

South Lyon Area Democrats: Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire

Application for recommendation by the SLAD to voters in support of your campaign.

City of South Lyon, Lyon Township, and Green Oak Township.

Please email to SLAD candidate endorsement committee: matthew.kardel@gmail.com

Candidate Name (as it will appear on the ballot): Shirley Stancato

Office/Position running for (including district number of applicable): Wayne State University Board of Governors

Date of submission: 9.23.20

Please share a brief biography and personal background:

For almost 20 years, I was president and chief executive officer of New Detroit Inc., metro Detroit's leadership coalition devoted solely to race relations. In this role, I implemented a variety of initiatives designed to eliminate racial disparities in southeast Michigan. Prior to joining New Detroit, I enjoyed a long career at what is now Chase Bank, where I became Senior Vice President. As a banking executive, I led retail banking initiatives, including consumer and mortgage lending, as well as community partnerships throughout southeast Michigan. In addition, as leader of the bank's foundation, I was responsible for its corporate-giving program, providing support for community initiatives throughout its footprint in Michigan. I serve on several boards including Fifth Third Bank of Eastern Michigan, Coleman A. Young Foundation, Warrior Women Against Poverty, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Detroit Zoological Commission and is a member of International Women's Forum Michigan. I have received both a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Master of Arts in Industrial Relations from Wayne State University. In 2017, I received an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Michigan.

Qualifications for running (include previous appointed or elected public office positions and short resume):

I was appointed by Governor Whitmer to Wayne State's Board of Governors in 2019. I am now running to retain that seat. I led a long career in civic, corporate and community leadership, both as CEO of a major civic organization and as a high-ranking corporate officer in the banking industry. For almost 20 years, I served as the president and CEO of New Detroit, where I worked across the proverbial "aisle" in the private and public sectors to create a more equitable and just community. I am passionate about improving public education in Michigan, particularly at Wayne State, where I am a proud, first-generation alumna.

List requirements you have completed for the office (# signatures collected, date filed, fees paid): In order to run to retain my seat on the Wayne State University Board of Governors, I was required to pay a \$2,500 filing fee and receive a minimum of 443 digital signatures at the

virtually-held Michigan Democratic Party Nominating Convention. I received above and beyond the 443 minimum required signatures.

Amount of money raised as of date of submission: \$24,999.19

Principal duties of the office you are running for:

The Board of Governors elects the President of the University, has general supervision of Wayne State University and the control and direction of all expenditures from University funds. It enacts bylaws and regulations for the conduct of its business and for the governance of the University. It sets tuition and policy for other fees and charges, determines the compensation to be paid for service; confers degrees and sets the policy for management of gifts, grants, bequests, agreements and contracts, and leases or disposes of property.

Top priorities once elected:

Wayne State University's Graduation Rate

Wayne State's graduation rate is improving at the fastest pace in the nation, currently ranking among the highest of all urban universities. This is in addition to record-setting improvement in the graduation rate among African-American students. But there is more work to be done. Wayne State is a critical economic, education and innovation pipeline that builds on the city's assets and enhances the region's growth.

Supporting Students

As a first-generation Wayne State alumna, I will ensure that Wayne State remains known for welcoming first-generation students with open arms and providing the resources to keep them enrolled. Wayne State's ability to make students feel like they belong on Day One is what makes the university emblematic of hope and opportunity.

Keeping Higher Education Affordable

Supporting Wayne State's efforts to remain an affordable premier institution of higher learning is vital. The current economic recession in Michigan, brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, will put additional strain on Wayne State's financial resources. I am committed to keeping Wayne State's tuition affordable. That commitment extends to helping the university, which has the lowest tuition rate of Michigan's three major research universities, remain Michigan's premier urban institution of higher learning.

Plans for communicating with constituents once elected:

Wayne State is known for welcoming all students with open arms and providing the resources to keep them enrolled. This attention to the whole student and the issues they deal with, including academic, financial and social, play a critical role in Wayne State's efforts to successfully retaining students through graduation. As a board member, I will continue to support this holistic, welcoming approach and do whatever I can do to make sure that students have what

they need to succeed. Prior to the pandemic, I connected with students in-person on campus. By joining committees and campus communities, I have the opportunity to learn what Wayne State students need directly from the student body. Now that COVID-19 has changed the campus environment, I am communicating with students through email and virtual meetings. It's important now—more than ever—to stay connected with students and support them while we remain physically distant.

