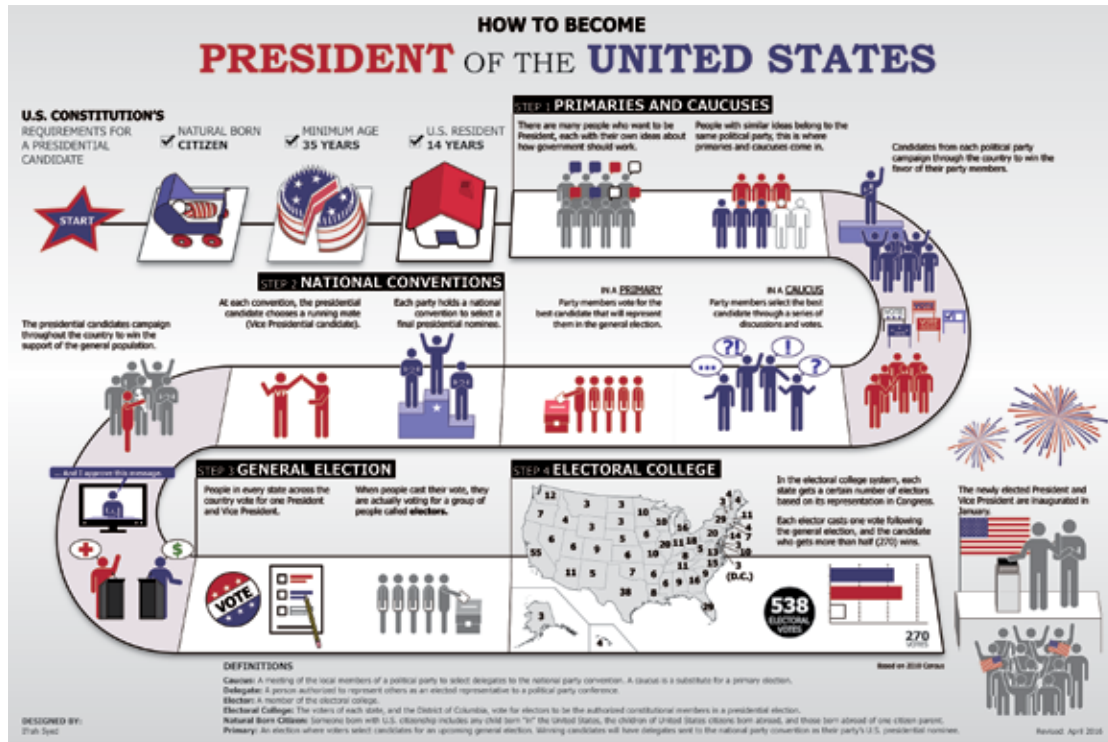


# Washtenaw Matters

NEWS YOU CAN USE!

SEPTEMBER • 2016 • VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 1

## The Path to the Presidency



A step-by-step chart of how to become US President. Source: Shahed Syed, [www.shah3d.com](http://www.shah3d.com)

**Have you ever dreamed** of becoming the President of the United States? Many people do, but very few can make it all the way to the White House!

Becoming a president in the United States is very different from other countries. A presidential candidate in the U.S. often spends more than 18 months campaigning across the country. He or she must travel to many different cities and states to explain his or her beliefs and policies (platform). This process is very expensive and difficult. In other countries, like Canada and Italy, this process only takes a few weeks or months.

**Step 1:** Eligible individuals must first declare their candidacy and file applications with the Federal Election Commission.

HELP PUT A PRINT VERSION OF THIS NEWSLETTER INTO THE RIGHT HANDS!

Washtenaw Matters is published digitally, however many who would benefit from this news source do not have access to the Internet, or know how to use technology.

To learn about opportunities to sponsor print production of each issue, please contact:

Amy Goodman, Executive Director,  
Washtenaw Literacy.

**Step 2:** Individuals must fundraise and campaign to gain financial and political support.

**Step 3:** Individuals must win their political party's nomination. Although the official vote happens at the party conventions (typically in mid-late summer), primaries and caucuses are held in the spring to elect the delegates that vote in the conventions.

**Step 4:** General Election Campaign: candidates tour the country trying to win more votes!

**Step 5:** November 8th, 2016: Election Day! Schools close so that citizens can vote!

**Step 6:** Electoral College Vote: December, 2016: Members of the Electoral College cast their vote for candidates based on their state's general election results.

