

Voter Information Guide for Mahoning County Voters

Nonpartisan Information about Candidates and Ballot Issues

Published by: The League of Women Voters of Greater Youngstown
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VOTING OPTIONS

EARLY IN-PERSON

VOTING BEGINS OCTOBER 6 AT YOUR COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS OFFICE:

The Mahoning County Board of Elections 345 Oak Hill Ave, Entrance A Youngstown, OH 44502

Schedule:

Tuesday Oct. 6 – Friday Oct. 9.....	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Monday Oct. 12 – Friday Oct. 16.....	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Monday Oct. 19 – Friday Oct. 23.....	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday Oct. 24.....	8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Monday Oct. 26.....	7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 27.....	7:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Wed. Oct. 28 – Friday Oct. 30.....	7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Saturday Oct. 31	8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday Nov. 1.....	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

IN-PERSON ON ELECTION DAY

POLLS OPEN NOVEMBER 3 AT POLLING LOCATIONS

To check your polling location, visit the Mahoning County Board of Elections website at vote.mahoningcountyoh.gov, or call 3307832474. Some polling locations will change for this election; the Board of Elections will send postcards to registered voters whose polling location has changed.

Tuesday, November 36:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

ABSENTEE/VOTE BY MAIL

1. Complete an Absentee Ballot application **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**! The Secretary of State mailed an application to all Ohio voters. Applications are available at the Board of Elections office or can be:
 - downloaded from the Ohio Secretary of State website,
 - downloaded from VoteOhio.gov.
 - requested by calling (877) 767–6446.
2. To ensure your absentee ballot request is received, please do the following:
 - Complete and sign it.
 - Either drop it off at the Board of Elections Office, or
 - Mail it to Mahoning County BOE, 345 Oak Hill Ave., Youngstown, OH 44502.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

VotingOptions.....	1
Party Identification Key.....	2
Voter ID Requirements.....	2
State-wide Offices.....	2
US House of Representatives.....	10
Ohio General Assembly Offices.....	12
Judicial Offices.....	15
County Offices.....	20
State Issue 3.....	22
Liquor Options.....	22
Local Questions and Issues.....	23

Please Note:

If candidates submit information after the publication date of this Guide, it is available at www.Vote411.org. Due to space limitations, candidates’ volunteer and community involvement have been omitted from this publication. This information is available on Vote411.

Next steps:

3.The Board of Elections will process and mail your ballot to you. You can track your request AND your returned ballot at VoteOhio.gov/track.

You will receive your ballot in the mail – complete and return it as soon as possible. You may track your application AND your ballot a VoteOhio.gov/track. If you MAIL your ballot back, mail it by Wednesday, October 21, to **help** ensure it is received by the November 3 deadline. **The post office does not guarantee delivery times on first class mail.** Postage required is **one stamp per ballot page**.

4.If you return your ballot to the board in person, or if a near relative* delivers it to you, the Board of Elections must receive your ballot no later than 7:30 p.m. on Election Day, November 3

*“Near relative” includes the voter’s spouse or the voter’s father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, brother, or sister of the whole or half blood, or the son, daughter, adopting parent, adopted child, stepparent, stepchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece.

For voters with a disability, US Code52 USC 10508 specifies: “Any voter who requires assistance to vote by reason of blindness, disability, or inability to read or write may be given assistance by a person of the voter’s choice, other than the voter’s employer or agent of that employer or officer or agent of the voter’s union.

PARTY AFFILIATION KEY

- (D) Democrat
- (R) Republican
- (I) Independent
- (L) Libertarian
- (NP) Nonpartisan
- (ND) No Designated Party
- (WI) Write-in candidate

CASTING A PROVISIONAL BALLOT

You may be directed to cast a provisional ballot on Election Day if additional information is required to determine you are eligible to vote, or to vote at that precinct. Common reasons include the voter presents at the wrong polling location, does not have accepted ID, or the voter has requested an absentee ballot. If you are directed to vote a provisional ballot, do not leave the polling location until you get instructions on what you need to provide to ensure your ballot counts, and the deadline for providing.

OHIO VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS

Those who vote in person, either early or on election day, must provide one of the following unexpired, government-issued Photo ID’s:

License to Operate a Motor Vehicle: Any of the following: common license for cars or trucks; commercial; or motorcycle — can be probationary, interim, temporary, or restricted. An unexpired suspended driver’s license is acceptable. The address on the license does not have to match the voting residence address.

Military ID: Any of the following: US Military ID Card, Ohio Issued National Guard Card, US Issued Department of Veterans Affairs ID Card.

State of Ohio Issued ID Card: issued free through the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

United States Passport Book or Card.

Contact VoteRiders, a non-partisan, non-profit organization, if you need assistance obtaining this ID. www.voteriders.org.

Those who vote absentee by mail do not have to provide Photo ID.

U.S. Senate

No. to be elected: 1 |Term: Unexpired term ending 1-3-29

Responsibilities: Represents the people of Ohio & the U.S. in dealing with national & international matters in the U.S. Senate in Congress. They represent you in the U.S. Senate, where they: Propose & pass federal laws on taxes, Medicaid/Medicare, parks & land use, food & drug standards, veteran services, Social Security, education, & more. Decide the U.S. Budget on Social Security, Medicaid/Medicare, military, veterans benefits, National Parks, science & technology research, education, veteran services, & more. Approve U.S. Supreme Court, Federal Judges, & Federal Prosecutors, who make choices about the constitutionality of federal laws about issues like personal freedoms (such as speech & religion), public safety, government power, & more. Confirm Executive appointments including cabinet-level positions, directors of agencies, & ambassadors.

- Sherrod Brown (D)**
No response received by publication deadline

Stephen Faris (I)
No response received by publication deadline

Anthony Holliman (I)
No response received by publication deadline

Jon Husted (R)
No response received by publication deadline

Greg Levy (I)
Website: greg4senate.com

What changes would you make, if any, to voting and elections policy? Our political system should belong to working people, not corporations and billionaires. I support outlawing corporate lobbying and corporate political donations, making Election Day a federal holiday, and banning racist gerrymandering and voter suppression. Further, I support measures which tie Congressional salaries to workers’ wages. Beyond elections; we are in desperate need of democratic systemic reform: replacing the undemocratic Senate with a representative national legislature, abolishing the unelected Supreme Court and transferring its powers to democratic institutions, and expanding direct participation through worker councils,

neighborhood assemblies, and community organizations.

How would you address concerns about the rising cost of living? The rising cost of living demands emergency action for working people. I support an immediate nationwide price freeze on essential goods and services, raising the federal minimum wage to \$30 an hour, and canceling student, medical, and utility debt. I will fight to ban evictions and foreclosures, prohibit rent increases, and guarantee free universal childcare so families aren’t forced to choose between working and caring for their children. We can pay for these measures by cutting the Pentagon budget by 90% and taxing the massive windfall profits corporations have made while working people struggle to afford basic necessities. For too long, our policies have been dictated by the tiny clique of billionaires who stand to profit from rising costs.

How would you reduce hyperpartisanship and promote civility? We need a political system that gives working people a real voice while reducing the stranglehold of corporations and billionaires. Mentioned above, I support banning corporate political donations and lobbying, protecting voting rights, and expanding democratic participation. I will work

with anyone when it advances the interests of working people, while refusing to compromise on racism, attacks on immigrants, or assaults on basic rights. Our politics must be grounded on providing dignified lives for working people—not avoiding necessary political disagreements.

State your position on foreign policy and national security. I support a foreign policy based on peace, sovereignty, and international cooperation—not endless war. I would cut the Pentagon budget by 90% and redirect those resources toward housing, healthcare, education, and other social needs. We should dismantle the vast network of over 800 U.S. military bases abroad, end military alliances used to enforce U.S. domination, and end military aid to Israel and support for occupation and genocide. I also support lifting sanctions that punish ordinary people in countries like Cuba and Iran, defending the independence of colonies and Indigenous nations, and cooperating internationally to confront the shared threats facing humanity and the planet; like climate change, pandemics, and poverty.

What changes would you make, if any, to immigration policy? We must fundamentally change our immigration system to protect human dignity and workers’ rights. I support abolishing ICE, ending immigration raids and mass deportations, and closing immigration detention camps. We need a clear and immediate path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants already living and working in our communities. Immigrant workers should have full labor protections and the right to organize into unions without fear of retaliation or deportation. Immigration policy should never be used to divide workers, suppress wages, or pit people against one another. Additionally, we must address the war machine and an imperialist foreign policy which compels so many to flee their home countries in the first place.

William B Redpath (L)
Website: billredpath.com
Twitter/X: @BillRedpath
Education: BA, Indiana University; MBA, The University of Chicago Training and Experience: Certified Public Accountant, Ohio & Illinois. Chartered Financial Analyst-Retired. Accredited Senior Appraiser, Business Valuation, American Society of Appraisers-Retired. Work Experience: Auditor or Accountant with Arthur Andersen & Co, Cincinnati; WISH-TV, Indianapolis; ABC & NBC, New York. Total: 5 years.

Business Appraiser, specializing in Media & Telecommunications, with BIA Advisory Services, Washington, and Summit Ridge Group, New York & Chicago. Total: 38 years.

What changes would you make, if any, to voting and elections policy? A two party system is unnatural and only occurs through political repression, which we have in Ohio and the US because of very high signature requirements for non-R&D candidates to get on the ballot. Our Single Member Plurality (single member legislative districts, person with the most votes wins) voting system props up the two old and unpopular parties, because it boxes too many people into feeling they have to vote for “the lesser of two evils.” I support Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for single winner elections. But, elections for federal, state and local legislatures should be changed to either a system of “self-districting,” whereby voters select the district they want to be in, or a system with multimember districts elected through RCV. This would allow non-R&D candidates to be elected.

How would you address concerns about the rising cost of living? Reduce Federal government spending. If not, we might have a debt crisis, the easiest response to which might be tolerating higher inflation. End the Federal Reserve’s “dual mandate”: maximum employment and stable prices. Focus on an inflation rate no higher than 2% every year. Repeal not just Trump’s tariffs, but all tariffs. I support a policy of unilateral free trade, which is a pro-consumer trade policy. We’re all consumers. It will also promote international peace. President Trump just suspended the Jones Act, which is a protectionist maritime policy, for 60 days due to high oil prices. It should be totally repealed.

End product price support programs, like the sugar support system, which causes sugar to cost double the world average. Terminate all corporate welfare and farm subsidies.

How would you reduce hyperpartisanship and promote civility? I think hyperpartisanship and a lack of civility are largely due to the combination of our two party system, in which too many people feel they have to side with one of the two old parties, and the advent of social media and our highly siloed media platforms. Honestly, when was the last time you heard a real debate on either Fox News or MS NOW? I don’t think much can be done re: the media situation. There is a First Amendment, and

Walter Cronkite isn’t walking through that door again. But, making changes to our electoral systems that would allow new and more diverse voices to be heard and elected to public offices will help the public understand that there are more than two opposing views to policy issues, which will give people alternative means to be politically effective.

State your position on foreign policy and national security. The United States now frequently behaves as a rogue nation, with its military attacks on several nations and threats to longtime allies, such as Canada and Denmark. This will make US citizens less safe over the long run. I support a non-interventionist foreign policy, and only when the US homeland or territories are threatened, with very rare exceptions. That would allow us to cut the Defense budget. We need to regain the moral high ground, with a renewed emphasis on human rights.

The Founders correctly made war declaration a committee decision. Congress must reassert its war powers. The US should treat the Middle East with benign neglect. The “special relationship” with the government of Israel only leads the US into problems. We should treat Israel as we would any other allied nation.

