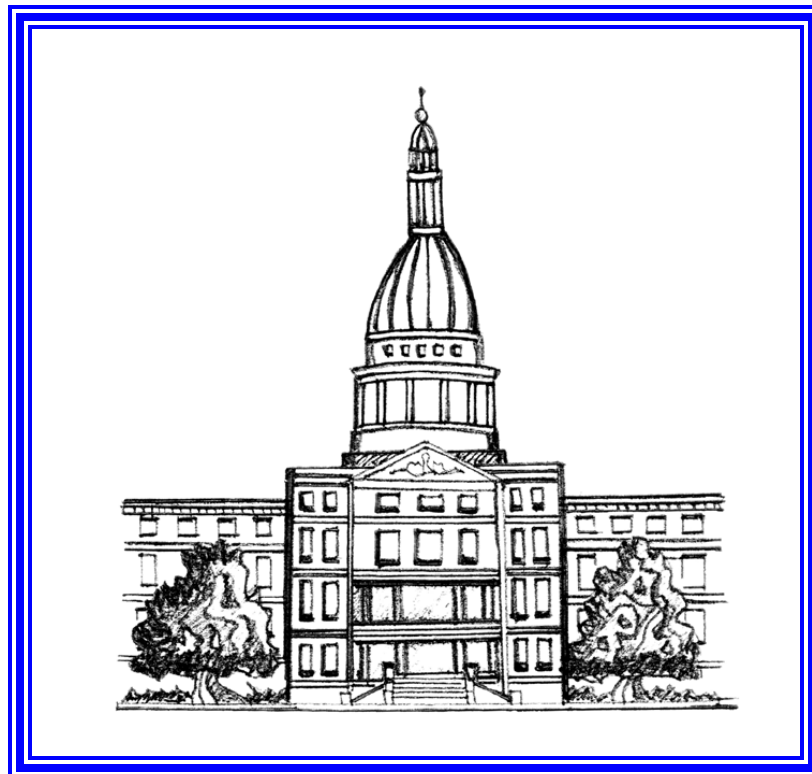




# League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area Voter Guide



## DELTA CHARTER TOWNSHIP GENERAL ELECTION November 4, 2008

Under a Michigan law upheld in July 2007 by the Michigan Supreme Court, ALL voters are required to show photo identification to vote at the polls. If you have no photo identification or don't have one with you, you must fill out and sign an affidavit in order to receive a ballot. The ID requirement does not apply to persons voting by absentee ballot.

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# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LANSING AREA VOTER GUIDE

## CANDIDATES FOR THE DELTA CHARTER TOWNSHIP GENERAL ELECTION

The League of Women Voters is a national nonpartisan organization established to encourage citizen participation in government. It never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. The League of Women Voters does support or oppose governmental action on issues after careful study, without regard to the stand of any political party. This Voter Guide is also available at: <http://lansing.mi.lwvnet.org>.

This guide was prepared with the help of League members, students and members of the community interested in the issues. The personal statement is limited to forty-five (45) words or fewer. The response to each question is limited to thirty-five (35) words. The answers are printed as submitted and have not been edited, except for necessary cutting when replies exceed the stated word limitations. If the candidate does not reply by the required date for publication, the words "Did not reply in time for publication" appear by the candidate's name. When a candidate exceeds the word limit the answer ends with an ellipse (...). They respond in alphabetical order by Party. The Michigan Secretary of State's Party will always appear first on the ballot. **All candidate responses are in bold.**

Publication of these statements and opinions of the candidates is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement thereof by the League of Women Voters. The League of Women Voters takes no responsibility for any of the views or facts as stated by the candidates.

Eaton County is holding an election on November 4, 2008. Candidates have been gracious enough to draft responses for this Voter's Guide. **All candidate responses are in bold.** The following races are covered in this Voter Guide.

Delta Charter Township Supervisor – 4 year term – Vote for 1 candidate  
Delta Charter Township Clerk – 4 year term – Vote for 1 candidate  
Delta Charter Township Treasurer – 4 year term – Vote for 1 candidate  
Delta Charter Township Trustees – 4 year term – Vote for 4 candidates

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# Delta Charter Township Supervisor

**Election assigned to this office:** General Election 11/ 04 /2008

**Office Description:** The supervisor is the township's chief executive officer. The supervisor presides over Board of Trustees and the annual meeting. The supervisor is the township's legal agent. The supervisor must maintain the records of the supervisor's office, develop the township budget and provide other duties as prescribed by law.

