

My name is Laura Rodgers, and I am running for the City Council as a write in candidate. My husband, Jim, and I have lived in the Clarkston area for more than 30 years. We recently purchased one of the historical homes on Main Street in 2018 and are currently in the process of renovating it. I fell in love with the Village of Clarkston many years ago after moving to Michigan from Pittsburgh. I was drawn to the charming, historic, small town feel that Clarkston was and still is and what I like to refer to as the "Clarkston brand." It is where Jim and I chose to raise our 3 children attending the Clarkston Schools and as members of the Clarkston United Methodist Church. We have been fully engaged in schools, sports, church, and community for our 30 years in Clarkston.

Educationally, I graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with my nursing degree, Oakland University with a masters in nurse anesthesia and most recently, I completed my doctorate degree in anesthesia practice at the University of Michigan. Professionally, I currently practice as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak and the New Millennium Surgical Center in Southfield. I am also the simulation coordinator for the Oakland University-Beaumont Graduate Program of Nurse Anesthesia and have been the District II Director for the Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists for the past 3 years. As a CRNA, I function both autonomously and in collaboration with a variety of health care providers on the inter-professional team to deliver high quality, holistic, evidence-based anesthesia and pain care services during surgeries. Simply put, I am the one in the operating room providing anesthesia, the one with you every minute, the one caring for you and making the moment-to-moment decisions. Critical thinking is the basis of this decision making, an attribute that I have built upon over the past 36 years. I have learned how to make decisions based on the evidence presented to me and not on antidotal circumstances. I feel this is a skill and attribute that will greatly benefit me as a City Council person. Basing decisions not on emotion, but on evidence presented while collaborating with experts in their fields is essential for the preservation of Clarkston's highly desired brand.

Being involved in the nursing profession has taught me a lot about compassion. This attribute was never more important in my profession, than over the past year, during the pandemic. It is also a quality that is essential for a City Council person to exhibit. I believe that most people who move into our historical district do so because of its style, beauty and reputation. My hope is that they do so, wanting to preserve these attributes for some time to come. I believe it is the homeowner's chance to grab a piece of history, and in doing so each homeowner deserves compassionate people on council to hear their side of situations that might present themselves after purchasing homes in our area. It was with an interest in being educated that Jim and I approached the commission when we began developing plans for our renovation, and it was with an enlightened understanding that the plans were finalized.

Serving as the District II Director for the Michigan Association of Nurse Anesthetists, I have been tasked over the past 3 years to represent the interests of CRNAs in my district. Serving on the board has provided me experiences to propose, pass and assist in ratifying statutes and regulations within the scope of nurse anesthesia practice. It is the skill of listening, viewing both sides of an issue and discerning information both budgetary and otherwise that I have gathered from this experience. I believe this valuable experience has prepared me to be an effective City Council person.

I am also a wife, a mom, a friend and most recently a grandma (Gigi) times 2. These are the jobs that I covet more than life itself. Now that Jim and I have moved to the Village of Clarkston and are nearing the end of the renovation of our home, I am anxious to get involved and give back to the little town I adore. It is compassion, critical thinking and the skill of listening for which I offer you. It is with all my life experiences and endeavors that I ask you to choose me to represent you as a write-in candidate.

Laura Rodgers

