

LWV

League of Women Voters®
of Oxford

VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE 2023

GENERAL ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 7, 2023
Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

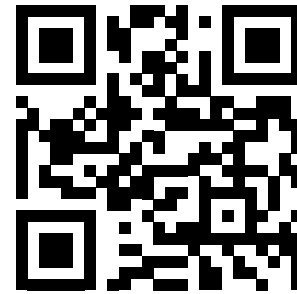
Last Day to Register to Vote: October 10

Early In-Person Voting: Begins October 11 and
includes evening and weekend hours the
week before election day

Absentee Voting By Mail: Begins October 11



**REGISTER
ONLINE**



olvr.ohiosos.gov

**CHECK YOUR
REGISTRATION**



elections.bcohio.gov/am_i_registered/index.php

CANDIDATE FORUM

The League of Women Voters is hosting an in-person Meet the Candidates event on October 11, 7pm, The Knolls, Oxford.

Visit www.lwvxford.org
for more information.



Find us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/lwvxford>

This guide is published by the League of Women Voters of Oxford, a nonpartisan organization, to provide a forum for candidates on the ballot in Butler County with a focus on the Talawanda School District, and to provide information about ballot issues and voting access. Comments or questions? Contact the League of Women Voters of Oxford by mail at P.O. Box 504, Oxford, OH 45056 or by email: lwvxford@gmail.com

Ohio Changed its Voting Code in 2023

Be Aware of the Following Changes

How do you vote by mail-in ballot?

- You will not automatically receive a mail-in ballot request form in the mail. This was done in some previous elections.
- You must now request and complete a mail-in ballot application using Form 11-A from the Butler County Board of Elections: Call (513) 887-3700 or visit elections.bcoho.gov/how_do_i_vote_early.
- You cannot request an absentee ballot using any form other than Form 11-A.
- You must submit your mail-in ballot application request by the 7th day before Election Day.
- You may return your mail-in ballot itself in two ways: in person to your local Board of Elections by 7:30 PM on Election Day OR mail it via USPS; it must be postmarked by the day before Election Day and received by the 4th day after Election Day in order to be counted.

What is the ID Requirement for Voting?

ID for Election Day & In-Person Early Voting

You'll need one of the following forms of unexpired photo IDs:

- Ohio driver's license or Interim ID form issued by the Ohio BMV or State of Ohio ID card (address does not need to be current).
- U.S. Military, U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs, or Ohio National Guard ID card.
- U.S. Passport Book/Card.

You can **no longer vote in person** with:

- A driver's license issued by another state, a copy of a photo ID, utility bill, bank

statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document as a form of ID.

Identification for Voting by Mail

You'll need to demonstrate your identity in one of the following ways:

- Last 4 digits of your Social Security Number.
- Ohio driver's license number or Ohio ID card number.
- A COPY of one of the following: your Ohio driver's license, Ohio state ID card or interim ID form issued by the Ohio BMV; a US passport or passport card; a US military ID card, Ohio National Guard ID card, or US Department of Veterans Affairs card.

How to Obtain the Required ID

If you are a permanent or temporary resident of Ohio 17 years or older and do not have an Ohio Driver's License, you qualify for a free BMV-issued State ID Card if you are not licensed as an operator of a motor vehicle in this or any other state and do not hold an identification card from another state.

Visit Ohio BMV for more information
bmv.ohio.gov/driver-license.aspx



Need help getting a driver's license or State ID Card?

Call or text VoteRiders for assistance at no cost: 866-ID-2-VOTE | voteriders.org

JOIN the League of Women Voters of Oxford



LWVOxford.org

The League of Women Voters, founded in 1920, is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, and works to increase understanding of major public policy through education and advocacy. Complementing it is the League of Women Voters Education Fund. The League of Women Voters provides nonpartisan information and educational services to citizens.

Learn more about the League of Women Voters of Oxford
LWVOxford.org
and on Facebook
facebook.com/lwvoxford

Questions were selected by the League of Women Voters of Oxford. Candidates were given 500 characters for each question response, and they are solely responsible for their answers. Responses are printed exactly as candidates submitted them. The League of Women Voters of Oxford, in publishing this material, does not endorse any candidate or their written positions.

Find your personalized ballot at: www.vote411.org.

CANDIDATES

Member of Council, City of Oxford

Term: 4 years

Members: 7

Open seats: 3

Responsibilities: City Council represents the citizens of Oxford in the Council-Manager style government. The seven-member council sets city policies, establishes city goals, and oversees and approves the annual budget. City Council appoints the City Manager, Finance Director, Law Director and members of boards, commissions, and committees.

Questions:

1. Why do you want to be a City of Oxford Councilor and what skills or experience do you bring?
2. What do you think are the highest priorities for City Council and city staff to address?
3. Oxford's citizens have raised a number of questions regarding roadways, pathways, bike paths, public transportation both within the City and connecting to the region. What transportation priorities should be considered for the City of Oxford?

William Snavelly



Education:

PhD (Nebraska, 1977);
MA (West Virginia 1974);
BS (Illinois State 1973)

Website: facebook.com/
BillSnavellyforOxford/

Question 1: As an incumbent Councilor and Mayor, I have a great deal of experience, leadership and communication skills, and a passion to serve my community. While we have accomplished a great deal in the past four years, we have much more to accomplish. I want to be a City of Oxford Councilor for the next four years in order to complete these goals.