What changes would you make, if any, to immigration policy? I agree with Alex Nowrasteh of the Cato Institute: “All immigration should be allowed except for a handful of people who fall into the categories of criminals, terrorists, the seriously ill, or others who would harm the life, liberty, and property of people here. Libertarian and classical liberal values, American Enlightenment values, our support of free market capitalism, and support for meritocracy all compel us to support free immigration.” Open immigration would be the greatest anti-poverty program in history. Economist Michael Clemens has estimated that free immigration would increase the amount of global economic production, Gross World Product, by 50-150% – that’s \$50-\$150 trillion of extra production a year. The United States will benefit from a more open immigration system.

Timothy Telymonde (I)
No response received by publication deadline

Governor/ Lt. Governor

No. to be elected: 1 | Term: 4 years

Responsibilities of Governor: Ensures that all state laws are executed, presents a proposed budget to the Ohio Legislature and signs into law the final version; appoints department heads to lead agencies, including Transportation, Rehabilitation and Corrections, Veterans Services, and more. Serves on the Redistricting Commission to redraw state and congressional districts. Manages emergencies, such as natural disasters, and commands the Ohio National Guard.

Responsibilities of Lieutenant Governor: Succeeds governor in the event of death, conviction by impeachment, or disability. Oversees cabinet meetings in Governor’s absence. Serves as the Governor’s representative on any board, agency, committee or commission of which the Governor is a member.

Responses to questions posed to candidates for Governor.

Amy Acton / David Pepper (D)
Website: actonforgovernor.com
Twitter/X: @amyactonoh
Education: Northeast Ohio Medical University BS/MD; The Ohio State University MPH

What changes would you make, if any, to voting and elections policy? Both Republican and Democratic officials attest to the security of Ohio elections; however, I oppose the recent and repeated efforts to cast doubt on the integrity of our elections, which erode public trust in the foundation of our democracy. I reject efforts by some to use unfounded claims of widespread voter fraud as justification for restrictive voting measures that make it harder for eligible Ohioans to participate in the electoral process under current law.

What type of tax reform, if any, would best serve Ohio? Ohioans are working harder than ever, but they just can’t make ends meet. My ActOn Costs Agenda will lower costs, help Ohioans keep more of their money by cutting taxes, and put money back in people’s pockets. My Working Families Tax Cut includes an Earned Income Credit that will support up to 775,000 working families and a child tax credit of \$1,000 a year for children aged 0-6 and \$500 for children aged 7-18 for families making up to \$85,000 in annual income.

As governor, I will expand the Homestead Exemption so more of Ohio’s seniors are eligible for property tax relief, introduce a property tax spike rebate, and crack down on predatory collection practices. I will also fully implement the Fair School Funding Plan, which will decrease the local property tax burden.

How would you address concerns about the rising cost of living? As a doctor, I’ve seen how important it is that Ohioans can both access and afford the care they need – and right now, that simply isn’t the case for so many people in our state. As governor, I will fight to lower healthcare costs by protecting against attacks on Medicaid and Medicare, launch an online platform to leverage Ohio’s purchasing power on prescription drugs, and forgive medical debt. I will work to lower healthcare premiums through transparency, and crack down on surprise billing and predatory collection practices. Our energy bills are too high, and as governor, I will fight to lower your bills through an energy strategy that enhances production, incorporates the lowest-cost and cleanest sources of energy, and expands access to cost-saving programs.

What are your priorities for K-12 and higher education? First, I will fully and constitutionally fund our public schools, allowing us to prioritize students, educators, and schools to reduce the pressure on local property taxes. Second, Ohio’s private school voucher program is sending billions of hardworking Ohioans’ tax dollars to fund private schools with no accountability. I will tackle the out-of-control private school voucher system and push for desperately needed transparency regarding where those billions are being spent. Third, I will use those savings to invest in best practices that will bring Ohio’s schools into the 21st century, with cutting-edge literacy and math programs that help kids prepare for the workforce. I will invest in new approaches to math and literacy programs to make sure they’re tied to real-world demands.

How would you reduce hyper-partisanship and promote civility? Everywhere I go, Ohioans share their stories and exhaustion at the chaos, hate, and vitriol in our politics.

People are longing for public servants who solve problems instead of creating them – leaders who address the issues that all of us want to be solved: costs, affordable childcare, lowering property taxes, providing dignity while aging in place, safety, and good-paying jobs that provide a high quality of life. I am not a politician; I am a doctor and a public servant who has worked with both Republicans and Democrats. Ohio needs a leader who will bring people to the table and work through the hard issues. As governor, I am committed to having leadership in my cabinet from both parties because my top priority is solving problems and delivering real results for Ohioans.

How will you approach re-drawing legislative district lines? Ohioans have spoken loud and clear that they want to end gerrymandering in Ohio. They’ve figured out that gerrymandering is a key reason Ohio has been going in the wrong direction for so long, and why extremists and special interests run Ohio. And they’re right. Despite the voters’ mandate and the clear requirements of Ohio’s constitution, politicians in Columbus have abused the process, broken the law, and defied multiple court rulings to continue to gerrymander Ohio’s districts. As governor, I will have a seat at the table in the 2030-31 map-drawing process. In that role, I will fight for fair and constitutional districts that put the people back in charge of their government. I will oppose any rigged map, and I will veto any bill that tries to gerrymander Ohio once again.

Timothy Grady/Patrick Manley (I, WI)
No response received by publication deadline
Heather Hill/Andrea Neutzling (I, WI)
No response received by publication deadline

Donald Kissick/James Mills (L)
Website: donkissick.com
Training and Experience: Military Background
What changes would you make, if any, to voting and elections policy? Especially when it comes to the Save America Act; we’re finding that it’s incredibly problematic because it’s targeting people who are typically democratic voters so the overreach from an act like that is something we speak ardently against. Overall though, we’ve found that the

current system has disenfranchised challenger parties like ours because it favors simplistic duopolistic voting. Rank Choice or STAR Voting, something more like a survey model where I can say- my first choice is X, my second choice is Y, and my third choice is Z is much more favorable to challenger parties because it sees more of the grey complexity that is how people view and think, Given the fact that 49% of Ohio identify themselves as politically homeless- it makes a lot of sense to change the way we're voting

What type of tax reform, if any, would best serve Ohio? As it pertains to abolishing property tax- we are in favor of it but you first have to address a few key strings:
1. Investors in residential real estate
2. How we're addressing education
It's a case of a balance sheet- inflows, we can replace our property tax revenue with local consumption based taxes especially on luxury goods and you can also look at the sin taxes like marijuana, cigarettes, gambling (especially the lottery), and alcohol.
In the case of outflows- we have a lot of money going to corporate subsidies, international donations, and the school system- in particular with the school system if you remove teaching towards the test and compliance based programs you can significantly reduce the budget because those systems are costly to manage. It's about balancing the budget.

How would you address concerns about the rising cost of living? This is a tough one because rising costs are being caused by a number of things outside of our control- the war and tariffs which both will cause supply chain issues. We've talked a lot about deregulation for the small business because the amount of taxes and regulations impacting the small business owner has essentially been constricting them out of business.
On top of that if we can create a more collaborative environment for resources in the given locales like opener and more collaborative coalitions for mental health nonprofits, housing, small business incubators- you can drive jobs back to the smaller communities which will in theory drive more business back to the mom and pop shops- especially if you eliminate the subsidies that have gone to mainly large scale corporations
What are your priorities for K-12 and higher education? As mentioned, we'd focus on ending compliance based testing programs which

are costly to manage and create additional bureaucracy in administrators. Similar to business, where my boss trusts me to do the work- and in theory my boss is supposed to be either more educated, more certified, or more experience than me- we should move towards a model where because this teacher has indicated they have a mastery over math or a mastery over English, I should trust them that they're teaching their students mastery. We can use testing for diagnostic purposes, you could also have more portfolio based modeling for students; but at the end of the day, if that teacher is a master of the topic and the department head or admin over them has said they're doing an adequate job- who am I to say otherwise?

How would you reduce hyper-partisanship and promote civility?
The first step in loving thy neighbor is to step outside to meet them. We've become so engrained in our own echo chambers that if you're left or right, that's your sole identity. I want to have people recognize that we're all people and the bulk of us are wanting what's best for the community we're just disagreeing about how to do that. The way to break echo chambers is to be curious, not judgmental. Ask questions first, clarify why someone believes something, and be open to dialogue. We win when we win together.
We've already started doing this- we've hosted townhall events across the state where we've invited democrats, republicans, libertarians, and independents to just talk about the issues and how to solve them. And we do it in a way where we're trying to listen more than we talk.

How will you approach re-drawing legislative district lines? I will make this clear- what's gone on in Ohio with the constant redrawing of legislative district lines has shown just how toxic our institution is. It wasn't perfect but something like what was proposed in 2024 with issue 1 where you have a nonpartisan committee that takes into account all recognized parties in the state is something I'd love to come back up on the ballot. Candidly it was short sighted when the GOP shot it down because they don't recognize that when the Dems come into power, the power struggle to remove them will be just the same as the power struggle the Dems are facing in unhousing the GOP.
Make it equitable (which issue 1 was attempting to do) and give the people the chance to actually vote for what

they want. Make politicians stand on their own merit.

Vivek Ramaswamy/Robert A. McColley (R)
No response received by publication deadline

Renea Turner/Jalen Turner (I, WI)
No response received by publication deadline

Ron Ula/Michael Lehnerd (I, WI)
No response received by publication deadline

Attorney General

No. to be elected: 1 | Term: 4 years

Responsibilities: Chief Legal Officer of the State, represents Ohio in court cases where Ohio has a significant interest, provides legal counsel to all elected state officials, departments, commissions and the General Assembly. Coordinates with local law enforcement at their request and approves summaries for citizen ballot initiatives. Enforces Ohio laws in consumer protection, antitrust, human trafficking, organized crime, and nursing home abuse and neglect.

John J. Kulewicz (D)
Website: www.john4ohioag.com
Twitter/X: @JohnKulewicz
Education: B.A. History at Ohio State, J.D. at Yale Law School
Training and Experience: Partner at at Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease, 1987-2024; Associate attorney, 1981-1987

What are the most important functions of the attorney general, and why? The Attorney General is the chief law officer of the State of Ohio. They are responsible for police officer training and certification, consumer protection, anti-trust enforcement, and rooting out corruption in our state and local governments.

What divisions (e.g. consumer protection, environment, civil rights, immigration, elections, etc) will you prioritize, and why? Right now, times are tough. I would prioritize the section of the office that handle consumer protection, anti-trust, and anti-corruption efforts to ensure that Ohioans are being given a fair shake in the economy. These are not the most glamorous cases to bring, but they make a real difference for working people all across the state.

When is it appropriate to bring cases on behalf of Ohio to federal court? It is appropriate only when the rights of Ohio and the rights of The People of Ohio are directly under attack.
How will you represent the diverse interests of all Ohioans? Everyone is equal under the law. I am campaigning the same way I will govern. That means going everywhere across the state and listening to the needs of The People of Ohio. The Ohio Attorney General is The People’s Lawyer, meaning your job is only accountable to The People, not the political whims of the Governor or the General As-

sembly or anyone else.
What changes would you make, if any, regarding transparency in government? I have already filed multiple complaints with the Ohio Inspector General looking into the resignation of former Ohio State President Ted Carter and JobsOhio’s involvement in that and the lobbying practice of the Chairman of their Board. I have called upon the General Assembly to significantly rollback the privacy shield afforded JobsOhio, as we all have a right to see how our public money is used.

