

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

The League of Women Voters of Kent and Northern Portage County are non-partisan political organizations that encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to all citizens of voting age, male or female. The League is funded by members' dues and contributions from members and non-members. Donations are welcome. **The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.**

There are two parts to this GUIDE:

Part 1: Candidates at the state and local level.

US Senator—Information on candidates will be available at www.VOTE411.org and is provided by the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund.

US Congress— Information on candidates will be available at www.VOTE411.org (subject to change)

Judicial races in Ohio—Judicial Votes Count (www.judicialvotescount.org) invited all judicial candidates in Ohio to participate. Check their website for information.

Ohio State Executive Offices-- Information on candidates will be available at www.VOTE411.org and is provided by the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund.

Ohio Senate, Ohio House, and State Central Committee— *On March 16, 2022, the Supreme Court of Ohio invalidated the Ohio General Assembly district plan adopted on February 24, 2022. Therefore these races will not appear on the May 3, 2022 Primary Election ballot. (Portage County Board of Elections)*

Democratic County Central Committee—All precincts in Portage County had either one candidate or no candidate filed. The candidates were not invited to participate in the voter guide.

Portage County Administrative Offices—The LWV of Kent asked the candidates to provide biographical information and to answer questions. The candidates were invited to participate by entering their responses on the VOTE411 website in accordance with the following guidelines.

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

Visit VOTE411.org to view a side-by-side comparison of the candidates' biographical information and answers.

Part 2: Issues on the ballot in Portage County—the League of Women Voters of Kent prepared this section using the information obtained from the Portage County Board of Elections and information provided either by the entity placing the issue on the ballot or the Portage County Auditor.

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

League of Women Voters of Kent kentlww.org

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League of Women Voters of Northern Portage County northernportagecountylww.org

Voter Service Co-Chairs: Raji Alladi and Janice Simmons-Mortimer

To print a copy of your ballot, go to the Portage County Board of Elections web site View Ballots page:

<https://lookup.boe.ohio.gov/vtrapp/portage/ballotlist.aspx>

Select Election Date: 5/3/2022 Primary Election

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

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

Click the Find Ballots box.

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

If you don't know your precinct, click on "searching" in the paragraph on the View Ballots page or follow this link:

<https://lookup.boe.ohio.gov/vtrapp/portage/vtrlookup.aspx>

PARTY	RACES	PAGE NOS.
CITY/VILLAGE/TOWNSHIP IN PORTAGE COUNTY		
DEMOCRATIC		
All cities, villages, townships	Governor and Lieutenant Governor	5
All cities, villages, townships	Attorney General	5
All cities, villages, townships	Auditor of State	5
All cities, villages, townships	Secretary of State	5
All cities, villages, townships	Treasurer of State	5
All cities, villages, townships	U.S. Senator	
All cities, villages, townships	Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Justice of the Supreme Court (2 positions)	6
All cities, villages, townships	Judge, 11th District Court of Appeals (1 position)	7
All cities, villages, townships	Judge—Common Pleas—General Division & Domestic Relations Division	15
All cities, villages, townships	County Commissioner	12-14
All cities, villages, townships	County Auditor	8-9
Mogadore Village, Suffield Township A, split 1 and split 2, D, split 1, and E, split 1 and split 2	Representative to Congress 13th District	6

DEMOCRATIC	RACES	PAGE NOS.
Ravenna City, Kent City, Aurora City, Streetsboro City, Atwater Township, Brimfield Township, Charlestown Township, Deerfield Township, Edinburg Township, Franklin Township, Freedom Township, Garrettsville Village, Hiram Township, Hiram Village, Mantua Township, Mantua Village, Nelson Township, Palmyra Township, Paris Township, Randolph Township, Ravenna Township, Rootstown Township, Shalersville Township, Suffield Township A, split 3 and split 4, B, C, D, split 2 and E, split 3, Sugar Bush Knolls, Windham Township, Windham Village	Representative to Congress, 14th District	6
Individual precincts	County Central Committee	16
REPUBLICAN	RACES	PAGE NOS.
All cities, villages, townships	Governor and Lieutenant Governor	5
All cities, villages, townships	Attorney General	5
All cities, villages, townships	Auditor of State	5
All cities, villages, townships	Secretary of State	5
All cities, villages, townships	Treasurer of State	5
All cities, villages, townships	U.S. Senator	5
All cities, villages, townships	Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Justice of the Supreme Court (2 positions)	6
All cities, villages, townships	Judge, 11th District Court of Appeals (2 positions)	7-8
All cities, villages, townships	Judge—Common Pleas—General Division	15
All cities, villages, townships	County Commissioner	11,14-15
All cities, villages, townships	County Auditor	8-11
Mogadore Village, Suffield Township A, split 1 and split 2, D, split 1, and E, split 1 and split 2	Representative to Congress 13th District	6

