



APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO YPSILANTI CITY COUNCIL WARD #2 POSITION

Applicant Information

(Please type or print)

Applicant Name Patricia Dignan

Residence Address 1175 Cornell Rd apt 7 Ypsilanti

Home Phone [REDACTED] Work Phone NA

E-Mail [REDACTED]

Cover Letter & Resume

Please attach a one page cover letter and a resume of no more than two pages to this application.

Supplemental Questions

Please respond to the following questions regarding your interest in the position of Councilmember for the City of Ypsilanti on separate pages using no more than 3 pages total:

1. Why are you interested in serving as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
2. What strength would you bring to the Council?
3. What are the three highest priorities and/or issues you believe the City needs to address? How would you propose to address these issues?
4. Explain your current and past community involvement and/or service on city, nonprofit, or public boards, committees, task forces, or commissions and how this has contributed to the Ypsilanti community. Address its relevance to the position of Ypsilanti City Councilmember.
5. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as an Ypsilanti City Councilmember?
6. What is your vision for our City and community?
7. Is there anything else that you may wish to add that would help us get to know you a little better?

Please return (*in person*) this form, your cover letter, resume, and answers to the supplemental questions to the City Clerk, at Ypsilanti City Hall (1 S. Huron St.) **no later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 4, 2024.**

Applications received after 4:00 p.m. will not be accepted.

The application and any correspondence should be addressed to:

Aaron Smith, Interim City Clerk
City of Ypsilanti
One South Huron Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

December 26, 2023

Ypsilanti City Manager:

I attempted to apply for the city council vacancy in Ward 2 but your office was closed for the holidays so I will briefly provide basic details for the Council's consideration.

I have lived in Ward 2 for 56 years and have furthered my knowledge of issues and city aspirations throughout the greater Ypsilanti area since I was a teacher at Erickson and Adams, and a principal at Woodruff, Chapelle and Ardis.

I had been a school administrator for 50 years, including 2 superintendencies and had been responsible for 58 schools in Detroit over a 5 year period so, obviously, I know how to work effectively with others.

I love Ypsilanti and would be excited to serve on City Council.

Sincerely,

Patricia Dignan

1175 Cornell Apt 7

Ypsilanti, Mi 48197



PATRICIA J. DIGNAN, Ed.D., J.D.

Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

SUPERINTENDENCIES

- 1995-1997 **FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA** Superintendent
Responsibilities included: all aspects of leadership and operation for k-12 programs including community education and fiscal coordination with city government.
- 1988-1992 **MILAN, MICHIGAN** Superintendent
Responsibilities included leadership, stewardship and all facets of school operations and scholarship of students k-12, supervision of adult education programs for a federal corrections facility.

CENTRAL OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

- 1988-1992 **MILAN, MICHIGAN** Assistant Superintendent
Responsibilities included instruction, technology, special education, vocational education, all millage and bond issues, personnel evaluation, public relations, athletics, transportation, and writer of major grants.
- 1972-1979 **YPSILANTI, MICHIGAN** Coordinator of District Parent Advisory Boards for Title I
Coordinator of Community Schools and school census
Director of Kindergarten screening and KIDS Program
Responsibilities included training, deployment of census workers; implementation of parent workshop and home visitation program; creation and distribution of Toy Lending Library; design, assessment of testing measurements for kindergarten screening; direction of Community Schools program; creation of Kindergarten Developmental Skills Program for "at risk" students (KIDS); President of Ypsilanti's Principals' Association; chief negotiator for language governing administrative and clerical unions.
- 1966-1967 **SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA** Director, Community Education
- 1967-1968 **SEBASTOPOL, CALIFORNIA** Director, Headstart Programs
Responsibilities in both California districts included writing grant proposals; directing programs, and initiating community education and Head Start programs in Northern California.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

- 1968-1970 **WASHTENAW COUNTY, MI** Director, Headstart
Responsibilities included administration of million dollar budgets, recruitment, screening, training, evaluation of 100 employees in all 12 school systems throughout Washtenaw County.
- 1964-1966 **ALPENA COUNTY, MI** Coordinator, Community Education
Parent Educator for System
Responsibilities included establishing myriad programs to service preschool through senior citizen populations while designing parent programs for diverse families and professionals.

PATRICIA DIGNAN'S POST RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT AND EXPERIENCES

During the late 90's taught part-time and as special lecturer at EMU and U of M in Ed Leadership departments, specializing in topics germane to school principals, leadership, discipline, and school law.

