



NON-PARTISAN VOTER GUIDE
35th DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
NON-INCUMBENT

Tuesday, August 5, 2008
POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTHWEST WAYNE COUNTY

Website: www.lwvwww.org E-mail: lwvmail@yahoo.com Phone: 734-421-4420

The League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidates. Candidate responses are included as submitted and have not been edited except in cases where the replies exceeded the stated word limitations. **Spelling and Grammar were not corrected.** The inclusion of candidates' statements and opinions 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 35th District Court serves the Townships of Canton, Plymouth and Northville and the Cities of Plymouth and Northville.

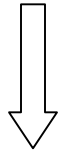
There are 6 candidates – vote for no more than 1. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

<p><i>Question 1 (150 Words or less):</i></p> <p><i>Provide biographical information and explain why you are running for this position. What relevant qualities and skills would you bring to the position?</i></p>	<p><i>Question 2 (150 Words or less):</i></p> <p><i>Describe major administrative or other issue(s) currently before the 35th District Court and actions you would take to address those issues.</i></p>
<p>JOE BARONE</p> <p>I graduated from MSU with a BA in Business. I obtained my JD from Thomas Cooley Law School and a Master of Laws degree from WSU. I have represented families, small businesses and individuals as a "Main Street" attorney for the last 11 years. I am running for this position because I know I can make a real difference in our community. I believe I am the most qualified candidate. I have two law degrees and the other candidates only have one. Over the last 11 years, I have represented more community residents at the 35th District Court than any other candidate. I am not closely affiliated with or supported by any partisan political machine. My supporters are based upon true relationships that I have developed through my years of practice and community involvement, not "scratch my back" partisan politics. Judicial elections are on the non-partisan ballot for this very reason. Our community needs a personable, fair, independent and non-partisan judge. My allegiance ...</p>	<p>JOE BARONE</p> <p>It is a judge's responsibility to administer fair and impartial justice in an expeditious manner with the community's best interest in mind. Too many times, individuals who come into contact with the judicial system are merely a number. In the criminal punishment area, a judge has to have the ability to use discretion in determining what is in the best interest of the public and what is the best approach to take to make sure the accused does not repeat the behavior. Not all people who come into contact with the court fall into neat little categories with predefined outcomes. In both the criminal and civil area, a judge has to have the ability to realize that each person who comes into contact with the judicial system carries with them their own set of facts and circumstances. A judge can never lose track of the fact that their decision has great potential to significantly affect people's lives. It is up to the judge to do everything in his/her power to affect ...</p>

(cont.) 35th District Court Judge Candidates

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<p align="center">ARTHUR R. BUTLER</p> <p>FAMILY INFO: married to Carolyn K. Butler (36 years); two daughters, Captain Kristin McCall, JAG, USAF (married to Captain Jonathan McCall USAF), Megan M. Schlanser (married to Captain Justin Schlanser, US Army Medical Corps),</p> <p>EDUCATION: Marysville High School, Marysville, Michigan, Class of 1966; MSU, 1966-1968; United States Coast Guard Academy Class of 1972, B.S.; Wesleyan University Class of 1977, Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (Chemistry); Western New England College School of Law Class of 1982, J.D.; George Washington University, Master’s Certificate in Government Contracting.</p> <p>EXPERIENCE: 1972: Commissioned an Ensign in the United States Coast Guard 1972-74: Operations Officer USCGC Sundew, Charlevoix , Michigan ; 1974-76: Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard LORAN Station, Simeri Crichi, Catanzaro , Italy. ; 1976-1977: Duty Under Instruction, Wesleyan University in Middletown , Connecticut ; 1977-1980: Chemistry instructor, USCG Academy ; 1980-1982: Duty Under Instruction, Western New England College School of Law; 1982-1986: Senior Appellate Counsel . . .</p>	<p align="center">ARTHUR R. BUTLER</p> <p>The issues are simple. This is the opportunity for the community to select the one individual whom they believe will best balance the needs of the community, the needs of the perpetrator, the needs of the victims, and needs for security. When people combine to form societies they must give up certain of their individual freedoms. The regulation of the surrendered freedoms is contained in our laws. It is the task of the judge to make sure that the laws of the sovereignty are enforced by balancing the various forces. That can only be done through a thorough knowledge of the law aided by the sound judgment that comes for experience and maturity.</p>

