



Fellowship Chapel  
United Church of Christ  
Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony, Pastor

*"Our Faith, Our  
Voice, Our Vote"*

# Voter's Education Guide

Made possible by: 2016 OFO Grant



All U.S. governments have  
**"three branches"**  
which are run by people  
who are either elected by  
us, or appointed by the  
people we elect.

UNITED  
STATES

3

JUDICIAL

1

EXECUTIVE

THREE  
BRANCHES  
OF  
GOVERNMENT

2

LEGISLATIVE



The Executive Branch are people like:

The President

Governor

Mayor

1

EXECUTIVE



They enforce the laws.

They do it with help...  
usually from  
the prosecutors & police



The Legislative Branch are people like:  
our **Senators, Representatives and  
City Council members.**

2

LEGISLATIVE



They meet together to make the laws.

The Judicial Branch is the judges.

They interpret the laws  
through their **Orders,**  
**rulings and opinions.**

3

JUDICIAL



# United States Three LEVELS of Government

1



**FEDERAL**



2



**STATE**



3



**LOCAL**



1



**FEDERAL** The Executive Branch

President & Vice President

Cabinet members such as Attorney General, Treasurer and Secretary of State.



Barack Obama

Joe Biden



Eric Holder



Loretta Lynch

1



**FEDERAL** The Executive Branch

The **Attorney General** controls the FBI.

The **Treasurer** controls the banks.

The **Secretary of State** controls the ambassadors and all foreign policy.



1



# FEDERAL The Legislative Branch

The United States  
**SENATE**

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**  
has two chambers

The United States  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**



Debbie Stabenow & Gary Peters



John Conyers & Brenda Lawrence

1



# FEDERAL The Legislative Branch

The United States  
**SENATE**

**LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

The United States  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**100 MEMBERS**  
two from each state  
in the country



*The more people  
...the more  
representatives!*

**435 MEMBERS**  
A state's total number of  
representatives is  
based upon  
that state's population.

1



# FEDERAL The Judicial Branch

**THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**  
has three levels:



**U.S. Supreme Court**

**U.S. Court of Appeals**

**U.S. District Court**

1  
2  
3

# 1



## FEDERAL The Judicial Branch

The lowest level are the

### DISTRICT COURTS

where prosecutions and all lawsuits start. These district courts are in every state. Michigan has two.

The Chief of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan is **Judge Denise Paige Hood**



There's an Eastern district in Detroit and a Western district in Grand Rapids



If you don't like what happened in the U.S. District Court, then you can appeal to the ...

### 2

### U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

# 1



## FEDERAL The Judicial Branch

### COURT OF APPEALS

The appellate judges decide if they made any mistakes in the U.S. District Courts.

One of our circuit's appellate judges is **Damon Keith**



Finally, if you don't like what happens in the U.S. Court of Appeals, then you can ask for a final appeal to the highest court in the country ...

### 1

### U.S. SUPREME COURT



# 1



## FEDERAL The Judicial Branch

### SUPREME COURT



The U.S. Supreme Court has nine members, all of whom were nominated by a President, and approved by the Senate.

Only two African-Americans have served on the U.S. Supreme Court. One was Thurgood Marshall, a civil rights icon who served from 1967 to 1991.

2



STATE

The Executive Branch

Michigan's Executive Branch is quite different from the Federal Government.

Michigan voters elect our Executive Officers, including:



GOVERNOR

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

ATTORNEY GENERAL

SECRETARY OF STATE



RICK SNYDER



BRIAN CALLEY



BILL SCHUETTE



RUTH JOHNSON

2



STATE

The Executive Branch



Michigan's SECRETARY OF STATE is in charge of licenses and state elections.

The State of Michigan is also responsible for the EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN, so we also elect candidates to the state Board of Education and to the boards of state universities, such as Michigan, Michigan State and Wayne State.



2



STATE

The Legislative Branch

Michigan's Legislative Branch also has two chambers.

1

The Michigan SENATE

Your city's POPULATION determines how many SENATORS and REPRESENTATIVES you can have.



