

OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE ELECTION

Views in the Oakland Community College district will go to the polls June 8 to elect three trustees. Voting will be conducted alongside local school races. Interviews were given in face-to-face interviews with Eccentric staff.

Why are you running and what qualifies you for a seat on the Oakland Community College Board of Trustees?

Would you support an extension of the current extra voted millage of 0.8 mills?

What is your position on the recent tuition increase at OCC?

A North Central accrediting team was critical of OCC on a number of points. Your comments.

Mal Vaara

Challenger

Springfield Township

Retired after 37 years as assistant superintendent, principal, teacher, Clarkston schools; former Springfield Township trustee



"My wife saw an article in the newspaper asking people to run. I don't have an ax to grind. I went to a junior college in Ironwood (Mich.) if it wasn't for that, I wouldn't have attained my goals."

"I supported the (current) millage. I'd promote that (the renewal), too. I think that's part of the role of the board."

"I preached to kids all the time that you need a skill, but it doesn't have to be from a four-year college. But affordability is important."

"I think boards get into trouble when they micro-manage. The budget is number one, following board policy comes next. Let the administration run the district."

Amie Scott

Incumbent, seeking second term

Royal Oak

22 years as employment agency business owner, emphasis on jobs for women; past president Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce



"I'm the first person from OCC to chair the Michigan Community College Association. I started the business and community alliance program, where we talk to business and get their input."

"There are a couple of items I'm concerned about. One is simulated city (a police/fire/EMS training program); to date the activity has not been as far along as I would like to see it. Apart from that, we've done very nicely."

"I voted against the tuition increase. I still like the affordability (of OCC). We're still at the bottom of the (tuition) scale."

"One area where we need to step up is in ESL. Oakland County is becoming a mecca for people for whom English is a second language."

Michelle Hoyer

Challenger

Rochester Hills

OCC student in communications/political science; student representative to OCC Board of Trustees; previously beauty salon proprietor



"I'm a strong advocate for Oakland Community College - for OCC and what it's done for me."

"We said the (prior) millage was for new programs, but we've only added one new program. The rest has gone into facilities."

"Maybe we should start managing money better than putting it on the students."

"There are too many interim positions, no one has ownership. Even the NCA evaluation pointed out that we have low morale. As a student, I can feel it. We (also) need to do more on handicap accessibility."

Judith Wiser

Incumbent, seeking third term; board chairwoman

West Bloomfield

Real estate professional, former ballet instructor



"I've taught, been a student (at OCC) been a trustee and been chairman of the board."

"I was 100 percent for the previous millage. I hope police and fire will get simulated city. If they don't feel confident in us, then they won't help us renew the millage."

"I voted against the tuition increase."

"I agree with our union that things should be done in a more timely manner. But contracts haven't been presented to me. (On technology) until every student has a computer, I don't think trustees should have one."

Janice Simmons

Incumbent, seeking second term; former board chairwoman

Rochester Hills

Medical services administrator, Detroit Medical Center



"I've seen a change in the students. We need to offer more innovative programs. Some need remedial support. I want to be there for them. I want to work to support the students and to address the issues."

"I was very active in the last millage campaign (she was on the Blue Ribbon Committee that worked for passage of the millage). I will be very active again. We had to start rebuilding our structures."

"I supported that. We needed it, but there have been other times when I've said 'no' (to a tuition increase). Now, we have to look at how we manage our funds, how we can hold the line. The college has to user-friendly (financially) to students."

"We have to make an effort to improve labor relations. It's very distressing. We need to move forward. Negotiations have been going on for so long. The staff is getting demoralized."

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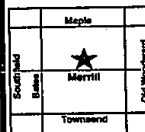
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