



## NON-PARTISAN VOTER GUIDE

# CITY OF WESTLAND

**Election: Tuesday, November 7, 2017**

**POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 am – 8:00 pm**

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTHWEST WAYNE COUNTY

Website: [www.LWVnorthwestwayne.org](http://www.LWVnorthwestwayne.org) E-mail: [lwvmail@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvmail@yahoo.com)

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The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County is a nonpartisan organization established in 1960 in Livonia, MI. The League works to encourage citizen participation in government. It never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County contacted candidates requesting responses to two questions. The answers are printed as submitted and have not been edited, except for necessary cutting when replies exceeded the stated word limitations. When a candidate exceeded the stated word limitation, the answer is ended with an ellipsis (...).

A corresponding, on-line version of this Voter Guide can be found on [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).

Publication of these statements and opinions of candidates is solely in the interest of public service and in no way is to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters. The League takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by the candidates. The work of the League is financed by the dues of members and by contributions from citizens in the community.

Membership in the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County is open to all citizens of voting age. For information about joining or contributing to the League, or information about elections, contact the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County at: PO Box 51502, Livonia, MI, 48151, phone: 734-421-4420, or Website: [www.LWVnorthwestwayne.org](http://www.LWVnorthwestwayne.org)

In the City of Westland, there are contested races for two contested races:

- Two candidates are running for Mayor
- Eight candidates are running for 4 positions on the Westland City Council.

Candidates are listed in each race by alphabetical order.

**WESTLAND MAYOR: Vote for One**

Two candidates on the ballot are listed in alphabetical order	What qualifies you to hold this position and why are you running?	What are the priority issues facing your City and what actions would you take to address them if elected?
<p><b>Kevin Coleman</b></p> <p><b>Address:</b> PO Box 851356 Westland, 48185  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> (734) 751-6321  <b>Campaign Website:</b> <a href="http://www.ColemanForWestland.com">http://www.ColemanForWestland.com</a>  <b>Education:</b> Bachelor's Degree, Western Michigan University</p>	<p>34 years old, 4 years on City Council, Michigan Municipal League Training, Westland Veterans Association, Westland Festival Committee, Lee Honors College. I seek the office of Westland Mayor so that our great city can once again put the concerns of everyday residents first, prioritize to budget to boost public safety and have a local government that is more accountable to its people.</p>	<p>Getting tough on crime again in Westland: after a 25% cut to police by our current Mayor, our PD is understaffed and break-ins and armed-robbery have become too common in our city. I will reduce administrative expenses and add to the police budget to hire 6 new police officers. Bringing in new jobs and investment: Westland needs and economic boost and that will require selling off city owned commercial land to investors and keeping taxes and water rates under control so that people can afford to do business and live here.</p>
<p><b>William R. Wild</b></p> <p><b>Address:</b> Po Box 85655 Westland, 48185  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> (313) 999-0136  <b>Education:</b> Graduated Westland John Glenn HS (honors), Studied Business U of M-Dearborn, Harvard Kennedy School Executive Education</p>	<p>I am 49 years old and married with three children (15,12,10) My wife is a public school teacher (Farmington Schools). I am a small business owner and have owned an auto recycling facility for 30 years. I have served as Westland's full-time Mayor since 2007. I previously served on the Westland City Council from 2001-2006. I also served on Westland's Planning Commission from 1999-2000. I currently serve as a Trustee for the Michigan Municipality League, The Michigan Ambassador for the US Conference of Mayors, and Chairman of the SEMCOG Economic Development Task Force. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Municipality Risk Management Authority (MMRMA), Wayne-Metropolitan Action Agency, the Tai Initiative and Your Child. I am running for reelection to continue my work in making Westland the premiere community in Wayne County to live, raise a family, worship or own a business.</p>	<p>Public Safety- I will continue to work with the City Council to make sure that our Police and Fire Departments have the manpower and resources to keep our city safe for its residents, business owners and visitors. Neighborhoods- My major focus for the next four years will be reinvesting in Westland's neighborhoods and eliminating blight. I launched a comprehensive Neighborhood Makeover Program that will revitalize our city's 50 neighborhoods. You can check our progress and learn more by visiting <a href="http://www.cityofwestland.com">www.cityofwestland.com</a> Business attraction- Westland's local economy for decades has been dependent on the Westland Shopping Center and its surrounding retail. I will continue to strategically recruit a diversity of businesses to align our city with changing consumer trends. Quality of Life- Continued investment in parks, senior &amp; family activities, recycling, art &amp; culture and bike paths.</p>

## WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL: Vote for Four

Eight candidates on the ballot are listed in alphabetical order	What qualifies you to hold this position and why are you running?	What are the priority issues facing your City and what actions would you take to address them if elected?
<p><b>Debra Fowlkes</b></p> <p><b>Address:</b> 36877 Ravenwood Dr. Westland, 48185  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> (734) 620-0455  <b>Campaign Email:</b> electdebrafowlkes@gmail.com  <b>Education:</b> BS, English Literature and Language, Eastern Michigan Univ MHA, Masters of Health Administration University of Detroit Mercy</p>	<p>I want to be a part of city government tasked with keeping this city on an even keel for the future. While we have a positive fund balance, we know that going forward this fund balance will not last unless we manage the city's finances properly. I am running for our city council because I believe my education and experience can add value to the future of the city. I am a 30 year resident of the city and I am proud to call this city my home. I have worked in Health Care for over 25 years. I am currently employed with Henry Ford Health System as an Insurance Contract Administrator. I have served on the Wayne-Westland Community School Board, Police and Fire Civil Service Commission, Westland Youth Assistance Mentor and currently I am serving on the Planning Commission. This city needs leadership that is focused on the present but have a vision for the future for the city.</p>	<p>Continue to advocate for business and residential growth in the city. Develop the old city hall property for recreational or mixed use development. Work with the Police and Fire Departments to bring staffing levels up to the standards for a city of this size by exploring all means of revenue enhancement such as grants and subsidies from the federal government.</p>
<p><b>Timothy Gilbert</b></p> <p><b>Address:</b> 36350 Ford Road Westland, 48185  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> (734) 725-5684  <b>Campaign Email:</b> Info@koda-is.com</p>	<p>As a young adult life I chose to serve our nation becoming a highly decorated United States Marine, locally as a law enforcement officer in the City of Detroit, and most recently a successful business owner right here in the City of Westland. I am now taking my love and compassion for the great city of Westland to the next level and immersing myself in the pursuit of public service to this great city. It is this motivation that leads me to dedicate my time to ensure the progress and enrichment of our City. My wife and two young adult children have all grown up in our city and graduated from John Glenn High School. This further inspires me to invest in our city to give back for all that we have received. It is my mission as a home and business owner in this community that I some day retire here and enjoy all of the accomplishments that we will reach together.</p>	<p>This is a great question as the normal response would be to increase taxes and or cut city services. Very few people can explain how to reach these goals without using these common approaches. My mission is to create a foundation today for the future of our great city. This foundation I refer to is one that requires us to embrace the very essence of Westland. It is to lead by example for our youth, and embrace and provide premium services for our elderly. I am currently in talks with the Michigan Building and Trades Commission on ways we can increase the level of our students' education within the trades industry. My response and solution on how we will improve municipal services while reigning in on the current excessive taxes that we as citizens endure, is to develop a program affording our children to complete the buildings trades certification program.</p>