Keith Faber (R)
No response received by publication deadline

Auditor of State

No. to be elected: 1 | Term: 4 years

Responsibilities: Audits all financial records of public offices in Ohio. Maintains deed records of state. They represent you as the Chief Accounting Officer of the State of Ohio, where they: Audit all Ohio public offices, including local governments, public schools, public libraries & state universities, & state government departments, agencies, & commissions. Serve as watchdog for public fraud by preventing, identifying, & investigating fraud in public agencies. Serve on the Ohio Redistricting Commission to redraw Ohio’s state & congressional districts. Provide financial services & oversight to local governments, promote transparency in government, & decide where to direct public financial reviews.

Annette Blackwell (D)
Website: www.blackwellforohio.com/
Twitter/X: @AnnetteForOhio
Education: Ursuline College, B.A., Public Relations & Corporate Communications; Cleveland State University, Certified Public Manager (OCPM); Indiana Wesleyan University, ASB; St. Joseph High School, Cleveland, High School Diploma
Training and Experience: Mayor of Maple Heights, 2016-present; Deloitte, Senior Property Tax Analyst, 1999-2016; University Hospitals Cleveland, Administrative Coordinator, 1987-1999

What are the most important functions of the state auditor, and why? The Auditor’s main function is to protect taxpayer dollars against fraud, misuse and corruption. I further believe that the auditor’s office should work to support government entities in improving financial practices to not just comply with regulations, but to stretch hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

What are your goals for improving the function of the auditor’s office? As Ohio’s Auditor, my top priority is to transform the office from a purely punitive watchdog into a proactive partner for Ohio’s communities. Too many local governments, school districts, and small public entities lack access to the financial expertise they need to manage their systems well. My office will close that resource gap. I will expand the Auditor’s role as a trusted consultant and coach to provide hands-on technical assistance, training and fiscal guidance so communities can build stronger financial systems before a crisis occurs. That said, accountability is non-negotiable. I will investigate all cases of corruption and fiscal mismanagement and hold bad actors accountable, regardless of political affiliation.

What will you do to ensure that public funds are not misused? As Mayor of Maple Heights, I inherited a city in fiscal emergency and turned it around. I balanced budgets, restored honest accounting, and earned four consecutive Clean Audit Awards from the very office I’m now running to lead. As State Auditor, I’ll bring that same

discipline statewide: proactive audits that catch problems early, transparent public reporting so Ohioans can see exactly how their money is spent, and accountability that applies to all public entities. Every dollar protected is a dollar that stays in our schools, roads, and communities.

What is the auditor’s role in investigating non-public schools? When a private institution accepts public dollars, it must accept all public accountability obligations. While state spending on private school tuition has increased, the oversight has not done so. We need mandatory regular audits of any schools receiving EdChoice and other voucher program dollars. We also must require regular, consistent financial, enrollment and attendance reports from these schools. And, we must hold all schools accountable for not complying with basic reporting requirements.

How will you approach re-drawing legislative district lines? As a member of the Ohio Redistricting Commission, I’ll fight for fair representation. Ohioans have made clear, again and again, that they want districts drawn fairly, and I’ll hold that line, even when it’s politically inconvenient. Fair maps mean real competition, real accountability, and a legislature that actually reflects the people it represents.

Frank LaRose (R)
Website: www.franklarose.com
Twitter/X: @franklarose
Education: Ohio State University
Training and Experience:
Ohio Secretary of State (2018-Present), Ohio Senator (2010-2018)

What are the most important functions of the state auditor, and why? The most important functions of the Auditor of State are ensuring transparency, efficiency, and accountability in government; protecting taxpayers from fraud, waste, and abuse; and giving the public confidence that their tax dollars are being managed responsibly. The office plays a critical role by auditing state and local entities, identifying weaknesses in financial controls, investigating misuse of public money, and helping public agencies operate more effectively. Those responsibilities matter because taxpayers deserve honest government, and public officials should be held to the highest standards when they are entrusted with public resources. The office also performs performance audits aimed at improving economy, ef-

ficiency, and effectiveness in public operations.

What are your goals for improving the function of the auditor’s office? My goal is to strengthen the Auditor’s office as an independent watchdog that is focused not only on finding problems, but also on helping government work better. That means continuing to prioritize transparency, efficiency, and accountability; using audits and performance reviews to identify ways agencies and local governments can improve operations; expanding efforts to detect fraud, waste, and abuse early; and making sure audit findings are clear, timely, and useful to the public and to the entities being audited. I also believe the Auditor’s office should be a constructive partner to local governments by helping them improve internal controls and deliver the services their constituents depend on, and strengthening trust in government.

What will you do to ensure that public funds are not misused? I will insist on strong, independent oversight, aggressive investigation of fraud, waste, and abuse, and clear accountability when public funds are misused. That includes supporting thorough financial and compliance audits, strengthening internal controls, encouraging timely reporting of suspicious activity, and using the office’s investigative tools to pursue wrongdoing wherever it occurs. Just as importantly, I believe prevention matters: training, transparency, and strong financial practices can stop problems before they become scandals. Taxpayers deserve confidence that every public dollar is being handled responsibly and that anyone who abuses the public trust will be held accountable. I will also support practical safeguards that help deter misuse before it starts across government.

What is the auditor’s role in investigating non-public schools? The Auditor’s role is to follow the public money. When non-public schools receive public funds or participate in publicly funded programs, the Auditor has a responsibility to ensure those dollars are used lawfully, properly, and in accordance with applicable requirements. The office’s role is not to interfere with the mission or beliefs of a non-public school, but to provide oversight wherever taxpayer funds are involved and to investigate credible allegations of misuse. That is the same standard that should apply

across the board: if public dollars are being spent, the public has a right to expect accountability. The Auditor’s core authority is tied to public money and legal compliance, and to ensuring public funds are used for their intended purpose, with transparency and accountability.

How will you approach re-drawing legislative district lines? I would approach redistricting with seriousness, transparency, and respect for both the Ohio Constitution and the people of our state. Ohioans may not always agree on the outcome, but they should be able to expect a process that is open, constitutional, and understandable to the public. The goal should be constitutional maps that provide clear representation, preserve communities where possible, and are drawn through a process the public can understand and trust. Because the Auditor serves on the seven-member Ohio Redistricting Commission, that responsibility requires independence, careful attention to legal standards, and a commitment to conducting the process openly and responsibly.

Secretary of State

No. to be elected: 1 | Term: 4 years

Responsibilities: Oversees the election process in each of Ohio’s 88 counties. Ensures compliance with state and federal election law, appoints and trains election officials. Chairs the Ohio Ballot Board which approves language for statewide issues. Oversees the Ohio Election Integrity Commission, which investigates possible cases of voter suppression and election fraud. Maintains records of corporations, provides public access to state government records, and registers businesses in Ohio.

Allison Russo (D)

Website: allisonrusso.com

Twitter/X: @Russo4Ohio

Education: Allison Russo holds a doctoral degree in health policy from The George Washington University and a master’s degree in public health epidemiology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Training and Experience: Allison spent more than 20 years working to solve problems in health care — advising federal agencies and health systems on how to improve care for seniors, veterans, military families, and vulnerable communities. She then entered the state legislature in 2019, where she was later elected House Minority Leader. In that time she helped build a coalition to defeat the August 2023 Issue 1 “60% power grab” and then enshrine reproductive rights into Ohio’s constitution.

What will you do to promote voter participation? I believe increasing voter participation and voter education should be key duties of the office. Ensuring that Ohioans are informed about how, when, and where to vote is essential to a strong democracy. This work relies on building partnerships with key communities, including school districts, universities, nonpartisan organizations focused on voting, faith communities, and local governments. These partners play a critical role in helping reach voters in their communities and encouraging civic participation. In addition, we should focus on making voting information more accessible. That includes reimagining the technologies voters use to access election information and register to vote. By improving the platforms voters rely on, we can en-

sure accurate information is readily available.

What changes, if any, would you make to election security? One change I would make is increasing and stabilizing funding for our local Boards of Elections. Currently, funding for county Boards of Elections comes from a mix of state and county resources. As a result, some counties are well funded, while others only have enough resources to do the minimum required to carry out elections with limited staffing. When resources vary significantly by county, it can create gaps that make it harder for some jurisdictions to maintain the highest standards of security and efficiency. My knowledge and experience navigating the state budget process will be important in advocating for adequate funding for our Boards of Elections. Ensuring these offices have the staffing, technology, and training they need will help maintain secure, reliable elections.

What changes, if any, would you promote for the Ohio Ballot Board? While Section 1 of Article XVI of the Ohio Constitution dictates the composition of the Ohio Ballot Board, the Secretary of State serves as the Chair of the Ballot Board and can dictate the tone and tenor of the Board’s activities. I believe the Ohio Ballot Board should function as an unbiased Board that prescribes and certifies the ballot language for proposed Constitutional amendments, initiatives, and referenda and oversees efforts to inform voters of ballot issues. Personal and partisan perspectives on a specific issue should not dictate the work of the Board. Regarding ballot language specifically, the change I would promote would be to simplify the official ballot language so that it can be easily read and understood by the average voter, is fair, and is as unbiased as possible.

What changes, if any, would you make to campaign finance policy? The Secretary of State carries out campaign finance laws, but does not have the power to set new policy without legislative action. However, the Secretary of State still has regulatory oversight into this process. Last

year, the Ohio Legislature dissolved the Ohio Elections Commission and shifted the investigation for violations of campaign finance laws to the Secretary of State’s office. Appeal of decisions goes to the Ohio Elections Integrity Commission, whose chairperson is also appointed by the Secretary of State. The Ohio Secretary of State has enormous discretion to investigate campaigns for any potential campaign finance infractions. Because of this new and relatively unchecked power, it is more important than ever that Ohio elects a Secretary of State who is fair and transparent.

How will you represent the diverse interests of all Ohio voters? I believe that the best way to represent the diverse interests of all Ohio voters is to conduct the Office of Secretary of State in a fair and unbiased manner. It should not matter what issues or candidates a Secretary of State supports or opposes—the responsibility of the office is to ensure that every candidate the same fair opportunity to come before Ohio voters, and that every voter has their voice heard and counted. To achieve this, the office must prioritize professionalism and transparency in every aspect of election administration. That includes hiring staff who represent the diversity of Ohio’s political perspectives and communities. By bringing together people with different viewpoints and experiences, the office can better understand and respond to challenges voters face.

How will you approach re-drawing legislative district lines? First, I believe Ohio’s redistricting process should NOT include any politician, including the Secretary of State. The current process is fundamentally broken because it relies on politicians to make unbiased decisions to fairly draw our gerrymandered districts, and it includes no enforcement power for the Ohio Supreme Court when bipartisan agreement cannot be reached. The Ohio Redistricting Commission will not meet to redraw district lines until after our next census in 2031, meaning that the Secretary of State that we elect this year will not sit on that commission unless reelected in 2030. However, I believe the role of

the next Secretary of State is to give any future citizen-led ballot initiative that may reform our current redistricting process a fair shot with unbiased language.

