



SLAD Endorsement Report for November 3, 2020 Election

Completed by SLAD Endorsement Committee Members:

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I. Summary of candidates for confirmation by SLAD club for endorsement

1. Candidate Name: Gary Peters

Office / Position: US Senate

Total composite score: 9.3 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Gary Peters, on top of being the incumbent Democrat in the US Senate seeking to retain his seat, has a solid working class and humble background that is relatable and a long history of serving in government in increasingly larger leadership roles – from city council to US Representative to US Senate where he serves on important committees. His priorities are well-aligned to the challenges the country faces and comprehensive in scope in addition to being aligned to the Democratic Party itself and the priorities of the South Lyon Area Democrats; beyond that, they are also and practical / commonsense, and in our view, appealing to the common person. He should receive our endorsement.

2. Candidate Name: Brian Mosallam

Office / Position: Michigan State University Trustee

Total composite score: 9.7 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Brian has exceptional experience as incumbent in this role and with a very wide range of leadership experience in the community and in business. He has been a voice of moral clarity in the MSU's recent scandals, and his plans for reforming the university would strengthen it and position it as a leader in Michigan and nationally. His values are nicely aligned to Democratic Party priorities of transparency, accountability, affordability, and reinvesting in our communities. He should receive our endorsement.

3. Candidate Name: Shirley Stancato

Office / Position: Wayne State University Board of Governors

Total composite score: 9.3 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Shirley has an exceptional biography with clear demonstration of her broad leadership capabilities and relevant experiences in the private, non-profit, and more recently the government (education) sector. She knows the task at hand well as a current Wayne State University Governor and seems to have a values-based approach on how to move the university forward in terms of access, support, and success while supporting Democratic Party priorities and values. She has held very senior level leadership roles with distinction and without scandal. She should receive our endorsement.

4. Candidate Name: Dave Coulter

Office / Position: Oakland County Executive

Total composite score: 9.9 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Dave has meaningful depth of government service in numerous Oakland County executive level roles (including as incumbent County Executive). His priorities are nicely aligned with the Democratic Party and with current challenges that the county faces in public

safety, healthcare, and workforce training, and he has limited scandal risk. He should receive our endorsement.

5. Candidate Name: Karen McDonald

Office / Position: Oakland County Prosecuting Attorney

Total composite score: 10.0 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Karen has over twenty years of experience in the court system serving as a Circuit Court Judge, assistant prosecutor prosecuting child sexual assault, and private practice attorney specializing in civil and family law. Karen's priorities are focused on implementing progressive criminal justice reform will reduce mass incarceration, address racial disparity, and create a fair system for all people. These priorities are aligned with the Democratic Party, and she has no scandal risk. She should receive our endorsement.

6. Candidate Name: Vincent Gregory

Office / Position: Oakland County Sheriff

Total composite score: 9.7 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Vincent has a powerful biography and strong and relevant experience. His plans for his office are highly relevant, thoughtful, and aligned with Democratic Party priorities and the highest standards of his professional office. He poses little to no reputational risk to SLAD or the Democratic Party. He should receive our endorsement.

7. Candidate Name: Robert Wittenberg

Office / Position: Oakland County Treasurer

Total composite score: 9.0 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Robert has meaningful government experience in addition to having solid, if somewhat unrelated industry experience. His priorities and passion are nicely aligned with the Democratic Party, and he has no scandal risk. He is probably moderate / conservative in some of his stances, but these appear to be of a level that should hardly concern the club. He should receive our endorsement.

8. Candidate Name: Jim Nash

Office / Position: Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner

Total composite score: 9.0 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Robert has meaningful government experience in addition to having solid, if somewhat unrelated industry experience. His priorities and passion are nicely aligned with the Democratic Party, and he has no scandal risk. He is probably moderate / conservative in some of his stances, but these appear to be of a level that should hardly concern the club. He should receive our endorsement.

9. Candidate Name: Lisa Brown

Office / Position: Oakland County Clerk, Register of Deeds

Total composite score: 10.0 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Lisa fails to mention how many years of experience she has, although she filled out the form via pencil so it's hard to read some of the writing. Lisa has experience as a former Realtor and Attorney, providing sufficient experience for the role of Clerk within the Register of Deeds office. She is a proponent of women's rights, equal and humane treatment under law, and veterans rights. Her priorities are to ensure accurate and secure elections while maintaining an efficient and transparent fiscally responsible office. These priorities are aligned with the Democratic Party, while running a she has no scandal risk. She should receive our endorsement.

10. Candidate Name: Bridgett McDowell

Office / Position: South Lyon School Board (partial term ending 12/31/2024)

Total composite score: 8 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Bridgett has strong experience in the broader education ecosystem and is well-credentialed herself to understand the space well and contribute her expertise. She lacks real leadership experience at the most senior executive / board level and will have some ramp-up that we should expect as part of this new role. Her priorities if elected are relevant and aligned with Democratic Party / SLAD values, but will likely need to expand be more robust after an initial learning period on the job. She is passionate about education and serving her community in this way. She should receive our endorsement.

11 & 12. Intro to Clarence Dass and Lorie Savin endorsement section: Both Clarence Dass and Lorie Savin have outstanding resumes, they have accomplished much in their careers and are dedicated to excellence and serving their communities. Their values align nicely with the Democratic Party and the South Lyon Area Democrats. They would both be people that, if not running against each other, the Endorsement Committee would gladly endorse. Given they are competing in this election and given the closeness of their composite scores, we felt it was best left to summarize the minor tradeoffs between each and let the club vote instead of putting our thumb on the scale.

