

2023 VOTER GUIDE

NONPARTISAN VOTER INFORMATION
COVERING HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

IN PERSON



POLLS OPEN
6:30 AM-7:30PM

VOTE BY MAIL



BALLOTS ACCEPTED
OCTOBER 12- NOVEMBER 7

EARLY AT BOARD OF ELECTIONS



SPECIAL HOURS
OCTOBER 11 - NOVEMBER 5

THREE WAYS TO VOTE

ELECTION
INFORMATION
YOU NEED

FEATURED IN THIS GUIDE:

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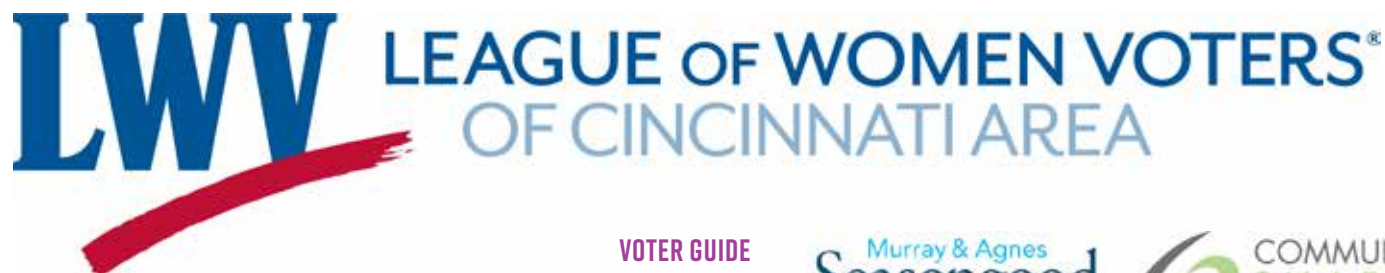
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VOTER GUIDE
SPONSORS:



YOUR PERSONALIZED BALLOT

As well as extended Voter Information including additional questions and information from the candidates and polling place locator, can be found on our voter guide website: www.VOTE411.org

WHAT ID CAN I USE TO VOTE?

There are several types of valid photo identification.

- Ohio driver's license;
- State of Ohio ID card;
- Interim ID form issued by the Ohio BMV;
- A US passport;
- A US passport card;
- US military ID card;
- Ohio National Guard ID card; or
- US Department of Veterans Affairs ID card

All photo IDs must have the following:

- An expiration date that has not passed;
- A photograph of the voter;
- The voter's name, which must substantially conform to the voter's name as it appears in the Poll List or in the Poll Book

NOTICE: An unexpired Ohio Driver License, State ID Card, or Interim Documentation with your **former address IS an ACCEPTABLE** form of ID when your current address is in the pollbook.

If you do not provide one of the above forms of photo ID, you will still be able to vote using a provisional ballot. However, for that ballot to be counted, you must return to the board of elections no later than four days following Election Day to provide a qualifying form of identification. If you do not have a photo ID because of a religious objection to being photographed, you may complete an affidavit of religious objection and have your provisional ballot count.

Thanks to all the volunteers putting the Guide together.

League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area Voter Guide Credits

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This publication would not be possible without the cooperation and assistance of the Hamilton County Board of Elections: Director of Elections and Deputy Director of Elections, Sherry Poland and Alex F. Linser and their staffs.

3 WAYS TO VOTE

Vote at your polling place on Election Day

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, 2023. Polls are open from 6:30 am until 7:30 pm. By law, if you are in line at 7:30 pm, the polls must stay open to allow you to vote. Contact your county Board of Elections (call 513-632-7000 or visit www.votehamiltoncountyohio.gov) or visit www.vote411.org to check your voter registration and to find out your polling place and precinct. Sometimes several precincts share the same polling place. To assure that your vote is counted, verify that you are voting in the correct precinct!

Above all, if you are sure you are at the correct polling precinct and voting a regular ballot is not an option for whatever reason, don't leave the polls without voting a provisional ballot.

A provisional ballot is the same as a regular ballot ONCE THEY VERIFY YOUR REGISTRATION AND ID. Give poll workers the information they request and your vote will be counted.

Vote by mail

In Ohio you may obtain an absentee ballot for ANY reason.

The process is explained on the Board of Elections (BOE) website <https://vote-hamiltoncountyohio.gov/voting-options/mail/> Questions? Call (513) 632-7000.

1. Submit an absentee ballot application until 8:30pm on October 31. Obtain one by printing it from the BOE website, by phoning the BOE at (513) 632-7000, or by picking one up at the Board of Elections Office or any Hamilton County Public Library.

2. Submit it to BOE office by mail or drop it off in secure drop box at Board of Elections Office, 4700 Smith Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45224.

3. Your ballot will be mailed to you after October 11 or when the application is processed. Use the BOE website or phone (513) 632-7000 to check the progress of your vote-by-mail ballot.

4. Return your completed ballot – Place it in the BOE drop box by November 7, 2022 7:30 pm; OR use USPS with a postmark stamped at your post office by November 6, 2022. Postage is required if mailed.

IMPORTANT: Mail is slower these days, so allow at least 5 days for each mailing, or use the BOE drop box if time is short.

Vote early in-person

Registered voters may vote beginning on **October 11** for the November 7, 2020 election. (Ohio has no online voting)

Location for early voting in Hamilton County:

Hamilton County Board of Elections

4700 Smith Rd.

Norwood, OH 45212

513-632-7000

<https://votehamiltoncountyohio.gov/>

Travel and bus routes: <https://votehamiltoncountyohio.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Driving-Directions-and-Bus-Routes-to-4700-Smith-Rd1.pdf>

Early voting days and hours are as follows:

- Oct 11-13 W-F 8am-5pm,
- Oct 16-20 M-F 8am-5pm
- Oct 23-27 M-F 8am-5pm,
- Oct 30 M 7:30am-7:30pm,
- Oct 31 T 7:30am-8:30pm,
- Nov 1-Nov 3 W-F 7:30am-7:30pm,
- Nov 4 Saturday 8am-4pm,
- Nov 5 Sunday 1-5pm

IS THIS YOU?

- I like to know what's happening in my community, in my state and country.
 - I want all elections to be conducted fairly.
- I want voters to have unbiased information about candidates and issues.
 - I am interested in discussions of public policy.
 - I like to have new ways to network with people.

If this sounds like you, then we welcome you to check out the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area. We're a grassroots organization that includes women and men who value good government and fair elections. Join us! Contact us and let's talk about your interests!

513-281-VOTE (8683)

info@lwvcincinnati.org

www.lwvcincinnati.org

www.facebook.com/lwvcincinnati



ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide for voters was prepared by the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA) to provide a forum for candidates and information on the ballot issues.

The candidate materials in this guide were assembled in the following manner:

The information for the Hamilton County candidates is solicited and compiled by the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA). LWVCA uses the following criteria: The

questions selected by LWVCA were advertised to the candidates, who were informed that each response would be printed as received and that all candidates would be solely responsible for the content of their replies. Because of the nonpartisan nature of the guide, candidates were informed that any reference to other candidates is prohibited. Because of space limitations, candidates were informed of the word limit requirements and were advised that any reply over the word limit would

be cut off at the correct number.

In making this information available to the public, the LWVCA neither endorses nor rejects the views of any candidate or political party. The League does not and cannot assume responsibility for any candidate's reply, or for the candidate's motive in making it.

The summaries and background for the Hamilton County and City of Cincinnati ballot issues were prepared by the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area volunteers. Descrip-

tions of other ballot issues come from the Hamilton County Board of Elections.

The information in this guide is current as of September 19, 2023. LWVCA's online voter guide VOTE411.org includes additional candidate information not included in this guide as well as any updates candidates may have made to their profile information after our publication deadline as stated above.

HAMILTON COUNTY-MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE (DISTRICT 1)

Term: 6 years

Salary: \$114,100

RESPONSIBILITIES: Has original jurisdiction in civil cases (auto, neighborhood disputes etc.) involving claims of \$15,000 or under, and in criminal cases involving misdemeanors in Hamilton County. Conducts preliminary hearings in felony cases.



Janaya Trotter Bratton

Party: N

Experience: Judge Janaya Trotter Bratton has served on the Hamilton County Municipal Court since November 2019. Prior to joining the bench, she was a civil rights litigator with the law firm of Gerhardstein & Branch. Judge Trotter Bratton started her career as an assistant prosecuting attorney in the City of Cincinnati Prosecutor's Office. Judge Trotter Bratton also had a solo law practice for over 6 years practicing in the areas of criminal defense, family law, and general civil litigation.

Endorsements: Hamilton County Democratic Party, AFSCME Ohio Council 8, and Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus

Campaign Website: janayaforjudge.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/janayaforjudge/

Education: JD, Salmon P. Chase College of Law and BA from The Ohio State University

Political Party Affiliation: Democrat

Occupation: Judge

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What skills and characteristics do you bring to the role of judge? (500 character limit)

A2: I care about people and our community. I am fair. I treat everyone - regardless of the role they are appearing in front of me with the utmost respect. I have an extensive litigation background which helps with maintaining a busy municipal court docket. I am creative in finding solutions to

recurring cases in my room, such as the social services program I created to recidivism among those with substance abuse or poverty related offenses.

Q2: What are your views as to whether the court as a whole deals effectively with racial, ethnic, and gender bias? What can individual judges do to prevent bias in the judicial system? (500 character limit)

A: Courts, like most systems, struggle with racial, ethnic and gender bias. Individual judges can be honest with themselves about their bias and take affirmative steps to correct it. Individual judges can also ensure that they are well rounded individuals inside and outside the court. I have found that exposure reduces biases that we all have.

Q3: A 2020 citizen Court Watch report concluded Hamilton County Municipal Court was characterized by "inefficiency, long waits, and general confusion." What suggestions do you have to improve Municipal Court efficiency? (500 character limit)

A: I, like many of my colleagues, have adopted staggered dockets to reduce wait times and to reduce the burden on attorneys who have all of their cases set at 9:00am. I also have a pretrial email attorneys can "virtually appear" to set cases that are not trials for another setting. This frees up attorney time and reduces wait times for everyone by diverting cases that no action, other than scheduling, needs to be taken.

HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE (DISTRICT 2)

Term: 6 years

Salary: \$114,100

RESPONSIBILITIES: Has original jurisdiction in civil cases (auto, neighborhood disputes etc.) involving claims of \$15,000 or under, and in criminal cases involving misdemeanors in Hamilton County. Conducts preliminary hearings in felony cases.



Donte Johnson

Party: N

Endorsements: Hamilton County Democratic Party, Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council, AFSCME Local 232

Affiliations: American Judges Association, Ohio Black Judges Association, National Bar Associa-

tion, Ohio Bar Association, Cincinnati Bar Association, Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati, Cincinnati NAACP, League of United Latin American Citizens, Allen Temple AME Church

Political Philosophy: All people are entitled to equal access to justice regardless of what they look like, where they come from, who they know, or how much money they have.

Campaign Website: www.dontejohnsonforjudge.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/donteforjudge

Twitter: @donte4judge

Education: Howard University, BA; University of Cincinnati, College of Law, JD

Political Party Affiliation: Democrat

Occupation: Judge

Experience: Attorney from 2010-2021; Judge since 2021

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What skills and characteristics do you bring to the role of judge? (500 character limit)

A: Prior to being elected Judge, I practiced law for over a decade as a Public Defender, Housing Attorney, and Private Defense Attorney. I fight to ensure equal access to justice for every person accused of a crime, every victim of a crime, and every civil litigant that enters my courtroom. I have a balanced demeanor at all times and I am compassionate, respectful, and open-minded.

Q2: What are your views as to whether the court as a whole deals effectively with racial, ethnic, and gender bias? What can individual judges do to prevent bias in the judicial system? (500 character limit)

A: Throughout history, courts across our country have not effectively dealt with racial, ethnic, and gender bias. In order to combat bias in the judicial system we must elect diverse judges and other officials who have roles within our judicial system. Each individual judge should surround themselves with diverse staff, be open-minded, and not be afraid to take steps to address both conscious and unconscious bias.

Q3: A 2020 citizen Court Watch report concluded Hamilton County Municipal Court was characterized by "inefficiency, long waits, and general confusion." What suggestions do you have to improve Municipal Court efficiency? (500 character limit)

A: In my courtroom, I do not require defendants to appear in court for pre-trial hearings, I also allow virtual hearings and when appropriate, attorneys are permitted to call in to the court to schedule cases. I maintain two criminal dockets, starting at

POLL WORKERS NEEDED

Poll workers are needed in Hamilton County on Election Day. Qualifications: be a registered and active voter, a U.S. citizen, be able to speak, read, and write fluently in English, and comfortable using electronic technology. You cannot be a candidate for any office to be voted on the ballot or a convicted felon. Poll worker training is required. Must be available to work on Election day from 5:30am-8:30pm and the Monday night set up from 7:00-9:00pm. To become a poll worker, you can apply online at votehamiltoncountyohio.gov/become-poll-worker/register.



HAMILTON COUNTY-MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

Donte Johnson continued

9AM and 11AM, which gives people options for when they need to arrive in court. Additionally, I give parties the necessary time they need to prepare their cases but I only grant continuances for good cause shown.

HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE (DISTRICT 3)

Term: 6 years

Salary: \$114,100

RESPONSIBILITIES: Has original jurisdiction in civil cases (auto, neighborhood disputes etc.) involving claims of \$15,000 or under, and in criminal cases involving misdemeanors in Hamilton County. Conducts preliminary hearings in felony cases.



