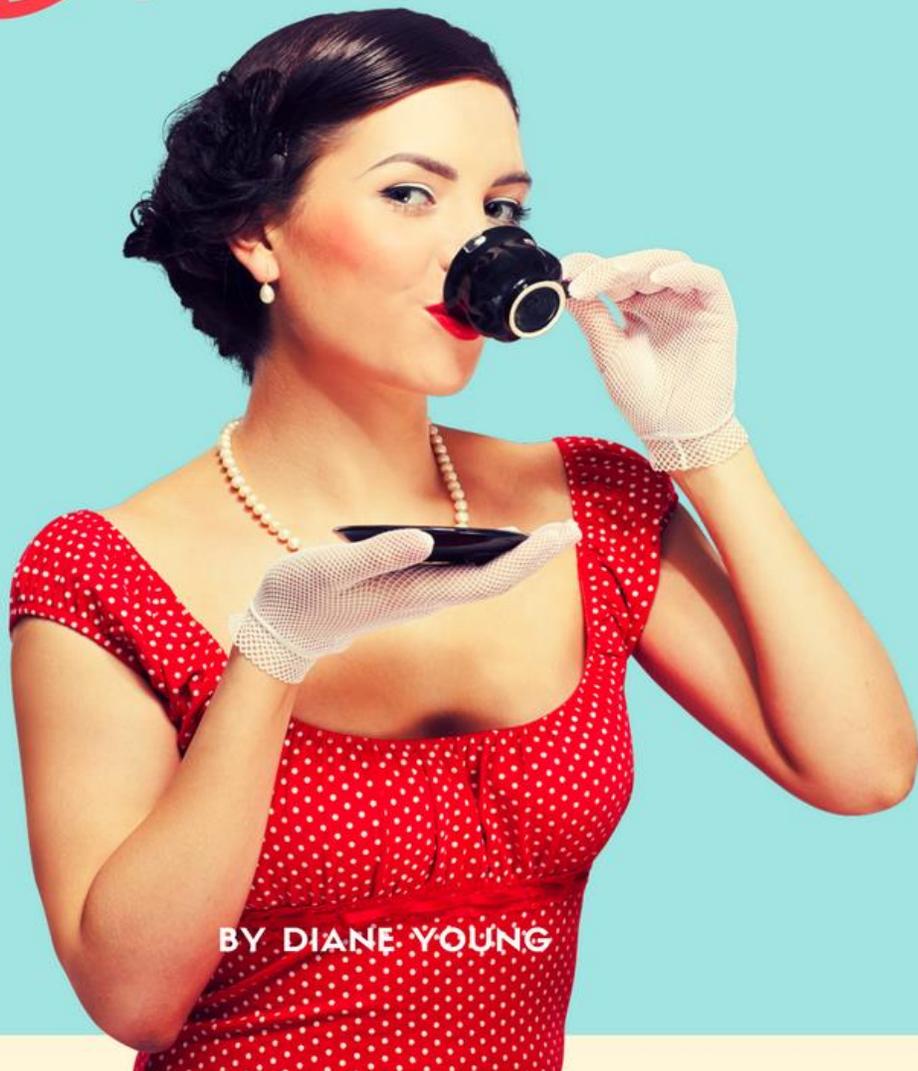


THE PROGRESSIVE GUIDE TO

# *Civil Disobedience*



BY DIANE YOUNG

## Introduction

Outraged at the outcome of the 2016 Presidential Election? Already thinking about the 2020 Presidential Election? Brooding over the fact Bernie wasn't nominated?

### WELL STOP!

We need to organize now, focus on local elections in 2017 and 2018, stop arguing about what could have happened "if only...". We have an extremely important election in Michigan in 2018. We elect not only a new governor, but we need to re-elect Senator Stabenow. In addition, EVERY state representative seat is up for re-election. Some are term limited which means that there may be a primary battle for that seat. So even in strong one party districts, there can be an opportunity to influence the race. If you can get a progressive into office, at least get someone who is reasonable!

This guide is to help the non-political person get involved in ways that can make a difference because shouting at the TV doesn't work.



## Go to Town Hall Meetings

Sign up to receive Facebook updates or go to the candidate's website and sign up for email updates. Then you will know when they will be having a town hall meeting. You should gather as many friends as possible to attend with you. (Courage sometimes needs a wing man!) At the meeting, you should ask the legislator pointed questions based on their votes. Feel free to have someone video tape with smartphone. Completely legal. Remember, your Republican official probably ran on transparency, what is more transparent than videotaping. Better yet, use Facebook Live to stream the session live. Facebook's app automatically is saving the video.

