

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)

Karen McDonald

Office/Position running for (including district number of applicable)

Oakland County Prosecuting Attorney

Date of submission: 10.2.20

Please share a brief biography and personal background:

Over the past twenty years, I have served our community as a Circuit Court Judge, assistant prosecutor prosecuting child sexual assault, and private practice attorney specializing in civil and family law. My experience working in all areas of the courtroom has shown me firsthand that our broken criminal justice system is failing Oakland County residents—especially poor people and people of color. We need a change in Oakland County, and that change begins by electing a prosecutor who will actively work to implement progressive criminal justice reform that will reduce mass incarceration, address racial disparity, and create a fair system for all people.

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

I have served our community as a Circuit Court Judge (2012-2019), private practice attorney specializing in civil and family law (2004-2013), assistant prosecutor prosecuting child sexual assault (1999-2004), and public high school English teacher (1992-1995). In my time as a judge, I received both the Oakland County Domestic Violence Prevention Award and the Joan E. Young Champion of Children Award for my work protecting Oakland County families and creating and implementing a comprehensive domestic violence training program for court staff and employees.

I am a member of the Oakland County Bar Association, Michigan Judges Association, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Michigan Inter-Professional Association, Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, Foster Care Review Board Program Advisory Committee, DHHS Human Trafficking Protocol Revision Committee, Child Death Review Committee, and the Oakland County Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force, as well as a former member of Michigan CASA (2016-2018), Starfish Family Services (2010-2013), Department of Human Services Child Welfare Task Force (2005), and the Women's Justice Center (1998-1999).

List requirements you have completed for the office (# signatures collected, date filed, fees paid): We filed on April 14th, 2020, and paid a \$100 fee.

Amount of money raised as of date of submission: Our campaign has seen overwhelming fundraising success, raising over \$600,900 in the last filing deadline.

Principal duties of the office you are running for:

The role of the Prosecutor is to seek justice and protect the communities they serve, but keeping people safe is about more than just pursuing maximum sentences and filling jail cells. The Prosecutor must ensure that violent criminals and those who pose a threat to society are kept off the streets, but they must also learn to use their discretion to

determine when incarceration is necessary and when diversion programs or treatment-based alternatives are more appropriate. The Prosecutor is the key to criminal justice reform, and they must continually work to create a fair and just system for all people and ensure that all members of the community— regardless of race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation— are treated with equal respect under the law.

Top priorities once elected:

As Prosecutor, I will reduce mass incarceration and address racial disparity in Oakland County by building a transparent, accountable Prosecutor’s Office, eliminating cash bail, holding youth accountable without unnecessary incarceration, establishing a functioning Hate Crimes Unit and Conviction Integrity Unit, and giving assistant prosecutors discretion to reduce or amend charges. I will also invest and participate in treatment courts and diversion programs for low-level, nonviolent offenders and establish new mental health programs so that all Oakland County residents can receive the treatment and resources they need to succeed.

Plans for communicating with constituents once elected:

As prosecutor, I am committed to creating a transparent, accountable Prosecutor’s Office by collecting and analyzing arrest and sentencing data and releasing all relevant data to the public. It is imperative that the Prosecutor remain accessible to the communities they serve: not only will I be willing to speak to community members via phone, email, and social media, I will also form community advisory boards in communities like Pontiac to ensure that all Oakland County residents have a voice in the Prosecutor’s Office.

What are your primary sources for information/news?

Online news publications like CNN, NPR, CBS, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, and many others.

Local Issues

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

City / Township / County’s Master Plan:

Tax Abatement & Business Development:

Local Environmental Policies:

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services:

What do you see as the role of the city / township / county in the school system?

Public Safety:

Public safety must be the primary concern of the Prosecutor’s Office. As Prosecutor, I will keep Oakland County communities safer by focusing on violent crimes and criminals that pose a threat to society. I will also refocus efforts to expand diversion programs for nonviolent, low-level offenders and participate in treatment courts that reduce crime and recidivism and, in turn, keep our streets safer.

Public Transportation:

Which planks of the Michigan Democratic Party do you feel most strongly about on a local level (select all that apply)?

- 1. Education: Improving Public Education for Children and Adults**
2. Economy: Using Aggressive & Comprehensive Economic Development Policies
- 3. Job Training: Improving the Skills of our Workforce**
4. Trade: Using an Approach Based on a Level Playing Field
- 5. Economic Development: Improving Depressed Communities**
6. Agriculture: Protecting our Farms and Rural Communities
- 7. Transportation: Providing Access to Opportunities**
- 8. Information Technology: Expanding Access to Information**
9. Small Business: Nurturing Entrepreneurship and Self-employment
- 10. Income: Rewarding Work**
11. Taxes: Providing a Sufficient, Stable and Fair Tax System
- 12. Health Care: Providing Health Security for Families and Individuals**
- 13. Children and Families: Providing Help for Working Parents with Children**
14. Coping With Misfortune: Bankruptcy, Foreclosure and Homelessness
15. The Environment: Protecting Our Land, Water, Air and Open Space
- 16. Social Justice: Achieving Equal and Humane Treatment Under the Law**
- 17. Women: Protecting the Rights of Women**
- 18. Veterans: Respect and Help for Those Who Serve Our Country**
- 19. Youth: Building Citizens Who Will Brighten our Future**
- 20. Seniors: Providing Retirement Security and Needed Services**
- 21. Voting: Nurturing Democracy and Promoting Civic Participation**
22. Faith: Connecting Our Party with People of Faith
- 23. Public Safety: Creating Safer Communities for All**
24. Energy: Providing Power to the People
- 25. Judicial System: Serving the People, not Special Interests**
- 26. Government: Freeing Politics from Money Influence and Special Interests**
- 27. Corporations: Insisting on Corporate Accountability**
28. Consumer Protection: Protecting People in the Marketplace
29. Financial Services: Protecting People in Credit and Banking Transactions
30. Providing Proper Oversight of Our Financial System
- 31. Local Government: Defending Our Democracy**

Contact Information

****Candidate preferred email address:**

karen@mcdonaldforprosecutor.com

****Candidate preferred phone number:**

248-229-5339

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

559 Golf View Blvd, Birmingham, MI 48009

Campaign mailing address (if applicable):

PO Box 1750, Birmingham, MI 48009

Campaign website:

www.mcdonaldforprosecutor.com

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/karenmcdonaldforprosecutor>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/karenmcdonaldforprosecutor>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/kdmcdonald2020>

Campaign hashtags:

#McDonaldForChange

Campaign contact name and title (manager / assistant):

Angela Fontair, Campaign Manager

Campaign contact preferred phone number:

248-229-5339

Campaign contact preferred email address:

angela@mcdonaldforprosecutor.com

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.