William Mallory

Party: N

Education: Bachelor of Arts- University of Cincinnati Juris Doctorate- Salmon P Chase College of Law

Endorsements: Cincinnati Fraternal Order of Police, Cincinnati AFL-CIO Labor Council, Ohio AFSCME Power in Action

Occupation: Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge

Experience: Municipal Court Judge- Hamilton County, Ohio, Common Pleas Court Judge- Hamilton County, Ohio Court of Appeals Judge- First District of Ohio

Political Philosophy: Impartial, Competent & Diligent

Political Party Affiliation: Endorsed by the Hamilton County Democratic Party

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What skills and characteristics do you bring to the role of judge? (500 character limit)

A: I have 28 years of experience as a judge.

Q2: What are your views as to whether the court as a whole deals effectively with racial, ethnic, and gender bias? What can individual judges do to prevent bias in the judicial system? (500 character limit)

A: We must recognize that all persons have personal views and biases. In a court system, we should be aware of instances where biases may influence the administration of justice. Judges are required to engage in continuing judicial education. Included in our education requirements is mandatory judicial conduct training. In my training, I have specifically included training in recognizing and dealing with inherent bias that we all have. Racial, gender, and ethnic biases are not a part of justice

Q3: A 2020 citizen Court Watch report concluded Hamilton County Municipal Court was characterized by "inefficiency, long waits, and general confusion." What suggestions do you have to improve Municipal Court efficiency? (500 character limit)

A: The Hamilton County Municipal Court hears a high number of cases daily. The process sometimes appears to be chaotic. It is not. Our courts would be better served if we had more staff who could direct people to the correct courtrooms. We could be more efficient with better staffed and more security checkpoints to get people through security. We keep a daily sign-in at my courtroom for parties and witnesses. It helps keep us organized.

HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE (DISTRICT 4)

Term: 6 years

Salary: \$114,100

RESPONSIBILITIES: Has original jurisdiction in civil cases (auto, neighborhood disputes etc.) involving claims of \$15,000 or under, and in criminal cases involving misdemeanors in Hamilton County. Conducts preliminary hearings in felony cases.



Curt Kissinger

Party: N

Twitter: JudgeKissinger

Occupation: Municipal Court Judge

Political Philosophy: My judicial philosophy is focused on bringing confidence to the judicial system, ensuring justice, and protecting the community. Timely disposition of cases, transparency, affording all parties the opportunity to be heard, following the rule of law, maintaining a professional judicial temperament, and being firm, but fair, are the fundamental principals I have and will continue to adhere to.

Endorsements: Fraternal Order of Police, Queen City Lodge #69; Hamilton County Republican Party; Melissa Powers, Hamilton County Prosecutor; Rep. Brad Wenstrup, U.S. Congress

Facebook: facebook.com/keepjudgecurtkissinger
Affiliations: Ohio State Bar Association; Ohio Judicial Conference; Association of Municipal Court Judges; Cincinnati Bar Association; University of Cincinnati Alumni Association, St. Mary Hyde Park Catholic Church

Education: University of Dayton School of Law, J.D. (1990); University of Cincinnati, Bachelor of Arts (1987); Anderson High School (1983)

Campaign Website: www.keepkissinger.com

Experience: Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge (2015-Present); Adjunct Instructor, University of Cincinnati Blue Ash (2013-Present); Ham-

ilton County Juvenile Court, Court Administrator (2011-2015); Rendigs, Fry, Kiely and Dennis, LLC, Litigation Attorney (1995-2011); Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney (1990-1995); Ohio Organized Crime Commission, Special Prosecuting Attorney (1993-1995) (**Political Party Affiliation:** Endorsed by the Hamilton County Republican Party

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What skills and characteristics do you bring to the role of judge? (500 character limit)

A: I have 32 years experience in the justice system as a judge, court administrator, litigator, and prosecutor. I've been a Municipal Court Judge for 8 years and am the Administrative and Presiding Judge of the Court. I preside over a specialized Mental Health Court docket focused on treating individuals with serious mental illness. I've proven I'm dedicated to service and the safety of our community, a firm but fair jurist, and highly qualified to continue to serve as a Municipal Court Judge.

Q2: What are your views as to whether the court as a whole deals effectively with racial, ethnic, and gender bias? What can individual judges do to prevent bias in the judicial system? (500 character limit)

A: "Equal and Exact Justice To All..." is inscribed on the exterior of the Courthouse. As a judge, our Court is dedicated to this principal. The results of the 2020 CourtWatch Report confirms this to be true. Every case has a unique set of facts and circumstances. Deciding cases based on the merits of the evidence presented, and following the rule of law, negates the intervention of bias. Being cognizant of the perception of possible bias serves as a reminder to continue to be fair and impartial.

Q3: A 2020 citizen Court Watch report concluded Hamilton County Municipal Court was characterized by "inefficiency, long waits, and general confusion." What suggestions do you have to improve Municipal Court efficiency? (500 character limit)

A: I participated in the CourtWatch assessment and my courtroom was observed. As the report states, the observation was limited to certain courtrooms and non-court personnel, not the Court as a whole, and certainly not my courtroom. Our Court presides over more than 1,200 cases per day. We constantly evaluate improving efficiency, but not at the cost of denying due process. I'd note in 2018, Cuyahoga Co. officials observed our Court concluding HCMC "is a model for equal justice and efficiency."



Samantha Silverstein

Party: N

Occupation: I currently serve as a director at the Law Office of the Public Defender and as a Law Professor at the University of Cincinnati.

Political Philosophy: As a judicial candidate in a non-partisan race who upholds the importance of judicial neutrality, I cannot delve too deeply into my political philosophy. However, as an individual and as a seasoned attorney, I believe everyone should be treated fairly and have access to justice regardless of race, gender, or sex, and feel represented by their elected officials.

Endorsements: Cincinnati Federation of Teach-

ers, AFL CIO of Greater Cincinnati, AFSCME Ohio Council 8, Iron Workers Local 44, Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus, Hamilton County Democratic Party, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio, National Association of Social Workers
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Silversteinfor-Judge/

Affiliations: As a judicial candidate in a non-partisan race who upholds the importance of judicial neutrality, I must refrain from disclosing my affiliations.

Education: I graduated from Indiana University Bloomington with my BA and then went on to graduate from DePaul College of Law.

Campaign Website: Www.ElectSamanthaFor-Judge.com

Experience: My legal career in Ohio began at Legal Aid of Southwest Ohio where I represented low income tenants in housing court, children in school matters, and survivors of domestic violence. I currently serve as a director of the Law Office of the Hamilton County Public Defender. Under my leadership, the office has added social workers to help provide clients with housing, jobs, transportation, and child care. I lead the training initiatives at the Public Defender's Office, which is recognized as one of the best legal organizations in the city for both lawyers and clients. I have also been a clinical professor at University of Cincinnati College of Law since 2017.

Political Party Affiliation: As a judicial candidate in a non-partisan race who upholds the importance of judicial neutrality, I cannot disclose my personal political affiliation. I am endorsed by the Hamilton County Democratic Party.

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What skills and characteristics do you bring to the role of judge? (500 character limit)

A: Trial skills- As both a seasoned practitioner of dozens of jury trials and a law professor, I've mastered trial skills. I will fairly and efficiently enforce the rules.

Leadership skills- As a director at the Public Defender's office I recruit, train, and manage dozens of new attorneys, and played the lead role in bringing the Bail Project to Cincinnati.

Values- I live my values through my work by serving those most in need: children, survivors of domestic violence, and indigent people.

Q2: What are your views as to whether the court as a whole deals effectively with racial, ethnic, and gender bias? What can individual judges do to prevent bias in the judicial system? (500 character limit)

A: We can, should, and need to do better as a court system. I hope to prevent bias by keeping and releasing data that tracks my decisions based on race, gender, ethnicity, age, and charge. I will not shy away from learning and seeking training about my own biases and addressing systemic biases in my decisions. It is important to address these systemic issues openly so plaintiffs, defendants, and victims know they received justice and were not judged because of their race, ethnicity, or gender.

Q3: A 2020 citizen Court Watch report concluded Hamilton County Municipal Court was characterized by "inefficiency, long waits, and general confusion." What suggestions do you have to improve Municipal Court efficiency? (500 character limit)

A: Access to lawyers- This will reduce missed court appearances and confusion. Public defenders should be assigned at or before the first court date. We should expand access to legal advice in eviction and small claims cases, so plaintiffs and defendants can make well informed decisions.

**VOTE
411**

Check Vote411.org for information candidates may have added after print deadline.

HAMILTON COUNTY-MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

Samantha Silverstein continued

Diversion- Revamp the License Intervention Program, so that it is accessible and takes advantage of new amnesty programs so more traffic cases can be diverted out of court and more people are licensed and insured

HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE (DISTRICT 5)

Term: 6 years

Salary: \$114,100

RESPONSIBILITIES: Has original jurisdiction in civil cases (auto, neighborhood disputes etc.) involving claims of \$15,000 or under, and in criminal cases involving misdemeanors in Hamilton County. Conducts preliminary hearings in felony cases.



Brad Greenberg

Party: N

Occupation: Municipal Court Judge

Experience: 17 years as Hamilton County Municipal Court judge preceded by 12 years as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Hamilton County.

Endorsements: Fraternal Order of Police, Queen City Lodge No. 69.

Affiliations: Wise Temple

Political Philosophy: Politics do not belong in the courtroom.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/JudgeGreenberg

Twitter: @JudgeGreenberg

Education: J. D. University of Virginia School of Law; B. A. The Ohio State University

Political Party Affiliation: Republican

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: *What skills and characteristics do you bring to the role of judge? (500 character limit)*

A: I strive to be fair, decisive, empathetic, consistent, transparent and a good listener.

Q2: *What are your views as to whether the court as a whole deals effectively with racial, ethnic, and gender bias? What can individual judges do to prevent bias in the judicial system? (500 character limit)*

A: I have zero tolerance for racial, ethnic or gender discrimination in the courtroom, by any courtroom staff or by court employees. I make decisions based solely on the facts of the case and the applicable law.

Q3: *A 2020 citizen Court Watch report concluded Hamilton County Municipal Court was characterized by "inefficiency, long waits, and general confusion." What suggestions do you have to improve Municipal Court efficiency? (500 character limit)*

A: My courtroom operates efficiently because my bailiff and I work together to set cases quickly, limit continuances and reduce waiting times. In addition, I am an active participant in the settlement of criminal and civil cases.

HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE (DISTRICT 6)

Term: 6 years

Salary: \$114,100

RESPONSIBILITIES: Has original jurisdiction in civil cases (auto, neighborhood disputes etc.) involving claims of \$15,000 or under, and in criminal cases involving misdemeanors in Hamilton County. Conducts preliminary hearings in felony cases.



Bernie Bouchard

Party: N

Occupation: Judge Hamilton County Municipal Court

Experience: 17 years as Municipal Court Judge, 4 years Juvenile Court Magistrate, 7 years Assistant Prosecutor

Endorsements: FOP Lodge #69, Hamilton County Republican Party

Political Philosophy: Conservative

Campaign Website: Judgebernie.com

Education: BSBA Xavier University, MBA Xavier University, JD Ohio Northern University

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: *What skills and characteristics do you bring to the role of judge? (500 character limit)*

A: Honesty, integrity and fairness. I have 28 years of experience as a lawyer and 17 years as a Judge, 4 years as a Juvenile Court Magistrate and 7 as an Assistant Prosecutor. Every day of my legal career I have been in court. This experience allows me to decide cases based on the law and the facts before me. Every person and every case deserves to be decided with fairness and without bias.

Q2: *What are your views as to whether the court as a whole deals effectively with racial, ethnic, and gender bias? What can individual judges do to prevent bias in the judicial system? (500 character limit)*

A: As a Judge, I took an oath to be impartial. I take that very seriously. I firmly believe that our judicial system has procedural safeguards that guarantee fairness and impartiality for all parties involved. In my courtroom, I strive to eliminate any traces of racial, gender, or ethnic bias by approaching each case with objectivity. Upholding the principle that all individuals are equal under the law is my utmost commitment, and my decisions reflect this fundamental.

Q3: *A 2020 citizen Court Watch report concluded Hamilton County Municipal Court was characterized by "inefficiency, long waits, and general confusion." What suggestions do you have to improve Municipal Court efficiency? (500 character limit)*

A: Municipal Court deals with misdemeanors and traffic tickets. It is high volume. Many things must be in order for criminal case to be heard. Witnesses and police officers must be present. Discovery for both sides must be complete. Plea bargaining occurs depending on what parties are present. This all take time and should not be rushed. Furthermore, all cases are set at 9:00 AM to allow third shift officers to get home and get some sleep and to get other shift officers back on the street.

HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE (DISTRICT 7)

Term: 6 years

Salary: \$114,100

RESPONSIBILITIES: Has original jurisdiction in civil cases (auto, neighborhood disputes etc.) involving claims of \$15,000 or under, and in criminal cases involving misdemeanors in Hamilton County. Conducts preliminary hearings in felony cases.



Jackie Ginocchio

Party: N

Occupation: Hamilton County Municipal Judge

Endorsements: FOP

Campaign Website: keepjudgeginocchio.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/judgejackieginocchio/

Education: Indiana University BA. Ohio Northern University JD

Experience: 6 years judicial experience, 10 years litigating cases as a prosecutor

HOW TO FIND OUT ABOUT JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

Voters often don't have much information about judicial candidates. Because most citizens do not routinely interact with judges in their communities, they tend to know very little about how judges conduct themselves in the course of doing their jobs. In addition, state rules do not allow judicial candidates to discuss their views on controversial issues because judges must be impartial on the bench. It is important for voters to understand the role of the courts and the important qualities to consider when evaluating judicial candidates.

