

Dr. Mozghan Savabieasfahani is the first City Council candidate to transparently set forth her legislative agenda so the voters can see it before the election.

Here is her agenda, in ten resolutions which she will introduce in City Council after her election to the Ward 4 seat which is being contested:

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1. My resolution for an immediate City cleanup of the Gelman dioxane contamination.

Title: Resolution supporting immediate City cleanup of Gelman dioxane contamination.

Memorandum: A resolution supporting the immediate cleanup, by the City of Ann Arbor, of the toxic Gelman dioxane plume.

Staff:

(Prepared by [redacted])

(Reviewed by [redacted])

(Approved by [redacted])

Body:

Whereas, the toxic Gelman 1,4 dioxane plume has been expanding for decades throughout Ann Arbor's groundwater,

Whereas, simply drawing larger circles around the expanding dioxane plume and calling it a "prohibition zone boundary" is a poor substitute for a real cleanup,

Whereas 1,4 dioxane is classified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a likely carcinogen, and can also cause kidney damage, liver damage, and respiratory problems,

Whereas, the EPA has been publicly vocal about the extremely long timelines for any potential study prior to a cleanup, and about the long timelines for any possible cleanup after such a study,

Whereas for decades the State of Michigan has failed to clean up that dioxane plume,

Whereas, the cost of such a cleanup has risen to approximately \$50 million,

Whereas the public health, environmental, and financial costs of such a cleanup will only grow if that dioxane pollution is allowed to expand further throughout our waters,

Whereas, this resolution is not intended to stop any efforts by City officials to recover cleanup expenses from the polluter, nor any efforts by the City to continue seeking cleanup assistance from the EPA or the Michigan state government,

RESOLVED, That the City Council expresses its support for a millage sufficient to complete a cleanup of that 1,4 dioxane contamination,

RESOLVED, That the City Administrator shall draft the appropriate amendment to the City Charter to allow the voters to decide on that millage at the next general city election, and shall submit a final resolution for decision by the City Council, providing for all other acts required by law for holding such an election on the Charter amendment.

Sponsored by: Councilmember Savabieasfahani (Contingent upon election).

2. My resolution in support of the \$15 an hour minimum wage for all workers in Ann Arbor.

Title: Resolution supporting the \$15 an hour minimum wage for all workers in Ann Arbor.

Memorandum: A resolution supporting an immediate increase of the minimum wage to \$15 an hour for all workers in Ann Arbor.

Staff:

(Prepared by [redacted])

(Reviewed by [redacted])

(Approved by [redacted])

Body:

Whereas, the movement for \$15 an hour has spread across the nation, for example in Seattle and New York,

Whereas, the \$15 an hour minimum wage has raised working people's living standards where implemented,

Whereas, according to a February 2020 CNBC/Survey Monkey small business survey, most small businesses report no impact resulting from such wage increases,

Whereas, as \$15 an hour minimum wage results in a take-home pay of only about \$12.29 per hour after taxes,

Whereas, to pay an Ann Arbor rent of \$1500 per month, even on \$15 an hour, it is necessary to work 122 hours each month, and that is before food, utilities, health care, tuition, and other expenses can even be considered,

Whereas, the current pandemic has caused high unemployment among working people in Ann Arbor,

Whereas, the State legislature has bound the entire workforce to a \$9.65 an hour minimum wage, and has prohibited local governments from enacting any higher minimum wage laws,

RESOLVED, That the City Council expresses, in the strongest terms, its wish that the Michigan legislature, and the U.S. Congress, increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, effective immediately.

Sponsored by: Councilmember Savabieasfahani (Contingent upon election).

3. My resolution to expand unionization by repealing the Taft-Hartley Act.

Title: Resolution supporting the expansion of labor unions, principally through the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act.

Memorandum: A resolution supporting the expansion of labor unions through the repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act and repeal of all state and federal legislation which blocks free labor union organization.

Staff:

(Prepared by [redacted])

(Reviewed by [redacted])

(Approved by [redacted])

Body:

Whereas, strong labor unions defend working people's basic rights, including the right to earn at least \$15 an hour, so that people can pay their rent in Ann Arbor

Whereas, the Labor Management Relations Act, commonly known as the Taft-Hartley Act, and anti-union laws passed by state legislatures including Michigan's, have caused union membership in this city, state, and nation to plummet,

Whereas, the Taft-Hartley Act was called the "slave-labor bill" by labor union advocates,

Whereas, John L. Lewis, leader of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), called Taft-Hartley "the first ugly savage thrust of Fascism in America",

Whereas, as union membership has dwindled, white supremacy has landed into the White House and marched freely on the Michigan state capitol with assault rifles, Confederate flags, and nooses,

Whereas, without strong labor unions, working peoples' needs for good pay and working conditions, for health care and housing, and for good public education and transportation, have no audible expression in the state and federal legislatures,

Whereas, our choice is to empower working people in their unions, or to empower dollars to vote and white supremacists to march on our elected seats of government,

RESOLVED, That the City Council expresses, in the strongest terms, its wish that the Michigan legislature, and the U.S. Congress, repeal all laws which block the free organization and expansion of labor union membership, including the Labor Management Relations Act, commonly known as the Taft-Hartley Act.

