



## VOTERS' GUIDE – CANDIDATES & ISSUES

For Portage County, Ohio

MAY 7, 2019 PRIMARY ELECTION

This voter's guide is a joint venture of the *Record-Courier* and the League of Women Voters of Kent and Northern Portage County.

The League of Women Voters of Kent and Northern Portage County are non-partisan political organizations that encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to all citizens of voting age, male or female. The League is funded by members' dues and contributions from members and non-members. Donations are welcome.

Issues 1-15 were prepared by the LWV of Kent with information provided by the following sources: the entity placing the issue on the ballot, the Portage County Board of Elections, and the Portage County Auditor. All candidates who filed their intent to run for office with the Board of Elections for the following races were sent questions relating to the office they were seeking by the LWV of Kent, as well as instructions on how to complete the candidate questionnaire: Kent City Ward 6 Council Democratic Primary, Streetsboro City Mayor, and Ravenna City Council at Large. The candidates were asked to participate by entering their responses on the vote411 website or submitting their responses to the LWV of Kent in accordance with the following guidelines.

**The League of Women Voters of Kent reserves the right not to publish any material determined to be libelous, damaging to a person or group, or offensive in accordance with the League's values and as outlined in its publishing policy. It reserves the right to offer alternative wording to the candidate. The League will not correct spelling, grammar or punctuation. Each candidate is solely responsible for the text they submit, including the truth of his/her statements. Each candidate is advised in writing to carefully note the word limitations listed on their questionnaire since no text beyond the word limit will be included. A candidate's answers are accepted and printed only with the understanding that the material will not be used in any way that may be deemed to be an endorsement by the League of his or her candidacy or views.**

Judicial Votes Count (<http://blogs.uakron.edu/judicialvotescount/>) provided the information for Municipal Court Judge Democratic Primary.

Visit [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) to view a side-by-side comparison of the candidates' biographical information and all of the questions and answers.

The League of Women Voters of Kent and Northern Portage County thank the *Record-Courier* for providing the print version of the Voters' Guide. We also thank Faith Lyon, Director, Theresa Nielsen, Deputy Director, and the staff at the Portage County Board of Elections for their valuable assistance in compiling this material. The information contained in this publication may not be reproduced without consent of the League of Women Voters of Kent.

**League of Women Voters of Kent** [kentlwg.org](http://kentlwg.org)

Nena Hankins (330-673-0128), Voters' Guide Chair

Stacia Yaniglos, LWV Kent President

Sue Griffey, LWV Northern Portage County

To print a copy of your ballot, go to the Portage County Board of Elections web site View Ballots page:  
<https://portage.ohioboe.com/apps/ballotlist.aspx>

Select Election Date: 5/7/2019 Primary/Special Election

Select District Type: Cities, Villages, or Townships e.g. *Cities*

Select District Name: e.g. *Kent City*

Click the Find Ballots box.

Find your precinct and click the View Ballot box. The sample ballot should appear.

If you don't know your precinct, click on "searching" in the paragraph on the View Ballots page or follow this link: <https://portage.ohioboe.com/apps/vtrlookup.aspx>

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VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMM. 01/01/20

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT JUDICIAL VOTES COUNT <https://blogs.uakron.edu/judicialvotescount/portage-county-election-2019/>

### **Melissa Roubic**

Party: Dem

9780 State Route 82, Windham OH 44288

### **Stephen J. Smith**

Party: Dem

1506 North Blvd., Kent OH 44240

## **KENT CITY COUNCIL WARD 6**

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMM. 01/01/20

### **Tracy Wallach**

Party: Dem

Occupation: Math Instructor at Kent State University

231 Starr Ave. Kent, OH 44240

Question1: What is your vision for development in downtown Kent?

Answer: My vision for the development of downtown Kent is to continue the progress we have made by expanding business and residential opportunities in the 'Mill District' - North Water St. I support the vision of enhancing this area as a pedestrian and family, friendly arts district. The City will be implementing traffic calming and safety enhancing features in this area that will create walkability for this neighborhood. I voted to fund this project. I also understand the importance of ensuring the sustainability of the whole downtown through additional redevelopment including eateries, markets, thoughtful, recreational development of the river and bikeways. We should continue supporting Main Street Kent and innovative events that draw residents and others to downtown Kent. In addition, I intend to support housing for all income levels and ages in and near the downtown - retirees, young professionals, families and artists.

Question2: What do you see as the most important environmental issue facing your city and how do you propose addressing it?