**(cont.) WESTLAND CITY COUNCIL: Vote for Four**

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<p align="center"><b>Tasha Green</b></p> <p><b>Address:</b> 29018 Currier Ave. Westland, 49018  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> (734) 828-7010  <b>Campaign Email:</b> tasha@greentitanmanagement.com  <b>Campaign Website:</b> <a href="http://www.votetashagreen.com">http://www.votetashagreen.com</a>  <b>Education:</b> Over 17 years professional business experience, Real Estate Broker, Licensed Abatement Contractor, CPM, ARM, ACM, and COS.</p>	<p>I am an internationally accredited property manager, a licensed real estate broker, a licensed abatement contractor, and homeowner who has lived in Westland for more than 13 years. After successfully advocating for several issues like street lighting and better city services, I realized I could make a difference and help others on City Council. I believe that my experience as a small business owner and real estate professional will help me make a positive impact on the business and community development needs that Westland currently has.</p>	<p>As the next City Councilwoman, I look forward to serving the citizens of Westland with excellence. I will work to strengthen our economy by bringing businesses to our city, I will work with our law enforcement professionals and firefighters to keep our city safe, and I will do everything in my power to ensure Westland residents receive quality services from our Public Service department. I also look forward to developing more programs that enhance the quality of life for our local senior citizen community.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Jim Hart</b></p> <p><b>Address:</b> 6820 N Farmington Rd Westland, 48185  <b>Campaign Phone:</b> (734) 709-5307  <b>Campaign Email:</b> jim@citizensforjimhart.com  <b>Campaign Website:</b> <a href="http://citizensforjimhart.com">http://citizensforjimhart.com</a>  <b>Education:</b> Military - Basic Training, Telecommunications, and Primary Leadership Bachelors - Business Management PMP Certified</p>	<p>My name is Jim Hart and I am happily married to my wife, Linda, for 21 years. Together, we are raising three children here in Westland. After high school, I left to serve in the United States Army. I have a combined 15 years of service consisting of Active, National Guard, and Reserves. I've also been very successful in my professional career and continue to grow the business in our market segment. I have been recently published in the Construction Association of Michigan Magazine, illustrating my ability and successes in helping Michigan grow. I'm a well known community servant and proudly served as the President of the Westland Area Jaycees in 2015. I was nationally recognized as one of the top 10 chapter presidents in the United States that same year. I seek to lend my experiences, professionalism, and skill-set to the city of Westland and its residents as we embark on the road ahead.</p>	<p>While we as a city have survived the economic downturn in 2008, we need to ensure this success is not short lived. We need to reinvent ourselves and continue to adapt to the ever changing environment surrounding retail based business. Westland needs to be attractive to new business across all major industries. While politicians themselves cannot decide what businesses come to the city, we can create conditions that are attractive and work hand in hand to ensure that the choice to invest in our city is an easy one to make. It takes an experienced and innovative thinker to make this happen. Secondly, improved city services are a major concern. I have had the privilege thus far to speak with hundreds of residents at their door and I share their concerns. Enhanced services, robust Police and Fire departments, and an energized business climate are the keys to our continued future success</p>

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<p><b>Peter Herzberg</b></p> <p><b>Campaign Phone:</b> (734) 578-3412 <b>Campaign Email:</b> PHerzbergCity Council@gmail.com <b>Campaign Website:</b> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/VotePeterHerzberg/">http://www.facebook.com/VotePeterHerzberg/</a> <b>Education:</b> John Glenn High School Wayne State University Finance Major Michigan Municipal League Elected Officials Academy</p>	<p>I have served on the City Council for the last two years and have attended the annual budget meetings for the last eight years. I have decided to run for re-election because I believe I can continue to make a positive difference in our city as a Council Member. I have volunteered and spent countless hours working on behalf of organizations such as the Westland Festival Committee, Westland Veterans Association, and have raised money for numerous charitable causes.</p>	<p>Restoring services and Police staffing levels will be my top priority in the coming months. Also, we need to continue to attract new residents and business investment in our City.</p>
<p><b>Meriem Kadi</b></p> <p><b>Address:</b> P.O. box 851411 Westland, 48185 <b>Campaign Phone:</b> (734) 718-0476 <b>Campaign Email:</b> merkadi2017@gmail.com &amp; merkadi31@gmail.com <b>Education:</b> High School Grad, Some college, Real Estate License, Assessing Certification</p>	<p>My family moved to Westland in 1978 so I have been a longtime resident and very active in our Amazing City. My experience includes; Former City Council Woman, Planning Commissioner, Director on the Board of Realtors and currently on the Government Affairs Committee, Westland-Wayne Relay for Life Team Captain since 2000 and Lead Committee Member, and Friends of The Westland Library President. Why I want to serve as a City Council Woman is simple I want to continue helping our City improve so that it is a place where people continue to be proud to live and work</p>	<p>I want to continue focusing on New Businesses filling our buildings and encourage New Homeowners to move and stay in our community. Our Public Safety is always important and always want to grow and staying abreast of any grants available to those programs which we have utilized and working hard to keep our budget balanced is key Keeping up with the Market and how that is affecting our community is valuable. Working closely with the Administration to stay on top of anything that effects our Residents and Businesses will keep us a thriving community.</p>