Our rationale as to why one might vote to endorse Clarence Dass: He has an impressive resume (even if likely with less overall experience) as both a prosecutor and defense attorney, he is bright and ambitious, and is well-backed financially. His personal story of succeeding at some of the highest professional levels while overcoming personal health challenges in addition to his community awards create a compelling narrative of character and competence in office and sheer capability. His width of legal experience and professional accomplishments are preferable to Lorie's more narrow-focused (but long-serving) law efforts related to family court.

Our rationale as to why one might vote to endorse Lorie Savin: She has an exceptional dedication to community service that no other candidate for any office we reviewed can match. She is thorough and holistic in her thinking and approach to the role. She has had long-running referee experience in family law as a referee that is clearly related to parts of being a judge. She would be excellent in a family court-

only setting, and has the empathy, patience, and excellence to succeed. Her length of service to the community and in practicing the law is preferable to Clarence's less experienced candidacy.

11. Candidate Name: Clarence Dass

Office / Position: Judge of Oakland County Circuit Court

Total composite score: 9.1 out of 10

- Summary comments: Clarence has an exciting, up-and-coming biography with clear indications of his competence, empathy, and impressive character. He has relevant, if not tons of experience, seems to have meaningful groundswell support locally even if he has not held elected office previously, and his priorities seem well-aligned with Democratic Party priorities and the office he would hold. He has held the highest standards of his professional office. He should receive our endorsement.

12. Candidate Name: Lorie Savin

Office / Position: Judge of Oakland County Circuit Court

Total composite score: 9.2 out of 10

- Summary comments: Lorie has consistently, for a long time volunteered and dedicated herself to family law. She is thoughtful, detailed, and holistic in her writing and approach to this elected role. She has clearly been effective in her roles to date and has significant community service that showcases great character. Her priorities are well-aligned with Democratic Party priorities. Her largest potential drawback is her near-exclusive family law focus relative to the potentially more expansive role of the 6th Circuit Court Judge. She should receive our endorsement.

II. Summary of candidates who declined to participate

- A. Haley Stevens: 11th Congressional District (US House of Representatives) → *requested endorsement without having to fill out the SLAD questionnaire; ultimately declined to participate*
- B. Mark Bernstein: University of Michigan Board of Regents → *responded that candidate endorsement request form was received but never sent in completed form*
- C. Shauna Ryder Diggs: University of Michigan Board of Regents → *no response*
- D. Rema Ella Vassar: Michigan State University Trustee → *no response*
- E. Eva Garza Dewaelsche: Wayne State University Board of Governors → *no response*
- F. Jason Stayhorn: State of Michigan Board of Education → *no response*
- G. Kelly Breen: 38th District State House → *no response*
- H. Toni Nagy: Oakland County 8th District Commissioner → *responded that candidate endorsement request form was received but never sent in completed form*
- I. Martin Leftwich: South Lyon School Board → *responded that as he is running unopposed, he does not want to be endorsed (though does support the Democratic Party's platform)*
- J. Anthony Abbate: South Lyon School Board → *responded he would prefer to not make his candidacy party-based (though does support the Democratic Party's platform)*
- K. Daniel Schwegler: South Lyon School Board → *no response*
- L. Angela Harvey: South Lyon School Board → *no response*
- M. Steven Morrow: South Lyon School Board → *no response*
- N. Ann Marie Rimanelli: South Lyon School Board → *no response*

III. Appendix of detailed scoring of all candidates who submitted candidate endorsement questionnaires

1. Candidate Name: Gary Peters
Office / Position: U.S. Senate
Date Submitted: September 29, 2020
Date Scored: October 13, 2020
Reviewer: Kenyson Borkowski (SLAD Endorsement Committee)

Total composite score: 9.3 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Gary Peters, on top of being the incumbent Democrat in the US Senate seeking to retain his seat, has a solid working class and humble background that is relatable and a long history of serving in government in increasingly larger leadership roles – from city council to US Representative to US Senate where he serves on important committees. His priorities are well-aligned to the challenges the country faces and comprehensive in scope in addition to being aligned to the Democratic Party itself and the priorities of the South Lyon Area Democrats; beyond that, they are also and practical / commonsense, and in our view, appealing to the common person. He should receive our endorsement.

Gary Peters	US Senate		
Total composite score:	Average	9.25	
1. Biography:	Average	10	
A. Previous service to the community:	Out of 10	10	Great Lakes protections. Veterans support. Expanding career and technical education and apprenticeships
B. Sufficient, relevant experience:	Out of 10	10	the Joint Economic Committee.
C. Previous electoral success:	Out of 10	10	Long standing history of electoral success (city council Rochester, MI Senate 14th, US Rep MI 14th, US Senate)
D. Longstanding community relationships:	Out of 10	10	Michigan native. MSU, Wayne State, Alma College, Detroit Mercy degrees
2. Priorities:	Average	10	
A. Aligned to important tasks related to the	Out of 10	10	Clear objectives
B. Aligned to Democratic Party priorities:	Out of 10	10	Aligned to Democratic Party priorities and SLAD specifically (Climate change and environmental issues that effect the Great Lakes, equal pay, economic prosperity from strengthening the middle class, strong public education system)
C. Relevant to current events / issues:	Out of 10	10	Voter rights, child care during COVID19 times, equal access to opportunity, safety and prosperity for black and brown Americans, increased awareness of systemic racism to address racism
3. Alignment with Democratic / SLAD priorities:	Out of 10	10	
4. Scandal / reputation score: 10 out of 10	Out of 10	7	Allegedly coordinated with dark money to benefit reelection. Invested in a French oil company that bribed Iran (even with an environmental platform) (minus 2 for contradicting platform, minus 1 for additional dark money scandal)

2. Candidate Name: Brian Mosallam
Office / Position: Michigan State University (MSU) Trustee
Date Submitted: September 16, 2020
Date Scored: September 23, 2020
Reviewer: Matthew Kardel (SLAD Endorsement Committee)

Total composite score: 9.7 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Brian has exceptional experience as incumbent in this role and with a very wide range of leadership experience in the community and in business. He has been a voice of moral clarity in the MSU's recent scandals, and his plans for reforming the university would strengthen it and position it as a leader in Michigan and nationally. His values are nicely aligned

to Democratic Party priorities of transparency, accountability, affordability, and reinvesting in our communities. He should receive our endorsement.