Answer: The most important environmental issue facing our city and the world at this time is climate change. I voted to support having the City join the Paris Accords. I designated the Sustainability Commission to come up with at least five ways that the City could address climate change immediately such as replacing old vehicles with hybrids or electrics or adding solar panels to the new city hall. I also directed the Sustainability Commission to propose ten ways that residents could help combat climate change NOW and to list these actions in the Tree City Bulletin. I ensured that all new City buildings, which include the new Police Station and City Hall, were to be LEED certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). If re-elected, I will follow through on the above stated actions and will continue to provide environmental leadership on council to combat climate change.

**KENT CITY COUNCIL WARD 6**  
VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMM. 01/01/20



**Robert Wemhoff**

Party: Dem

Occupation: Business Analyst/Accountant - FirstEnergy Corp

515 Overlook Dr. Kent, OH 44240

Age: 56

Education: Bachelor of Business Administration - Accounting from Boise State University

Training & Experience: Professional: Over 30 years of Financial/Accounting experience.

Personal: Nearly 28 years living in Kent and involvement on various community-related committees and events.

Question1: What is your vision for development in downtown Kent?

Answer: As a resident of Kent for nearly 30 years, I have witnessed the progress of the development of downtown as a result of teamwork between the City and Kent State University.

As a member of that proven team, I will work with all of those involved to ensure the continuation of the success already realized and look for ways to sustain that success. My vision would be to be involved in attracting the kind of businesses that would fit into the already well-established business community. For instance, the expansion of the North Water/Mill District area where more retail, office and residential opportunities could be explored. With such development would come the additional need for a grocery store that would fit the needs of those attracted to living in the downtown area. Kent is a destination that encourages both visitors and residents to experience the unique local retail, restaurants and events that make our City/college town a great place to live. I will work to help spread that message.

Question2: What do you see as the most important environmental issue facing your city and how do you propose addressing it?

Answer: Kent is already recognized as a very environmental, sustainable committed City due to the hard work of its leaders, the Sustainability Commission, efforts made regarding clean up of the Cuyahoga River and downtown, and the design, development and ease of use and access of the very popular hike and bike trails. All of these variables reflect the importance of maintaining and sustaining what we already are blessed to have. I would work to continue emphasizing these environmentally-related, quality of life attributes by reminding and educating residents that they exist throughout our City and neighborhoods. Having listened to the Kent State Masterplan presentation, and invited residents of Ward 6 to do the same, I am impressed with the proposed plan to make SR 59/Main Street a tree lined boulevard. This inviting, walkable corridor will manage traffic, allow pedestrians to move safely from our neighborhoods to campus and downtown, all while potentially lessening our carbon footprint.

**RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**  
VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMM. 01/01/20



**Kristel Razayeski**

Occupation: Administrative Assistant  
429 S. Diamond St Ravenna, Ohio 44266  
Age: 46

Education: Associates Degree: Business Administration & Management

Training & Experience: Several years of working with people of all levels and backgrounds, problem solving at various levels, volunteering as a civilian secretary for the Ohio Army National Guard, Board Member for the RAC and volunteer for Ravenna Balloon A-Fair.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CouncilatLarge/>

Question1: How should the city assure that there is a qualified finance director?

Answer: The City of Ravenna needs to do their due diligence in selecting the right candidate for the position of City Finance Director. We need to look for a professional who has a proven track record of success in budgeting a city's finances. This person will be responsible for keeping the finances out of the negative and allowing the funds to be appropriately disbursed. A Master of Business Administration degree with concentration in economics and finance would be ideal. A certified public accountant who has financial analyst credentials as well as being very analytical with excellent communication skills. Having those communication skills in order to break down accounting terminology to non-financial people so that everyone can understand. The selection process needs to be very thorough, with multiple interviewing steps, background checks, reference checks and what kinds of successes they have had in their previous finance positions.

Question2: What are the infrastructure needs in your community and how do you propose addressing them?

Answer: Being a part of the city's Parks & Rec board, I know the need for maintaining and updating our parks and facilities to keep them ADA compliant. Our city's parks are a valuable resource for everyone to enjoy, and should enjoy as much as possible. Being a lifelong member of the community, I know that downtown Ravenna has some great growth potential for more small businesses. I want to welcome and invite these new businesses and let them know that we can help them get started, to stay, and to grow in our great community. Small businesses are what keeps America going.

**RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**  
VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMM. 01/01/20

**Lance V. Summers**

Occupation: Bank Branch Manager, Ravenna, Ohio  
402 Oakgrove St. Ravenna, OH 44266

Education: Ravenna High School Attended Kent State University

Training & Experience: Ten years financial management experience, including participation in various review boards designed to assess company processes and create solutions.

