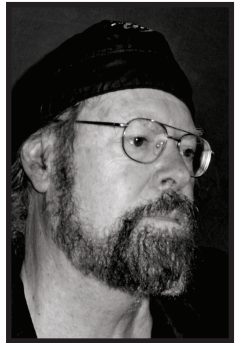


# DETROIT

# NATIVE SUN

## Our crucial crusades for Nov. 5

By Dr. John Telford  
SUN COLUMNIST



'If Trump Wins' - Donald is the crazy clown  
Who will tear our country down.

failed to  
teach our  
kids to  
read.

In addition, on my shows I've been touting Elyssa Slotkin for the U.S. senate, the re-election of Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson and Congressman Shri Thanedar in Detroit's District 13, and first the re-election of President Joe Biden and now the election of Vice President Kamala Harris to the Presidency--and I've offered to host a fundraiser for Ms. Slotkin at the River House Co-op on E. Jefferson in Detroit or in the ballroom of the Detroit Yacht Club, where I'm a member. Given the existential threat to our democracy posed by the professed wannabe dictator Donald Trump's Hitlerian candidacy, every Democrat, Independent, former Republican, as-yet undecided voter, and non-MAGA (i.e., patriotic) Republican must not only support the Kamala Harris/Tim Walz ticket but also get out the vote big-time for every Democrat up and down the ballot.

Let me also share a more immediately local issue with you: ill-advisedly, many of my fellow progressive Detroiters have ignored (or weren't aware of) my July column in this newspaper and my similar words on my WCHB AM1340 and DETipTV shows in which I called upon them to unite behind a three-candidate Detroit school board slate hopefully to be agreed-upon and propounded by longtime schools activist Helen Moore.

Instead, against my advice, more than twenty of them have all simply registered to run. The best among those twenty-plus candidates are current board member Sherry Gay-Dagnogo, former members Tawana Simpson and Ida Short, former DPSCD administrator Shireese Butler, and activists Aliya Moore and Monique Bryant. It's essential that the new (and current) board members replace the early elementary reading program now in use with a field-proven and be-paid-only-for-success model, because for the past eight years, the program they've been using has

As yet unrecovered from back surgery, Dr. Telford is on a paid medical leave from his contracted position as the DPSCD Poet-in-Residence to concentrate--via his columns and radio and Internet TV shows--on advancing our crucial crusade to prevent Trump's return to the White House and put him in federal prison.

my WCHB AM1340 and DETipTV shows in which I called upon them to unite behind a three-candidate Detroit school board slate hopefully to be agreed-upon and propounded by longtime schools activist Helen Moore.

## Nominate a first responder for the new Public Safety Distinguished Safety Foundation

The Detroit Public Safety Foundation (DPSF) is recognizing the work of Detroit's first responders by creating a new award to be presented at the annual Above & Beyond Awards Ceremony. The Public Safety Distinguished Service Award is an opportunity for the community to nominate individuals within Detroit Police and Detroit Fire who go above and beyond in distinguished service for the community.

Nominations will be accepted from September 4 to October 9. Any current DPD or DFD employee, sworn or civilian, is eligible for this award. One winner will be selected for DPD and one winner for DFD. There is a

brief online application form with one narrative question asking why the individual should be selected for the award. The DPSF will select the winner based on the write up. The winner will be announced by October 21 and recognized at the Above & Beyond Awards Ceremony on November 13 at Ford Field. The person who submitted the nomination will also be invited to attend the event with one complimentary guest ticket.

Help us recognize the work of Detroit's first responders. Click here to nominate an employee with DPD and/or DFD: <https://forms.gle/ibrhNryPz9rm1NZb9>.

## Commission raises power outage credit to \$40 per day for customers with lengthy loss of electricity

The Michigan Public Service Commission today raised the amount of the bill credit that customers who endure lengthy power outages are eligible to receive to \$40 per day, strengthening compensation for those who lose electric service and toughening an incentive for electricity providers to improve reliability and shorten the length of outages.