Robert Sprague (R)

No response received by publication deadline

Tom Pruss (L)

Website: www.votepruss.com

Education: University of Toledo (attended)

Training and Experience: Owner, Northcoast Print Mail Marketing

Volunteer/Community Service: Vice President-Northwest Ohio Polish Cultural Center Advisory Board

What will you do to promote voter participation? First, eliminate unnecessary barriers to voting. I support same-day registration tied to routine interactions like driver’s license renewals, while keeping ballots clear, simple, and auditable. Second, protect election integrity with common-sense voter ID—the same kind Ohioans already use for banking or travel—while ensuring free state IDs are available for anyone who needs one. Third, break the two-party stranglehold. I support fair ballot access, open primaries, and voting reforms like ranked-choice or approval voting so voters have real choices. Finally, increase transparency. Election data should be open, systems secure, and the Secretary of State must act as a neutral referee—not a partisan tool. More participation happens when voters have access, trust, and real choices.

What changes, if any, would you make to election security? Election security should focus on transparency, verifiability, and public trust. Ohio already has strong safeguards, but we can improve confidence by expanding risk-limiting audits, ensuring every vote has a verifiable paper trail, and making election data more transparent to the public. Security measures must protect the integrity of elections without making it harder for eligible voters to participate. That means clear procedures, secure voter ID with free state IDs available to anyone who needs one, and consistent statewide standards for equipment and auditing. The goal is simple: secure elections that are easy to vote in and hard to cheat in.

What changes, if any, would you promote for the Ohio Ballot Board? The Ohio Ballot Board should focus on clarity, fairness, and transparency. Ballot language must accurately reflect the proposal without confusing wording or partisan influence. I would push for clearer, plain-language summaries so voters can easily understand what they are voting on. I also support greater transparency in how ballot language is drafted and approved, including public input and review. Ohio voters deserve summaries that explain issues honestly—not language designed to persuade or mislead.

What changes, if any, would you make to campaign finance policy? Ohio’s campaign finance system should emphasize transparency and fairness. Voters deserve to know who is funding political campaigns, so I support stronger disclosure requirements and faster reporting of major contributions so the public can see who is trying to influence elections in real time. At the same time, regulations should not be so complex that they discourage everyday citizens from running for office or participating in the political process. I support simplifying compliance rules for smaller campaigns while ensuring large donors and political action committees remain fully transparent.

How will you represent the diverse interests of all Ohio voters? The Secretary of State’s role is not to represent one party or ideology—it’s to serve every voter in Ohio. I will run the office as a neutral referee, ensuring that election laws are applied fairly and consistently no matter who you vote for or where you live. That means protecting equal access to the ballot, maintaining transparent and secure election systems, and making sure every eligible voter can participate without unnecessary barriers. I will also work with local election officials, community groups, and voters across the state to ensure their voices are heard.

How will you approach re-drawing legislative district lines? Ohio voters have made it clear they want fair maps, not partisan gerrymandering. My approach is simple: the goal of redistricting should be to represent

voters—not to protect politicians or political parties. I support transparent map-drawing processes with public input and clear standards that prioritize compact districts, respect for communities, and competitiveness wherever possible. Ohioans should be able to see how maps are drawn and have meaningful opportunities to comment before they are finalized. Most importantly, the rules must be applied fairly and consistently, regardless of which party benefits. Voters deserve districts where their voices actually matter and where elections are competitive, not predetermined.

Treasurer

No. to be elected: 1 | Term: 4 years

Responsibilities: Collects taxes in counties and subdivisions, disburses expenditures, invests and protects state funds. Tracks and maintains Ohio’s unclaimed property database. Issues bonds for voter-authorized infrastructure improvement programs and school facilities construction.

Seth Walsh (D)

Website: www.sethwalshforohio.com
Education: Bachelor's degree in Political Science, Xavier University
Training and Experience: Seth is an accomplished nonprofit leader, securing \$85 million in economic development funding as Executive Director of the College Hill Urban Redevelopment Corporation. First appointed to Cincinnati City Council in December 2022, he has championed millions of dollars in direct economic support to grow Cincinnati's small businesses and neighborhoods. Seth is a member of the Cincinnati Retirement System Board of Trustees. A native of St. Joseph, Michigan, Seth graduated from Xavier University

What are the most important functions of the state treasurer, and why? The Treasurer of Ohio has two top priorities: securing the state's investments and stewarding our public pension funds. As Treasurer, I will ensure the state's investments, pension funds, and revenue are managed with integrity and are used to strengthen our communities so all Ohioans thrive.

What are your goals for improving the function of the treasurer’s office? As Treasurer of Ohio, I will ensure the office operates with integrity and our focus is on investing in all of our communities so Ohioans can succeed. Programs like the Linked-Deposits program, the 529 College Advantage and social impact bonding are the type of programs that the Treasurer's office should continue to implement to maximize and optimize how Ohio reinvests its money in our people.

How can the treasurer’s office influence state fiscal policy? If the State of Ohio, and its \$280 billion investment portfolio, were a person, it would be the second-wealthiest person on Earth. That means with the right strategy, we can use Ohio's revenue and investment dollars to drive increased returns and reinvest those dollars back in our communities.

How will you ensure transparency and accountability in state finances? There is no greater or more solemn responsibility to Ohioans than to maintain transparency and accountability in the Office of Treasurer of Ohio. As Treasurer of Ohio, I will ensure the state's investments, pension funds, and revenue are managed with integrity

How will you use your position to improve fiscal literacy among Ohioans? As Treasurer of Ohio, I will use my ability to convene and maximize the opportunity we have with banks, credit unions and other financial institutions who are providing fiscal literacy in our public schools and to adults throughout Ohio.

Jay Edwards (R)

No response received by publication deadline

U.S. House of Representatives

Elect 1 per district | Term: 2 years

Responsibilities: To represent the people of Ohio, their district, & the U.S. in dealing national & international matters in the U.S. House of Representatives. Propose and vote on federal legislation on a broad array of programs, including Medicare/Medicaid, veterans’ services, foreign aid, and education. Determines federal budget on a wide array of programs.

6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Elizabeth Kirtley (D)

Website: elizabethforus.com
Education: Kent State University; Kent Ohio
Training and Experience: Student Leadership Development Board Vice President and President at Kent State University; NOW Recruitment Chair in Buffalo, New York AFSCME Union Local Treasurer/Secretary — New Phila, Ohio

What changes would you make, if any, to voting and elections policy? Life, Liberty, and Justice for All means every American gets have one vote; no more and no less; additional votes individually can neither be bought nor sold; these principles ensure every individual has equal opportunity and voice in the voting booth. Americans

have the right to vote and that protection for that vote - that our voting information is safe and not Federally compromised. It needs to be an easy and convenient process. Women and others who have changed their names should not be burdened with additional requirements to prove their right to be at and included in the polls. Women and others who have changed their names, especially due to marriage, should be granted the right to use both their sur name and married name if they so choose as they are still person.

How would you address concerns about the rising cost of living? Reinvest in the small American Farmer, Healthcare for All

How would you reduce hyperpartisanship and promote civility? Instead of arguing over differences I strive to find commonality that we can achieve together across the isle. We are all in this together and together we rise.

State your position on foreign policy and national security. Actions caused by individuals that threaten the safety and sovereignty of our nation, whether from domestic threats or abroad, shall be prosecuted and tried for the Act of Treason by the

United Congress and testify before Congress. No exceptions.

What changes would you make, if any, to immigration policy? Any one person, any one thing or any entity that prohibits our basic Constitutional Rights — considered by some to have a sacredness- especially Rights of Freedoms of Speech, Assembly, Peaceful Protest, and Religion & Due Process — should not exist. This is a threat to the American People. There is no “fixing ICE.” WWI & WWII soldiers fought and died to protect Americans from this type of Federal Brutality. ICE needs to be abolished. I would enact legislation that not only abolishes ICE. I would enact legislation prohibiting states the ability to impose false authority to ICE agents through legislation and otherwise. Law Officers would no longer also to be masked - and would always have to identify themselves with both ID and a badge.

Michael A. Rulli (R)
No response received by publication deadline

14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

David P. Joyce (R)
No response received by publication deadline

Maria Jukic (D)
Website: mariajukicforcongress.com
Education: BA, University of Notre Dame; MA, John Carroll University; JD, Cleveland State University College of Law
Training and Experience: Director of Arts and Medicine at Cleveland Clinic, 2008-2025. Councilwoman, City of Euclid, 2020-2023.

What changes would you make, if any, to voting and elections policy? Although I am running for Congress and many voting and elections policies are at the state and local levels, I am listing things I think would be good to do, even if I would not necessarily have direct impact on them. Make it easier to register to vote: same-day registration, automatic registration, extend deadlines for registrations prior to elections. Make it easier to vote: increase voting locations, times, and drop boxes. Fund voter education efforts — especially for young/new vot-

ers — for both registering to vote and the importance of voting. Increase funding to boards of elections so they can serve the public better. Pass legislation for campaign finance reform. Overturn Citizens United. Pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

How would you address concerns about the rising cost of living? There are immediate, short-term, and long-term things that can be done to address the rising cost of living. Immediate actions that can be taken are to end the war in Iran, prevent the president from continuing the illogical and illegal tariff policies, stop arresting hard-working immigrants, and rein in health insurance and pharmaceutical companies — all things that are contributing to the current rise in prices. Further, I would restore and expand SNAP and Medicaid benefits that were recently cut. Short-term actions that could be taken are to pass federal legislation to do things like: Increase the minimum wage. Invest in America again, similar to the bipartisan infrastructure bill passed during the Biden administration, as well as investments in environment and sustainability.

How would you reduce hyperpartisanship and promote civility? In my campaign for Congress, I will listen, learn, and try to find common ground with the people with whom I interact. I will be respectful, empathetic, and open-minded. This requires humility and self-reflection. The larger causes of our hyperpartisanship and lack of civility are much more difficult to try to address: the rise of social media and the problems therein, the lack of common news sources or even a shared understanding of what is news or what are facts, the destruction of norms of behavior and civility for over a decade, and more. But change can start with one action by one person anywhere, anytime, whether in a family, a community, or in Congress. Let’s commit to doing that. State your position on foreign policy and national security. I believe in diplomacy, soft power, foreign and humanitarian aid, international institutions, multilateralism, and economic cooperation. The use of military force should only be as a last resort. The United States should participate in international organizations, commit to our alliances

and partnerships, and work to promote peace and human rights. We should be helping Ukraine defend itself against Russia. We should be pursuing a just peace in Palestine. We should not be engaged militarily in Iran. We should be working closely with our allies to mitigate threats from China, Russia, and North Korea. I believe in vigorously protecting our country from all threats, including foreign, domestic, cyber-attacks, terrorism, and natural disasters.

What changes would you make, if any, to immigration policy? First of all, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) needs to be reined in, retrained, and restructured. ICE is violating the Constitutional rights of citizens and noncitizens every day and this needs to be stopped. Building mass detention centers should also be stopped. I support a pathway to citizenship for immigrants who live, work, and contribute to our communities, especially for those who have lived in this country for years and have American children. Good people who are not bothering anyone should be given an opportunity to remain in the country and become citizens. Immigrants are the backbone of our society, have revitalized whole cities and towns, and are overwhelmingly a positive asset for our country. Reform of our immigration laws is necessary and long overdue.

Ohio General Assembly

STATE SENATOR 33RD DISTRICT

No. to be elected: 1 | Term: 4 years

Responsibilities: Propose and vote on Ohio laws on taxes, education, elections, healthcare, corporate & environmental regulations, district maps for the Ohio General Assembly & U.S. Congress, public utilities & energy, healthcare, & more. Determines Ohio state budget, which impacts taxes, public health, transit, correctional facilities, libraries, education, childcare, natural resources, state employee wages and benefits, and more.

