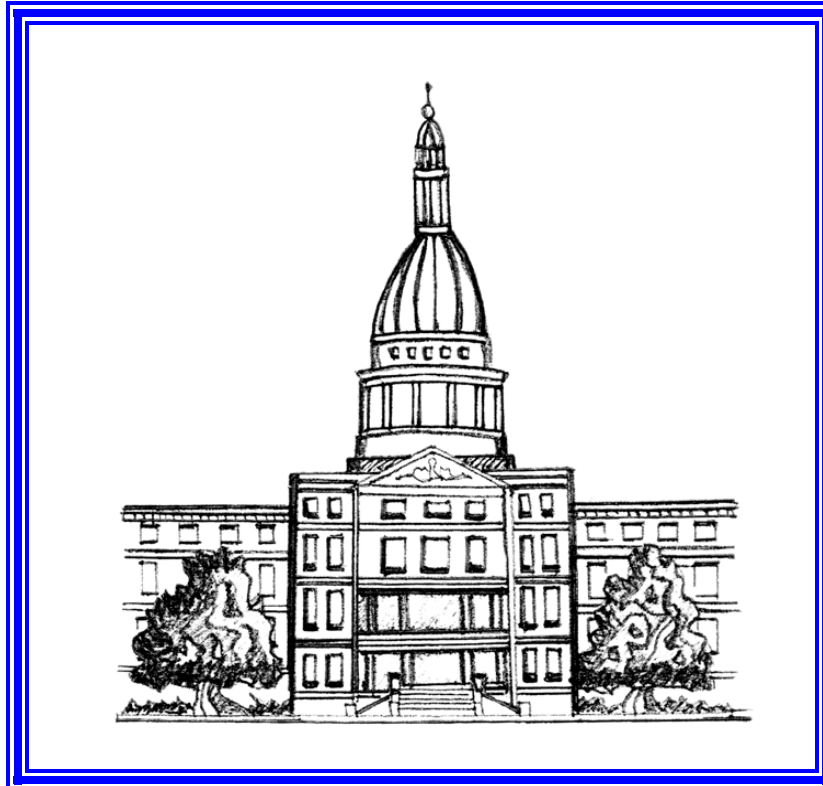




# League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area Voter Guide



## INGHAM COUNTY SPECIAL ELECTION COUNTY COMMISSIONER – DISTRICT 8 February 23, 2010

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.

**MSU FEDERAL CREDIT UNION ENCOURAGES  
EVERYONE TO VOTE.**



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# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LANSING AREA VOTER GUIDE

## CANDIDATES FOR THE INGHAM COUNTY SPECIAL ELECTION COUNTY COMMISSIONER – DISTRICT 8

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 the: LWVLA website <http://lansing.mi.lwvnet.org>, the LWV of the League of Women Voters of Michigan website, <http://lansing.mi.lwvnet.org> and through the East Lansing City Clerk's website at <http://www.cityofeastlansing.com>.

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 ellipsis (...). 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.

Ingham County is holding a Special Election on February 23, 2010. Candidates have been gracious enough to draft responses for this Voter's Guide. **All candidate responses are in bold.** The following race is covered in this Voter Guide.

Ingham County Commissioner– District 8 - Partial Term Ending December 31, 2010-  
Elect one (1) candidate.

Kathy Esselman  
President  
League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area

# Ingham County Board of Commissioners- District 8

**Election assigned to this office:** Special Election 2/23/2010 to determine candidates for May 4, 2010 General Election

**Office Description:**

The Ingham County Board of Commissioners is the **governing body for the County of Ingham, exercising legislative and administrative functions.** There are sixteen members on the Board, each elected on a partisan basis for two year terms from districts that are approximately equal in population. The **primary functions of the Board of Commissioners** include determination of type and level of County services, adoption of County budget, equalization of property values, legislative oversight services provided by Ingham County, appointment of various advisory boards and commissions and county officials.

The Board acts as a policy-making body for all county affairs and has the power to pas ordinances pertaining to county matters. It appoints the equalization Director, the Controller, Health Officer, Medical Examiner, Animal Control Director and the County Attorney, in addition to many members of the various board and commissions functioning within the county. The budget must be approved and all spending authorized by the Board of Commissioners. The following committees cover all phases of the Board's duties: County Services, Finance, Human Resources, Law Enforcement and Judiciary. These committees report their recommendations to the entire Board for action. A description of the committees, their functions and a district 8 map are included in this voter guide.