REPUBLICAN	RACES	PAGE NOS.
Ravenna City, Kent City, Aurora City, Streetsboro City, Atwater Township, Brimfield Township, Charlestown Township, Deerfield Township, Edinburg Township, Franklin Township, Freedom Township, Garrettsville Village, Hiram Township, Hiram Village, Mantua Township, Mantua Village, Nelson Township, Palmyra Township, Paris Township, Randolph Township, Ravenna Township, Rootstown Township, Shalersville Township, Suffield Township A, split 3 and split 4, B, C, D, split 2 and E, split 3, Sugar Bush Knolls, Windham Township, Windham Village	Representative to Congress 14th District	6
ISSUES		
Rootstown Local Schools	Issue 1 Renewal of two tax levies	17
Springfield Local Schools	Issue 2 Additional tax levy	17
Community EMS-- Garrettsville Village, Freedom Township, Nelson Township	Issue 3 Renewal tax levy	17
Aurora City	Issue 4 Charter amendment	17
Aurora City	Issue 5 Renewal tax levy	17
Streetsboro City 1C	Issue 6 Local Liquor Option	17
Mantua Village	Issue 7 Income tax increase	17
Mogadore Village	Issue 8 Additional tax levy	18
Brimfield Township	Issue 9 Replacement and increase tax levy	18
Paris Township	Issue 10 Renewal tax levy	18



Ohio State Executive Offices-- Information on candidates will be available at www.VOTE411.org and is provided by the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund.

GOVERNOR

Governor/Lt. Governor
Democrat
John Cranley/Teresa Fedor
Nan Whaley/Cheryl L. Stephens

Governor/Lt. Governor
Republican
Joe Blystone/Jeremiah W. Workman
Mike DeWine/Jon Husted
Ron Hood/Candice Keller
Jim Renacci/Joe Knopp

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Jeffrey A. Crossman (Dem)
Dave Yost (Rep)

AUDITOR OF STATE

Keith Faber (Rep)
Taylor Sappington (Dem)

SECRETARY OF STATE

John Adams (Rep)
Chelsea Clark (Dem)
Frank LaRose (Rep)

TREASURER OF STATE

Scott Schertzer (Dem)
Robert Sprague (Rep)

US Senator—Information on candidates will be available at www.VOTE411.org and is provided by the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund.

US SENATOR

Matt Dolan (Rep)
Mike Gibbons (Rep)
Morgan Harper (Dem)
Traci TJ Johnson (Dem)
John Mandel (Rep)
Neil Patel (Rep)
Mark Pukita (Rep)
Tim Ryan (Dem)
Jane Timken (Rep)
JD Vance (Rep)

US Congress— Information on candidates will be available at www.VOTE411.org (subject to change)

13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Madison Gesiotto Gilbert (Rep)
Shay Hawkins (Rep)
Santana F. King (Rep)
Janet Folger Poter (Rep)
Dante N. Sabatucci (Rep)
Ryan Saylor (Rep)
Emilia Sykes (Dem)
Greg Wheeler (Rep)

14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Patrick Gene Awtrey (Rep)
Bevin Cormack (Rep)
David P. Joyce (Rep)
Matt Kilboy (Dem)

Judicial races in Ohio—Judicial Votes Count (www.judicialvotescount.org) invited all judicial candidates in Ohio to participate. Check their website for information.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

Jennifer Brunner (Dem)
Sharon L. Kennedy (Rep)

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT (Term comm. 01/01/23)

Pat Fischer (Rep)
Terri Jamison (Dem)

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT (Term comm. 01/02/23)