**Salary:** \$22,387.13 (part-time)

**Term of office:** 4 years

**Partisan Election**

**Vote for ONE (1) candidate**

**Joseph E. Drolett (R) (Incumbent)**

**PERSONAL STATEMENT: (45 WORDS)**

*Lived in Lansing and Delta Township my whole life. Wife Kathie and four grown children. Graduated from Sexton High School, served in the USMC and then graduated from MSU with a BA degree. Along with my wife we own Drolett Travel and Carpet Man.*

**QUESTIONS:(35 WORDS)**

**1. What do you expect to accomplish in the office for which you are a candidate?**

*I intend to continue on making Delta Township of the the best Township in Michigan. Strong finincal controls. Open and friendly govenment, Parks, Paths, Excellent fire, police and paramedic services, protected supdivisions, and stong industrial (...).*

**2. What are your technical qualifications or experience for this office?**

*I have a degree from MSU, have started and run two successful businesses and have been Supervisor of Delta Township for 30 years. Along with this I was on the group that sought and obtained (...).*

**3. What are the most important issues this office should address?**

*Lansing provides securitIn todays economy, financial responsibility is one the the main concerns and objectives along with economic development and job creation and economic diversification of the regional economy.*

**Kenneth R. Fletcher Democrat (D)**

**PERSONAL STATEMENT: (45 WORDS)**

*My wife Tammy and I are the proud parents of three beautiful children and we are active in our church, St. Gerard Parish. I work at the Michigan Nurses Association where I advocate for nurses and their patients. We live in the Broadbent Woods subdivision.*

**QUESTIONS: (35 WORDS)**

**1. What do you expect to accomplish in the office for which you are a candidate?**

*I will fight to preserve the quality of life in our neighborhoods, promote economic development to bring new jobs to the area and will restore openness and transparency to township government.*

**2. What are your technical qualifications or experience for this office?**

*I'm a graduate of James Madison College at MSU. I have twenty years of experience fighting at the State Capitol to ensure fair wages, quality health care, and a secure retirement for all families.*

**3. What are the most important issues this office should address?**

*The Supervisor's office must to be more responsive to the needs and wishes of the taxpayers. I will end the practice of ten minute board meetings and will seek public input before decisions are made.*

## Delta Charter Township Clerk

**Election assigned to this office:** General Election 11/ 04 /2008

**Office Description:** The clerk maintains custody of all township records, maintains a ledger, prepares warrants for township checks, maintains township meeting records, keeps election roles, conducts elections, and performs other duties as prescribed by law. The clerk must appoint a deputy clerk and post a surety bond.

**Salary:** \$74,261.63 (full-time)

**Term of office:** 4 years

**Partisan Election**

**Vote for ONE (1) candidate**

**Janice Vedder (R)** (Incumbent)

**PERSONAL STATEMENT: (45 WORDS)**

*Providing fair, accurate elections while being prudent with your tax dollars has always been my mission for our residents. I will continue working on Greener Delta, Passports, township records, zip code and managing the Clerk's Department.*

**QUESTIONS: (35 WORDS)**

**1. What do you expect to accomplish in the office for which you are a candidate?**

*Provide passport service to residents/generating increased revenue to the general fund. Reduce costs in Clerks Office. Work with MI. Clerk's to consolidate elections, pass legislation: no-reason AV, early voting legislation and paperless poll books.*

**2. What are your technical qualifications or experience for this office?**

*Twenty years as Clerk, Certified Municipal Clerk, experienced in State and Federal Election Law, accredited by State Elections Division to teach inspectors, experienced in Qualified Voters File, Statewide Voter Lookup, AVote, and Codification of Ordinances.*

**3. What are the most important issues this office should address?**

*Reduce costs through technology. Improved accessibility to election process for voters by using: early voting, no reason absentee voting, paperless poll books, increased skill levels for elections workers and emergency planning on Election Day.*