Al Cutrona (R)
No response received by publication deadline

Michael L. Kripchak (D)
Website: www.kripchak.com
Twitter/X: @KripchakOH
Education: U.S. Air Force Academy (B.S. Physics, magna cum laude), NYU-Tisch (M.P.S. Interactive Telecommunications) Training and Experience: Former Air Force Officer (Science and Acquisitions), Entrepreneur, Ohio High School Mathematics Teacher. Volunteer/Community Service: Local Food Drives, Youngstown Cityscape.

What changes would you make, if any, to voting and elections policy? As Americans, voting is one of our most fundamental rights. Our goal should be secure elections that are as frictionless as possible for our citizens, anything less is un-American. Firstly, gerrymandering must be dealt with in our state and replaced with fair districts. Gerrymandering is simply politicians choosing their voters, instead of voters choosing their politicians. Secondly, polling locations and drop boxes should be established on a "per capita" basis instead of the highly restrictive “one per county” set-up currently in place in Ohio. The only people that suppress the vote or want your vote to count less are those that don’t believe in the will of The People, and don’t believe in our democratic republic.

What type of tax reform, if any, would best serve Ohio? Given how our current legislators are so quick to give tax breaks to out-of-state corporations but burden our own citizens with repeated tax increases, the Ohio

electorate is particularly focused on our state’s taxing practices. Auditors’ offices are consistently getting calls from homeowners saying property taxes alone are pricing them out of their homes, especially our senior citizens who are often on fixed incomes. The bottom line is that the way we fund services and infrastructure in our great state needs to be reconfigured. My intent is to minimize taxes for Ohioans and small businesses, and shift the burden to out-of-state corporations - especially to the modern day robber barons that are attempting to strip our state of its natural resources and ship our wealth out-of-state.

How would you address concerns about the rising cost of living? The cost of living crisis is largely due to failed “trickle down” economic policies that have suppressed wages and led to levels of wealth concentration, into the hands of the elites, not seen since the Gilded Age. We must return to policies that made upward mobility a real possibility for those that put in the work; we must have real opportunity for the American Dream. In our District, this means getting industry back to the 33rd - high pay, high skill, high dignity jobs that will get more money into our people’s pockets. It means actually enforcing our state-level antitrust laws and updating them for the modern economy to combat corporate price fixing that hurts our producers and consumers. And we must cut through red tape that needlessly increases the cost of housing.

What are your priorities for K-12 and higher education? First and foremost, our public schools need to be at least funded to the level of Republicans’ own Fair School Funding Plan. As a state, we have sent \$1 billion a year to private schools in each of the last two years, yet our own public schools have never been funded to the level their formula requires. As a high school math teacher, I witness firsthand that we have a reading crisis in our country and in our state. If we tackle this problem faster and better than other states, Ohio will become a prime destination for families and industry, again. We must get practical life-skills back into the K-12 curriculum. We must improve support for our trade schools. And we must overturn portions of 2025’s Ohio SB1, freeing our universities and colleges to focus on education instead of culture wars.

How would you reduce hyperpartisanship and promote civility? Our current struggle with hyperpartisanship is led by culture wars that don’t serve The People. Electing real patriots that want to focus on solving the real problems facing our citizens (jobs, cost of living, educating our children) is the absolute best way to promote bipartisanship. We all agree on the problems facing our people. Being that I am ideologically agnostic, I am open to discuss any solution that will actually address those problems and help our citizens prosper. But civility can only happen amongst the civil. I do my part with every open-minded conversation I have with every person, no matter their party. We must elect those that will do the same.

State Representative

No. to be elected: 1 Per District |
Term: 2 years

Responsibilities: Proposes and votes on Ohio laws on taxes, education, elections, healthcare, corporate & environmental regulation, district maps for the Ohio Statehouse & U.S. Congress, public utilities & energy, healthcare, & more. Determines Ohio state budget, which impacts taxes, public health, transit, correctional facilities, libraries, education, childcare, natural resources, state employee wages and benefits, and more.

58TH DISTRICT

John A. Bocchieri (D)
Website: www.voteboforohio.com
Twitter/X: @RepJohnBocchieri
Education: M.S. Business, M.S. Public Administration, B.S. Economics
Training and Experience: Air Force Pilot, United Air Lines Commercial Pilot, Leadership Training by two Fortune 100 companies, Ohio Insurance Licenses

What changes would you make, if any, to voting and elections policy?
The President fashioned skepticism around our electoral integrity and it greatly concerns me. There seems to be this idea that if the President, his supporters & party wins, the elections were administered well; if they lose then there was cheating and irregularities with voting. No data in any state supports this narrative. If Americans cannot trust their elections our Democracy is in danger. Voting needs to be easy and convenient for citizens & placing barriers around voting complicates turnout. I support early voting – at least four weeks before election day. I support mail in ballots as well as provisional ballots, and presenting identification when registering to vote. Ohio’s legislative actions to purge voters complicates turnout. Requiring re-registration becomes burdensome.

What type of tax reform, if any, would best serve Ohio? There are some things Ohioans must do together. A Corporation isn’t going to build a school, waste-water treatment plant or pave roads. There is no profit in those endeavors, but there is an extreme public good. For decades, the Legislature pushed down to the lowest

layers of government the responsibility of funding these public projects. For example, my local school district Poland pays roughly 62% of school district costs from local property taxes but we have to live by 100% of the rules pushed by the Legislature. Classroom sizes, busing, curriculum and school year duration all pushed down to local levels, as well as funding despite numerous court cases requiring fair funding. Real property tax reform such as expanding the Homestead Exemption from \$25-\$50,000 is critical for relief

How would you address concerns about the rising cost of living?
Ohioans can’t make ends meet. Increased prices for groceries, fuel, utilities, and health care are strains on our local communities. The Second Harvest Food Bank typically distributes approximately 10 million pounds of food annually and this number is increasing. According to representatives from regional food banks, the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides 9 meals for every one they provide. Fully fund SNAP. As fuel prices continue to rise, Ohio can temporarily suspend portions of the state gas tax — especially on diesel fuel which is 47 cents per gallon and the tax is 38.5 cents on regular gasoline. Fully fund Medicaid which will see \$33 billion in health care cuts from the federal government. Raise the \$600 cap on heating & energy assistance programs.

What are your priorities for K-12 and higher education? Ohio has 2 separate school systems, one for-profit, the other not for profit. For-profit charter schools received \$1.3 billion from the Legislature & per pupil spending was \$10,781. In traditional non-profit public schools, the per pupil spending was \$5,773 almost less than half. The state awarded \$1.95 billion to the voucher program putting economic pressure on local districts. For profit schools do not live by the same state standards of traditional public schools on things like curriculum, busing, classroom sizes and buildings. The Legislature is attempting to end public education, brick-by-brick & turn it into a for profit enterprise. Student outcomes are worse in the for-profit

system & public schools lose funding. Let’s end the for-profit charter schools & fund public schools

How would you reduce hyperpartisanship and promote civility?
Politicians need to treat each other with dignity and respect. While we have different ideas about how to fix Ohio’s most challenging problems, we need to understand we are all Ohioans and we are all Americans. Unfortunately, special interests & political parties can’t agree on the things they find agreeable. Democrats & Republicans alike want strong schools, better roads, safe drinking water and a strong economy. We need to start our political dialogue first on what we agree on, versus so much concentration on what we disagree upon. Political parties find ways to divide us, & we must resist that inclination and find pathways to come together. I will fight when I believe I need to stand up for my principles and our community, but also do my best to lower the temperature of our politics.

Heather Fronk (R)
No response received by publication deadline

59TH DISTRICT

Tex Fischer (R)

Website: textfischer.com

Twitter/X: @textfischer

Training and Experience: Regional Manager, Turning Point USA (2015-2017). National Field Director, American Conservation Coalition (2018-2021). Founding Partner, H&F Strategies (2021-present).

Wayne Penny, Jr. (D)

Education: Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and Public Administration, Youngstown State University. Additional professional training through the United States Army Reserve and continuing education in behavioral health and community services.

Training and Services: Behavioral therapist working with children with special needs in home and school environments. Former External Affairs and Strategy Manager for Junior Achievement of Eastern Ohio. Director of Programming and Policy for Associates in Counseling & Child Guidance. Former Director of Public Policy Programs for Rucci Law and Land Development. U.S. Army Reserve veteran and OHSAA basketball and football official.

Volunteer/Community Service: Founder and Executive Director of Walk A Mile (WAM), a nonprofit providing shoes, clothing, school supplies, and meals to children, veterans, seniors, and families in need throughout the Mahoning Valley. Walk A Mile also promotes healthy food access.

What changes would you make, if any, to voting and elections policy? Ohio’s elections must be secure, transparent, and accessible. Public confidence depends on clear rules, strong safeguards, and honest communication. Voting systems should protect both integrity and access by ensuring secure processes, accurate information, and support for working families, seniors, and people with disabilities. Voters deserve factual data on election security, including real statistics on fraud, so misinformation doesn’t undermine trust. My approach to public service is rooted in fairness, and I believe transparency, voter education, and clear communication strengthen confidence and ensure every voice is heard.

What type of tax reform, if any, would best serve Ohio? Tax policy should be fair, stable, and support strong communities. Local governments rely on predictable revenue for

schools, safety, and infrastructure, so reforms must consider real impacts. Major initiatives—like universal vouchers—should undergo full cost analysis before passage, especially when they shift billions from public schools and raise local taxes. Voters deserved clear information before such changes. Ohio needs alternatives to property-tax-heavy funding and policies that help seniors stay in their homes rather than shifting wealth upward. Responsible tax policy should strengthen schools, support working families, and sustain local communities.

How would you address concerns about the rising cost of living? Ohio families face rising costs for housing, food, healthcare, and utilities. State policy can help by expanding the Homestead Exemption, increasing the state share of school funding, and encouraging more housing types to reduce shortages. Incentives for building starter homes and workforce housing can lower prices. Ohio should expand childcare tax credits, improve hospital price transparency, support rural hospitals, limit utility surcharges, strengthen energy-efficiency programs, expand the Earned Income Tax Credit, and reduce sales tax on essentials. Affordability requires purposeful policy that supports families and strengthens local economies.

What are your priorities for K-12 and higher education? Education is one of Ohio’s most important investments, yet public schools haven’t been prioritized. My focus is ensuring schools have the resources they need, supporting educators, and expanding career and technical pathways so students can pursue college, trades, or entrepreneurship. Evidence-based literacy and math programs, paired with state-funded instructional coaches, can strengthen achievement. My work with youth and families shows how vital supportive learning environments are. Education policy should be guided by data, shaped by teachers and parents, and centered on helping every student succeed.

How would you reduce hyperpartisanship and promote civility? Public service works best when leaders focus on solving problems rather than deepening divisions. Communities benefit when leaders listen, respect different viewpoints, and pursue practical solutions. My experience in the military, in behavioral health, and working with youth has shown me

the value of communication and collaboration. Progress happens when people with different perspectives find common ground. Promoting civility starts with leadership that listens, respects others, and prioritizes community well-being. Focusing on shared goals helps rebuild trust and strengthens our communities.

Justice of the Supreme Court

No. to be elected: 2 | Term: 6 years

Responsibilities: Interpret and applies Ohio laws, which must be in compliance with the Ohio & United States Constitutions. Decide appeals on cases tried in an Ohio lower court involving constitutional questions, death penalty sentences, and other cases of statewide importance. Oversee lower Ohio Courts and lawyers by setting policy and budgets for lower courts. Establish and oversee ethical guidelines for Ohio lawyers and judges. The Ohio Supreme Court is a co-equal branch of government that provides a check and balance on Ohio’s legislative and executive branches.

