

Lathrup Village Election Commission Remote Meeting Agenda

Friday, September 8, 2021 at 5:00 PM
Remote Meeting via Zoom

ZOOM REMOTE MEETING INFORMATION

Webinar ID: 897 2024 8375

Password: 331249

Online: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89720248375?pwd=cWJZc0JWejA0TEQ1LzJxWGZSM2pudz09

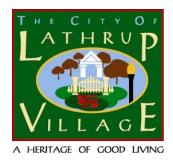
Telephone: 646.558.8656 or 312.626.6799

In accordance with Emergency Orders issued by the local officials, and State of Michigan legislation, which allows for electronic meetings of public bodies, notice is hereby given that the City of Lathrup's City Council will be meeting electronically using www.Zoom.us for videoconference and public access.

1. **Call to Order** by City Clerk Yvette Talley (in accordance with PA 254 of 2020, the members should identify their physical location by stating the county, city, township, or village and state from which he or she is attending the meeting remotely).

2. Roll Call

- Yvette Talley, City Clerk
- Attorney Scott Baker
- Council Member Dawn Medley
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance
- 4. Approval of Agenda
- 5. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Election Commission Minutes Remote Meeting- September 3, 2021
- 6. Public Comments for Items on the Agenda (Speakers are limited to 2 minutes)
- 7. Action Requests For Consideration / Approval
 - A. Receive Amended Legal Opinion and Implement Recommendation Therein
- 8. Public Comment
- 9. Adjourn



Lathrup Village Election Commission Meeting DRAFT Minutes

Friday, September 3, 2021 at 3:00 PM 27400 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village, Michigan 48076

In accordance with Emergency Orders issued by local officials, and State of Michigan legislation, which allows for electronic meetings of public bodies, notice is hereby given that the City of Lathrup's City Council will be meeting electronically using www.Zoom.us for videoconference and public access.

1. Call to Order (in accordance with PA 254 of 2020, the members should identify their physical location by stating the county, city, township, or village and state from which he or she is attending the meeting remotely).

Meeting called to order by Yvette Talley, City Clerk at 3:18 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Scott Baker, City Attorney, Dawn Medley, City Council Member, Yvette Talley, City Clerk
Scott Baker located in Addison Twp., MI – Oakland County, Dawn Medley, located in Stony Brook,
NY-Suffolk County. Yvette Talley, located in McKinney, TX-Collin County.

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Kantor, Council member Ian Ferguson and Dr. Sheryl Mitchell

Theriot, City Administrator, Kelda London, Government Services

Others Present: Butzel Long, Law Firm – Steven Eatherly, Beth Gotthelf, Kurtis T. Wilder,

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Joseph E. Richotte

4. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Medley to approve the Agenda.

Ayes: Baker, Medley, Talley

No: None

Motion carried.

5. Approval of Minutes

A. Election Commission Minutes Remote Meeting – August 23, 2021

CITY OF LATHRUP VILLAGE ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING – SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

Motion by Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Medley to approve the minutes of the

August 23, 2021 meeting.

Ayes: Baker, Medley, Talley

No: None

Motion carried.

Public Comments

Bruce Kantor – 18129 Sunnybrook – asked outside legal counsel Butzel Long – legalities of

Marvin Moore not checking that he's a United States citizen on the Affidavit of Identity.

Ian Ferguson – Lathrup Blvd. – stated that Marvin Moore did not indicate he's a United States

Citizen on the Affidavit of Identity form.

Karen Miller – 18755 Glenwood Blvd. - stated she did turn in 2 copies of the Affidavit of Identity and

there should not be an issue.

Mark Dizik – 19251 Rainbow Dr.-wanted to know who was disqualified.

Martha Moore – 28050 Red River Dr. N.- asked what was the discrepancy on the Affidavit of Identity.

Barbara Kenez – 19115 Glenwood Blvd. - stated she did turn in her Affidavit of Identity.

Greg Ruvolo – 27641 Lathrup Blvd. - stated he turned in his Affidavit of Identity.

Butzel Long –Discussion - gave an overview and stated they found that Karen Miller, Greg Ruvolo

and Barbara Kenez did not submit their Affidavit of Identity forms. Also, Marvin Moore did not

indicate being a United States citizen on the Affidavit of Identity. Other missing information was

discussed for example - missing the date of birth which is not a mandatory filing requirement but

recommended. Discussion regarding all affidavits of Identity were received by the Lathrup Village

Clerk's office and they will be forwarded to Butzel Law Firm and an updated opinion letter will be

issued to the city.

Item A.

7. Motion to remove item from the table

Motion by Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Medley to remove the item from the table to receive legal opinion and implement recommendation therein.

Ayes: Baker, Medley, Talley

No: None

Motion carried.

8. Action Requests - For Consideration / Approval

A. RECEIVE LEGAL OPINION AND IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATION THEREIN

Motion by Commissioner Baker, seconded by Commissioner Medley to remove Marvin Moore from the November 2, 2021 ballot because he did not fill in the citizenship question on the Affidavit of Identity.

Ayes: Baker, Medley, Talley

No: None

Motion carried.

9. Public Comments

Barbara Kenez – 19115 Glenwood Blvd. - There were things that were overlooked and asked if the Clerk reviewed the paperwork.

Mayor Mykale Garrett stated- City Clerk is not to give legal advice. Candidates are responsible to read everything in its entirety.

Greg Ruvolo – 27641 Lathrup Blvd. - suggested the Affidavit of Identity form be revised.

Ian Ferguson – stated it is not okay that the outside legal counsel missed the problem with the citizenship question.

Butzel Law Firm gave an overview of their findings and will give an updated legal opinion letter after they receive the affidavit of Identity for Karen Miller, Greg Ruvolo and Barbara Kenez.

Commissioner Dawn Medley – Asked everyone to work together.

CITY OF LATHRUP VILLAGE ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING – SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

10. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Baker, seconded by Council member Medley to adjourn this meeting.

