



# EASTSIDE REPUBLICAN REVIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE EASTSIDE REPUBLICAN CLUB

P. O. Box 361025 Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236  
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September 2020

## Life During Lockdown

By Dave Schumacher, ERC Chair

Wow, have we ever had a more bizarre start to a year?

Little did we realize that Feb. 18 would be our last 2020 "in person" meeting at the War Memorial.

That's when cartoonist and Detroit News auto writer Henry Payne made a very entertaining presentation.



Then, our all-knowing Governor, led of course by the data and science (forgoing anything resembling common sense) shut our economy and society down!

As a result, the War Memorial eventually cancelled all live indoor events and any large, in person gatherings through the end of 2020. So all of our scheduled ERC live forums were cancelled, as was our annual picnic.

Thank God our righteous Governor allowed us to play golf or I would have gone crazy!

We did learn to use Zoom and held two popular virtual meetings using "ERC-TV."

Currently, we have a virtual Zoom meeting set for Sept. 15 with GOP candidates and some local candidates addressing us. You need to be informed. As usual, we'll email login info needed to participate.

On Oct. 20, we'll have another virtual forum with its focus on judges and our courts.

The ERC board has not been idle. We formed a five-person committee to review and update our by-laws, which hadn't been revisited since 1997. We were

able to fit these meetings in between our tee times, and spent hours working together on the update. Zoom came in handy.

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## Trump 2020 Eastside Headquarters Now Open on Kercheval in the Village

The Trump Victory headquarters is open for business on Kercheval Ave. between Kroger and the League Shop in the Village of Grosse Pointe. The official address is 16849 Kercheval.

Thanks to Matthew Seely for making this convenient eastside location a reality for the 2020 campaign season.

An enthusiastic crowd turned out Sept. 2 for the grand opening celebration.

Contact the ERC to become a part-time volunteer staffer greeting and assisting the community as we distribute literature, lawn signs, etc.: chair@eastside-republican-club.org.

Even if you cannot volunteer, stop by to pick up your lawn signs and show support.





Monica Palmer, second from right, reported from the State Convention, “Thankful for the opportunity to attend the RenCen live streaming of this year’s MIGOP State Convention, and was excited to cast my vote for two GOP friends from the 6th District!”

The convention named Tonya Schuitmaker, right, as one of two Republican candidates for MSU Trustee. Sonjalita Hulbert, second from left, was a candidate for convention nomination to the Michigan State Board of Education. Like Palmer, both candidates are from the Kalamazoo area.

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We updated the language to everyday English, instead of legalese. They are now tailored to be more concise and to fit our Club’s focus. Still ahead, we will be presenting these changes for membership approval in November.

Another element in our updating is the ERC website and a newly redesigned modernized logo—the logo is making its debut in this newsletter! We purchased a website template and transferred all the URL and domain registries. We’re hopeful that all will be up and running by the first quarter of 2021. If there is anyone adept at web development who’s able to volunteer, we could use it, please raise your hand!

This summer, as a GP Woods precinct delegate, I attended our Wayne County, 14th District and Michigan GOP virtual conventions. Happily, they were all very well produced. I was proud to see Mayra Rodriguez, our fellow ERC member, Grosse Pointe resident and Chair of the 14th district, was nominated to be a Michigan presidential elector.

## **Eighteen Seek Five Spots In Nov. GPPSS Board Race**

In the November election for the Grosse Pointe Public School System board of education, 18 candidates are vying for five openings.

Four will be elected to full, four-year terms, while one candidate will be elected to fill the remaining two years of a four-year term.

Incumbents seeking reelection are Cindy Pangborn and Kathleen Abke.

Joseph Herd is also an incumbent. He seeks reelection to fill the remainder of the term to which he was appointed in January.

On the ballot will be two former board members. Ahmed Ismail seeks a full four-year term, while John Steininger is running for the partial term opening.

The other 13 candidates are new to the school board ballot.

Seeking four-year terms are George Bailey, Sherry Betcher, David Brubaugh, Keersten Colleen, Christopher D’Angelo, Cynthia Douglas, Jennifer Goosen, James Joseph, Lauren Nowicki, Lisa Papas, Shareef Simaika, and Colleen Worden.

