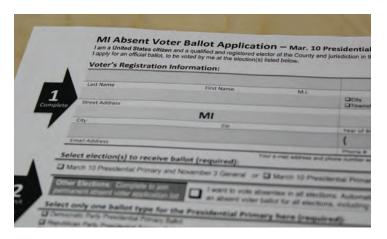




## **LRC-PAC 2021 FOCUS**

The two largest municipalities, Lansing and East Lansing, have elections in 2021.

- In Lansing, the mayor, along with four city council seats, are up.
- In East Lansing, there are three city council seats up.



## ABSENTEE BALLOTS HIT MAILBOXES JUNE 25

All registered voters in Michigan can vote before Election Day using what's called an absentee ballot. You do not need an excuse or a reason. You can vote by absentee ballot through the mail, without ever having to leave your home.

Absentee voters are critically important in every election but now more than ever, they have become a major voting block for candidates. In the 2019 Lansing city elections, 76% of the Lansing voters voted by absentee ballot. (LSJ News, Aug. 8, 2019)

To learn more about how to register for an absentee ballot, please visit the Michigan Voter Information Center at <a href="mailto:mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/VoteAtHome">mvic.sos.state.mi.us/Home/VoteAtHome</a>

## **ENDORSEMENT PROCESS**

Following the review of candidate questionnaires and candidate interviews, the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) Lansing Regional Chamber-Political Action Committee (LRC-PAC) Board of Directors meets to discuss each race and votes on who to endorse. Once the board of directors determines all the races, this is communicated to all the candidates either receiving or not receiving the endorsement. In addition, the LRC-PAC will announce the endorsements to the LRCC membership and public.









DUNBAR

SPITZLEY

SCHOR

BROW









SPADAFORE

WILLIS

GARZA

CALDWELL

# CITY OF LANSING CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

The LRC-PAC Board of Directors held in-person candidate interviews in the LRCC Insurance Capital Board Room in June. Candidates were asked questions taken from their responses to the questionnaires.

#### The candidates interviewed were:

#### Mayor

- · Kathie Dunbar
- · Patricia Spitzely
- · Andy Schor (i)

#### **City Council at-large**

- Jeffrey Brown
- · Peter Spadafore (i)
- · Rachel Willis

#### 2nd Ward

· Jeremy Garza (i)

#### 4th Ward

· Elvin Caldwell

\*incumbent=i

## CITY OF LANSING CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

The LRC-PAC sent a questionnaire to all 19 candidates running for mayor or city council, and received 10 questionnaires back from candidates.

Below are examples of questions on the LRC-PAC questionnaire:

#### **Mayor**

- The pandemic is still very much alive and suppressing economic growth in some sectors. How are you going to make jobs a top priority for your administration moving forward?
- One of the areas of greatest importance to LRCC members is regional infrastructure. With limited funding, how can the City of Lansing make this a higher priority?
- What are your plans for downtown Lansing if state workers do not come back to the office or come back but in a limited capacity?
- The city's financial health has been one of the key policy priority focus areas of the LRCC. Can you discuss the ways your administration has been tackling this issue?

#### **City Counci**

- Many Lansing business owners are not residents of the city and therefore do not have an opportunity to vote in city elections. What steps have you taken to ensure that business owners' voices are heard?
- A competitive tax structure and fair regulatory environment are vital to the business community. How do you view government regulations and taxation in general?
- Growing the city by supporting smart economic development practices is important to LRCC members. Do you believe there are ways to continue to make Lansing a place for economic growth and job creation as a city council member?



### 2021 Key Dates for the City of Lansing

City Primary Election:

Aug. 3

City General Election:

Nov. 2

## Key Dates for the City of East Lansing

Filing Deadline for Candidates:

July 20

City Primary Election:

Aug. 3

City General Election:

Nov. 2

## WORD ON THE STREET

As we mentioned in the Q1 newsletter, former Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero was running for Lansing Mayor. However, he withdrew his candidacy before the filing deadline, and current Lansing City Council member, Kathie Dunbar filed, which means two current Lansing City Council members are running against Mayor Andy Schor.

Mayor Schor will get through the primary election and of the other five candidates running for mayor, both at-large Lansing City Council members, Patricia Spitzley and Kathie Dunbar will be fighting to get through to the general election. It will come down to how organized the candidates are and if they are targeting campaign mail to absentee voters.

STAFF BET: It will be Mayor Schor v. Lansing City Council member Patricia Spitzley in the general election.

## Donate to the LRC-PAC!

The LRC-PAC works to elect candidates to city councils, township boards, county commissions, and the state legislature who align with Chamber members' priorities.

As the region's only political action committee, we know how important it is that your voice is represented at every government level. To make that happen and continue our success, we need community investors like you to contribute to our efforts. Support the LRC-PAC by donating today!

You can make your donation via credit or debit card by visiting **lansingchamber.org/lrc-pac** and clicking on the Donate button at the bottom of the page.



## MESSAGE FROM LRC-PAC BOARD MEMBER

"It's imperative for the business community to engage and invest in LRC-PAC. The business community's voice in electing strong leaders that create economically sound policies is important for rebounding from the pandemic."

Meghan Webber, CEO, Greater Lansing Association

of Realtors

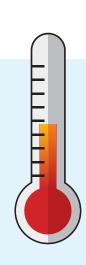
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## The 100 Club (formerly the Century Club)

The 100 Club are individuals who are committed to the political efforts of the LRCC and contribute \$100 or more to the LRC-PAC. We want to thank these individuals for supporting our mission.

**Interested in being part of The 100 Club?** Contact Steve Japinga, vice president of public affairs, LRCC at *sjapinga@lansingchamber.org*.



**GOAL:** \$30,000

**45.6%**TOWARDS OUR 2021
FUNDRAISING GOAL!

## The 100 Club Supporters

Amy Baumer
C. Richard Herrold
Cathy Wilson
Darci Marcum
Don Maynard
Glenn Granger
Greg Brogan
Jeff Williams
Joe Ford
Joel Walter
John Shaski

Keith Granger
Kevin Shaw
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