



2026 GENERAL ELECTION GUIDE

As our region continues to navigate a rapidly evolving economic and political landscape, strong leadership and collaboration at every level of government have never been more important. The challenges ahead will require elected officials who are willing to move beyond partisan labels and work together to advance practical, forward-thinking solutions that strengthen our communities and regional economy.

In this **2026 Regional Election Guide**, we provide helpful information on voting, offices up for election, and any ballot proposals that may appear before voters. This guide also outlines the candidates endorsed by the Lansing Regional Chamber-Political Action Committee (LRC-PAC) and encourages you to learn more about each individual and their positions on issues important to the business community and the Greater Lansing region.

This guide covers the Tuesday, November 3, 2026 General Election in Greater Lansing area, including Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steve Japinga

Senior Vice President, Public Affairs
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce



2026 Elections in the Greater Lansing Region



IMPORTANT DATES

- ✓ **September 24, 2026:** Absentee ballots available
- ✓ **October 19, 2026:** Last day to register online or by mail
- ✓ **October 20 – November 3, 2026:** New voter registrations must be completed in person
- ✓ **October 24 – November 1, 2026:** Constitutionally mandated early-voting period
- ✓ **November 3, 2026:** General Election

Visit the Michigan Voter Information Center to view a sample ballot and confirm your polling location: mivic.sos.state.mi.us

WHO IS ON THE BALLOT IN 2026

While the specific names of individuals – especially in state and local elections – vary by district, the following offices are up for election in 2026:

FEDERAL

- ✓ U.S. Senate
- ✓ 7th Congressional District

STATE

- ✓ Governor & Lieutenant Governor
- ✓ Secretary of State
- ✓ Attorney General
- ✓ State Senate
- ✓ State House of Representatives
- ✓ Michigan Supreme Court (two seats)
- ✓ State Board of Education (two seats)
- ✓ University Governing Boards
 - University of Michigan Board of Regents (two seats)
 - Michigan State University Board of Trustees (two seats)
 - Wayne State University Board of Governors (two seats)

LOCAL

- ✓ Municipal Offices (Cities & Townships)
- ✓ Lansing Community College Board of Trustees
- ✓ School Boards

Register to Vote



The Michigan Voter Information Center provides a simple process to register to vote. You can register to vote through Election Day.

- ✓ **October 19, 2026:** Last day to register online or by mail
- ✓ **October 20 – November 3, 2026:** New voter registrations must be completed in person

WAYS TO COMPLETE YOUR ABSENT VOTER BALLOT

Available September 24, 2026

[Register Here](#)

Ways to apply for an absent voter ballot application

- ✓ Online – Registered voters can request an absentee ballot online through the [absentee voter request form](#)
- ✓ Call your [clerk's office](#) and ask that an application be mailed to you
- ✓ Download an application to return by mail or in person to your local [clerk's office](#)
- ✓ In person at your local city or township [clerk's office](#)

Your completed absentee ballot should be received by your city or township clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day. You can submit by mail, or by hand-delivering the ballot to your clerk's office or their drop box. If you are returning your ballot within two weeks of election day, we recommend hand-delivering your ballot to avoid possible postal delays.

Begin the process early by mailing in your application for an absentee ballot as soon as possible. Applications can be submitted up to 75 days before an election.

All registered voters can track their ballot by looking up their information in the [voter information section of this website](#).

EARLY VOTING IN MICHIGAN

October 24 – November 1, 2026

Michigan voters have the right to cast a ballot early and in person at an early voting site before Election Day.

FIND YOUR POLLING LOCATION

Not sure where your polling location is or who your city or county clerk are? [Michigan.gov/Vote](#) can help you find that answer. Some jurisdictions provide a sample ballot so you can know who – and what – you're voting on before you head to the polls or complete your absentee ballot.

[Michigan.gov/Vote](#)

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November 2026 Ballot Proposals



STATEWIDE PROPOSALS

✓ **Proposal 26-1 — Constitutional Convention**

A proposal to convene a constitutional convention for the purpose of drafting a general revision of the state constitution.

Official ballot question: Shall a convention of elected delegates be convened in 2027 to draft a general revision of the State Constitution for presentation to the state's voters for their approval or rejection?

LRCC Recommendation to VOTE NO

LRCC's position is that opening Michigan's entire Constitution to a general revision would create unnecessary uncertainty at a time when employers need greater predictability and stability. A constitutional convention could revisit a broad range of provisions affecting taxation, economic development, labor, local government and the overall business climate. From the business community's perspective, Michigan should remain focused on improving competitiveness, growing jobs, attracting investment and addressing specific policy challenges through the existing legislative and constitutional amendment processes rather than undertaking a wholesale constitutional rewrite.