Ayes: Baker, Medley, Talley

No: None

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Yvette Talley, City Clerk



a professional corporation

Kurtis T. Wilder 313 983 7491 wilder@butzel.com

Suite 100 150 West Jefferson Detroit, Michigan 48226 T: 313 225 7000 F: 313 225 7080 butzel.com

September 7, 2021

VIA EMAIL

smitchell@lathrupvillage.org sbaker@bakerelowsky.com cityclerk@lathrupvillage.org

Commissioner Yvette Talley Commissioner Dawn Medley Commissioner Scott R. Baker, Esq. Lathrup Village Election Commission 27400 Southfield Road Southfield, Michigan 48076

Re: Amended Opinion

Review of Affidavits of Identity for Candidates

Seeking Election to City Council

Dear Commissioners:

It was a pleasure meeting you on Friday, September 3 during the video public meeting of the Election Commission to discuss the sufficiency of the Affidavits of Identity and nominating petitions for those seeking seats on city council in the upcoming general election on November 2, 2021. On August 26, 2021, the City of Lathrup Village engaged Butzel Long, P.C., to provide a written legal opinion as to whether any candidates failed to comply with applicable elections laws and regulations, thereby requiring removal of their names from the general election ballot. The City had not indicated that it had identified any issues but rather, wanted Butzel to engage in an independent review. Although this review would normally require Butzel to verify the signatures on the candidate's petitions, the City excluded that from the scope of our engagement during a call on September 1, 2021, with Commissioner Talley and City Administrator Dr. Sheryl L. Mitchell Theriot. Accordingly, Butzel assumes for purposes of this opinion letter that the elections bureau within the Office of the City Clerk has verified the signatures on the petitions and that no candidate is disqualified from appearing on the ballot for want of a sufficient number of verified signatures. Butzel's review is therefore limited to the sufficiency of the candidate's affidavits of identity. On September 3, Butzel provided its preliminary opinion to the Commission. Based on additional information received during that meeting and additional review, Butzel offers the following opinion.

Executive Summary

Butzel was informed that there are eight candidates for city council, who are listed here in alphabetical order. If there are other candidates, Butzel was not asked to evaluate the adequacy of their affidavits and petitions.

Dizik, Mark Jennings, Jalen Kantor, Bruce Kenez, Barbara Miller, Karen Moore, Marvin Ruvolo II, Greg Siddiqi, Saleem

It is Butzel's opinion that each of the candidates' affidavits is sufficient, except for those submitted by Messrs. Moore and Ruvolo, whose names should be omitted from the ballot for want of an Affidavit of Identity that strictly complies with Section 558(2) of the Election Law, MCL 168.558.

Requirements for **Affidavits of Identity**

Candidates must submit two copies of an Affidavit of Identity with a nominating petition. $MCL\ 168.558(1)$.¹

Under Section 558(2) of the Election Law, "[a]n affidavit of identity must contain [1] the candidate's name and residential address; [2] a statement that the candidate is a citizen of the United States; [3] the title of the office sought; [4] a statement that the candidate meets the constitutional and statutory qualifications for the office sought; [5] other information that may be required to satisfy the officer² as to the identity of the candidate;³ and [6] the manner in which

Although Section 558 is located within Chapter XXIV, which governs primary elections, "the location of the statute is of no consequence, and the courts have treated [Section 558] as applying to all elections." *Moore v Genesee Cnty*, No. 355291, 2021 WL 2600829, *2 (Mich. Ct. App. June 24, 2021) (citing additional cases).

The Election Law does not define the term "officer," but we find Section 555 instructive as to its meaning. Section 555 refers to "the various officers" named in the Act and makes specific reference the Secretary of State, county clerks, and city clerks. MCL 168.555. We therefore construe the term "officer" in Section 558 to refer to the Commissioner Talley in her capacity as the City Clerk.

the candidate wishes to have his or her name appear on the ballot." MCL 168.558(2) (citations omitted). If a candidate is using a name that is not a name that he or she was given at birth, the candidate shall include on the Affidavit of Identity the candidate's full former name. *Ibid.*

In addition, "[a]n affidavit of identity must include [7] a statement that as of the date of the affidavit, all statements, reports, late filing fees, and fines required of the candidate or any candidate committee organized to support the candidate's election under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act have been filed or paid; and [8] a statement that the candidate acknowledges that making a false statement in the affidavit is perjury, punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both." MCL 168.558(4).

"Strict compliance with [Section] 558 is required." *Nykoriak v Napoleon*, —Mich App—, —NW2d— (2020); slip op at 5. "The failure to supply a facially proper affidavit of identity (AOI), i.e., an affidavit that conforms to the requirements of the Election Law, is a ground to disqualify a candidate from inclusion on the ballot." *Stumbo v Roe*, 332 Mich App 479, 481; 957 NW2d 830 (2020). The City Clerk "shall not certify to the board of election commissioners the name of a candidate who fails to comply with [Section 558]." MCL 168.558(4).

Guidance from the Bureau of Elections is consistent with this position. "A candidate who fails to file an Affidavit of Identity when filing is ineligible to appear on the ballot." Election Officials' Manual, Ch. 3, p. 3 (italicizing removed). "Affidavits of Identity submitted after the filing deadline may not be recognized." Election Officials' Manual, Ch.3, p. 11. Although "supplemental' filings may be accepted up until the filing deadline, the initial filing must contain at least the minimum number of required signatures or full fee and two completed Affidavits of Identity." *Ibid*.

Candidate Affidavits

At a public meeting of the Election Commission held on September 3, 2021, at 3:00 p.m., the Commission orally represented to Butzel that the Commission received two copies of an Affidavit of Identity from each candidate, even though the materials provided to Butzel included only one copy for some candidates. Based on this representation, Butzel assumes for purposes of this amended opinion that each candidate has complied with the requirement to submit two copies of the affidavit.

³ No additional information is required of candidates under the City Charter or Code of Ordinances. See Lathrup Village Charter, §§4.2, 4.9; Lathrup Village Code, §22–1. Accordingly, the fifth requirement listed in Section 558(2) does not apply here.

