

CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL

Biographies and photos submitted by candidates. Council Members serve a four-year term.

Michael Bridges

Michael Bridges is a 27-year resident of Farmington Hills. He was first elected in 2008 and was reelected in 2009, 2013, 2017 and 2021. Michael served as mayor pro tem in 2010, 2016 and 2023. He is the Council liaison to the Farmington Area Commission on Aging and the Economic Development Corporation and is a board member for the Heritage Hills Homeowner Association.



Michael is running for reelection to ensure that Farmington Hills remains a premier city for all its residents, and an attractive city for new families and businesses.

Key Accomplishments:

- Led the charge to change the way the City funds local road improvements
- Maintained the City's AAA bond rating
- Maintained the City's safe city designation
- Passed new zoning text amendments to encourage redevelopment and preserve our strong and vibrant neighborhoods
- Proposed and outfitted all police officers with body worn cameras

Michael has a bachelor's degree from Spring Arbor University. He is married to Deborah and has two sons who both graduated from Farmington Public Schools. His son, Michael, is an orthopedic surgery resident at Corewell Health and his son, Chauncey, is an orthopedic surgery resident at Tulane University.

Farah Khan

Farah Khan, candidate for Farmington Hills City Council, is a passionate community advocate, mother, and public servant who has spent her life building bridges and fighting for equity, transparency, and inclusive progress. As a proud resident of Farmington Hills, Farah has dedicated herself to uplifting her neighbors, whether through civic engagement, interfaith outreach or grassroots organizing.



An experienced IT professional, Farah brings problem-solving skills and a practical, solutions-driven mindset to public service. She has championed local causes ranging from peace and public safety to affordable housing and community reinvestment, always advocating for transparency and accountability. Her leadership is grounded in compassion, integrity, and a firm belief that government should work for the people, not special interests.

Farah is especially passionate about empowering youth, protecting the environment, and ensuring that every resident of Farmington Hills, regardless of background, feels seen, heard, and valued.

As a City Councilmember, Farah will prioritize:

- Affordable housing and responsible development
- Fiscal transparency and reinvestment in neighborhoods
- Public safety with mental health support and community trust
- Environmental sustainability and clean energy
- Representation and inclusion for all communities

Farah Khan is running to bring people together and make local government more responsive, more just, and more hopeful for everyone. A Farmington Hills where every voice matters, every resident belongs.

Valerie Knol

Valerie Knol believes safety, affordable taxes, well-maintained neighborhoods, good roads, parks and facilities, and efficient city services are at the heart of a desirable community. During Valerie's service on the Farmington Hills Council, she's established a track record of support for these priorities, as well as responsible fiscal management to maintain the City's AAA bond rating.



Valerie has a strong background in planning, record of listening to the residents, and collaborating with stakeholders. This is critical to the City's management and redevelopment of properties and City facilities to maintain our quality of life, while investing in economic development that benefits all of our residents.

Valerie has served on the Council since 2013 and twice as mayor pro tem. She serves as the Council liaison to the Beautification Commission and the Historical District Commission. Prior to her election in Farmington Hills, Valerie served on the Farmington City Council for eight years, also serving as mayor.

A passionate community volunteer, Valerie has served on the boards of The Farmington Players theater, Farmington Family YMCA, Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce, American Association of University Women, and the Oakland County Zoological Authority.

Valerie works in the auto industry as a manager at Stellantis and previously as a senior staff member for the Michigan House of Representatives. Valerie received a B.S. from WMU and a master's degree from EMU.

Valerie's diversity of experience, practical leadership and long service to the community make her exceptionally qualified for reelection to City Council.

Angie Smith

Angie Smith is a dedicated public servant and advocate for education and community engagement. With experience in Detroit and Farmington Public Schools, she brings firsthand knowledge of the public education system. For 10 years, she has served on the Farmington Public Schools Board of Education, where she is a strong voice for students, families and educators.



A 28-year resident of Farmington/Farmington Hills, Angie has been deeply involved in volunteer efforts, supporting bond and millage campaigns, serving as a PTA member, band booster, and participant in the Multicultural Multiracial Community Council. She currently serves on the Citizens Police Advisory Committee and has worked closely with three police chiefs.

Angie studied mortuary science at Wayne County Community College and Wayne State University, with a minor in music. She is also a licensed minister and former Miss Michigan USA contestant. She made history as the first African American PTA council president in the district and co-organized the community's first Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.

Her service includes donating annually to special education programs, providing food to families in need, and helping students cover graduation expenses. She has received the Master Boardmember Award, the African American Leadership Award in Education, and the CPAC Certificate of Graduation.

Angie currently serves on the executive boards of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Democratic Club and the 11th Congressional District Democrats. Now, she is running for Farmington Hills City Council to strengthen partnerships between schools, City departments, public safety agencies and the broader community.

Charlie Starkman

Charlie Starkman is a candidate for Farmington Hills City Council. He serves as the assistant director at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Counseling and Psychological Services Office and is the assistant director of Disability and Accessibility Services. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and his doctorate in clinical psychology (Psy.D.) from Adler University in Chicago. Charlie currently serves as the vice chair of the Farmington/Farmington Hills Commission on Community Health. He is also the vice chair of the Michigan Psychological Association's Early Career Psychologists Committee and a member of the Association's Advocacy Committee.



In 2022, Charlie was named one of The Detroit Jewish News' 36 Under 36, an award that recognizes the contributions of young Jewish adults to the metro Detroit community.

Charlie is running for office because he believes that local government fosters deeper connections with residents and leads to meaningful change. His background is suited uniquely for this moment, as his platform calls for expanded mental health awareness and resources and enhanced accessibility in parks and public spaces for people of all ages and abilities. Charlie recognizes that residents are looking for new, young faces, fresh perspectives, and transparent, fiscally responsible, compassionate governance. Charlie is particularly eager to play a role in making decisions that will determine Farmington Hills' future.

A resident since 2018, Charlie is proud to call Farmington Hills home. In his free time, he enjoys playing tennis, reading, listening to music, and spending time with family and friends.

Absent Voter Ballots

Absent Voter Ballots will be available to voters beginning September 25.

Early Voting

Early voting is open nine (9) consecutive days beginning two Saturdays before the election and ending the Sunday before the election: Oct 25-Nov 2. Sites are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day except Thursday, when hours are noon to 8 p.m.

Site Options

Regional Early Voting Site
Costick Activities Center
28600 W. Eleven Mile Rd.
Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Central Early Voting Site
Waterford Oaks Activity Center
2800 Watkins Lake Rd.
Waterford, MI 48326

Precinct Locations

For those going to the polls on Election Day, there is a map of voting precincts on the City's website at <https://www.fhgov.com/elections/precinct-locations/>

Polling locations are open on **Election Day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Drop Boxes

The City has secure drop boxes for election materials at these locations:

- Farmington Hills Police Department: 31655 West 11 Mile Road
- Costick Center: 28600 11 Mile Road
- Department of Public Works: 27245 Halsted Road
- Fire Station #1: 35725 9 Mile Road
- Fire Station #3: 29260 Grand River Ave.

VOTE ON OR BY NOVEMBER 4, 2025.