Know how they voted! For state reps and senators, go to [www.michiganvotes.org](http://www.michiganvotes.org). you can look up bills, how they voted etc. Great website for research. It is important to understand "Why" they voted for something, and then do some opposition research as to why they shouldn't have voted that way.

For Federal offices go to [www.govtrack.us](http://www.govtrack.us)

There is no reason not be able to research EVERYTHING! Plenty on the internet. I love going to [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos) to research campaign financial reports. For councils and county wide seats, you go to the county website. Every legal donor for any race is recorded!

If the person says something ridiculous, feel free to share the video online. This is also good material for letter writing to local editors. People who vote read the papers.

Share what you heard on Facebook- in a thoughtful manner. For example:

"I attended Congressman Mithell's town hall meeting last night on health care and was shocked to learn there is no plan in place if they repeal the ACA. How could they not have a plan after eight years of howling about it? The ABC Medical Association is suggesting these reforms. Check it out at [www.1234.com](http://www.1234.com)"

### **WHAT IF THERE ARE NO TOWN HALL MEETINGS OR YOU CAN'T ATTEND MEETINGS?**

While not quite as effective as going in person, calling the Representatives office in the state can be effective. Make sure you let the intern (It will be an intern) know what issue, bill you are calling about and register your opinion. They do record it.

Writing letters is also okay but don't expect anything other than a form letter back. Nothing beats an in-person meeting.

## Go to City Council Meetings

Go to your local meetings and use the open period to express your concerns. Hold your local officers accountable. Do they have meeting packets available online, ahead of the meetings? Read them! Often, councils will push controversial meeting items to times when they feel no one is watching. Keep an eye on them! Watch them live online if you can't get there in person. Again, write letters to editors or online.

Some municipalities allow people to sign up for alerts when the board packet is available. This is a great way to stay informed on local issues.

## Write Letters to the Editor

This may seem old fashion, but you can write a letter to newspaper or online news source, and go ahead and post online for Facebook Friends to share. There is an art form to proper letter writing.

It should be less than 300 words, should not be personally attacking, and back up with data. If you have a special skill mention it. For example:

**Dear Editor:**

**As a water quality engineer, I was shocked to learn that Mayor XX voted to give a contract to abc firm, who is known to have serious violations. This contract was not put out to bid as required by our cities by laws, and now I find out that executives at ABC have donated money to Mayor xx campaign fund. How can we continue to trust XX?**

If your letter is published, make sure to spread it everywhere on social media. If you are not too savvy, let your local party people know and they can help spread it out.

Detroit Free Press      <http://static.freep.com/lettertoeditor/>

The Detroit News      <http://content-static.detroitnews.com/submissions/letters/submit.htm>

Macomb Daily      [Macomb Daily Letter to Editor](#)

The Oakland Press      [Oakland Press Letter to the Editor](#)

C and G News      [mail@candgnews.com](mailto:mail@candgnews.com)

Source Media      [Source Newspapers](#)

## Become a Precinct Delegate- and do the job!

A precinct delegate is someone who will represent a small area at a party convention (this is why these positions appear on party ballots and you cannot cross over). In addition, the precinct delegate should be someone who works on getting out the vote in the precinct. They should be willing to phone, email, knock on doors in that area to turn out the votes. In many Republican areas, Democrats have not tried to get delegates and that is a mistake. We need to let all the democrats and progressive in an area know that they have like-minded in your area. Many races are decided by just a few hundred votes, so your work on the ground can make or break an election.

You can work with your local party officials to pass along valuable information so that it can be recorded in the voter data base. The more email addresses, and accurate phone numbers we have is critical to success.

## Serve on local commissions and boards

Apply to serve on local commissions- planning, zoning, historical, etc. Applications are on municipality websites. A great way to stay tuned in to local government AND build a public service record.

Go to your local municipality website and look up what boards and commissions your town has. Apply to one where you can share your skills with the community. Not only does this help the community, it keeps you tuned into local issues as well it can help build your resume if you plan on running for office in the future.

## Social Media Tips that work!

Avoid sharing inflammatory things. Stick to the facts and to humanizing and empathetic stories. No one won someone over by calling them stupid. Avoid that at all cost!

For example- if refugee crisis is something you are passionate about, share a video or news story about the children affected by it. Demonstrating that PEOPLE are being impacted, instead of just stories about terrorist, makes a big difference.

Don't unfriend everyone that doesn't agree with you. Try to keep a diverse group of friends. You can assist by changing minds with thoughtful posts.

### **DON'T BE A TROLL**

A troll is someone who comments on social media content and just blasts the person or issue in such a negative way that they lose credibility. While it may be fun to do this (you really need a better hobby is this is true), a thoughtful yet snarky remark can be more effective. Remember, use links to legitimate sources.

