

# SLAD Local Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire\_CMK



## 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](mailto:SLADemocrats@gmail.com)*

- Candidate Name (as it will appear on the ballot): Christina M. Kafkakis
- Candidate email address: [voteforchristinak@gmail.com](mailto:voteforchristinak@gmail.com)
- Candidate phone number: 8108441796
- Campaign mailing address (if applicable): PO Box 1739, Brighton MI 48116
- Campaign website: [christinakformichigan.com](http://christinakformichigan.com) (not quite finished yet)
- Campaign social media (identify platform, i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.):
  - o Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/voteforchristinak>
  - o Instagram: [voteforchristinak](https://www.instagram.com/voteforchristinak)
  - o Twitter:
- Campaign contact name and title (manager / assistant): None yet
- Campaign contact phone number:
- Campaign contact email address:

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

State Rep HD49

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

### **Please share a brief biography and personal background:**

I grew up in the Flint area and graduated from Carman-Ainsworth High School. I received a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. My husband Nick, an automotive engineer, and I have lived in Livingston County since 2001, and have four children, all attending Brighton Area Schools. I have owned my photography business since 2009.

Kafkakis, a Brighton Township resident, enters the race because of a desire to serve the community in a new capacity. No stranger to community service, Kafkakis coaches Science Olympiad, was a coach for FIRST Lego League Jr. and FIRST Lego League, and is an active member of the Brighton Orchestra Boosters and several school PTOs. In

addition, she has served on the Board for the Livingston County Spartans, and the Livingston Area Parents of Multiples. She is a Volunteer Photographer for Flashes of Hope, and is a former Area Coordinator for Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep.

**What are your qualifications for running (i.e., previous appointed or elected public office positions personal/professional experience you can bring to the position)**

Prior to owning my own business, I worked in Quality Control in the Food Industry, in Technical Services in Food Safety and in sales for a Biotech company that was founded in Ann Arbor. I also have experience in Technical Staffing, helping science, manufacturing and engineering firms with their short-term, long-term, and contract-to-hire positions.

**List requirements you have completed for the office (# signatures collected, date filed, fees paid):**

Filed, paid fee.

**Amount of money raised as of date of submission:** Through ActBlue: \$525. Through other contributions: \$840 (\$500 was my own personal contribution).

**What do you consider the principal duties of the office you are running for?** includes passing bills on public policy matters, the state budget: specifically, education, infrastructure, and healthcare.

**If elected (or re-elected), what will be your top priorities for this community?**

Education, the environment, and public health. I think infrastructure ties in, as well.

**How will you communicate with constituents once elected?** Newsletters, town halls/coffee hours, emails, etc.

**What are your primary sources for information/news?** The local community, and for state news, the official website. I try to stay with moderate news sources rather than the polar media channels.

### Local Issues

*Indicate your position on the following topics, including solutions. Please indicate "NA" for any issues which are applicable to your prospective office*

**City / Township / County's Master Plan:**

**Tax Abatement & Business Development:**

**Local Environmental Policies:** We need to work across the aisle to strengthen common-sense environmental regulations, reprimand those who pollute our Pure Michigan way of life, and produce strategies to protect our precious waters from invasive species and other forms of contamination, like PFAS.

**Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services:** I'd like to see the MI state parks system continue to be updated, as many of them have antiquated facilities. As an avid camper, we've found that certain parks have issues with their wells and/or septic systems.

**What do you see as the role of the city / township / county in the school system?** As a mom to four in public schools, I feel like schools are the thread that ties our communities together. With our districts being SOC, I find that they have similar values/missions. I

have found my own 'village' of friends and fellow parents through our children's friends/schools. Obviously, school districts, and they should have the support of the local governing bodies (township trustees, city councils, county commissioners) and I found that it was very divisive during Covid.

### **Public Safety:**

**Public Transportation:** I'd like to see the SOM take some of the funding and invest in public transportation as part of infrastructure:

**Other comments:** In determining what my priorities would be, I find that education is the common thread that ties my concerns together. We can't strengthen our economy without strong schools. I'd like to ensure higher education is in reach for those who wish to pursue it, and expand vocational and technical education programs and community college offerings. Schools need to be able to recruit AND retain quality educators and we can do this by paying them appropriately.

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

**X Education: Improving Public Education for Children and Adults**

**Economy: Using Aggressive & Comprehensive Economic Development Policies**

**X Job Training: Improving the Skills of our Workforce**

**Trade: Using an Approach Based on a Level Playing Field**

**Economic Development: Improving Depressed Communities**

**Agriculture: Protecting our Farms and Rural Communities**

**Transportation: Providing Access to Opportunities**

**Information Technology: Expanding Access to Information**

**X Small Business: Nurturing Entrepreneurship and Self-employment**

**Income: Rewarding Work**

**Taxes: Providing a Sufficient, Stable and Fair Tax System**

**X Health Care: Providing Health Security for Families and Individuals**

**X Children and Families: Providing Help for Working Parents with Children**

**Coping With Misfortune: Bankruptcy, Foreclosure and Homelessness**

**X The Environment: Protecting Our Land, Water, Air and Open Space**

**X Social Justice: Achieving Equal and Humane Treatment Under the Law**

**X Women: Protecting the Rights of Women**

**Veterans: Respect and Help for Those Who Serve Our Country**

**X Youth: Building Citizens Who Will Brighten our Future**

**Seniors: Providing Retirement Security and Needed Services**

**Voting: Nurturing Democracy and Promoting Civic Participation**

**Faith: Connecting Our Party with People of Faith**

**X Public Safety: Creating Safer Communities for All**

**Energy: Providing Power to the People**

**Judicial System: Serving the People, not Special Interests**

**Government: Freeing Politics from Money Influence and Special Interests**

**Corporations: Insisting on Corporate Accountability**

**Consumer Protection: Protecting People in the Marketplace**

**Financial Services: Protecting People in Credit and Banking Transactions**

**Providing Proper Oversight of Our Financial System**

**Defending Our Democracy: Strengthening Our Financial System** **Local Government: Defending Our Democracy**

*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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