(Continued on Reverse)



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<p align="center"><b>Michael A. Kehrer</b></p> <p><b>Address:</b> 421 Patingill St Westland, 48185 <b>Campaign Phone:</b> (734) 718-3430 <b>Campaign Email:</b> mkehrer13@gmail. <b>Education:</b> B.S. in Public Administration Certification in Local Government Fiscal Management</p>	<p>My family moved into Nankin Twp. (now the city of Westland) in 1914. I have been active in my community for 40 years. I have served on the Westland City council for more than a decade. We have managed to submit a balanced budget for the last 10 years during these tough economic times. I am running for office because I care about my community and I love my city.</p>	<p>There is always a lot of campaigning and talk about how people will grow services or hire more police and fire personnel if elected. If only they knew how tight municipal budgets are. The real fight is restoring full revenue sharing from the State of Michigan. Proposal A and Headlee Tax amendment handcuff local authorities on their ability to raise revenues and sustain growth.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Michael Londeau</b></p> <p><b>Address:</b> PO Box 85752 <b>Campaign Phone:</b> (734) 223-0200 <b>Campaign Email:</b> citizensforlondeau@gmail.com <b>Campaign Website:</b> <a href="http://facebook.com/citizensforlondeau">http://facebook.com/citizensforlondeau</a> <b>Education:</b> Graduate of Wayne-Westland Community Schools</p>	<p>I am a 38 year old, life-long Westland resident and current homeowner. For the past 12 years, I've worked for Pepsi. Currently, I'm a Customer Development Manager, where I focus on the development and growth of existing and new business client relationships – directly focused on independent restaurants in Metro Detroit. I'm running for Westland City Council because I know I have the interpersonal skills and consensus building abilities to help City Council to come together to better serve Westland. All too often, divisions between Council members hinder Council's ability to find common ground and solutions to the problems facing Westland. I also currently serve as the Chairman of the Westland Downtown Development Authority, leading an 11 member board which has a budget of approximately \$2 million. I am also a member of the Westland Master Plan Steering Committee.</p>	<p>Broadly speaking, I have three main priorities. The first is to ensure our public services departments—including our police, fire, and EMS—have the resources and personnel they need. These services represent core functions of government, and they must be our priority. Second, we need to upgrade and improve our aging roads and infrastructure. This will create jobs in the short term and long term. Infrastructure upgrades are needed across the region. As a result, there are opportunities to collaborate with neighboring communities, and we should not overlook such collaborative efforts. We must also work with County, State, and Federal officials to address these needs. Lastly, Council, the Mayor, and the Administration need to work together to draw new businesses and opportunities to Westland, whether through the redevelopment of existing buildings or through new construction.</p>

***Do you appreciate this Voter Guide?*** It is printed with funds donated by people like you. Many in our community do not have access to computers and VOTE411.org. They request printed copies but we need your help to keep these efforts funded. We are an all-volunteer group and rely on donations to pay for unique projects like this. Send your tax-deductible gift, payable to:

League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County  
PO Box 51502  
Livonia, MI 48151

*Thank you!*