The Commission's order (Case No. U-20629) increases the outage credit by \$2 per day for each day the power is out and for repetitive interruptions. The credit is automatically applied to the accounts of customers whose outages meet thresholds for the credits, so customers no longer have to request the credit from their utility. The Commission posts monthly outage and credit statistics for utilities statewide on the MPSC's website.

Prior to the Commission updating the outage credit in 2023, customers were eligible only for a one-time \$25 credit, and customers had to ask for it from their utility. The Commission raised the credit initially to \$35 per day for each day a customer is without power, with the credits indexed to inflation. The Commission,

which is required to adjust the credit each year, last raised the credit to \$38 in September 2023.

"We understand that the outage credit won't cover everything lost when the power goes out, but the credit will help customers while encouraging utilities to do all they can to restore service quickly," MPSC Chair Dan Scripps said. "The credits are one tool the MPSC is using to encourage utilities to improve the power grid to better withstand increasingly frequent extreme weather and restore power as rapidly as possible after outages."

The power outage credit kicks in after 96 hours during catastrophic conditions, defined as a utility having 10% or more of its customers without power; after 48 hours during gray sky conditions affecting between 1% and 10% of a utility's customers, and after 16 hours during normal conditions. Customers who endure more than 6 sustained power interruptions in one year also are eligible for the outage credit. More information on outage credits is available at the MPSC's consumer tip sheet.

## Detroit ID card program is back



they can fully engage in daily activities and access essential services that many of us might take for granted. These IDs empower residents to access city services and participate in our local economy," said Chief Public Health Officer, Denise Fair Razo. "This is a vital service for Detroiters, and I am proud that we can provide this

The Detroit Health Department is resuming its Detroit ID Card operation to ensure all residents once again have a means of identifying themselves with a photo ID card. The program was paused in 2022 out of an abundance of caution over concerns about the potential for a breach of security of vendor software, though there were no instances of a security breach nor any attempts to gain personal information.

The Detroit ID card provides all Detroiters (regardless of immigration status, age or gender identity) with a photo ID so they are able to access City services, open a checking/savings account, gain entry to City buildings, and establish a utility account with providers such as DTE Energy and Detroit Water & Sewerage Department.

The Detroit ID card is available to all Detroiters, including those who are experiencing homelessness or who may be a returning citizen. The cost is \$10; free for children ages 11 and under. Applicants under the age of 18 must have a legal guardian present during their application appointment. Fees may be waived for applicants experiencing homelessness.

The Detroit Health Department reactivated the municipal ID program following a review of all bids requested from qualified vendors that could supply software to provide the Health Department with a means of processing applications without any need for second-, or third-party access to applicant information, and the ability to print the cards on-site. The Health Department worked with the Immigration Task Force to ensure that perceived security risks would be addressed. Omicron was chosen as a result of that review process.

"We want everyone in the City of Detroit to have a Municipal ID card, ensuring

support."

City Council Member, Gabriela Santiago-Romero (D6), welcomed the news of the re-activation of the Detroit ID Card program. "As chair of the Public Health and Safety Standing Committee and the Immigration Task Force, I am thrilled for the long-awaited relaunch of the Detroit ID program. Ensuring all Detroiters - regardless of immigration status, gender identity, housing status, or convictions - have access to photo identification is a matter of dignity and wellbeing. These documents ultimately enable residents to gain access to healthcare services, as well as city services and buildings, including schools and libraries, participate in the local economy, and interface with utility companies and law enforcement.

"Simply put, Detroit IDs remove barriers to access and create opportunities for participation; rather than exclude and deny, they include and accept. Longtime Detroiters and new arrivals alike should be proud of this program, and I encourage everyone to get one," Ms. Santiago-Romero added.

Detroiters may apply for a Detroit ID card by submitting the following information with their application:  
- Collect documents totaling 300 points (full list is available at [www.detroitmi.gov/detroitid](http://www.detroitmi.gov/detroitid))  
- Provide proof of Detroit residency  
No appointments are needed. Applications are processed at two locations on a walk-in basis:

Detroit Health Department, 100 Mack Avenue; Hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Patton Recreation Center, 2301 Woodmere Street; Hours are: Monday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

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