Don't 'share' an inflammatory story unless you have check out its validity. **Snopes.com** is a great way to see if something is accurate. I KNOW I KNOW! "Diane, the Republicans share all sorts of fake news stories, why shouldn't I?" Because, it is wrong and you know it! Stop the insanity.

### **Start a local information page on Facebook**

You can moderate your own page on Facebook. Call it "(Insert your towns Name) Political News and Happenings" Start posting links to municipal agenda items, or town hall meetings. Invite friends to join your page. Once you have a page you can 'boost' the content and push information into newsfeeds. Be careful of becoming a Candidate page, meaning if you start to be a site promoting someone for office you can run afoul of campaign finance rules. Unless you know campaign finance, I would suggest not promoting a candidate for office, just information. The words to avoid using is "Vote for this person or vote against this person" The proper terms to use so you don't run into trouble is "Is this person a true conservative? How can we support someone like this, when they don't even do that?" Framing in the form of a question avoid campaign finance issues because it is a question, not a statement.

## Start a blog focused on local issues

You can start a blog on WordPress focused on issues that you care about or local government. With the lack of investigative reporting in our state, it is a great way to share what is going on in your community. Watch a council meeting online, report on it. Share your thoughts of what is going on. Be careful of allowing outsiders to post comments on your blog as it can become a cesspool of negativity.

Here is a link to some political blogging tips

<http://www.politicalcampaigningtips.com/local-politics-how-to-start-a-successful-political-blog/>

<http://www.problogger.net/7-tips-for-writing-about-politics-%E2%80%A6when-youre-not-a-political-writer/>

## Get Involved In Your Local Party

Go to [www.michigandems.com](http://www.michigandems.com) and check out the listings for local clubs. There are many throughout Michigan. If there isn't one in your area, start one!

Keep in mind the "Clubs" have rules that need to be followed. For example, most clubs are not allowed to get involved in a primary if there are two democratic candidates running for the same position. If your goal is more focused on an issue, you may want to organize as a PAC (Political Action Committee). Go to [www.Michigan.gov/sos](http://www.Michigan.gov/sos) and read up on how to organize one. There are very specific rules and failure to file appropriately can lead to stiff fines.

Your local club can always use volunteers for events, technology, and grass roots organizing.

## DONATE GOOD OLD HARD CASH

Ask any candidate and they will tell you the number one thing they need is money. If you have a candidate you want to support, give early and give often. Ask your friends to donate as well. Sign up for an ACTBLUE account and you can help promote your candidate.

## How to talk at social gatherings

Sometimes (like Thanksgiving dinner) you may be at a gathering where your opinion is in the minority. For some of us, it can be difficult to stand up for an issue, but there is a way you can do this appropriately. Research has been done on how to do this effectively.

Here is a great video from Vital Smarts a world renown training organization.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MNztCfVKBS4>

Power of one- one person, expressing Polite Doubt can make a difference. Watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-U6QTRTZSc>

You do not have to sit silently while other say outrageous things. Learn how to be an effective influencer.



## List of important Contacts and Upcoming Dates

Nearly ALL the cities in Oakland County and Macomb have their councils elected in the off year. These are NON-Partisan races which can be a great way for a Democrat to get into office. Many of these races have such a low turnout that just a few votes can make the difference. **CONSIDER RUNNING FOR OFFICE!!**

AS OF THIS PUBLICATION DATE- THE FILING DEADLINE HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED

### Macomb list of Anticipated 2017 Elections

Center Line: Mayor and Council

Eastpointe; Council Fraser and Council

Memphis: Mayor and Council

Mount Clemens: Mayor and Commission

New Baltimore: Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Council

Richmond: Council

Roseville: Mayor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Council

St. Clair Shores: Council

Sterling Heights: Mayor and Council

Utica: Mayor and Council

### Oakland County list of Anticipated 2017 Elections

Auburn Hills, Birmingham, Berkley, Clawson, Rochester Hills, Southfield, Pontiac, Orchard Lake, etc.

Go to [www.oakgov.com/clerkrod](http://www.oakgov.com/clerkrod) for details

## CALL YOUR LAWMAKERS—CALL THEIR LOCAL OFFICES!

Politely but firmly tell them how you want them to vote on an issue or a bill- BE SPECIFIC! You will not speak with the lawmaker but the interns do keep track of what is being called about. Only call your elected officials as they generally only care what their own voters are thinking about. Spread the word and have your friends call too.

Remember, face to face is even better. Go to local meetings, ribbon cutting etc. ask them in front of everybody why they voted a certain way.