Pat DeWine (Rep)
Marilyn Zayas (Dem)

Ohio 11th District Court of Appeals, Full term Commencing 2-9-2023

Information about the candidates may be found at Judicial Votes Count: www.judicialvotescount.org

Thomas R. Wright (Dem)

Eugene A. Lucci (Rep)

Biographical Info:

Age: 67

Campaign Website: <https://eugenelucci.com/>

Campaign Email: Friends@JudgeLucci.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/JudgeLucci

Work Experience: Common Pleas Judge since 2001, Practicing Trial Attorney for 20 years; Police Officer for 13 years (7 years overlapping as attorney and police officer)

Education: J.D., Cleveland-Marshall College of Law 1980; Master of Judicial Studies, University of Nevada, Reno 2012

Residence: Concord Township

Questions:

Q: List your judicial experience (courts and years):

A: JUDICIAL EMPLOYMENT: Judge, Lake County Common Pleas Court, General Division, 2001-present; served as Presiding Judge of the court, 2009 and 2016, Administrative Judge of the court, 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, and 2022; Technology Chair of the court, 2003-present; and Court House Security Chair, 2003-present; Also served as Acting Judge, Municipal Court (Painesville & Mentor), 1988-2000. JUDICIAL TEACHING: Judicial College Lecturer – public confidence in the judiciary, ethics and professionalism, the courts and media, science and law, court technology, and court and judicial security. SPECIAL JUDICIAL EDUCATION: Master of Judicial Studies (M.J.S.) degree, University of Nevada, Reno, May 2012; Inaugural Science & Technology Fellow, Advanced Science & Technology Adjudication Resource certification (ASTAR), Washington DC, Oct 2006; Certificate in Judicial Development, General Jurisdiction Trial Skills, National Judicial College, 2004. JUDICIAL MEMBERSHIPS: American Judges Association member, 2001-present; Board of Governors, 2013-present; Judicial Education Committee member since 2013, co-chair 2016-present; Court Security Committee member since 2013, chair 2017-present; Ohio Judicial Conference member, 2001-present; Executive Committee member, 2005-present; Ohio Jury Instructions Editorial Board member, 2002-2007; Public Confidence & Community Outreach Committee, member since 2003; co-chair since 2005; Court Technology Committee member, 2012-present; Mentoring Program for New Judges mentor, 2002-present; Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association member, 2001-present.

Q: What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?

A: ATTORNEY: Practicing trial attorney, 1980-2000; experience of trial practice in state and federal trial and appellate courts, in the areas of criminal, civil, domestic relations, probate, juvenile, and federal issues; Founding and senior member of law firm, McNamara, Lucci, Hanrahan & Loxterman, 1983-2000. POLICE OFFICER: Police Officer 1975-1982, and Sheriff's Detective 1994-2000; uniformed street patrol; investigations of homicides and assaults, rapes and sex offenses, robberies and burglaries, kidnappings and abductions, thefts and embezzlement, controlled substances, cyber-crime. TEACHER: Adjunct faculty – Lakeland Community College 1983-1998, 2008-present, subjects: criminal justice ethics, law office management, civil procedure, criminal procedure; Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy certified instructor, 1983-present, subjects: laws of arrest, search and seizure, Ohio Revised Code criminal sections, semi-automatic pistol & re-qualification of peace officers; National Rifle Association of America certified pistol instructor, civilian concealed carry courses Mentor Police Department certified instructor, 1988-1989, Subjects: laws of arrest, search and seizure. AUTHOR: Co-author: "‘Ideology’ or ‘Situation Sense’? An Experimental Investigation of Motivated Reasoning and Professional Judgment," 164 U. Pa. L. Rev. 349-439 (Jan. 2016); Author: "Who Owns the Beach of Lake Erie in Ohio," Master of Judicial Studies Thesis, May 2012; Author: "The Case for Allowing Jurors to Submit Written Questions," Judicature, Vol. 89, No. 1, July-August 2005; Author: "Judges and Concealed Carry of Handguns," The Ohio Judges Resource Manual, Chapter 7-4, Ohio Judicial Conference, June 2011-present; Many other lesser pieces for bar journals and newspapers.

Q: Why are you running for this particular court seat?