Question 2: (1) Environmental Sustainability. Everyone needs to do their part to limit global warming and reverse the damage done. (2) Housing for Everyone. Many folks working in the City might like to live here too, but for so many, it's just not affordable. And we do have a homeless population. The City must do everything we can to enable affordable housing. (3) Economic Development. We must diversify the employment base and facilitate bringing business to town and supporting the business that is here. (4) Public Art. Not only for aesthetic reasons, but to improve quality of life and economic vitality, we need to prioritize public art, including sculpture and murals. Alleys need our attention uptown. (5) Support our police and firefighters.

Question 3: With citizen/resident input, we need to keep working on the OATS trail system. I support the Complete Streets initiative. I support the new AMTRAK stop in Oxford. I support the Chestnut Fields BCRTA bus hub and continued affordability for our citizens, and expanded routes where possible. I also support the annual street resurfacing program. City staff is to be commended for securing grants for these projects whenever possible.

Jon Ralinovsky



Education:

B. Phil. from Miami University; B.M. from University of Cincinnati/CCM

Website: facebook.com/
profile.php?id=615508
61049811&mibextid=L
QQJ4d

Question 1: I would like to be a City Councilor in order to influence policies that will make Oxford a better place to live. The city has some great opportunities to fulfill goals stated in the Comprehensive Plan, and I am interested in helping meet those goals. I have served on the city's Environmental Commission for the past 7 years, including serving as chair since 2020. I have also served on the Oxford Parking and Transportation Advisory Board for the past 3.5 years. My time working with these groups has helped my gain insight into what citizens want as well as working efficiently with City staff.

Question 2: The priorities contained in the Oxford Comprehensive Plan and Climate Action Plan are the ones that should be followed. This includes Oxford being a diverse and inclusive community, reducing our carbon footprint, changing the transportation system, providing economic opportunities, providing affordable housing,

and making Oxford more sustainable. I am happy to listen to citizens that have additional priorities for Oxford.

Question 3: I want to eliminate the barriers that keep Oxford residents from walking, riding, or rolling to their destination. Our transportation system has been focused on the individual car and needs to be more inclusive for all forms of transportation. The Complete Streets design is already part of the Comprehensive Plan; it needs to be consistently implemented. This will help Oxford reach its climate goals as well as increase the quality of life for Oxford citizens.

Jason Bracken



Education:

PhD candidate
Ecology, Evolution, &
Environmental Biology -
Miami University, MEn
Environmental Science
- Miami University,
MA Geoscience - West
Chester University, BA
Philosophy - Pennsylvania State University

Question 1: I would like to continue on council to make as positive a contribution to this world as I can, starting with the most vulnerable members in our community. I think my values and my drive help to set our priorities towards humanistic goals, and I think my analytical approach helps us to come up with creative solutions and effective paths to accomplishing those goals. I'm happy that my efforts so far have contributed to funding local charities like the forthcoming social services one-stop building, decreasing our carbon footprint by flaring escaping methane at our closed landfill, and adding a social worker to assist our officers in serving our community. I hope to have the chance to continue more of this work with another term on council.

Question 2: As a council we've set our top goals to be Climate Sustainability, Economic Development, and Housing for All. I support these goals and helped to shape them. My personal efforts however are even more targeted. Within our goal for Housing for All, I push for focus on the unhoused first and foremost. They are our most vulnerable, and helping them to get a step up and preventing those on the brink from falling down, should be the highest of priorities. Within the goal of Climate Sustainability, we need to do everything all at once, but the biggest steps we can take revolve around advancing large scale solar. Within the goal of Economic Development, I support efforts to help businesses survive the economic roller coaster of being a college town

Question 3: I support Complete Streets. I would like to see a completed perimeter for our OATS trail, increased bike lanes, and safer pedestrian paths. The northwest OATS trail is particularly important as it allows more community access to facilities like the aquatic center. We need to work with landowners to best serve the community there. And given the increased number of our children walking to school, they need safe paths to travel which may require changes to our infrastructure.

Michael Smith



Education:

Talawanda High School
1986, Miami University,
BS Family & Consumer
Science 1992

Question 1: I really enjoyed representing the citizens of Oxford,

being a resource for answers or a conduit to City Government. One of my best attributes is "approachability." No one is afraid to ask me questions about City projects or inform me of a problem that needs to be addressed. Having previously served on Oxford City Council for 8 years and numerous City Boards & Commissions I bring a wealth of knowledge and experience with me. During my two years as Oxford's Mayor, I enjoyed working closely with City Staff on all of our goals and projects. Foremost, I will not have any learning curve and will be able to start making a contribution at a high level right away.

Question 2: My highest priorities would be Fire & EMS staffing, sustainability and housing. Fire & EMS effect everyone in Oxford. We have to find a way to be more competitive in Fire & EMS salaries so we can maintain full staffing. We have made huge strides in Sustainability in recent years, but we have a long way to go towards our goal of Carbon Neutrality. We have to keep moving towards that goal and in the process set the highest example for neighboring communities. Oxford has a housing problem. We need emergency shelter for those who become homeless, and we need affordable housing for those on fixed incomes. This is a tough problem, but we are moving in the right direction.

Question 3: We need to continue to support public transportation within Oxford and with the region. We need to finish our bike path to provide children with a safe route to the City Park and City Pool. We need to continue support for BCRTA and the Amtrak stop. These things will position Oxford as a transportation hub and bring people and their spending dollars to Oxford

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE, OXFORD TOWNSHIP

Term: 4 years

Members: 3

Open seats: 1

Responsibilities: General administration of the township including maintaining township roads and cemeteries. Other responsibilities may include overseeing mowing, snow removal, maintaining recreation facilities, police, and fire protection.

Questions:

1. Why do you want to be a Township Trustee and what skills or experience do you bring?
2. What is your top priority and how would you work toward it while maintaining a balanced budget?
3. What are some of your ideas for working together with surrounding areas to meet common goals?