The final candidate is Theresa Vogler who along with Herd and Steininger is seeking election to the partial term.

Two present board members, Judy Gafa and Christ Profeta, are not seeking reelection.



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It’s not cold yet, so get outside, have some fun, stay safe and vote GOP up and down the ballot on November 3! There has never been a time in my life in which conservative governance at all levels is needed.



## Fall 2020 Election Forum Set to Zoom September 15

Watch your inbox for instructions to join us via Zoom for our Tuesday, Sept. 15 virtual fall kickoff meeting with GOP candidates as well as other local candidates.

A laptop with video camera is recommended, but not required. No computer, camera, microphone? No excuse! You may dial in using your telephone.

Participants must use their real name when joining our meeting.

Then on Oct. 20, we'll have another virtual forum with a focus on judges and our courts.



## Michigan Patriot's Parade Set for 9/11 on Hall Road

A parade and speakers are on tap Friday, Sept. 11, at Lakeside Mall in honor of fallen heroes.

Organizers say they expect crowds to gather with chairs and coolers beginning at noon, followed by parade staging in the Toys "R" Us parking lot. Parade formation is expected at 4 p.m. for the 5 p.m. parade eastbound on Hall Rd. (M-59).

The parade will consist of motorcycles, followed by walkers from Westbrook Dr. to Hall Rd., then eastbound on M-59 to Windwood Dr. and back to the Mall parking lot, according to the event's Facebook announcement.

Organizers invite the public saying, "Please come out to honor our fallen heroes, and those who protect our communities everyday."

Lakeside Mall is located off Hall Rd. at 44350 Schoenherr Rd., Sterling Heights, MI 48313.

## Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics Grosse Pointe Public Schools Edition

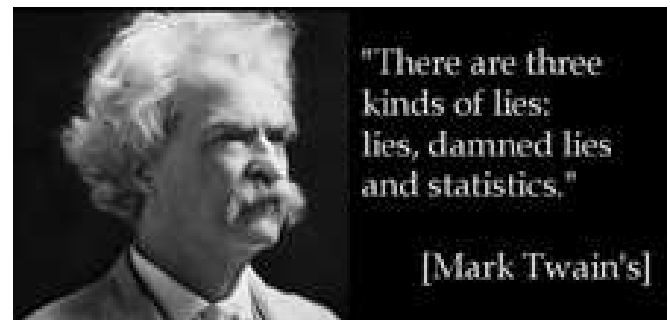
Humorist Mark Twain is famous for saying, "There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics." He recognized the power of numbers, and that statistics can be used to support weak arguments.

As you may know, on Nov. 3 school district voters will elect five members of the Grosse Pointe Board of Education (BOE), which consists of seven members. Given the number of candidates running (18 for five open seats), and the importance of BOE school oversight to the community's future, over the next few weeks we can expect to be bombarded with information.

Unfortunately, the more we study candidate positions, the more misinformation we find circulating throughout the community. Thus, we've tried to summarize from our point of view what we'll call "myths" about the Grosse Pointe Public School System (GPPSS).

We urge voters to do their homework, and take care when a candidate espouses any of the five myths.

Finally, please research BOE candidates before casting your ballot. If a candidate's position is based on any of the myths, be aware the candidate is either ignorant of GPPSS realities, or hopes you are. Be an informed voter!



**Myth 1. Grosse Pointe Public Schools has a funding problem.** This argument is often advanced when administrators experience difficulty meeting established budget constraints. The problem is framed as one of insufficient taxpayer funding, rather than excess expenditure.

In reality, whatever budget problems the district has, are certainly not from a lack of taxpayer generosity. The district's annual budget presentations (available on the GPPSS website) show that over the last five years, available district funding has grown from \$108M to \$157M. This is a growth rate of 7.7% per year, well above the rate of inflation. This funding increase occurred while student count dropped by about 8%.

Even excluding the Tech Bond—which would be incorrect, since it's still money from taxpayer's pockets—per pupil funding has risen at the rate of 3.5% per year over the last 5 years, still above the rate of inflation. Simply put, to the extent the district has budget trouble, it's mainly a spending not a revenue problem.



One enterprising Unlock Michigan volunteer is shown outside a Cheboygan Post Office collecting petition signatures.