Question1: How should the city assure that there is a qualified finance director?

Answer: The city of Ravenna has a decision to make between lowering the qualifications for the position or raising the salary for the position to entice candidates with the qualifications that currently exist. I would advocate for that decision to be voted on by the citizens of Ravenna.

Question2: What are the infrastructure needs in your community and how do you propose addressing them?

Answer: The vital infrastructure needs in every community will always be transportation, water, and sewage. My focus would be on utilizing federal grants to maximize tax dollars our citizens have already paid. This will allow us to upgrade the quality of our infrastructure without raising our local taxes.

**RAVENNA CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE**  
VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMM. 01/01/20



**Christina West**

Occupation: Case Manager  
732 Eastland Ave. Ravenna, OH 44266

Age: 39

Education: Undergraduate degree in social work from YSU, Graduate degree from Kent State University in Rehabilitation Counseling

Training & Experience: Provides case management to people throughout Portage County, served on Ravenna's most recent charter review, member of the Ohio Education Association, chairperson of the Ohio Association of Special Needs Professionals, and is a member of the FOPA and Fit Chicks.

Facebook: <http://m.facebook.com/ElectChristinaWest>

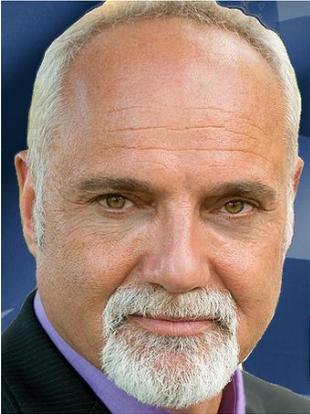
Question1: How should the city assure that there is a qualified finance director?

Answer: Adjustments to the requirements may be necessary to locate someone dedicated to this difficult position. Limiting someone's residence and/or educational background is holding us back from exploring qualified candidates to fill this position and serve our city accordingly.

Question2: What are the infrastructure needs in your community and how do you propose addressing them?

Answer: Our parks and recreation needs to continue to improve so that we have access to wellness and recreation. We also need to continue to support our first responders so they can provide a great service to our community. Finally, continuing to bring relevant business downtown is important to keep our community strong. Being available to represent members of our community that may not be able to speak for themselves or have the time to attend meetings is important to me. We need representatives that can support our diverse city.

**STREETSBORO CITY MAYOR**  
VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMM. 11/18/19



**Jeffrey M. Allen**

PO Box 2394 Streetsboro, OH 44241

Website: <http://jeffallenmayor.com>

Facebook: <http://Elect Jeff Allen Streetsboro Mayor>

Question1: What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?

Answer: My vision for Streetsboro is simple...transparency, growth, and unification.

Transparency is key. Elected officials speak and take action for the people, but in order to know what they want, they must first have all the pertinent information. Growth and unification go hand in hand. In order to unify our city government, schools, and citizens, we must grow as a city. We must increase business resulting in additional tax dollars to share with our schools, thus relieving the tax burden on our citizens. Due to lack of growth and a decrease in state funding of our schools, our citizens are being over burdened to fund them. My many years of sales and business experience will help to lessen that burden by having the necessary knowledge and tools to "sell" this great city of ours. Any business owner would see the benefit of Streetsboro with it's close proximity to larger cities. We will push forward together because Unity Is Community!

Question2: What are the infrastructure needs in your community and how do you propose addressing them?

Answer: Infrastructure needs in Streetsboro are great; they range from our many roads in desperate need of repair, to water quality and flooding issues. I will work with city council to implement a fair roads program that will build and resurface long lasting roads in our community. Council and I will work together to increase water connectivity and quality. Connectivity does two things; one, increases the revenue stream, and two creates loops which improves quality. Flooding issues are clearly identified and very much real as you can see after any rainstorm. Sadly, our current administration has been depleting our reserves and has been living on deficit budgets with loss of businesses and income tax revenue "jobs" to support us. I will implement an aggressive economic policy so we can increase our revenue stream which will help us achieve and maintain our city's infrastructures needs.

**STREETSBORO CITY MAYOR**  
VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMM. 11/18/19



**Glenn M. Broska**

Occupation: Mayor, the City of Streetsboro  
8334 State Route 14 Streetsboro, OH 44241

Age: 60

Education: High School Graduate, USMC NCO School, Ohio Fire Executive Graduate, Some College

Training & Experience: USMC, Captain, Twinsburg Fire Department, Captain Streetsboro Fire Department, Area Sales Manager Odom's Tennessee Pride Sausage Company, Ohio Fire Instructor, Ohio Fire Officer 1 and 2, Ohio Fire Executive

Question1: What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?