**Step 7:** Swearing-In Ceremony: January 20th, 2017

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**Washtenaw Matters** is produced three times per year through the collaborative efforts of the CivCity Initiative, Washtenaw Literacy and Eastern Michigan University TESOL program.

The publication is an accessible, plain language source for local news and is distributed through Washtenaw County social service agencies. Accompanying teacher/tutor packs are available to facilitate use of this publication in educational settings.

**Mary Morgan**, CivCity, Editor

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## Who Are the 2016 Presidential Candidates?

There are many independent presidential candidates in the 2016 election, but most people only know Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. This is because U.S. elections only have two main political parties: the Democratic party and the Republican party.

There are many more "third" parties as well, like the Libertarian Party, the Green Party, and the Socialist Party, but these candidates have never won a presidential election in recent history. Their presidential candidates will only appear on some state ballots.

### Hillary Clinton, Democratic Candidate

#### HILLARY'S PATH TO CANDIDACY



**Hillary Rodham Clinton** was born in Chicago in 1947. After college she earned a law degree (with honors) from Yale University where she met her current husband, and former United States President, Bill Clinton.

Clinton was always very active in politics and worked on Republican campaigns in her earlier years before becoming a Democrat in 1968.

Clinton served as Secretary of State from 2009 to 2013 and became the first woman in U.S. history to earn the presidential nomination of a major political party in 2016.