## Unlock Michigan Signature Collection Nears Petition Goal

Based on a 1945 statute, Michigan's Governor Gretchen Whitmer continues to require businesses to play "Mother May I?" with respect to permission to reopen safely. Citizens, too, are prohibited from gathering for such activities as weddings and funerals.

The Unlock Michigan petition being circulated calls for repeal of that 1945 statute by requiring the elected state legislature to vote on the matter. If they reject it, then the matter goes on the ballot. If the legislature approves the citizen-lead legislative initiative, the governor is unable to exercise her veto.

Supporters report they are well on the way to gaining the required 340,047 valid signatures within 180 days.

They claim, "We'll have more than 400,000 signatures in the vault by the end of Labor Day weekend! We're in the home stretch."

Circulators who have even partially complete petitions are urged to return them as soon as possible.

Although examination will find some invalid signatures, organizers have witnessed a nearly 94% validity rate in petitions examined to date.

Success of the petition, however, would not leave citizens helpless in the face of an emergency.

An existing 1976 statute provides for emergency orders limited to 28 days, after which they may be extended with concurrence of the state legislature. That 1976 statute specifically cites disease as a valid reason for emergency action.

Separately, the Mackinac Center Legal Foundation is pursuing action against the Governor's unilateral abuse of executive power before the Michigan Supreme Court beginning in early September.

**Myth 2. The state keeps cutting our school's funding.** This is a variant of Myth #1, and is commonly used to imply budget problems aren't the district's fault: it's the Lansing cheapskates who are the problem! Again, the claim doesn't hold up to scrutiny. State funding in 2019 was \$68.7M vs. \$67.7M in 2015-2016, according to GPPSS website budget presentation documents. That's not a great increase, but it's not a cut. And when expressed on a per-pupil basis, it's an increase of 2.1% per year, which is about the rate of inflation.



## Pres. Trump, John James Now Lead in Michigan Poll

Michigan now shows a shift in both the presidential and senate race, according to a recent Trafalgar Group poll of likely voters and reported in Town Hall.

It's called "momentum."

The poll was conducted in advance of the "bump" seen by Republican candidates following the Republican National Convention, and therefore doesn't reflect the heightened level of enthusiasm voters have for these candidates as the result of four days of coverage.

The poll now shows Pres. Trump and John James both with one-point advantages over their opponents in Michigan.

Not only is Gary Peters considered one of the most vulnerable Democrat senators up for re-election this year, James continues to outraise Peters.

To volunteer for assisting the John James for U.S. Senate campaign, visit [JohnJamesForSenate.com](http://JohnJamesForSenate.com).





Members of the 2020 ERC leadership team take the September board meeting out-of-doors

### ERC Board for 2020

Ahead of the lock down, Eastside Republican Club members elected officers and board members earlier in 2020 at the War Memorial.

Elected were David Schumacher, chair, Marie Hackleman, vice chair, Annette DeSantis Feldpausch, secretary, and Jay Hackleman, treasurer.

Elected directors are Brian Loos, Carol Whitmore, and Matthew Yascolt.

Others appointed are Mike Vethacke, membership, Michael Nolan, parliamentarian, Leonard MacEachern, sergeant at arms. Kathleen Koppin and Mary Zeock have hospitality duties.



### Dr. Rob Steele Zoomed to ERC in April

Pressed into springtime COVID-10 service, Dr. Rob Steele—also Michigan’s Republican National Committee-man—took time to talk to our April Forum via Zoom.

### Facebook Users Can Take Control of What You See

If you use Facebook, you’ll want to visit the ERC. Just search for the user name “@EastsideRepublicanClub.”

To see our posts and to stay informed you must “follow” us by selecting “Following” in the drop-down menu. Then select “See First.”

The alternative is to allow the notoriously biased FB algorithm to select what it decides you should see!

### **Myth 3. Budget problems result from the enrollment decline faced by every district, and thus are beyond our control.**

This is a “don’t blame us, things are tough all over” argument GPPSS leaders have used in the past. Enrollment numbers paint a different picture. While statewide enrollment is trending down, GPPSS has lost students at a faster rate than the state average. And GPPSS has lost students much faster than comparable districts such as Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Rochester, and Troy (see table). People who use this excuse ignore the fact that enrollment trends are not accidental; enrollment reflects how BOE and administration actions affect the perceived value of our schools.