A: None of the five judges currently on the Eleventh District Court of Appeals has any experience as an active-duty trial judge. No judge currently on the Eleventh District Court of Appeals has sentenced a criminal felon or presided over a felony or major jury trial. I have handled over 26,000 cases in the common pleas court, and have sentenced over 6,000 felony offenders, and conducted well over 300 jury trials. None of the current judges on the court of appeals have ever served as a police officer. I have done

all of these things. Such experience and insight is invaluable to the function of an appellate judge in reviewing the work of police officers, trial attorneys, and trial judges. I have written extensively. My 47 years of experience as a police officer, teacher, author, trial attorney, and trial judge will fill this hole with an experienced jurist who will consistently and faithfully follow and apply the law.

Ohio 11th District Court of Appeals, Unexpired term ending 2-08-2025

Information about the candidates may be found at Judicial Votes Count: www.judicialvotescount.org

Candidates:

John J. Eklund (Rep)

Sarah Thomas Kovoor (Rep)

Portage County Auditor

Brian M. Ames (Rep)

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: 2632 Ranfield Rd.````Mogadore``OH``44260

Campaign Website: <https://electames.com>

Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=elect%20brian%20ames%20auditor>

Education: B.S.E.E. Penn State, MAS UAH, Amateur Extra AC8WX, Licensed Pilot, Systems

Engineering, Contracts, Project Management, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese

Campaign Phone Number: 330-432-2017

Campaign Email: candidate@electames.com

Training & Experience: Defense Contracts, Factory Control Systems, Space Communications, Earned Value Management, Geospatial Information Systems, 3 patents, Open Meetings Act litigation

Questions:

Q: What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?

A: The Earned Value Management Systems I used when I managed defense acquisitions are similar to those used by the Auditor's office. My many years of experience with automated information systems gives me insight into the auditor's Information Technology department. My three patents are related to Geospatial Information Systems which provides me detailed knowledge of the GIS services provided by the auditor's office.

My experience preparing cost estimates for defense contracts give me understanding of how to both conduct and undergo extensive audits.

Q: If elected, how would the auditor's office operate differently from how it operates now? Why?

A: There is too much paper in the current operation. That would all be converted to electronic documents that would be managed by a workflow system.

To much of the current operation relies on personal knowledge. I would ensure that it all becomes institutional knowledge for added reliability and to provide growth opportunities for the auditor's employees.

Q: How might additional technology be used to assist efficiency and transparency in the auditor's office?

A: The elimination of paper in favor of electronic documents increases efficiency by making information readily available to all, including the public.

One goal would be to make all notices of the meetings of all public bodies available in various formats throughout the county. Several townships do and excellent job of that but the county's notice don't reach the public. As county auditor I would leverage my considerable experience promoting transparency in government to bring more sunshine to all county offices.

Brad Cromes (Dem)

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: 550 E. Riddle Ave.````Ravenna``OH``44266

Campaign Instagram: [instagram.com/bradcromes](https://www.instagram.com/bradcromes)

Campaign Website: bradcromes.com

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/bradcromes

Education: B.A. Political Science (Hiram College) M.A. Public Policy & Management (Ohio State) J.D. w/ Public Service Fellowship (Ohio State)

Campaign Twitter Handle: bradcromes

Campaign Phone Number: 330-541-6107

Campaign Email: admin@bradcromes.com

Training & Experience: Portage County Treasurer, 2015-Present; Certified Government Financial Manager (Assoc. of Government Accountants); Board Member, United Way, CAC, Ravenna Kiwanis; Member, Portage Co., Ohio and American Bar Associations

Questions:

Q: What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?

A:

I have served as Portage Co. Treasurer since 2015, and in that role I have sought to be an innovative, transparent steward of our tax dollars. That includes modernizing our service delivery to incorporate new technologies, utilizing social media and the web to share information about our office's operations directly with residents, and creating new programs to address unmet needs (including our award-winning and first-of-its-kind Financial Wellness Fair). I have also worked to systematize our office's processes to make them fairer and easier to understand. As Treasurer, I also have a unique perspective on the operations of the Auditor's Office based on our daily interactions, and have some ideas for how we might grow our capacity to assist our residents and communities. I have a track record of delivering positive change and strong, friendly service, and I am ready to bring that approach to bear in the Auditor's Office.

