

INTRODUCTION TO THE VOTERS GUIDE

On Tuesday, April 7, 2009, at the Consolidated Election, Macomb City voters will have an opportunity to vote for candidates for Macomb City Township Offices, Macomb Park District, Macomb Library District and Macomb School District. Also on the ballot are candidates for Spoon River College District, Regional Board of Schools, and a Countywide Proposition. The only contested races are in the Macomb Park District and in the Macomb School Board. Note that in the school board election only three representatives from each township can be seated on the school board. Two people in Scotland Township currently sit on the board. Two candidates are from Scotland Township. Therefore if both should be among the top four vote getters, only the highest vote getter will be seated. Information on the countywide proposition on the ballot will be published along with the specimen ballot. Look for it. To find the district you live in and where you go to vote, please check your voter registration card or call the county registration office at 309-833-4649.

This Voters Guide was prepared by the League of Women Voters to help citizens make an informed decision about these races. All candidate information in the Voters Guide was provided by the candidates, compiled by the League and edited only for length. Candidates are listed in the order in which they will appear on the ballot.

You may wish to vote early. You can vote beginning March 16, up until April 2 at the Voter Registration office in the basement of the courthouse. The office will also be open on Saturday, April 4 from 9:00 until noon. Grace period voting began March 11 and ends on March 24. During this period citizens can both register and vote. If you choose to vote absentee, you have until April 6 to get your ballot into the office. A reason for voting absentee is required.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization. It neither supports nor opposes any party or candidate but encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League appreciates the participation of candidates and of this publication.

Please share this Voters Guide with your family, friends and neighbors. This Voters Guide is also available at the League of Women Voters web site, www.lwvmdc.org.

DEMOCRACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT. We encourage you to get out and vote between 6 A.M. and 7 P.M. on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 and take someone with you.

Sharon B. Keeling, President
League of Women Voters of McDonough County

PARK BOARD

Name: Jim Bloom

Education: B.S. Earth Resources, Northern Illinois University MBA, University of Tampa

Occupation: Comptroller, Bridgeway, Inc.

Additional experience: 5 Years Superintendent of Finance, Macomb Park District; 8 Years Commissioner and Treasurer, Macomb Park District

1. Why are you interested in this position and how have you prepared to serve in the position?

I believe that the five years of experience as financial manager of the Macomb Park District and eight years of experience as a commissioner and the park district treasurer have prepared me well to continue to serve this community on the park board.

2. What are the issues facing the park board that concern you the most?

The two greatest issues facing the park district are determining if we will replace the Glenwood Swimming Pool, and if we do, how it will be done. The other issue is how to continue to deliver high quality programs to our residents in this climate of limited financial resources.

Name: Ritchie Gabbei

Education: BS in Physical Education; MSED in Physical Education, and a PhD in Physical Education Pedagogy.

Occupation: Physical Education Teacher

Additional Experience: K-12 PE teacher; Coached football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, & track; Canoeing trip guide & Whitewater canoeing/kayaking coach.

1. Why are you interested in this position and how have you prepared to serve in the position?

Macomb is not my home town, but it is my children's home town. I want my children, as well as all Macombites, to love their town due to a high quality of life. I think the Park District plays an important role in quality of life. Quality programs can attract businesses and generate revenue for Macomb and the Park District.

I have prepared to serve in this position by being a patron of park district; by following Park Board and City Counsel business in the news; and by coaching youth sports. Through this preparation I have talked to citizens and observed events that lead me to believe that the Park District can do more to serve Macomb.

2. What are the issues facing the park board that concern you the most?

I see getting the most from our tax dollars by making park facilities usable by more people – the pool & park facilities; developing facilities and programs that attract more participation; and play a larger role in local youth sports.

Name: John Hemingway

Education: M.A. degree in Recreation Education – University of Iowa; B.A. degree – Grinnell College

Occupation: Teacher, Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration, WIU

Additional experience: Over twenty years in parks and recreation field. Many other work experiences: assembly line, retail, building manager, military (US Army veteran). Volunteer with local Explorers & Scouting groups, "Dickens on the Square," Regional Arts Center

1. Why are you interested in this position and how have you prepared to serve in the position?

Macomb is a good place to live; parks and recreation help make it that way. Since I have over twenty years experience in parks and recreation, being a member of the Park Board is a good way for me to serve our community.