## Sherry L. Freeman (D)

### PERSONAL STATEMENT: (45 WORDS)

*I'm a proud, working Mom. Now that my children are grown I will apply the skills I learned as a mother and small business owner (Union Station Barber Shop) to the office of Clerk for Delta Township.*

### QUESTIONS: (35 WORDS)

- 1. What do you expect to accomplish in the office for which you are a candidate?**  
*Doing more with less by making the Clerk's office a part-time job (pay-wise) and refusing to accept a taxpayer paid jackpot pension. Also, instituting a culture of transparency and good, friendly governance.*
- 2. What are your technical qualifications or experience for this office?**  
*I have experience running an office and have been a trustee for four years. I am a strong advocate of utilizing the advances we have made in technology for improving government and assisting in transparency.*
- 3. What are the most important issues this office should address?**  
*Improving voter turnout by making sure that everyone has access to voter registration forms, locations, and law. Basically, we must utilize the internet to make information accessible to citizens as soon as it's available.*

## Delta Charter Township Treasurer

**Election assigned to this office:** General Election 11/ 04 /2008

**Office Description:** The treasurer collects real and personal property taxes, keeps accounts of township receipts and expenditures, issues township checks, deposits revenue in approved depositories, invests funds in approved investment vehicles, collects delinquent taxes, and performs other duties as specified by law. The treasurer must appoint a deputy treasurer and post a surety bond.

**Salary:** \$15,457.78 (part-time)

**Term of office:** 4 years

**Partisan Election**

**Vote for ONE (1) candidate**

## Philip J. Chisholm (R) (Incumbent)

### PERSONAL STATEMENT: (45 WORDS)

*Delta Township is a special place to live with excellent services including paramedic, fire and police. Building and operating costs for the new library are less than in neighboring communities. First class parks offer citizens a place to relax, play and enjoy the outdoors.*

### QUESTIONS: (35 WORDS)

- 1. What do you expect to accomplish in the office for which you are a candidate?**  
*Continue the careful long-range planning that has put Delta on solid financial ground. Look for new and innovative ways to provide the quality of life citizens desire at reduced cost.*

**2. What are your technical qualifications or experience for this office?**

*Nine years as Township Treasurer and 29 years as Township Trustee. Therefore, I understand the working functions of the Township allowing me to make the difficult decisions in a time of tight finances.*

**3. What are the most important issues this office should address?**

*In a time of decreasing revenues, how to maintain the quality of services Delta has enjoyed. Making sure all township departments are operating at maximum efficiency. Pursue regional cooperation and sharing of resources.*

**Howard Pizzo (D)**

**PERSONAL STATEMENT: (45 WORDS)**

*My wife Nell and I enjoyed raising our family here. My work experience and desire to improve our community distinctly qualify me as treasurer. I will work to assure:*

- *township residents continue to enjoy good services,*
- *business thrives and*
- *property values are (...).*

**QUESTIONS: (35 WORDS)**

**1. What do you expect to accomplish in the office for which you are a candidate?**

*I will work to:*

- *Reduce expenditures, save funds and continue vital services*
- *Establish performance measures to better evaluate program effectiveness*
- *Improve communication with the community to achieve greater public involvement in township (...).*

**2. What are your technical qualifications or experience for this office?**

- *Accounting degree from MSU*
- *CFO for state department where my team accounted for \$203 million annual budget in addition to the state’s employee pension and insurance funds*
- *Certified Government Financial Manager*
- *(...).*

**3. What are the most important issues this office should address?**

*The current economy is causing decline in property values and government funds that will challenge township government. Elected officials and citizens must work together to find ways to reduce costs to continue essential public services.*

**DELTA CHARTER TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES**

**Election assigned to this office:** General Election 11/04/08

**Office Description:** Trustees are members of the township’s legislative body and vote on issues brought before the board. They are responsible for the township’s fiduciary health and perform other board duties as determined by the board. They also serve on board subcommittees.