VOTE **NO** ON PROP 1

Protect our Constitution.
Protect our communities.



A STRONGER MICHIGAN TOMORROW
STARTS WITH A **NO** VOTE.

November 2026 Ballot Proposals



✓ **Proposal 26-2 — Campaign Finance**

A proposed initiated law to prohibit campaign contributions from certain regulated utilities and government contractors and apply campaign finance laws and regulations to additional types of political communications. The proposal would prohibit regulated electric and gas utilities, contractors with over \$250,000 annually in government contracts, and people/organizations with substantial connections to them from making direct or indirect campaign contributions to those who run for or hold offices that impact them.

It would expand laws regulating spending on political communications, including donor-disclosure requirements, to communications clearly identifying candidates or ballot questions even without express advocacy.

It would expressly apply the law requiring disclosure of who paid for political communications to internet political communications.

Official ballot question: Should this proposal be adopted?

LRCC Recommendation to VOTE NO

LRCC supports transparency and accountability in Michigan's campaign finance system. However, LRCC's concern is that Proposal 2026-2 would impose broad new restrictions on businesses and organizations that contract with government or operate in regulated industries, limiting their ability to participate in the political process while creating additional compliance requirements and uncertainty. The proposal also expands campaign-finance regulation to communications that identify candidates or ballot questions even when they do not expressly advocate for or against them. From LRCC's perspective, campaign-finance reforms should promote transparency while establishing clear, consistent rules that do not disproportionately restrict legitimate participation by employers and business organizations.

Ballot Proposals General Election



REGIONAL PROPOSALS

★ NEW ✓ RENEWAL

CLINTON COUNTY — 10 PROPOSALS IDENTIFIED, INCLUDING:

- ★ **City of DeWitt Charter Revision**
(general revision of the city charter)
- ★ **East Lansing Charter Amendment: City Council Meetings**
(aligns charter with state public-meeting and records law; East Lansing spans Ingham and Clinton counties)
- ★ **East Lansing Charter Amendment: City Clerk** *(permits the Clerk to appoint a meeting designee; spans Ingham and Clinton counties)*
- ★ **East Lansing Charter Amendment: City Contracts**
(allows designees to approve contracts when officials are unavailable; spans Ingham and Clinton counties)
- ★ **East Lansing Petition-Initiated Charter Amendment:**
Citizens' Advisory Healthcare Action Committee (spans Ingham and Clinton counties)
- ★ **East Lansing Citizen-Initiated Charter Amendment:**
Even-Year City Elections (would shift city elections to even years; spans Ingham and Clinton counties)
- ★ **Bath Charter Township General Operating Millage Increase**
(1.00 mill increase)
- ★ **DeWitt Public Schools Bond Proposal** *(up to \$157 million)*
- ★ **St. Johns Public Schools Bond Proposal** *(up to \$40 million; district spans Clinton and Gratiot counties)*
- ★ **Grand Ledge Public Schools Bond Proposal** *(also appears in Eaton County; spans Eaton, Clinton, and Ionia counties)*

Ballot Proposals General Election



EATON COUNTY — 5 PROPOSALS IDENTIFIED, INCLUDING:

- ★ **Eaton County Local Roads and Streets Preservation and Improvement Millage Proposal** (*up to 1.5 mills*)
- ★ **City of Lansing Charter Amendment: Citizens' Advisory Healthcare Action Board** (*would create a citizen board to develop a Lansing Healthcare Action Plan and recommend ways to address healthcare costs and access; also appears in Ingham County*)
- ✓ **Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRAN) Millage Renewal**
- ★ **Grand Ledge Public Schools Bond Proposal** (*up to \$123.5 million; spans Eaton, Clinton, and Ionia counties*)
- ✓ **Holt Public Schools Operating Millage Renewal** (*also appears in Ingham County; district spans both*)

INGHAM COUNTY — 9 PROPOSALS IDENTIFIED, INCLUDING:

- ✓ **City of Lansing Essential Services Millage Restoration Proposal** (*restores charter millage from 19.2214 to 20 mills, for police, fire, and road/sidewalk maintenance*)
- ★ **City of Lansing Charter Amendment: Citizens' Advisory Healthcare Action Board** (*would create a citizen board to develop a Lansing Healthcare Action Plan and recommend ways to address healthcare costs and access; also appears in Eaton County*)
- ★ **City of Leslie Street Improvement Millage Proposal** (*up to 5.0 mills*)
- ✓ **Delhi Charter Township Fire Protection and EMS Millage Renewal**
- ✓ **Delhi Charter Township Law Enforcement Services Millage Renewal**
- ✓ **Meridian Charter Township Police and Fire Protection Millage Renewal**
- ✓ **Meridian Charter Township Park Millage Renewal**
- ✓ **Dansville Schools Operating Millage Renewal**
- ✓ **Holt Public Schools Operating Millage Renewal** (*also appears in Eaton County; district spans both*)