**Salary: 11, 250.00 a year and a per diem of \$60 for committee and Board meetings up to 6 per month**

**Term: Partial Term Ending December 31, 2010**

**Special Election (Primary)**

**Vote for One (1) Candidates.**

## Ingham County Commissioner – District 8

### **ROBERT D. ALEXANDER (D)**

**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

**For 27 years I have raised my family in East Lansing. My commitment to improving peoples' lives and safety is demonstrated through my work: teaching, advocating for seniors, raising Michigan's Minimum Wage, State Senate, Medicaid, the Ingham Health Plan, community organizations, and running for Congress.**

1. What are your goals, if elected?

**Find new funding sources for the Ingham Health Plan, increase County efforts to stop foreclosures and to improve housing and neighborhoods, and maintain successful County alternative diversion programs for our at-risk juveniles and adult inmates.**

2. On which Ingham County Committee would you choose to serve, if you are elected?

**I want to serve on the Finance Committee and develop ways to maintain crucial County services despite decreasing revenue. We need to increase efficiency with existing funding. I am also interested in the Judiciary Committee.**

3. What are the particular needs and strengths of your district?

**East Lansing's westside has delightful neighborhoods with a harmonious mixture of professional and skilled trades families, university students, young job seekers, and retirees. Many need jobs, affordable health care, and immediate assistance to avoid foreclosure.**

4. What is your philosophy of development?

**Ingham must implement sustainable practices that focus on future generations instead of next year. We must maintain farmlands, focus on rebuilding the center of Lansing and our smaller towns, and emphasize energy-saving transportation systems.**

5. District 8 stretches from the south at Circle Drive or the Red Cedar River to the County Line and from the east at Abbot Road to the west at Lansing or US 127 west. This includes Brody Complex, part of downtown East Lansing, Glencairn and the new apartments on Chandler Road. Could you name three of the most pressing concerns expressed by the people of your district?

**Since October I've spoken directly with over 880 voters and more by phone. They expressed serious concerns about needing jobs (largest group laid off teachers), affordable health care, and immediate financial help to continue college.**

**SHELBY BUPP (D) withdrew**

**PETER DEWAN (D)**

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

**As a parent, homeowner, MSU graduate, civic and community volunteer and present businessperson, I offer a balanced perspective to effectively advocate for East Lansing at the county level. Also, my former local, state and federal government experience will enable me to make an immediate contribution.**

1. What are your goals, if elected?

**I will advocate for essential services to protect our most vulnerable citizens; implement thoughtful decisions on Ingham County's budget; promote efficiency in the delivery of county services, and, actively encourage economic investment and job creation.**

2. On which Ingham County Committee would you choose to serve, if you are elected?

**I am interested in serving on both the Finance and County Services Committees. I can articulate East Lansing citizen's interests on these committees given my community service; business; and, state, federal and local government experience.**

3. What are the particular needs and strengths of your district?

**Our district's greatest strength is the diversity of our citizens. Citizens are concerned about economic security and opportunity and the wise and prudent use of our tax dollars in the delivery of county services.**

4. What is your philosophy of development?

**As Commissioner, I would draw upon my 12 years experience as a former zoning and planning commissioner to encourage sound, reasonable and sustainable economic development projects that complement our urban areas and stabilize our neighborhoods.**

5. District 8 stretches from the south at Circle Drive or the Red Cedar River to the County Line and from the east at Abbot Road to the west at Lansing or US 127 west. This includes Brody Complex, part of downtown East Lansing, Glencairn and the new apartments on Chandler Road. Could you name three of the most pressing concerns expressed by the people of your district?

**Citizens are concerned about their economic welfare, neighborhood stability, housing values, the financial health of our schools, traffic congestion, crime prevention, preservation of our parks and trails and responsible development options in our downtown area.**

## **LEE B. REIMANN (D)**

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

**Challenging economic times require citizens to come forward ready to make hard decisions that balance the short-term and long-term needs of the community. I bring experience as a mother, home owner, small business owner, attorney and accountant in service to Ingham County.**

1. What are your goals, if elected?

**My goals are to balance the county budget while protecting core services and to represent the interests of my district within the county but also within the tri-county region.**

2. On which Ingham County Committee would you choose to serve, if you are elected?

**I would like to serve on committees that could benefit from my professional experience and personal interests – Finance and Judiciary. I am also interested in the Capital Area Michigan Works Consortium.**

3. What are the particular needs and strengths of your district?

**Our district's strengths are embodied by our stable neighborhoods, our dynamic college population and from our connection with the University. It needs representation by someone who values the diversity of this combination.**

4. What is your philosophy of development?

**Development is an important component in the health of a community. However, development needs to be thoughtful. Redevelopment should not be overlooked as a tool to continue growth in a resource effective manner.**

5. District 8 stretches from the south at Circle Drive or the Red Cedar River to the County Line and from the east at Abbot Road to the west at Lansing or US 127 west. This includes Brody Complex, part of downtown East Lansing, Glencairn and the new apartments on Chandler Road. Could you name three of the most pressing concerns expressed by the people of your district?

