



Biographies and photos submitted by candidates.

Election Issue 2019

City Council Mayor
Ken Massey

Mayor Pro Tem
Michael Bridges

Council Members
Randy Bruce
Valerie Knol
Richard Lerner
Theresa Rich
Samantha Steckloff

City Manager
Dave Boyer

Resident Concerns
Contact Us By Email

Contact us by email at www.fhgov.com. The inquiry form requires you to fill in your contact information for a follow up. Inquiries are automatically routed to the responsible department and follow up typically occurs within 24 hours, Monday through Friday. Direct more specific or complex inquiries to the appropriate department or call 248-871-2400.

Drop Boxes

For your convenience, there are two drop boxes available for dropping off election materials, including absent voter applications and/or absent voter ballots, as well as tax payments. A tan drive-up drop box is located next to the federal post office boxes in front of Police Headquarters at 31655 Eleven Mile Road, right next door to City Hall. There is also a drop box/slot on the wall at the south entrance to City Hall. This is not a drive-up drop box, so please park and walk your materials to this drop box.



Editor: Gillian Pines
Phone: 248-871-2500
Fax: 248-871-2501
Website: www.fhgov.com
E-mail: gpines@fhgov.com
Address: 31555 W. Eleven Mile Rd. Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Jackie Boleware
Candidate for Election to City Council

Jackie Boleware, a 22-year resident, is running for City Council because she loves the City and hopes to partner with others to build a better community. Her "Together As 1" Campaign is based upon a promise of mutual respect, trust, and a willingness to listen as an independent voice. Jackie believes that the City, through its rich diversity, can do more with its resources.

Her platform calls for the full participation and collaboration of our citizens and businesses. The "Together As 1" campaign aims to protect the City's strong financial ratings, Safe City Designation, and high quality services, while developing best in class practices for mental health services, mitigating the effects of climate change, and improving public transportation and roads.

An active community member for decades, Jackie is Past President of the Timbercrest Homeowners Association. In working with local law enforcement leaders in 2018, she moderated a community policing program sponsored by the Farmington Area Concerned Citizens. In 2019, she served as co-chair of the first Farmington Area Juneteenth Celebration, and as an inaugural member of the Healthy Farmington Hills Coalition. Her public service spans well beyond our City and includes the United Way, 4Cs for Children, Junior Achievement, Girl Scouts of Michigan, and the Detroit-Windsor Dance Academy.

A retiree from BCBSM after 37 years, Jackie Boleware has a Master's Degree in Instructional Technology. She is the mother of one daughter, an avid traveler, and is presently enrolled in a Harvard University writing program.



T. R. Carr, Ph.D.
Candidate for Election to City Council

www.trcarr.com

T. R. is a member of the Farmington Hills Community Health Commission, the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce, attends the Farmington Hills Economic Development Commission meetings, and is President of the Independence Commons Homeowners Association. He worked to successfully eliminate the Special Assessment District road tax.

His vision is to be an effective voice for residents and maintain Farmington Hills as a great place to live, work, and raise a family. He will work to grow the City's economy for jobs, provide quality services for seniors and young families, and support quality education for our children.

T. R. has a record of service: Chairman of the Community Advisory Board of SSM DePaul Hospital (St. Louis, MO), and Leadership Council member of the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association.

He has extensive experience in City government: President of the St. Louis County (MO) Municipal League and former Mayor of Hazelwood (MO). As Mayor, he assembled a regional leadership team to retain the Ford Assembly Plant. Negotiations with Ford provided a six-year extension, which allowed employees to retire, transfer or retrain. The site was cleared and became a distribution employment center. The City was able to adjust without a reduction in services or personnel.

His degrees are in public administration/policy and he has served as faculty at Texas Tech University, the University of Arkansas, and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, where he was Department Chairman for 21 years. His wife is a retired School Psychologist.



Danette Duron-Willner
Candidate for Election to City Council

P.O. Box 2144, Farmington Hills, MI 48333
www.danetteforfarmingtonhills.com
ddw4fh@gmail.com
Facebook: Danette For Farmington Hills

Danette Duron-Willner is a candidate for Farmington Hills City Council. She moved to Farmington Hills in 2008, is married, and has an 11-year-old son who attends Farmington STEAM Academy.

Danette is running for City Council to increase transparency and inclusion in appointments to City Boards and Commissions, enhance fiscal stability, build a long-term vision for Farmington Hills, and support economic development while growing workforce development. She believes in empowering our libraries, parks, and community programs to fulfill their core values without undue interference by local government.

Danette worked as an Investigator with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. She was also a governor-appointed Commissioner for two terms to the Hispanic Latino Commission of Michigan. Additionally, Danette is a former Regional Board Member of the Anti-Defamation League.

She enjoys serving as a volunteer for PTA, Scouts, and mentoring programs, earning Mentor of the Year in recognition of her commitment to mentoring under-represented youth.

Directly after college, Danette worked as a Community Development Director supporting public housing residents. She attended law school and has been providing leadership and sought-after advice for a Fortune 500 company for 18 years. As in-house counsel, she finds it rewarding to mediate issues to reach resolutions no matter the complexity of the situation. She is confident her skills will allow her to be a voice for the community as a Farmington Hills City Council member.