Served on the Park Board since July 2007. Additional experience working together with citizens and elected officials on park and recreation comprehensive plans, need assessments, and grants.

Experience has taught me the importance of listening to others, respecting their opinions, and pulling together to get things done.

2. What are the issues facing the park board that concern you the most?

Being responsive to the citizens of Macomb and keeping their trust. Wider range of programs and increased program quality. Protecting our park resources so they're available to everyone. Financial caution, responsibility, and integrity. How to finish the East University Drive project. The swimming pool. Working with other government bodies

SCHOOL BOARD

Name: John L. "Larry" Adams (incumbent)

Education: St. Paul School 8th grade Graduate, 1961; Macomb High Graduate, 1965. Southern Illinois University Graduate, Carbondale, 1969, with a BS in Communications

Occupation: Coordinator of Religious Education at St. Paul Parish, Macomb, since 1992; Ordained Permanent Deacon of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria

Additional experience: Lifelong Macomb resident; US Army Signal Corps, SGT.; Employee/Branch Manager, The Sherwin-Williams Company -16 years; Married, 31 years to wife Shirley, Special Education Teacher at Macomb Jr./Sr. High School; Three married children, Ginger, MaryBeth and Christopher; six grandchildren and one on the way. Macomb community

activities include: member, Boy Scouts of America, since 1956; Board Member, "Loaves and Fishes, Etc." food pantry, since 1994; member, Macomb Rotary Club, since 1981; member, Macomb Area Christian Ministerial Association; member of Macomb Equal Opportunity/Fair Housing Commission

1. Why are you interested in this position and how have you prepared to serve in the position?

It has been a privilege to have served two previous terms on the Macomb School Board and I wish to continue my service. I have been an active member in various board positions and committees. I am an affiliate member of the National School Board Association and Illinois Association of School Boards. I am a designated "Continuing Master Board Member~ by the Western Division of the Illinois Association of School Boards.

2. What are the issues facing the school board that concern you the most?

I echo the concerns of taxpayers and board colleagues throughout the state and nation—Unfunded mandates and antiquated funding procedures must be remedied. This has a direct and continuing impact on students, curriculum, faculty, facilities and transportation. It's not a hopeless situation. It is a challenging opportunity.

Name: Dan Colvin

Education: B.A. in English – Wheaton College; M.A. and Ph.D. in English – Northwestern University

Occupation: Retired English Professor, WIU

Additional experience: Substitute high school teacher, Chicago Public Schools

1. Why are you interested in this position and how have you prepared to serve in the position?

I have served in the field of education for forty years – as a teacher and a teacher of teachers. I believe that the future of our country depends on the quality of education our young people receive. I am interested in serving on the School Board as a means of repaying the community that has been such a fine place to raise a family and of strengthening the system that provided our daughter with an excellent education.

2. What are the issues facing the school board that concern you the most?

In these difficult financial times, being good stewards of our resources – money, personnel, and buildings – is essential. Providing ways of strengthening our curriculum and developing even better channels of communication among faculty, administration, staff, and parents are also areas that demand our creative attention.

Name: Renato Sturlic

Education: Master of Science in Education; B.A. Political Science and History

Occupation: Educator with over 12 years of experience

Additional experience: Teacher, mentor, coach, sponsor, coordinator, volunteer, and member involved in various school, charitable, and service-related activities, and organizations

1. Why are you interested in this position and how have you prepared to serve in the position?

Harry Truman said, "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit." I've seen organizations and people lose sight of this principle. It's vital we keep in mind that as a school board we're public servants called to serve in the best interest of the community. I plan to be the sort of school board member who will always keep in mind that my position is a public trust and my decisions will always be made in the best interest of our students and community, and only after listening to all sides.