Q: If elected, how would the auditor's office operate differently from how it operates now? Why?

A:

Our current Auditor has a well-earned reputation for customer service and strong audit and accounting performance, and I will do everything in my power to preserve and enhance that reputation. That will include utilizing technology to meet residents where they are with information about office operations, regular outreach on social media and in-person, and livestreaming as many of our meetings as possible so residents get information straight from the source. I also want to analyze our reporting tools, and look for additional ways to make them easy to understand and citizen-centric. I believe the Auditor should be a collaborative leader, and will work to build partnerships with other county officials to improve services and standardize best practices. We should expect fairness and transparency from our public servants, too, and for that reason I want to review our assessment practices and regularly share more with the public about how that process works and why valuations vary.

Q: How might additional technology be used to assist efficiency and transparency in the auditor's office?

A:

We have more tools at our disposal to deliver efficient and transparent service than ever before - and technology is a huge part of that. I believe we can utilize livestreaming to share more of our work directly with the public, and I'm committed to doing that wherever possible. I would also like to establish an official presence on social media for the office, and use it to provide regular updates about upcoming deadlines and office operations and to solicit feedback on how we can work more efficiently for our residents. It bears noting that the Auditor is responsible for overseeing IT services for most county offices, as well, so there is a tremendous opportunity in that to work with staff to ensure we are using the best possible technical tools not just for Auditor's functions like accounting and property assessment, but across county government. We have a strong team in place in Portage County, and I look forward to working closely with them to move our local government forward.

Deborah L. Mann (Rep)

Candidate has not responded.

Portage County Auditor

Kristy Elliott (Rep)

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: P.O. Box 204````Deerfield``OH``44411

Campaign Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Kristy-Elliott-for-Portage-County-Auditor-100616529276340>

Education: Bachelor of Science in Accounting

Campaign Phone Number: 330-283-8792

Campaign Email: Kristy.Lynn.Elliott@gmail.com

Training & Experience: 10 Years Public Accounting Experience Performing Audits and Financial Statements, Corporate & Individual Tax Return Preparation; 2nd Term in Office for Deerfield Twp Fiscal Officer; 20 Years of Payroll Preparation; 7 Years of Chief Financial Officer & Office Management Experience; Real Estate License

Questions:

Q: What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?

A: I graduated from college with both a Real Estate License and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. I worked 10 years in Public Accounting performing audits, annual financial statements, as well as corporate and individual income tax returns. I prepared and conducted several tax education seminars teaching small business owners about the changing tax laws each year. I am currently in my 2nd term as Deerfield Township Fiscal Officer of which I enjoy serving the constituents of the town I reside. If elected as Auditor, I look forward to this opportunity on a county level. I have 20 years experience preparing payroll and payroll tax obligations. I have 7 years experience as Chief Financial Officer & Office Management for multiple Portage County businesses. I have mastered multi-tasking and time management skills juggling multiple business obligations simultaneously. I have a strong work ethic and demonstrate integrity in everything I do.

Q: If elected, how would the auditor's office operate differently from how it operates now? Why?

A: In my experience as Deerfield Township Fiscal Officer, I have had the privilege of working with the Portage County Auditor's office. The staff have all been very knowledgeable and helpful in providing information to the township level as needed. I believe the staff exceeds expectations. However, all offices have room for improvement and with my background and work ethic, I would work to increase the efficiency, communication and transparency, as needed. I would bring fresh ideas, positivity, and an array of knowledge obtained through education and work experience to seek areas that are lacking and needs improvement and make the necessary changes to better serve the constituents of Portage County.

Q: How might additional technology be used to assist efficiency and transparency in the auditor's office?

A: Technology changes need to be made continuously in order to maximize the ongoing efficiency of the Portage County Auditor's Office. Changes can be made to increase the electronic storage of documents for more efficient access to assist with more timely responses to Public Records requests made by the Portage County Constituents.

Matt Kelly (Rep)

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: 2193 Steffy Road````MOGADORE``OH``44260

Education: BA - Business Administration from Walsh University, AA - Fire Protection Akron University, AA - Fire Science Community College of the Air Force

Campaign Phone Number: 330-606-9887

Campaign Email: mattkelly317@gmail.com

Training & Experience: 14 years as councilman for Village of Mogadore

Questions:

Q: What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?