### Donald Trump, Republican Candidate

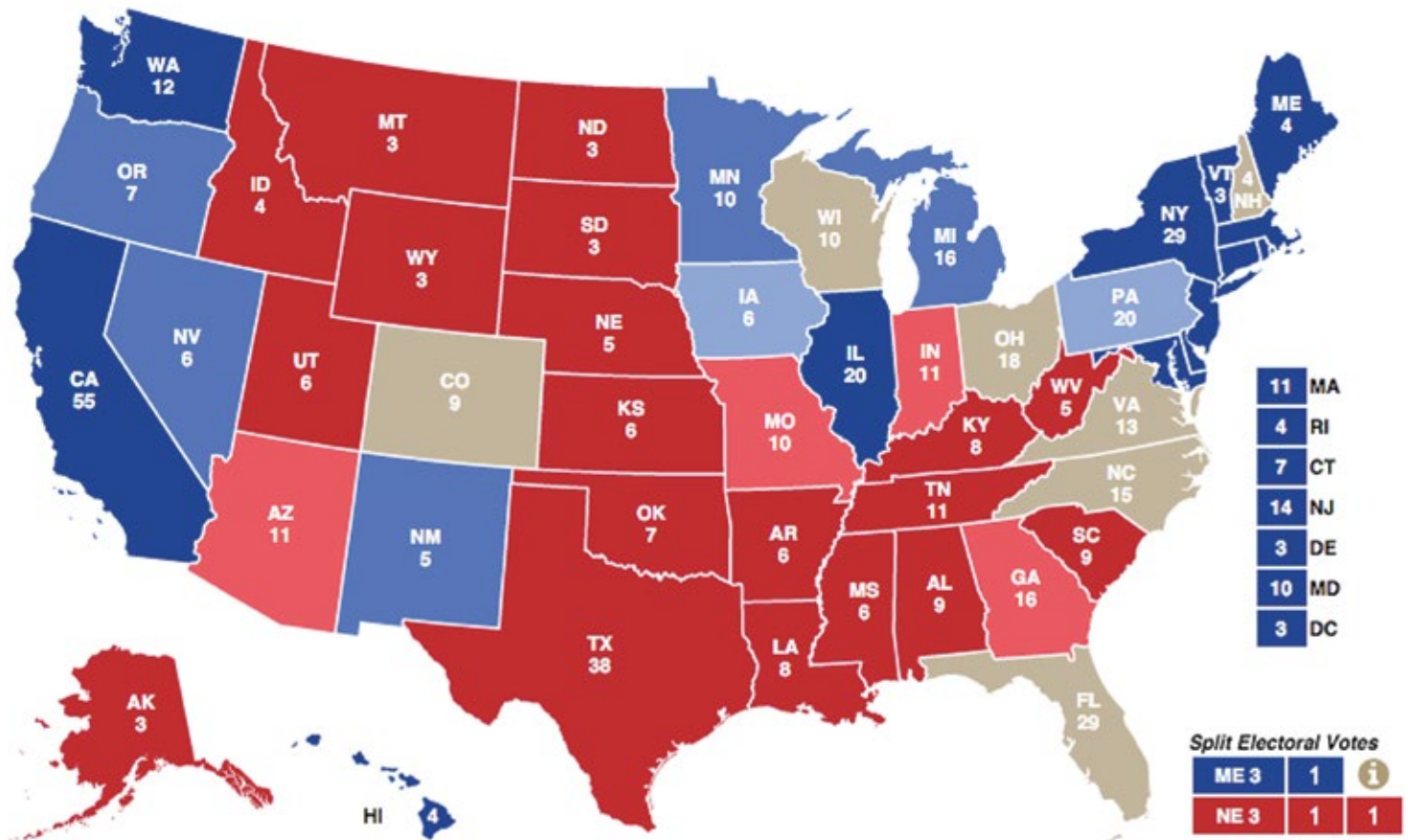
#### DONALD'S PATH TO CANDIDACY



**Donald Trump** was born in Queens, New York in 1946. He earned an economics degree from the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania in 1968.

Trump worked with his father's real estate company after his studies, eventually taking over in 1971. He is most famous for the Trump Tower and the T.V. show "The Apprentice".

In June of 2015 Trump officially announced his campaign for President. On May 26, 2016 he won the nomination at the GOP convention with 1,238 votes and became the Republican candidate.



<http://www.270towin.com/maps/2016-election-battleground-states>

### Electoral Votes: The States Decide!

In the U.S. presidential election system, each state has a certain number of electoral votes based on the state population. States with fewer people, like Wyoming and Alaska, have fewer votes (3) while states with more people, like California and Texas, have more (55, 38). These votes (by elected officials) decide who will become the next President of the United States.

After U.S. citizens vote for president in the general elections in November, members of the electoral college meet to vote for the candidate who had the most votes in their state.

In every state except Maine and Nebraska, the candidate who wins the most votes in November will win ALL of the electoral votes in December. This system makes winning in states like California, Texas and Florida very important; candidates need 270 electoral votes (out of 538 total) to become President.

### Michigan's Role: A Battleground State

Michigan only has 16 electoral votes, but that equals 6% of the 270 votes needed for a candidate to win. It is also the 8th highest amount of votes (with Georgia) in our country. This makes us an important place during the campaign season and on voting day!

Michigan is also important during the campaign and election season because it is a swing state or battleground state. Some states almost always vote Democratic (blue) or Republican (red), but states like Michigan, Florida, and Arizona (light blue, grey, and light red) have voted for candidates from both parties so it is more difficult to predict who will win in these states.

Candidates usually spend more time and money in these battleground states during the campaign season. They want voters to choose them in November!



## **Are YOU Ready to Cast Your Vote?**

October 11th is the last day to register to vote in the election on November 8th, 2016.

Whether you need more information about how to register, where to vote or how to get more information about candidates and proposals, we can help!

Use the following websites or attend a voting workshop for more information:

[AnnArborVotes.org](http://AnnArborVotes.org), [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) or [Michigan.gov/vote](http://Michigan.gov/vote)

### **Washtenaw Literacy Voting Workshops**

Monday, Oct 10th, 12pm -2 pm

Monday, Oct 10th, 6 pm -8 pm

Friday, Oct 21st, 10 am -noon

Stop by a workshop for more help with voter registration!  
Washtenaw Literacy's Community Opportunity Center  
(1301 S. Harris, Ypsilanti).

## **IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION**

### **Eligibility Requirements:**

- U.S. citizen
- 18 years of age
- a resident of Michigan
- a resident of the city/township where you vote

### **Where to Register:**

- Any of the 178 Secretary of State Branch offices
- The city/township/county clerk's office
- Any Family Independence Agency office
- Voter Registration Workshops provided by specific agencies

**Ypsilanti City Hall**  
**1 S. Huron Street**  
**Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

## Our Local Candidates

### Who's Running for Office?

Although the national Presidential election is dominating the news, electing the President and Vice-President is just a small part of the ballot in November! The November ballot will also include candidates for local (city/township/county) positions as well as State Representatives. Continue reading to learn more about some of the candidates running for Ypsilanti City Council!

With the elections getting closer, there are three Democratic candidates running to win the three open positions on Ypsilanti City Council.



