

GETTING INVOLVED

After spending time this summer as delegates to the Democratic National Convention (DNC) or as part of MEA/NEA's Battleground Summer (BGS) organizing effort, these MEA members and leaders know why this election is important—and why we all need to get involved.

"As a mother of two daughters, I was inspired and so hopeful watching Kamala Harris as our female vice presidential candidate. A Biden-Harris ticket ensures that we will have a president and vice president that cares about our public school education, our safety and well-being as citizens, health care, and social and economic justice for all of our people."



Sara Gielegem, DNC delegate and Chippewa Valley elementary teacher

"First of all, vote—don't take it for granted. Your vote counts! We have options to vote—use them. This seems simplistic, but it's so important. If you don't want to go to the ballot box, use the mail-in option. But vote! The second thing is make sure your family members vote as well."



Brian Stevens, BGS organizer and Coldwater AP Government/U.S. Government teacher

"At the state level, this is the last election cycle in which state legislators will be chosen based on heavily gerrymandered districts (drawn by GOP legislators, traditionally hostile to traditional public schools, after the 2010 election), so it's imperative that MEA members support sympathetic legislators, even if they face seeming insurmountable challenges. In 2018 in my own state legislative districts, former teachers—despite the fact that their districts were drawn to favor GOP candidates—won both the state Senate and House districts."



Jon Forslund, BGS organizer and Plymouth-Canton social studies teacher

"From changing school lunch rules away from nutritious food to recently prioritizing private and religious schools to get coronavirus stimulus money, Betsy DeVos has failed America's public school children. In a perfect world there would be no charter schools and no voucher programs. Schools thrive when families feel a sense of connection to and responsibility for their local school district. Voters must say no to DeVos so that she can no longer continue to wring resources out of our public schools."

"I started with emailing my family and friends. I posted BallotPower.org on my Facebook page. I have (virtual) conversations at my church about exercising your right to vote and how important it is to request your ballot and send them in early. We are all in this together; there are no excuses as to why we cannot accomplish this common goal!"



Chaunta R. Ford, BGS organizer and Bay City executive assistant

"Currently the leadership of the state Senate and House do not ask public school teachers about anything that has to do with education and refuse to bring bills to a vote that would impact education in a positive way. We can elect leaders that believe in education and support teachers and collective bargaining. There are many ways to get involved—reach out to a campaign and let them know you want to help!"



Gretchen Contreras, BGS organizer and Ypsilanti Lincoln Consolidated science teacher



Renay Weiss-Stansell, BGS organizer and Livonia school counselor

“Public education as we know it is on the ballot. I urge you to donate to MEA-PAC, and find your local county party or local candidate, and get involved. There are many easy ways to do this through virtual phone banking to texting, to sharing your story on social media. Let’s fight and win to restore the soul of this nation!”



Frank Burger, DNC delegate and Flint Carman-Ainsworth science teacher

“My greatest hope for the 2020 election is of unity—the unity of educators supporting candidates who will work to provide the funds and resources for great public schools; the unity of Americans to prioritize the future we are building by providing a fabulous public education for all our children, regardless of their zip code; and the unity of our nation coming together around decency, kindness, and hopefulness.”



Dan Love, BGS organizer and Walled Lake third grade teacher

“The stakes of this election are too high for you to not take action. The more people participate in democracy, the more democracy works for the people. The future must be better. It’s up to us to make sure it is.”



Stephanie Sedlar, BGS organizer and Mt. Pleasant special education teacher

You can get involved in Election 2020 today!

Volunteer—Visit mea.org/volunteer to sign up for opportunities to help with Election 2020, including contacting fellow members from home about this critical election.

Fire Betsy DeVos—Share information from mea.org/FireDeVos about how Secretary DeVos’s agenda hurts public education and students.

Join our Outreach Circle—Use your phone as an organizing tool, sharing content with people you know. Get started by downloading the Outreach Circle app on your Apple or Google device and enter WUV728 in the explore function to join the MEA Outreach Circle.

Build a Vote From Home WAVE—Encourage fellow members, neighbors and the public to Vote From Home using our online WAVE tool. Contact Kevin Marvin at kmarvin@mea.org for an online training session to get started with WAVE or Outreach Circle.