1. Biography: 9.3 out of 10

- A. Previous service to the community: 8 out of 10
 - a. Comments: Brian has served the community as MSU Trustee for 8 years in addition to co-chairing the Detroit-Wayne County Stadium Authority. He also co-owns a wealth management company in Birmingham. [Scoring note: 8 out of 10 for 8+ years of community serving experience]
- B. Sufficient, relevant experience: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments: Brian has solid business leadership experience via his co-owned wealth management company. He has served as MSU Trustee previously, so has 8 years of experience related to university leadership. He similarly has leadership experience of public-private partnership via the Detroit-Wayne County Stadium Authority. His experience is highly relevant and broad, and we should expect he would serve in this role effectively just based on these facts. In addition, Brian has decisively stood up for transparency and defended MSU from its worst instincts during the Larry Nassar scandal. He forcefully advocated for John Engler's removal as Interim President in addition to making the university more transparent in its investigation. [Scoring note: 10 out of 10 for having directly relevant experience leading the university as Trustee, his broad for profit and public-private leadership, and his forceful advocacy on behalf of MSU during the Larry Nassar scandal].
- C. Previous electoral success: 9 out of 10
 - a. Comments: Brian has succeeded electorally in pursuing this role (i.e. he is the current incumbent). He does not have other electoral experience. He was nominated to this position again by the Michigan Democratic Party in 2020. He has raised \$600,000 to date. [Scoring note: 8 out of 10 for being incumbent. Add 1 point for raising \$500K+ in statewide contest with limited visibility]
- D. Longstanding community relationships: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments: Brian has been schooled and lived in Michigan most / all of his life. He currently resides in Dearborn, MI, and is involved in the community via MSU Trustee role, Detroit-Wayne County Stadium Authority role, and his private business that he owns. [Scoring note: 10 out of 10 points for spending multi-decade living in the area and building community relationships that are wide-ranging]

2. Priorities: 9.7 out of 10

- A. Aligned to important tasks related to the role: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments: Brian has a clear understanding of the responsibilities of his role and his priorities reflect that. Setting a budget, finding and retaining a President, and setting general policies are all part of his platform and priorities. His reform platform is in keeping with the most advanced and strategic thinking to position MSU as a leading educational institution in Michigan and in the nation.
- B. Aligned to Democratic Party priorities: 9 out of 10
 - a. Comments: Brian is clearly focused on transparency, accountability, and keeping students, staff, and guests safe on campus. In addition, his support of unions while also offering strategies to keep economically disadvantaged MSU students free from undue

economic burdens and keeping MSU-educated students in the state of Michigan is commendable and highly aligned to Democratic Party priorities while being highly relevant for the role and office he plans to hold.

C. Relevant to current events / issues: 10 out of 10

- a. Comments: Brian is clearly attuned to current issues in higher education, particularly MSU. As such, his calls for transparency in clearing through the wreckage of the Larry Nassar scandal, providing a hand-up to economically-disadvantaged Michigan student, and keeping MSU-educated students in our communities to contribute and grow our communities are relevant for MSU and the state of Michigan. Last, his focus on keeping MSU students, staff, and guests safe during a once in a century pandemic is highly relevant and current.

3. Alignment with Democratic / SLAD priorities: 10 out of 10

- Brian is highly-aligned to SLAD-prioritized issues and gave textbook solid answers to each of the SLAD-identified priorities

4. Scandal / reputation score: 10 out of 10

- No scandals or reputational risk to SLAD identified as part of internet search. There exists powerful publicly-available video of him advocating for new leadership and transparency at MSU

3. Candidate Name: Shirley Stancato

Office / Position: Wayne State University Board of Governors

Date Submitted: September 23, 2020

Date Scored: October 12, 2020

Reviewer: Matthew Kardel (SLAD Endorsement Committee)

Total composite score: 9.3 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Shirley has an exceptional biography with clear demonstration of her broad leadership capabilities and relevant experiences in the private, non-profit, and more recently the government (education) sector. She knows the task at hand well as a current Wayne State University Governor and seems to have a values-based approach on how to move the university forward in terms of access, support, and success while supporting Democratic Party priorities and values. She has held very senior level leadership roles with distinction and without scandal. She should receive our endorsement.