To learn about candidates for judge in your area consider reading candidates' campaign literature, visiting campaign websites, and talking with people who know the candidates, including practicing attorneys. The League of Women Voters of Ohio again this year joins the Ohio State Bar Association, the Bliss Institute for Applied Politics at the University of Akron, the Ohio Newspaper Association and Ohio Broadcasters Association in a statewide, nonpartisan, online judicial voter's guide at www.judicialvotescount.org.

In order to make a decision, when voting on judicial candidates, consider the answers to the following questions:

-To what extent has the candidate practiced in the area(s) of law the court handles?

-What work or other experience has the candidate had that will particularly qualify the candidate to perform the duties of a judge on this court?

-What is the candidate's legal philosophy? Political philosophy?

-Consider the candidate's integrity, judicial temperament, and level of commitment to public service and the administration of justice.

-Also, consider who is paying for any advertising about any particular judicial election. For our democracy to function, judges must carry out their tasks impartially and independently. Judges' decisions should not follow public opinion or promote special interests or even reflect their personal beliefs. **Judges' decisions should be based on facts and law. This judicial impartiality protects fair trials and upholds the rule of law.**

HAMILTON COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER

HAMILTON COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER – GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER

Description: Comprised of seven local school districts. Services are designed to strengthen the resources of school districts in those areas where it is economical, efficient, and effective to do so. 4 year term. 2 to be elected.

Fred Hunt

Not Pictured

Party: N

Biographical Info: No response

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q: What talents, skills, experience, and personal qualities do you have to contribute to make the school board effective? (500 character limit)

A: -no response-

Q: How important for the schools are diversity, equity and inclusion? Would you propose any changes in the schools' policies on these issues? (500 character limit)

A: -no response-

Q: What programs do you support to further a partnership among parents, teachers, students, and administrators? (500 character limit)

A: -no response-



Melody Staudt-Dargis

Party: N

Political Philosophy: Board members of HCESC are non-partisan

Education: Finneytown High School - Graduated 1968

Experience: Worked at HCESC for 35 years from processing report cards for 7 school districts to doing Payroll for over 900 employees.

Occupation: Retired

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What talents, skills, experience, and personal qualities do you have to contribute to make the school board effective? (500 character limit)

A: I have served as an HCESC Governing Board Member in the past and would like to continue as a member for the next 4 years. I feel that I can bring my experience to the table after working at HCESC for 35 years. I can evaluate the current issues, weigh the pros & cons and, with flexibility, try to do what is best for the schools and our children who attend them. I research current issues from all sides. I have an open mind which helps me respect every opinion and to come to logical

decisions.

Q2: How important for the schools are diversity, equity and inclusion? Would you propose any changes in the schools' policies on these issues? (500 character limit)

A: Hamilton County Educational Service Center has no students. As an HCESC Board member, I will support the excellent administration and qualifications that our Special Education teachers have. HCESC has expanded because our reputation proves that we only hire excellent, well-qualified employees for the schools.

Q3: What programs do you support to further a partnership among parents, teachers, students, and administrators? (500 character limit)

A: We have a reputation of sending Special Education teachers to the districts when they are in need. I will work with the Board to retain our educators for their outstanding performance.

CINCINNATI CITY COUNCIL

CINCINNATI MEMBER OF COUNCIL AT LARGE

Description: Cincinnati City Council is composed of 9 individuals who are elected for four-year terms.



Anna M. Albi

Party: N

Occupation: Senior Strategic Communication Consultant

Experience: Local group lead for Moms Demand Action; elected officer of Madisonville Community Council; Vice President of Hamilton County Young Democrats; Voter Registration Advocate for Ohio Young Democrats; Ward Chair and Precinct Executive for the Hamilton County Democratic Party; 2023 Fellow for the New Leaders Council for Southwest Ohio

Endorsements: Hamilton County Democratic Party, AFL-CIO, Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus, Everytown-Endorsed Gun Sense Candidate, Patriots

Affiliations: Hamilton County Democratic Party

Political Philosophy: Progressive Democrat

Campaign Website: www.albiforcincinnati.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.

php?id=100092159718234

Twitter: Anna_Albi

Education: B.A. in Creative and Professional Writing and M.A. in Professional Writing from Carnegie Mellon University; Summit Country Day

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What are your 3 priorities for Cincinnati City Council? If you are an incumbent, have your priorities changed since being a Council member? (500 character limit)

A: •Gun Violence - Pass gun safety ordinances; increase gun safety education; expand PIVOT & ARC; invest in violence interruption & survivor support; host a gun buy-back

•Wages- Pay prevailing wages on City projects; invest in minority & women-owned businesses by providing access to capital; expand Career Pathways program & support apprenticeship programs

•Housing - Change restrictive zoning for easier production; build more mixed-use & mixed-income developments; increase funding for Homebase

Q2: Do you plan to return the city earnings tax to 2020 levels? If no, why not? If yes, how would you spend the income? (500 character limit)

A: I anxiously await the report from the Cincinnati Futures Commission to help provide a roadmap for fostering a growing & equitable Cincinnati. The findings of the Futures Commission will help us lay the foundation for economic growth & fiscal sustainability over the next decade. In the face of a looming deficit & roughly \$500 million in deferred maintenance costs, it's clear that we must take action to ensure our City can continue to grow & thrive.

Q3: Some suggest that to improve public safety Cincinnati must address holistic issues such as housing, transportation, jobs, health care, youth programs, etc. Do you agree? What are your priorities for improving public safety? (500 character limit)

A: In addition to tackling gun violence, housing & healthcare, fostering safe communities means we should invest in:

•Community Programs - Expand the Boots on the Ground Fund & Safe & Clean Fund; increase funding for Invest in Neighborhoods to support community councils; increase youth programming through CRC

•Fresh Food - Grow our partnership with Greater Cincinnati Regional Food Policy Council; expand Neighborhood (Food) Buying Clubs to make healthy, local choices available across the City

Q4: Do you have ideas to increase the percentage of residents who participate in recycling? Would you consider expanding free collection to apartments with more than 4 units? (500 character limit)

A: We should do everything we can to expand and increase recycling in the City of Cincinnati. I would be open to assessing the feasibility of including additional residential dwellings in the recycling program, as well as making recycling pickup weekly if the data supports such a need. I also believe we should look into increasing the number of recycling

cans throughout the City like how we have public trash cans readily available.



Jeff Cramerding

Party: N

Occupation: City of Cincinnati City Council

Experience: He was a legislative aide to Councilmember Todd Portune and has been involved in numerous candidate and issue campaigns. Jeff has also served as a volunteer and board member with the Multi- Neighborhood Housing Task Force, Kids Voting of Southwest Ohio, the United Way, the CCAT house (Center for Chemical and Alcohol Treatment), and the Parks Foundation.

Endorsements: Hamilton County Democratic Party, Cincinnati AFL-CIO, Realtors PAC, Ironworkers 44, Laborers Local 265, Plumbers Pipe Fitters & M.E.S. Local 392 PAC, OEC

Affiliations: Hamilton County Democratic Party

Political Philosophy: Our country and our city face difficult times that require difficult decisions.

As a proven advocate, Jeff is running to bring strong leadership to city council in order to tackle our cities toughest issues. He understands that in

order to move Cincinnati forward and restore the pride in the city government, city council should be a civic duty. It should not be a stepping stone to higher office.

Campaign Website: jeffcramerding.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Cramerding-forCouncil

Twitter: cramerding_jeff

Education: University of Cincinnati

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What are your 3 priorities for Cincinnati City Council? If you are an incumbent, have your priorities changed since being a Council member? (500 character limit)

A: 1) Balancing the city budget. The city's budget has been structurally unbalanced for approximately 10 years. I look forward to working with the Cincinnati's Futures Commission to make this a reality. A sound budget is the foundation for everything we want to accomplish as a city.

2) Infrastructure

3) Working with the Mayor's Housing Advisory Committee to come up with a housing playbook and providing the resources to increase the number of housing units. We need to grow our city's population.

Q2: Do you plan to return the city earnings tax to 2020 levels? If no, why not? If yes, how would you spend the income? (500 character limit)

A: I would be open to returning the city's if there was a specific and well thought proposal.

Q3: Some suggest that to improve public safety

WHY SHOULD I VOTE?

DEMOCRACY
IS NOT A
SPECTATOR
SPORT!



Jeff Cramerding continued

Cincinnati must address holistic issues such as housing, transportation, jobs, health care, youth programs, etc. Do you agree? What are your priorities for improving public safety? (500 character limit)

A: Housing is critically important and will solve a multitude of problems. We can do more to create youth jobs, especially green jobs, such as removing invasive species. Alternative Response Crisis Teams need to be expanded and our the best way to deal with homeless, mental health, addiction issues. This frees police up to deal with serious crime and traffic enforcement.

Q4: *Do you have ideas to increase the percentage of residents who participate in recycling? Would you consider expanding free collection to apartments with more than 4 units? (500 character limit)*

A: A critical component of our recycling program is being able to accept food waste. These would increase engagement and I would support.



Reggie Harris

Party: N

Occupation: Consultant

Experience: Senior Fellow, Children's Funding Project; Consultant, EJP Consulting; Director of Community Life - OH/IN, The Community Builders; Lead Social Worker, Lighthouse Youth and Family Services; Therapist, Central Clinic Child and Adolescent Counseling Center

Endorsements: Hamilton County Democratic Party, National Association of Social Workers, Ohio Environment Council, Sierra Club, AFSCME Ohio Council 8, AFL-CIO, The Realtors, Victory Fund, Moms Demand Action

Affiliations: National Association of Social Workers

Political Philosophy: Fundamentally, I am a pro-

gressive pragmatist. My office does what we can, with what we have, while continuing to push the boundaries for what is possible. We use creative, collaborative problem-solving to imagine Cincinnati's potential, then roll up our sleeves, and do the tough work it takes to get there.

Campaign Website: www.reggieforcincinnati.com/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ReggieForCincinnati

Twitter: HeyReggieHarris

Education: Bachelor of Liberal Studies, Roosevelt University; Master of Social Work, Boston University

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: *What are your 3 priorities for Cincinnati City Council? If you are an incumbent, have your priorities changed since being a Council member? (500 character limit)*

A: 3 of my top priorities are and have remained:

1. Housing;
2. Increasing black and minority participation in economic development;
3. Expanding and Protecting lived and legal equality for ALL Cincinnatians

Q2: *Do you plan to return the city earnings tax to 2020 levels? If no, why not? If yes, how would you spend the income? (500 character limit)*

A: This Council and Mayor tasked the Cincinnati Futures Commission to conduct an in-depth analysis of our revenues, expenses, and internal practices and make recommendations to return the City to a fiscally balanced budget. While I believe we should not make any commitments before these recommendations, we have an unfunded pension, \$500MM in deferred maintenance, underfunded City departments, and are in the midst of a housing crisis. We must be ready to take bold action to address these problems.

Q3: *Some suggest that to improve public safety Cincinnati must address holistic issues such as housing, transportation, jobs, health care, youth programs, etc. Do you agree? What are your priorities for improving public safety? (500 character limit)*

A: I agree. This past budget, I championed funding for a Guaranteed Income Pilot, Child Savings Accounts, Medical Debt Relief, and youth programming because access to resources is a determiner

of public safety outcomes. Additionally, we need to improve our built environment. This council has funded pedestrian safety funding in historic amounts, and the Connected Communities reform I am leading will end decades of discriminatory housing policy and put people closer to work, transit, and amenities.

Q4: *Do you have ideas to increase the percentage of residents who participate in recycling? Would you consider expanding free collection to apartments with more than 4 units? (500 character limit)*

A: We need to continue efforts to expand our recycling program and make recycling as accessible as possible to reduce the impact on our landfills. I would consider and support improved and accessible collection efforts for multi-family residences. I have also prioritized the renovation of existing buildings over teardowns in our housing incentives, which is vital because housing debris is one of the largest contributors to our landfills.



Mark Jeffreys

Party: N

Occupation: Mark is the Founder and CEO of 4Sight - a data analytics company & elected member of Cincinnati City Council. He also serves on the board of OKI

Experience: Mark started out as a janitor. He had a union job to earn his way through college. After college he worked for 3 years on Capitol Hill before taking at job with USDEC working in Asia. After business school he spent 17 years at P&G managing brands like Pampers and Gillette before leaving 5 years ago to start his own company, 4Sight. Along the way he started a non-profit, go Vibrant, and serves as a Trustee on Clifton Town Meeting & the Cincinnati Parks Foundation Boards. In November 2021, Mark was elected to serve on Cincinnati City Council

Endorsements: Hamilton County Democratic Party; Sierra Club; Ohio Environmental Action; Cincinnati AFL-CIO; AFSCME; Moms Demand Action; Cincinnati Fraternal Order of Police; Laborers Local 265; Realtor Alliance of Greater Cincinnati; Building Trades; Ironworkers Local 44; IBEW Local 212; IAFF Local 48

Affiliations: Hamilton County Democratic Party
Political Philosophy: Mark grew up working poor and on food stamps, the son of an immigrant. His political philosophy is guided by his value that we all succeed through the help of others - a Network of Support. In Mark's case that was a union that enabled him to earn money for his college tuition and his parents who gave Mark opportunity. The role of government is to help provide a network of support for those who don't have it so they too have equal opportunity to live to their full potential

Campaign Website: www.votejeffreys.com/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/settings?tab=profile§ion=username

Twitter: jeffreysms

Education: BA History, University of Chicago with Honors MBA, Georgetown

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: *What are your 3 priorities for Cincinnati City Council? If you are an incumbent, have your priorities changed since being a Council member? (500*

character limit)

A: Safer, Cleaner, Greener. Everything starts with safety. Feeling safe walking without fear of being hit by a driver of a car or guns. Cleaner means cleaning up litter, removing lead paint & pipes, and ensuring clean water and air. Greener is not only about protecting our greenspace, but also about expanding public transit and trails for transportation and building more housing that is affordable & promoting greener jobs. These priorities are building blocks to a growing and thriving city.