**The people of my district are concerned about the financial stability of the County, the health of its residents and the problem of deferred maintenance of essential infrastructure.**

## **PENELOPE TSERNOGLOU (D)**

### **PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

**My experience as an Ingham County small business owner, public defense attorney, domestic violence advocate in the Sheriff's Office, and volunteer at Animal Control, along with my personal commitment to progressive causes, has given me an informed perspective and unwavering commitment to improving county services.**

1. What are your goals, if elected?

**I will protect the budget from cuts to health and dental services, reduce pollution flowing into our waters, increase the effectiveness of our courts and jail, and expand access to low-cost spay/neuter services.**

2. On which Ingham County Committee would you choose to serve, if you are elected?

**My top choices would be "Judiciary" because it acts as liaison to the courts and "Human Services" because it deals with our health services. However, I also have a strong interest in "Law Enforcement".**

3. What are the particular needs and strengths of your district?

**With MSU in our backyard, quality neighborhoods and affordable rental housing available, our district draws strength from its diverse and progressive electorate. Needs include finding jobs, health care, senior programs, and maintaining quality of life.**

4. What is your philosophy of development?

**I support “smart”, sustainable growth that will expand our range of transportation, employment, and housing choices, preserve and enhance natural and cultural resources, and promote public health.**

5. District 8 stretches from the south at Circle Drive or the Red Cedar River to the County Line and from the east at Abbot Road to the west at Lansing or US 127 west. This includes Brody Complex, part of downtown East Lansing, Glencairn and the new apartments on Chandler Road. Could you name three of the most pressing concerns expressed by the people of your district?

**When going door-to-door in the neighborhoods and on campus, the top 3 concerns expressed were 1) Future cuts to essential services and programs in the budget, 2) Development issues, and 3) Transportation options on campus.**

## **INGHAM COUNTY COMMISSION COMMITTEES**

### **COUNTY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

The County Services Committee (formerly known as the Administrative Services/Personnel Committee) works in conjunction with the Controller or his/her designee to ensure adequate and full implementation and administration of standing Board policy affecting the various County departments, offices and agencies with which the Committee serves as liaison; study and advise the Board with respect to matters of long range planning; recommend changes in the Board rules and the organizations and procedures of the Board; recommend adoption of County ordinances; study and advise the Board as to acquisition, disposition, construction, and repairs of all County buildings and grounds; recommend acquisition and disposal of all County equipment, furniture, furnishings and supplies; study and advise the Board with respect to the conservation of energy and other natural resources.

The County Services Committee acts as liaison to the following County departments, offices, and agencies: County Clerk, Drain Commissioner, Register of Deeds, Treasurer, Management Information Systems, Equalization/Tax Services, Financial Services, Department of Development, Purchasing, Facilities, Women's Commission, Road Commission, Parks Board, Board of Public Works, Plat Board, Boundary Commission, Board of Canvassers, Election Scheduling Committee, Board of Election Commissioners, Capital Area Rail Council, Capital Region Airport Authority, Historical Commission, Fair Board, Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Board Coordinator, Controller, Economic Development Corporation, and all staff operating the County buildings within the County.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The role of the Finance Committee is to study and advise the Board with respect to all appropriations for State, County and general purposes, review and recommend to the Board a budget for County operating expenses by a date specified in a Board resolution for the ensuing year; study and advise

the Board with respect to all matters pertaining to bonds, investments and insurance of the County, its officers, employees and agents; study and advise the Board with respect to all financial contracts not otherwise provided for by resolution and/or the Board Rules; study and advise the Board with respect to apportionment of all tax levies, erroneous land descriptions, correction and re-spreading upon the rolls of all taxes which for any reason have been rejected by the Auditor General, and, with the assistance of the Department of Equalization, equalization of valuation assessments among the various townships and cities in the County; recommend action on all claims submitted to the County for payment pursuant to Resolution #82-167; and study and advise the Board with respect to all grants submitted for approval by the Board, including any grant in which the County has direct or indirect involvement (including those where the Board is requested to waive rights in favor of another organization).

The Finance Committee is not created pursuant to 1923 PA 301, MCLA 46.61 and shall not serve as liaison to any particular County departments, offices, or agencies, but rather, shall study and advise the Board of the financial ramifications of any proposed action involving the appropriation or transfer of County funds, not otherwise provided by law or Board resolution.

## **HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

The Human Services Committee works in conjunction with the Controller or his/her designee to coordinate all human services in the County and to ensure adequate and full implementation and administration of standing Board policy affecting the various County departments, offices and agencies with which the committee serves as liaison; review and recommend the budgets for each department; review and recommend on matters dealing with solid waste issues; recommend policies relating to the use of human services in the County; make recommendations regarding present and future programs and recommend action on claims related to those departments, offices and agencies with which the committee serves as liaison, except as otherwise provided by law.