RESOLVED, That every City of Ann Arbor worker will be paid union wages and union benefits, no less than \$15 an hour, effective immediately.

Sponsored by: Councilmember Savabieasfahani (Contingent upon election).

4. My resolution for good quality affordable housing in Ann Arbor.

Title: Resolution supporting immediate City construction of good quality affordable housing, abolishing single-family zoning, preventing gentrification, and eliminating homelessness.

Memorandum: A resolution supporting immediate construction of good quality affordable housing by the City of Ann Arbor, abolishing single-family zoning, preventing gentrification, eliminating homelessness, and opposing legal obstacles to the achievement of those goals.

Staff:

(Prepared by [redacted])

(Reviewed by [redacted])

(Approved by [redacted])

Body:

Whereas, as observed in the July 20, 2020 draft resolution for a Charter Amendment for an affordable housing millage, neither the private market nor any public actions have created a meaningful supply of affordable housing units,

Whereas, the practice of single-family zoning has a history and effect of racially segregating housing and of thereby creating an enormous wealth gap between white and Black families,

Whereas, cities including Minneapolis and Grand Rapids have abolished single-family zoning for that reason,

Whereas, the private market serves those who can afford the housing it develops, and leaves the rest of society unserved, resulting in gentrification if the market is left to its own devices,

Whereas, the U.S. Congress, through the Faircloth Amendment, has virtually illegalized the construction of new public housing,

RESOLVED, That the City Council expresses its support for the City construction of an adequate supply of good quality affordable housing above and beyond any units which may be built pursuant to any ultimately approved 2020 resolution for a Charter Amendment,

RESOLVED, That the City Council directs the City Attorney and City Administrator to prepare plans for the abolition of single-family zoning to the maximum extent allowed by law,

RESOLVED, That the City Council directs the City Attorney and City Administrator to prepare plans for any housing built on parcels which have been zoned as single-family to be built and owned by the City of Ann Arbor to the maximum extent allowed by law, and that all such housing be rent-controlled to a level which can be afforded by working people in Ann Arbor even if City ownership of that housing cannot be assured,

RESOLVED, That the City of Ann Arbor communicate to Congress, in the strongest terms, the necessity for Congress to repeal the Faircloth Amendment,

RESOLVED, That the City Council directs the City Attorney and City Administrator to prepare plans for any new housing construction to be accomplished by union labor and, if that is not possible, then by workers earning union wages and benefits, and

RESOLVED that the City Council expresses its intention to provide adequate funding to the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County to eliminate homelessness at the earliest possible moment.

Sponsored by: Councilmember Savabieasfahani (Contingent upon election).

5. My resolution to expand jobs and education for Ann Arbor's youth.

Title: Resolution supporting immediate City expansion of higher education and access to good jobs for the youth of Ann Arbor.

Memorandum: A resolution supporting immediate City expansion of higher education and access to good jobs for the youth of Ann Arbor, through expanded funding of the Neutral Zone and incentivizing the University of Michigan to meet its 10% Black enrollment goal.

Staff:

(Prepared by [redacted])

(Reviewed by [redacted])

(Approved by [redacted])

Body:

Whereas, concrete assistance in getting a college degree, getting certified in a trade, and getting placed into a good job are the best guarantees of lifetime safety for the youth of Ann Arbor,

Whereas, Ann Arbor's \$30 million annual policing budget gives the City too little real lifetime safety, and too much injection of panic and danger into our civic life, especially for Black members of the Ann Arbor community,

Whereas, there is already a program in place, the Neutral Zone's Jobs Corp program, which can prevent Ann Arbor youth from falling through the cracks in terms of higher education and employment,

Whereas, that Jobs Corp program, if adequately funded, can get every student ready for college, get them into college, get their college paid for, and launch them into a good job,

Whereas, Ann Arbor's annual community development budget is only about \$5 million,

Whereas, Ann Arbor can be a model for the nation in eliminating all obstacles to college and career via expanded funding for academic mentoring, tuition payments, job placement, day care, and after-school programs and classes,

Whereas, in 1970, the University of Michigan agreed to work toward a goal of 10% Black enrollment,

Whereas, Black enrollment at the University is now only 4%, which negatively impacts the economic and political power of generations of Black students, in Ann Arbor, in Southeast Michigan, and nationally,

Whereas, over 21% of Southeast Michigan is Black,

RESOLVED, That the City Council expresses its support for expanding funding to the Neutral Zone's Jobs Corp program, and to the City's Community Development Unit, to fill all gaps in academic mentoring, tuition payments, job placement, day care, and after-school programs and classes,

RESOLVED, That the City Council directs the City Administrator and the Community Services Area Administrator to jointly prepare plans and cost estimates to fill those gaps through the services of the Neutral Zone and the City's Community Development Unit, in consultation with those two entities.

