

League of Women Voters' Guide for April 5 Election



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Polls Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
This report was prepared as a public information service by the League of Women Voters of Livonia. The LWV is a national volunteer, non-partisan organization established in 1920 to encourage citizen participation in government. It never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. The League does support or oppose issues after careful study with

ent regard to the stand of any party. To keep Voters Guides completely impartial LEAGUE STANDS ON ISSUES ARE BASED ON THE FACTS INCLUDED IN THE GUIDES.
Information was gathered from questionnaires sent to each candidate before the Primary Election in February. The biographical questionnaire included a question concerning training and experience the candidate had which would qualify them for office.

STATE SENATOR
(Including Livonia, Plymouth, Northville, Farmington and a portion of Western Oakland County)
Term: 2 years.
Salary: \$10,000 per year plus \$2,500 expense, plus mileage.

Question Asked Candidates:
The candidates were asked to limit their replies to 100 words.
1. What do you consider the chief issues facing Michigan today and how should they be resolved?

Roberts
FARRELL E. ROBERTS: 42; 2486 LaFay, Pontiac; Attorney; U.S. Naval Academy, BS; U. of Mich. Law School LL.B. Previously State Senator, 1960-64; State House of Representatives, 1956-60; U. of Mich. Law School Ed. of Visitors, State Bar Comm. on Court Administration, Elks, Kiwanis, Amvets—I served as State Senator from 1960-64, as Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary and as Vice Chairman of three committees: Taxation, Labor and Elections. I was also Chairman of the Joint Legislative Judiciary Committee to implement the new State Constitution. I sponsored many bills including the Community Mental Health Act and Appellate Court Law.

1. Over the next two years we must seek to maintain a workable cooperation between the Governor and the Legislature.
2. Fiscal reform is needed in order to overhaul our outmoded tax structure.

3. We must continue to implement the Community Mental Health Act, so that our mentally disturbed can receive rapid and intensive treatment close to their home environment.

4. A state departmental reorganization act, a county home rule act, and an inferior court act should be passed during this term.
5. We must continue to meet our higher education needs and to expand our community college facilities.

McNamara
EDWARD H. McNAMARA: 38; 17278 Dolores, Livonia; Manager at Mich. Bell Tele. Co.; Ph. B. U. of Detroit; Rotary Club of Monroe; Pres. Liv. Meadows Homeowners Assoc.; Vice Pres. Livonia City Council—My major in college was in Political Science. In addition, I have served as a school bd. member in Drbn. Twp. for 5 1/2 years (Pres. 2 yrs.) and as a Councilman (3 yrs.) This education and experience has given me an excellent understanding of the needs of the schools and local governments.
1. Tax reform—relief to prop-

erty taxpayers, homestead exemptions to senior citizens and a more dependable revenue base to schools. I believe these can be accomplished by enacting a modified form of the Swanson-Romey fiscal reform plan.

I also believe expansion of the community college program, expanded mental health facilities and improvement in the Workmen's Compensation Law are necessary.

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
Term: 6 years.
Salary: \$27,500 per year.
There is no contest for this office. John B. Swanson is unopposed.

Recreational Bonding Proposition
"Shall the City of Livonia, County of Wayne, Michigan, borrow the sum of not exceeding Four Million Four Hundred Thousand (\$4,400,000) dollars, and issue its general obligation bonds therefor for the purpose of acquiring lands for public parks and recreational purposes, and improving, developing and providing necessary facilities for recreational use of said lands."

EXPLANATION
Only property owners in the City of Livonia are eligible to vote on this issue. The proposal received a 56.3% "Yes" vote in the November election. However, Michigan State Law requires approval by 60% of the electorate.

The proceeds of this bond issue would purchase approximately 1,200 acres throughout the city to be used for park sites, some of them equipped with artificial ice rinks, neighborhood-type swimming pools, tennis courts, playground equipment, and athletic fields.

Specific park sites have been recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission. However, the final decision as to the sites rests with the City Council.

Livonia currently owns 307 acres of park land. 132 of these acres constitute the municipal golf course.

The cost to the taxpayer would be 71 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. On a home assessed at \$8,500, representing a market price of approximately \$22,000, the tax would be about \$6 a year.