Kate Rousmaniere



Education: BA, (Classics) Oberlin College; MA, (Education) University of Toronto, Ph.D. (Education), Teachers College, Columbia University.

Question 1: Since my election as Oxford Township Trustee in Fall 2019, I have been deeply involved in activities that address the needs and interests of all community residents in the greater Oxford area. As a former Oxford City Council member and mayor, I appreciate the strengths that the City brings to the larger community while also understanding the unique needs and interests of Township residents. As a resident of both the City and the Township, I am able to bridge these two communities.

Question 2: Oxford Township is involved in a wider state effort to increase access to high speed internet across the Township in upcoming months and we have an electrical aggregation proposal on the ballot this Fall which will help reduce electrical costs for residents using Duke Energy. I will propose a renewable energy option to that Township

package, given many residents' concerns about environmental issues.

Question 3: I regularly attend Butler County Township Association meetings. I represent the Township on the Leadership Team of the Oxford Area Coalition for a Healthy Community, and I am on the Board of Oxford Seniors. In order to maintain my connections with the City of Oxford, I served on the City of Oxford's Comprehensive Planning Committee and am on the City's Board of Zoning Appeals. I believe in the power of listening, the opportunity of community, and the importance of participation in local government.

Walter Glenn Ellerbe, Jr.



Education: Miami University - Finance / IS

decision making and service leadership to the township.

Question 2: My priority is quality infrastructure and I would work towards that by bringing high speed data to our unserved township areas as well as ensuring that our roads are maintained as well as budget allows.

Question 3: I will work with Oxford city as well as county staff to enhance safety and ease utility improvement costs by leveraging group grant proposals

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE, HANOVER TOWNSHIP

Term: 4 years

Members: 3

Open seats: 1

Responsibilities: General administration of the township including maintaining township roads and cemeteries. Other responsibilities may include overseeing mowing and snow removal, police, and fire protection, maintaining recreation facilities.

Questions:

1. Why do you want to be a Township Trustee and what skills or experience do you bring?
2. What is your top priority and how would you work toward it while maintaining a balanced budget?
3. What are some of your ideas for working together with surrounding areas to meet common goals?

Larry Miller

Candidate did not respond by publication deadline.

FISCAL OFFICER, HANOVER TOWNSHIP

Term: 4 years

Open seats: 1

Responsibilities: Responsible for receiving revenue and paying the township bills and payrolls. Records the trustee minutes and is the liaison between the county Fiscal Officer, the state of Ohio, the auditor's office and the Board of Elections.

Questions:

1. What skills or experience would you bring to this position?
2. In what ways should the Fiscal Officer assist the Township Trustees in prioritizing and dealing with the township funding needs?
3. What are the biggest fiscal challenges you think the Township will face in the next 5 years and what ideas do you have for addressing these?

Gregory Sullivan

Education: Miami University, BS Business Management

Question 1: 8 years Hanover Township Fiscal Officer 30 years Butler County Auditor's Office 20 years Governmental Finance systems management

Question 2: Budgeting Forecasting Revenue and Expenses Monthly, Quarterly, Annual financial reporting and filing Internal control to ensure proper and legal expenditure of township funds.

Question 3: Funding of township departments with rising inflationary pressures will be our major challenge in the next several years. Fire and Emergency along with Road/Street service expenses continue to grow with little to no new revenue resources to support the increasing costs. Continued conservative vigilance to staying within budgetary constraints and working with county and state representatives will be very important in the next several years.

VOTE 411

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

FIRST TIME VOTER?

Don't worry, we've made a checklist to make voting for the first time stress free!

www.vote411.org/first-time-voter-checklist

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE, MILFORD TOWNSHIP

Term: 4 years
Members: 3
Open seats: 1

Responsibilities: General administration of the township including maintaining township roads and cemeteries. Other responsibilities may include oversight of mowing and snow removal, police, and fire protection, maintaining recreation facilities.

Questions:

1. Why do you want to be a Township Trustee and what skills or experience do you bring?
2. What is your top priority and how would you work toward it while maintaining a balanced budget?
3. What are some of your ideas for working together with surrounding areas to meet common goals?

Amy Butterfield

Candidate did not respond by publication deadline.

Michael Green

Candidate did not respond by publication deadline.

FISCAL OFFICER, MILFORD TOWNSHIP

Term: 4 years
Open seats: 1

Responsibilities: Responsible for receiving revenue and paying the township bills and payrolls. Records the trustee minutes and is the liaison between the county Fiscal Officer, the state of Ohio, the auditor's office and the Board of Elections.

Questions:

1. What skills or experience would you bring to this position?
2. In what ways should the Fiscal Officer assist the Township Trustees in prioritizing and dealing with the township funding needs?
3. What are the biggest fiscal challenges you think the Township will face in the next 5 years and what ideas do you have for addressing these?

Mollie L. Hansel

Candidate did not respond by publication deadline.

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE, REILY TOWNSHIP

Term: 4 years
Members: 3
Open seats: 1

Responsibilities: General administration of the township including maintaining township roads and cemeteries. Other responsibilities may include oversight of mowing and snow removal, police, and fire protection, maintaining recreation facilities.

Questions:

1. Why do you want to be a Township Trustee and what skills or experience do you bring?
2. What is your top priority and how would you work toward it while maintaining a balanced budget?
3. What are some of your ideas for working together with surrounding areas to meet common goals?