**Salary:** \$10,447.33 (part-time)

**Term of office:** 4 years

**Partisan Election**

**Vote for FOUR (4) Candidates.**

## John Boles (R) (Incumbent)

### PERSONAL STATEMENT: (45 WORDS)

*I will strive to expand my work with both residence and business to provide the best outcomes for the township. My efforts will persist in implementing managed growth measures that protect neighborhoods. I would provide input and direction for the township thru the strategic plan.*

### QUESTIONS: (35 WORDS)

- 1. What do you expect to accomplish in the office for which you are a candidate?**  
*Provide a growing business environment that has incentives for businesses to thrive, grow and be competitive. Expand Greener Delta activities, increase the township's identity, expand the neighborhood pride awards program.*
- 2. What are your technical qualifications or experience for this office?**  
*My 34 year utility career uniquely qualifies me to understand the townships utility systems, its rates and processes.  
As a Real Estate Broker I can relate to the land acquisitions, assessments, planning and zoning.*
- 3. What are the most important issues this office should address?**  
*Financial challenges of the township, retention of business and economic development is essential. Public transportation Eatran/Cata needs to be addressed. Must maintain safety measures, address sheriff faculties, examine utility expansion and other residential concerns.*

## Janice K. Cunningham (R) (Incumbent)

- Did not reply in time for publication

## Jeff Hicks (R)

### PERSONAL STATEMENT: (45 WORDS)

*I am committed to maintaining our high quality of life in Delta Township. We must change to adapt to the challenges of today's economy while holding on to our core values of fiscal responsibility, providing excellent public services, and maintaining a family friendly community.*

### QUESTIONS: (35 WORDS)

- 1. What do you expect to accomplish in the office for which you are a candidate?**  
*I will hold Town Hall Meetings on millage proposals, be a good steward of tax dollars, maintain our fire and police services, and ensure that the Township bid process results in the best taxpayer outcome.*
- 2. What are your technical qualifications or experience for this office?**  
*My legal background, advocacy and consensus building skills, and current Township government experience all provide a solid foundation for serving as Township Trustee. My community work and foundation board service help round out my experience.*
- 3. What are the most important issues this office should address?**  
*Ensuring low taxes while continuing to fund our excellent law enforcement and emergency services is a critical priority. Additionally, the Township must preserve the sanctity and quality of our neighborhoods through carefully managed growth.*

## Fred Marquardt (R)

### PERSONAL STATEMENT: (45 WORDS)

*I've been married 56 years to Jean. I'm a lifelong Delta resident and farmer. I want to serve the public and give back to our community by making decisions that will continue Delta's distinction as a great place to live and work.*

### QUESTIONS: (35 WORDS)

- 1. What do you expect to accomplish in the office for which you are a candidate?**  
*I will work to change the direction of the township board and make it more open and responsive to the needs and concerns of Delta residents. Public hearings on key issues are a must.*
- 2. What are your technical qualifications or experience for this office?**  
*Chairman Eaton County Road Commission; Tri-County, Eaton County and Delta Township Planning Commissions; Eaton County Farm Bureau Board Director; St. Gerard Parish Finance Council member*
- 3. What are the most important issues this office should address?**  
*Declining property values should be reflected in reduced assessments. Budget decisions should take into consideration retirees and others on fixed incomes. The township should focus on providing high-quality essential services while controlling costs.*

## Ryan J. Latourette (D)

### PERSONAL STATEMENT: (45 WORDS)

*I, along with my wife and daughters, am pleased to call Delta Township our home. Additionally I serve as Project Manager to a team spanning three continents, am Trustee for Latourette Home Healthcare, and hold office as Vice-Chairman of the Eaton County Democratic Party.*

### QUESTIONS: (35 WORDS)

- 1. What do you expect to accomplish in the office for which you are a candidate?**  
*Maintain moderate and controlled growth with keen eye towards fiscal responsibility. Provide additional activities and events for our seniors, families and children to grow community pride.*
- 2. What are your technical qualifications or experience for this office?**  
*As Project Manager for a multi-national team serving several Fortune 100 clients with Hewlett-Packard and also Trustee of Latourette Home Healthcare I help simplify and solve the most complex problems in a cost effective manner.*
- 3. What are the most important issues this office should address?**  
*Wise, proper, and effective use of taxpayer dollars to best serve residents, local commerce and industry in accord with short and long term planning goals is the paramount issue to be addressed by a Trustee.*