Answer: My vision for the City has not changed, it is to continue to make the City of Streetsboro a desirable location to live, work, shop and play. We embarked on a quest seven years ago to dramatically improve the infrastructure and aesthetics of the City. Streetsboro continues to grow, we must manage that growth. The City Center project including a new Fire Station and a new City Hall will soon be under construction. This project will be a catalyst for the City to attract further Economic Development and dramatically improve the look of our downtown area. A new Zoning District "the Downtown Development District" will further enhance our marketability. This will help to provide us the funding to continually expand the services we offer to our residents. I remain committed to expand our industrial parks and attract new and keep current jobs. It is my desire to continue to offer through retail enhancement, those things that our citizens desire and need.

Question2: What are the infrastructure needs in your community and how do you propose addressing them?

Answer: In 1992 we began tracking roads with the Pavement Condition Rating Report. From 1992 to 2011 (19 years), we resurfaced 22.6 miles of roads. Since 2012 (6 years) when I took office we paved or resurfaced 27.54 miles of roads. We have aggressively pursued state and federal funding to stretch our available dollars and have been very successful in doing so. In the next few years substantial improvements will be made to SR 14 and SR43, which will include a visual enhancement to the city with a widening of these roads as well as curbs, gutters and sidewalks. This year the citywide traffic signal project will get underway with a complete revamping and updating of every traffic signal in the city. We must also address the continued expansion and improvement of our water delivery system. Some areas of the city need to have city water extended to them and to create a "loop" system that will enhance the quality of water. We will aggressively pursue additional grants and funding.

**STREETSBORO CITY MAYOR**  
VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMM. 11/18/19



**Jon T. Hannan**

Occupation: Sales/ City Council  
9470 Briar Drive Streetsboro, Ohio 44241  
Age: 25

Education: Bachelors degree in Business Management from Kent State University

Training & Experience: Corporal in the Ohio Army National Guard City Council President

Facebook: <http://Elect Jon Hannan Streetsboro Mayor>

Twitter: [twitter.com/jonhannan11](https://twitter.com/jonhannan11)

Question1: What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?

Answer: My vision for Streetsboro is to reestablish the sense of community. As a life long resident I have experienced Streetsboro's growth into what it is today. Over the past several years, the city has been plagued with lawsuits that I feel has divided the community. With many of those now coming to an end, I feel this is a great opportunity to reestablish that sense of community. This can be done by being transparent. I feel that transparency is key to building that sense of community because people want to trust what is going on. As a current elected official, transparency has been key for me. This allows me to get the true feelings of those who are affected by my decisions on city council. It's nice to see the city and school district coming together of late. If everyone is focused on the same goal of making Streetsboro the best place it can be, we will create that sense of community again.

Question2: What are the infrastructure needs in your community and how do you propose addressing them?

Answer: The most glaring infrastructure needs in Streetsboro are sidewalks, storm water management and water quality. It is my goal to establish a sidewalk program, very similar to how our paving program works. An amount of money each year would be dedicated to adding sidewalks in needed areas. To help support this, I would be actively searching for grants to help cut down the city's portion of the cost. To implement storm water management, I would again search for grants, but also work with the city's engineering firm to design a program to start chipping away at this problem. A water study is currently being done which will lay out the much needed repairs to our water system to ensure the best water for our residents. We have a separate water fund that can be used for improvements.

**STREETSBORO CITY WARD 1 COUNCILMAN**

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN 1 – TERM COMM. 11/18/19

**Dave Dabrowski** (Candidate withdrew)

**Michael L. Lampa**

1189 Apache Pass, Streetsboro, OH 44241

**Joseph W. Yonish**

873 Fronek Dr., Streetsboro, OH 44241

**Issue 1** Brimfield Township renewal levy

Amount: 1.7 mills renewal levy that would generate approximately \$427,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: The money will be used for ambulance and emergency medical services.  
(Portage County Board of Elections, Portage County Auditor)

**Issue 2** Edinburg Township renewal levy

Amount: 2 mills renewal levy that would generate approximately \$111,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: The money will be used for fire protection.  
(Portage County Board of Elections, Portage County Auditor)

**Issue 3** Franklin Township replacement levy

Amount: 3.42 mills replacement levy that would generate approximately \$586,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: This money will be used to pay for contracted services paid to the City of Kent for the provision of fire and emergency medical services throughout the township.  
(Lise Russell, Fiscal Officer)

**Issue 4** Randolph Township bond issue

Amount: \$1.1 million bond issue and 1.96 mills tax levy that would generate approximately \$246,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2019 to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds and any notes issued in anticipation of those bonds.