1. Biography: 8 out of 10

E. Previous service to the community: 10 out of 10

- a. Comments: Shirley has dedicated herself to serving the community for 20 years in her role as CEO of New Detroit, Inc., a metro Detroit coalition devoted solely to race relations. In addition, she has served in this role on the Wayne State Board of Governors in 2019 by Governor Whitmer. [Scoring note: 8 out of 10 for 20 years of non-government but community experience; 1 additional point for serving as Wayne State Board of Governors; 1 additional point for being recognized and receiving honorary doctorate in law from the University of Michigan]

F. Sufficient, relevant experience: 10 out of 10

- a. Comments: Shirley has a well-rounded set of experiences in both the private, non-profit, and government / education sectors that should equip her to understand the full suite of roles and responsibilities in this job. She has served as a senior retail banking executive (at what is now Chase Bank) with very broad responsibilities including banking initiatives, consumer & mortgage lending, and community partnerships (including leading bank foundation). Beyond that, she has served in the most senior leadership positions on the Boards of Fifth Third Bank of Eastern Michigan, Coleman A. Young Foundation, Warrior Women Against Poverty, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and the Detroit Zoological Commission. This exceptionally well-rounded experience will serve her very well, and we should expect her to be effective in this role from day one. [Scoring note: 10 out of 10 for having experience as senior leadership in private sector, Board member roles, experience in this role, and exceptional devotion to the community as CEO of New Detroit, Inc. for 20 years]

G. Previous electoral success: 2 out of 10

- a. Comments: Shirley has not campaigned for electoral office before but did exceed the required signatures filed on her behalf (exact number above the 443 required was undefined). In addition, she has raised ~\$25,000 dollars. [Scoring note: 0 out of 10 for having served in electoral office previously. 2 points for being a Governor appointee; 0 points added for signatures; 0 points for raising ~\$25K for state-wide office]

H. Longstanding community relationships: 10 out of 10

- a. Comments: Shirley has lived and served in the area for at 20+ years, most recently as CEO of New Detroit, Inc. but also as SVP and retail banking executive. She is a first generation alumna of Wayne State University. [Scoring note: 10 out of 10 points for spending 20+ years plus in the area and building public and private community relationships that include awards and recognitions and Governor appointment]

2. Priorities: 9.3 out of 10

D. Aligned to important tasks related to the role: 10 out 10

- a. Comments: Shirley rightly identified priorities of student support, success in school (graduation rate), and access (affordability). Her priorities showcase her intent to focus on providing a powerful education as a step stool for many, diverse families in the area (and around the world). [Scoring note: While hard to quantify exactly, the priorities feel appropriate and reasonably holistic to the office and role thereof]

E. Aligned to Democratic Party priorities: 10 out of 10

- a. Comments: Shirley nicely identified affordable access, support (including of first generation students), and successful completion as critical elements to providing a powerful education and a pathway / talent pipeline to feed the region with capable graduates. These nicely align with the Democratic Party priorities around education, economic development, and equality and are importantly tuned to the role for which she is seeking office.

F. Relevant to current events / issues: 8 out of 10

- a. Comments: Shirley highlighted that with the rise of Covid, the strain on resources at the university is only increasing when the same strain is plaguing families who worry about affordability. [This scorer notes that it would be good to see a realistic assessment of how to maintain / improve affordability with increased strain on both households and the university]

3. Alignment with Democratic / SLAD priorities: 10 out of 10

- Shirley identified and wrote at great length about two of the thirteen SLAD-prioritized issues (public education and social justice) that were relevant for the office she is seeking. On public education: She has a set of convictions regarding high expectations for public schools but paired with the necessary resources to be successful and ultimately building a pipeline of excellent teachers to reduce teacher-student ratios and improve overall school outcomes. In addition, she retains a just vision for aligning education funding with student need. On social justice: She highlights that social justice is woven into the fabric of Wayne State University and that it is the most diverse university in Michigan and is a pipeline of talent for Michigan and the Detroit area. Last, Wayne State takes very intentional measures to ensure people of color have access to opportunities (e.g. STEM) that may not traditionally exist. [Scoring note: While hard to quantify exactly, these two priorities are probably the most relevant for Wayne State as judged by this reviewer. Her answers were solid.]

4. Scandal / reputation score: 10 out of 10

- No scandals or reputational risk to SLAD identified as part of internet search. Shirley seems very clean and has held this role previously without scandal or public incident.

Total composite score: 9.3 out of 10 – **RECOMMEND ENDORSING**

- Summary comments: Shirley has an exceptional biography with clear demonstration of her broad leadership capabilities and relevant experiences in the private, non-profit, and more recently the government (education) sector. She knows the task at hand well as a current Wayne State University Governor and seems to have a values-based approach on how to move the university forward in terms of access, support, and success while supporting Democratic Party priorities and values. She has held very senior level leadership roles with distinction and without scandal. She should receive our endorsement.

4. Candidate Name: Dave Coulter
Office / Position: Oakland County Executive
Date Submitted: September 30, 2020
Date Scored: October 14, 2020
Reviewer: Matthew Kardel (SLAD Endorsement Committee)

Total composite score: 9.9 out of 10 – **RECOMMEND ENDORSING**

- Summary comments: Dave has meaningful depth of government service in numerous Oakland County executive level roles (including as incumbent County Executive). His priorities are nicely aligned with the Democratic Party and with current challenges that the county faces in public safety, healthcare, and workforce training, and he has limited scandal risk. He should receive our endorsement.