2. What are the issues facing the school board that concern you the most?

a. Personnel; b. Building projects; c. Student discipline issues; d. Consolidation; e. Increased student enrollment

It's vital that the process to consider each and every one of these issues be open, consistent, fair, and inclusive of all. Regarding building projects, consolidation, and increased enrollment; public hearings should be conducted before Board action. Under law, personnel and student discipline

matters must be kept confidential. However, Board policies and procedures can and should be accessible to all. Implementation/enforcement of said policies should be consistent, orderly, non-biased, and fair.

Name: Anthony Fillingham

Education: Elk Grove High School, Elk Grove, IL – Diploma; Spoon River College - Associate's Degree in Pre-Engineering; Western Illinois University - Bachelor's Degree in Applied Mathematics/Computer Science and Law Enforcement Administration

Occupation: Macomb Police Department - Police Officer for 14 years

Additional experience: Midstate College - Instructor in computer science and mathematics for 1 year; U.S. Army - Reserve soldier for 6 years

1. Why are you interested in this position and how have you prepared to serve in this position?

My oldest child has entered the Pre-K program at MacArthur School. Her twin sisters will most likely be following her into the Pre-K program next fall. The classroom is the most important room they will be in outside of my home. I will have three children in the school district for at least 15 years. My goal is to serve the District for that entire time. To prepare myself to serve, I have introduced myself to all of the PTO's, attended Board meetings, spoke with teachers, and reviewed Board minutes.

2. What are the issues facing the school board that concern you the most?

The development of a strategic plan to encompass the possibility of rising student population with the economy in a depression. The on-going pursuit of a better education for all the children in our District. As one of my children is autistic, I have a personal interest in the development of special needs programs.

Name: Ardell J. Thompson (incumbent)

Education: Graduated from Fulton (IL) Riverbend District Fulton IL; B. S. Elementary Education from Western Illinois University; Certified Insurance Counselor Designation; Illinois Insurance Producers License; IASB (Illinois School Board Assn.) Master School Board Member 2001-2008

Occupation: Personal Lines Customer Service Representative/Department Head at Purdum Gray Ingledue, Inc. for 32 years

Additional experience: Worked Two Years as Program Assistant with Macomb CUSD#185; Raised 2 children who attended Macomb Schools; Served Two Terms on Macomb School Board and am running for a third term.

1. Why are you interested in this position and how have you prepared to serve in the position?

I am seeking my third term on the school board. I feel that today school board members face challenges that demand experience and creativity to educate the children raised in the 21st Century. I have attended seminars offered by the IASB on how board members must continue to educate themselves on new ways to help districts run smoothly and efficiently by providing more services with less funding. I have attended state and national school board conferences networking with other boards from our state and also from other states to learn new ways to stretch the education dollars we have farther.

2. What are the issues facing the school board that concern you the most?

The issues facing our district are less outside funding and using the gracious tax dollars we get from our local property owners in the most efficient way possible. Decreasing property values and enrollment numbers mean the district has to do more with less and still provide the best education we can for our children. Keeping this in mind we need to work with our neighboring districts as partners to provide instruction for all our students in this region. Macomb is fortunate to partner with West Prairie in their agriculture programs. We want to return the favor and partner with surrounding districts by collaborating on joint initiatives that can benefit all our students.

2.

Name: Robert Shouse (incumbent)

Education: WIU graduate, 1995

Occupation: Agent, Shelter Insurance

Additional experience:

1. Why are you interested in this position and how have you prepared to serve in the position?

I feel that every person should give back to the community that they live in. I have been privileged in being elected to serve my community by being a member of the school board. During the past 4 years I have served, we have hired a new Superintendent, worked in conjunction with the City of Macomb on the TIF district, and were able to work out a new agreement with the teacher's union. I understand the commitment that is required as a board member. I serve the community. My goal is to make the best decisions I can regarding every student, every staff member, and every teacher.

2. What are the issues facing the school board that concern you the most?

I have one issue that concerns me the most. It is the same concern I had 4 years ago. That is the way our public schools in Illinois are financed with property tax dollars. It puts a huge strain on the families and businesses of the state. Especially now during this current economic atmosphere we are in. As a board member it is my job to make sure that the tax dollars that we are given are spent in a wise manner. That includes every aspect of the district from insurance to books to teacher pay and everything else in between. The public has trusted me in being a good steward with their tax dollars. I intend to keep doing that.