RESOLVED, That the City Council directs the City Attorney and the City Administrator to report to Council on all City arrangements with the University of Michigan Community Relations Office which can be lawfully leveraged to incentivize the University of Michigan to meet its goal of 10% Black enrollment without delay, including arrangements relating to parking, transportation, water and sewer fees paid to the City, leasing payments to the City, facility construction, economic development, tourism, public service, safety, and off-campus neighborhoods.

Sponsored by: Councilmember Savabieasfahani (Contingent upon election).

6. My resolution for pandemic and medical care for Ann Arbor.

Title: Resolution for the City to fill in the gaps for our health and pandemic care.

Memorandum: A resolution supporting action by the City of Ann Arbor to meet residents' healthcare needs and prevent more pandemic deaths.

Staff:

(Prepared by [redacted])

(Reviewed by [redacted])

(Approved by [redacted])

Body:

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has killed over 140,000 people in the U.S., including over 6000 in Michigan,

The great majority of those deaths were preventable, as shown by Vietnam (whose population of 96 million has experienced zero COVID-19 deaths), Hong Kong (with 14 COVID-19 deaths), New Zealand (with 22 COVID-19 deaths), and South Korea (whose population of 50 million has suffered a total of 296 COVID-19 deaths),

Whereas, approximately half of those hospitalized with COVID-19 in Washtenaw County are Black,

Whereas, approximately 20% of Black workers can work from home,

Whereas, the entirely preventable failure of private healthcare, and the public pandemic crisis, are an urgent matter of public health and racial justice,

Whereas, City Council has already adopted a resolution asking Congress to approve Medicare for All, following Dr. Savabieasfahani's written urging to Council along the same lines,

Whereas, that Medicare resolution is an excellent example of how City Council can start meeting its responsibility to advocate for the community's healthcare needs,

RESOLVED, That the City Council directs the City of Ann Arbor's Community Services Area Administrator to prepare a plan to immediately fill in the healthcare gap until Congress acts, by finding and enrolling all eligible Ann Arbor residents lacking health and dental coverage into the Washtenaw Health Plan (including WHP Plan B), into the State of Michigan's Healthy Kids Dental program, and into its Healthy Michigan Plan.

Sponsored by: Councilmember Savabieasfahani (Contingent upon election).

7. My resolution for survival payments to unemployed Ann Arbor residents.

Title: Resolution supporting City survival payments in the form of a Universal Basic Income program for unemployed adult residents.

Memorandum: A resolution for the preparation of a City program to issue regular checks to every unemployed adult in Ann Arbor who isn't receiving CARES benefits.

Staff:

(Prepared by [redacted])

(Reviewed by [redacted])

(Approved by [redacted])

Body:

Whereas, on July 21, 2020, the Norwich, UK City Council has just approved a motion to test out a Universal Basic Income (UBI) system for all residents regardless of employment or wealth status,

Whereas, Norwich has a population of 142,000, which is comparable to Ann Arbor's,

Whereas, the federal government threatens to cut unemployment benefits and the payroll taxes which keep Social Security and Medicare afloat,

Whereas, the coronavirus has created a Great Depression level of unemployment,

Whereas, in the absence of state and federal assistance, the City has a responsibility to allow its residents to survive this pandemic,

RESOLVED, That the City Council directs Ann Arbor's Interim Administrator and its Interim Chief Financial Officer to prepare a program to issue regular checks to every unemployed adult in Ann Arbor who isn't receiving benefits under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES).

Sponsored by: Councilmember Savabieasfahani (Contingent upon election).

8. My resolution for the human rights of the Palestinian people, inside and outside Ann Arbor, by opposing military aid to Israel.

Title: Resolution against military aid to the apartheid state of Israel.

Memorandum: A resolution supporting the human rights of the Palestinian people, including Palestinian members of the Ann Arbor community and their loved ones in occupied Palestine, by opposing military aid to Israel.

Staff:

(Prepared by [redacted])

(Reviewed by [redacted])

(Approved by [redacted])

Body:

Whereas, Israel has massacred thousands of Palestinians who lack any effective means of self-defense,

Whereas, Israel has been violently stealing Palestinian land, and expelling Palestinians from their land, from the 1940s until today,

Whereas, Palestinians have been forced into exile from their land, some of them making Ann Arbor their home, since the 1940's,

Whereas, Israel has maintained a military blockade controlling every mouthful of food allowed to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip,

Whereas, the Israeli Prime Minister's adviser, Dov Weisglass, said "The idea is to put the Palestinians on a diet..."