1. Biography: 9.8 out of 10

- I. Previous service to the community: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: 10 out of 10 for 18 years of community experience from Oakland County Commissioner to Ferndale Mayor to Oakland County Executive]
- J. Sufficient, relevant experience: 10 out of 10

- a. Comments: [Scoring note: 10 out of 10 for highly related roles – both as incumbent, as commissioner, and mayor / Ferndale chief executive]
- K. Previous electoral success: 9 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: 8 out of 10 for having had repeated local electoral success ; 1 point for raising ~\$600K for local office]
- L. Longstanding community relationships: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: 10 out of 10 points for spending multiple decades in elected office locally and interfacing with government, non-profits, and businesses here]

2. Priorities: 10 out of 10

- G. Aligned to important tasks related to the role: 10 out 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: While hard to quantify exactly, the priorities feel reasonable and holistic to the role of County Executive]
- H. Aligned to Democratic Party priorities: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: safety and health of the community, investing in healthcare, and better preparing the workforce are all aligned to the Democratic Party]
- I. Relevant to current events / issues: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: Growing the economic pie during a downturn and protecting public health are all current challenges]

3. Alignment with Democratic / SLAD priorities: 10 out of 10

- [Scoring note: While hard to quantify exactly, Dave highlighted 8 of the 31 Michigan Democratic Party Platform priorities that are relevant for him in his role in addition to providing specifics around each of the local topics that nicely align with Democratic Party priorities]

4. Scandal / reputation score: 10 out of 10

- No scandals or reputational risk to SLAD identified as part of internet search other than Ferndale racial bias policing lawsuit that largely exonerated him, if not the city. Dave seems clean.

5. Candidate Name: Karen McDonald
Office / Position: Oakland County Prosecuting Attorney
Date Submitted: October 2, 2020
Date Scored: October 14, 2020
Reviewer: Rachel Kardel (SLAD Endorsement Committee)

Total composite score: 10.0 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Karen has over twenty years of experience in the court system serving as a Circuit Court Judge, assistant prosecutor prosecuting child sexual assault, and private practice attorney specializing in civil and family law. Karen's priorities are focused on implementing progressive criminal justice reform will reduce mass incarceration, address racial disparity, and create a fair system for all people. These priorities are aligned with the Democratic Party, and she has no scandal risk. She should receive our endorsement.

1. Biography: 10 out of 10

- M. Previous service to the community: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: 10 out of 10 for over 20 years of community experience]
- N. Sufficient, relevant experience: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: 10 out of 10 for having 7 years of experience as Circuit Court Judge (2012-2019), 9 years of experience private practice attorney specializing in civil and family law (2004-2013), and 5 years of experience assistant prosecutor prosecuting child sexual assault (1999-2004)]
- O. Previous electoral success: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments: Recently stepped down as Circuit Court Judge to run for Oakland County Prosecuting Attorney. She was elected in 2012 and served for over 7 years.
- P. Longstanding community relationships: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments:

2. Priorities: 10 out of 10

- J. Aligned to important tasks related to the role: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments:
- K. Aligned to Democratic Party priorities: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: Karen's priorities are focused on implementing progressive criminal justice reform will reduce mass incarceration, address racial disparity, and create a fair system for all people. These priorities are aligned with the Democratic Party.]
- L. Relevant to current events / issues: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: Given the current political climate that is escalating the issues, Karen's priorities are aligned with the current events.]

3. Alignment with Democratic / SLAD priorities: 10 out of 10

- [Scoring note: Karen's priorities are focused on implementing progressive criminal justice reform will reduce mass incarceration, address racial disparity, and create a fair system for all people. These priorities are aligned with the Democratic Party as well as SLAD.]

4. Scandal / reputation score: 10 out of 10

- No scandals or reputational risk to SLAD identified as part of internet search.
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6. Candidate Name: Vincent Gregory
Office / Position: Oakland County Sheriff
Date Submitted: September 15, 2020
Date Scored: September 18, 2020

Reviewer: Matthew Kardel (SLAD Endorsement Committee)

Total composite score: 9.7 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Vincent has a powerful biography and strong and relevant experience. His plans for his office are highly relevant, thoughtful, and aligned with Democratic Party priorities and the highest standards of his professional office. He poses little to no reputational risk to SLAD or the Democratic Party. He should receive our endorsement.

1. Biography: 9.5 out of 10

- Q. Previous service to the community: 10 out of 10
- a. Comments: Vincent has been serving his community for 30+ years. He has served in the military, Wayne County Sheriff's Department experience, in the Michigan State House of Representatives, and the Michigan State Senate.
- R. Sufficient, relevant experience: 10 out of 10
- a. Comments: Vincent is immensely qualified for this role, having served in the Wayne County Sheriff's Office for 30+ years in addition to his time in the Michigan state legislature. He is well-equipped to understand the challenges of the job he is running for while also likely having the toolset to help lead the officers underneath him and serve and protect his community.
- S. Previous electoral success: 8 out of 10
- a. Comments: Vincent has been incredibly successful electorally to date. He received the highest number of votes for his election to the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan State Senate. However, he does not say whether those roles nicely dovetail to winning an Oakland County-wide election, but he has large success to draw from.
- T. Longstanding community relationships: 10 out of 10
- a. Comments: Vincent has lived in the Detroit area for the better part of his life and has deep roots in the community. He and his wife live in Lathrup Village. They have five grown children they have raised here.

2. Priorities: 9.3 out of 10

- M. Aligned to important tasks related to the role: 8 out of 10
- a. Comments: Vincent understands well the key challenges that his organization is facing today and will face under his leadership. His plans for his office are all highly related to deep, intricate understanding of the organization he will lead and the role that organization plays in the community.
- N. Aligned to Democratic Party priorities: 10 out of 10
- a. Comments: Vincent nicely identified transparency, relationship / trust-building with the community, and diversity (promoting a female to rank of Captain) as his top three priorities if elected. These nicely dovetail with Democratic Party priorities and are importantly tuned for the role for which he is seeking office
- O. Relevant to current events / issues: 10 out of 10
- a. Comments: Vincent highlighted several ways in which his policies would be well-tuned to reacting to current events / issues: Increasing transparency and accountability between the police and community is a very important topic of 2020 and highly relevant. Building trust among the community is deeply needed given the social unrest of the spring /

summer. And bringing in diverse viewpoints to help combat group-think is incredibly relevant for today's policing.