## Barb Poma (D)

### PERSONAL STATEMENT: (45 WORDS)

*Pursuing a Master's in Public Administration from Western Michigan University with a focus on local government. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Community Development from Central Michigan University, and an Associates degree for Lansing Community College. A lifelong resident of Delta Township, my husband (...).*

### **QUESTIONS: (35 WORDS)**

**1. What do you expect to accomplish in the office for which you are a candidate?**

*I strive to work with both citizens & businesses to develop plans to protect neighborhoods & achieve growth for Delta Township. I have met so many outstanding, caring individuals while walking door-to-door campaigning!*

**2. What are your technical qualifications or experience for this office?**

*I have worked to improve quality of life in our community for the past 25 years. Pursuing an MPA & am pursuing a Business Solutions Professional Certification at MSU, well versed in computer software. ☺*

**3. What are the most important issues this office should address?**

*Expand communications with the Delta township community as a whole, restore openness and accountability. Encourage economic development to create jobs for our citizens and a dependable transportation system to meet citizen needs.*

### **Al Rios (D)**

- Did not reply in time for publication.

### **Cara Spagnuolo (D)**

#### **PERSONAL STATEMENT: (45 WORDS)**

*My name is Cara Spagnuolo and I am a Democratic candidate for Delta Township Trustee. I am running with the hope that I can engage younger people in the political process. My vision is continuing making Delta Township a great place to live and work.*

#### **QUESTIONS: (35 WORDS)**

**1. What do you expect to accomplish in the office for which you are a candidate?**

*With only 29 women in the Legislature women need to be engaged at the local level. I hope to serve as a role model to young women who are aspiring to run for office.*

**2. What are your technical qualifications or experience for this office?**

*In addition to my journalism degree, I have five years of experience with Capitol Services where I serve a variety of clients through legislative monitoring including the Michigan Coalition for Domestic and Sexual Violence and (...).*

**3. What are the most important issues this office should address?**

*Safety, Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability are important issues that the township board should address. I will work to find a way to promote economic development and assist small business owners without sacrificing green spaces.*

## State Proposals

### Proposal 08-1

#### A LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE TO PERMIT THE USE AND CULTIVATION OF MARIJUANA FOR SPECIFIED MEDICAL CONDITIONS

The proposed law would:

- Permit physician approved use of marijuana by registered patients with debilitating medical conditions including cancer, glaucoma, HIV, AIDS, hepatitis C, MS and other conditions as may be approved by the Department of Community Health.
- Permit registered individuals to grow limited amounts of marijuana for qualifying patients in an enclosed, locked facility.
- Require Department of Community Health to establish an identification card system for patients qualified to use marijuana and individuals qualified to grow marijuana.
- Permit registered and unregistered patients and primary caregivers to assert medical reasons for using marijuana as a defense to any prosecution involving marijuana.

Should this proposal be adopted?

Yes  
No

### Proposal 08-2

#### A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ADDRESS HUMAN EMBRYO AND HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH IN MICHIGAN

This proposed constitutional amendment would:

- Expand the use of human embryos for any research permitted under federal law subject to the following limits: the embryos--

--are created for fertility purposes:

--are not suitable for implantation or are in excess of clinical needs;

--would be discarded unless used for research;

--were donated by the person seeking fertility treatment.

- Provide that stem cells cannot be taken from human embryos more than 14 days after cell division begins.
- Prohibit any person from selling or purchasing human embryos for stem cell research.
- Prohibit state and local laws that prevent, restrict or discourage stem cell research, future therapies and cures.

Should this proposal be adopted?

Yes  
No



*Please join us and make a difference!*

The total annual dues for 2008-2009 are \$59.00. This includes \$28.00 for LWV-US, \$21.00 for LWV-MI, and \$10.00 for LWV-LA. If another member resides in the same household, the dues for the second member are \$29.50. National and state dues are assessed to our local league based on the national membership list as of January 31, 2009.

If you wish to join or renew your membership, please complete this form and mail in the enclosed envelope to:

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P.O. Box 971  
E. Lansing, MI 48826

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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$59.00 for one member

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Additional donations:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for LWV-LA

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