Give to PAC—At MEAVotes.org, make one-time or recurring credit card contributions to MEA-PAC. These voluntary contributions are used to help friends of public education win elections (dues dollars cannot be and are not used for political candidate contributions). You can also get information there about MEA recommended candidates and how to Vote From Home.



Why fellow members are supporting a new direction for the White House

Educators deserve a president who listens to them. Who respects them, their expertise and their dedication to students. Who will work to keep everyone safe and ensure they have the resources to succeed.

Joe Biden will be that president, which is why thousands of Michigan educators have committed to supporting him in this fall's presidential election, along with his running mate, Kamala Harris.

Join them by becoming an "Educator for Joe" at [StrongPublicSchools.org](https://www.strongpublicschools.org).

As President, Biden's first order of business will be to replace Betsy DeVos with a qualified educator as Secretary of Education. Biden and

Harris will reinvest in public education, make safety a priority, and ensure students are ready to succeed in a modern economy.

Making safety a priority amidst this pandemic is essential, which is why Biden supports increasing funding for classroom alterations, up-to-date and accessible technology, personal protective equipment, and increased sanitization.

Biden and Harris are committed to attracting and retaining qualified educators by supporting pay raises, improving emergency paid leave and expanding student loan forgiveness programs.

Along with Dr. Jill Biden—a longtime teacher and NEA

member—educators will have steadfast friends in the White House who will be advocates for public education and students.

Above all else, with compassion and steady leadership, Biden will unite the country—not stoke fears and further divide us.

On every issue that impacts public education and labor, the choice between Joe Biden and Donald Trump is clear—see the candidate comparison for yourself at [StrongPublicSchools.org](https://www.strongpublicschools.org). That's why educators across the country are standing up as Educators for Joe.

Learn more at [JoeBiden.com](https://www.joebiden.com). ▼



It's time to FIRE DEVOS and hire a qualified Secretary of Education

It's been nearly four years since Gary Peters joined Senators from both parties voting against Betsy DeVos' confirmation as the U.S. Secretary of Education.

Since then, we've experienced a litany of attacks on public education coming from DeVos and her department.

Proposals to cut education funding and siphon taxpayer money to private schools.

Millions sent to failing charter schools—some of which never even opened in the first place.

Elimination of protections for sexual assault victims on college campuses.

Siding with loan lenders and for-profit colleges over the students borrowing money to get degrees.

Pushing blindly for reopening of schools, regardless of the advice of health experts and educators.

Learn more at [mea.org/FireDeVos](https://www.mea.org/FireDeVos) about why we must replace her this November by electing Joe Biden, who will appoint a qualified educator as Secretary of Education. ▼

Clear choice for U.S. Senate—An Advocate for Education or An Advocate for Betsy DeVos

MEA recommends Sen. Gary Peters for re-election



U.S. Sen. Gary Peters

Michigan voters have a clear choice for the U.S. Senate this fall—someone who has declared that “public schools cannot be a casualty of

COVID” or someone who believes Betsy DeVos’s performance as secretary of education has been “very, very good.”

Throughout his time in public service, Sen. Gary Peters has been a friend of public education, working with educators to get the resources necessary to provide students with opportunities—from K-12 through higher education and skilled trade training. During this pandemic, his advocacy on those lines hasn’t wavered, following up that quote from a May education funding rally with non-stop pressure for the Senate to vote on more resources for schools and students through the House-passed HEROES Act (which GOP

Senate leaders didn’t allow a vote on all summer).

On the other hand, Peters’ opponent—failed candidate and businessman John James—has continued to cozy up to DeVos and her family, taking in millions in campaign contributions and advertising support from them and even hiring a DeVos family member to his campaign team. Learn more about the ties between James and DeVos at JohnJamesRevealed.com.