Q2: *Do you plan to return the city earnings tax to 2020 levels? If no, why not? If yes, how would you spend the income? (500 character limit)*

A: With \$500 million in deferred maintenance, less earnings tax from remote work & projected 8-figure deficits, we must have a structurally balanced budget. That starts by operating in the most efficient way possible without sacrificing service. The Cincinnati Future's Commission is making recommendations on that in early 2024. That may not be enough though, in which case we may need to look to earnings tax to cover gaps at some point. But it is premature to consider until that work is done.

Q3: *Some suggest that to improve public safety Cincinnati must address holistic issues such as housing, transportation, jobs, health care, youth programs, etc. Do you agree? What are your priorities for improving public safety? (500 character limit)*

A: Definitely. Public safety needs a holistic approach. My priorities: (1) pedestrian safety - the #1 issue in all surveys in the city; (2) reduce gun violence especially among youth through a comprehensive approach including funding the gun intelligence unit, youth recreation & job training, targeted police presence in hot spots, etc. Third, addressing root causes by increasing public & active transit options, building more affordable housing & providing support needed to those in need.

Q4: *Do you have ideas to increase the percentage of residents who participate in recycling? Would you consider expanding free collection to apartments with more than 4 units? (500 character limit)*

A: This starts by building out an organics facility in the county so residents can separate their trash by organics, recycled & garbage. Ultimately the best way to incentivize more recycling is to charge only for weight of garbage (and not recycling & organics). In the interim though, we need to educate people on recycling & consider expanding free collection to apt with more than 4 units. With 40% of Rumpke landfill waste being materials that could be recycled, these changes are imperative.



Scotty Johnson

Party: N

Occupation: City of Cincinnati City Council

Experience: Cincinnati Police Department for 33 years

Endorsements: OEC, Realtors PAC, Cincinnati FOP, Laborers Local 265, Cincinnati AFL-CIO, Hamilton County Democratic Party

Affiliations: Hamilton County Democratic Party

Political Philosophy: Scotty Johnson is a lifelong Cincinnati who has spent his career in public

WHAT ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES?

State and federal law require election officials to provide the following types of assistance:

- **Curb-side voting** – Voters who have mobility difficulties can request curb-side voting. A pair of poll workers will bring a paper ballot out to your car, so you can vote without having to go inside the polling location.
- **Assistance inside the polls** – Who can help:
 - Voters are entitled to assistance from a person of their choice.
 - o But assistance is NOT permitted from the voter's employer, the employer's agent, the voter's union representative, or a candidate who is on your ballot – because the law prohibits these individuals influencing your vote.
 - Voters can also receive assistance from two poll workers (one from each party).
- **Accessible voting machines** - Every polling location is required to have a special accessible voting machine with options for audio ballots, Braille touch pads, large print/zoom features, and height and tilt adjustments on the screens. When you arrive at your polling location, please let the poll workers know you prefer to use the ADA accessible voting machine.
- **Absentee voting** – All voters in Ohio are eligible to vote by mail-in absentee ballot. You will need to submit an absentee ballot request form to your county Board of Elections before the deadline, and they will mail you an absentee ballot so you can vote from home.

Scotty Johnson

service of the city that he loves. At a young age, Scotty's father taught him to "always stand up for what you believe in, even if it means standing alone" Over the course of a 33-year career with the Cincinnati Police Department as a beat cop, school resource officer, SWAT negotiator, or public liaison, Scotty never wavered in his commitment to integrity. Scotty was one of the initial Community Oriented Policing (COPs) officers in 1989 and began a long career being a bridge builder between the police department and the community, including social services, schools, and housing resources.

Campaign Website: www.scottyforcincinnati.com/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090592426138

Twitter: ScottyJforCincy

Education: Mr. Johnson graduated from Woodward High School and Bowling Green State University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Law, minoring in Psychology. He also attained certification in Race Relations from Harvard University.

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What are your 3 priorities for Cincinnati City Council? If you are an incumbent, have your priorities changed since being a Council member? (500 character limit)

A: 1. Housing (affordable) yes, we have to put more money in the affordable housing trust, in history of the city

2. crimes and violence - violent crime is down 8% overall including homicides 8.5% reduction

3. employment - we are working on providing internships through city employment, police, fine cadets, building inspections!

Q2: Do you plan to return the city earnings tax to 2020 levels? If no, why not? If yes, how would you spend the income? (500 character limit)

A: We are exploring all options when it comes to the housing initiative on the ballot. That would force council to vote on possibility of using that money to fund the housing initiative.

Q3: Some suggest that to improve public safety Cincinnati must address holistic issues such as

housing, transportation, jobs, health care, youth programs, etc. Do you agree? What are your priorities for improving public safety? (500 character limit)

A: I believe housing and crime are directly related. We must continue to provide housing (affordable) whenever possible. Crime is an ongoing initiative that must be addressed through education, employment and opportunities.

Q4: Do you have ideas to increase the percentage of residents who participate in recycling? Would you consider expanding free collection to apartments with more than 4 units? (500 character limit)

A: We want to continue to make Cincinnati as green as possible. Possibly providing incentives to neighborhoods that recycle the most. I am proud to support and promote any of these initiatives.



Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney

Party: N

Occupation: Vice Mayor of the City of Cincinnati, Business Owner, Attorney, Realtor

Experience: President & CEO of Sesh Communications, a multi-media publishing company (owner of The Cincinnati Herald); partner in Kearney & Kearney LPA; Mom of two wonderful children

Endorsements: Hamilton County Democratic Party, Patriots, Moms Demand Action, Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus, Ohio Environmental Council, AFSCME 8, Realtor Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, AFL-CIO Cincinnati Council, FOP 69

Affiliations: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., The Cincinnati Chapter of the Links, Inc., NAACP, YWCA, Cincinnati Zoo Board

Political Philosophy: It's the job of public servants to take every step to continually improve their community, ensuring equitable outcomes for all they serve. Promoting a culture of community engagement so residents have a voice in decisions affecting them & their communities; increasing economic opportunity by making sure minority & women developers & contractors can participate in the large infrastructure projects; training/workforce & career development so our young people have hope & a positive path forward; increasing affordable housing & homeownership to build generational wealth; promoting the housing first model to eradicate homelessness, & getting to the root causes of the gun violence epidemic are all measures that will create a more prosperous city.

Campaign Website: www.kearneyforcincinnati.com/

Facebook: www.facebook.com/KearneyForCincinnati

Twitter: KearneyForCincy

Education: B.A.- Dartmouth College, Masters in psychology and law degree - Harvard University

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What are your 3 priorities for Cincinnati City Council? If you are an incumbent, have your priorities changed since being a Council member? (500 character limit)

A: As Healthy Neighborhoods Chair, I continue to work for safe, healthy, thriving neighborhoods. Priorities: 1. Increasing affordable housing, including homeownership for low to moderate income families; 2. Equitable economic opportunities for

women and minority owned businesses; 3. Attacking root causes of gun violence (economic, health, housing, and education disparities), and creating trauma-informed policies.

Q2: Do you plan to return the city earnings tax to 2020 levels? If no, why not? If yes, how would you spend the income? (500 character limit)

A: Our Futures Commission of business leaders, labor leaders, and residents are studying how to increase revenue so that we can meet all of our City's essential needs as we face a huge revenue gap. I will review their report, due at the end of the year, and other sources including community engagement before considering a change in tax rates.

Q3: Some suggest that to improve public safety Cincinnati must address holistic issues such as housing, transportation, jobs, health care, youth programs, etc. Do you agree? What are your priorities for improving public safety? (500 character limit)

A: Yes. We're working to increase affordable housing (about \$80 million in aff. hous. trust funds), jobs/careers for youth, mentorships, & access to physical and mental healthcare. Also need strategy that deals directly with the active shooters, and commonsense gun laws to close loopholes in background checks, for example.

Q4: Do you have ideas to increase the percentage of residents who participate in recycling? Would you consider expanding free collection to apartments with more than 4 units? (500 character limit)

A: We need funding to provide free access to recycling programs for residents of 5-plus unit buildings, and more recycle centers that are able to recycle many of the products currently rejected in the City's program. We must correct the current problems we have with yard waste recycling, and provide better recycling education to decrease contamination from food or other products.



Liz Keating

Party: N

Occupation: Cincinnati City Council / Marketing Director - Jim Stengel Co

Experience: I have been a member of Cincinnati City Council for nearly three years, serving on Budget, Public Safety, and Equitable Housing Committees. I also currently serve as the Marketing Director for The Jim Stengel Company, a consultancy and think tank. I serve as a volunteer lifeguard for Cincinnati Recreation Center pools. I am the only mother with young children in the City Council race.

Endorsements: Patriots, Fraternal Order of Police Queen City Lodge 69, Cincinnati Fire Fighters Union Local 48, Ohio AFSCME Power in Action, Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund, Moms Demand Action Gun Sense Candidate Distinction

Affiliations: I've served on the boards of Honor Flight Tri-State, Cincinnati Para-Swim Open, and Talbert House. I have volunteered for numerous organizations that serve our community - Cincinnati Cancer Center, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Cincinnati, Cincinnati USA Women's Sports Association, Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra Encore, and Read Aloud 15 Minutes Cincinnati.

Political Philosophy: As a member of City Council, I am 100% committed to the local issues facing the City of Cincinnati. My work and my decisions are centered on my main objective: ensuring that every child in our city has a roof over their head, food on their table, a safe neighborhood to live, and equal opportunities for future success.

Campaign Website: votelizkeating.com

Facebook: facebook.com/votelizkeating

Twitter: votelizkeating

Education: UCLA - International Relations

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What are your 3 priorities for Cincinnati City Council? If you are an incumbent, have your priorities changed since being a Council member? (500 character limit)

A: I am focused on Public Safety, Basic Services, and Housing. These priorities have remained the same throughout my nearly three years on Council. I will continue to work hard to ensure that every child in this city has a roof over their head, food on their table, a safe neighborhood to live, and equal opportunities for future success.

Q2: Do you plan to return the city earnings tax to 2020 levels? If no, why not? If yes, how would you spend the income? (500 character limit)

A: I do not believe that now is the time to raise taxes. The cost of basic needs has increased significantly post-Covid; housing costs have skyrocketed; and families are hurting. We need to ensure that more of our paychecks are going home and not towards higher tax payments.

Q3: Some suggest that to improve public safety Cincinnati must address holistic issues such as housing, transportation, jobs, health care, youth programs, etc. Do you agree? What are your priorities for improving public safety? (500 character limit)

A: I agree. As a member of council, I have been committed to fighting for smart gun legislation focused on keeping guns out of the hands of our youth. This is a key piece in protecting our kids and ensuring our neighborhoods are safe. I am a big advocate for our city rec centers and I serve as a volunteer lifeguard at our city pools. I have championed the expansion of childcare and youth programming so our kids have safe, healthy, fun, and productive things to do while school is out.

Q4: Do you have ideas to increase the percentage of residents who participate in recycling? Would you consider expanding free collection to apartments with more than 4 units? (500 character limit)

A: This year I led a hackathon project to drive innovation in the city's recycling program called ReThink: Recycling. The city partnered with the startup community and corporate partners to find more ways to increase recycling in multi-family homes and apartment buildings. We are working to implement some of these new ideas to increase recycling participation, drive efficiencies, and create a healthier environment throughout all of our 52 neighborhoods.



Meeka D. Owens

Party: N

Occupation: City Councilmember

Experience: My background is in organizational

AFTER YOU VOTE...

Voting is not the final step but a starting point for taking an active part in government. Hold your elected officials accountable by asking questions, attending meetings and speaking out about the issues important to you and your family. We don't have to go to Washington, DC. We can be heard from here. And remember this-- "One of the penalties of refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors" - Plato



CINCINNATI CITY COUNCIL

Meeka D. Owens continued

development consulting, small business ownership, and community organizing.