Lois Richardson, the current Ward 1 city council member and mayor pro-tem of Ypsilanti, will be running unopposed. She was first elected to city council in 2000.



After having worked for many years in the Ypsilanti city government, Pete Murdock is seeking re-election to Ward 3. He served as the city's mayor from 1982-1989. He is unopposed on the Nov. 8 ballot.



Beth Bashert, a longtime resident of the city of Ypsilanti, is running unopposed for Ward 2 Ypsilanti city council. She has worked for several in local political campaigns, including those for two city mayors – Amanda Edmonds and Paul Schreiber – in the last 15 years.

***The November ballot will also include candidates for local positions as well as State Representatives.***

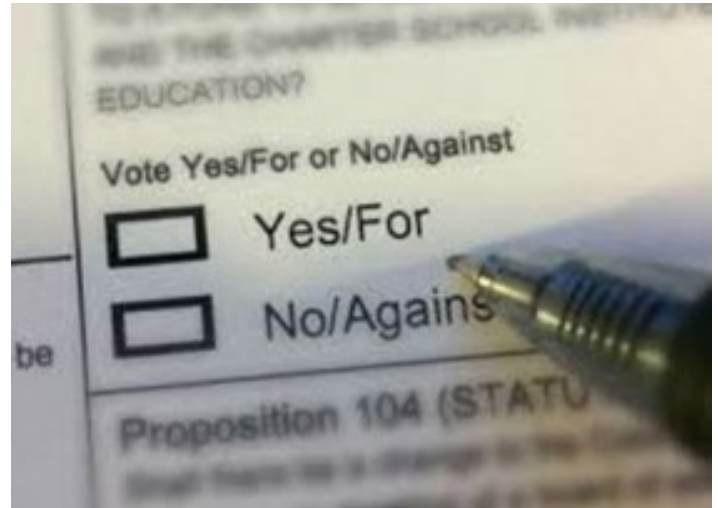
## Ypsilanti & Ann Arbor Ballot Proposals

### What are we voting for anyways?

There are many local proposals for the November 8, 2016 election. Washtenaw County citizens will vote on taxes to pay for roads, services for veterans, and regional public transit.

Find more details on the proposals for Washtenaw County below!

### Washtenaw County:



There are three proposals in Washtenaw County: one for the RTA (Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan), one for the County Road and Non-Motorized Path Tax, and for a Veteran Affairs Tax.

These proposals will be on the ballot in November. Voters will vote YES or NO to fund these proposals. The official ballot language for these and other proposals can be found at the following website: [http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/clerk\\_register/elections/2016-elections/november-8-2016-proposals](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/clerk_register/elections/2016-elections/november-8-2016-proposals)

### Regional Public Transit Tax:

Citizens of Washtenaw County will vote on approving a tax to fund bus rapid transit, a rail line that goes between Ann Arbor and Detroit, an airport shuttle service, regional fare card system and other public transit in southeast Michigan. Residents who own property valued at \$100,000 will pay about \$60 per year for this tax.

***Civic participation is a right, not a requirement, in the United States. Approximately 130 million Americans participated in the elections of 2008 & 2012. This is about 50- 60% of eligible voters.***

**County Road and Non-Motorized Path Tax:**

This proposal is asking voters to approve a property tax to provide funding for the maintenance and construction of roads, bike lanes, and other non-motorized paths in Washtenaw County. This tax will start in December 2016. Residents who own property valued at \$100,000 will pay about \$25 per year for this tax.

**Veterans Affairs Tax:**

Veterans are citizens who previously served in the United States Armed Forces to help defend and protect our country. Voters will need to approve another property tax to fund veteran services in Washtenaw County. This tax would also start in December 2016. Homeowners with a home valued at \$100,000 will pay \$5 per year for this tax.

**What Does Voting Mean to You?**

Did you know that voting is compulsory (required) in over 20 countries around the world? If you do not register to vote you can get fines or jail time in countries like Argentina, Australia, Belgium and Brazil!

Civic participation is a right, not a requirement, in the United States. Approximately 130 million Americans participated in the elections of 2008 & 2012. This is about 50- 60% of eligible voters. Many people are expected to vote this year also.

We interviewed some local citizens to hear what they think about the importance of voting, the presidential candidates and U.S. politics in general.