A: I have 14 years experience as a councilman for the Village of Mogadore. As a councilman I chaired the Police & Fire Safety Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee and the Zoning Committee. I have a business degree from Walsh University. I have both led and participated in many different teams at my current full time job at Goodyear as well as my military career.

Q: If elected, how would the auditor's office operate differently from how it operates now? Why?

A: I believe in transparency and integrity. My goal is for the public to know that their hard earned tax dollars are going to where they are meant to go. The Auditor's office plays a very important role in the public trust of government. Any questions or issues that the constituency has will be addressed thoroughly and honestly. I have met the team that works in the Auditor's office and I came away with the impression that they are hard working, diligent and love their jobs. I intend to lean on that team to see where we can improve near term and then develop a strategy for long term improvement.

Q: How might additional technology be used to assist efficiency and transparency in the auditor's office?

A: I am a very visual learning person. I think most people work very well by seeing information, even somewhat complicated information, in a simple direct way so that they may ask questions, offer comments or even advice. I have ideas about how to implement this into the Auditor's office and I will use the team that is in place now to make that happen. Technology is always changing so I will seek best practices from other Auditor offices around the area and see what has worked and not worked for them. The ultimate goal is for the public to understand how taxes and budgets move through the process.

Portage County Commissioner Term comm. 1-1-2023

Mike Tinlin (Rep)

Biographical Info:

Campaign Website: TinlinforPortage.com

Education: Graduate from James A. Garfield, The Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy and The Ohio Fire Academy. The FBI National Academy #205 Association with University of Va

Campaign Mailing Address: 4679 King Meadow Trl.````Kent``OH``44240

Campaign Email: tinlin4pcc@gmail.com

Training & Experience: Several hours of Advanced Police and Fire Admin. Training. Instructor for 25 yrs, in Law Enforcement and Fire Arms. Acting Fire Chief and Council Member for Streetsboro. Retired Chief of Police.

Campaign Phone Number: 216-598-0566

Questions:

Q: What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?

A:

My decades of experience in public service to citizens, combined with years of civic engagement allows me to offer a fresh, balanced approach to County initiatives.

Q: What would be your top priorities as Commissioner?

A: Keep the office in full Transparency. Balanced approach to all County Business. Meet with Department Heads to work on a Proactive mission and stop Reacting. My door will always be open. Setting up Coffee meetings Morning and Night so all can attend and listen to the needs of our County Residents.

Q: What do you see as the most pressing needs in the County?

A:

Safety and Security will continue to be first and foremost. The court system needs attention. They are carrying to large of a case load. I will work on getting our Jail up to its full running potential.

Q: What is the responsibility of the Commissioners in explaining county spending to citizens? Should changes be made?

A:

I am running for Commissioner to STOP the hidden deals. Our taxpayers have the right to know what is being spent and to whom. It is your money

Q: Do you plan to promote any changes to existing taxes? If so, what and why?

A:

I will be working on Pro-Development approaches to ensure a Healthy, Vibrant business district- which is what keeps residents taxes low, and makes community investments possible.

Q: What role, if any, should the County play in protecting our water, air and land?

A:

As much as possible to benefit future generations. We all need to do our part. It should start at the top.

Portage County Commissioner Term comm. 1-1-2023

Geraldine Hayes Nelson (Dem)

Biographical Info:

Campaign Twitter Handle: @drnelsonportage

Campaign Website: www.drnelsonforportage.com

Education: Bachelor, Master and Ph.D in Higher Education

Campaign Mailing Address: 795 Admore Dr.````Kent``OH``44240

Campaign Email: drnelsonforportagecounty@gmail.com

Training & Experience: 27 years of higher education experience as an administrator and executive HR experience

Campaign Phone Number: 330541-7773

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.drnelsonforportagecounty.com

Questions:

Q: What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?