For all these reasons and more, MEA and NEA support Gary Peters for re-election to the U.S. Senate this fall. Learn more about Peters, his positions and how to support his campaign at PetersForMichigan.com. ▼

KEY MICHIGAN CONGRESSIONAL RACES

Elissa Slotkin—8th District



In one of the nation’s most competitive Congressional races, Slotkin runs for re-election after her 2018 victory in this Ingham, Livingston and Northern Oakland County seat. The Holly native was a CIA analyst and former Defense Department official under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. She has gone toe-to-toe with Betsy DeVos over federal rule changes made regarding campus sexual assaults that would affect MSU in her district. elissaforscongress.com

Haley Stevens—11th District



This Southern Oakland and Western Wayne County seat is another that flipped control in 2018, when Stevens won her first term. A member of the U.S. House Education Committee, she has fought the DeVos education agenda in Congress and worked closely with MEA members in her district. Originally from Oakland County, she worked in the Obama administration during the Great Recession on the auto rescue and later on manufacturing policy. haleystevensforcongress.com

Jon Hoadley—6th District



As a state representative and minority vice chair of the House Appropriations Committee, Hoadley has been on the front lines of the fight for adequate funding for Michigan schools. He is running against longtime Congressman Fred Upton, who has taken more than \$75,000 in campaign contributions from the DeVos family over just the past five years. jonhoadley.com

Hillary Scholten—3rd District



In an open seat vacated by Justin Amash’s decision to leave the GOP and not run for reelection, Scholten is running a strong race in Kent, Calhoun, Ionia, Barry and Montcalm Counties. A civil rights attorney with the Michigan Immigration Rights Center and former social worker, she served in the Department of Justice under President Obama. hillaryscholten.com

For other Congressional recommendations, visit MEAVotes.org.

Control of State House on ballot in November

With the entire 110-seat State House on the ballot this fall, control of the chamber and the agenda is up for grabs. MEA's recommendations are made by local members and include candidates from both parties. For a complete list of recommended candidates, look at the Election 2020 pullout section in the middle of the magazine. Key seats include:

Oakland County—With five top-tier races, no county is more important for control of the State House this fall:

38th—**Kelly Breen**—After a narrow loss in 2018, this Novi city council member is back to run again in Southwest Oakland, this time in an open seat due to term limits.

39th—**Julia Pulver**—A nurse and 2018 Senate candidate, she hopes to defeat an incumbent here in West Bloomfield, Commerce and Wixom who's taken key positions against public schools.

40th—**Rep. Mari Manoogian**—A rising star who spoke at the Democratic National Convention, she's up for re-election this fall in Birmingham, Bloomfield, Bloomfield Hills and West Bloomfield.

41st—**Rep. Padma Kuppa**—After flipping this Troy seat in 2018, Kuppa runs for re-election after taking strong stands in favor of school funding increases for her local districts.

45th—**Barb Anness**—A Rochester school board member and PTA activist, she is working hard to flip this open seat currently held by the GOP.

Wayne County—Western and Downriver Wayne County will continue to have key seats, including:

19th—**Rep. Laurie Pohutsky**—A microbiologist and pro-public education incumbent running for her second term representing Livonia.

20th—**Rep. Matt Koleszar**—A former teacher and MEA local president running for re-election in Northville, Plymouth and eastern Canton.

23rd—**Rep. Darrin Camilleri**—The former educator from Brownstown serves as minority vice chair of the critical House Education Committee.

104th—**Dan O'Neil** (Grand Traverse Co.) After coming just 349 votes short in 2018, O'Neil—a local lawyer—is back to capture this Traverse City seat with strong fundraising and pro-education views.

71st—**Rep. Angela Witwer** (Eaton Co.) Running for re-election in this seat west of Lansing, former school board member Witwer needs mid-Michigan member support to continue her advocacy for schools at the Capitol.

61st—**Christine Morse** (Kalamazoo Co.) Outside Metro Detroit, perhaps no suburban seat more represents the movement away from the President. Morse, a county commissioner, is running against a former Trump administration official.

62nd—**Rep. Jim Haadsma** (Calhoun Co.) Haadsma, a Battle Creek workers compensation attorney who has worked with MEA members for years, is running for re-election after winning for the first time in 2018.

48th—**Rep. Sheryl Kennedy** (Genesee Co.) A retired MEA member and school administrator, Kennedy has been a strong voice for educators and increased school funding in her role as on the K-12 Appropriates Subcommittee.

25th—**Rep. Nate Shannon** (Macomb Co.) This Sterling Heights seat is a perennial target and this year is no exception for Shannon—a high school teacher and former city council member who was one of several MEA members elected in 2018.



MEA VOICE 2020 ELECTION PULL-OUT GUIDE

MEA votes.org

Keep this guide to help remind you how to help win for public education this fall, including voting for MEA-recommended candidates and voting safely and securely from your home.