Endorsements: Pro-Choice Ohio, Sierra Club, Hamilton County Democratic Party, Mom's Demand Action, Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund, Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus, AF-SCME, Cincinnati AFL-CIO, Plumbers/Pipefitters Local 392, Realtor Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, Greater Cincinnati Northern Kentucky Apartment Association

Affiliations: UMADAOP Board Member/MUSE Women's Choir/YWCA Rising Stars/Past Board Member Women Helping Women, YWCA, MUSE, and Make-A-Wish

Political Philosophy: Strong, progressive, data-driven, solutions-oriented Democrat

Campaign Website: votemeeka.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/votemeeka

Twitter: meekaowens1

Education: Miami University (BS), Xavier (Masters)

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What are your 3 priorities for Cincinnati City Council? If you are an incumbent, have your priorities changed since being a Council member? (500 character limit)

A: 1. Increasing and expanding affordable housing access

2. Ensuring that infrastructure development is equitable and environmentally sustainable, including leading on the recommendations from the Green Cincinnati Plan

3. Curbing gun violence through effective human services delivery, policies and legislation

Q2: Do you plan to return the city earnings tax to 2020 levels? If no, why not? If yes, how would you spend the income? (500 character limit)

A: Currently, 70% of the budget is from earnings tax and the pandemic disrupted our earnings tax revenue. If we want to see growth post pandemic we have to have a growth mindset. We need to make decisions that will help attract people to Cincinnati.

These investments need to be around housing, investing in startups; particularly as it relates to

tech, green tech and innovation, improving infrastructure and connectivity, and by achieving the lofty goals of the Green Cincinnati Plan.

Q3: Some suggest that to improve public safety Cincinnati must address holistic issues such as housing, transportation, jobs, health care, youth programs, etc. Do you agree? What are your priorities for improving public safety? (500 character limit)

A: I am proud to say that the first piece of legislation I introduced (and passed unanimously by council and supported by Mayor Aftab) in City Hall was to declare gun violence a public health crisis- because it is. When I think about improving public safety, I think in terms of systems approach. We need to get intentional about the communities where gun violence is occurring. How we provide resources to communities as it relates to making budget decisions is a part of that as well.

Q4: Do you have ideas to increase the percentage of residents who participate in recycling? Would you consider expanding free collection to apartments with more than 4 units? (500 character limit)

A: I would be in favor of free collection for apartments of more than 4 units. This is a core priority recommendation of the Green Cincinnati Plan: to reduce waste and make our waste streams more efficient. We have a huge opportunity in front of us to continue to decrease tonnage to the landfill, but it starts with behavior change. I believe we need to leverage partnerships and resources that will help residents understand the value of waste reduction through recycling.



Victoria Parks

Party: N

Occupation: Cincinnati City Councilmember

Experience: Chief of Staff to Commissioner Todd

Portune, Hamilton County Commissioner, Cincinnati City Councilmember

Endorsements: Hamilton County Democratic Party, Matriots, Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus, AFL-CIO, Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund

Political Philosophy: Democratic
Campaign Website: voteparks.com

Twitter: Victoria4Cincy

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What are your 3 priorities for Cincinnati City Council? If you are an incumbent, have your priorities changed since being a Council member? (500 character limit)

A: My top three priorities are increasing access to affordable housing, improving racial equity, and keeping communities safe. Being on Council has only reaffirmed my commitment to these priorities and while I am proud of the work I have done, I know there is still much more to do.

Q2: Do you plan to return the city earnings tax to 2020 levels? If no, why not? If yes, how would you spend the income? (500 character limit)

A: In a few months the Cincinnati Futures Commission is going to release their report on the city's finances and how we are to address our deficit. Until we have a better idea of the financial state of the city I cannot give a definitive answer to this question.

Q3: Some suggest that to improve public safety Cincinnati must address holistic issues such as housing, transportation, jobs, health care, youth programs, etc. Do you agree? What are your priorities for improving public safety? (500 character limit)

A: I absolutely agree. One of the best ways to reduce violence is through helping people lead fulfilling lives. If they have stable housing, good jobs, and know that they have a future, they are much less likely to commit acts of violence. Improving people's general welfare is one of my highest priorities.

Q4: Do you have ideas to increase the percentage of residents who participate in recycling? Would you consider expanding free collection to apartments with more than 4 units? (500 character limit)

A: Protecting the environment for our children is of the utmost importance. The Green Cincinnati Plan, passed by this Council, is a great plan for a cleaner future. I am interested in any ideas to expand recycling collection.



Seth Walsh

Party: N

Occupation: Cincinnati City Council Member

Experience: I started my career as Executive Director of Sedamsville's CDC. Sedamsville led me to College Hill, where I have served for seven years.

Endorsements: Cincinnati Democratic Committee, Cincinnati AFL-CIO, Ohio AFSCME Power in Action, Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund, Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 392, Greater Cincinnati Northern Kentucky Apartment Association, Miami Group Sierra Club Executive Committee, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 6

Affiliations: Democratic Party

Political Philosophy: My mantra is "52 Thrive." This is more than a catchy slogan-- it embodies the collective aspirations of communities everywhere. It signifies the belief that every Cincinnati neighborhood has the potential to thrive and realize its dreams, regardless of its size or location.

Campaign Website: sethwalshforcincinnati.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SethWalshforCincinnati

Twitter: SethTWalsh

Education: I graduated from Xavier University in 2013 with a bachelor's in political science. While at Xavier, I served as Student Body President.

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What are your 3 priorities for Cincinnati City Council? If you are an incumbent, have your priorities changed since being a Council member? (500 character limit)

IF I'M AT THE RIGHT POLLING PLACE AND PRECINCT TABLE, BUT NOT ON THE REGISTER, I'LL VOTE A PROVISIONAL BALLOT!

A provisional ballot is used to record a vote if a voter's eligibility is in question and the voter would otherwise not be permitted to vote at the voter's polling precinct. The content of a provisional ballot is no different from a regular ballot, but it is cast "provisionally" until election officials can verify the voter's eligibility to vote in that particular precinct at that election.

If you cast your provisional ballot and provided acceptable proof of identity, you typically do not need to provide any additional information to the Board of Elections.

Proof of identity: If you cast a provisional ballot and did not provide acceptable proof of identity at the time of voting, you must appear in person at the Board of Elections to provide such proof within the four days immediately following Election Day, in accordance with Ohio law. See What are acceptable forms of ID for voting? information.

Proof of name change: If you cast a provisional ballot because, at the time you voted, you have changed your name, but did not provide proof of a legal name change to a precinct election official, you must provide that proof in the form of a marriage license or a court order that indicates your current and prior names.

Voter eligibility challenged: If you cast a provisional ballot because your right to vote was challenged at the polling place under Ohio Revised Code R.C. 3505.20, and the election officials either determined that you were ineligible to vote or were unable to determine your eligibility, you must provide any identification or other documentation required to resolve the challenge. Details concerning the process and required information can be found at <http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3505.20>.

Above all, if you are sure you are at the correct polling precinct and voting a regular ballot is not an option for whatever reason, don't leave the polls without voting a provisional ballot.

CINCINNATI CITY COUNCIL

Seth Walsh continued

A: Since I started on Council in December 2022, my top 3 priorities have been equitable community development, affordable housing, and small business support. I believe in truly centering community as we work together to build thriving neighborhoods. This includes finding ways to build new units of affordable housing and to maintain naturally occurring affordable units as neighborhoods develop. It is also critical that we support small businesses and ensure they have the opportunity to thrive.

Q2: Do you plan to return the city earnings tax to 2020 levels? If no, why not? If yes, how would you

spend the income? (500 character limit)

A: No, I do not plan to return the city earnings tax to 2020 levels. I believe the Cincinnati Futures Commission report will lay the groundwork for whether a tax increase is needed in the immediate future or if more strategic decisions should be taken in the City. I would consider raising the City earnings tax only if it was part of a larger plan to create a long-term balanced budget for the City and allow for needed development in our neighborhoods.

Q3: Some suggest that to improve public safety Cincinnati must address holistic issues such as housing, transportation, jobs, health care, youth

programs, etc. Do you agree? What are your priorities for improving public safety? (500 character limit)

A: I completely agree, and affordable housing is one of my top priorities on City Council. Having affordable housing throughout the city improves public safety and allows our 52 neighborhoods to thrive. During my time at CHCURC, we led the production and preservation of 100+ units of much-needed affordable housing in College Hill. Effective public transportation that connects affordable housing with good jobs and good schools goes hand-in-hand with public safety and community development.

Q4: Do you have ideas to increase the percentage of residents who participate in recycling? Would you consider expanding free collection to apartments with more than 4 units? (500 character limit)

A: Yes, I would consider expanding free collection to apartments with more than 4 units. In collaboration with some of my colleagues, I have continuously supported the Green Cincinnati Plan which includes sweeping measures to increase recycling for multi-family buildings, public events, and neighborhood business districts. Increasing recycling participation moves Cincinnati towards becoming a greener, healthier, thriving city.

CINCINNATI PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD

CINCINNATI CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT – BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$125 per meeting

RESPONSIBILITIES: The board is a policy-making body, but exercises only those powers delegated to it by state law. It chooses its own officers.



Eve C. Bolton

Party: N

Education: BA in Political Science from the College of Wooster. Ohio Teaching License in Secondary Education

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/Eve-BoltonCPS

Affiliations: Democratic Party

Political Philosophy: As my hero Representative Barbara Jordan said in 1974 “ My faith in the Constitution is whole; it is complete; it is total.” I also believe that in America, citizens are obligated to advocate for ever widening opportunities to make true the promise of America. But as Lincoln expressed; “ The legitimate object of government, is to do for a community of people, whatever they need to have done, but can not do at all, or cannot so well do, for themselves - in their separate, and individual capacities.”

Endorsements: Democratic Party, Cincinnati Womens Political Caucus, Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, AFSCME, AFL CIO

Experience: CPS School Board, Hamilton County Recorder and Mt. Healthy City Council

Occupation: Retired Teacher

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What talents, skills, experience, and personal qualities do you have to contribute to make the school board effective? (500 character limit)

A: I care not who gets credit as long as things get done. Personally I have institutional knowledge of CPS and proven political skills in and beyond CPS. I understand how to find common ground, build consensus around ideas and make difficult choices. And there are hard choices ahead. I believe using our new Strategic Plan, our community's values and the Boards vision, we can make the best decisions; worthy of our 200 years

of history and relevant to an ever demanding and diversifying CPS future.

Q2: How important for the schools are diversity, equity and inclusion? Would you propose any changes in the schools' policies on these issues? (500 character limit)

A: DIVERSITY is the District's reality, dilemma and mightiest strength. INCLUSION is a fundamental right of our children and teens. It is also a positive and wholesome teaching strategy to be embraced in the urban setting with vigor and rigorous expectations in all of our schoolhouses. For 15 years the Board and our taxpayers have built the capacity to know and deliver needed resources to each of our students. In the simplest of terms, that is EQUITY and it has been adopted as Board Policy 2255.

Q3: What programs do you support to further a partnership among parents, teachers, students, and administrators? (500 character limit)

A: There are already structures for site based collaborative participation and decision making at our schools. What we lack are fully developed PTAs at all schools. That must be priority one. Secondly improvement in technology for teachers and parents to communicate regarding their student's ongoing status and possible obstacles ahead is needed. At the district level, I would like board meetings to be redesigned to be more interactive, informative, and transparent so board action is understandable.



Bryan Cannon

Party: N

Education: BS in Physical Education from The University of Rhode Island, MS In Educational Leadership/ Human Resources Development from Towson University, ABD in Urban Educational Leadership, from Clark Atlanta University

Facebook: www.facebook.com/bryancannonforcps/

Campaign Website: www.bryancannonforcps.org/

Affiliations: Mt. Healthy Teacher Association, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Ohio Superintendents License, Military Veteran

Political Philosophy: Democracy

Endorsements: None

Experience: 32 years of educational experience, 22 as a school administrator, 11 as a teacher

Occupation: Teacher

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What talents, skills, experience, and personal qualities do you have to contribute to make the school board effective? (500 character limit)

A: Talent- School Turnaround Skills-Consensus Building, Collaborating with Stakeholders Conflict Resolution, Increase Student Achievement,

Experience-33 year Ed Veteran 22 Years as a principal, 11 years Teaching PQ-Relational, Honest, Caring

Q2: How important for the schools are diversity, equity and inclusion? Would you propose any changes in the schools' policies on these issues? (500 character limit)

A: Diversity, equity, and inclusion are crucial for schools as they promote a positive learning environment and prepare students for the diverse world they will navigate. CPS Board created an amazing policy regarding diversity and inclusion in 2016. I wouldn't propose any changes to that policy; however, I would start by enforcing it in order to cultivate cultural competence, foster inclusion, distribute resources equitably so that students have what they need to be successful.

Q3: What programs do you support to further a partnership among parents, teachers, students, and administrators? (500 character limit)

A: I support and encourage active LSDMC's, parent education programs, student-led conferences, mentorship programs, collaborative decision-making forums, and regular communication channels such as newsletters, emails, and online platforms to keep parents, teachers, students, and administrators informed. It's equally important to encourage ongoing dialogue, active participation, and mutual respect among all parties involved to foster a strong partnership in the best interest of the students.



Benjamin Lindy

Party: N

Twitter: BenjaminLindy

Education: Yale College (BA), Yale Law School (JD)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/benlindy4schoolboard

Campaign Website: www.benlindy.com

Affiliations: Isaac M. Wise Temple

Political Philosophy: Democrat

Endorsements: Hamilton County Democratic Party

Experience: I have served on the CPS Board since 2020 and as board president since 2022. I started my career as a public school teacher in North Carolina. I went on to serve as a central office administrator for the DC Public Schools and then as the executive director of Teach For America in Southwest Ohio (where I helped recruit, train, and support over 200 teachers for low-income public schools).

Occupation: CPS Board Member and Consultant

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: What talents, skills, experience, and personal qualities do you have to contribute to make the school board effective? (500 character limit)

A: First, I bring 20 years of highly relevant professional experience in public education (e.g., as a teacher, administrator, board member, board president). Second, I have strong personal ties here (e.g., I am a CPS alum, CPS dad, and CPS tax-payer).