Ken Massey
Candidate for Election to City Council

Ken Massey, a life-long resident of the City, has served as Mayor since 2015 after 12 years as a City Council member. While term-limited as Mayor, he would like to continue service to our community, and asks for your vote on November 5th. Prior to being elected to City Council, he was the President of both his own homeowners association and the Council of Homeowner Associations. He is a member of the Michigan Municipal League, a founding member and past chair of the Emergency Preparedness Commission, and a past member and past chair of the National League of Cities Public Safety Steering Committee. He co-founded the Suicide Prevention Committee, Farmington SAFE, and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Beaumont – Farmington Hills. In 2017, he was one of the three co-founders of CARES in Farmington Hills. Council has achieved much in the last few years: eliminated the Special Assessment District process for local roads; lowest crime rates in 45 years; 18th Safest City in the U.S.; financial stability and AAA bond rating; renewal of the Parks Millage and more, but Money Magazine summarized it with the Hills named "Best City to Live in Michigan." Looking forward, our City keeps momentum with a new Activities Center, infrastructure improvements, and more. His experience and leadership will continue to keep Farmington Hills as a premier place to live. Ken and his wife Katherine are proud to call Farmington Hills home and know you are as well.



Mary Newlin
Candidate for Election to City Council

Mary Newlin knows the key to a strong community is for every resident to have a voice. As a resident of Farmington Hills for over 30 years, she understands this community and is committed to representing you. She is focused on the future with what housing, what businesses, and what services will encourage choosing our community as home. As a mother of three children, all graduates, she believes in the growth of our public schools, which will encourage new families to choose our community. As a registered nurse in many roles, Mary understands identifying priorities, goal setting, and team work. She will advocate for cost efficiency and the best practices to provide programs and services focusing on public health and safety with training and equipment ensuring quality of life for everyone. Mary regularly attends Council study sessions and meetings. Her goal is to learn more about what residents value in a Council representative, what changes and policies are important, what makes the City a lifelong home, and what they love about their City. Full transparency and an open and honest conversation is what you can expect when you speak with Mary as well as into the future when she is representing your voice on the City Council. She has asked the community to contact her at yourvoicemarynewlin@gmail.com or Mary Newlin for Farmington Hills City Council 2019 on Facebook. Mary is making it a priority to meet as many residents as she can face-to-face, so expect a knock on your door!



Theresa Rich
Write-In Candidate for Re-election to City Council

Theresa Rich is completing her first term on City Council and is seeking re-election. In her first term, Theresa increased transparency in local government, championed an ordinance against teen vaping to protect our children, hosted 17 coffee hours to connect with residents, fought for our library's independence, and had 100% attendance at Council meetings. She helped our City's business community grow by welcoming dozens of new businesses – including RichLaw, PLLC, a Farmington Hills law firm she founded in 2016 with her husband Brian Rich.

Because collaboration is important, Theresa sponsored a human trafficking forum to educate elected officials in Oakland County and served on a number of regional/state/national task forces concerning legislation, future skills needs, economic development, and parks & recreation. She is Vice-President of the Michigan Women in Municipal Government.

Priorities for her next term are becoming a strong community where everyone feels safe and at home; securing our future by promoting economic growth, strong infrastructure, and sustainability; and increasing our local government's transparency and accountability to our residents.

Theresa Rich is an estate planning and elder law attorney, as well as an adjunct professor at the Wayne State University Mike Ilitch School of Business Administration. She is a GM retiree with over 30 years of service. Theresa was elected to the Oakland Schools Board of Education in 2010 and continues to serve the 200,000+ students of Oakland County. She and Brian have two adult children, Zach Rich and Alyson Rich.



Candidates filing a declaration of intent to run as a write-in candidate have been included in this publication if they filed prior to the FOCUS publication deadline.

**VOTE ON TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 5, 2019**

City Clerk's Office

ELECTION REMINDERS

Don't forget to get out and vote in the upcoming City General Election scheduled for November 5, 2019.

The ballot will include the following Offices and Proposals:

- The Office of Mayor - one to be elected for a two-year term
- The Office of Council Member - three to be elected for a four-year term
- Oakland Community College Operating Millage Renewal Proposal (Precincts 1- 26 only)

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- **Monday, October 21, 2019** – Last day to register to vote in any matter other than in-person at your local Clerk's Office.
- **Tuesday, October 22 through November 5, 2019 until 8 p.m.** – A person may register to vote **in-person** at their local Clerk's Office with proof of residency.
- **Friday, November 1, 2019 at 5 p.m.** – Deadline to request an absent voter ballot to be mailed via first class mail.
- **Saturday, November 2, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** – City Clerk's Office will be open for Election-related business.
- **Monday, November 4, 2019 until 4 p.m.** – Last day for registered voters to request an absent voter ballot **in-person** at the City Clerk's Office. Photo ID or completion of an Affidavit Not in Possession of Photo ID is required.
- **Tuesday, November 5, 2019 until 8 p.m.** – A person registering on Election Day in person at the City Clerk's Office may obtain and vote an absent voter ballot or vote in their proper precinct.