The Michigan HOUSE of Representatives

2

Again, the more people...the more senators and representatives.



2



STATE

The **Legislative** Branch

The Michigan  
**SENATE**

**38**  
MEMBERS



Sen. Bert Johnson and Sen. Coleman Young II

The Michigan  
**HOUSE** of Representatives

**110**  
MEMBERS



Rep. Sherry Gay-Dagnogo and Fred Durhal

2



STATE

The **Judicial** Branch

MICHIGAN'S JUDICIAL BRANCH  
also has three basic levels:



1  
2  
3

MI Supreme Court

MI Court of Appeals

District & Circuit Court

2



STATE

The **Judicial** Branch

The lowest level are the

**DISTRICT & CIRCUIT  
COURTS**

where criminal prosecutions and all  
civil lawsuits start. These courts are  
in every city and county.



If you don't like what happened  
in District or Circuit Court, then  
you can appeal to the ...

MI COURT OF APPEALS

2



STATE

The **Judicial Branch**

MI COURT OF APPEALS



These appellate judges also decide if they made any mistakes in the district or circuit courts.



One of our circuit's appellate judges is **Judge Cynthia Stephens**

Finally, if you don't like what happens in the Michigan Court of Appeals, then you can ask for a final appeal to the highest court in the state.

MI SUPREME COURT

2



STATE

The **Judicial Branch**

MI SUPREME COURT

The Michigan Supreme Court has **seven members**, all of whom are eventually elected by Michigan voters.



Michigan Supreme Court Justices



3



LOCAL

**City and County Executive Branch**

Local governments have Executive Branches that are usually headed by a County Executive and Mayors.



Wayne County Executive  
Warren Evans



City of Detroit Mayor 1970-1994  
Coleman Young



City of Detroit Mayor 2013-2021  
Mike Duggan

Local voters elect our County Executive and Mayor.





# 3



## LOCAL

## City and County Legislative Branch

Local Legislative Branches usually consist of County Commissions and City Councils.



Local voters elect our County Commissioners and City Council.



- Local governments do NOT have a judicial branch. All Michigan courts are organized and run by the Michigan Supreme Court.
- Local governments DO have school boards, who determine how public schools are run in their communities.

## Tuesday, November 8, 2016



In November, voters have an opportunity to vote for candidates running for office in **EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT** (i.e., Federal, State and Local) and **EVERY BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT** (i.e., Executive, Legislative and Judicial)

## Tuesday, November 8, 2016

On the Federal level, we're voting for our **EXECUTIVE BRANCH** leaders, the President and Vice President of the United States.

**We vote for President every four "4" years.**



Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine **OR** Donald Trump and Mike Pence

**Tuesday, November 8, 2016**

We also vote for every member of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

They only serve  
two "2" year terms



John Conyers & Brenda Lawrence

**U.S. SENATORS** serve

**six "6" year terms**

-but are not up for re-election this year



Debbie Stabenow & Gary Peters

**Tuesday, November 8, 2016**

We never vote for any Federal judges because they are appointed to serve for life.

On the state level, we're voting for some executive, legislative and judicial officers. The executive officers include members of

- State Board of Education
- Michigan Board of Regents
- Michigan State Board of Trustees
- Wayne State Board of Governors



**Yvette Anderson**  
Candidate for  
Wayne State  
Board of Governors

**Tuesday, November 8, 2016**

Members of **Michigan's House of Representatives**, like **U.S. Representatives**, serve two "2" year terms.

**Every Michigan House seat is on this year's ballot.**

**Michigan Senators** serve four year terms, so they will be on the **2018 ballot.**

# Tuesday, November 8, 2016

We're also voting for two "2" Michigan Supreme Court seats....

**Wayne County Circuit Judges  
Deborah Thomas and Frank Szymanski**



are challenging

**incumbent Justices  
David Viviano and Joan Larsen**



MI Circuit Appellate  
Judge  
Cynthia Stephens



We're voting for candidates for the Michigan Court of Appeals, County Circuit Courts and local district courts.