Please Continue



(cont.) 35th District Court Judge Candidates

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<p align="center">JAMES F. MALINOWSKI</p> <p>I have been happily married to Susan for 40 years and have 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren. I was formerly an engineer with General Motors and left industry to begin my neighborhood law practice in 1973.</p> <p>I have litigated thousands of cases in Courts throughout Michigan. This experience has allowed me to achieve the courtroom skills and knowledge of procedure to immediately assume the responsibility of a District Judge.</p> <p>On the criminal side I have handled an extensive variety of traffic tickets, misdemeanors and felonies and on the Civil side I have handled almost every type of civil case which would come before a District Judge.</p> <p>I have always enjoyed my volunteer activities. I believe that Community Service is absolutely essential for the success of the community and as an attorney, I believe that serving as a District Judge is the ultimate in Community Service.</p>	<p align="center">JAMES F. MALINOWSKI</p> <p>There's an old saying "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". By no means is the 35th District Court broken. However, some clerical procedures are being performed manually. I would recommend a study to investigate whether new equipment and technology could improve the efficiency of the Court.</p> <p>I'm not specifically criticizing the 35th District Court but far too often, I appear in a Court at the scheduled time, along with a courtroom full of other litigants, only to wait far too long, for a Judge to take the bench and dispose of the many cases which are waiting to be heard because they have been scheduled at the same time.</p> <p>As the first case of the day is ready to be heard, I would be on the bench and would stay on the bench until the docket is completed. I think that my work ethic can improve the overall efficiency of the court.</p>
<p align="center">CAM MILLER</p> <p>. I am a 51 year resident of Plymouth. I graduated from Plymouth-Canton High School in 1975, EMU in 1982 and Detroit College of Law in 1988. While law school I interned with the Wayne County Prosecutors Office and was a law clerk in 35th District Court for Judges James Garber, and John MacDonald, working mostly with Judge Garber. I have over 20 years of courtroom experience and over eight years as the prosecuting attorney for the City of Plymouth. I am also a special prosecutor for Northville and Canton. As such I have appeared in 2655 cases since July 1997. To give you a standard to compare the next closest candidate has appeared in just 149 cases and one candidate has appeared in only 6 cases in the 35th District Court since records are available due to the court's fire. This unique experience best gives me special insight into the 35th's inner workings.</p>	<p align="center">CAM MILLER</p> <p>The court must maintain and expand its "special courts", while not allowing itself to become a tax burden on its communities. The sobriety court should expand to include all substance abuse cases and/or cases where substance abuse is an issue. It was only just recently that it was expanded to include first offense OWI's and only then when the defendant's alcohol level was two and one half times the legal limit. Additionally, the court should shift from a court wide docket to individual dockets for each judge. As it is judges schedules rotate on a three week bases with nothing the judges can do about it. The judges may have time when, for whatever reason, nothing is scheduled by the court for them and hence they have nothing to do. If each judge kept their own docket then each judge would/could be held accountable for their workload or lack thereof.</p>

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<p align="center">JIMPLAKAS</p> <p>UofD Law, JD.</p> <p>I have been a District Court Prosecutor, Assistant City Attorney, Criminal Defense Attorney and Civil Litigator throughout each of the past 13-years. As a result of my balanced experience, I am endorsed by Retiring 35th District Court Judge John MacDonald, Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy, the Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM), the Wayne County Sheriff, the Wayne County Sheriff Road Patrol, the Northville Township Professional Firefighters, the Canton Professional Firefighters, and others. If elected, I will take a hands-on approach in attempting to better the lives of all who come before me. I will be patient and respectful to all participants, and will not allow outside influences to cloud my judgment. I am endorsed by the people who know our Courts first-hand, and by those who have an honest interest in seeing that our Courts effectively and properly serve the people.</p>	<p align="center">JIM PLAKAS</p> <p>Like all other tax-funded operations, the Court's fiscal responsibility has been an issue over recent years. There are five communities being served by the Court, and the Court must have their best interests, safety and welfare at heart. This includes being fiscally responsible and efficient. This can only be accomplished through sacrifice and productive open-minded communications between the three Judges, the Court employees, the Advisory Board, and other representatives and members of the 35th District communities.</p>
<p align="center">MARTHA SNOW</p> <p>I would bring experience and leadership to the Court. I am 45 years old, have been practicing law for 17 years, am a private practitioner, an assistant attorney general, a wife, a mother, a step-mother; and I know the communities served by the 35th District Court as well as anyone. A court should represent the community as a whole, and women have not been represented on the court. A woman has never sat on the 35th District Court bench. While gender should not be the paramount criteria for electing anybody to public office, a woman's perspective has been missing at the court.</p> <p>I have been a leader in numerous community organizations. I serve as a Director on the Canton Chamber Bd.; a graduate of the Township's Leadership Canton program; Pres. of the Wayne County Family Law Bar Assoc.; currently Treas. of the Schoolcraft Foundation Bd.; Rotarian for 14 years, was Pres. of Canton Rotary; a Founder and Advisory Bd. Member of the Canton-Plymouth Giving Hope Woman's Giving Circle; and Northville Planning Commission member.</p>	<p align="center">MARTHA SNOW</p> <p>There has been a great deal of disharmony among the Judges on the 35th District Court bench. Much of it was publicized two years ago when one of my opponents ran against an incumbent judge of the 35th District Court, and one of the other sitting judges of the court publicly criticized the incumbent and supported his opponent.</p> <p>I hope to become a unifying influence and a fresh voice on the court. The Judges are individually responsible for the decisions they make on the bench. However, they must meet and treat each other with respect in discussing and deciding issues relating to the operation of the court. These matters can be handled privately and with dignity.</p> <p>The court also has had some budgetary issues in recent years. I have been a business owner for the last 13 years, and hope to bring my experience as a business owner to the court to help solve some of the financial issues facing it.</p>