3. Alignment with Democratic / SLAD priorities: 10 out of 10

- Vincent aligned himself with 25 of 31 Democratic Party platform planks that he feels strongly about related to local issues

4. Scandal / reputation score: 10 out of 10

- No scandals or reputational risk to SLAD identified as part of internet search
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7. Candidate Name: Robert Wittenberg

Office / Position: Oakland County Treasurer

Date Submitted: September 28, 2020

Date Scored: October 14, 2020

Reviewer: Matthew Kardel (SLAD Endorsement Committee)

Total composite score: 9.0 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Robert has meaningful government experience in addition to having solid, if somewhat unrelated industry experience. His priorities and passion are nicely aligned with the Democratic Party, and he has no scandal risk. He is probably moderate / conservative in some of his stances, but these appear to be of a level that should hardly concern the club. He should receive our endorsement.

1. Biography: 7.5 out of 10

- U. Previous service to the community: 6 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: 6 out of 10 for 6 years of community experience]
- V. Sufficient, relevant experience: 6 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: 4 out of 10 for having somewhat related roles in the insurance industry and in committees in the Michigan state legislature. 2 points for related business degree]
- W. Previous electoral success: 8 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: 6 out of 10 for having served in electoral office previously; 1 point for multiple electoral victories; 1 point for raising ~\$130K for local office]
- X. Longstanding community relationships: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: 10 out of 10 points for spending lifetime in the area and building public and private community relationships]

2. Priorities: 8.7 out of 10

- P. Aligned to important tasks related to the role: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: While hard to quantify exactly, the priorities feel reasonable and holistic to the role of Treasurer (and maybe even a bit beyond)]

- Q. Aligned to Democratic Party priorities: 8 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: Providing housing stability for those in mortgages, keeping the county fiscally sound, and expanding the economic potential of the area are all aligned to the Democratic Party]
- R. Relevant to current events / issues: 8 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: Growing the economic pie during a downturn and protecting homeowners are all current challenges]

3. Alignment with Democratic / SLAD priorities: 10 out of 10

- [Scoring note: While hard to quantify exactly, Robert highlighted all of the 31 Michigan Democratic Party Platform priorities that are relevant for him in his role in addition to providing specifics around each of the local topics that nicely align with Democratic Party priorities]

4. Scandal / reputation score: 10 out of 10

- No scandals or reputational risk to SLAD identified as part of internet search. Robert seems very clean.

8. Candidate Name: Jim Nash

Office / Position: Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner

Date Submitted: September 29, 2020

Date Scored: October 13, 2020

Reviewer: Kenyson Borkowski (SLAD Endorsement Committee)

Total composite score: 9.0 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Robert has meaningful government experience in addition to having solid, if somewhat unrelated industry experience. His priorities and passion are nicely aligned with the Democratic Party, and he has no scandal risk. He is probably moderate / conservative in some of his stances, but these appear to be of a level that should hardly concern the club. He should receive our endorsement.

Jim Nash	Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner	
Total composite score:	Average	9
1. Biography:	Average	10
A. Previous service to the community:	Out of 10	10 Chair of Sierra Club SE Michigan for 3 years. Plus elected offices mentioned below. Library talks to engage public.
B. Sufficient, relevant experience:	Out of 10	10 8 years as Water Resources Commissioner
C. Previous electoral success:	Out of 10	10 8 years serving as Water Resources Commissioner. County Commissioner for Farmington Hills 8 years. Zoning Board Farmington Hills 3 years
D. Longstanding community relationships:	Out of 10	10 Chair of Sierra Club SE Michigan
2. Priorities:	Average	10
A. Aligned to important tasks related to the	Out of 10	10 Understands role requirements. Has performed the role for 8 years
B. Aligned to Democratic Party priorities:	Out of 10	10 Supports all
C. Relevant to current events / issues:	Out of 10	10 PFAS management, Infrastructure replacement, alternative energies
3. Alignment with Democratic / SLAD priorities:	Out of 10	10 Environment, clean water, infrastructure
4. Scandal / reputation score: 10 out of 10	Out of 10	Fundraising through paid contractors for Oakland County and the water resource commissioner. Claims partially treated water doesn't affect Lake Saint Claire but others disagree with him. Meets minimum requirements for water entering Lake Saint Clair. Middlebelt Sewer Interceptor project which left people with low quality water or no water at all but he did take full responsibility. (Less 1 for fundraising image, less 1 for Lake Saint Clair image contradicting environmental platform, less 2 for Middlebelt scandal effecting constituents)

9. Candidate Name: Lisa Brown
Office / Position: Oakland County Clerk, Register of Deeds
Date Submitted: October 2, 2020
Date Scored: October 13, 2020
Reviewer: Kenyson Borkowski (SLAD Endorsement Committee)

Total composite score: 10.0 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Lisa fails to mention how many years of experience she has, although she filled out the form via pencil so it's hard to read some of the writing. Lisa has experience as a former Realtor and Attorney, providing sufficient experience for the role of Clerk within the Register of Deeds office. She is a proponent of women's rights, equal and humane treatment under law, and veterans rights. Her priorities are to ensure accurate and secure elections while maintaining an efficient and transparent fiscally responsible office. These priorities are aligned with the Democratic Party, while running a she has no scandal risk. She should receive our endorsement.