Federal funds up to 30% for sites will be available if the bond issue passes. This federal grant would free \$1,320,000 of the bonding funds for site development including swimming pools, skating rinks, etc.

It is the intent of the Parks and Recreation Commission to charge a nominal fee for the use of the facilities to offset the operation and maintenance cost. **THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSAL SAY**
1. We could be paying \$55.25 per year for school and city services instead of \$8.00 for parks if the proposed park sites are subdivided. Very few homes in Livonia pay enough taxes to cover essential services. The 1,200 subdivided acres mean 4,800 homes and 19,200 new residents, including 3,600 children. School and city services for these homes would cost each taxpayer considerably more than buying and maintaining parks.

Livonia's desirability as a place in which to live depends on wise use of its remaining resources. Open space land results in better city planning, less density of population and increased value of existing homes. Taking land off the market is one of the few ways citizens may control population density.
3. Available land is fast disappearing and cost increasing. Some of the land designated on the master plan has been sold because of lack of city funds to purchase land. At our present rate of development, Livonia will be completely built up in 10 to 12 years. Land is being bought and subdivided daily. If we don't act now there will be no desirable recreation land remaining.
4. Recreational facilities for almost 33,000 school-age children are a must for our community. Such facilities should be conveniently located and designed for various types of organized activity.
5. 90,000 Livonians now have only 307 acres of park lands to enjoy. This is about 1/6 of the acreage recommended by the National Recreation Assn. What will our community be like with

200,000 ultimate population unless we buy land while it's available?

6. Financing parks by bonding means that future citizens would pay their share of benefit derived since it would take 30 years to pay off the bonds and thus lessen the burden on current taxpayers.

7. Parks will appeal to industry—industry creates jobs. Experience shows that industry is attracted to well-planned surroundings and sites where planning considers aesthetics, conservation and tax-control.

8. Parks—pieces of ground and equipment—do not make juvenile delinquents. It is unfair to deprive the many of the wholesome benefits of these facilities because of their misuse by a few.

THOSE OPPOSED TO THE PROPOSAL SAY

1. The bond issue will increase taxes and taxes in Livonia are already high.

2. There are other methods of obtaining park land, e.g. buying land as it is needed, a little at a time. Builders sometimes donate land to the city. Under the provisions set up in State Act 285, known as the Planning Commission Act, the City's Master Zoning Plan has already earmarked adequate sites for future parks. As our population grows and the need for recreation

areas increase these lands will be acquired and they will be developed within the limitations of available taxes. If we buy these lands now—many years before we are ready to develop them—we'll be paying thousands of dollars for needless interest.

3. There are enough county and state parks and large school yards available in this area to serve our needs. Some subdivisions have their own swimming pools.

4. Some citizens do not want to own homes near parks because they believe that possible vandalism and excessive noise is prevalent and irritating and they fear it would depreciate the value of their property.

5. Livonia should not depend on federal aid to provide for its local needs.

6. The existing park sites in Livonia are not adequately developed or maintained or protected. Why buy more land until proper care can be taken of what we do have?

7. The taxpayers are being asked to purchase land without knowing for certain where these park sites will be located. Some people question the desirability of some of the proposed sites. (Why buy a pig-in-a-poke.) It is felt that the cost of developing some of the proposed sites will be prohibitive.

8. Land values in Livonia are not sky rocketing but rather are stabilizing. It is no longer the attractive area it was to builders because of the higher zoning restrictions.

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P.S. Recent downward rate adjustments can make supplemental electric heating lower in cost too. Supplemental electric heat's just the thing for cold corners and always-chilly rooms.

DETROIT EDISON
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Cubs Compete In Derby
The Scouts of Cub Pack 785 and their Patrons, visited the Wayne Assembly plant March 20. After touring the plant they returned to Grant School, to test the Pinewood Derby cars they have been working to complete since last December. The actual race was held at the regular pack meeting March 23rd. The winners were: First place, Tom Meyer; Second place, Roger Curtis; and Third place, Bud Meyer. Trophies were awarded to these boys. The other Cubs entering the race were given Ribbons as honorable mention.