# Tuesday, November 8, 2016

On the local level, we'll be voting for **county executives, county treasurers, county prosecutors, county sheriffs, county commissioners, judges, city council and school board members.**



**Wayne County  
Treasurer  
Eric Sabree**



**City of Detroit  
36th District Court  
Judge  
Izetta Bright**



**City of Detroit  
DPSC District  
Board At-Large  
Angelique  
Peterson-Mayberry**

# Tuesday, November 8, 2016

Finally, we will also vote on ballot proposals, **which is another way to make new laws.**

Ballot proposals are usually the result of petitions signed by voters who want a new law established



Judicial candidates and ballot proposals are separated on the ballot from the executive and legislative races.

**Sometimes you have to turn the ballot OVER to vote for the judges and ballot proposals.**

# Why is it important to vote?

### What are YOU prepared to do?

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

**Get ENERGIZED**  
JOIN A SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATION

**Get INFORMED**  
ATTEND POLITICAL EDUCATION FORUMS  
JOIN OR CO-OP A POLITICAL ACTION OR CHECKBOOK COMMITTEE IN YOUR COUNTY

**Get INVOLVED**  
BECOME A PRECINCT DELIBERATOR  
JOIN OR ORGANIZE A BLOCK CLUB OR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
PARTICIPATE IN A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION

**VOTE**

*"Returning Citizens are eligible to vote!"*

### My Family's Health Care

- Because of Obamacare millions of people have access to quality and affordable health care
- We still need lower premiums and deductibles for health care and prescriptions



### Taxes We Pay

- Must benefit you
- Must be fair and equitable
- Must require that corporations and the wealthy pay their fair share

### Home Ownership

We deserve quality and affordable housing

- Ensures that fair lending practices are enforced
- Prevents loan modification instead of foreclosure

### Jobs, Jobs, Jobs...

Elect leaders who will:

- Fight for full employment for local residents
- Bring and keep jobs in Metropolitan Detroit
- Fight for fair and living wages

### WHAT CAN I DO???

**Because You voted in 2012:**

**Positive Things Happened:**

- Obamacare
- Helped to fill in the health care gap
- Learn to auto-compensate with saving jobs
- More jobs for our communities
- Social safety net improved (Medicaid/food security)

**Because you failed to vote in 2010 & 2014:**

**Negative Things Happened!**

- Lost control of Congress & State Houses
- Punitive legislation passed
- Suppressed voting rights including never turning the emergency manager law
- Governor and State Legislature ignored the vote of the people by passing the Emergency Manager Law which silenced the voice of the people
- First Community's water was poisoned damaging lives for years to come
- Attack on resources for mothers and children
- Political foundations redrawn to benefit the conservative agenda
- Deliver lost its elected school board
- The Governor experimented with our children's lives by establishing the CAA (Education Achievement Authority)




### Investing in Quality Public Transportation

Elect leaders who:

- Connect us to opportunities
- Jobs
- Education
- Quality health care

Create and sustain strong communities



### The Air We Breathe and the Water We Drink

Elect Leaders Who:

- Demand pure and safe drinking water for all citizens
- Punish abusers of our natural resources

Work to maintain control of our water and other resources.




### Quality Education

We Must Elect Officials who:

- Support community empowerment
- Advocate for better education for everyone
- Advocate to ensure local control
- Provide adequate and equitable funding
- Ensure that our children are educated to be business owners and skilled employees for 21st century jobs



### Utility Bills We Pay

We must work to elect lawmakers dedicated to keeping utility rates affordable for everyone.

Utilities like gas, electricity and phone depend on PUBLIC utility board members, who are appointed by the governor or mayor or etc.



## What can YOU do?

**Register to VOTE.**

**And encourage others to register to VOTE!!**

**The deadline is October 11th!!**

**You can register with the Secretary of State or your local clerk**

- Help register other potential voters!!
- Spread the word about the election through social media!!
- Take control of your destiny!!!