1997-1998 DEVELOPER AND PRINCIPAL/DEAN OF WASHTENAW TECHNICAL MIDDLE COLLEGE

Responsibilities included: Starting the school from scratch in only 5 weeks on the campus of WCC, recruiting students, hiring staff, coordinating entire program to mesh high school credits with college credits and 43 technical paths. In its first year, 14 students received high school diplomas one night and Associates' s Degrees the following night; only school like it in the country. WTMC was, subsequently, named 1 of the top 10 schools in the country by U.S. Department of Educations

1998-1999 REGIONAL MANAGER OF WHITEHAT CHARTER SCHOOLS IN DETROIT AND PONTIAC

Set up 6 Charter Schools with Computer-Based Curriculum in Detroit and Pontiac, responsible for hiring and firing of staff, evaluation of principals and outreach/recruiting of students. Found gross examples of student attendance errors and saved the company approximately \$12,000,000 by alerting them to the mistakes being made daily.

1999-2000 DIRECTOR OF BEACON INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY IN DETROIT

Created this elementary from scratch in 3 weeks and set it up in a local church (meaning we had to assemble and disassemble the school every weekend for church services). Because I wasn't hired until August only 1 of my 17 teachers had experience—the rest had graduated from college and had just finished their student teaching. Despite all odds, we improved reading achievement for every student by 2 grade levels and had 98% parent involvement!

2000-2005 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY-- DPS

Over the 5-year period, was responsible for 58 schools and, ultimately, for closing 13 of them due to shrinkage of student enrollment. In this capacity, I wrote principal evaluations, school assessments, provided parental training and staff in-service. During this time, I helped Renaissance High School attain Blue Ribbon Status and personally replaced the principal when he was beaten with brass knuckles by students who were threatening to "take over the school". Although the most challenging high school in my vast experience, I soon formed 3 tiers for student placement, including creating Wayne Community College's first Middle College (similar to what I had done at WCC).

2005-Present SCHOOL CONSULTANT AND AUTHOR

In addition to consulting with individual administrators, evaluating schools in 3 states for parents and lawyers and consulting with Van Buren Head Start, I authored my 5th book, Pygmalion Principles: a Memoir for Raising School Expectations and Achievement in Schools.

I also volunteered for Hospice of Washtenaw County and the Ypsilanti Thrift Shop.

Answers to Supplemental Questions

1. I have lived in Ypsilanti for 55 years and have always been invested in its successes and challenges. I believe I could add history and meaning to the City Council's vision and goals. My husband was a baseball/football coach and teacher for 40 years at Ypsilanti High, and I was a principal at 3 elementary schools for 20 years while our son and daughter matriculated through all levels of schooling in Ypsilanti—from Perry through Eastern Michigan University so I know the community well.
2. Because of my extensive knowledge of neighborhoods throughout the city, especially with my 55 years residence in Ward 2, I could add personal history, perspective, enthusiasm, and inclusiveness as a member of the Ypsilanti City Council. I was a public school administrator for almost 50 years, have a doctorate in Administration and Supervision from U of M, and a law degree, so I am comfortable with bureaucracies and rules of law. As a former Superintendent, I also have extensive experience with negotiating contracts and settling disputes
3. There have been many articles questioning some of the decisions the Council has recently made.
 - A) Therefore, I believe it's important to be honest and have transparency in all matters
 - B) I think we need to make sure we clean up our messes: for example, barrels have hidden a deep hole at the corner of Roosevelt and Cornell for almost a year—it seems it's an easy fix along with removing the sign warning that Huron River Drive is detoured due to construction that ended 6 months ago.
 - C) Ypsilanti is a hidden gem; I believe it should be part of the Council's mission not only to make that better known but also to enhance its inherent distinctiveness with more attractive entrances and exits and to continue to upgrade housing and parks for low income residents.
4. I was Vice President of Ypsilanti Futures Organization several years ago. I wrote columns on Parenting Tips for the (defunct) Ypsilanti Press. I served on several committees for schools, served as President of the Ypsilanti Principals Association, conducted the city census in the 70s, served as chair of the desegregation committee in the late 70s, started alternative ed for Ypsilanti, and in general, contributed to the health and vibrancy of the city through my long career working with schools and school communities. More recently, I have served as a volunteer for Hospice of Washtenaw County and worked at the Ypsilanti Thrift Shop.
5. I love Ypsilanti and want to bring fresh perspective and deep respect for its promise. I have time to delve into proposals and have the experience and willingness to make difficult decisions without polarizing sides.
6. I believe Ypsilanti is currently at a crossroad between mediocrity and greatness. I want to be part of its Renaissance.