Here is what they said:



**LARA COOPER**  
Ann Arbor  
resident and  
longtime  
Democrat:

**On Presidential Candidates:**

I'm voting for Hillary. It's been Hillary since the beginning. She's so smart and so qualified for the job- she's been in public service for 45 years! And she's not afraid to be whatever she needs to be to get the job done. It's absolutely time for a woman president- there have been 43 men!.

**On Political Parties:**

I have always voted a straight ticket. I can't imagine a situation where I wouldn't vote Democrat; they support groups that are more vulnerable, like LGBTQ. And the Democrats have a different voice- they represent more diverse groups of people.



**ENRIQUE ZALAMEA**  
University  
of Michigan  
student:

**On Presidential Candidates:**

I support Mr. Trump and his campaign and will be voting for him in November. In this election, people seem to have forgotten how there is an entire administration to rein in someone perceived as temperamental. Hillary Clinton is untrustworthy and negligent.

## On Political Parties:

I have always been a Republican, primarily because I believe in the American Dream: that hard work and dedication will truly lead to success. And rather than spending taxpayers' money on handouts to individuals, the government should look at improving the underlying economic aspects of our country.

***Did you know that voting is compulsory (required) in over 20 countries around the world?***

### **Ready to Vote: The Privilege of Citizenship**

*The following letter was written by Maria Mora on the day after becoming an American citizen in July 2016. Maria works at the University of Michigan Ginsberg Center for Community Service & Learning.*



*Maria Mora with Judge David R. Grand on Citizenship Day*

**Dear fellow Americans,**

I know it is difficult to celebrate when the news around the world makes us cry and wonder what we are doing to foment so much hate; but I have been looking forward for a day like yesterday for years and wanted to share my joy.

I walked into the Federal Court in Detroit along with 68 more people and their families from 24 different countries. I stood, raised my right hand and swore an oath to this country, where I have spent most of my life. I thought I was going to faint when I walked toward the judge to receive my certificate, while holding with love and pride a small American flag.

I cannot wait to register and exercise my American rights to vote in November. I will do my best to honor my citizenship.

## Important Vocabulary Definitions

**Candidate:** A person who gets a nomination for office or an honor.

**Platform:** a statement of principles and policies adopted by a political party or a candidate

**Nomination:** the official suggestion (or recommendation) of a person or thing for a job, position, office, etc.

**Party Conventions:** A meeting of a political party to select a candidate for office.

**Primaries:** an election where voters choose candidates for nomination.

**Caucuses:** a meeting of party leaders to select candidates or elect convention delegates,

**Electoral College:** a group of people chosen by the voters in each state to elect the president and vice president of the U.S.

**Democratic Party:** One of the two major contemporary political parties in the United States.

**Republican Party:** One of the two major contemporary political parties in the United States. Also known as the “GOP” or “Grand Old Party”.

**Libertarian Party:** A political party in the United States. The party represents the rights of individuals as people.

**Green Party:** A political party in the United States. The party believes in nonviolence and world peace.

**Socialist Party:** A political party in the United States and also in other countries. The party believes in equal opportunity for everyone and all people will take responsibility in all the actions of society.

**Electoral votes:** The votes by the members of the Electoral College for President and Vice President of the United States.

**Red State:** A US state that votes for the candidates or issues from the Republican Party.

**Blue State:** A US state that votes for the candidates or issues from the Democratic Party.

**Swing/Battleground State:** An important US state that votes for both the Republican and Democratic parties. These states are important because they help determine who will be the next US President.

**Proposal:** A plan or an idea that other people discuss or think about voting on. It is usually written.



W A S H T E N A W  
L I T E R A C Y

OPENS WORLDS.

Founded in 1971, Washtenaw Literacy serves adults who need to improve their reading, writing, numeracy or communication in English. Our core mission is to provide free, adult developmental literacy skills training, focusing on three critical areas: basic literacy skills, educational attainment, and employment and workforce literacy.

734.879.1320 | [www.washtenawliteracy.org](http://www.washtenawliteracy.org)



Founded in 2014, CivCity Initiative seeks to expand Ann Arbor residents’ knowledge of how local government works, and to increase participation in civic life through education, information and outreach.

734 645 5368 | [www.civcity.org](http://www.civcity.org)



EMU World Language programs educate teachers of English to speakers of other languages (TESOL) and are committed to preparing individuals to teach English in a variety of local and international settings and foster cross-cultural and intercultural awareness.

734.487.0130 | [www.emich.edu/worldlanguages/tesol/](http://www.emich.edu/worldlanguages/tesol/)