

2018 Citizens for a Fair Ferndale Candidate Forum

43rd District Judge Candidate

Saturday, November 3rd, 2p-4p at the Ferndale Area District Library

Election: Tuesday, November 6, 2018

1. **NAME:** Keith P. Hunt

2. **PHONE OR EMAIL WHERE CITIZENS CAN REACH YOU:**

248-583-1800

3. **Why are you running for 43rd District Court Judge?**

To maintain and continue the same dignified and trusted level of judicial service that has characterized and defined my preceding twenty-seven years on the bench.

4. **What specific experience have you had that prepare you to serve as 43rd District Judge?**

Please see attached

5. **What is your approach to determining bail for criminal defendants?**

Pretrial release should be made possible by imposing the least restrictive means necessary to ensure appearance in court and promote public safety.

6. **What is your position on alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent offenders, such as drug rehabilitation programs?**

Alternatives to incarceration are a first priority for nonviolent offenders and treatment, within the context of a probation requirement, is always a priority, too.

7. How can a District Court Judge contribute to creating a safer community?

First, impose fair, tailored and comprehensive sentencing requirements that encourage genuine accountability and rehabilitation in offenders. Secondly, promote safety through education that can help stem the need for public safety intervention.

8. Did you receive campaign contributions from donors in the bail bond industry?

No.

9. Can you describe an important case you worked on and the significance of the case?

Please see attached.

Prior to his decisive victory to the 43rd District Court bench in 1994, and while engaged in the practice of law with the Anderson and Chisholm law firm, Judge Hunt's judicial responsibilities commenced in 1990 when Judge Robert Turner appointed him to be the court's first magistrate, a selection unanimously ratified by the Madison Heights, Ferndale and Hazel Park City Councils. A series of civic obligations and community commitments soon followed Judge Hunt, commencing with service as a Ferndale Housing Commissioner. By authorizing funds and expenditures for the promotion and maintenance of a federal housing program, Judge Hunt understood the need to provide safe, clean, affordable housing for the elderly, disabled and economically disadvantaged members of the community.

The Ferndale Citizens Benefit Foundation also enlisted Judge Hunt to be a member of its board. There, he offered meaningful counsel in obtaining public and private grants to benefit multiple community projects, including the Ferndale High School Orchestra Program, Ferndale Veterans Memorial Association, Ferndale High School Scholarship Fund, the Ferndale Good fellows, Ferndale Youth Assistance, Ferndale Rotary and Kids Dream Field--the fundraising effort which became the precursor to the now internationally known Woodward Dream Cruise.

Furthermore, understanding that the independence and well being of our elderly should be at the forefront of public policy priorities, Judge Hunt eagerly accepted a directorship position with Oakland County Mobile Meals, Inc. serving, among others, the cities of Madison Heights and Ferndale. For over a decade, Judge Hunt helped sustain an agency committed to serving nutritious meals to homebound seniors and disabled individuals.

In addition, Judge Hunt has served the benefit efforts of the Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County and for many years he emceed the pageantry of the Hazel Park Memorial Day Parade with Clint Adkins honoring our freedoms, veterans, armed service members and local first responders. Also, since 2008, Judge Hunt has had the privilege of assisting the Ferndale Eagles Nest Football Boosters in selecting recipients of the John Bassier Scholarship award given to college bound senior student athletes.

Long before specialty courts were in vogue, Judge Hunt understood the need for the court to respond and adapt to help meet the community's special needs. Consequently, when children in the Hazel Park School District were failing to attend school, it became a court priority, too. In a program that became a template for a similar county initiative, Judge Hunt integrated both court and school board resources to quell an alarming rate of truancy. Presiding over the first truancy case to

be tried in the state, Judge Hunt's decision underscored the need for at risk children to not only attend school, but also give an honest effort to learn and not disrupt or harm others. Also, in another case of first impression for the State of Michigan, Judge Hunt-- with a distinguishing level of critique and analysis--presided over the trial of an intoxicated driving charge caused by the consumption of a product ingested legally but after which transformed and metabolized into an illegal, Schedule I drug.

Judge Hunt's professional endeavors have made a lasting, indelible impact upon those he serves. Recognizing that the interplay between courts and police agencies not only enhances the pursuit of justice, their prudent management also contributes to cost saving and public trust. Thus, Judge Hunt accepted an invitation from the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Detroit to be a lecturer and moderator for the inaugural FBI National Academy Associates' Michigan Police Executive Development Seminar (MPEDS). For eight years thereafter, Judge Hunt was part of the faculty that provided advanced leadership training to hundreds of law enforcement executives.

Appreciating that his constituents require an education about a justice system that is diverse and increasingly more dependent on the public's understanding of it to sustain its credibility, Judge Hunt has presided over multiple student mock trial exercises,

Drug Abuse Resistance Education graduations, career day presentations, appeared as a panelist on a public service television program “Due Process” aired on WDIV-TV4 Detroit and was a selected guest on WWJ News Radio 950 interview relating to a Mothers Against Drunk Driving St Patrick’s Day Project.

Coaching has been a volunteer activity Judge Hunt embraced for many years, understanding that participation in sports is a useful learning mechanism for kids. Discipline, sportsmanship and self-sacrifice are not just a measure of athletic performance; they are congruent with responsible citizenship. That belief fueled Judge Hunt’s motivation to help create the Kids Dream Field, Ferndale’s first officially sanctioned soccer facility. Additionally, in cooperation with the Detroit Red Wing Alumni Association, Judge Hunt participated in and helped organize a series of benefit hockey games, the proceeds from which supported the Hazel Park Police Activities League for community youth programs and the Hazel Park Police Memorial Fund.

Committed to adhering to the principles of justice even in the face of extraordinary adversity, Judge Hunt maintained his judicial decision-making free from threat or intimidation during the course of a Michigan State Police investigation into the solicitation of his murder by a litigant who served a four-year prison sentence. This became the impetus for a comprehensive security overhaul of the court facility fashioned by

Judge Hunt which implemented sheriff deputies to operate acquired weapon screening equipment to secure the court and its service areas so that its employees and the public could participate in a justice system without the threat of violence.

In conjunction with his association with the Madison Heights Community Roundtable organization, Judge Hunt is committed to an array of professional and community organizations. Judge Hunt is an active member of the American Judges Association, Michigan District Judges Association, Oakland County District Judges Association and Oakland County Bar Association. Formerly, Judge Hunt served as an Oakland County District Court Mediator, Oakland County Bar Association District Court Committee, Oakland Bar Adams Pratt Foundation Education Committee, South Oakland Bar Association, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 130, Hazel Park Lions and the Madison Heights Rotary.

Judge Hunt attended the Valparaiso University School of Law after graduating from Alma College, cum laude. His continuing legal education efforts include attendance at The National Judicial College and American Academy of Judicial Education.