Butzel also notes that no additional information is required of candidates under the City Charter or Code of Ordinances. See Lathrup Village Charter, §§4.2, 4.9; Lathrup Village Code, §22–1. Therefore, the fifth requirement listed in Section 558(2) does not apply to Butzel's analysis.

In addition, the standard language appearing on the preprinted standard form affidavit contains the requisite certification of compliance with the Campaign Finance Act and an acknowledgement that making a false statement on the affidavit is perjury punishable in the manner stated in the Election Law. Accordingly, the seventh and eighth requirements for a valid affidavit are automatically satisfied as to each candidate who submitted a signed affidavit for purposes of Butzel's review.

Butzel therefore focuses on whether each candidate's affidavit satisfied Requirements 1–4 and 6 under Section 558(2).

I. Dizik, Mark

Mr. Dizik satisfied Requirement 1. The affidavit bears his name and residential address. Exhibit 1, Affidavit of Identity of Mark P. Dizik §1 (Jul. 19, 2021).

Mr. Dizik satisfied Requirement 2. He marked the circle in Section 5 of the affidavit attesting that he is a citizen of the United States. *Id.* at §5.

Mr. Dizik satisfied Requirement 3. He states that he is running for city council.⁴ *Id.* at §3.

Mr. Dizik satisfied Requirement 4. In marking the circle in Section 5, he also attested that he meets the statutory and constitutional requirements for the office he seeks. Exhibit 1, Dizik Aff., at §5.

Mr. Dizik satisfied Requirement 6. The affidavit lists how he wishes to have his name appear on the ballot. *Id.* at §3.

Accordingly, it is Butzel's opinion that Mr. Dizik's Affidavit of Identity complies with Section 558(2) and, within the limited scope of our review, we detect no reason to exclude his name from the ballot for the November 2021 general election for city council.

Although technically the office Mr. Dizik seeks is "member of the city council," Butzel opines that the office listed on the affidavit—"city council"—adequately states the title of the office sought because there is no ambiguity in what is meant by that designation; city council consists solely of elected members. Lathrup Village Charter, §3.1. We apply this same analysis for each candidate who similarly listed the office they seek as "city council" without further noting this issue in subsequent sections.

II. Jennings, Jalen

Mr. Jennings satisfied Requirement 1. The affidavit bears his name and residential address. Exhibit 2, Affidavit of Identity of Jalen C. Jennings, §1 (Mar. 30, 2021).

Mr. Jennings satisfied Requirement 2. He marked the circle in Section 5 of the affidavit attesting that he is a citizen of the United States. *Id.* at §5.

Mr. Jennings satisfied Requirement 3. He states that he is running for city council. *Id.* at §3. Commissioner Baker asked during the September 3 meeting whether a candidate's failure to mark the circle for primary or general election is disqualifying as to Requirement 3. Mr. Jennings's affidavit is an example of one where the affiant failed to mark the circle, although he wrote the date of the general election in the space provided. It is our opinion that Requirement 3 only requires affiants to state the *name* of the office they seek. Information about the *term* of office—*e.g.*, the date of the election, the commencement of the term, or the end of the term—is not part of the name of the office, and the omission of such information is not required under Section 558 and therefore not disqualifying.⁵

Mr. Jennings satisfied Requirement 4. In marking the circle in Section 5, he also attested that he meets the statutory and constitutional requirements for the office he seeks. *Id.* at §5.

Mr. Jennings satisfied Requirement 6. The affidavit lists how he wishes to have his name appear on the ballot. *Id.* at § 3.

Accordingly, it is Butzel's opinion that Mr. Jennings's Affidavit of Identity complies with Section 558(2) and, within the limited scope of our review, we detect no reason to exclude his name from the ballot for the November 2021 general election for city council.

III. Kantor, Bruce

Mr. Kantor satisfied Requirement 1. The affidavit bears his name and residential address. Exhibit 3, Affidavit of Identity of Bruce A. Kantor §1 (Apr. 8, 2021).

Mr. Kantor satisfied Requirement 2. He marked the circle in Section 5 of the affidavit attesting that he is a citizen of the United States. *Id.* at §5.

Mr. Kantor satisfied Requirement 3. He states that he is running for city council. *Id.* at §3.

Nor is such information "other information that may be required to satisfy the officer as to the identity of the candidate" under Requirement 5 since a candidate's term and the election for which he has been nominated does not help to identify the candidate.

Mr. Kantor satisfied Requirement 4. In marking the circle in Section 5, he also attested that he meets the statutory and constitutional requirements for the office he seeks. *Id.* at §5.

Mr. Kantor satisfied Requirement 6. The affidavit lists how he wishes to have his name appear on the ballot. *Id.* at §3.

His compliance with Requirements 1–4 and 6 notwithstanding, we must assess what effect, if any, follows from his filing of an affidavit and petition for a partial term expiring November 13, 2023. Exhibit 3A, Affidavit of Identity of Bruce A. Kantor §1 (Jul. 13, 2021). Under Section 558(5), a person cannot be a candidate for more than one office at a time if the terms of those offices run concurrently or overlap. MCL 168.558(5). A person who files for more than one office must restrict his candidacy to one of those offices within three days after the last day to file petitions. *Ibid.* If he fails to do so, he is disqualified from appearing on the ballot for any of the affected offices. *Ibid.*

Here, after filing an affidavit and petitions for a seat on city council for a regular term, Mr. Kantor filed a second affidavit and petitions for a partial term that would overlap with the regular term. He was therefore candidate for two offices with overlapping terms in violation of Section 558(5). The last day to file petitions was July 20, 2021. MCL 168.590c(2). He was therefore required to restrict himself to one of those two offices by July 23, 2021, or he would become disqualified from appearing on the ballot for either office. On July 21, 2021, Mr. Kantor withdrew himself from the partial term and asked for his name to be left on the ballot for the regular term. Exhibit 3B, Letter from Bruce Kantor to Yvette Talley, Clerk of the City of Lathrup Village (Jul. 21, 2021).