MEAVotes.org—Your One Stop Resource for Election 2020

Visit [MEAVotes.org](https://meavotes.org) to:

Look Up MEA Recommended Candidates for Your Area

Enter your address to get a customized list of candidates interviewed and recommended—by MEA members like you—based on responses to education and labor issues. These friends of education deserve your vote!



Apply for a Ballot to Vote From Home

Take advantage of new no-reason absentee voting rules to safely and securely Vote From Home. Request your ballot (either online or via a printable form), find timelines and local clerk information, and—using our BallotPower tool—sign up for updates to ensure your ballot is received and counted.

Contribute to MEA-PAC Online

Make one-time or recurring credit card contributions to MEA-PAC—these voluntary contributions are used to help friends of public education win elections (dues dollars cannot be and are not used for political candidate contributions).

Interested in volunteering to help friends of public education win this fall? Visit mea.org/volunteer to sign up today!

IMPORTANT DATES

OCT. 19: Last day to register to vote online or by mail.

OCT. 20: Mail your ballot before this day as early as you can or drop it off at your clerk's office. After this day, only drop your ballot off at your clerk's office or in a dropbox provided by your clerk (which you can find at BallotPower.org.)

NOV. 2: If you're registered to vote where you live, you can vote absentee until 4 p.m. at your clerk's office, after that you must vote at your polling location on Election Day.

NOV. 3: Election Day! The polls are open 7 a.m.–8 p.m. local time. At your clerk's office, you can register to vote and then cast your ballot until 8 p.m.

IMPORTANT LINKS

StrongPublicSchools.org
MichiganVoting.org
mi.gov/vote

MEA S&R

MEA's Screening & Recommending (S&R) process

places control of MEA political recommendations in the hands of MEA members from across the state from diverse backgrounds and roles within the public education community. The process is governed by the MEA Political Action Committee (MEA-PAC) Council, made up of local delegates from MEA's 60+ coordinating councils.

Recommendation decisions are based on candidate responses to questionnaires and interviews regarding education and labor issues only.

Recommendations at the state level are made by the Statewide S&R Committee, which is composed of elected members from various parts of the state and job classifications.

The S&R process for legislative districts is controlled at the local level, where interviews and recommendation votes are taken by MEA members from those jurisdictions serving on local S&R Committees.

Recommendations for federal offices must also be confirmed by the board of the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education.

Note: All recommendations as of publication date, Sept. 16— for updates and more local recommendations, visit MEAVotes.org.

President and Vice President of the United States—

Joe Biden and **Kamala Harris**



United States Senator—

Gary Peters

Fill in for Your District:

Check out the list on the next page for your area or visit MEAVotes.org to find MEA recommendations for your area, including important local races like school boards and school millages or bonds.

U.S. Congress

State House

State Board of Education—

Ellen Cogen Lipton and **Jason Strayhorn**



University of Michigan Board of Regents—

Mark Bernstein and **Shauna Ryder Diggs**

Michigan State University Board of Trustees—

Brian Mosallam and **Rema Vassar**



Wayne State University Board of Governors—

Eva Garza Dewaelsche and **Shirley Stancato**

Michigan Supreme Court—

Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack and **Elizabeth Welch**



MEA votes

U.S. Congress:

CD 1	Dana Ferguson
CD 2	Bryan Berghoef
CD 3	Hillary Scholten
CD 4	Jerry Hilliard
CD 5	Dan Kildee
CD 6	Jon Hoadley
CD 7	Gretchen Driskell
CD 8	Elissa Slotkin
CD 9	Andy Levin
CD 10	Kimberly Bizon
CD 11	Haley Stevens
CD 12	Debbie Dingell
CD 13	Rashida Tlaib
CD 14	Brenda Lawrence

State House:

