



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: slademocrats@gmail.com

Contact Information

Candidate:

- ◇ Candidate Name (as it will appear on the ballot):
 - ◇ Patrick Maguire

- ◇ Candidate email address:
 - ◇ patrick@patrickmaguire.com

- ◇ Candidate phone number:
 - ◇ 734-645-8701

- ◇ Campaign mailing address (if applicable):
 - ◇ 8864 Salem Farms Dr., South Lyon, 48178

- Campaign website:
 - Patrickmaguire.com

Campaign:

- ◇ Campaign social media (identify platform, i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.):
 - ◇ Facebook - facebook.com/electpatrickmaguire

- ◇ Campaign contact name and title (manager / assistant):
 - ◇ Patrick Maguire

- ◇ *Campaign* contact phone number:
 - ◇ 734-645-8701

- ◇ *Campaign* contact email address:



◇ patrick@patrickmaguire.com

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Please answer the following to the best of your ability. Use as much space as necessary to provide your responses.

Office/Position running for (*including district number of applicable*):  
South Lyon Community Schools Board Member, 6 year term

Share a brief biography and personal background, inclusion of what motivated you to run for office is appreciated:

I am trying very hard to get my message out. I made a blog post about this very question recently. I think it answers this perfectly. <http://www.patrickmaguire.com/blog/what-made-you-decide-to-run>

What would you consider the principal duties of the office for which you are running?

The principal duties of a school board member are to ensure that the district staff are appropriately equipped to provide the absolute best education possible. This means attracting and recruiting the best staff possible from Superintendent to supervisor of the lunchroom. School staff should have the best resources, training, and guidance in order to be able to focus on the children of the district and helping them grow. On a daily basis, this means that a school board member's duties are to educate themselves on issues facing the district, seek ways to provide staff with resources and provide guidance through policy so that the mission of the district is achieved.

Top priorities once elected/re-elected (as applicable):

- Local/State: First, I want to address recruiting/retention of top talent so that children in our district are learning from the best teachers in the state. My next priority is to seek ways to achieve more equity in per-pupil funding. It is not right that students in neighboring districts get more money allotted for their education simply based on their zip code. Something else I think is important to address is diversity/inclusion as South Lyon continues to grow. This district is no longer the homogenous population it once was. This change in demographics should be celebrated and the schools need to use this time to be most inclusive in planning for the future.

How will you manage the disparate political community in the South Lyon/Lyon Township area to ensure all voices are represented.

As someone born and raised in Ann Arbor, I have definitely been raised to embrace progressive ideals. As someone who has worked in law enforcement for over 20 years, I have been surrounded by friends, peers, and coworkers who lean much farther to the right. I truly believe that because of the political diversity in my day-to-day life, I can genuinely connect with those on both sides of the aisle. While I may not agree with others, I feel that it is necessary to be empathetic and understand where your adversaries are coming from. This is the only way you can work with people to create change. If you are focused on differences and working against those around you, you will simply widen the disconnect and you cannot expect progress. Specific to South Lyon, I

8/14/22



have lived here for nearly 20 years. I have been involved in a church here. My kids have been involved in sports all throughout the area. I have made friends all over South Lyon, Lyon Twp, Green Oak, Salem, and Northfield. I believe that my time and personal connections here help me connect to people on a personal level – even when we may not initially share the same political flag. Combining my empathy, knowledge of the area, and personal connections, I will be able to represent voices of those throughout this school district.