Contact the City Clerk's Office at 248-871-2410 for an absent voter ballot application or download the form from the City website at www.fhgov.com. Sample ballots can also be found at www.fhgov.com starting the last week of September.

PERMANENT ABSENT VOTER APPLICATION

Vote in the comfort of your own home! All eligible voters can now vote by absentee ballot without a reason.

To be placed on the permanent absent voter application list to automatically receive an absent voter ballot application prior to each Election, contact the City Clerk's Office at 248-871-2410 or email permlist@fhgov.com. Please include your name, registered address, and a contact number.

If you have already requested to be on the permanent absent voter application list and have not yet received your absent voter ballot application, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 248-871-2410.

ELECTION POLLING LOCATIONS MAP

For those going to the polls on Election Day, the City of Farmington Hills has an interactive mapping application that allows residents to find their precinct location quickly and easily. The app can be accessed via the link <http://tinyurl.com/FHElectionApp>.

Residents will be directed to the Election Polling Locations map where they can enter their address. The map will then pinpoint the address and zoom into the specific polling location, giving the name of the facility, precinct number, and address. The app also provides directions to the polling locations, which are open on Election Day from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Precinct information and maps can be found online @ www.fhgov.com.

VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019

31555 W. Eleven Mile Road | Farmington Hills, MI 48336

FARMINGTON HILLS
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FOCUS

Election Issue 2019

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Vicki Barnett

Candidate for Election as Mayor

First elected to City Council in 1995 and Mayor in 2003 and 2005, Vicki was State Representative from 2009-2014. Her past accomplishments include: purchasing the Costick Center; creating model after-school programs; expanding our park system to include a nature preserve, world-class soccer fields, an 18-hole golf course, splash pad and cultural arts programs; forming the Citizen Corps Council for Emergency Preparedness to teach residents how to care for themselves during crises; receiving a Homeland Security grant to install a low power emergency radio station; hosting innovative environmental workshops; championing environmentally sustainable natural landscaping and our Gold LEED Certified City Hall; requiring new developments be compatible with surrounding neighborhoods; preventing oil and gas drilling in residential neighborhoods; and assisting County officials in building a countywide public safety communications network.

Vicki knows that maintaining our AAA Bond rating and meeting current and future budget challenges requires revitalizing existing business and commercial districts and developing programs to encourage young families to move into the City. She proposes creating an Economic Master Plan and establishing a new Visioning Committee to keep Farmington Hills vibrant and sustainable well into the future.

A resident of Farmington Hills since 1981, Vicki and her husband Mark Steckloff have two children. She received a Master's Degree in Business Administration from U of M (Dearborn), was President of the Michigan Municipal League, Board Member of the National League of Cities, Vice Chair of the National Task Force on Interoperability (for Homeland Security), and is involved in many community organizations.



Richard Lerner

Candidate for Election as Mayor

www.richardlerner.net

"Our city has so many accomplishments to be proud of over the past decade, and our future looks even brighter."

Richard Lerner was elected to City Council in 2011 and 2015, and served as Mayor Pro Tem in 2012-13 and 2017-18. He is Council liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission, Committee to Increase Voter Participation, and the Municipal Broadband Taskforce. He has served on the Michigan Municipal League Finance Steering Committee since 2012, and serves on the Board of Directors of C.A.R.E.S. of Farmington Hills and the Xemplar Foundation. Richard is President and Chairman of the Board of the Farmington Area Goodfellows, Vice President of the Farmington Inter-Agency Council, and a member of the Optimist Club and Sons of the American Legion, where he is the Project Manager for the Farmington Memorial Day Parade. Richard served on the Board of Directors at Zieger Health Care, overseeing the \$165 million Beaumont Hospital expansion, and Quaker Valley Farms Association, where he was also President.

Richard has led initiatives that resulted in Farmington Hills:

- Named Best City to Live in Michigan (Money Magazine)
- Lowest crime rates in 45 years
- AAA bond rating
- Eliminated Special Assessment Districts for local roads
- CPR Training in Farmington Schools

Richard is a graduate of Syracuse University where he earned a Varsity letter on the Ski Team. He and his wife Maureen have lived in Farmington Hills for over 20 years. Their children graduated Farmington Public Schools and are currently attending Michigan and Michigan State.



Oakland Community College Operating Millage Renewal Proposal

This proposal authorizes Oakland Community College to continue to levy 0.7545 mill for operating purposes for 10 years as a renewal of millage previously approved by the electors in 2010, which expires with the 2021 tax levy.

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be levied on all taxable property within the Oakland Community College district, State of Michigan, be renewed at a rate of 0.7545 mill (\$0.7545 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 10 years, 2022 through 2031, inclusive, to provide funds for College operating purposes? It is estimated that if the millage is approved and 0.7545 mill is levied in 2022, it would raise \$45,065,057 for the College.

Non-Election issues of the Farmington Hills Focus Newsletter will be included as part of the City's Activities Guide.