Like any product, people recognize a good value when they see it. If a school district offers a high quality education at a good millage rate, its enrollment will stay high, or at least decline slower than average. That’s probably why our peer districts are doing so well relative to the state average. Unfortunately, GPPSS is seeing the opposite trend. Ask yourself: If the current BOE and administration is doing a good job, why is our enrollment declining so much faster than peer districts?

#### Ten-Year School Enrollment Trends

|                  | Spring<br>2009 | Fall<br>2019 | %<br>Change |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| GPPSS            | 8,459          | 7,334        | -13.3%      |
| Birmingham       | 8,011          | 7,930        | -1.0%       |
| Bloomfield Hills | 5,466          | 5,436        | -0.5%       |
| Rochester        | 14,774         | 15,245       | 3.2%        |
| Troy             | 12,075         | 12,989       | 7.6%        |
| Total MI Public  | 1,592,387      | 1,444,312    | -9.3%       |

Source: [mischooldata.org](http://mischooldata.org)

## GOP Congressional District News

By Mayra Rodriguez, Chair Michigan 14th District Republican Committee



Terry Bowman, co-chair of the Michigan Republican Party, joined us Sept. 3 for the Grand Opening of our eastside Trump Victory Center at 16849 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe in the Village (next to Kroger). Thanks to Matt Seely and the others who are making this campaign

headquarters available.

On the November ballot, we are excited to have R. Vance Patrick, Southfield, challenging 14th District congresswoman Brenda Lawrence. Now in November, let's send him as our new representative to Washington from the 14th!

Just ahead, is our Sunday, Sept. 20 Fall Picnic. Plan to join us from 1 to 4 p.m. at Tompkins Center in Patterson Park, Grosse Pointe Park, 48230.

Although a virtual convention this year, as your district chair, I was privileged to join a small number of Michigan Republicans for the in-person portion of the State Republican Convention conducted August 30 from the RenCen.

Among other duties, I'm now running as a candidate for State Rep 2nd District challenging incumbent Joe Tate (D). So I'd appreciate your support if you live in the 2nd District.

In the 1st District, we're glad to have Latricia Ann Lanier as the GOP candidate who now faces off against Tenisha R. Yancey (D).

## The Value of 'Family'

By Carol Whitmore

Rapper Kanye West may not be perceived as the most serious candidate for president, but he is serious about family values.

Consider this moment of wisdom from West's interview in Nick Cannon's latest podcast, Cannon Class.

"The culture of humanity needs to be family," West said.

"The design of our cities, the design of our schools, there's a lot of things designed for us to not promote family; they're designed to create separation."

**Myth 4. GPPSS is fully committed to furthering academic excellence.** Most administrators and BOE members would say this is a high priority, but actions speak louder than words. The GPPSS Strategic Plan (available on the GPPSS website) currently defines 7 Guiding Principles: collaboration, compassion, embracing diversity, innovation, integrity, global awareness, and perseverance. You'll note there are no guiding principles directly related to improved academic performance. How can the BOE and administrators say academic achievement is a top priority, when seven other guiding principles are deemed more important? For further proof, watch archived BOE meetings online, and see how little time the BOE spends reviewing objective, academic measures and/or holding administrators accountable for improving those measures.

## Be Part of the Solution

Election workers are badly needed to ensure an accurate vote count and the Detroit city clerk is hiring!

Apply to be trained for the November 3, General Election, and earn \$300 for your Election Day duty.

August 4 ballot tallies did not match the official poll book in 72% of Detroit absentee voting precincts.



"We cannot go into November repeating what happened in the primary. It absolutely cannot happen," Monica Palmer of Grosse Pointe Woods and chair of the Wayne County Board of Canvassers told the Free Press.

Needed most are workers to count the expected large number of absentee ballots from Detroit.

The City of Detroit is hiring individuals to work November 3. To apply as precinct inspector, individuals:

- Should be registered to vote in Michigan,
- Should be 18 years or older (individuals age 16 & 17 also may apply),
- Cannot be a challenger, candidate, member of a candidate's immediate family, or a member of the local Board of Canvassers, and
- Cannot be convicted of a felony or an election crime.

