

# League of Women Voters Troy Area

*Funding generously donated by ArvinMeritor*

## Voter Guide Troy School Board Election Vote: November 3, 2009

**Candidate Forum**  
Troy School Services Bldg  
October 7, 2009  
7-8:30PM

### Change in Voting Procedures

The State of Michigan has changed voting procedures to include requiring picture identification to vote. Please bring to the polls your drivers license or valid photo ID.

### Voter Information

- ✓ Polls open from 7AM – 8PM
- ✓ Be informed about the candidates and proposals on the ballot
- ✓ Keep your voter registration information up-to-date with your current address
- ✓ Report illegal or fraudulent activity to the local clerk or the Michigan Department of State’s Bureau of Elections

*Candidate Forum to be replayed on school cable and web.*

### Election Day Ballot

**Voter for two (2) for a six year term (1/1/10 – 12/31/15)**

**Ida Edmunds  
Wendy Underwood**

**Vote for two (2) for a four year term (1/1/10 – 12/31/13)**

**Bruce Bloomingdale  
Paula Fleming  
Bernard Thomas Lourim  
Nancy Philippart**

*Note:50 word limits placed on all answers.*

Biography	What two (2) goals do you hope to accomplish as a member of the school board?	How can the school district provide a quality education during times of economic distress?	What programs would you refuse to privatize? Explain.
<p><b>Ida Edmunds</b> TSD Trustee 24 years; Attended 99.7% of all meetings. Michigan Association of School Boards certified; Recognized as MSBA Master Board Member and awarded Platinum Award of Distinction. Master’s degree in education. Troy resident 32 years; Married to Don 43 years; two sons, both Athens graduates. Passionate advocate for public education.</p>	<p>To maintain and strengthen programs that provide Troy students with an exemplary education. Every student needs to achieve at his or her optimum level. This must be accomplished while reducing spending.</p> <p>To engage stakeholders in providing the Board of Education with valuable input regarding necessary cuts that must be made.</p>	<p>Foresight and fiscally responsible governance by prior boards of education provided this district with a healthy fund equity. That fund is being spend down and in the next two years will be depleted. Collaboration with stakeholders will enable us to prioritize programs and services. Cuts will have to be made.</p>	<p>Transportation, custodial services and food services have all be privatized, resulting in considerable savings to the district. Instructional programs, by law, may not be privatized. All other services will have to be evaluated, researched and considered.</p>
<p><b>Wendy Underwood</b> Six-year Troy resident. Married. Two children enrolled in Troy Schools. Four years on Troy School Board (current President; past VP and Secretary). MASB certified. B.S. in Economics from Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. J.D. from Columbia University Law School. Attorney with law firm of Dickinson Wright.</p>	<p>1 Provide quality educational opportunities for all students in the District. I will seek to ensure that every child has the opportunity to achieve and excel.</p> <p>2 Maintain the financial stability of the District. Fiscally responsible budgeting, strategic planning and well-focused advocacy will be among my top priorities.</p>	<p>The Board must seek continuity of educational excellence notwithstanding the economic challenges and uncertainties we face. As we look to reduce costs, increase efficiencies and maximize the value of existing investments, our budgeting/planning must be reflective of our core mission (educating students). Collaboration and innovation will be key.</p>	<p>I voted in favor of privatizing custodial, food and transportation services; privatization significantly reduced our costs (without compromising quality) and allowed us to reallocate scarce resources in support of our core mission (educating students). My position on privatizing additional services would depend upon governing law and the particular facts/circumstances.</p>