Lisa Brown	Oakland County Clerk, Register of Deeds																		
Total composite score:	Average	10																	
1. Biography:	Average	10																	
A. Previous service to the community:	Out of 10	10	10	Holds mock elections and holds voter registration drives at high school and college campuses															
B. Sufficient, relevant experience:	Out of 10	10	10	Graduate Detroit College of Law. Member of State Bar and Oakland County Bar Association. Sits on 2 Court Rule Committees. Familiar with Register of Deeds requirements from realtor experience															
C. Previous electoral success:	Out of 10	10	10	Current Oakland County Clerk, Register of Deeds. State Representative. Served on elections committee.															
D. Longstanding community relationships:	Out of 10	10	10	Member of Adat Shalom Synagogue. Lifelong resident of Oakland County															
2. Priorities:	Average	10																	
A. Aligned to important tasks related to the	Out of 10	10	10	Understands role as keeper of all records (veteran discharge papers, election results, court records etc)															
B. Aligned to Democratic Party priorities:	Out of 10	10	10	Womens' rights, Equal and Humane Treatment under Law, Veterans Rights (full list on questionnaire)															
C. Relevant to current events / issues:	Out of 10	10	10	Transparency, secure and fair elections															
3. Alignment with Democratic / SLAD priorities:	Out of 10	10	10	N/A															
4. Scandal / reputation score: 10 out of 10	Out of 10	10	10																

10. Candidate Name: Bridgett McDowell
Office / Position: South Lyon School Board (partial term ending 12/31/2024)
Date Submitted: September 21, 2020
Date Scored: October 13, 2020
Reviewer: Matthew Kardel (SLAD Endorsement Committee)

Total composite score: 8 out of 10 – RECOMMEND ENDORSING

- Summary comments: Bridgett has strong experience in the broader education ecosystem and is well-credentialed herself to understand the space well and contribute her expertise. She lacks real leadership experience at the most senior executive / board level and will have some ramp-up that we should expect as part of this new role. Her priorities if elected are relevant and aligned with Democratic Party / SLAD values, but will likely need to expand be more robust after an initial learning period on the job. She is passionate about education and serving her community in this way. She should receive our endorsement.

1. Biography: 4 out of 10

- Y. Previous service to the community: 4 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: 3 out of 10 for small-scale voluntary community service experience in more than one outlet, setting; 1 additional point for union precinct delegate and serving on Oakland County Democrat Exec Committee]
- Z. Sufficient, relevant experience: 8 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: 6 out of 10 for having reasonably wide related experience as educator, master's degree in the same field, and currently working in the Michigan Department of Education on educator excellence. 2 additional points for length of service in these roles]
- AA. Previous electoral success: 0 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: 0 out of 10 for having served in electoral office previously; 0 points added for signatures; 0 points for raising ~\$150 for local office]
- BB. Longstanding community relationships: 4 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: 4 out of 10 points for spending 4 years plus in the area and building public and private community relationships]

2. Priorities: 8 out of 10

- S. Aligned to important tasks related to the role: 6 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: While hard to quantify exactly, the priorities feel reasonable if not holistic and complete to the role of Board member]
- T. Aligned to Democratic Party priorities: 8 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: While hard to tease this out exactly from her response, they are focused on support and success of all children and educators which clearly align with Democratic Party values]
- U. Relevant to current events / issues: 10 out of 10
 - a. Comments: [Scoring note: Large focus on new e-learning style and need for flexibility and adaptability / support for educators]

3. Alignment with Democratic / SLAD priorities: 10 out of 10

- [Scoring note: While hard to quantify exactly, Bridgett highlighted 6 of the 31 Michigan Democratic Party Platform priorities that are relevant for her in her role]

4. Scandal / reputation score: 10 out of 10

- No scandals or reputational risk to SLAD identified as part of internet search. Bridgett seems very clean.

11. Candidate Name: Clarence Dass
Office / Position: Judge of Oakland County Circuit Court
Date Submitted: September 15, 2020
Date Scored: September 23, 2020
Reviewer: Matthew Kardel (SLAD Endorsement Committee)

Total composite score: 9.1 out of 10

- Summary comments: Clarence has an exciting, up-and-coming biography with clear indications of his competence, empathy, and impressive character. He has relevant, if not tons of experience, seems to have meaningful groundswell support locally even if he has not held elected office previously, and his priorities seem well-aligned with Democratic Party priorities and the office he would hold. He has held the highest standards of his professional office. He should receive our endorsement.

1. Biography: 7 out of 10

CC. Previous service to the community: 8 out of 10

- a. Comments: Clarence has served the community for 4 years. He has served in the Oakland County's Prosecutor's Office. He later started a law firm that has been devoted to helping individuals avoid the criminal justice system, particularly those with mental health issues, drug and alcohol dependencies, and immigration problems. Additionally, he received the Leon Hubbard Community Service Award from the Oakland County Bar Association for promoting cultural diversity, advancing social inequality, and working to enhance the quality of life for all people as well as the Unsung Hero Award from the State Bar of Michigan for continuing to serve clients and community (while fighting and beating stage 4 colon cancer). [Scoring note: 6 out of 10 for 4 years of community experience; 2 additional points for awards]

DD. Sufficient, relevant experience: 8 out of 10

- a. Comments: Clarence has a well-rounded set of experiences that should equip him to understand the full suite of roles and responsibilities in this job. He has served as a prosecuting attorney in the Special Victims Unit (prosecuting some of the most violent crime) while also serving as a defense attorney and manager of a law firm. This well-rounded experience will serve him well. While Clarence has sufficient experience in each of these roles (4 years each as prosecutor and defense attorney / law firm manager), he does not have decades of experience in each role. We should expect him to be effective but will have need to continue to grow into the responsibilities of this role. [Scoring note: 8 out of 10 for having experience both as prosecutor but also defense attorney; no additional points for having done each role for 10+ years].