To apply, go online to [detroitmi.gov/employment](http://detroitmi.gov/employment). For additional information, call (313) 876-0231 or (313) 876-0230.



## Abuse of Power, Plain and Simple

By Saul Anuzis, Republican strategist

Now the Senate Intelligence Committee report has confirmed what Bob Mueller's "Russiagate" investigation already concluded: "the Committee found no evidence that then-candidate Donald Trump or his campaign colluded with the Russian government."

Russia has and will always try to meddle in our elections and affairs. We must be diligent and not forget they are not our friends when they try to manipulate public policy. But the "never Trumpers" waste tremendous time and energy trying to somehow "prove collusion" and their best hacks from Schiff to Mueller and all the way to the Senate Intelligence Committee found no collusion. There was no "second shooter" (collusion) on that grassy knoll!

Protests vs. Riots: The U.S. Constitution grants the right "Peaceably to Assemble." Not a right to vandalize, destroy public or private property, assault, injure, kill, inflict fear, public nuisance and hide under cover of an angry mob.

Obamagate: The weaponization of both domestic and foreign intelligence against a presidential campaign from a sitting administration solely for political purposes to prevent the smooth transition of power, weaken his presidency, and limit his legislative success.

That's what Obamagate was all about. They spied. They lied and tried to cover it up.

This never should happen to any American. In the face of this, there should be bipartisan outrage!



Cartoon by Henry Payne



Tall Saul Anuzis, center, shown in pre-lockdown days with Mike Nolan, Dan Grano, Marie Hackleman and political commentator, Bill Ballenger.

**Myth 5. Teachers have taken pay cuts.** To be clear: we don't think teachers should take pay cuts. Our issue is with people who falsely claim district teachers have taken pay cuts. When you hear someone make that claim, ask for an example of a teacher who was in the district one year, and took a pay cut for doing the same job the next year. Chances are you won't find many, because that would seem to run afoul of the teacher's Master Agreement. Page 78 of that teacher contract (available on the GPPSS website) shows the pay rate schedule. A teacher will get a raise each additional year he/she teaches; and depending on seniority and educational attainment, that raise could significantly outpace the annual rate of inflation. Of course, one could argue teacher pay doesn't go up *enough*, but that is vastly different from claiming teachers are taking pay cuts. What, then, is the basis for this oft-repeated myth?

Typically, people look at average salary levels year over year; and if the average across the whole teacher base declined 2% (for example), they falsely conclude that each teacher took a cut of around 2%. In reality, that decline in average salary probably resulted from a change in the teacher mix. For years the district has managed total salary expense by trimming the number of higher-salaried, experienced teachers, and replacing them with newer ones. That trade-off is what drives average salaries down. Teachers staying in place generally do not experience a pay cut. They actually receive contractually mandated raises as described above.

Note: Author of this five-myth analysis is a current GPPSS parent and taxpayer.

~ CALENDAR OF EVENTS ~

**Friday, Sept. 11, 4 p.m.**

Michigan Patriots Parade for Trump  
Lakeside Mall, M-59 Hall Road and Schoenherr, Utica, MI

**Saturday, Sept. 12**

1st Session 10 to 11:30 a.m. – Absentee Ballot Oversight  
2nd Session 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. –  
Poll Challenging  
Michigan Trump/Republican Office (across from Fashion  
Square Mall/JC Penney)  
4607 Bay Rd, Saginaw, MI

**Tuesday, Sept. 15**

ERC Fall Kickoff Election Forum via Zoom

**Sunday, Sept. 20, 1 to 4 p.m.**

14th GOP District Campaign Kickoff Picnic  
Tompkins Center, Grosse Pointe Park, MI

**Monday, Oct. 12**

1st Session 6:30 to 8 p.m. – Absentee Ballot Oversight  
2nd Session 8 to – 9:30 p. m. – Poll Challenging  
Michigan Trump/Republican Office (across from Fashion  
Square Mall/JC Penney)  
4607 Bay Rd, Saginaw, MI

**Tuesday, Oct. 20**

ERC Judicial Forum via Zoom

**Tuesday, Nov. 3**

General Election Day

**Tuesday, Nov. 17**

ERC Forum via Zoom

*Opinions expressed in the Eastside Republican Review are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Eastside Republican Club.*

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