Q2: How important for the schools are diversity, equity and inclusion? Would you propose any changes in the schools' policies on these issues? (500 character limit)

A: These are critical components of a strong education. We need to ensure that all students feel affirmed for who they are, even as we challenge them to learn how to work alongside people who are quite different. The future of our democracy depends on us getting this right! Because CPS already has strong policies in place here (e.g., our equity policy and our anti-racism policy), the best role that our board can play is to ensure that those policies are being followed.

I NEED HELP!

Call the Election Protection toll-free hotline for voting information or to report problems

Election Protection and Voting Info Hotline:

1-866-OUR-VOTE (English)

1-866-VE-Y-VOTA (Spanish)

1-844-YALLA-US (Arabic)

1-888-API-VOTE (Asian & Pacific Island Languages)

Benjamin Lindy continued

Q3: *What programs do you support to further a partnership among parents, teachers, students, and administrators? (500 character limit)*

A: The most important criterion for me in supporting or not supporting a program is whether it leads to measurable improvements for students. As our administration proposes investments for CPS, this is the criterion I use to drive my decisions. More specifically, I think there is strong research behind investments in early childhood education, high-quality curricula, mental health supports, and apprenticeship programs for high school students.



Kendra Mapp

Party: N

Education: Bachelor of Science Degree from University of Cincinnati, Master of Arts Degree from Xavier University

Facebook: www.facebook.com/KendraMapForSchoolBoard

Campaign Website: www.mappforschoolboard.com

Affiliations: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Phi

Psi Omega Chapter, School Board School, Ohio Counseling Association (OCA), Ohio Association for College Admissions Counseling (OACAC), CPS Parent and Student Advisory Council, YWCA Rising Star 2020

Political Philosophy: My political philosophy about education is, "When we ensure that students and staff feel Safe, Secure, and Valued, it yields expanded learning Opportunities, increased Academic Outcomes, and positive investments throughout our Community." Schools are the heartbeat of the community and it is vital that there is collaboration and mutual respect among both entities to develop a healthy, thriving city.

Endorsements: Hamilton County Democratic Party, Run for Something, Vote Mama, CFT/CFOP, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, Patriots, Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus

Experience: Licensed Professional Counselor, Former Educator of eleven years, Director of Counseling Services for School Based Therapy, Social-Emotional Learning Group Facilitator, Instructor, Critical Incident Response Provider (Crisis Response Team), Certified Non-profit and Equity Board Leader, Guest Speaker/Panelist, Mentor, and Former Dance Coach

Occupation: Licensed Professional Counselor

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q1: *What talents, skills, experience, and personal qualities do you have to contribute to make the school board effective? (500 character limit)*

A: I am a supportive parent within the district,

a community partner, and a proud graduate of Hughes High School. Also, I am Licensed Professional Counselor and former educator. These experiences aided me with the opportunity to cultivate trust within my community, to confidently and authentically work with individuals on their journey of self-discovery, empowerment, and healing. I recognize that my knowledge in the areas of mental health and education are needed to yield successful outcomes.

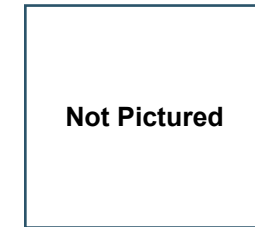
Q2: *How important for the schools are diversity, equity and inclusion? Would you propose any changes in the schools' policies on these issues? (500 character limit)*

A: DEI is important because it helps to establish learning environments that are secure and affirming. These considerations honor the whole person, reduce implicit bias, equip individuals with the skills to engage in critical thinking, develop empathy, and acquire the creativity to address difficult conversations. DEI serves as the cornerstone to learn and celebrate the unique experiences of others in our ever-growing multicultural society. I do not propose any changes in the schools' policies.

Q3: *What programs do you support to further a partnership among parents, teachers, students, and administrators? (500 character limit)*

A: There are several programs that I support to further the partnership among parents, teachers, students, and administrators such as: The Local School Decision Making Committee (LSDMC), Parent Teacher Network (PTN), Parent Affin-

ity Groups, Student Ambassadors, Community Learning Centers, Be Present/ Financial Town Hall meetings, board meetings, advisory councils, and focus groups that are inclusive of various constituents.



Paul Schiele

Party: N

Biographical Info: No response

Candidate's Question Responses:

Q: *What talents, skills, experience, and personal qualities do you have to contribute to make the school board effective? (500 character limit)*

A: -no response-

Q: *How important for the schools are diversity, equity and inclusion? Would you propose any changes in the schools' policies on these issues? (500 character limit)*

A: -no response-

Q: *What programs do you support to further a partnership among parents, teachers, students, and administrators? (500 character limit)*

A: -no response-

BALLOT ISSUES

ISSUE 1—STATE OF OHIO—A SELF-EXECUTING AMENDMENT RELATING TO ABORTION AND OTHER REPRODUCTIVE DECISIONS PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION TO ENACT SECTION 22 OF ARTICLE I OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF OHIO

A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.

The proposed amendment would:

- Establish in the Constitution of the State of Ohio an individual right to one's own reproductive medical treatment, including but not limited to abortion;
- Create legal protections for any person or entity that assists a person with receiving reproductive medical treatment, including but not limited to abortion;
- Prohibit the citizens of the State of Ohio from directly or indirectly burdening, penalizing, or prohibiting abortion before an unborn child is determined to be viable, unless the State demonstrates that it is using the least restrictive means;
- Grant a pregnant woman's treating physician the authority to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether an unborn child is viable;
- Only allow the citizens of the State of Ohio to prohibit an abortion after an unborn child is determined by a pregnant woman's treating physician to be viable and only if the physician does not consider the abortion necessary to protect the pregnant woman's life or health; and
- Always allow an unborn child to be aborted at any stage of pregnancy, regardless of viability if, in the treating physician's determination, the abortion is necessary to protect the pregnant woman's life or health. If passed, the amendment will become effective 30 days after the election.

Shall the Amendment be approved?

YES | NO

Explanation:

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.

ISSUE 2—STATE OF OHIO—TO COMMERCIALIZE, REGULATE, LEGALIZE, AND TAX THE ADULT USE OF CANNABIS

Proposed Law

Proposed by Initiative Petition To enact Chapter 3780 of the Ohio Revised Code

A majority yes vote is necessary for the law to pass

To enact Chapter 3780 of the Ohio Revised Code, which would:

- Define adult use cannabis to mean marijuana as defined in Section 3719.01 of the Revised Code and establish the Division of Cannabis Control (the "Division") within the Department of Commerce;
- Authorize the Division to regulate, investigate, and penalize adult use cannabis operators, adult use testing laboratories, and individuals required to be licensed;
- Legalize and regulate the cultivation, processing, sale, purchase, possession, home grow, and use of cannabis by adults at least twenty-one years of age;

BALLOT ISSUES

ISSUE 2 CONTINUED

- Create additional protections for individuals who engage in permitted adult use cannabis conduct;
- Establish the cannabis social equity and jobs program and require the Department of

Development to certify program applicants based on social and economic disadvantage;

- Define “social disadvantage” to include membership in a racial or ethnic minority group, disability status, gender, or long-term residence in an area of high unemployment;

- Shield certain confidential information from disclosure to the public, including but not limited to any information reported to or collected by the Division that identifies or would tend to identify any adult use cannabis consumer and prohibit the Department of

Development from releasing certain application information as public records;

- Require the Division to provide preferential treatment to applicants who have qualified for the cannabis social equity and jobs program based on social disadvantage when issuing level III adult use cannabis cultivator licenses and dispensary licenses;

- Prohibit certain local government entities from limiting specific research, levying a tax, or charge on adult use operations, their owner, or their property not generally charged on other business, and prohibit certain local government entities from prohibiting or limiting adult use cannabis home grow or prohibiting or restricting an activity authorized by the proposed law;

- Authorize a landlord or an employer to prohibit the adult use of cannabis in certain circumstances, and prohibit the operation of a motor vehicle while using or under the influence of adult use cannabis and from using any other combustible adult use cannabis while a passenger in a motor vehicle;

- Limit criminal liability for certain financial institutions that provide financial services to any lawful adult use cannabis operator or testing laboratory licensed under the proposed law;

- Require the Division to enter into an agreement with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to create a program for cannabis addiction services;

- Provide for the creation of five funds in the state treasury: the adult use tax fund; the cannabis social equity and jobs fund; the host community cannabis fund; the substance abuse and addiction fund; and the division of cannabis control and tax commissioner fund; and

- Provide for taxation of 10 percent on the sale of adult use cannabis by dispensaries in addition to usual sales taxes and require that all monies collected from the 10 percent tax levied to be deposited into the adult use tax fund and quarterly distributed as follows: 36 percent to the cannabis social equity and jobs fund; 36 percent to the host community cannabis facilities fund; 25 percent to the substance abuse and addiction fund; and three percent to the division of cannabis control and tax commission fund.

If passed, the law will become effective 30 days after the election.

Shall the proposed law be adopted?

YES | NO

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 significantly. 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.

ISSUE 3 – VILLAGE OF CLEVES – PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

An additional tax for the benefit of Village of Cleves for the purpose of current expenses that the county auditor estimates will collect \$423,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 7 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$245 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor’s appraised value, for 5 years, commencing in 2023, first due in calendar year 2024.

FOR THE TAX LEVY | AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

ISSUE 4 – VILLAGE OF FAIRFAX – PROPOSED ORDINANCE GAS AGGREGATION

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

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

YES | NO

ISSUE 5 – VILLAGE OF FAIRFAX – PROPOSED ORDINANCE ELECTRIC AGGREGATION

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Village of Fairfax have the authority to aggregate the retail electric loads located in the Village of Fairfax, and for that purpose, enter into

DEFINITIONS OF BALLOT TERMS

TAX LEVY: Taxes that are assessed to homeowners and businesses based on their property values. These monies are used to fund government functions, as well as special programs or activities determined to be of significant benefit to the citizens. Tax levies may be placed on the ballot for public vote by a government entity (County Commissioners, City Council, Township Trustees) or taxing authority (School Board, Vocational District, Park Board, Library Board).

RENEWAL LEVY: A Renewal Levy is the CONTINUANCE OF AN EXISTING LEVY with the collection rate at the same dollar amount as when the levy was originally approved.

REPLACEMENT LEVY: A replacement levy is a NEW LEVY FOR THE SAME PURPOSE AS THE EXISTING LEVY but with a different collection rate than the levy it replaces. The collection rate uses the assessed value of the property at the time of the replacement.

COE: Current Operating Expenses

CPT: Continued Period of Time

MILL: The property tax is measured in mills; a mill is one tenth of a cent. This translates to \$1 for each \$1,000 taxable value of the property.

MARKET VALUE: The market value of property is determined by the County Auditor. The valuation considers regional and neighborhood economic conditions, building improvements and land value. By state law, there is a full reassessment to each parcel every six years, followed by a computerized update three years later. The last full reappraisal in Hamilton County was in 2017.

ASSESSED VALUE: Assessed Value is 35% of the Market Value of a property. In Ohio, property taxes are determined by the Assessed Value.

TAX RATE (mills): The Full Tax Rate is the total millage for the year, most of which is approved by voters in the taxing district. The Effective Tax Rate is the annual total millage reduced by state mandated reductions such as the rollback and the homestead exemption. This is stated in mills, not dollars.

SPECIAL DISTRICT: A joint fire and/or ambulance district that provides shared services in a legally designated area. A uniform tax rate is levied against all jurisdictions specified in the district.

GAS/ELECTRIC AGGREGATION: Aggregation is the process in which energy is sold to consumers who have joined together as a group to buy electric or natural gas. Local governments may aggregate the energy used by their residents and arrange for the purchase of electricity or natural gas as “governmental aggregators.” Ohio law gives local governments the option to choose either an opt-in or opt-out form of aggregation. The “Opt-in” form requires that each consumer agrees to participate in the program before being included in the aggregation pool. It does not require voter approval at an election. The “Opt-out” form automatically includes each consumer in the aggregated pool unless the individual affirmatively decides not to participate. It requires approval by a majority of the voters at an election.

BALLOT ISSUES

ISSUE 5 CONTINUED

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?

YES | NO

ISSUE 6- VILLAGE OF GOLF MANOR- PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Village of Golf Manor for the purpose of current operating expenses that the county auditor estimates will collect \$83,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 2 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$51 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for 5 years, commencing in 2023, first due in calendar year 2024.

FOR THE TAX LEVY | AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

ISSUE 7 - VILLAGE OF LINCOLN HEIGHTS- PROPOSED ORDINANCE ELECTRIC AGGREGATION

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Village of Lincoln Heights have the authority to aggregate the retail electric loads located in the Village of Lincoln Heights, 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?

YES | NO

ISSUE 8-VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT- PROPOSED ORDINANCE GAS AGGREGATION

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

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

YES | NO

ISSUE 9 - VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT- PROPOSED ORDINANCE ELECTRIC AGGREGATION

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Village of Mariemont have the authority to aggregate the retail electric loads located in the

Village of Mariemont, 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?

YES | NO

ISSUE 10 - VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT- PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Village of Mariemont for the purpose of current expenses that the county auditor estimates will collect \$89,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 3.08 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$11 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for 5 years, commencing in 2023, first due in calendar year 2024.

