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EARLY VOTING 2025

in City of Marquette

The City of Marquette will offer 3 days of early voting--**October 30, 31, and November 1 -- Times: 8 AM – 4PM.**

The early voting site for any voter registered in the City of Marquette will be at Peter White Public Library, located at 217 N. Front Street.

Race: Marquette City Commission

3-YEAR TERM: 2 NON-PARTISAN POSITIONS

DESCRIPTION:

The Marquette City Commission represents the citizens of the City of Marquette. They are charged with governing the city. They pass ordinances, establish budgets and policies affecting Marquette and its residents. The city Commission has the power to hire the City Manager and City Attorney, and to appoint citizens to serve on numerous advisory boards and commissions

CANDIDATES:

Sally Davis

Education: MAE in Educational Leadership, BS in Education

Campaign Phone: 906-360-8965

Michael Larson

Education: Master of Public Administration, NMU

Campaign Phone: 906-250-3356

Matthew Luttenberger

Did not respond.

QUESTIONS: (NOTE: Candidate responses are in their own words and unedited by the League.)

What regulation of e-bikes do you favor on bike trails?

Sally Davis

As a community, I hope that we embrace and encourage all forms of micro-transportation. Sharing the multi-use path and sidewalks safely is the responsibility of every user. Continual education for youth, parents, and the community at large is essential. As a city, we can post signs in high-concentration areas that slow traffic and inspire courtesy. We can also pass an ordinance that addresses reckless riding and riding too fast for conditions.

The State of Michigan has not caught up to the proliferation of e-bike usage, and the commission can work with legislators to implement guidelines. For example, the State has specific rules for ORVs that state “Youth under the age of 16 are required to pass an approved ORV safety course, and must have their safety certificate on them...” They also require helmets.

Michael Larson:

As walkers, bikers, and vehicles share more space with e-bikes, we need to find balance between safety and enjoyment for all users. While I don't have the final answer, I support exploring speed limits on multi-use paths, adding clear signage and expanding education about yielding and trail etiquette. Beyond our trails, more young riders are using e-bikes on city streets. That raises new challenges. I would support working with schools and parents to help these riders understand rules of the road, signaling, and safe

riding practices. The City's E-Bike and Multi-use Path Task Force is currently studying these issues. Whatever their conclusions might be, e-bikes have clearly expanded trail access, giving people of all abilities new ways to enjoy our city. I look forward to helping the community navigate this space as e-bikes gain more traction in the years ahead.

Matthew Luttenberger:

Did not respond.

Name realistic actions the Commission can take to promote affordable housing.

Sally Davis:

Affordable housing is housing that costs no more than 30% of a household's gross income for housing costs, including utilities. We often think about these as subsidized housing. Marquette just added 50+ units of subsidized housing with the opening of Blackrocks Crossing. This brings our total subsidized housing to around 700 units in the City.

People are often concerned about attainable housing, which refers to market-rate homes or rentals that are within the financial reach of middle-income households, earning between 80% and 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Michigan has a new tool to encourage attainable housing that works through the Brownfield Redevelopment Program. I anticipate that the Commission will be considering proposals from developers to use this new tool in the near future.

Michael Larson:

Affordable housing remains one of Marquette's toughest challenges, yet I believe there are a few things we can consider. While our land development

code has seen recent updates, we should continue working with our city planning staff and the Planning Commission to explore where else we can accommodate housing. That might mean encouraging more mixed-income and multifamily development. It could also include reducing parking requirements further where appropriate, or streamlining approvals for projects that include affordable units.

The City can also work to strengthen partnerships with our Housing Commission, area nonprofits, and developers to pursue state and federal funding when available. Even as more housing comes online, whether on the old hospital site or the NMU apartments that have broken ground on Presque Isle Ave, we need to continue to have thoughtful discussions and take actions that lead to more homes which fit the needs and incomes of Marquette residents.

Matthew Luttenberger:

Did not respond.

What are two other priorities that Marquette should address and what actions would you, as commissioner, take regarding these priorities?

Sally Davis:

Our city's fiscal health remains the number one priority. It impacts our core services and our capacity to fund capital improvement projects. The commission and staff are continually vetting new avenues for revenue so we can transition to a healthier financial position. I am happy that we negotiated a revenue share with our Downtown Development Authority this year. Continuing our

advocacy at the State level for other revenue sources, such as a tourist tax, is of utmost interest to me.

Transportation and safety are top priorities as we address the condition of our streets, high-traffic areas, and all forms of micro-transportation. I support street improvements to the degree we can bond or use our fund balance. Increased volume and

flow of traffic around the old hospital site and the area of NMU's new expansion on Presque Isle is of concern. It needs serious study and continual improvement as our community adjusts to the developments.

