation:Mechanical Engineer Resident of:Clawson Resident of municipality for:27 years Previously held elected offices:None Education:Clawson High School Graduate, 1994 Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Detroit Mercy, 1998 Top three things you wish to accomplish if elected:The City needs to maintain its budget while keeping city services. Competitive bids and making sure the city works on necessary projects are part of this, but so is encouraging recycling, which brings money into the city while decreasing waste and cost of removing it. Grants are also a way to fund projects, but they do come with requirements. These requirements must be examined early in the application process to ensure the end result is truly in the best interest for our entire community.

The city needs to be constantly pursuing community development by encouraging and supporting our resident's involvement in city events and creating new ones that make Clawson a great place to visit, shop, and most importantly live, all of which help increase our home values.

Improving communication is key to a more efficient government and good relationships between the city, its departments, schools, organizations, and residents.

Timothy Simon did not return his questionnaire to C & G Newspapers by deadline.

Ballot question Clawson voters have one issue on the ballot Drain Millage Proposal Shall the City of Clawson, County of Oakland, Michigan, be authorized to pledge its unlimited tax full faith and credit for payment of the City's share of the George W. Kuhn Drainage District Drain Bonds in the total outstanding principal amount of \$5, 714, 287, originally issued in series between 2000 and 2008 and payable through 2029, and the City's share of the City of Royal Oak North Arm Relief Drain Revenue Bonds, Series 1998 in the principal amount of \$1, 559, 774 and payable through 2020, which were all issued for the purpose of paying the cost of financing and refinancing certain drain improvements relating to the George W. Kuhn Drain and the North Arm Relief Drain? The estimated millage to be levied in 2010 is 1.73 mills (\$1.73 per \$1, 000 of taxable value) and the estimated simple average annual millage rate required to retire the bonds is 1.06 mills (\$1.06 per \$1, 000 of taxable value).

Board of Education, Royal Oak Neighborhood Schools Three candidates are running for two fouryear positions.

Carrie Beerer Age:41 Occupation:No answer Resident of:Royal Oak Resident of municipality for: 15 years Previously held elected offices:Never ran for an office other than PTA before Education:BA in communications from Michigan State University Top three things you wish to accomplish if elected:Royal Oak is a great place to raise and educate a family. I am committed to maintaining, building on and communicating that vision. My concerns for the district include preparing our students for their continuing education, encouraging a sense of pride in Royal Oak Schools, building on our reputation for excellence and maintaining our fiscal responsibility to the community.

Maintaining our extra curricular options and opportunities beyond the classroom will encourage students to be connected to their school. Utilizing the resources we have in Royal Oak and keeping the community and the school connected will help us all raise well rounded students.

Serving on the School Board is a natural extension of my desire to volunteer in my community. Volunteer participation in the schools will be a crucial component to maintaining programs and fiscal responsibility.

Jeffery Anthony Brinker Age:44 Occupation:Engineer / Project Manager Resident of:Royal Oak Resident of municipality for:15+ Years Previously held elected offices:None Education:Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, Lawrence Technological University (1990). Master of Science in Computer Science and Engineering, Oakland University (2004). Doctorate of Engineering in Manufacturing Systems, Lawrence Technological University (In Progress).

State of Michigan Licensed Professional Engineer.

Top three things you wish to accomplish if elected:With the changing economy and the decline in state aid, keeping our educational standards high will be the critical issue that needs to be addressed. The board will need to ensure that the budget not only is balanced but reflects the district's priorities as well as provide strategies to help improve efficiencies to meet our goals. Every line item of the budget will need to be re-examined to determine if savings and/ or different methods of delivery can be used to meet our goals while minimizing costs.

We need to provide a world class education to our students in preparation for their future. The board will need to provide strong leadership and vision as well as oversight to the administration to ensure we focus on top shelf teaching for all students.

These as well as other issues will be prioritized, reviewed and acted on via data driven decisions using an open, (.) Arthur Makarewicz Age:39 Occupation:Operations Supervisor-Automotive Industry Resident of:Royal Oak Resident of municipality for:6 years Previously held elected offices:None Education:Bachelor of Arts in American Public Affairs (James Madison College) Michigan State University 1992; Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Eli Broad College of Business) Michigan State University 1999 Top three things you wish to accomplish if elected:Health and Safety-It is my overriding priority to ensure that our Children have proper nutrition, safe transportation, a stable and sanitary learning environment, a facility free from harassment and bullying, support and counseling services when needed, and guidance through every step of our journey.

The Budget-As School Districts across this county face budgetary struggles it is of utmost importance that we, as shareholders in the community, come together to collectively set our priorities and map out a plan to get there. This will entail going through our Budget and identifying opportunities to save monies so that we can continue to focus on our core mission, educating our children.

Teamwork/ Communication-Outlining our game plan to all shareholders in this community, involving them in the decision making process, seeking their advice and assistance, and getting their "buy-in" will be critical to our collective success.

Caption:Androff Capello Poulton Rasor Bolger Palmer Phillips McClure Brinker Makarewicz

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