HD 1	Tenisha Yancey
HD 2	Joe Tate
HD 3	Shri Thanedar
HD 4	Abraham Aiyash
HD 5	Cynthia A. Johnson
HD 6	Tyrone Carter
HD 7	Helena Scott
HD 8	Stephanie A. Young
HD 9	No Recommendation
HD 10	Mary Cavanagh
HD 11	Jewell Jones
HD 12	Alex Garza
HD 13	Tullio Liberati
HD 14	Cara Clemente
HD 15	Abdullah Hammoud
HD 16	Kevin Coleman
HD 17	Christopher Slat
HD 18	Kevin Hertel
HD 19	Laurie Pohutsky
HD 20	Matt Koleszar
HD 21	Ranjeev Puri
HD 22	Richard M. Steenland
HD 23	Darrin Camilleri
HD 24	Michelle Woodman
HD 25	Nate Shannon
HD 26	Jim Ellison
HD 27	Regina Weiss
HD 28	Lori Stone

HD 29	Brenda Carter
HD 30	Michael Chehab
HD 31	Bill Sowerby
HD 32	No Recommendation
HD 33	Jeff Yaroch
HD 34	Cynthia R. Neeley
HD 35	Kyra Harris Bolden
HD 36	No Recommendation
HD 37	Samantha Steckloff
HD 38	Kelly Breen
HD 39	Julia Pulver
HD 40	Mari Manoogian
HD 41	Padma Kuppa
HD 42	No Recommendation
HD 43	Nicole Breadon
HD 44	Denise Forrest
HD 45	Barb Anness
HD 46	Jody LaMacchia
HD 47	Robert J. Bezotte
HD 48	Sheryl Kennedy
HD 49	John D. Cherry
HD 50	Tim Sneller
HD 51	Brad May
HD 52	Donna Lasinski
HD 53	Yousef Rabhi
HD 54	Ronnie Peterson
HD 55	Felicia Brabec
HD 56	No Recommendation
HD 57	Will Garcia
HD 58	Tamara Barnes
HD 59	No Recommendation
HD 60	No Recommendation
HD 61	Christine Morse
HD 62	Jim Haadsma
HD 63	No Recommendation
HD 64	No Recommendation
HD 65	Nancy Smith
HD 66	Abigail Wheeler
HD 67	Kara Hope
HD 68	Sarah Anthony
HD 69	Julie Brixie
HD 70	Karen Garvey
HD 71	Angela Witwer

HD 72	Lily Cheng-Schulting
HD 73	Bill Saxton
HD 74	No Recommendation
HD 75	David LaGrand
HD 76	Rachel Hood
HD 77	No Recommendation
HD 78	Dan VandenHeede
HD 79	Chokwe Pitchford
HD 80	No Recommendation
HD 81	No Recommendation
HD 82	Gary Howell
HD 83	No Recommendation
HD 84	No Recommendation
HD 85	Andrea Kelly Garrison
HD 86	No Recommendation
HD 87	No Recommendation
HD 88	No Recommendation
HD 89	No Recommendation
HD 90	Bradley Slagh
HD 91	Brian Hosticka
HD 92	Terry Sabo
HD 93	No Recommendation
HD 94	Demond Tibbs
HD 95	Amos O'Neal
HD 96	Brian Elder
HD 97	No Recommendation
HD 98	Sarah Schulz
HD 99	John Zang
HD 100	Scott VanSingel
HD 101	Beth McGill-Rizer
HD 102	Amanda Siggins
HD 103	No Recommendation
HD 104	Dan O'Neil
HD 105	Jonathan Burke
HD 106	No Recommendation
HD 107	Jim Page
HD 108	Renee Richer
HD 109	Sara Cambensy
HD 110	Janet Metsa

Control of Supreme Court rests on your votes down the ballot

Michigan voters elect justices to the Supreme Court on the non-partisan section of the ballot, so straight party votes do not count for these races. That's why finishing your ballot by voting for these two MEA-recommended candidates is so important—especially since control of the court's majority hangs in the balance this fall for the first time in a decade.

Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack

- ✔ Former University of Michigan law professor who has served on the court since 2013.
- ✔ Elected Chief Justice by her peers in 2019, despite being a Democratic Party nominee serving with a GOP majority.
- ✔ Wrote opinion in favor of districts' ability to restrict the carry of guns in schools.
- ✔ Voted to return 3 percent of school employees' salary unconstitutionally withheld in 2010-12.



Elizabeth Welch

- ✔ Grand Rapids-area employment law attorney.
- ✔ Has run own law practice for 16 years helping employers understand and follow laws governing wages and hours, leave practices, employee contracts and negotiations, and more.
- ✔ Staunch supporter of public education, including service on the East Grand Rapids school board.
- ✔ Longtime parent advocate for strong schools to serve students and communities.