Michael Larson:

Two priorities stand out. First, we need to continue investing in our infrastructure. Roads, water, sewer, and stormwater systems are critical to daily life. As Commissioner, I will support budgets that prioritize maintenance and support efforts to secure state and federal funding to reduce burden on taxpayers. Second, we must support workforce development so Marquette remains a place where people want to live

and work. That includes attracting and retaining talent, supporting small businesses, and investing in amenities that make our community vibrant. Childcare is also an essential consideration in our local workforce. Without reliable childcare, families may struggle to participate in the workforce and employers may have challenges in retaining workers. While the city doesn't run childcare facilities, we can work with providers and promote efforts like the LSCP Childcare SPARK program to expand availability to improve the quality of life for residents.

Matthew Luttenberger:

Did not respond.

Race: Marquette Board of Light and Power

3-YEAR TERM: 1 NON-PARTISAN POSITION

DESCRIPTION:

Vote for not more than one (1). The Board of Light and Power administers the Marquette Municipal Electrical Utility under the supervision of the Marquette City Commissioners. The Utility produces and transmits electricity to 16,000 citizens of Marquette and all or parts of nine townships of Marquette.

CANDIDATES:

Margaret Brumm

B.S.Ch.E, with Honor from Michigan Technological University and J.D. from University of Michigan Law School
Campaign Phone: 331-444-8497

Doug McMahon

Did not respond

Carrie Statt

Northern Michigan University, 1986, and 1992
Campaign Phone: 906-869-3586

QUESTIONS: (NOTE: Candidate responses are in their own words and unedited by the League.)

Describe the skills and experience that make you qualified for this office
and explain your reasons for running.

Margaret Brumm

I am finishing up my first three-year term of service on the Marquette Board of Light and Power. This means I have participated in three budget work sessions and approved budgets in which no rate increases were deemed to be necessary. It also means that I have been part of the discussions regarding the installation of the second interconnection--which is a second line installed in 2025 that will link Marquette to the rest of the US power grid. My background in engineering has been invaluable in understanding the technical

nuances of the generation of power in the RICE units in the Marquette Energy Center.

Doug McMahon

Did not respond.

Carrie Statt:

I am a retired RN, MSN having worked in Emergency/critical care at MGH/ UPHSM for my 36-year career. I was active in the union that represented our nurses and worked toward a supportive relationship between administration and employees. I am decisive and direct, with a desire to problem solve

and attain a solution. I am sensible in decision making and working on goals that represent the best outcome. I currently sit on the Board of Directors at the Marquette County YMCA and am an active volunteer in our community.

My decision to run came with encouragement from friends that felt I would be good in this position. My

knowledge of the BLP has mostly been procured through my affiliation with Northern Center for Lifelong Learning and attending presentations by the BLP staff. I was repeatedly impressed by the skill and knowledge of our presenters. As I looked at becoming civically engaged in our community, this presented as an opportunity to support our publicly owned utility.

What are the top three priority issues that the MBLP should address and what actions would you, as a board member, take regarding each of them?

Margaret Brumm:

1. Continue to provide reliable power while limiting the amount and duration of all power outages.
2. Limit all rate increases and extend the time between rate increases as much as possible.
3. Provide state of the art equipment to make the eventual transition to renewable energy sources technically and financially feasible in Marquette.

Doug McMahon

Did not respond.

Carrie Statt:

The top 3 issues I have learned about include: completing the 2nd Interconnect that is currently being constructed to prevent loss of power, continued work to comply with state mandates, and the maintenance of sustainable power. As a new person to the board (and the role itself) I will have a lot more to learn! My role in these issues would include supporting the BLP staff as they move forward in these developments, while educating myself and the community on the benefits of these activities.

What do you think MBLP should be doing to prepare for using more renewable energy to meet Michigan's 2050 goal of 100% renewable?

Margaret Brumm:

MBLP should seek out grant money to test renewable energy machines that are designed to function in the harsh climate of the Upper Peninsula.

Doug McMahon

Did not respond.

Carrie Statt:

It seems the BLP/MEC has already stepped forward in that goal. The RICE turbines completed in 2017 run on natural gas which is inexpensive. By burning natural gas, the MEC has demonstrated reduced emissions including sulfur oxide, nitrogen oxide, and

carbon monoxide. Currently the BLP and other Upper Peninsula utilities are pursuing legislative action to redefine "clean energy" to allow for their continued use. In addition, the MEC maintains collaboration with other energy providers with the potential to buy energy from other sources at rates that are fiscally beneficial. The BLP offers a voluntary solar garden program that allows customers to purchase renewable energy. The BLP is collaborating with consultant groups and municipalities to determine the best path forward for adopting more renewable sources such as wind and solar, while maintaining grid stability.

View the **CANDIDATE FORUM** on *LWW of Marquette's YouTube Channel*

Marquette Board of Light & Power AND Marquette City Commission Candidates

Recorded September 30, 2025 at the
CITY OF MARQUETTE COMMISSION CHAMBERS, 300 W Baraga St

LWW of Marquette County
YouTube Channel