FULL TERM COMMENCING 1/1/2027

Marilyn Zayas (D)
Website: judgemarilynzayas.com
Twitter/X: @vote4JudgeZayas
Education: J.D. University of Cincinnati College of Law, CCNY Bachelor's in Computer Science
Training and Experience: Served several times at the Ohio Supreme Court to replace a recused justice by selection of the Ohio Chief Justice, Ohio Court of Appeals Judge since 2016; Decided over 2000 appeal cases across Ohio, Attorney nearly 20 years, Provided legal education and training to attorneys, including prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys, and civil litigators, Alum of the FBI Citizens Academy, Procter & Gamble IT Manager

List your judicial experience (courts and years).
Ohio First District Court of Appeals Judge, 2016–present; decided 2,000+ appeal cases across Ohio. Last year, selected three times in 40 days by the Chief Justice (associated with a different political party) to replace a recused justice on our Ohio Supreme Court, an unprecedented honor. Additionally, previously appointed to the Supreme Court and the Second, Sixth, Eighth, and Tenth District Courts of Appeals.

What non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?
My non-judicial experience is shaped by my personal journey & nearly 20 years as an attorney. I grew up in a neighborhood devastated by drugs and crime and was raised by a mother with a seventh-grade education who

worked as a factory seamstress. She taught me hard work, perseverance, & integrity. I earned a degree in computer science and worked as an IT manager at Procter & Gamble, developing strong analytical and problem-solving skills. I used my savings to attend law school, then represented individuals, families, and businesses in complex legal matters. My police officer brother was nearly killed by a drunk driver in the line of duty. These experiences showed me how the law affects real people and strengthened my commitment to fair, independent courts, rule of law and safe communities.

What major challenges do courts face today? How would you address them? The greatest challenges facing Ohio courts are restoring public trust in an independent judiciary & maintaining stability in the law. Yet our Ohio Supreme Court has increasingly departed from well-established precedent. In April 2026, its decision in Disciplinary Counsel v. Rudduck departed from federal precedent & allowed judges to endorse politicians, raising concerns about the integrity of our courts. I will never endorse a political candidate because everyone deserves confidence that the courtroom is a place of impartial justice. In July 2026, the Court reversed its own 1987 precedent in State v. King. Changes to settled law should be rare, principled, & carefully explained. I will remain faithful to the rule of law. Trust is earned through integrity, independence, & equal justice.

What do you perceive as the greatest obstacle to justice, if any? The greatest obstacle to justice is unequal resources: wealth provides advantages that hard-working Americans often lack. This can affect cases from the outset. Public defenders face heavy caseloads with limited support. In civil matters, such as custody and family disputes, many cannot afford attorneys, preventing them from pursuing cases or forcing them to represent themselves at a major disadvantage. Even small fines or fees can lead to escalating barriers. This challenges our ideal of equal treatment under the law. I believe that practical, bipartisan initiatives, such as better funding for legal aid, greater access to information about court proceedings, and streamlined processes, can level the playing field while maintaining public

safety and accountability for all.
Daniel R. Hawkins (R)
No response received by publication date

FULL TERM COMMENCING
1/2/2027

Jennifer Brunner (D)
Website: justicebrunner.com
Twitter/X: @jenniferbrunner
Education: Miami University 1975-1978 B.S. Sociology-Gerontology, Cum Laude; Capital University Law School 1979– 1982 J.D. Law (1983), Order of the Curia; University of York, UK, PhD, Sociology (remote study) expected 2027
Training and Experience: Justice, Supreme Court of Ohio, elected 2020; Judge, Tenth District Court of Appeals, 2014 – 2021; Judge, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, 2000 – 2005; Secretary of State of Ohio, January 2007 – 2011; private law practice, 3/1987 – 12/2000, 9/2005 – 1/2007, 1/2011 – 12/2014.

List your judicial experience (courts and years). Supreme Court of Ohio, Justice (2021–Present); Ohio Appellate Judge–10th District Court of Appeals (2014-2020), Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Court (2000-2005), founder of Treatment is Essential to Success (TIES) felony drug court in 2004, still in operation; International Governance and Rule of Law Experience to National Center for State Courts for Serbian Ministry of Justice and misdemeanor judges (2012–2013); conducted training onsite for Sri Lanka Bar Association (2015); USAID observer of 3 elections in Egypt, working with judges who supervised elections (2014-2015); remote volunteer for American Bar Association (ABA) for NGOs in Kazakhstan, producing video training for civil society advocacy, and onsite consultant to Benin Human Rights Commission for ABA (2022).

What non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge? As Ohio’s first woman Secretary of State (2007–2011), I served as the state’s chief election officer and supervised the state’s 88 bipartisan county boards of elections; promulgated rules and issued directives and instructions for the fair conduct of elections in Ohio. I oversaw a staff of 200 and was personally involved in settling litigation issues on election administration regarding the 2008 Obama election. I received the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award, the nation’s most prestigious award for elected public servants, for what Caroline Kennedy called, “dauntless commitment to the enfranchisement of every Ohio voter.”

Why are you running for this specific court seat? Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s 2016 book, In My Own Words,

inspired me to understand just how focused she was on improving the lives of women and on equality, even before she was an attorney, judge or U.S. Supreme Court Justice. She also understood that collegiality among her colleagues was essential to forging a path to accomplish her goals. As the only Democrat on the Ohio Supreme Court, I understand that and have worked to develop relationships that help me to contribute to Ohio law so that rule of law may stay strong and justice for all be more than an idea.

What major challenges do courts face today? How would you address them? My judicial philosophy is based in fairness, equality and respect. The rule of law exists to provide fairness in human endeavors, which allows individuals to live peaceably among one another with predictability, safety and a springboard for their individual pursuit of happiness. In a democracy bound to the rule of law, it is inherently recognized by members of such a society that there is something greater than themselves in the law to help all people govern their own affairs. When the keepers of the rule of law of that society remember that they work in service to the people, the law works to the good of the

people and their freedoms.

What do you perceive as the greatest obstacle to justice, if any?

I believe that we must continue to improve access to justice through legal reform initiatives. That is why I have advocated for the use of technology to improve court efficiency and accessibility. ommitment to diversity and inclusion within the judiciary also requires vigilance in making sure our courts reflect the diversity in our state.

Finally, I believe that public confidence in the independence of our courts is imperative. Justice requires fairness, access and rule of law in decision making. It is neither red nor blue. It is and should be above the fray of politics.

Colleen O’Donnell (R)
No response received by publication date

7th District Court of Appeals

No. to be elected: 2 | Term: 6 years

Responsibilities: Review decisions made by lower courts & rules on whether the law was applied & the case was decided fairly. Decisions made by the Court of Appeals are final except in cases involving constitutional questions, death penalty sentences, & other select exceptions.

TERM FEBRUARY 9, 2027

Molly K. Johnson (R)
No response received by publication deadline

TERM FEBRUARY 10, 2027

Mark Anthony Hanni (R)
Website: hanniforjudge.com/
Education: Juris Doctor, 2003 – Duquesne University Law School; Bachelor of Science, 1998 – Youngstown State University
Training and Experience: Judge, 7th District Court of Appeals – 2023 – Present. Attorney, 2004 – 2023

List your judicial experience (courts and years). Judge, Ohio 7th District Court of Appeals, 2023 – Present

What non-judicial experience qualifies you to be a judge? Deputy Director, Mahoning County Board of Elections, 1981-1996; Attorney, The Hanni Group, 2005-2023

Why are you running for this specific court seat? I am running to continue the work I began on the Seventh District Court of Appeals in 2023. During my tenure, the court has reduced its backlog, significantly improved on-time decision rates, and established a consistent monthly oral argument schedule. I have focused on restoring efficient, reliable court operations and improving public access. With upcoming retirements, I will soon be the most senior member of the court. I am seeking election to continue providing that leadership and to build on the progress already achieved.

What major challenges do courts face today? How would you address them? Courts face growing caseloads, resource constraints, and

the need to maintain public confidence. Delays in resolving cases can undermine trust in the justice system. I address these challenges through disciplined case management, consistent court operations, and a commitment to timely decision-making. Ensuring staff accessibility, maintaining regular oral argument calendars, and focusing on efficient workflows are key to delivering fair and prompt justice. Justice Delayed is Justice Denied.

What do you perceive as the greatest obstacle to justice, if any? The greatest obstacle to justice is delay. When cases are not resolved in a timely manner, it creates uncertainty for litigants and weakens public confidence in the legal system. Justice requires both fairness and efficiency. By reducing backlog, prioritizing older cases, and maintaining consistent court operations, I believe courts can better fulfill their duty to provide timely and equitable resolutions.

Katherine Rudzik (D)

Website: www.katherinerudzik.com
Education: Undergrad-USC; JD Univ of Akron

List your judicial experience (courts and years). This will be my first time sitting on the bench.

What non-judicial experience qualifies you to be a judge? My area of practice is diverse and extensive and has included both sides. I i’m currently licensed in four different states. I have practice criminal law, state and federal, misdemeanor and felony. I have been acting Prosecutor as well as defense counsel. Similarly, I have worked both sides of most Civil cases, including Landlord, Tenant, foreclosure prosecution and defense, personal injury, construction, breach of contract, and small claims. I have handled multiple divorces, protection orders, and custody cases. And most importantly for this job, I have written appeals or responses to appeals in all of these areas of law.

Why are you running for this specific court seat? I am running for the seat because I have always enjoyed the written and intellectual part of the law that requires research. My undergrad degree was in writing. I intend to be a hands-on judge who formulates and writes her own decisions.

What major challenges do courts face today? How would you address them? I believe one of the greatest challenge the court faces

is a lack of faith from the community in the fairness and objectivity of the court. Everyone who comes before the court should feel that their argument is heard and decided on its merits. I believe one way in which the judges can project objectivity is to not openly declare allegiances and opinions. Judges should strive to remain neutral, even in appearance. The bar should be to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

What do you perceive as the greatest obstacle to justice, if any? The court of appeals can be daunting for attorneys, let alone pro se litigants. But it is often the last step available in a prosecution or litigation. And other than criminal cases and certain other exceptions, counsel is rarely provided. The court of appeals needs to remain as accessible as possible, so that everyone feels that their voices are heard.

Court of Common Pleas General Division

There is a court of common pleas in each of Ohio’s 88 counties. The general division common pleas courts have the power to hear all criminal felony cases and civil cases in disputes of more than \$15,000.

Term January 2, 2027

Maureen A. Sweeney (R)
Poland, OH
masweeneyesq@zoominternet.net
No response received by publication deadline

Term February 9, 2027

Ross T. Smith (R)
Boardman, OH
lawsmith.one@gmail.com
Occupation: Magistrate for the Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas
Education: B.S., M.S., and J.D.
Work Experience: Prosecutor, Defense Attorney, and Magistrate with over twenty (20) years of experience in litigation. I have focused on representing the citizens of Mahoning County throughout my career in many different areas of the law.
Judicial Experience: Magistrate in the Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas (2026) presiding over hearings and trials, evaluating evidence, and issuing rulings and written decisions in complex civil and criminal matters.

What non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge? Before becoming a Magistrate, I spent more than 20 years in the courtroom as a prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, and civil litigator. I have handled complex civil cases and the most serious criminal cases. I have represented both plaintiffs and defendants, and have conducted bench and jury trials. That broad legal experience gives me an understanding of the courtroom from every perspective, which is experience directly relevant to the work of a Common Pleas Court Judge.