C. Nicholas Schwab



Education:
Bachelor of Science in Animal Science from The Ohio State University, post-graduate classes at Miami University, graduate of the Ohio Township Association Leadership Academy

Website:

sites.google.com/view/nickschwabtrustee/
facebook.com/
NickSchwabReilyTownshipTrustee/

Question 1: I have been privileged to serve as a Reily Township Trustee for 40 years, serving with an experienced Board of Trustees with Dennis Conrad (42 years) and Tim Miller (18 years.) I am one of four Ohio township officers elected statewide to serve on the OTARMA Board of Directors, which gives us a unique opportunity to ensure we have the best insurance to protect our township assets and our Fire and EMS volunteers.

Question 2: My top priorities are: 1) Maintaining township roads, including snow and ice removal. 2) Our volunteer Fire and EMS Department, which was named Fire Department of the Year for the state of Ohio in 2023. 3) Maintaining township cemeteries in top condition. 4) Hiring efficient road employees who are always polite and respectful to our residents. 5) Maintaining a certified EMS Training Center at the Reily Community Center.

Question 3: We work on some road projects with Morgan and Oxford townships, providing extra manpower and equipment. Morgan and Oxford reciprocate. We also have reciprocating agreements to maintain bordering township roads to save money. We work closely with neighboring fire departments to provide mutual aid, especially paramedic runs. We order road salt and paving materials through the Butler County Engineer, who combines the needs of many townships into one large contract, lowering the cost for all.

FISCAL OFFICER, REILY TOWNSHIP

Term: 4 years
Open seats: 1

Responsibilities: Responsible for receiving revenue and paying the township bills and payrolls. Records the trustee minutes and is the liaison between the county Fiscal Officer, the state of Ohio, the auditor's office and the Board of Elections.

Questions:

1. What skills or experience would you bring to this position?
2. In what ways should the Fiscal Officer assist the Township Trustees in prioritizing and dealing with the township funding needs?
3. What are the biggest fiscal challenges you think the Township will face in the next 5 years and what ideas do you have for addressing these?

Ronald Tilford, Jr.

Candidate did not respond by publication deadline.

**BUTLER COUNTY
RESIDENTS**

Find your polling place here:

https://elections.bcoho.gov/where_do_i_vote/

BOARD MEMBER, BUTLER COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

*Members: 5
Open seats: 2*

Responsibilities: Butler County Educational Service Center has served as the central educational and service resource for schools, government agencies, families, children and the community of Butler County since 1914. The BCESC Governing Board is composed of five elected members that provide oversight and direction to the organization.

Questions:

1. Why do you want to be a member of the Butler Co. Educational Services Center and what skills or experience do you bring?
2. What programs and resources do you think the Center should prioritize during your term?
3. What are the biggest challenges the Center faces?

Steven M. Feldman



Question 1: I have served on the Governing Board since 2017. I became interested in the agency after seeing the success they had with my son, who went through the pre-school program. I am running for re-election so I can

continue to help the agency give children like my son what they need to succeed. Also, I grew up in foster care and take a personal interest in promoting the success of youth from challenging backgrounds. I am an attorney with an MBA. I teach in the Commerce program at the Miami Regionals. Before Miami, I spent 25+ years in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. My business, legal, and educational experience allows me to assist the outstanding team at the ESC execute on their strategic plan.

Question 2: The agency has the best (if not the best) Head Start programs in the state. The preschool program is also exceptional. These programs are going to be needed more than ever. In addition, the SUCCESS program is key for the schools in our county as the program helps our struggling students and parents in a county wide effort. I'm also excited about the new food pantry that will help provide much needed nourishment for our youth. And that is just a glimpse of all the good work done by the team at BCESC. From our family programs to our services to every school district in Butler County to the resources we provide educators throughout the County, the work of our team is transforming lives of both students and parents.

Question 3: As a parent and educator, I understand the challenges impacting our schools, our educators, and our parents. Many parents are worried about their child's development. Families are facing disruptive societal and economic forces that are filtering into the classroom. Teachers are dealing with the reality of AI and other technology platforms that are offering the good with the bad. The leadership team at BCESC sees these challenges clearly and is approaching the future with hope and confidence.

Michael Hudson

Candidate did not respond by publication deadline.

Benita Mudd



Education: Masters of Education plus 33 years as an Educator

Question 1: I want to be a member of the Butler County Educational Service Center as a re-elected public official and a governing board member because it is a privilege to serve the community of Butler County. Serving the public is honorable and noble. Family is important to me. Our organization has served as the central educational and service resource for schools, government agencies, families, children and the community of Butler County, Ohio for more than a century, as it was established in 1914. The skills and experience I bring to BCESC are 1) my children were raised in the county 2) 33 years as an educator in public education 3) served as a governing board member for 4 years with the knowledge of our services, mission, vision and core values.

Question 2: The programs and resources I think the Center should prioritize during my term are the continuation of innovative methods to assist families with needs such as mental health/social emotional concerns,

behavioral issues, ELL (English Language Learners), and our preschool intervention.

Question 3: The biggest challenges the Center faces are some of the same concerns that the education institution has faced around the entire nation. These challenges are recruiting qualified personnel for various professional positions. Some examples of these positions are substitute teachers, psychologist, therapist, speech pathologist, and nurses. Due to there being a reduction in the workforce pool of skilled professionals this causes the local school districts to compete for those same professionals.



BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER, TALAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Term: 4 years
Members: 5
Open seats: 3*

Responsibilities: The Talawanda City Board of Education strives to provide a safe, nurturing learning environment for all students in order to enhance student achievement. Their mission is to establish, review, and implement policies that support the district and its Strategic Plan. Building public trust with all of the district's stakeholders is critical. The board fulfills this responsibility by setting policy, selecting executive officers to implement policies, and by evaluating the results. The board must accomplish this while being responsible with the wise management of resources available. In addition, the board functions openly, seeking the involvement and contributions of the public, staff, and students in its decision-making processes.