It is Butzel's opinion that this satisfied Section 558(5). Section 558(5) does not state *how* a person is to restrict themselves to one office. It says merely that the person must select which office to which they will be restricted. Mr. Kantor's letter articulates a selection. We also note that a candidate may withdraw his candidacy by written notice to the filing officer who received the petition within three days of the filing deadline. MCL 168.590c(3). Mr. Kantor's letter alternatively qualifies as a timely withdrawal of his candidacy for the partial term, at which point he was no longer a candidate for two overlapping offices. Accordingly, Butzel concludes that Mr. Kantor's July 21 letter timely avoided a violation of Section 558(5).

Accordingly, it is Butzel's opinion that Mr. Kantor's Affidavit of Identity for the regular term complies with Section 558(2) and, within the limited scope of our review, we detect no reason to exclude his name from the ballot for the November 2021 general election for city council.

IV. Kenez, Barbara

Ms. Kenez satisfied Requirement 1. The affidavit bears her name and residential address. Exhibit 4, Affidavit of Identity of Barbara H. Kenez §1 (Jul. 19, 2021).

Ms. Kenez satisfied Requirement 2. She marked the circle in Section 5 of the affidavit attesting that she is a citizen of the United States. *Id.* at §5.

Ms. Kenez satisfied Requirement 3. The affidavit states that she seeks the office of city council member. *Id.* at §3. Although she did not designate the primary or general election for which she was petitioning, the identification of the term of office or the election at which her name is to appear on the ballot is not part of the title of the office to which she seeks election. See Section II, *supra*.

Ms. Kenez satisfied Requirement 4. In marking the circle in Section 5, she also attested that she meets the statutory and constitutional requirements for the office she seeks. *Id.* at §5.

Ms. Kenez satisfied Requirement 6. The affidavit lists how she wishes to have her name appear on the ballot. *Id.* at §3.

At the September 3 meeting, Commission Medley noted that Ms. Kenez did not list her date of birth in her affidavit and asked if that disqualified her. Section 558 does not require candidates to list their dates of birth. See MCL 168.558. The Board of Election's Election Officials' Manual confirms that a date of birth is only "recommended, not required." Election Officials' Manual, Appendix I, p. 26. We therefore conclude that her decision to omit her date of birth does not disqualify her from appearing on the ballot.

Accordingly, it is our opinion that Ms. Kenez's Affidavit of Identity complies with Section 558(2) and, within the limited scope of our review, we detect no reason to exclude her name from the ballot for the November 2021 general election for city council.

V. Miller, Karen

Ms. Miller satisfied Requirement 1. The affidavit bears her name and residential address. Exhibit 5, Affidavit of Identity of Karen L. Miller §1 (Jul. 17, 2021).

Ms. Miller satisfied Requirement 2. She marked the circle in Section 5 of the affidavit attesting that she is a citizen of the United States. *Id.* at §5.

Ms. Miller satisfied Requirement 3. The affidavit states that she seeks the office of city council member. *Id.* at §3.

Ms. Miller satisfied Requirement 4. In marking the circle in Section 5, she also attested that she meets the statutory and constitutional requirements for the office she seeks. *Id.* at §5.

Ms. Miller satisfied Requirement 6. The affidavit lists how she wishes to have her name appear on the ballot. *Id.* at §3.

Because Commissioner Medley raised a question about the omission of the date of birth on Ms. Kenez's affidavit, we address here for completeness Ms. Miller's apparent decision to cross out her date of birth on her affidavit. Because a date of birth is not required, Butzel concludes that the redaction of that information does not disqualify Ms. Miller from appearing on the ballot.

Accordingly, it is Butzel's opinion that Ms. Miller's Affidavit of Identity complies with Section 558(2) and, within the limited scope of our review, we detect no reason to exclude her name from the ballot for the November 2021 general election for city council.

VI. Moore, Marvin

Mr. Moore satisfied Requirement 1. The affidavit bears his name and residential address. Exhibit 6, Affidavit of Identity of Marvin A. Moore §1 (Jul. 19, 2021).

Mr. Moore did <u>not</u> satisfy Requirement 2. He failed to attest that he is a citizen of the United States by failing to mark the circle in Section 5 of the affidavit. *Id.* at §5. We noted that Mr. Moore attested, as a circulator for his nominating petition, that he is a U.S. citizen, <u>Exhibit 6A</u>, Nominating Petition for Marvin A. Moore, but Section 558(2) unambiguously requires the citizenship attestation to appear in the affidavit. Regardless, the nomination petition attestation does not include a statement that the signor meets the statutory and constitutional requirements for the office listed on the petition, which is an independent disqualifying omission, as noted below.

This matter is akin to *Moore v Genesee Cnty*, No. 355291, 2021 WL 2600829, *2 (Mich. Ct. App. June 24, 2021), where the court held that a village council candidate's "failure to check the box stating that she was a citizen of the United States and met the appropriate constitutional and statutory qualifications was a fatal defect." The court ruled that the county election officials were "required by law to refrain from certifying plaintiff as a candidate" and "plaintiff had no right to appear on the ballot." *Id.* at *3. The court further ruled that "[t]here is simply no statutory provision for amending an AOI after the deadline has passed." *Id.* at *4. It did not matter that the candidate was in fact a U.S. citizen. *Ibid*.

Mr. Moore satisfied Requirement 3. The affidavit states that he seeks the office of city council member. *Id.* at §3.

Mr. Moore did <u>not</u> satisfy Requirement 4. By failing to mark the circle in Section 5, he also failed to attest that he meets the statutory and constitutional requirements for the office he seeks. *Id.* at §5.

Mr. Moore satisfied Requirement 6. The affidavit lists how he wishes to have his name appear on the ballot. *Id.* at §3.

Accordingly, despite his substantial compliance with Section 558 and despite his attestations on the nominating petition that would suggest he is a U.S. citizen and eligible to hold the office he seeks, it is Butzel's opinion that Mr. Moore's Affidavit of Identity fails to comply with Section 558(2) and that his name **should be excluded** from the ballot for the November 2021 general election for city council because of the "strict compliance" required with Section 558, *Nykoriak*, slip op at 5. Further, because the July 20 deadline has passed, Mr. Moore cannot now amend his deficient affidavit, *Moore*, 2021 WL 2600829 at *4.