EE. Previous electoral success: 4 out of 10

- a. Comments: Clarence has not campaigned for electoral office before but does have 3,000 signatures filed on his behalf that demonstrate meaningful local support for his campaign. In addition, he has raised \$250,000 dollars toward a local, non-partisan electoral office. [Scoring note: 0 out of 10 for having served in electoral office previously. But 3 points added for gaining thousands of signatures in a pandemic for a local, non-partisan office; 1 point for raising \$250K+ for a local, non-partisan office]

FF. Longstanding community relationships: 8 out of 10

- a. Comments: Clarence has lived and served in the Detroit area and Oakland County in particular for at least 8 of the most recent years. He is a first generation American and is married. [Scoring note: 8 out of 10 points for spending nearly a decade plus in the area and building community relationships that include awards and recognitions]

2. Priorities: 9.3 out of 10

- V. Aligned to important tasks related to the role: 8 out of 10

- a. Comments: Clarence has demonstrated a capacity for empathy with both the prosecutors and those on trial. His priorities showcase his intent to focus on giving everyone a fair hearing and a leveling of the playing field, regardless of someone's position in society. His plans to eliminate cash bail and focus on rehabilitation are commendable and aligned with important tasks that this role will face. Finally, given his role as a judge and not a partisan, his demonstrated community involvement and recognition are encouraging as we consider someone in this important role of deciding matters related to divorce, serious crimes, and monetary disputes of significant sums. [Scoring note: While hard to quantify exactly, the priorities feel appropriate but not holistic to the office and role thereof]

W. Aligned to Democratic Party priorities: 10 out of 10

- a. Comments: Clarence nicely identified avoiding eliminating snaring people in the justice system by eliminating cash bail, avoiding incarceration where possible with focus on rehabilitation, and improving access to the courts while leveling the playing field for people of all walks of life (race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and creed). These nicely align with the Democratic Party priorities and are importantly tuned to the role for which he is seeking office.

X. Relevant to current events / issues: 10 out of 10

- a. Comments: Clarence has highlighted a couple ways in which he is attuned to some of the most pressing matters in our society including reducing incarceration and ensuring a level playing field in the justice system. These are critical given the summer of unrest we have had that involves challenges between citizens and the criminal justice system, most specifically policing, but relevant to the courts as well.

3. Alignment with Democratic / SLAD priorities: 10 out of 10

- Clarence aligned himself with 31 of 31 Democratic Party platform planks that he feels strongly about related to local issues

4. Scandal / reputation score: 10 out of 10

- No scandals or reputational risk to SLAD identified as part of internet search. Clarence Dass seems very clean and a bit of a superstar: age 34 and heads a law firm and silently battled stage 4 colon cancer last year while still working

12. Candidate Name: Lorie Savin

Office / Position: Judge of Oakland County Circuit Court

Date Submitted: September 20, 2020

Date Scored: October 14, 2020

Reviewer: Matthew Kardel (SLAD Endorsement Committee)

Total composite score: 9.2 out of 10

- Summary comments: Lorie has consistently, for a long time volunteered and dedicated herself to family law. She is thoughtful, detailed, and holistic in her writing and approach to this elected role. She has clearly been effective in her roles to date and has significant community service that showcases great character. Her priorities are well-aligned with Democratic Party priorities. Her largest potential drawback is her near-exclusive family law focus relative to the potentially more expansive role of the 6th Circuit Court Judge. She should receive our endorsement.

1. Biography: 7.5 out of 10

- GG. Previous service to the community: 10 out of 10
- a. Comments: [Scoring note: 10 out of 10 for decades of community service, even if not all government as the remainder appear to be volunteer and non-profit, serving the most disadvantaged]
- HH. Sufficient, relevant experience: 7 out of 10
- a. Comments: [Scoring note: 7 out of 10 for having experience both as defense attorney and referee, though largely limited to family law].
- II. Previous electoral success: 3 out of 10
- a. Comments: [Scoring note: 0 out of 10 for having served in electoral office previously. But 3 points added for gaining thousands of signatures in a pandemic for a local, non-partisan office]
- JJ. Longstanding community relationships: 10 out of 10
- a. Comments: [Scoring note: 10 out of 10 points for spending multiple decades in the area and building community relationships]

2. Priorities: 9.3 out of 10

- Y. Aligned to important tasks related to the role: 10 out of 10
- a. Comments: [Scoring note: While hard to quantify exactly, the priorities feel appropriate and holistic to the role]
- Z. Aligned to Democratic Party priorities: 10 out of 10
- a. Comments: Lorie nicely identified serving the community effectively and in a timely manner, bringing excellent customer service to all, improving access to the legal system, and partnering with community organizations for struggling families. These reasonably nicely align with the Democratic Party priorities and are importantly tuned to the role for which she is seeking office.
- AA. Relevant to current events / issues: 8 out of 10
- a. Comments: Lorie didn't discuss specific current issues per se but her responses are relevant for many pressing current issues

3. Alignment with Democratic / SLAD priorities: 10 out of 10

- Lorie aligned herself with 17 of 31 Democratic Party platform planks that she feels strongly about related to local issues and had detailed summary behind them as well

4. Scandal / reputation score: 10 out of 10

- No scandals or reputational risk to SLAD identified as part of internet search