Questions:

1. Why do you want to be a school board member and what skills or experience would you bring to the position?
2. What are your priorities for the Talawanda School District?
3. What ideas do you have for addressing the budget challenge that the Talawanda School District faces?
4. What are your views on school curriculum and the role of the School Board, parents, and the state legislature in determining curriculum?

Rebecca Howard



Education: PhD in Educational Leadership/ Early Childhood Education .

Qualification/ Experience: Board of Education Member, Talawanda City School District

Website: facebook.com/HowardforTalawandaBOE/

Question 1: I have lived in Butler County my entire life, and lived in both Reily Township and in/around Oxford for the past 45 years—my mother graduated from Reily HS, and my daughter graduated from Talawanda HS. I've been a Talawanda School Board Member since 2020 and would like to continue in that role. Having lived and worked with children and families of varied backgrounds throughout the district in my career as an early childhood professional and volunteer with local non-profit literacy and arts groups, I feel that I am in a unique position to recognize and act on the challenges faced by our communities. As a board member, I strive to make sure questions are asked and issues discussed at meetings that consider the views of all stakeholders.

Question 2: ACCOUNTABILITY: Continue to improve our financial picture, while maintaining the excellent quality education our students deserve. We have made significant budget cuts over the last four years, but still need to work to reduce our deficit. **TRANSPARENCY:** Our board meetings have been live streamed

recorded since 2020 to insure that all residents are able to access every issue that is discussed with no edits or filters; I strive to respond to communications from residents in a timely fashion, and will meet with anyone in the TSD community to answer questions. RESPECT: We have a geographically large and diverse district, and I believe it is important to continually work to improve communication and respect the input of all residents.

Question 3: I will continue to work with district administration and with the unions that represent our skilled and highly valued educators, administrators, and support staff to prioritize cuts that can be made while maintaining educational excellence. We have to look at all of the programs, positions, and offerings that are not required by state law, and be reasonable and judicious as we consider the impact of the cuts we have to make. We will never be able to reach total agreement with all of our community members about the cuts we make, but we will continue this work with commitment, reason, and respect. At the state level, we must continue advocating with legislators to prioritize funding for public schools that is equitable and robust.

Question 4: I feel strongly that the legislature should have no role in determining curriculum other than approving basic standards. Parents' feedback should be welcomed and respected, and accommodated when practical and reasonable to do so. Local school boards should not design curriculum, but should respond to input from all stakeholders as they consider curriculum adoption that is recommended by our education professionals.

Chris Otto



Education:
B.S. in Business

Question 1: Being on the school board is a way for me to give back to the community. I have over three decades of experience

working in budgeting and analysis and I have also served on the school board for over seven years. My work experience and knowledge of the school district are skills and experience that I can bring to the school board.

Question 2: My priorities are providing a safe learning environment for our students, as well as providing our students with as many educational opportunities and support services as our financial resources allow.

Question 3: The school district needs to continuously examine every aspect of the budget and create savings and efficiencies wherever possible.

Question 4: Each school district is unique because of its culture, size, socioeconomic, and geographic makeup. A state agency or legislature will not be able to determine a curriculum that addresses the uniqueness of each individual district. Given that each school district is unique, I think the best approach is for each local school district to determine a curriculum that will best help them meet state standards.

Dawn King



Education: I am a proud member of the Talawanda graduating class of 1997. I have a Bachelor's degree in Microbiology from Miami University, class of 2002.

Qualification/Experience: Attendee of the Ohio School Boards Association, Get on Board! Board Candidate Workshop Southern Region, September 7, 2023.

Question 1: As a lifetime resident of this district, I can see that our current School Board has lost focus on the importance of financial stability and prioritizing student's education and wellbeing. As a research scientist and business owner, I understand the importance of balancing budgets, creating multilevel plans, addressing unforeseen scenarios, and sorting through data sets. As the secretary for the union at my work, I see the value of unions and have been involved in contract negotiations.

Question 2: The three pillars of my campaign are students first, financial stability, and community engagement with transparency. In order to put our students first, the district has to be financially stable and responsible. The district financial ledgers need to be used as a tool to search for savings to circumvent cuts from the three year plan, like bussing. For our district to thrive, input through representation from parents, our students and other community members needs to be included as decisions are made to move the district forward in a more positive direction.

Question 3: A total reevaluation of the three year plan of budget cuts is needed, focusing away from directly impacting students. Simply requiring TSD administrators to pay their benefits at the same level as other TSD employees could save \$161,928/year, eliminating alternative/behavioral schools would save \$296,041/year, removing bottled water for administrative offices and the superintendent's snack budget would save \$12,000/year. Altering administrative contracts to eliminate paying mileage reimbursement for unused miles on open POs and reimbursing unused vacation days at the end of each fiscal year are just a few ways to save.

Question 4: Curriculum should ensure our future generations are learning but also retaining valuable knowledge that they need to be strong citizens and for professional success, whether that be college,

trade school, or entering the workforce. Our Director of Curriculum should work with the State and a parent forum to build the curriculum. Our School Board must advocate that the State regulated curricula ensure generational success in the community and within the workforce, while being engaging for students.

Ivan Carver



Education:
Bachelors in Business Administration

Website:
facebook.com/
Carver4Schools/
carver4schools.com/

Question 1: I want to make a positive impact on our community! My entire life I have spent around kids, from coaching little league football to coaching my own kids in various other sports. I want to be a true advocate for all children in Talawanda. I want better community engagement and transparency with the schools. I want to help heal some of the divide in our community. I have 20+ Years of leadership experience in Corporate America and have built two businesses. I have served on Sumner County Technical Education Advisory Board and Hendersonville Recreational Soccer Association and led many different community groups through local churches and charities. My love of kids and experience makes me the type of Board Member Talawanda needs right now.