Human Services Committee serves as the Liaison Committee for the Cooperative Extension Service, Family Independence Agency and Board, Health Department, Board of Health, Department of Veterans' Affairs, Veterans' Affairs Committee, Community Mental Health Board, Women's Commission, Medical Examiner, Human Services Advisory Committee, Capital Area District Library, and the Michigan Mid-South Health Systems Agency.

## **JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

The Judiciary Committee works in conjunction with the Controller or his/her designee to ensure adequate and full implementation and administration of standing Board policy affecting the various County departments, offices and agencies with which it serves as liaison; study and advise the Board with respect to all matters pertaining to the judicial system within the County, and in particular, those departments, offices and agencies with which the committee serves as liaison; recommend action on any and all claims, complaints, or requests of such departments, offices or agencies.

The Committee acts as Liaison to Circuit Court, District Court, Jury Commission, and Probate Court.

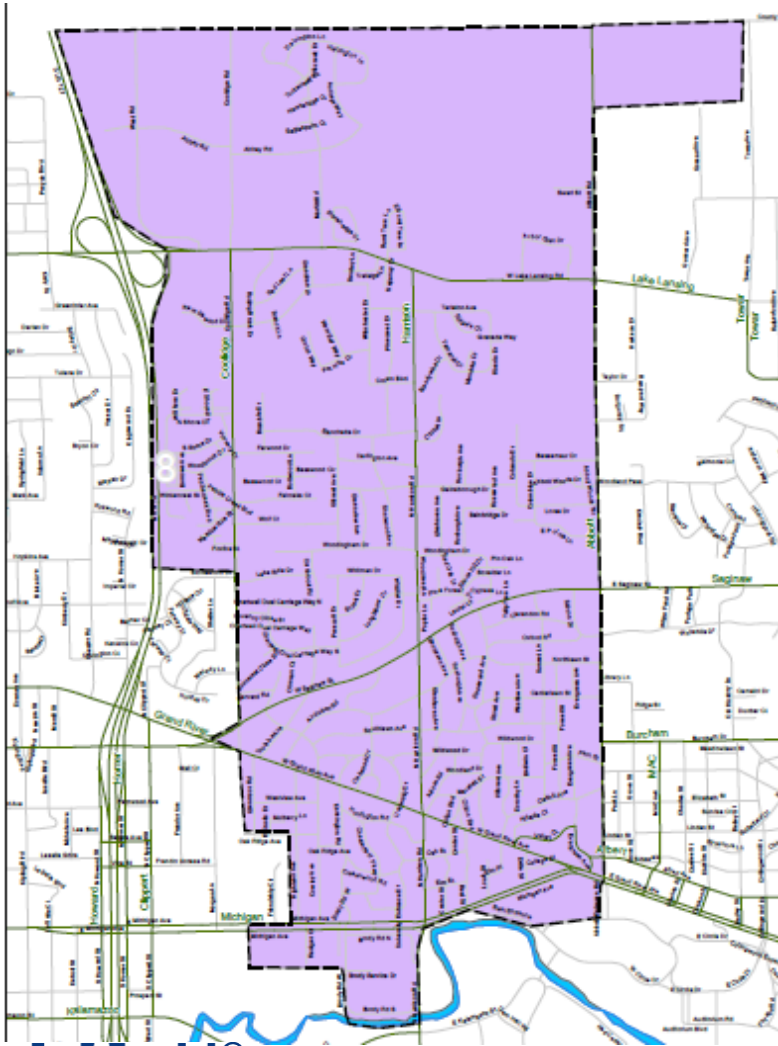
## **LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Law Enforcement Committee (formerly known as the Law & Courts Committee) works in conjunction with the Controller or his/her designee to ensure adequate and full implementation and administration of standing Board policy affecting the various County departments, offices and

agencies with which it serves as liaison; study and advise the Board with respect to all matters pertaining to the law enforcement system within the County, and in particular, those departments, offices and agencies with which the committee serves as liaison; recommend action on any and all claims, complaints, or requests of such departments, offices or agencies.

The Committee acts as Liaison to the Animal Control Department, Emergency Operations, the prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Office, and the 911 Advisory Committee.

## INGHAM COUNTY COMMISSION – DISTRICT 8



*Please join us and make a difference!*

The total annual dues for 2009-2010 are \$60.00. This includes \$29.20 for LWV-US, \$21.00 for LWV-MI, and \$9.80 for LWV-LA. If another member resides in the same household, the dues for the second member are \$30.00. National and state dues are assessed to our local league based on the national membership list as of January 31, 2010.

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

LWV-LA  
P.O. Box 971  
E. Lansing, MI 48826

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that we will keep your information confidential.

Amount enclosed:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$60.00 for one member

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$90.00 for two members in the same household

Additional donations:

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for League of Women Voters Education Fund (Please use separate check)



League of Women Voters of the Lansing Area  
Box 971  
East Lansing, MI 48826