Key Local Races

Also, at the end of your ballot are important local school board races, where recommendations are determined at the local level by members like you—check [MEAVotes.org](https://www.meadvotes.org) to find listings for your area.

YES on Wayne Renewal

Many local school funding proposals also appear down ballot, including a vote this fall in Wayne County to reauthorize a countywide millage that generates \$300 per student for the county's districts—please vote YES.

Apply now to Vote From Home



Take advantage of new no-reason absentee voting by using the form on the next page to apply for a ballot to be mailed to you. Go to [BallotPower.org](https://www.BallotPower.org) to find your local clerk (where you can drop off both this application and, later, your completed ballot) and to sign up for updates about your ballot's status to ensure your vote is counted in November. You can also apply online until Oct. 30 at that site.

Instructions:

STEP 1: Fill out the application completely. You must sign the form to get a ballot.

STEP 2: Deliver the application in any of these ways:

1. **Mail it.** Make sure the envelope has proper postage and is addressed to your local clerk.
2. **Email it.** Take a picture of the form (or scan it) and email it to your clerk. Make sure your signature is visible.
3. **Deliver it** in person to the clerk, the clerk's office, or the clerk's authorized assistant. Someone in your immediate family or living in your household can help you deliver this application. If that's not possible, you can ask any Michigan registered voter to deliver it for you. The person helping you must sign the "Certificate of Authorized Registered Elector Assisting in Returning Application."

When is the deadline to apply for an absentee ballot?

Requests for an absent voter ballot must be received by your township or city clerk no later than 5 p.m. the Friday before the election. If you're already registered at your current address, you can request an absent voter ballot in person at your clerk's office anytime up to 4 p.m. on the day prior to the election.

When do I need to deliver my ballot?

Your completed absentee ballot must be received by your city or township clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day. Begin the process early by delivering your application for an absentee ballot as soon as possible.

Michigan Absent Voter Ballot Application: November 3, 2020 Election



First Name	M.I.	Last Name	County
			<input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Township
Street Address			Jurisdiction
MI			
City	Zip	Year of Birth	
			()
Email Address			Phone #

Enter your information as it appears on your voter registration. Your email address and phone number help your clerk contact you if there is a problem with your application or ballot. They are used only for election purposes and providing them is optional.



Future Elections: Complete to join permanent list

I want to vote absentee in all future elections. Automatically send me an application for every election.



I certify that I am a **United States citizen** and a qualified and registered elector of the Michigan city or township listed above, and I apply for an official ballot, to be voted by me in the election(s) checked above, and the statements in this application are true.

X _____ / /

Voter's Signature (Voter must sign - power of attorney is not acceptable) _____ Date

WARNING: You must be a **United States citizen** to vote. If you are not a United States citizen, you will not be issued an absent voter ballot. A person making a false statement in this absent voter ballot application is guilty of a misdemeanor. It is a violation of Michigan election law for a person other than those listed in the instructions to return, offer to return, agree to return, or solicit to return your absent voter ballot application to the clerk. An assistant authorized by the clerk who receives absent voter ballot applications at a location other than the clerk's office must have credentials signed by the clerk. Ask to see his or her credentials before entrusting your application with a person claiming to have the clerk's authorization to return your application.



Want your ballot mailed to different address than you wrote above? [USPS won't forward it]

Date leaving for this address: / /	Street Address
Date of return: / /	City State Zip



Return this to your city/township clerk. Find their contact info at Michigan.gov/Vote.

Complete only if helping a voter return application

Certificate of Authorized Registered Elector Assisting in Returning Application:
 I certify that my name is _____, date of birth is ____/____/____ and address is _____; that I am delivering the absent voter ballot application of _____ at his or her request; I did not solicit or request to return the application or make any markings on or alter it; I did not influence the applicant; I understand that a false statement in this certificate is a violation of Michigan election law.
 X _____ / /
 Signature of person assisting the voter Date

Clerk's Use Only	Primary		General	
Wd/Pct	Mailed / /	Returned / /	Mailed / /	Returned / /
Filed / /	Ballot No:	Clerk	Ballot No:	Clerk