Question 2: Fiscal responsibility is a top priority requiring strategic budget allocations that provide minimal impact to students' education (transportation should not be removed). The second priority is community engagement and transparency. We need more collaboration from all stakeholders to educate this next generation of students and it starts with being transparent. What do we need to do, what do we want to do, and how can we collectively get there together. The third priority is to identify and celebrate student learning across the district. Talawanda does more than just perform on minimum requirements given by the state, but succeeds in other ways and it's important to celebrate that. Let's focus our efforts by moving from good to great!

Question 3: Talawanda just had a levy fail 2:1 and the State has just raised property taxes by upwards of forty percent. Putting a levy on the ballot is not an option anytime soon. Our only choice as a district is to look for alternative funding which would

FIRST TIME VOTER?

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GO TO

www.vote411.org/first-time-voter-checklist

include, working with the Lobbyist/State Representatives to remove the property valuation in the funding formula for property owned by Miami that is non-income generating, utilize our current assets by renting them out, or working with local business to sponsor items needed like bleachers. We also need to continue strategic cuts that have the least impact on students, parents, and teachers. It is not one big thing that will save us from our budget challenges but a bunch of small strategic cuts.

Question 4: The Board's job is to approve the curriculum, frameworks and instructional materials and ensure they align with state standards and regulations. School curriculum should be more of a collaboration with the administration and the community. I would like to see our schools hold public forums and surveys to gather parent perspectives on possible curriculum changes. We also need to involve our local businesses to gather their input on what is needed or lacking to prepare students for their futures.

Andrew Langsner



Education:
Masters in Public Policy

Website:
[facebook.com/
andrew4talawanda](https://www.facebook.com/andrew4talawanda)

Question 1: I am running for school board because I see the huge potential there is for our district. We have the perfect mix of rural agriculture, tradesmanship, urban areas, and even a center of higher education; all of which set us apart from any other community in Ohio. To thrive as a district, we need viewpoints from all over the community and a variety of skillsets represented on the board. We need to build trust and collaboration while we work together to influence state funding policy. My background in organizational leadership, technology, and public policy makes me a great fit to participate in the vision we can achieve for our district.

Question 2: As a school board member, I would immediately leverage the position to work with the administration in creating a variety of community forums and working groups to address the following priorities: 1. Setting clear goals for education and student opportunities through collaboration with parents, teachers and community members. 2. Influence state education funding policy by helping the state create data driven funding alternatives in addition to activism on behalf of our district. 3. Investigating

local funding alternatives related to levy options to ensure the tax burden is more equitably shared.

Question 3: In the short-term, we need to turn the budget challenge into an opportunity to work more closely together as a community. We all want great outcomes for the students in our district and we must recognize that more funding is just one contributing factor to those outcomes. In the long term we need to do two things. First, we need to keep building trust and transparency with the community. Taxpayers need to know not just what their dollars are funding, but why we are funding those things. Second, we must rally around the state school funding issue like never before. We know this community can organize very effectively, but it won't happen without an incredible amount of trust and collaboration facilitated by the school board.

Question 4: Teachers and school admins are professional educators and we place a huge amount of trust in their judgement and expertise in teaching our children. At the same time, education is state mandated, and it is appropriate for the state legislature to set standards and guidelines. Finally, teachers and administrators should be receptive to local values and opinions. If parents have concerns they feel are not being addressed, the school board should hear those concerns and take action if necessary.

Kathleen Knight-Abowitz



Education:
Ph.D., Social Foundations of Education, University of Virginia, 1996;
M.Ed, Higher Education and Student Affairs, University of Vermont, 1989; B.A.,

Business & Economics, Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, VA, 1986; Rappahannock High School, Warsaw, VA, 1982.

Website:
[facebook.com/profile.
php?id=61550870348718](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61550870348718)

Question 1: I am seeking re-election on the Board because there continues to be a need for experienced educational leadership for our district. The skills I gained during my first two years on the board, during the pandemic, were honed through collaboration, listening, and trying to evolve policies as situations changed. In the last two years, our board has addressed the challenges of a growing budget deficit. I have gained experience in managing

budget cutting plan that would cause the least disruption for student learning and achievement. I have been very active as the legislative liaison, keeping TSD citizens informed about legislative developments and communicating with our representatives.

Question 2: 1) Continue to execute transparent budget management as we cope with a deficit situation in the district. 2) Work with other board members to develop a plan for new revenue through a levy or other tax increase to be passed at the appropriate time; help lead community efforts to get that passed by district voters. 3) Continue my work as the legislative liaison by energizing and leading communications with our legislators regarding the educational priorities of our district, and the essential role that state funding plays in the Talawanda budget; and to seek the proper channels to get our state share re-assessed, as it is far below other comparable districts in our region.

Question 3: We must get new revenue passed in the form of a levy or an income tax issue in the foreseeable future. I realize that this is not a popular thing for a candidate to state, but we face a clear choice: if we want to keep the current quality of our schools, the district needs new revenue. The Ohio school funding system was ruled unconstitutional in 1997, yet despite that fact, this is the system that we currently use to educate the next generation of children. They deserve an excellent and efficient education. Our system requires that districts periodically ask voters to support new revenue, and our last operative levy passed 18 years ago. Ultimately, our budget challenge must be met with the passage of a new property or income tax levy.