A:

I have served in a variety of leadership roles both professionally and personally. I have served as a leader in Portage County for over 30 years. My commitment to the community is validated through my years of service on various community, state, and national boards. I have advocated for Federal Funds for over 20 plus years on behalf of first-generation low-income families and students. I have a proven track record of trustworthy public service based on fairness and transparency. I will work to get the right people in the right seat to make the best and most informed decisions. I am a recognized leader across the academic, community, and non-profit organizations. I bring my extensive background in executive management and leadership as a retiree from Kent State University, the largest employer in Portage County. My overall training across multiple counties and statewide leadership qualifies me for this position.

Q: What would be your top priorities as Commissioner?

A: I plan to advocate for enhanced access to community services and community health centers, with enhanced accountability and accessibility to services across the county. As a leader, it is important to spend time listening to the people. If elected, I will continue to be a strong voice in my community for “the people” and those who are the most vulnerable. Attention to veterans, youth, senior citizens, and citizens in our townships is an area where attention must be granted in moving the county forward. As a former Public-School Teacher and University Administrator, I will continue to work on the issues of equal access, (broadband) by bridging the digital divide in our rural communities. In my role, I will work to promote Honesty, transparency, and accountability in funding allocations. Develop metrics of assessment and accountability of services and funding allocations on behalf of the citizens.

Q: What do you see as the most pressing needs in the County?

A: Economic development remains at the forefront of creating avenues to explore job creations that create job opportunities for fair wages for citizens. Workforce Development and Job Creation are necessary areas to build towards the retention of our youth and working middle-class families in Portage County. In supporting working-class families’ strategies need to be explored to increase quality childcare, enhanced access to mental health and recovery services to better support our citizens. We must continue to explore avenues to improve police/community relations, and address issues around affordable housing. Healthcare - Equal Access and Quality care within the Health Care Systems.

Q: What is the responsibility of the Commissioners in explaining county spending to citizens? Should changes be made?

A:

Helping citizens understand county spending (and the overall county budget) is a big part of a commissioner’s job. Not only do residents need to get these budget updates via weekly commissioner meetings. It is imperative that commissioners provide more context and explanation behind the decisions being made. After all, budgets are merely a reflection of what we value as a society and as a people, and we all do better when we understand the values behind the numbers. One example is new equipment purchasing – when we lead with our values of protecting our environment and the health of our residents, purchasing zero-carbon producing county equipment just makes sense; people understand it and get behind it. And that’s important. When we take the time to explain the values behind our decisions, we are much more likely to get greater buy-in than when we simply recite the numbers.

Q: Do you plan to promote any changes to existing taxes? If so, what and why?

A:

Currently, I do not foresee the need to advocate for or promote any changes to existing taxes in Portage County.

Q: What role, if any, should the County play in protecting our water, air and land?

A:

First and foremost, we must acknowledge that climate change is real. Portage County can (and should) be a model for dealing with the reality of the climate crisis at the local level. Fortunately, we are blessed with many environmental groups that have worked on this issue for decades. With additional support and partnership from the county, we could make greater strides to protect our environment. We should work directly with our local groups to develop a set of recommendations to achieve net-zero emissions for county operations by 2040. We should set goals to reduce our carbon footprint locally, all while saving taxpayer dollars. And we should make clear our commitment to environmental justice by launching programs that reduce the use of dangerous chemicals by pivoting to environmentally friendly purchasing for county operations (i.e. no phosphorus fertilizer or hazardous materials on county properties).

Tim Moon (Dem)

Biographical Info:

Campaign Website: www.votemoon2022.com

Education: Kent State University, Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice Studies

Campaign Mailing Address: 3891 Bassett Rd.````Rootstown``OH``44272

Campaign Email: votemoon2022@gmail.com

Training & Experience: Training too many to list during my 34 years in Law Enforcement. I've help positions as a Criminal Investigator, Probation Surveillance Office, Adult Probation Officer, Correctional Counselor/Detention Supervisor, Juvenile Probation Officer. (full-time and part-time) Also ran Process Serving business, 15 years.

Campaign Phone Number: 330614-1342

Campaign Facebook: www.facebook.com/VoteMoon2022

Questions:

Q: What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?

A: I am unmatched in my experience with the county. Even before completing my degree at Kent State University, I began working for Portage County and have now been employed there for 34 years. As a Juvenile Probation Officer, Adult Probation Officer and as an Investigator for the Prosecutor's Office, I have worked diligently to foster trusting relationships with citizens in the community. Because of my experience in law enforcement I am strongly driven by ethics. I am committed to treating every person, issue, and idea with deliberation and respect. I am an excellent listener, able to remain calm and prevent situations from escalating.