Whereas, the United Nations' Genocide Convention defines genocide as committing these acts with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, members of a national, ethnical, racial or religious group: killing members of that group, or causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of that group, or deliberately inflicting on that group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part,

Whereas, the state of Israel is therefore committing genocide against the Palestinian people,

Whereas, the U.S. government is in the process of giving \$38 billion in military aid to Israel,

Whereas, the same U.S. government remains unwilling to fund a public healthcare system that would protect the United States from the current pandemic and from future pandemics,

Whereas, the City of Ann Arbor places a higher value on human life and human rights than that,

RESOLVED, That the Ann Arbor City Council is against military aid to Israel.

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be emailed by the City to every member of the U.S. Congress.

Sponsored by: Councilmember Savabieasfahani (Contingent upon election).

9. My resolution for field hospitals to contain COVID-19.

Title: A resolution supporting planning for field hospitals to contain COVID-19.

Memorandum: Resolution directing the City Administrator to deliver an Ann Arbor field hospital plan for the next wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, to prevent our hospitals from being swamped.

Staff:

(Prepared by [redacted])

(Reviewed by [redacted])

(Approved by [redacted])

Body:

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has killed over 140,000 people in the U.S., including over 6000 in Michigan,

Whereas, Dr. Mozhgan Savabieasfahani attended the last in-person City Council meeting, on March 16, 2020, urging that field hospitals be prepared to prevent our existing hospitals from being overwhelmed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whereas, Councilmember Hayner subsequently made inquiries along the same lines,

Whereas, the University of Michigan hospital system subsequently announced that it was considering building a 500-bed field hospital to accommodate the increase in COVID-19 cases, to be located at the University's athletic campus on South State Street in Ann Arbor,

Whereas, COVID-19 infections and deaths, statewide and nationally, are increasing with no clear end in sight, with vital medication running low in Texas, Florida, and Arizona,

RESOLVED, That the City Council directs the City Administrator to deliver an Ann Arbor field hospital plan for the next wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, in cooperation with Michigan Medicine and the State of Michigan, to include (1) an adequate numbers of beds, medication, equipment, physicians, protective gear, cleaning supplies, and tests, and (2) concrete proposals for the conversion of hotels, dormitories, city properties, and university properties into field hospital facilities which can adequately provide for treatment, isolation, and recovery for COVID-19 patients, and for those patients displaced from local hospitals and care centers due to COVID-19.

Sponsored by: Councilmember Savabieasfahani (Contingent upon election).

10. My resolution to expand mass transit.

Title: Resolution to expand mass transit in Ann Arbor and regionally.

Memorandum: A resolution to expand mass transit in Ann Arbor and regionally, to reduce automotive-related financial and environmental burdens on residents.

Staff:

(Prepared by [redacted])

(Reviewed by [redacted])

(Approved by [redacted])

Body:

Whereas, the federal government has recently provided over \$20 million for the AAATA, as part of the CARES Act,

Whereas, that is insufficient to relieve Ann Arbor residents of the financial burdens and physical hazards of automobile ownership, especially during this pandemic time, where unemployment has reached unimagined proportions and car payments are harder to afford,

Whereas, to achieve sustainability and fewer carbon emissions, it is insufficient for the City's Office of Sustainability and Innovations to express its general wish for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and then propose a few solar panels on City buildings,

Whereas, sustainability, locally and globally, requires a concrete reduction in cars, and an expansion of local and regional mass transit,

Whereas, it is unsustainable, especially during the current economic depression, for every resident to function as their own individual bus company, paying for a family fleet of \$20,000 cars,

Whereas, more cars equals more damage to our roads, more congestion of our streets, more city space devoted to the storage of cars, and less community interaction between residents as they exist largely inside their individual cars,

Whereas, an expansion of mass transit — including extremely frequent microtransit, paratransit, and bus service, and garage facilities capable of recharging electric AAATA vehicles, will encourage reliance on mass transit, will reduce residents' automotive financial burdens, and will make our living environment more sustainable,

RESOLVED, That the City Council request the AAATA CEO to provide an expense and effort estimate to achieve such a transit expansion, along with a listing of local, state, and federal funding sources which could feasibly pay for that expansion.

RESOLVED, That the City Council expresses its support for a transit millage to cover the shortfall in case those other funding sources are inadequate to such an expansion,

RESOLVED, That the City Council expresses its support for the maximum feasible cooperation between the AAATA and the Regional Transit Authority of Southeast Michigan to minimize the need for automobiles across the region, and to maximize the building of mass transit vehicles, tracks, terminals, electric charging stations, etc. toward that end.

Sponsored by: Councilmember Savabieasfahani (Contingent upon election).