Question 4: The curriculum in our schools are guided by the Learning Standards for grades P-12, written and regularly reviewed by experts and educators in the OH Department of Education. Boards ensure that district leaders and educators are teaching the Ohio content standards with creativity, rigor, and care for students. School Boards do not dictate curriculum but should ensure that fair procedures exist for parents who wish to challenge curriculum topics or materials to do so and be heard.

ELECTION DAY PROBLEMS?

Report an election issue by calling:

1-866-OUR-VOTE
(866-687-8683)

1-888-VE-Y-VOTA
(en Español)

1-888-API-VOTE
(Asian multilingual assistance)

1-844-YALLA-US
(Arabic)

VOTE 411

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

ISSUES

State Issue 1: The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety

Ohio Issue 1, The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety, is on the ballot as an initiated constitutional amendment.

A “yes” vote supports amending the Ohio Constitution to:

- establish a state constitutional right to “make and carry out one’s own reproductive decisions,” including decisions about abortion, contraception, fertility treatment, miscarriage care, and continuing pregnancy;
- prohibit the state of Ohio from interfering with this constitutional right, except when the state demonstrates “that it is using the least restrictive means to advance the individual’s health in accordance with widely accepted and evidence-based standards of care;”
- allow the state to restrict abortion after fetal viability, defined as “the point in a pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the pregnant patient’s treating physician, the fetus has a significant likelihood of survival outside the uterus with reasonable measures;” and
- prohibit the state of Ohio from banning abortion when, in the professional judgment of a physician, an abortion “is necessary to protect the pregnant

patient’s life or health.”

A “no” vote opposes amending the Ohio Constitution to establish the constitutional right to “make and carry out one’s own reproductive decisions.” This, then, allows the General Assembly to pass legislation banning or restricting abortion and other reproductive decisions.

Pros:

1. This amendment would restore the rights and protections for Ohioans that were eliminated by the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2022 decision (Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization) in which the court held that the U.S. Constitution does not confer a right to abortion.
2. The amendment would restore rights and protections for Ohioans that were guaranteed in 1973 by a U.S. Supreme Court decision (Roe v. Wade) that held the right to privacy under the 14th Amendment protected abortion as a fundamental right at least up until the time of fetal viability.
3. The amendment would establish that the doctor-patient relationship in Ohio ensures that individuals are empowered to make their own reproductive health decisions without interference from the government.
4. The amendment would establish that every individual in Ohio has the right to make reproductive decisions including but not limited to decisions on contraception, fertility treatment continuing one’s own pregnancy, miscarriage care, and abortion. This is important for underserved populations,

especially those with limited resources.

5. The amendment does not address gender affirming care issues.
6. The amendment does not address or change any laws involving parental rights over minors.

Cons:

1. The amendment would prohibit the Ohio General Assembly from regulating reproductive health decisions, including abortion, contraception, fertility treatment, continuation of pregnancies, and miscarriage care.
2. While the amendment says it allows a health exception for abortions after viability, it uses language that has been interpreted by the courts to include mental, financial, and social health—making it effectively impossible to enforce any protections for the fetus.
3. The amendment could only be changed by voters through a subsequent amendment. The policy on abortion should not be in the state constitution, but in state laws.
4. The amendment states that “every individual” has the right to carry out one’s own reproductive decisions. This language could be interpreted by courts to mean that “every individual” includes minors, threatening parental consent laws on the medical care of minors.
5. The amendment states that reproductive decisions are “not limited to” contraception, fertility treatment, continuing one’s own

pregnancy, miscarriage care, and abortion. This “not limited” language could be interpreted to include gender affirming care.

6. The State of Ohio, through the elected members of the General Assembly, should be able to enact laws that attempt to protect fetal life as much as possible.

The pro and con lists were written by the League of Women Voters of Ohio in consultation with many stakeholders, and were approved by LWV Ohio Board.

VOTE 411

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State Issue 2: An Act to Control and Regulate Adult Use Cannabis

Explanation: If approved by voters, the initiated statute, titled An Act to Control and Regulate Adult Use Cannabis (the “Act”), would legalize and regulate the cultivation, manufacturing, and sale of marijuana in Ohio for adults who are at least 21 years old. Pursuant to the Act, Ohio residents would be permitted to cultivate up to six marijuana plants at their primary residence, with a maximum of twelve plants per residence where two or more persons who are at least 21 reside, and marijuana sales would be subject to a 10% adult-use tax, in addition to the traditional sales tax.

The Act also establishes a Division of Cannabis Control (“DCC”) within the Ohio Department of Commerce. The DCC would be responsible for overseeing the adult-use market with the authority to license, regulate, investigate, and penalize licensees and those required to be licensed under the Act. This centralization is meaningful because currently, under Ohio’s Medical Marijuana Control Program, dispensaries are regulated by the State of Ohio Board of Pharmacy while cultivators, processors, and testing laboratories are regulated by the Ohio Department of Commerce. The establishment of the DCC is expected to alleviate certain headaches resulting from the inter-agency regulatory overlap.

Another important impact of the An Act to Control and Regulate Adult Use Cannabis, and a result of adult-use legalization generally, is that the medical program’s burdensome advertising restrictions are expected to

be relieved. As many Ohio licensees are aware, Ohio currently has very restrictive, burdensome, and, at times vague, advertising rules related to medical marijuana that significantly reduce the impact and effectiveness of marketing and advertising. With the legalization of adult-use marijuana, Ohioans can expect to see more creative and targeted advertising through more traditional outlets.

The Act also provides a significant boost to existing industry participants. Licensees who have either a certificate of operation or provisional license as of the effective date of the Act will be grandfathered into the adult-use program to expand into the recreational use area.