VII. Ruvolo II, Greg

Mr. Ruvolo satisfied Requirement 1. The affidavit bears his name and residential address. Exhibit 7, Affidavit of Identity of Gregory A. Ruvolo II § 1 (Jul. 20, 2021).

Mr. Ruvolo satisfied Requirement 2. He marked the circle in Section 5 of the affidavit attesting that he is a citizen of the United States. *Id.* at §5.

Mr. Ruvolo did **not** satisfy Requirement 3. He did not identify the office he seeks in his affidavit. Id. at §3. We note that Mr. Ruvolo twice tried to cure this deficiency by filing an unsworn statement on July 22, 2021, Exhibit 7A, Unsworn Statement of Gregory A, Ruyolo II (Jul. 22, 2021), and an affidavit of intent on July 23, 2021, attesting to a conversation that he had with an unnamed representative of the City, during which he confirmed his intent to run for the partial term of office. Exhibit 7B, Affidavit of Intent of Gregory A. Ruvolo II (Jul. 23, 2021). Unfortunately, these efforts could not cure the deficiency. Section 558(2) unambiguously requires the title of the office sought to appear in the Affidavit of Identity. The subject of the first sentence in subsection (2) is the affidavit—not the candidate. Bureau of Elections guidance further provides that "[o]nly Affidavits of Identity with a revision date of 2/2019 or 8/2019 are currently approved." Election Officials' Manual, Ch.3, p. 23. The Legislature has delegated to the Secretary of State "the authority to issue instructions for the conduct of elections and to 'prescribe and require uniform forms that the secretary of state considers advisable for use in the conduct of elections and registrations." Stumbo, 332 Mich App at 488 (citing MCL 168.31(1)(a) and (e)). Mr. Ruvolo's unsworn statement and affidavit of intent are not the approved Affidavit of Intent form, and regardless, they would not have sufficed to provide the information required on the affidavit of identity. To cure the deficiency, Mr. Ruvolo could have

simply executed another Affidavit of Identity form with the required information before the July 20 filing deadline.

Mr. Ruvolo satisfied Requirement 4. In marking the circle in Section 5, he also attested that he meets the statutory and constitutional requirements for the office he seeks. *Id.* at §5.

Mr. Ruvolo satisfied Requirement 6. The affidavit lists how he wishes to have his name appear on the ballot. *Id.* at § 3.

Accordingly, despite his substantial compliance with Section 558 and his efforts to cure the deficiency in his affidavit of identity, it is our opinion that Mr. Ruvolo's Affidavit of Identity fails to complies with Section 558(2) and that his name **should be excluded** from the ballot for the November 2021 general election for city council because of the "strict compliance" required with Section 558, *Nykoriak*, slip op at 5. Further, because the July 20 deadline has passed, Mr. Ruvolo cannot now amend his deficient affidavit, *Moore*, 2021 WL 2600829 at *4.

VIII. Siddiqui, Saleem

Mr. Siddiqui satisfied Requirement 1. The affidavit bears his name and residential address. Exhibit 8, Affidavit of Identity of Saleem R. Siddiqi § 1 (Jul. 19, 2021).

Mr. Siddiqui satisfied Requirement 2. He marked the circle in Section 5 of the affidavit attesting that he is a citizen of the United States. *Id.* at §5.

Mr. Siddiqui satisfied Requirement 3. He states that he is running for city council. *Id.* at §3.

Mr. Siddiqui satisfied Requirement 4. In marking the circle in Section 5, he also attested that he meets the statutory and constitutional requirements for the office he seeks. *Id.* at §5.

Mr. Siddiqui satisfied Requirement 6. The affidavit lists how he wishes to have his name appear on the ballot. *Id.* at §3.

Accordingly, it is Butzel's opinion that Mr. Siddiqui Affidavit of Identity complies with Section 558(2) and, within the limited scope of our review, we detect no reason to exclude his name from the ballot for the November 2021 general election for city council.

Litigation Risk

We recognize that disqualifying candidates may subject the City to litigation by the aggrieved parties. Specifically, Messrs. Moore and Ruvolo may argue that the City failed to notify them that their Affidavits of Identity were deficient at the time of filing or sometime

before the filing deadline.⁶ Section 558(4) is clear, however, that the City Clerk cannot certify the name of a candidate who fails to file the proper affidavit. Conversely, the City may be subject to litigation by qualified candidates if the City certifies candidates that should have been disqualified under the Election Law.

Further, if Messrs. Moore or Ruvolo sought a writ of mandamus against the City *after* it submits candidate names to the Oakland County Clerk, we expect that claim would fail on the merits. In *Berry v Garrett*, 316 Mich App 37, 44 n 2; 890 NW2d 882 (2016), the Court of Appeals held that a writ of mandamus could issue against Plymouth Township because Plymouth Township lacked authority to take any action regarding the ballots after the Affidavits of Identity were submitted to the Wayne County Clerk. "Mandamus is not directed at ascertaining whether an error occurred in the *past*. In other words, even if the Plymouth Township defendants mishandled the affidavits of identity, their role in the matter has ended; ergo, mandamus will not lie against them." *Ibid.* (emphasis in original). Moreover, a candidate cannot argue that he did not know of the requirements under the Election Law. See *Curley v Beryllium Development Corp.*, 281 Mich. 554, 556; 275 NW 246 (1937) ("It is a maxim of the law that 'ignorance excuses no one"). Ultimately, Butzel believes that the Election Law and applicable caselaw support removing these candidates from the ballot.

In short, based on the records provided, we recommend that Messrs. Moore and Ruvolo be removed from the ballot for failing to meet all of the requirements of Section 558(2) before the July 20 filing deadline.

Respectfully submitted,

BUTZEL LONG, P.C

L'artic T Wilden

Encls.

Messrs. Moore and Ruvolo might rely on Section 553 of the Election Law for this argument, which provides in pertinent part: "In case it is determined that the nominating petitions of any candidate do not comply with the requirements of this act, or if for any other cause such candidate is not entitled to have his name printed upon the official primary ballots, it shall be the duty of the . . . city clerk to *immediately notify* such candidate of such fact, together with a statement of the reasons why his name was not certified to the respective boards of election commissioners." MCL 168.553 (emphasis added). Even if the candidate was correct that the City had violated Section 553, there does not appear to be a clear remedy that a court could lawfully provide to the candidate under the Election Law.