Key 2026 General Election Races



THE STATEWIDE RACES



GOVERNOR



John James (R)

Jocelyn Benson (D)

With Gov. Gretchen Whitmer term-limited, Michigan's governorship is open for the first time since 2018. Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, a Democrat, will face U.S. Rep. John James, a Republican, in the general election. Benson defeated Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson in the Democratic primary, while James won a contested Republican primary.



US SENATE



U.S. Rep Mike Rogers (R)

Abdul El-Sayed (D)

Michigan's U.S. Senate seat is also open, with Sen. Gary Peters declining to seek a third term. Former CIA analyst and public health official Abdul El-Sayed won a competitive Democratic primary over U.S. Rep. Haley Stevens, and will face former U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, a Republican.

Key 2026 General Election Races



THE STATEWIDE RACES



Doug Lloyd (R)

Eli Savit (D)

The attorney general office is open as well, with Nessel and Benson each term-limited out of their current roles. This race was settled by party conventions rather than the primary: Washtenaw County Prosecutor Eli Savit (D) faces Eaton County Prosecutor Doug Lloyd (R) for attorney general.



Anthony Forlini (R)

Garlin Gilchrist II (D)

Michigan's secretary of state race is open in 2026, with incumbent Jocelyn Benson term-limited and running for governor. Democratic Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II faces Republican Macomb County Clerk Anthony Forlini. The secretary of state oversees Michigan elections, driver and vehicle services, and campaign finance administration, making the office an important point of interaction between state government, Michigan residents and businesses.

Key 2026 General Election Races



LANSING-AREA



Tom Barrett (R)

William Lawrence (D)

Incumbent Republican Tom Barrett of Charlotte, a former Army helicopter pilot who has represented mid-Michigan in Congress since 2024, is seeking a second term. He'll face Lansing-area political organizer William Lawrence, who won a three-way Democratic primary in August over former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink and retired Navy SEAL Matt Maasdam.



[Michigan.gov/Vote](https://michigan.gov/Vote)

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Capitol Caucus Member Seats



The following Capitol Caucus member district seats are on the ballot in 2026. These legislators represent communities throughout the Lansing region and play a critical role in shaping state policy on economic development, education, infrastructure, and the business climate.

STATE SENATE

Sen. Sarah Anthony

District 21 – Lansing (D) - *INCUMBENT*

Challenger: Josh Burns (R)

Sen. Sam Singh

District 28 – Clinton (part), Ingham (part), Shiawassee (part) – OPEN SEAT

Dr. Rashida Harrison (D), Julie DeRose (R), Brandon Crabill (L)

Wes Peterson (Working Class)

STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Rep. Rachelle Smit

District 43 - Martin/Hastings area (R)

INCUMBENT

Challenger: Alan Swank (D)

Rep. Sarah Lightner

District 45 - Springport/Jackson (R)

INCUMBENT

Challenger: Randy Davis (D)

Rep. Brian BeGole

District 71 - Corunna/Owosso area (R)

INCUMBENT

Challenger: Stephen Schlaack (D)

Rep. Julie Brixie

District 73 - Okemos/East Lansing (D)

INCUMBENT

Challenger: Joshua Rockey (R)

Rep. Kara Hope

District 74 - Lansing, Delhi Township -

OPEN SEAT

Harold Pope (D) (LRC-PAC Endorsed Candidate), **Clinton Tarver (R)**

Rep. Penelope Tsernoglou

District 75 - East Lansing,

Haslett, St. Johns (D)

INCUMBENT

Challenger: Frank Lambert (R)

Rep. Angela Witwer

District 76 - Eaton County (D)

INCUMBENT (LRC-PAC Endorsed Candidate)

Challenger: Bill Kaiser (R)

Rep. Emily Dievendorf

District 77 - Lansing (D)

INCUMBENT

Challengers: Sally Jo Nilton (R), Jennifer Long (L)

Rep. Gina Johnsen

District 78 - Portland, Sunfield, Mulliken -
OPEN SEAT

Rachel Gross (D),

Brandon Strong (R), Ben DeJong (L)

Rep. Tim Kelly

District 93 - Saginaw Township (R)

INCUMBENT

Challenger: Serenity Hope Salak (D)

2026 LRC-PAC Endorsed Candidates



The LRC-PAC endorsement process may include review of a candidate's record and positions, relationships and accessibility, written questionnaires, candidate interviews, participation in the Chamber's Meet the Candidates series, and other engagement with the regional business community. Candidates may only be endorsed after consideration by the LRC-PAC Board of Directors and a formal vote. The LRC-PAC is a separate entity from the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, and no LRCC membership dues are used for political purposes.