What are your primary sources for information/news?

I keep up with various print publications, such as the Detroit Free Press, Detroit News, Michigan Chronicle, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Bridge Detroit and others. I will always support the student reporters and editors for Wayne State's campus newspaper, The South End, as well. I also watch local TV stations, such as WXYZ, WDIV, CNN, and others.

Issues

Indicate your position on the following topics, including solutions. A response is needed only if applicable to your prospective office

Public education, charter schools, support for community colleges & public universities, pre-K programs:

Over the past decade, schools and our educators have experienced cuts and underinvestment, all while expectations for students and the roles our educators take on have expanded. Eliminating pensions and cutting healthcare benefits has undercut the pipeline of educators into the profession. One of the many domino effects is the great disparity in teacher-student ratios, or class sizes, that are overcrowded. It has been proven that smaller class sizes help students achieve better. The legacy of Proposal A, which never lived up to its promise to close the funding gap, continues to result in a profoundly inequitable way to fund our schools. It certainly never ensures that our students with the greatest needs receive the most investment. School funding policy must consider needs-based issues, particularly since more than 50 percent of public school students in the U.S. are from low-income families. Education funding policy needs to be calibrated to address high poverty school districts and schools. Less funding means fewer teachers, professors and fewer school or university support staff. I have high expectations of our schools, our teachers and our students, but we cannot set higher expectations without also providing the resources to schools, educators and families that are necessary to reach those higher expectations. We must rewrite our school finance laws and commit more revenues to our schools and families so that all children have the opportunities they deserve.

The current economic crisis, ignited by the ongoing health pandemic, has exacerbated the issue of school funding uncertainty. My heart breaks for the college presidents, superintendents, and educators out there who have had to make impossible decisions for their students and institutions without any clarity on budgets. Without the federal government stepping up to

address the dramatic deficits that our state budgets are experiencing, our education system is limping into this school year, able to open school doors but with no clear path forward. We need the federal government to pass a stimulus package that deeply invests into education at all levels and take responsibility for the crisis it prolonged and has yet to address.

Social justice:

Wayne State is Michigan's most diverse campus. It is a melting pot of cultures, races, ethnicities, ages, traditional students, non-traditional students and people from all socioeconomic levels. Putting a focus on diversity, inclusion and social justice is nothing new at Wayne State; it is literally part of the school's fabric and serves as its North Star. Wayne State is fortunate to be in the City of Detroit, and Detroit is fortunate to be the home of Wayne State. The city benefits from a built-in pipeline to the best and brightest students and young professionals from all over Michigan and the world. Wayne State not only recognizes systemic racism where it exists in society, but it actively works against it by promoting a very diverse campus, faculty, staff. The university takes very intentional educational measures to ensure that people of color are offered opportunities that may not traditionally exist, such as a focus on careers in STEM. Wayne State University is Michigan's premier resource in making higher education more accessible to communities of color.

Contact Information

**Candidate preferred email address: stancato4wsu@gmail.com

**Candidate preferred phone number: 313.549.7755

**Candidate home address (where you live) street address, city, state, zip: N/A

Campaign mailing address (if applicable): P.O. Box 44421, Detroit, MI 48224

Campaign website: stancato4wsu.com

Campaign social media (identify platform, i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.):

Facebook: @ShirleyStancato4WSU

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/shirley-stancato-for-wayne-state-university-board-of-governors>

Instagram: @stancato4wsu

Campaign hashtags:

#stancato4wsu

Campaign contact name and title (manager / assistant):

Maureen Saxton – Public Relations Director

Campaign contact preferred phone number:
(517) 899-5513

Campaign contact preferred email address:
maureen@vandykehorn.com

Other contact & media info: none

Thank you for submitting your candidate info to SLAD. By submitting this information, you agree that all information submitted, except for the **starred items (candidate preferred email address, phone number, and street address), can be made public and shared on SLAD online platforms and physical documents.