FOR THE TAX LEVY | AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

ISSUE 11-VILLAGE OF MARIEMONT- PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Village of Mariemont for the purpose of providing funds for recreational purposes of the MariElders, Inc, that the county auditor estimates will collect \$67,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 1 mill for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$9 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for 5 years, commencing in 2023, first due in calendar year 2024.

FOR THE TAX LEVY | AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

ISSUE 12 -VILLAGE OF TERRACE PARK- PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Village of Terrace Park for the purpose of current operating expenses that the county auditor estimates will collect \$313,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 2.5 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$76 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for 5 years, commencing in 2023, first due in calendar year 2024.

FOR THE TAX LEVY | AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

ISSUE 13-VILLAGE OF WOODLAWN- PROPOSED MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Ordinance providing for a 0.3 per cent levy increase on income, effective January 1, 2024 for a period of 5 years, for construction, repair,

improvement, and maintenance of streets, roads, curbs, and sidewalks in the Village of Woodlawn, and appurtenances thereto including principal and interest on bonds or notes issued for any of these purposes be passed?

FOR THE INCOME TAX | AGAINST THE INCOME TAX

ISSUE 14- COLERAIN TOWNSHIP- PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

An additional tax for the benefit of Township of Colerain for the purpose of operating and maintaining a police department that the county auditor estimates will collect \$6,313,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 4.65 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$163 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2023, first due in calendar year 2024.

FOR THE TAX LEVY | AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

ISSUE 15 - DELHI TOWNSHIP-PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

An additional tax for the benefit of Township of Delhi for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire and emergency medical services that the county auditor estimates will collect \$1,055,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 1.99 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$70 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2023, first due in calendar year 2024.

FOR THE TAX LEVY | AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

ISSUE 16 - MIAMI TOWNSHIP WASTE DISTRICT -PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL AND INCREASE)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of 2.25 mills and an increase of 0.5 mills for each \$1 of taxable value to constitute a

tax for the benefit of Township of Miami for the purpose of providing waste collection and disposal that the county auditor estimates will collect \$776,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 2.75 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$79 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for 5 years, commencing in 2023, first due in calendar year 2024.

FOR THE TAX LEVY | AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

ISSUE 17-MILFORD EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT-PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall a levy be imposed by the Milford Exempted Village School District, Counties of Clermont and Hamilton, for the purpose of the emergency requirements of the school district in the sum of \$7,158,000 and a levy of taxes to be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the county auditor to average 5.99 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$210 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for a period of 5 years, commencing in 2023, first due in calendar year 2024?

FOR THE TAX LEVY | AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

ISSUE 18-ANDERSON TOWNSHIP PARK DISTRICT-PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

An additional tax for the benefit of Anderson Township Park District for the purpose of defraying expenses and purchasing, appropriating, operating, maintaining and improving lands for parks and recreational purposes, including payment of debt service on bonds issued by the Park District, that the county auditor estimates will collect \$1,421,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 1 mill for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$35 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for 25 years, commencing in 2023, first due in calendar year 2024.

FOR THE TAX LEVY | AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

Hamilton County Tax Levy Review Committee

The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners proposes tax levies to support certain public services. The proposed levies go before the electorate for approval. If approved, the levies appear on the tax bill for Hamilton County property owners.

The Commissioners appoint a citizen Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC) to study levy requests and to advise the Commissioners whether a levy should appear on the ballot, the appropriate size and duration for each levy; and terms and conditions that should be inserted into contracts.

Prior to the placement of each levy on the ballot, the TLRC engages a consultant to review finances and programs funded by the levy and holds public hearings. At the completion of its review, the TLRC sends a written report of findings and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. The Commissioners make the final decision regarding the levy that is placed before the voters. If a levy is approved by voters, the TLRC is responsible for conducting a mid-term performance review to see that budget targets and contractual obligations are being met.

For more information about TLRC, including membership, levy procedures and reviews, see www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/government/open_hamilton_county/projects/tax_levy_review_committee

How are your elected representatives representing YOU?

Here you can find your representatives, how to contact them, bills they've introduced, committees they serve on, and political contributions they've received.

Enter your full address below to get started.

<https://www.commoncause.org/find-your-representative/>

BALLOT ISSUES

ISSUE 19—HAMILTON COUNTY—PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Hamilton County for the purpose of providing and maintaining zoological park services and facilities that the county auditor estimates will collect \$7,542,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 0.46 mill for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$9 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for 5 years, commencing in 2023, first due in calendar year 2024.

FOR THE TAX LEVY | AGAINST THE TAX LEVY WHAT THE LEVY WILL DO:

This proposed 5-year levy is a renewal of an existing 5-year levy that expires at the end of 2023. Under the Zoo's contract for the ending 5-year cycle (2018), levy proceeds are exclusively designated for operating expenses in specific categories, dubbed "Qualifying Area Expenditures": animal operations and health, environmental services, horticulture, and maintenance. Over the 2018-2022 period, these expenditures have been consistent, except for 2021 when the pandemic drove down attendance.

BACKGROUND:

The Zoo opened in 1875 and was purchased by the City of Cincinnati in 1932. Also in 1932, the Zoo was incorporated as the Zoological Society of Cincinnati. The Zoo has enjoyed a contribution from the property tax revenue since 1982. The property on which the Zoo sits is owned by the City, and the Society operates and maintains the real property of the Zoo under a Director responsible to a Board of Trustees. As a City-owned property, the Zoo pays no property tax on its 80-acre parcel and does not pay for water. The Zoo is a major attraction that brings in visitors from outside the area and benefits Cincinnati's national reputation and economy.

In November of 2022, the Zoo asked that the County Board of Commissioners ("Board") "place an issue on the November 7, 2023, General Election ballot to continue taxpayer support of the Zoo upon expiration of the levy approved by voters in 2018 [and] include an inflationary increase dating back to the last increase in 2008."

The County's Tax Levy Review Committee hired a consultant to undertake a performance review of the Zoo. Among other things, the Consultant was tasked to evaluate the Zoo's current operating efficiency, assess its compliance with its current contract with Hamilton County, suggest contract provisions if the County and Zoo if the levy is renewed, and recommend cost savings and enhancements. The Consultant issued its final report and recommendations in May.

After reviewing the Consultant's report, and hearing from the Zoo and the public, the Tax Levy Review Committee agreed that the Zoo levy should be renewed with an increase. However, in August, 2023, all three Hamilton County commissioners voted to continue the Zoo levy at its current rate beginning in 2024 for five years, citing the five countywide tax increases in the past six years as a reason to keep the zoo rate flat.

ISSUE 20—HAMILTON COUNTY—PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL AND INCREASE)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of 1.0 mills and an increase of 0.5 mills for each \$1 of taxable value to constitute a tax for the benefit of Hamilton County for the purpose of providing funds for operating expenses and capital improvements for the Cincinnati and Hamilton County Public Library that the county auditor estimates will collect \$30,878,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 1.5 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$43 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for 10 years, commencing in 2024, first due in calendar year 2025.

FOR THE TAX LEVY | AGAINST THE TAX LEVY BACKGROUND:

The Cincinnati and Hamilton County library serves over 800,000 Greater Cincinnati residents a year with over 500,000 card holders at its 40 branches and downtown site. It is highly rated nationally and has one of the largest circulations among public libraries in the country. The Board of Trustees consists of seven members. Four of the Board members are appointed by the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners and three by the judges of the Court of Common Pleas.

The Library's annual budget is funded by the State Public Library Fund (57%). The other funding comes from two local Hamilton county tax levies (43%). Other major library systems in the state receive a larger percentage of their revenue from local support, e.g. only 33% of Columbus' library budget comes from the state fund.

The steady decline in state funding necessitated the local tax support. Voters first approved a library levy in 2009, then renewed it for another 10 years in 2013. A separate, additional levy was approved in 2018 with funds primarily going toward a capital improvement plan. It runs through 2028. The Facilities Master Plan is well underway with major improvements at many of the 40 branches and the downtown library.

Increasing the levy to 1.5 mills would bring in an estimated \$30.9 million a year, about \$11.2 million more than the current rate. The change is estimated to cost an extra \$18 a year per \$100,000 of home value, for a total \$43 a year per \$100,000 of value. It's one of two active levies for the library, so property owners also pay on a 1 mill levy passed by voters in 2018 (about \$31 a year per \$100,000 of value). If the levy passes, the new 1.5 mill rate would go into effect in January 2024 (first payable in 2025). If the levy fails, the current 1 mill levy will expire at the end of 2023 (last payment with the levy in 2024).

WHAT THE LEVY WILL DO:

The levy will provide continued support for library programs at all its branches throughout Hamilton

County. Cincinnati & Hamilton County Public Library (CHPL) services include:

- Library Card: With a free CHPL card, you can check out books and materials from any of the 41 branch libraries or online. You can also access meeting and study rooms.
 - You can reserve a computer at any of the 41 locations.
 - Government Information. You can connect with information and resources for your city, county, and federal government.
 - The library offers free printing and faxing at its locations.
 - CHPL provides special needs services such as "talking books" and Braille to the visually impaired, blind, and physically handicapped in 33 Ohio counties.
 - Its outreach services include books-by-mail, foreign language materials and bilingual programs, and passport application.
 - Its literacy services include GED classes and GED practice testing.
 - Checkouts include increased use of digital material such as e-books and e-audiobooks which are more expensive for the library to maintain than traditional volumes.
- Library officials say without the levy funding they would need to reduce programs and maintenance of the facilities, and possibly reduce hours and lay off staff.

ISSUE 21—CITY OF CHEVIOT—PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

An additional tax for the benefit of City of Cheviot for the purpose of providing and maintaining firefighting and emergency medical services that the county auditor estimates will collect \$383,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 3 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$105 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for 5 years, commencing in 2023, first due in calendar year 2024.

FOR THE TAX LEVY | AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

ISSUE 22—CITY OF CINCINNATI—PROPOSED ORDINANCE

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Cincinnati Southern Railway Board of Trustees be authorized to sell the Cincinnati Southern Railway to an entity, the ultimate parent company of which is Norfolk Southern Corporation, for a purchase price of \$1,600,000,000, to be paid in a single installment during the year 2024, with

the moneys received to be deposited into a trust fund operated by the Cincinnati Southern Railway Board of Trustees, with the City of Cincinnati as the sole beneficiary, the moneys to be annually disbursed to the municipal corporation in an amount no less than \$26,500,000 per year, for the purpose of the rehabilitation, modernization, or replacement of existing streets, bridges, municipal buildings, parks and green spaces, site improvements, recreation facilities, improvements for parking purposes, and any other public facilities owned by the City of Cincinnati, and to pay for the costs of administering the trust fund?

YES | NO

BACKGROUND:

Since the 1800s, Cincinnati has owned a railroad line to Chattanooga, called the Cincinnati Southern Railway. It was originally acquired to further economic development. The rail line is leased to Norfolk Southern with lease payments of about \$25 million a year currently going to the City.

The City has been negotiating a lease renewal with Norfolk Southern since 2020 and could not reach agreement on a lease amount. The proposed sale will end the lease arrangement. The sale amount of \$1.6 billion would be placed in a separate fund and will likely generate much more in investment earnings than the \$25 million lease amount. The current lease payment of \$25 million is 1.6% of \$1.6 billion.

Norfolk Southern wants to buy the rail line because it would be able to shift the annual lease cost from its operating expenses into a capital investment, which improves its operating ratio. This ratio is a measure important to investors. No other purchasers would be interested in this asset as Norfolk Southern Railway Company owns all access.

Cincinnati had to obtain a change in Ohio law to allow the sale. If voters oppose the measure, it could not put it on the ballot again without going back to state lawmakers for another state law change.

WHAT WILL THE ORDINANCE DO?

Under the terms of the sale agreement, Norfolk Southern Railway Company would purchase the 337-mile railroad from the City of Cincinnati for \$1.6 billion. Norfolk Southern would acquire all the physical railway assets as well as 9,500 acres of land the railway rests upon between southwest Ohio and Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The City will set up a trust fund governed by the Board that currently oversees the Cincinnati Southern Railway. The Board consists of 5 trustees appointed by the mayor and approved by Cincinnati City Council. Requests for funds will be made by the mayor and City Council as a part of the annual budget process. The funds will be used for infrastructure needs of the City including streets, bridges, parks, recreation centers, and other buildings owned by the City.

Pros:

1. Significantly increases City income for use on infrastructure repairs.
2. This is a way to pay for Cincinnati's large backlog of maintenance and capital needs without raising taxes.

Cons:

1. Some believe the asset is undervalued at \$1.6 billion.
2. Citizens can't trust the politicians not to raid the fund for other purposes and use up the principal.

THEY REPRESENT US: TRU

The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area encourages everyone to stay engaged in our community by keeping in touch with your elected officials. Our members make a commitment to our community as we volunteer our time to research, edit and publish, in the spring of each year, They Represent Us (TRU): A Public Officials Guide for Hamilton County, Ohio.

Online it can be found at

<https://my.lwv.org/ohio/cincinnati-area/studies/tru-they-represent-us>

Or you can call 513-281-8683 for printed copies.