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AND THE COURT AND	Mark Paul Dizik Item A.
candidate information	first name (925) Rainbow Drive Lathry Village 48076
	residential address city / zip
	mailing address, if applicable city / zip
Excellent transcription	
additional	248-219-1913 07/15/74 phone number date of birth
information	U cannets of borned and the serious state and the serious and the serious and the state of the serious and the
	email address campaign website
	my name formally changed in the last 10 years for a reason other than marriage or divorce; if checked, print full former name:
	City Concil
	office name jurisdiction district / circuit / ward
office sought/	political party, if a partisan office. if running without party affiliation list "No Party Affiliation."
ballot information	Mark P. D. Z. I. K. D. L. L. K. L.
	term (check one): Pregular term partial term expiring / / precall
	election (check one): O primary election / / / Ogeneral election 11/2/2021
	judicial candidates only: (a) incumbent position (b) non-incumbent position (c) new judgeship (d) new
	equations the full American Medical Service Alexanders and American Alexanders and American Alexanders and American Amer
e1. 1.	nominating or qualifying petitions (estimated number of signatures) to be) to be destroyed returned in January
filer's acknowledg-	a filing fee of \$100 (if applicable)
ment (check one)	certification of party nomination and certificate of acceptance (if applicable)
	judicial candidates only: affidavit of constitutional qualification affidavit of candidacy (incumbents only)
	Tam a citizen of the United States and I meet the statutory and constitutional requirements for the office sought.
	I swear, or affirm, that the facts I have provided and the facts contained in the statement set forth below are true. At this date, all statements, reports, late filing fees, and fines due from me or any Candidate Committee organized to
	support my election to office under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, PA 388 of 1976, have been filed or paid.
	I acknowledge that making a false statement in this affidavit is perjury - a felony punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both and may result in disqualification from the ballot (MCL 168.558, 933, and 936).
statements	tor up to 3 years, or both and may result in disqualification from the ballot (line 1 20:339, 350) and 350).
and attestation	SIGN HERE 7 / 19 / Z/
	notary signature Doroch Warnach notary name leven Infamach subscribed and sworn to me on the 1944 day of July 2021.
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	Jalen C Jennings first name middle last	Item A.				
candidate information	18921 Eldorado Place Lathrup VIg. MI 48076 residential address dity/zip	ts IIA				
	mailing address, if applicable city / zip					
additional information	(248)469-7255 phone number hello@jaterJerrings.com email address D8/25/1/994 date of birth WWW. JaterJennings.com campaign website	sters where				
	my name formally changed in the last 10 years for a reason other than marriage or divorce; if checked, print full former name:	i folit stanci				
	City Council City of Lathrup Village MA district / circuit / ward	o of worl				
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	election (check one): O primary election / / O general election 11 / 2 / 2021					
	judicial candidates only: O incumbent position O non-incumbent position					
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	I am a citizen of the United States and I meet the statutory and constitutional requirements for the office sought.					
	I swear, or affirm, that the facts I have provided and the facts contained in the statement set forth below are true.					
	At this date, all statements, reports, late filing fees, and fines due from me or any Candidate Committee organized to support my election to office under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, PA 388 of 1976, have been filed or paid.					
	I acknowledge that making a false statement in this affidavit is perjury - a felony punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or imprisor up to 5 years, or both and may result in disqualification from the ballot (MCL 168.558, 933, and 936).	sonment				
statements and attestation	SIGN Jal DATE 03/30/21					
	notary signature AShley Szewczyk	4. figil.				
	subscribed and sworn to me on the 30 day of March , 200	hair.				
	notary public, state of Michigan, county of Oakland my commission expires 7/14	2020				
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candidate information	first name 18129 Suresidential address	Aren middle MYBrook Ava	LATHRUP City/zip		48076	n tislo Lab
	mailing address, if applicable		city / zip	lo e live più il che		
additional information	248-552- phone number bkarracif A email address	1270 oc. cem	date of k	/4 /196 Dirth //A In website		nizori Laradvy veolia
office sought/ ballot information	other than marriage of City Council office name NO MARY AP political party, if a partisan offi BRUCE exact name I would like printed term (check one): regular	Ce. if running without party affiliation list C. A. A. T. O. Q. I. C.	t "No Party Affiliation." se letters)	O rec		flat in card or conclusion to
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Affidavit	t of Identity and Receipt of Filing	i te mysbina
STATISTICAL PROPERTY OF STATISTICS OF	Karen L Miller first name middle last	Item A.
candidate information	first hame middle last 18755 Glenwood Blvd. Lathrup Village, Miresidential address city/zip	148076
	mailing address, if applicable city / zip	
additional information	(2(8) 515-8653 phone number Kare 156@aol.aom email address date of birth campaign website	posmierk where to file
office	Omy name formally changed in the last 10 years for a reason other than marriage or divorce; if checked, print full former name: City Council Member Lathrup Village, mi district / circuit / ward	that including the compa
sought/ ballot information	political party, if a partisan office. if running without party affiliation list "No Party Affiliation."	2. cardidate 2. additional A chore in Issued and Issued accurate accura
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statements and attestation	I am a citizen of the United States and I meet the statutory and constitutional requirements for the office sought. I swear, or affirm, that the facts I have provided and the facts contained in the statement set forth below are true. At this date, all statements, reports, late filing fees, and fines due from me or any Candidate Committee organize support my election to office under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, PA 388 of 1976, have been filed or paid. I acknowledge that making a false statement in this affidavit is perjury - a felony punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or for up to 5 years, or both and may result in disqualification from the ballot (MCL 168.558, 933, and 936). SIGN HERE Notary signature Mind Hygies notary name Nim Hygies notary public, state of Michigan, county of Wayn my commission expires OS 16 acting in the county of OAMI And	• Initials !
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use only	reviewed by date of filing	nggggns)
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Affidavit	of Identity and Receipt of Filing	tysoinA
candidate information	Marvin Anthony Moore first name middle last 28050 Red River Drive N. Lather Village, residential address	Item A.
	mailing address, if applicable city / zip	
additional information	248-569-7746 phone number Moores 5200001 com email address campaign website	pastin
office sought/ ballot information	my name formally changed in the last 10 years for a reason other than marriage or divorce; if checked, print full former name: City Covncil Member Lather Village M. I. office name jurisdiction district / circuit / ward political party, if a partisan office. if running without party affiliation list "No Party Affiliation." MARVINA AMOOFELEMENTS exact name I would like printed on the ballot (use upper and lower case letters) term (check one): primary election // general election // // general election // // // // // // // // // // // // //	Incover to condition of the condition of
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for office use only	received by number of petition sheets receipt number reviewed by date of filing	k000 ide 6 20Hs. 1010n
	jurisdiction/district of office sought campaign finance number	21

INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE

NOMINATING PETITION

RECEIVED

JUL 20 ZUZI

Item A.

	(CITY/TOWNSHIP	NONPARTISAN)				·
We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters of the Townsh STRIKE (oip of } Latherp VII lage	, in the County ofOak land	F LATHRUP VILLAGE	_ , and Sta	te of Mi	chigan,
nominate Marvin A. Mocre (Name of Candidate)	28050 Red River		Lage			
		ress or Rural Route)	(City or lownship)			
as a candidate for the office of City Council Men (Title of Office/Term Ex		any) to be voted for at the Primary Election to be held on the	_day of Novem be		, 20 2	
WARNING - A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY A PETITION MORE THAN ONC	SIGNS MORE PETITIONS FOR THE SAM E, OR SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS	E OFFICE THAN THERE ARE PERSONS TO BE I	ELECTED TO THE OF THE MICHIGAN	OFFICE ELECTI	, SIG ON L	NS AW.
Signature	Printed Name	Street Address or Rural Route	Zip Code	DATE (
1. Glappe V, Barrow	Jeanne V. Barron	27270 W. Goldengate	48076	7	17	21
2. Of James B. Bucinster	Nancy B. Bacinski	27514 RACKHAM	18076	7	17	21
3. Atomes W. Kener	HOMES W KENEZ	19115 GLENMON SUD	48076	7	17	21
4. Prost amile	Robert B. TAMARELLI	18485 DOLORES AV	48076	7	17	21
5. Mary M. Tamaulli	Mary M. Tamarelli	18485 Dolores Ave.	48076	7	17	21
6. Haren L. Uniller	Karen L. Miller	18755 Glenwood Blid.	48076	7	17	21
7. Markie Baryon	Charley Darron	27270 Goldengate w	218076	7 (17	k /
8. James A Docuski	JAMES A. BALIBH	27514 RACKHAM	48076	7	17	21
9. Carbaia H. Kinen	Partara H. Kenez	19115 Genwood Polva.	48076	7	IT	21
10. Marthou	Martha MOORE	28050 Red River Dive N	48076	1	17	21
11. Thickeullo Man	Michelle Moore	28050 Red River Or. N.	48076	1		21
12. Roof & Sym	ROGER B. LYNN	18590 GAN JOSE	48076	7	18	21
CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR CIRCULATOR — DO NOT SIGN OR DATE						
The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he o			R CIRCULATING P	ETITIO	N.	
the petition was signed in his or her presence; that he or she has n knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once; and th				7,2	01	21

the petition was signed in his or her presence; that he or she has neither caused nor permitted a person to sign the petition more than once and has no knowledge of a person signing the petition more than once; and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the person purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was at the time of signing a registered elector of the City or Township listed in the heading of the petition, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition.

If the circulator is not a resident of Michigan, the circulator shall make a cross [X] or check mark [√] in the box provided, otherwise each signature on this petition sheet is invalid and the signatures will not be counted by a filing official. By making a cross or check mark in the box provided, the undersigned circulator asserts that he or she is not a resident of Michigan and agrees to accept the jurisdiction of this state for the purpose of any legal proceeding or hearing that concerns a petition sheet executed by the circulator and agrees that legal process served on the Secretary of State or a designated agent of the Secretary of State has the same effect as if personally served on the circulator.

WARNING - A CIRCULATOR KNOWINGLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN THE ABOVE CERTIFICATE, A PERSON NOT A CIRCULATOR WHO SIGNS AS A CIRCULATOR, OR A PERSON WHO SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN AS CIRCULATOR IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.

Marie a. Morre	7,20 121
(Signature of Circulator)	(Date)
marvin A. moore	
(Printed Name of Circulator)	
28050 Led Liver Rrive N.	
(Complete Residence Address [Street and Number or Rural Route]) - [Do no	t enter a post office box]
(City or Township, State, Zin Cotte)	
(City or Township State Zin Code)	

(County of Registration, if Registered to Vote, of a Circulator who is not a Resident of Michigan)

Affidavit	of Identity and Re	eceipt of Filing	and Receipt of Filings are the	Affidavit of (dentity a
candidate	SAV66M first name	RA24 middle	SIDDIAL last ATHREP VILLAGE, ME city/zip	Item A.
information 17	residential address SAME mailing address, if applicable	BLVD: estagel	city / zip	All affidavits onus specification
additional information	244-390-360; phone number Saleem siddigi @ email address	comcast, net	date of birth NOAE campaign website	where to file.
	O my name formally changed in to other than marriage or divorce; City cowciL / 4 office name	if checked, print full former na		w Viuks ircuit / ward
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	I swear, or affirm, that the facts I have At this date, all statements, is support my election to office. I acknowledge that making a false st	re provided and the facts contain reports, late filing fees, and fine runder the Michigan Campaign atement in this affidavit is perju	constitutional requirements for the office ned in the statement set forth below are is due from me or any Candidate Committ Finance Act, PA 388 of 1976, have been fi ary - a felony punishable by a fine up to \$2 be ballot (MCL 168.558, 933, and 936).	true. ee organized to iled or paid.
statements and attestation	notary signature Melody subscribed and sworn to me on the notary public, state of Michigan, countries acting in the country of	Maaa	notary management of MeLODY J.SIMPSON Notary Public - State of Michael County of Macomb My Commission Expires May Jr. Acting in the County or Acting in the County or Macomb	19/21 Simpson igan, 2021 2085,01,206
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	jurisdiction/district of office sought		campaign finance	number