Importantly, there will be an opportunity for new operators to enter the Ohio market through a cannabis social equity and jobs program. At the outset, the DCC is to issue 40 recreational cultivator licenses and 50 adult-use dispensary licenses “with a preference” to applicants who are participants under the cannabis social equity and jobs program.

This is an Act (law) which could be amended or repealed by the General Assembly and is NOT an amendment to the Ohio Constitution.

Pros:

1. Decriminalizes cannabis, reduces incarcerations, and encourages sentencing reform.
2. Recreational cannabis is purported to have lower risks than alcohol. Cannabis will be regulated like alcohol (21 and up).
3. Unlike alcohol, cannabis has some health and medical benefits. Medical marijuana already is legal.
4. Would create jobs in cultivation and sales. Would establish a cannabis social equity and jobs program to

help employ the social and economic disadvantaged.

5. Cannabis legalization would spur more research on health benefits and risk of usage.

Cons:

1. Cannabis is addictive and could lead to more serious drug use. Today’s marijuana is much more potent than in the past.
2. Cannabis alters thinking and coordination, which could have dangerous consequences especially in relation to operating motor vehicles and job impairment.
3. Allowing home-grown cannabis will expose more youth to a psychoactive drug.
4. Legalization of recreational cannabis will require another state bureaucracy with increased government costs.
5. Legalization would require the Department of Mental Health and Addiction services to create a new program for cannabis addiction.

The pro and con lists were written by the League of Women Voters of Ohio in consultation with many stakeholders, and were approved by LWV Ohio Board.

Local Issue 5

Proposed Ordinance
Electric Aggregation
Milford Township

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Township of Milford have the authority to aggregate the retail electric loads located in the Township of Milford, and for that purpose, enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of electricity, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person elects to opt out?



Local Issue 6

Proposed Ordinance
Electric Aggregation
Oxford Township (Unincorporated)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Township of Oxford have the authority to aggregate the retail electric loads located in the unincorporated portion of Oxford Township, and for that purpose, enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of electricity, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person elects to opt out?

Local Issue 7

Proposed Ordinance
Electric Aggregation
Reily Township

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Township of Reily have the authority to aggregate the retail electric loads located in the Township of Reily, and for that purpose, enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of electricity, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person elects to opt out?

BALLOT CHECKLIST

Member of Council, City of Oxford

Vote for 3

- William Snavelly
- Jon Ralinovsky
- Jason Bracken
- Michael Smith

Township Trustee, Oxford Township

Vote for 1

- Kate Rousmaniere
- Walter Glenn Ellerbe, Jr

Township Trustee, Hanover Township

Vote for 1

- Larry Miller

Township Fiscal Officer, Hanover Township

Vote for 1

- Gregory Sullivan

Township Trustee, Milford Township

Vote for 1

- Amy Butterfield
- Michael Green

Fiscal Officer, Milford Township

Vote for 1

- Mollie L. Hansel

Township Trustee, Reily Township

Vote for 1

- C. Nicholas Schawb

Fiscal Officer, Reily Township

Vote for 1

- Ronald Tilford, Jr

Board Member, Butler County Educational Service Center

Vote for 2

- Steven M. Feldman
- Michael Hudson
- Benita Mudd

Board of Education Member, Talawanda City School District

Vote for 3

- Rebecca Howard
- Chris Otto
- Dawn King
- Ivan Carver
- Andrew Langsner
- Kathleen Knight-Abowitz

Issue 1: “Right to Make Reproductive Decisions Including Abortion” Amendment

- Yes
- No

Issue 2: “Marijuana Legalization” Act

- Yes
- No

Issue 5: Proposed Ordinance, Electric Aggregation, Milford Township

- Yes
- No

Issue 6: Proposed Ordinance, Electric Aggregation, Oxford Township

- Yes
- No

Issue 7: Proposed Ordinance, Electric Aggregation, Reily Township

- Yes
- No

Oxford Polling Places

Talawanda Middle School
(Door 15 Gym)
4030 Oxford Reily Road

Precinct Oxford 1
Precinct Oxford 3
Precinct Oxford 5
Precinct Ox Twp 1

Talawanda High School
5301 University Park Blvd.

Precinct Oxford 4
Precinct Oxford 8
Precinct Oxford 13

Miami University
Marcum Center
951 Withrow Street

Precinct Oxford 2
Precinct Oxford 6
Precinct Oxford 7
Precinct Oxford 11
Precinct Oxford 12

Kramer Elementary School
400 W. Sycamore

Precinct Oxford 9
Precinct Oxford 10
Precinct Ox Twp 2
Precinct Ox Twp 3 CCS
Precinct Ox Twp 3 TCS

All other Butler County voters:



VERIFY YOUR POLLING PLACE:
elections.bcoho.gov/where_do_i_vote

Polls are open 6:30am to 7:30pm on November 7

JOIN the League of Women Voters of Oxford



LWVOxford.org

The League of Women Voters pursues all constitutional avenues to ensure that citizens rightly seeking to vote have the access and means to do so. The League welcomes as a member anyone who believes in democratic government.

We are grateful to the supporters of the League of Women Voters of Oxford Education Fund for making the Voter Information Guide possible.

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ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED



League of Women Voters®
of Oxford

The League of Women Voters, founded in 1920, is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, and works to increase understanding of major public policy through education and advocacy. Complementing it is the League of Women Voters Education Fund. The League of Women Voters provides nonpartisan information and educational services to citizens.

Learn more about the
League of Women Voters of Oxford

LWVOxford.org
and on Facebook at facebook.com/lwvoxford

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