BALLOT ISSUES

ISSUE 23—CITY OF CINCINNATI— PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Charter of the City of Cincinnati be amended to clarify the process for citizens to initiate charter amendments, ordinances, and referenda by providing a process and timeline for submitting petitions for initiatives, referenda, and Charter amendments to the Clerk of Council to allow a reasonable time for verification of signatures and drafting necessary ordinances and an opportunity for citizens to collect additional signatures on petitions; requiring petition circulators to submit a certified copy of any initiative, referendum or Charter amendment petition to the Clerk of Council before collecting signatures on the petitions; permitting City Council to cast their votes by any method that publicly announces their vote, including voice, electronic, or other mechanical method; clarifying throughout the Charter that Council terms are two years; clarifying that candidate petition circulators must sign a statement rather than provide a notarized affidavit on candidate petitions; aligning the timeline for filing a nominating petition for an election to an unexpired term of office of mayor with state and federal requirements; and providing an opportunity for candidates for Council and Mayor to collect additional signatures on their petitions by amending existing Sections 3 and 5 of Article II, "Legislative Power," and existing Sections 1, 2, and 4 of Article IX, "Nominations and Elections," and by enacting new Section 8 of Article II, "Legislative Powers"?

YES | NO

BACKGROUND:

These changes to the Cincinnati City Charter were proposed by City Council Member Liz Keating and put on the ballot by City Council in September just before the deadline. They were described as a "cleanup" of the Charter, to mirror state law changes and add transparency. Issue 23 is a collection of miscellaneous Charter changes that are being voted on as a package. Voters can only vote Yes or No on the entire package.

WHAT WILL THE CHARTER AMENDMENT DO?

- A copy of any citizen-led ballot petition must be filed with the Clerk of Council before any signatures can be collected. This would mirror what is required for statewide petitions.
- A cure period for ballot and candidate petitions would be added. People submitting petitions that lack the required number of verified signatures would have the opportunity to collect more signatures up until the filing deadline.
- The amendment would also limit citizen-led ballot measures to one proposal, "which shall not address multiple or unrelated subject matters or questions of law."
- The measure would clarify that council may vote electronically instead of only by voice vote.
- It would clarify throughout the charter that council terms are two years.
- It would clarify that candidate petition circulators must sign a statement rather than provide a notarized affidavit on candidate petitions.

ISSUE 24—CITY OF CINCINNATI— PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Charter of the City of Cincinnati be

amended to require the City of Cincinnati to raise income and withholding taxes by three-tenths of one percent (0.3%), if subsequently approved by the electorate, annually beginning January 1, 2025, which new taxes shall be deposited into a non-lapsing special revenue fund restricted only to finance housing affordable to households with income up to 80 percent of the area median income as established by federal law with 65 percent of the fund restricted to support housing affordable only to households with incomes up to 30 percent of the area median income; which new taxes shall fund such housing throughout the City of Cincinnati through grants, subsidies, and loans, including to third party housing developers, which may be of low or no interest, and/or forgivable; which new taxes can be spent to increase, preserve, maintain, repair, improve, and pay off indebtedness related to privately owned homes and rental properties owned or rented by people with incomes up to 80 percent of the area median income as established by federal law; which new taxes can be spent to provide down payment assistance, mortgages, loans, financial counseling, and construction loans to people with incomes up to 80 percent of the area median income; and which up to five percent of annual revenues collected from the new tax may be used to support city staff and operations established for the purposes of administering the funds; and which imposes long-term restrictive covenants on property that receives funds from these taxes to maintain affordability and provide first right of refusal to purchase rental property funded through these taxes to tenants and the City, and shall be administered in consultation with an 11 member board of private citizens?

YES | NO

BACKGROUND:

Advocacy groups concerned about homelessness and the lack of affordable housing lobbied Cincinnati for years to create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund. A fund was created in 2018, but no source of revenue was identified. Community advocates organized a coalition called Cincinnatians for Affordable Housing Now (CAHN) to push for stable funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. They gathered petition signatures to put a city charter amendment on the ballot in May 2021, but the initiative was not passed by voters. Labor unions lobbied against the initiative because it required funding, but did not identify a new revenue source and they feared it would require cut backs in city services and the layoff of employees.

In the last couple of years, local elected officials have acknowledged the crisis in affordable housing and have committed more funding, primarily from federal sources. These public funds are managed by the Cincinnati Development Fund, a private, nonprofit organization. The money is used primarily for loans to developers. Each funding source has different criteria, but many allow the developments to charge rents aimed at middle-income households (between 80-120% Average Medium Income).

The advocacy coalition believes government funding should focus on lower income households, where the need is most urgent and homelessness is most likely. They also believe a stable source of revenue is needed, not just occasional allocations from federal dollars. The grassroots group again collected petition signatures and have placed a Cincinnati charter amendment on the 2023 ballot. The proposal is different from the 2021 ballot issue that failed, primarily because it identifies a new

source of revenue, an increase in the city earnings tax by 0.3%.

WHAT WILL THE CHARTER AMENDMENT DO?

The Charter Amendment requires the city to raise the earnings tax by 0.3%. It is estimated the amendment will generate \$40-\$50 million annually toward affordable housing. The earnings tax is paid by people who live or work in Cincinnati. It was reduced in 2020 when funding for the public transit system was moved to the county. The proposed increase of 0.3% would bring the tax back to the 2020 level.

The amendment specifies that 65% of the funds must be used to "increase the number of quality homes; preserve existing homes; and support the operations of homes that will be or are affordable, as defined herein, to households with incomes not more than 30 percent of the area median income (AMI)." Up to 5% of the funds may be used for administration. The remaining 30% of the funds may be used to provide housing for households up to 50% of AMI and homeownership opportunities and services for households up to 80% of AMI. The Fund will be managed by the city in consultation with a community advisory board.

If the charter amendment passes, a second vote will be required in 2024 to actually implement the tax increase.

ARGUMENTS FOR THE AMENDMENT:

1. Cincinnati is facing an affordable housing crisis. The shortage of affordable housing has been documented by numerous studies over the years. Now, with rents and housing costs rapidly increasing, more and more families are being priced out of the market and are facing homelessness.
2. Current city efforts are not enough and focus on middle income and market rate housing. We need a dedicated revenue stream to create truly affordable housing for all.
3. The earnings tax increase will bring it back to the 2020 level. Cincinnati's earnings tax is lower than most Ohio large cities.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE AMENDMENT:

1. The tax increase is not needed because the City is already putting significant funding into affordable housing.
2. City funding priorities and programs need to be flexible and not imbedded in the City Charter. Elected officials need to be able to adjust priorities and funding as needs change.
3. Voters were told the earnings tax would be when they voted to move public transit funding to the county.

ISSUE 25—CITY OF MT. HEALTHY— PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

An additional tax for the benefit of City of Mt. Healthy for the purpose of operating and maintaining a police department that the county auditor estimates will collect \$131,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 1.54 mills for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$54 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2023, first due in calendar year 2024.

FOR THE TAX LEVY | AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

ISSUE 26—CITY OF NORTH COLLEGE HILL— PROPOSED ORDINANCE GAS AGGREGATION

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the City of North College Hill have the authority to aggregate the retail natural gas loads located in the City of North College Hill, and for that purpose, enter into service agreements to facilitate for those loads the sale and purchase of natural gas, such aggregation to occur automatically except where any person elects to opt out?

YES | NO

ISSUE 27—CITY OF NORTH COLLEGE HILL— PROPOSED ORDINANCE ELECTRIC AGGREGATION

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the City of North College Hill have the authority to aggregate the retail electric loads located in the City of North College Hill, 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?

YES | NO

ISSUE 28—CITY OF NORTH COLLEGE HILL— PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of City of North College Hill for the purpose of providing and maintaining senior citizens services or facilities that the county auditor estimates will collect \$55,000 annually, at a rate not exceeding 0.5 mill for each \$1 of taxable value, which amounts to \$13 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor's appraised value, for 5 years, commencing in 2024, first due in calendar year 2025.

FOR THE TAX LEVY | AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

ISSUE 29—NORWOOD 2-C—LOCAL LIQUOR OPTION FOR PARTICULAR USE AT BUSINESS LOCATION (BY PETITION)

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the sale of wine and mixed beverages be permitted for sale on Sunday by World Market, LLC., dba Cost Plus World Market, an applicant for a D6 liquor permit who is engaged in the business of operating a home goods merchandise store at 2692 Madison Rd., Suite D1, Norwood, Ohio 45208 in this precinct?

YES | NO

For information on the organization of Hamilton County government and who provides what services see **KNOW HAMILTON COUNTY**, an online publication of the League of Women Voters.

<https://my.lwv.org/ohio/cincinnati-area/studies/our-work-know-hamilton-county>

VOTER CHECKLIST

HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT

Vote for not more than 1

HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE (DISTRICT 1)

- Janaya Trotter Bratton

HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE (DISTRICT 2)

- Donte Johnson

HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE (DISTRICT 3)

- William Mallory

HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE (DISTRICT 4)

- Curt Kissinger
 Samantha Silverstein

HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE (DISTRICT 5)

- Brad Greenberg

HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE (DISTRICT 6)

- Bernie Bouchard

HAMILTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE (DISTRICT 7)

- Jackie Ginocchio

HAMILTON COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER - GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER

Vote for not more than 2

- Fred Hunt
 Melody Staudt-Dargis

CINCINNATI MEMBER OF COUNCIL AT LARGE

Vote for not more than 9

- Anna M. Albi
 Jeff Cramerding
 Reggie Harris
 Mark Jeffreys
 Scotty Johnson
 Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney
 Liz Keating
 Meeka D. Owens
 Victoria Parks
 Seth Walsh

CINCINNATI CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

Vote for not more than 3

- Eve C. Bolton
 Bryan Cannon
 Benjamin Lindy
 Kendra Mapp
 Paul Schiele

STATE ISSUES

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Issue 1: A Self-Executing Amendment Relating to Abortion and Other Reproductive Decisions Proposed Constitutional Amendment Proposed by Initiative Petition To enact Section 22 of Article I of the Constitution of the State of Ohio
 YES NO

Issue 2: To Commercialize, Regulate, Legalize, and Tax the Adult Use of Cannabis Proposed Law
 YES NO

HAMILTON COUNTY ISSUES

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Issue 19: PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL)
 For the Tax Levy
 Against the Tax Levy

Issue 20: PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL AND INCREASE)
 For the Tax Levy
 Against the Tax Levy

CITY OF CINCINNATI ISSUES

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Issue 22: PROPOSED ORDINANCE
 YES NO

Issue 23: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT
 YES NO

Issue 24: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT
 YES NO

YOUR LOCAL ISSUES

EXTENDED INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area has extended election information available on www.vote411.org

From VOTE411, you can get your own personal ballot, polling place location, general guidance on how to choose a candidate, links to news articles and additional candidate information including biographies, endorsements and more Q & A's. Visit VOTE411 today!

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

This Voter Guide identifies write-in candidates by placing (Write-in) next to their name.

You can also get a write-in list from your Precinct Election Official (PEO). To vote for a write-in candidate, completely darken the box to the left of the blank line and write in the candidate's name as it appears on the write-in list. Ask your PEO for help if you have questions.

GIVING PROGRAMS

LWVCA is a member of several donation programs and we invite you to connect to them as another way to help democracy work in our community.

Kroger Community Rewards Program

You can connect your Kroger Plus Card to LWVCA Education Fund and help raise funds for our organization. You can register your Kroger Plus Card online at krogercommunityrewards.com and enter the League's nonprofit organization code 80874. The Kroger Service Desk at any location will also be happy to assist you.

GoodSearch

GoodSearch is a search engine that works with over 100,000 organizations — ranging from national non-profits to local schools and community groups. The site will make a donation to your chosen cause, like LWVCA Education Fund, when you complete an action on GoodSearch. Looking up research for your upcoming unit meeting? Use GoodSearch and help support our mission at the same time. Go to <https://www.goodsearch.com/register> and get started. GoodSearch also uses Goodshop, which gives a percentage of your purchases with participating retailers and donates it to the LWVCA.

Voter Registration

To be eligible to vote you must be...

- Registered to vote 30 days before an election.
- A U.S. citizen.
- Not currently incarcerated for a felony conviction.
- Not being declared incompetent for the purpose of voting or denied the right to vote by court.

Confirm or updated your registration, or register to vote at www.voteohio.gov

Voter ID Requirements

- To vote early in-person or on Election Day you'll need one of the following photo ID types, which must be unexpired but does not require a current address:
 - OH driver's license or BMV issues state ID.
 - US military, Ohio National Guard, or US Dept of Veterans Affairs ID card.
 - U.S. Passport Book/Card.

If your voter eligibility is questioned, you may vote a provisional ballot. *You will receive*

follow-up instructions from a poll worker to have your vote counted.

Early Voting

Begins at your county Board of Elections or Early Vote Center the day after the voter registration deadline. Find early voting schedule and location at voteohio.gov

Voting By Mail

Send a completed absentee ballot application to your county Board of Elections (BOE). After receiving your vote by mail package, follow instructions carefully to cast your ballot. Return your voted ballot

- in person to the BOE by 7:30 PM on Election Day, OR
- in the mail (must be postmarked no later than the day before Election Day AND received by the BOE no later than the 4th day after Election Day).

***You can use the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number as a form of ID when voting by mail.**

MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK!

When you give to the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA), you make democracy work for our community. With your help, we can continue to offer this trusted resource free to the public. Support the League today with your tax-deductible gift!

Donations can be made via PayPal, debit, or credit card at <http://www.lwvcincinnati.org/donate.html> or via check by completing the form below and mailing it with your check to:
LWVCA, 103 William Howard Taft Rd, Cincinnati, 45219

- Yes! I would like to support the LWVCA's Voter Education efforts with a gift of
 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____

Make checks payable to: LWVCA

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Thank you for your generosity to support increasing civic participation in our community!