What do you consider to be the three biggest issues facing SLCS?(and briefly explain how you would address each issue)

1. Hiring/retention of teachers. I have experience both as an executive board member of two unions and also someone on the administrative side who works with unions to promote growth and productivity for an organization. I would utilize this experience to seek ways to negotiate the best possible contracts so that SLCS became a most attractive place to work. Sometimes this means increasing financial incentives, and sometimes it is quality-of-life changes for staff in their everyday jobs that can be improved through contractual language. I would not rule anything out if it made SLCS the most attractive district for potential teachers.
2. Per pupil funding. I think that SLCS board members should seek opportunities to liaison with state legislators so that per-pupil funding can be more equitable. If there is a way to equalize funding, secure grants, or otherwise increase the funding our students get, board members should act. I think this means having stronger ties with politicians at the state level.
3. Manage growth in a positive way. As stated above, I think one of the positives of South Lyon's growth is that the area is slowly becoming more diverse. SLCS needs to ensure that curriculum, programs, and training provide students with an education that is inclusive and welcoming to all. A board member's job is to ensure that staff are best equipped to provide a diverse and inclusive education.

South Lyon High School made national news for racist behavior during a football game last year. How will you encourage an inclusive environment that will help families of color feel safe and valued?

The best thing any leader can do is to lead by example. First off, I would be outspoken about behavior I find unacceptable and then model the behavior that does make people feel welcome and included. I would then want to speak with families of color in the area to learn more about their experience and see what areas need to be improved to make them feel welcome as part of the community.

How can SLCS recruit and retain the best teachers and school staff?

While teachers are public servants, they should not be confused with martyrs or philanthropists. If we want children to be educated by the most professional, most well-educated, and best teachers, we need to provide pay, benefits, and conditions commensurate with those of a well-educated professional. I would look for ways to improve not only the pay, but day-to-day working conditions of teachers. Most importantly, I think the board and administration must stand behind teachers and hold them up as respected professionals. This may take time, but involves instilling a culture of respect where teachers are regarded with the same esteem as any other professional in whom we place a great deal of trust .



How would you encourage school administration to obtain feedback from teachers and other school staff prior to making recommendations to the board that impact their day to day work?

Any major decision should have stakeholder involvement so that the decision-makers can be best informed. An organization the size of SLCS should be having staff meetings at various levels with some frequency so that important issues can be discussed. This is the opportunity for administration to obtain feedback. Additionally, administrators need to find time to make face-to-face contact with those working in the trenches on occasion. I say this from a place of an administrator who supervises a considerable police operation which runs seven days a week. I have found that I need to find opportunities where I can get out in the field to see what issues actually face staff and to connect with them on a one-to-one level.

Calls for school safety improvements usually involve a higher police presence in schools, yet we know police in schools target students of color and contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline. How can we keep schools safe without targeting black and brown students?

As someone who has worked in law enforcement for over 20 years, I honestly have to say that I disagree with the assertion that school officers automatically target students of color or create a school to prison pipeline. Does law enforcement have a troubled history with POC? Absolutely. At the same time, I have seen some phenomenal work by police officers in schools who make personal connections with students and address issues in thoughtful ways. Often times school resource officers are looking for ways to diffuse situations in a manner which does not involve the standard criminal justice process that a typical road patrol officer might employ. While I do not want children to have to go to school under armed guard, I also have seen how quickly trained officers were able to stop an awful situation in Oxford, a neighboring Oakland County district. In order for our students to be as safe as possible and to ensure that all students receive equal treatment, everyone must work together. This means that police must get to know and understand their community (the students and staff in the schools) just as those students and staff must be willing to build positive relationships with officers charged with keeping them safe.

School districts across the country are being targeted by right-wing groups trying to suppress support for LGBT+ and BIPOC students. How will you safeguard SLCS from these influences?

LGBT+ and BIPOC students would be safeguarded through my decision-making process which is based on inclusion, equity, and not discriminating against any group. My job would be to ensure that students receive the best education possible. This does not change based on the color of their skin or how they identify. If any policy or procedure would affect a student negatively based on skin color or sexual identity, it would be off the table for me, just the same as if it discriminated based on their gender or who their parents voted for.

What is your stance on COVID precautions at SLCS?

I supported SLCS throughout the pandemic as I felt it was important that COVID precautions be based upon County Health Department protocols and measures. The district does not employ epidemiologists and it probably should not. Instead, it should put its faith in the experts at the county.



Please disclose all corporate PAC money received thus far, and what was promised in return for those donations?

**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.**

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