Bruce Kantor 18129 Sunnybrook Avenue Lathrup Village, MI 48076-3432

July 21, 2021

Yvette Talley City Clerk City of Lathrup Village 27400 Southfield Road Lathrup Village, Michigan 48076

Madame Clerk,

I respectfully request that my name be removed from the November 2, 2021 ballot for City Council—more specifically, to be removed <u>only</u> from the ballot for the City Council seat to fill the partial term expiring on November 13, 2023 (Donna Stalling's incomplete term). Please leave my name on the ballot for the regular City Council term election (two 4-year terms & one 2-year term).

If there are any questions, I can be reached via cell at (734) 276-2375.

Sincerely,

Bruce Kantor

Affidavit	of Identity and	d Receipt of Filing	illy and Receipt of Filing			
	BRUCE	A THE STATE OF THE	KANTOR	Item A.		
candidate information	BRUCE A KANTOR Item A. First pame 18129 SUMY STOOK AVE, LATHPUP VILLAGE, MT, 48076 residential address city / zip SAM2 mailling address, if applicable city / zip					
additional information	248-552-12 phone number BKANTUL G ACC email address	Clerk to determ 6FX	3 / 4 / 1964 date of birth N/A campaign website	postmark, are where to the		
office sought/ ballot information	other than marriage or of City Carcil \ PAQ office name political party, if a partisan office exact name I would like printed of term (check one): O regular	if running without party affiliation list "Non the ballot (use upper and lower case lear term partial term expirity election / /	O Party Affiliation."	oral ezabebaso		
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ents familiani escendente de la companio de la comp	Parbara	H	Kener	Item A.		
candidate information	Parbara H Kener Item A. first name middle last 19115 Glenwood Blvd. Lathrop Village 48076 residential address city/zip					
	mailing address, if applicable	gelütti, ar Joweship Clerk for ownship oläres	city / zip	This bus also		
additional information	phone number bhkenez ch email address	rotmail.co	date of birth	postmark, are vivere to file		
office sought/ ballot information	_	if checked, print full former na jurisdiction pring without party affiliation list "No ballot (use upper and lower case lettern partial term expiring ction / /	Party Affiliation." Pers) G 1 / 13/23 O recall O general election / /	conditions and a substantial state of the subs		
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Michigan Der	partment of State Original - Filing	Official Copy - Candidate	www.PrintingSystems.us (800) 95-12345 (R	08/19) FORM #		

Amaavi	t of identity and Receipt of Filing
candidate information	GREGORY ANTHONY RUVOLO II Item A. First name I Item A. 1 27 641 LATHRY BWD LATHRY VILLAGE 48076 residential address, if applicable city/zip
additional information	248-224-6700 07/12/1972 phone number GRUVOlogyutil. Com MEET Like Ruvolo. Com Campaign website
office sought/ ballot information	office name jurisdiction district / circuit / ward political party, if a partisan office. if running without party affiliation list "No Party Affiliation." political party, if a partisan office. if running without party affiliation list "No Party Affiliation." exact name I would like printed on the ballot (use upper and lower case letters) term (check one): regular term partial term expiring / / recall election (check one): primary election / / general election non-incumbent position new judgeship
filer's acknowledg- ment (check one)	nominating or qualifying petitions (estimated number of signatures
statements and attestation	I am a citizen of the United States and I meet the statutory and constitutional requirements for the office sought. I swear, or affirm, that the facts I have provided and the facts contained in the statement set forth below are true. At this date, all statements, reports, late filing fees, and fines due from me or any Candidate Committee organized to support my election to office under the Michigan Campaign Finance Act, PA 388 of 1976, have been filed or paid. I acknowledge that making a false statement in this affidavity's perjury - a felony punishable by a fine up to \$1,000.00 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, poth and may result in disqualification from the ballot (MCL 168.558, 933, and 936). SIGN HERE AND ATTE HERE AND AND ATTE HERE AND AND ATTE HERE AND
for office use only	received by number of petition sheets receipt number reviewed by date of filing jurisdiction/district of office sought campaign finance number

Copy - Candidate

AFFIDAVIT OF INTENT

NOW COMES, Affiant, Greg A. Ruvolo II, and, states as follows:

- 1. I am a resident of the State of Michigan, Oakland County, City of Lathrup Village and I am a competent person over 18 years of age. This affidavit is voluntarily made on my personal knowledge and, if sworn as a witness, I can testify competently to the facts in this affidavit.
- 2. On July 20, 2021 I presented to the City of Lathrup Village staff a nomination petition to run for the partial term vacated City Council seat.
- 3. The nomination petition I submitted contained 41 signatures.
- 4. On July 20, 2021 I was contacted by the a representative of the City of Lathrup Village, during that conversation I confirmed my intent to run for the partial term vacated City Council seat.

I certify under penalty of perjury that the fo	oregoing stateme	nts are true and c	correct
		1/	
	/ '		
	1 Rd	A Kinds	The second

Dated: July 23, 2021

Greg.A. Ruvolo II

STATE OF MICHIGAN))ss. COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 23nd day of July, 2021 by Greg A. Ruvolo II, 27641 Lathrup Blvd, Lathrup Village, 48076 Michigan

MUCOMB Notary Public

Oakland County, MI

My commission expires: MAY 1, 2028

Acting in Oakland County

MELODY J SIMPSON
Notary Public - State of Michigan
County of Macomb
My Commission Expires May 1, 2028
Acting in the County of Oak land

Affidavit of Intent

I, Greg Ruvolo, intend to run for the available partial-term for Lathrup Village City Council for the November 2, 2021, General Election.

I successfully turned in 41 signatures on my Nomination Petition on July 20, 2021.

Printed Name

Signature

Date