Why are you running for this particular court seat? I’m running for this particular seat because the last 20 years of my career has prepared me for the work that is done in the Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas. Now, as a Magistrate in this very court, I have the opportunity every day to hear evidence, conduct legal research, apply Ohio law, preside over hearings and trials, and make difficult decisions that affect people’s lives. That experience has reinforced for me how important it is to have judges who are prepared to do the work from the first day they take the bench. This seat is also particularly meaningful to me because I currently serve as Magistrate for Judge R. Scott Krichbaum. I have tremendous respect for the standard he has set during his years on the bench, including but not limited to preparation, independence, accountability, and respect for the rule of law. I would be honored to succeed him where my experience can immediately be put to work for the citizens of Mahoning County.

Mark P. D’Apolito (D)
Canfield, OH
dapolitioforjudge26@gmail.com
Occupation: Township Administrator; Attorney
Education: The University of Toledo College of Law; The University of Toledo, Criminal Justice; Boardman High School
Work Experience: City of Youngstown, Senior Assistant Law Director; Mahoning County Prosecutor’s Office, Assistant Prosecutor; Austintown Township, Administrator
Judicial Experience: From 2018 to 2020, I served as an Assistant Special Master in an out of county Public Corruption Trial. As part of this role I, proposed decisions to the judge regarding evidentiary matters.

What non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge? I began my legal career as an Assistant Law Director for the City of Youngstown, where I prosecuted cases in Municipal Court and handled complex civil litigation. I later joined the Mahoning County Prosecutor’s Office as an Assistant Prosecutor, where I managed a felony non-support docket, presented criminal cases to the grand jury and provided legal counsel to numerous county entities, including the Board of Commissioners and the Sheriff’s Office. Currently, as Austintown Township Administrator, I oversee significant public initiatives and work collaboratively with trustees and county officials to improve our community.

Why are you running for this particular court seat? I am running for Judge of the Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas because I have a deep commitment to the community that raised me and a desire to continue serving the people of Mahoning County. Throughout my career, I have served in public service as a prosecutor, municipal attorney, advisor to local government and law enforcement, and a township administrator. These experiences have given me a broad understanding of our community and the challenges faced by the people who come before our courts. I believe a judge must listen, treat every person with dignity and respect, protect constitutional rights, and make fair and independent decisions. The decisions made in a courtroom can have a lasting impact on individuals, families, and our community. I am running because I believe my experience, temperament, and commitment to public service have prepared me for this responsibility. As a lifelong Mahoning Valley resident, I want to ensure our courts are deserving of the public’s trust.

Term July 1, 2027

Ralph Rivera (R)
Boardman, OH
attyrivera23@gmail.com
Occupation: Assistant Prosecutor, Columbiana County Prosecutor’s Office
Education: Ursuline High School (1998), Youngstown State University (B.S.A.S., 2002), Cleveland-Marshall Colleg of Law (J.D., 2007)
Work Experience: Assistant Prosecutor, Mahoning County Prosecutor’s Office (Nov. 2007-June 2026), Assistant Prosecutor, Columbiana County Prosecutor’s Office (June 2026-present)
Judicial Experience: None

What non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?
I’ve worked for the Mahoning County Prosecutor’s Office for over 18 years. In my time there, I served as the Assistant Chief and Chief of the Criminal Division from 2021-2025. Most recently, I was assigned as the felony courtroom prosecutor for the Honorable R. Scott Krichbaum. I’ve handled over 750 appellate cases, before courts that included the Seventh District Court of Appeals, the Supreme Court of Ohio, and the United States Supreme Court. This included 12 oral arguments before the Supreme Court of Ohio, and over 200 oral arguments before the Seventh District Court of Appeals. I’ve tried cases in both Common Pleas Court and the County Courts. From 2021-2026, I handled parole review cases before the Ohio Parole Board. Currently, I’m an Assistant Prosecutor for the Columbiana County Prosecutor’s Office. Prior to passing the Bar in 2007, I was a Law Clerk/Secretary for former Mahoning County Common Pleas Court Judges Maureen Cronin and Tim Franken.

Why are you running for this particular court seat? I am running for the Common Pleas Court, because Mahoning County residents deserve the most qualified and very best elected officials. I am that candidate—one who will always apply the law fairly and impartially. Throughout my career, I have consistently demonstrated a reputation for honesty and fairness that is fundamental to maintaining public trust in the judiciary. I grew up in a hard working, service-driven family. Through my family, I learned the values of selflessness, accountability, and responsibility. Those same values have guided me throughout my life and my career, and have inspired my decision to serve our community in the courtroom as judge—upholding the law with honor, fairness, and integrity.

J. Michael Thompson (D)
Poland, OH
thompson.jmichael@gmail.com
Occupation: Attorney
Education: A.B., Communication and History, Miami University of Ohio, 1997; J.D., Georgetown Law School, 2002
Work Experience: Attorney, Manchester, Newman & Bennett, 2003-2005; Assistant County Prosecutor, Mahoning County Prosecutor’s Office, 2005-2012; Attorney in solo practice, 2012-2015; Attorney/Shareholder,

Henderson, Covington, Messenger, Newman & Thomas, 2015-present
Judicial Experience: I have not previously served in judicial office.

What non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

I have been a practicing trial lawyer for 23 years, in criminal and civil cases, on both sides. I was the courtroom prosecutor in Judge R. Scott’s Krichbaum’s court for seven years, have practiced criminal defense, and have represented individuals, organizations and businesspeople in every type of civil cases, as plaintiffs and defendants. As a result, I have broad experience in every type of case a common pleas court is called upon to handle. I understand the law from the perspective of law enforcement and victims of crime; from the perspective of individuals charged with crimes; and civil litigants from every angle. I have tried dozens of jury and bench trials, and have appeared in state and federal courts in Ohio and around the country, thousands of times. A common pleas judge presides over a wide variety of cases, and I have experience in all those areas.

Why are you running for this particular court seat? I am running for a general division common pleas seat, because I have spent my entire career trying the kinds of cases those judges preside over. From trying murder and other felony cases in Judge Krichbaum’s court, to litigating every kind of civil claim in every courtroom, the cases they preside over are what I do. Specifically, I am running for the seat being vacated by Judge Jack Durkin, who is retiring. He has been an inspiration to all lawyers in the Youngstown legal community. He has presided over his court for decades with integrity and unfailing courtesy to those appearing before him. I hope to match that record, because it will not be possible to exceed it. I am also inspired by Judge Durkin’s work in the Mahoning County drug court, originally a pioneering program which has now become an integral part of the justice system. I hope to continue the drug court in exactly the manner that Judge Durkin has administered it.

Robert Andrews (I)
Boardman, OH
robertandrewsforjudge@gmail.com
Occupation: Mahoning County Assistant Prosecutor
Education: 1982 Dundee HS (NY), 1986 Bachelor of Arts in Business Admin & Political Science, Grove City College, 1989 Juris Doctorate University of Toledo College of Law
Work Experience: 1988-1989 Legal Internship Toledo Public Defender’s Office, 1989-1995 Assistant Prosecutor Portage County. 1995-1999 Private Practice Attorney, 1999-present Assistant Prosecutor Mahoning County
Judicial Experience: None

What non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge? I have been an attorney for 37 years, 33 of those years have been as an Assistant Prosecutor. For the last 27 years, I have practiced solely in the Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas. In those 27 years, I have made approximately 20,000 court appearances, handled approximately 2000 felony cases, with well

over 100 of those being murder cases. Far more than 100 of those cases went to trial, with 50 of those being homicide cases. I have served as Chief of the Criminal Division, Senior Trial Counsel, Grand Jury Prosecutor and Assistant Prosecutor. I also was assigned to the Drug Task Force and Violent Crimes Unit. I am an Independent, free from party influence. I am free of bias against all races, religions, genders, sexual orientations and socio-economic classes. I have the respect of all Judges, Attorneys, Law Enforcement, and witnesses whom I have worked with over the years. I have the experience, legal knowledge, and temperament necessary to be a Common Pleas Court Judge.

Why are you running for this particular court seat? Throughout my years working in the Mahoning County Court of Common Pleas, I have developed the utmost respect for Judge Durkin. Many of the things that he exhibits from the bench are the same things that I will strive to achieve. His development of the Mahoning County Drug Court is something that I have admired and through my observations, is something that I strongly desire to continue in order to follow in his footsteps. From the time I went to law school, my ultimate goal was always to be a Common Pleas Court Judge. I have spent 37 years preparing myself to move into this position. Through my experience, I am now, by far, the most qualified candidate for this position. With the retirement of Judge Durkin, I believe it is my time to step in and serve the citizens of Mahoning County as an independent, fair and impartial judge.

Jeff Limbian (I)
Youngstown, OH
jefflimbian@aol.com
No response received by publication deadline

Domestic Relations Court Judge - Term January 1, 2027

There is a court of common pleas in each of Ohio’s 88 counties. Domestic relations courts have jurisdiction over all proceedings involving divorce or dissolution of marriages, annulment, legal separation, spousal support, and allocation of parental rights and responsibilities for the care of children, including child support issues.

Mark Anthony DeVicchio (R)
Boardman, OH
mdevicchio@bk-laws.com
No response received by publication deadline

Terry A. Grenga (D)
Youngstown, OH
attorneyterrygrenga@aol.com
Occupation: Attorney
Education: Boardman High School, Youngstown State University, University of Akron school of Law.
Work Experience: Former assistant County Prosecutor and law Director, private practice 26 years
Judicial Experience: I have not previ-

ously been a judge.

What non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge? I have been a practicing attorney in Mahoning County Ohio since 1998. I have practiced in every court in Mahoning County. I have been a guardian ad litem, a community advocate and have connected families with services throughout my career. I have the judicial temperament to make sure all individuals that come before the Court are treated fairly and impartially. I have volunteered at the domestic relations free legal clinic ever since the beginning. Free legal services are offered to those individuals who cannot otherwise afford attorneys. I always give back to my community and will continue to do so. I started my business in 1998 and continue to run a woman owned business, in the city of Youngstown, with three employees successfully. Currently, the Court of Common Pleas has three females and five males serving the community. It is important to continue to strive

for balance in our elected offices. I will take my time with each and every case, giving each case proper attention.

Why are you running for this particular court seat? Judge Beth Smith has honorably served our County for 30 years and is retiring. I have practiced in domestic relations since 1998 and have the integrity and experience to fill this need for our community. I have always been a community advocate and desire to serve my community with compassion and respect.

**Probate Court Judge -
Term February 9, 2027**

There is a court of common pleas in each of Ohio’s 88 counties. Probate courts have the authority to issue marriage licenses, preside over adoption cases, guardianships, and estates. They also preside over cases involving involuntary hospitalization for mental illness and hear certain eminent domain cases.

Robert N. Rusu, Jr. (R)
Canfield, OH
rusuforjudge@gmail.com

Occupation: Judge
Education: Juris Doctorate
Work Experience: 33 years

What are your top two priorities for this office? 1.Continue to make the Probate Court accessible to the public and user friendly.
2. Continue to modernize the Probate Court making sure the Court will be well positioned for the future.

If elected, how will you address these priorities? Continue to uphold the high standards that I have implemented with my staff over the last 12 years, including hiring well educated, friendly, helpful employees as well as implementing new technology and continually looking at new, innovative ways to deliver our court services to the public.