Explanation: The funds will be used for the purpose of constructing an addition to, furnishing, equipping and otherwise improving the existing Fire Department building and improving and equipping its site. This is a one-time, five year bond issue.  
(Mary Rodenbucher, Fiscal Officer)

**Issue 5** Aurora City School District renewal levy

Amount: 1.5 mills renewal levy that would generate approximately \$778,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: Over half of the funds from this levy will be used for paying the Certificates of Participation used to construct Leighton Elementary School. The remaining funds will be used to purchase school buses, repair building roofs, repair parking lots and roadways, replace aging air conditioning systems, and other capital improvement projects that have a life exceeding five years.  
(Bill Volosin, Treasurer)

**Issue 6** Streetsboro City School District additional levy

Amount: 9 mills additional levy that would generate approximately \$4.4 million annually for 5 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: The money generated from the passage of this levy will be used for District operations and carrying out the District's strategic plan.  
(C.J. Scarpino, Treasurer)

**Issue 7** Tallmadge City School District additional levy

Amount: 7.4 mills additional levy that would generate approximately \$3.2 million annually for 5 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: The funds will be used for the day to day operations of the school district.  
(Jeff Hostetler, Treasurer)

**Issue 8** Field Local School District renewal levy

Amount: 7.3 mills renewal levy that would generate approximately \$2.9 million annually for 5 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: This issue has been an important part of funding the day to day operations of Field since 1991. This levy is critical to the fiscal operations and stability of our district.

(Todd Carpenter, Treasurer)

**Issue 9** Field Local School District additional levy

Amount: 11.75 mills combined additional levy (10.75 mill operating levy and 1.0 mill permanent improvement levy) that would generate approximately \$5.3 million annually for 5 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: The money generated from the 5 year 10.75 mill operating levy will be used to maintain our current offerings. We will add new courses, programs and technology as the budget allows. All decisions are based on providing our students with the best possible education. The Field Local Schools have not had a new operating levy since 1991. The 5 year 1 mill permanent improvement levy will be used for a new main campus parking lot, provided there are no capital repair emergencies.

(Todd Carpenter, Treasurer)

**Issue 10** Rootstown Local School District renewal levy

Amount: 2.5 mills renewal levy that would generate approximately \$398,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2019

Explanation: The money would be used for general permanent improvements.

(Portage County Board of Elections, Portage County Auditor)

**Issue 11** Waterloo Local School District additional earned income tax

Amount: 1.25% additional earned income tax that would generate approximately \$2.0 million annually for a continuing period of time beginning on 1/1/2020.

Explanation: The money would be used to provide an excellent education for students including expanding our curriculum into STEM learning, to enable the district to reinstate teachers recently laid off, reinstate high school bussing, reduce pay to participate fees, open the doors to youth programs and reinstate lost academic programs and special programs like Grandparents Day.

(Todd Carpenter, Treasurer)

**Issue 12** West Branch Local School District additional earned income tax

Amount: 0.50% additional earned income tax. The District earned income tax rate was set to generate approximately \$850,000 annually for 5 years beginning on 1/1/2020.

Explanation: The money will be used for the day to day operations of the District to offset the current operating deficits currently projected. It is hoped that the additional revenues will allow the District to maintain operations, reinstate busing, address maintenance problems and reduce future layoffs.

(David Drawl, Treasurer)

**Issue 13 Stark County District Library additional levy**

Amount: 2 mills additional levy that would generate approximately \$11.2 million annually for 8 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: The 2.0 mill additional levy replaces the current 1.7 mill levy. The money will be used to make up for the funds lost from the declining State of Ohio's Public Library Fund and inflation. It will allow the library to continue to offer vital community services, maintain and modernize facilities, enhance collections, and expand lifelong learning opportunities.

(Mary Ellen Icaza, Executive Director)

**Issue 14 Streetsboro City additional levy**

Amount: 0.8 mills additional levy that would generate approximately \$395,000 annually for 20 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: The money will be used for the purpose of paying debt obligations incurred in making capital improvements consisting of construction of a new fire station and a new service garage.

(Jenny Esarey, Finance Director)

**Issue 15 Mogadore Village income tax increase**

Amount: 0.25% income tax increase from 2.25% to 2.5% beginning on 7/1/2019.

Explanation: The money would be used for general municipal operations, maintenance, new equipment, extension and enlargement of municipal services and facilities and capital improvements of the municipality.

(Portage County Board of Elections)