List of Federal and State elected officials

US Congress:

- Sander Levin (D) 9th Dist.  
27085 Gratiot, Roseville, MI 48066 (586) 498-7122 term ending 01/01/2019  
1236 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-4961
- **Paul Mitchell (R) 10th Dist.**  
**48701 Van Dyke Avenue, Shelby Township, MI 48317**  
**211 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-2106**

Macomb County Michigan Representatives:

Kevin Hertel (D) 18th Dist. N-697 House Office Bldg., P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514 (517) 373-1180  
John Chirkun (D) 22nd Dist. P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514 (517) 373-0854  
**Steve Marino (R) 24th Dist. S-788 House Office Bldg., P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514 (517) 373-0113**  
Henry Yanez (D) 25th Dist. S-789 House Office Bldg., P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514 (517) 373-2275  
Patrick Green (D) 28th Dist. P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514 (517) 373-1772  
Diana Farrington (R) 30th Dist. N-794 House Office Bldg., P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514 (517) 373-7768  
William J. Sowerby (D) 31st Dist. N-795 House Office Bldg., P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514 (517) 373-0159  
**Pamela Hornberger (R) 32nd Dist. N-796 House Office Bldg., P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514 (517) 373-8931**  
**Jeff Yaroch (R) 33rd Dist. N-797 House Office Bldg., P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514 (517) 373-0820**  
**Peter J. Lucido (R) 36th Dist. P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514 (517) 373-0843**

Macomb County Michigan Senators:

**Jack Brandenburg (R) 8th Dist. P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536 (517) 373-7670**  
Steven Bieda (D) 9th Dist. 310 Farnum Bldg., P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536 (517) 373-8360 **Tory Rocca (R) 10th Dist. 205 Farnum Bldg., P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909-7536 (517) 373-7315** **Phillip Pavlov (R) 25th Dist. 905 Farnum Bldg., Lansing, MI 48909-7536 (517) 373-7708**

### Oakland County US Congress

- **Mike Bishop (R) 8th Dist.**

**428 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-4872**

**711 E. Grand River Ave., Suite A, Brighton, MI 48116 (810) 227-8600**

- **Dave Trott (R) 11th Dist.**

**1722 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-8171 625 E. Big Beaver Rd., Suite 204, Troy, MI 48083 (248) 528-0711**

- **Brenda Lawrence (D) 14th Dist.**

1237 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-5802

26700 Lahser Rd., Suite 330, Southfield, MI 48033 (248) 356-2052

### Oakland County Michigan Representatives:

Jim Townsend (D) 26th Dist.

P.O. Box 30014, State Capitol, Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-3818 [jimtownsend@house.mi.gov](mailto:jimtownsend@house.mi.gov)

Robert Wittenberg (D) 27th Dist. P.O. Box 30014, State Capitol, Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-0478  
[robertwittenberg@house.mi.gov](mailto:robertwittenberg@house.mi.gov)

Tim Greimel (D) 29th Dist. P.O. Box 30014, State Capitol, Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-0475  
[timgreimel@house.mi.gov](mailto:timgreimel@house.mi.gov)

Jeremy Moss (D) 35th Dist. P.O. Box 30014, State Capitol, Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-1788  
[jeremymoss@house.mi.gov](mailto:jeremymoss@house.mi.gov)

Christine Greig (D) 37th Dist. P.O. Box 30014, State Capitol, Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-1793  
[christinegreig@house.mi.gov](mailto:christinegreig@house.mi.gov)

**Kathy Crawford (R) 38th Dist. P.O. Box 30014, State Capitol, Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-0827**  
[kathycrawford@house.mi.gov](mailto:kathycrawford@house.mi.gov)

### Oakland County Michigan Senators:

Vincent Gregory (D) 11th Dist. P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-7888  
[senvgregory@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senvgregory@senate.michigan.gov)

Jim Marleau (R) 12th Dist. P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-2417  
[senjmarleau@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senjmarleau@senate.michigan.gov)

Marty Knollenberg (R) 13th Dist. P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-2523

David B. Robertson (R) 14th Dist. P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-1636  
[sendrobertson@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sendrobertson@senate.michigan.gov)

Mike Kowall (R) 15th Dist. P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909 (517) 373-1758  
[senmkowall@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senmkowall@senate.michigan.gov)

## Important Websites to know

[www.michiganvotes.org](http://www.michiganvotes.org) Great source for researching Michigan Lawmakers votes and bills

[www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos) Check out campaign finance documents

[www.macombgov.com/clerk-elections](http://www.macombgov.com/clerk-elections) Check out local elections

[www.bridgemi.com](http://www.bridgemi.com) Progressive website full of real research and journalism

[www.aclumich.org/](http://www.aclumich.org/) Michigan Civil Liberties

I am sure there are lots of other sites, feel free to pass them along and I will add them to this document.

THANK YOU SO MUCH! KEEP THE FAITH!

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