Auditor

No. to be elected: 1 to elect | Term: 4 years

Responsibilities: The Auditor serves as the Count’s chief fiscal officer, chief assessor, and sealer of weights and measures. As fiscal officer, the auditor is responsible for maintaining County financial records, issuing warrants (checks) for payment of county obligations and preparing the County’s. Annual Financial Report (CAFR). As assessor, the auditor determines property values for taxing purposes and transferring real property deeds. As sealer of weights and measures, the auditor tests and certifies the accuracy of various commercial measuring devices. Salary: \$116,149.00

Ralph T. Meacham (R)
1776 N. East River Rd.
Lake Milton, OH 44429
rtmeacham@aol.com
Occupation: Mahoning County Auditor
Education: Bachelors of Business Administration in Economics from John Carroll University; MBA in Banking and Finance from Case Western Reserve University

What are your top two priorities for this office? The first priority is to continue serve the taxpayers and other county offices with efficient, professional, accurate and up-to-date services. The County Auditor is the chief fiscal office of the county. Duties to county offices include county payroll, time and attendance, payables, issuance of all vouchers, and information technology. Financial reporting duties include preparation of financial statements, coordination with the State Auditor’s office and verifying the balancing of other county offices. The County Auditor is the Chief Assessment Office of the County, responsible for setting values on 164,000 parcels. Real estate transfers, mapping and agricultural values are all processed by my Office. Other duties include weights and messures, issuance of vendor licenses and dog tags. There are many skills involved in delivering these services. The second top priority is the continue to hire, train, manage and encourage the people needed to deliver these service.

If elected, how will you address these priorities? Complex financial offices require good people and good systems. Going back over the last

11 years in office, I have continued to upgrade our systems and service to taxpayers. In just the last year we have released a enhanced interface for real estate information. This was followed by two iniatives to protect homeowners from property transfer fraud. We are the first in the state to offer these services, blocking transfers without owner clearance. We are currently rolling out Office 365 to County Users, and a new real estate data management system.

Dalton Bosze (D)
4206 Patricia Ave.
Austintown, OH 44515
friendsofbosze@gmail.com
Occupation: Member Service Representative
Education: University of Evansville, Bachelor of Science, Political Science

What are your top two priorities for this office? My top two priorities are Affordability and Accessibility. I am running for office because I want to end the cold indifference of government to the struggles faced by working families and retired people. Working families should not have to choose between “heat or eat”. Retired homeowners should not have to feel like they ca’ vote to fund public safety, their local schools, the library, or road and bridge construction because they can’t afford the tax hike. Over the last 30 years, working families and retired people have been asked and forced to sacrifice and tighten their belts while those at the top continue to increase their profit. I want to help end that cycle and keep both the scale and the checkbook balanced.

If elected, how will you address these priorities? On Affordability, I will lobby the state legislature to double the Homestead Exemption and increase the income threshold by at least 25%. Our retired homeowners, people with disabilities, and veterans and public safety officers and their families deserve peace and dignity and should not have to choose between “heat or eat’. I will also lobby the state legislature to restore the Local Government Fund to halt the defunding of our local communities and restore the Public Library Fund to revitalize our libraries. This will redirect hundreds of millions of dollars back into our communities. The restored funding will take immense pressure off our county and local governments

to fund our fire, police, and emergency services, roads, parks, libraries, and schools. I will also improve staffing at the Auditor’s Office to ensure all functions of the office are fulfilled. One function is the inspecting and sealing of weights and measures which has one inspector though more businesses have come to Mahoning County. We need to make sure we have the staffing and resources to fight fraud and protect you at the gas pump. You should not have to worry about being nickel-and-dimed when you are trying to pinch pennies. On Accessibility, I want to explore traveling office hours in the county. This can make it easier for our most vulnerable homeowners to access programs and services like the Homestead Exemption, quitclaim deed fraud prevention, property ques-

tions, and the various licenses that go through the Auditor’s Office. A 10 minute drive or walk to a familiar location in your community rather than finding a place to park in downtown Youngstown in the winter could mean the difference in saving hundreds of dollars or even your home. Making the same knowledgeable and experienced staff available in person in your community will be a valuable resource and ensure the people who are supposed to benefit from these programs receive those benefits.

County Commissioner

No. to be elected: 1 to elect | Term: 4 years

Responsibilities: To exercise financial control of County expenditures; to authorize public works; to purchase land and buildings; to vet contracts; to plan and administer welfare. The Board of County Commissioners also appoints other officials to operate various departments. Salary: \$103,829

Lauren McNally (D)
1255 Cherokee Dr.
Youngstown, OH 44511
laurenmcnallyforohio@gmail.com
Occupation: State Representative
Education: Ursuline High School, Miami University, Ohio State University

What are your top two priorities for this office? Invest Public Dollars with Care, Transparency, and Accountability. Plan Responsibly for Growth, Infrastructure, and Long-Term Stability. Strengthen Essential Services Through Active Oversight and Collaboration Be a Strong Advocate for Our County at the State and Federal Level.

If elected, how will you address these priorities? I will work closely with county departments and residents to build responsible budgets—securing state and federal grants, managing mandated programs, and ensuring every tax dollar is invested wisely in services people rely on every day. I will participate in comprehensive and capital improvement

planning to guide smart land use, maintain roads and public facilities, protect natural resources, and ensure county investments are aligned with long-term community needs—not short-term political pressures. I will serve on boards and committees related to parks, libraries, public health, corrections, and other county services to ensure programs are effective, coordinated, and responsive to residents—from early childhood through senior care. I will represent our county’s interests in Columbus and Washington by communicating local needs directly to lawmakers, advocating for fair funding of mandated programs, and promoting policies that strengthen public safety, infrastructure, public health, and economic opportunity.

Christine Oliver (R)
50 Oak Tree Dr.
Canfield, OH 44406
christine4commissioner@gmail.com
No response received by publication deadline

ISSUE 3: To Require Voters to Present Photo Identification in Order to Vote

A "yes" vote supports amending the Ohio Constitution to: Enshrine into the Ohio Constitution the state’s current voter ID law for those voting in person at the Early Voting Location or on Election Day. Constitutionally require specific documents to count as voter ID including: a driver’s license or state ID card issued by the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles or its successor agency or a temporary document issued by that agency for an applicant to use while waiting to receive the license or card that contains all the same information; a U.S. passport or passport card; a U.S. military ID card; an Ohio National Guard ID card; or an ID card issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor agency. Allow the Ohio General Assembly to continue to choose whether to require photo ID to vote by mail.

A "no" vote opposes amending the Ohio Constitution to enshrine Ohio’s existing photo ID requirements. If this does not pass, Ohio’s current photo ID law remains in effect, and the General Assembly would continue to have the authority to pass voter ID legislation.

PROS: Argument for voting YES
Enshrining Ohio’s current voter ID law into the state Constitution may strengthen election integrity.

By embedding the current voter ID requirements into the Ohio Constitution, this measure would prevent the Ohio General Assembly from changing those requirements unless voters approve a future constitutional amendment.

Though Ohio is widely regarded as a national leader for its election security, this amendment may improve public trust in elections.

Currently, Ohio residents 17 and older can get a free State ID from Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, if they do not have a valid Ohio driver’s license. This proposal grants the Ohio General Assembly the power to approve additional types of photo ID beyond those listed, maintaining election security as technological standards evolve.

CONS: Argument for voting NO
The amendment is redundant and wasteful, because Ohio election law already requires this exact list of photo IDs.

Ohio’s Constitution ought to be reserved for foundational rights and principles, rather than policies that can be enacted and modified through regular Ohio legislation. Details of election law are better updated through

the legislative process as technology and security needs change.

By calling for physical documents and cards when the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs only offers digital ID, the language of this proposed Constitutional Amendment is already outdated.

Obtaining the prescribed forms of acceptable ID and underlying documents required to get the prescribed IDs can be costly, may not be readily available, and could be ruled to be a form of poll tax. While Ohio currently offers free state IDs from the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles, that law could be revoked at any time. The proposed amendment would disproportionately affect seniors, people with disabilities, students, married women, and rural Ohioans.

By only covering ID requirements for in-person voting and not including voting by mail, this proposed Constitutional Amendment doesn’t treat all forms of voting equally.

LIQUOR OPTIONS

Austintown 17
Sunday sales of wine, beer, and mixed beverages at Rulli Brothers 431 Kirk Rd.

Boardman 25
Sunday sales of wine, beer, and mixed beverages at Rulli Brothers 8025 South Ave.

Boardman 9
Weekly and Sunday sales of wine, beer, and mixed beverages at Tobacco City LLC 112 Boardman-Poland Rd.

Boardman 9
Weekly and Sunday sales of wine, beer, and mixed beverages at Singh & 3 Brothers 6607 Market St.

Boardman 15
Weekly and Sunday sales of wine, beer, and mixed beverages at Millionaire Express 5955 South Ave.

Campbell 3-B
Sunday sales of wine, beer, and mixed beverages at 12th Street Party Shop 223 12th Street.

Youngstown 6-H
Sunday sales of wine, beer, and mixed beverages at Lorenzino’s Bocce Club, LLC 128 Jacob’s Rd.

Youngstown 6-H Weekly sales of beer, wine, and mixed beverages at Gateway Gas Mart 2732 Glenwood Ave.

Youngstown 2-D Sunday sales of wine and mixed beverages at Gateway Gas Mart 2732 Glenwood Ave.

Levies

Mahoning County

Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities Additional levy. Will collect \$15,522,964 at 2.4 mills, costing \$84 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually for the purpose of maintaining the Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities for 5 years.

Austintown Township

Renewal levy. Will collect \$321,610 at 0.8 mill, costing \$10 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually for the purpose of parks and recreational purpose for 5 years

Austintown Township

Renewal levy. Will collect \$327,568 at 0.5 mill, costing \$11 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually for the purpose of senior citizen services for 5 years.

Boardman Township

Additional levy. Will collect \$3,772,795 at 2.75 mills, costing \$96 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually for the purpose of police and fire for 5 years.

Boardman Local School District

Renewal levy. Will collect \$4,646,975 at 3.72 mills, costing \$130 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually for the purpose of providing for the emergency requirements for 10 years.

Canfield Local School District

Additional levy. Will collect \$5,715,791 at 5.9 mills, costing \$207 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually for the purpose of current expenses for 5 years.

City of Canfield

Renewal levy. Will collect \$812,524 at 3.9 mills, costing \$82 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually for the purpose of the police department for 5 years.

Lowellville Local School District

Renewal levy. Will collect \$224,058 at 4 mills, costing \$107 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually for the purpose of general permanent improvements for 5 years.

Village of New Middletown

Renewal levy. Will collect \$44,786 at 1.5 mills, costing \$39 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually for the purpose of streets, roads and bridges for 5 years.

Poland Township

Renewal levy. Will collect \$227,666 at 2 mills, costing \$13 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually for the purpose of repair of roads for 5 years.

Poland Local School District

Renewal levy. Will collect \$2,181,867 at 3.57 mills, costing \$125 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually for the purpose of emergency requirements for 5 years.

Poland Local School District

Renewal levy. Will collect \$403,667 at 1 mill, costing \$22 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually for the purpose of permanent improvements for 5 years.

Village of Poland

Renewal levy. Will collect \$53, 300 at 1 mill, costing \$23 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually for the purpose of the police department for 5 years.

Springfield Township

Renewal levy. Will collect \$179,695 at 1.5 mills, costing \$22 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually for the purpose of the fire department for 5 years.

Springfield Township

Renewal levy. Will collect \$135,515 at 1.5 mills, costing \$15 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually for the purpose of current expenses for 5 years.

West Branch Local School District

Additional levy. Will collect \$441,471 at 1 mill, costing \$35 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually for the purpose of general permanent improvement for 5 years.



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