Learn more about the LRC-PAC here: lansingchamber.org/lrc-pac

THE 2026 LRC-PAC ENDORSED CANDIDATES



TOM BARRETT

Michigan's 7th Congressional District

LRC-PAC endorsed Congressman Tom Barrett for re-election based on his record of engagement with the Lansing region, accessibility to the business community and work on regional priorities. During his first term, Barrett has helped secure significant federal investment for mid-Michigan infrastructure, research and development, public safety and other community priorities. LRC-PAC also cited his work on transportation and infrastructure, permitting reform, housing supply and government modernization as areas closely connected to the region's economic priorities.

Campaign website:

[Tom Barrett for Congress](https://www.tombarrettforcongress.com)

2026 LRC-PAC Endorsed Candidates



MIKE ROGERS

U.S. Senate

LRC-PAC endorsed Mike Rogers based on his extensive public-service experience, familiarity with the Greater Lansing region and focus on Michigan's manufacturing economy. Rogers previously represented a congressional district that included portions of mid-Michigan and later chaired the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. LRC-PAC cited his emphasis on manufacturing, jobs and economic growth, along with his familiarity with regional employers and economic priorities, as factors in its endorsement.

Campaign website:
[Mike Rogers for Senate](#)



JOHN JAMES

Governor

LRC-PAC endorsed Congressman John James for governor based on his private-sector experience and focus on strengthening Michigan's long-term economic competitiveness. James brings experience as a business owner in Michigan's supply-chain industry in addition to his service in Congress. LRC-PAC believes Michigan needs a new approach to persistent challenges affecting the state's competitiveness, including educational outcomes and reading proficiency, economic and population growth, affordability and the overall business climate. The endorsement also reflects LRC-PAC's interest in positioning Michigan to compete for investment, talent and jobs in emerging technology sectors while creating an environment where businesses and communities can grow.

Campaign website:
[John James for Michigan](#)

Michigan.gov/Vote

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2026 LRC-PAC Endorsed Candidates



DOUG LLOYD

Michigan Attorney General

[CAMPAIGN
WEBSITE](#)



SARAH ANTHONY

21st District State Senate seat

[CAMPAIGN
WEBSITE](#)



ANGELA WITWER

76th District State House seat

[CAMPAIGN
WEBSITE](#)



HAROLD POPE

74th District State House seat

[CAMPAIGN
WEBSITE](#)

2026 LRC-PAC Endorsed Candidates



THE 2026 LRC-PAC ENDORSED LOCAL CANDIDATES



ANDREA CASCARILLA

Delta Township Supervisor

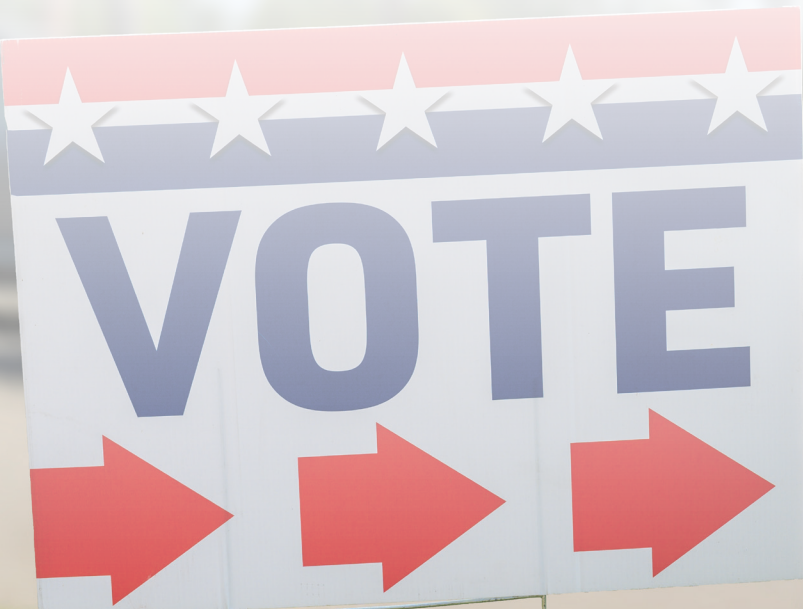
CAMPAIGN
WEBSITE



JOSH LYMAN

Delta Township Trustee

CAMPAIGN
WEBSITE



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