<b>Biography</b>	<b>What two (2) goals do you hope to accomplish as a member of the school board?</b>	<b>How can the school district provide a quality education during times of economic distress?</b>	<b>What programs would you refuse to privatize? Explain.</b>
<p><b>Bruce Bloomingdale</b>            In twenty-two years as a superintendent over multi-million dollar projects, I was responsible for hiring personnel, labor relations, conflict resolution, estimating, budgets, scheduling, cash flow, profitability, and safety program effectiveness. This experience in the business, labor, and management arenas enables me to be an objective and effective School Board member.</p>	<p>1 Bring the entire elected leadership together in a spirit of cooperation based on mutual trust and respect. Setting aside any differences so we can successfully resolve the challenges we face.</p> <p>2 Secure dependable funding that enables our school district to continue to provide the educational opportunities it is noted for.</p>	<p>A schools system’s ability to maintain quality educational programs is reduced when funding levels decline. Almost every alternative to adequate funding has a negative impact on the quality of education being provided. The harsh reality is children only get the level of education the community is willing to pay for.</p>	<p>Any of them. Privatizing assumes that employees are expendable and can be replaced to solve a problem. It disregards the natural tendency of employees to identify with and be loyal to their employer. Privatizing damages the employee/employer relationships-reducing the ability of the district to resolve future issues.</p>
<p><b>Paula Fleming</b>            Resident of Troy for 27 years. M.S. in Education with classroom experience. A former Athens parent and employee. Served 9 years on Troy School Board. Helped to promote student achievement. I will work with parents, teachers, and administration to make sure there is a high quality A+ education.</p>	<p>A top priority is to provide prudent financial management of resources to ensure delivery of an excellent comprehensive education. Second goal is to partner with parents, and members of the community in support of public education. I can do this by advocating, leading, listening, serving, and caring.</p>	<p>We can prioritize where cuts have to be made. We can do everything possible to keep the cuts as far away from the classroom as we can. We look at any and everything that is non-instructional.</p>	<p>I do not support the privatization of educational programs or instruction. I would look at the level of service that would be compromised before privatizing. Privatizing any service is always a difficult decision. However, we are required to have a balanced budget and live within our means.</p>
<p><b>Bernie Lourim</b>            Occupation: Attorney            Experience: General Counsel FANUC Robotics (Rochester Hills) Clark Hill law firm (Detroit)            Education: U. of Michigan B.A. Political Science; J.D. (Law)            Additional Qualifications:            Troy homeowner – 18 years            Parent of 3 children enrolled in Troy Schools            Coach/Judge-children’s activities (9 years)            Board Member/officer – non-profit organizations (11 years)</p>	<p>Communication between the Board and community            -Explain decisions at Board meetings            -Describe content from Workshops            -Respond to Board meeting presentations            -Offer private/informal interaction</p> <p>Community understanding of budget issues            -Existing revenue sources/limitations and new possibilities            -Costs of existing items and alternatives            -Long range planning</p>	<p>Maintain low student-teacher ratio            Temporary across-the-board and targeted cost cuts            Negotiate cost savings on purchased items            Postpone non-critical costs (like software upgrades) until economy improves            Promote positive morale through focus on educational services that we can offer and the increased importance of education in a challenging economy</p>	<p>All long-term programs servicing students</p> <p>Privatization of long-term core programs hurts quality, fails to manage costs, relinquishes control, and is inconsistent with district’s mission.            Prefer to:            -cut or postpone other program costs            -increase revenue through fees/other sources            -increase program workload            -privatize other programs in administration</p>
<p><b>Nancy Philippart</b>            Currently Secretary, Troy Board of Education (MASB certified); President, business consulting firm; retired senior automotive executive with strong global leadership, financial management and problem-solving experience; experienced youth advocate – Board President, Girl Scouts Southeastern Michigan, former Troy soccer and softball coach; catechist, St. Thomas More; BS and MS, Engineering, MA Economics</p>	<p>1) maintain Troy’s educational excellence by finding creative and financially responsible ways to deliver our diverse educational programs and keeping dollars focused in the classroom 2) support a structured process for community participation and legislative advocacy for sustainable model of K-12 funding.</p>	<p>By creating new, cost effective ways to deliver educational services and ensuring that maximum dollars are spent on core mission of educating students. Working collaboratively with other entities to leverage services where appropriate to reduce district costs. Mobilizing community to engage in legislative advocacy for sustainable model for K-12 funding.</p>	<p>Do not support privatization of programs (precluded by Michigan law). Supported privatization of non-instructional services which would not compromise educating students and where economies of scale allowed district cost savings - thereby helping avoid instructional program and staff cuts.</p>