Q: What would be your top priorities as Commissioner?

A: 1. Government transparency and accountability 2. Community accessibility to resources 3. Economic Development.

As Commissioner I will focus on bringing broadband access to all members of the community especially those in rural areas. Access to the internet is no longer just about entertainment, but is crucial to education, job training, medical access and ability to work remotely. Additionally, I will strive to improve transparency, communication and accessibility. This will be my full-time job and I will be available to meet with diverse groups of citizens and engage in honest dialogue with the goal of prioritizing the issues most important to county residents. As an individual I live modestly and within my means and I expect the same of the government. There needs to be improved fiscal responsibility, as no part of the government is greater than the whole. As a commissioner I will work closely and meet regularly with the Regional Planning Comm. and the Portage Development Board.

Q: What do you see as the most pressing needs in the County?

A: Good paying jobs are critical. Citizens with good paying jobs will stay in the community, send their children to our schools, become involved in volunteer opportunities and help build tax revenue. I will continue to work with Jobs and Family Services to provide job training. With more broadband access people that wish to remain in Portage county could work remotely.

The health of the climate is a pressing need not just for the county but the entire planet. We have to investigate ways to reduce our dependence on nonrenewable resources. We should move toward purchasing electric vehicles and providing more charging stations for citizens.

All citizens regardless of where they live within the county need access to health care, mental health services and drug and alcohol treatment programs.

Q: What is the responsibility of the Commissioners in explaining county spending to citizens? Should changes be made?

A:

The basic outline of the county budget is set by set law. In the case of counties, flexibility of the commissioners is often hampered by state mandates. Just as you create a budget for your personal finances, the county also creates a budget based on expected revenues and expenditures. To make a successful budget it must involve and promote effective communication with its stakeholders – the citizens of the county. As commissioner I will make sure our budget is transparent, our meetings are public and decisions are explained clearly and effectively.

Q: Do you plan to promote any changes to existing taxes? If so, what and why?

A: I have no plans to propose any tax increases. Protecting county resources by preserving the sales tax base is critical. The sales tax is the most important revenue source for counties, yet the General Assembly continually finds new exemptions from the tax. Ohio must protect the existing sales tax base from further erosion. I will vigorously defend Portage County and lobby the State to return to previous funding levels.

Q: What role, if any, should the County play in protecting our water, air and land?

A: It is critical for all of us to protect our water, air and land. We need to invest in electric vehicles, provide more charging stations and examine the tax placed on hybrid and electric vehicle owners. Residents need a safe way to dispose of hazardous wastes such as paint, tires and batteries. Incentivise community groups to clean up vacant property. Look for grants to help rural communities upgrade septic systems.

Ed Dean (Rep)

Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Education: Graduate from Southeast High School

Campaign Mailing Address: 103 Johnson Rd.````North Benton``OH``44449

Campaign Email: edean54@yahoo.com

Training & Experience: 20 years as a Deerfield Township Trustee

Campaign Phone Number: 330-428-2726

Questions:

Q: What training, experience and characteristics qualify you for this position?

A: I have 20 years of public service experience as a Deerfield Township Trustee serving as chairman of the trustees. As chairman, I conduct township meetings in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code. I have helped establish and adhere to yearly budgets and ensure the efficient operation of the township. As a community leader, I value integrity, transparency, and unity in order to best serve my constituency.

Q: What would be your top priorities as Commissioner?

A: As Commissioner my top priorities will include working with the County Administrator to improve the continuity of the Board. In order to establish an effective budget and make sure we adhere accordingly, I will meet with the Director of Budgeting to gain an understanding of the impact it has on every department. I will hold departments accountable to their budgets while funding programs that are needed to serve the best interest of all county residents. I will implement the needed technology upgrades including payroll technology to ensure a countywide integrated system. I will push for upgraded technology for the purchasing department so they can operate efficiently. I will focus on employment by holding staff accountable to the needs of the county and community while reviewing departmental needs to ensure we are using the most effective and efficient means possible. As Commissioner, I will prioritize transparency. I will be present and available to the citizens of Portage County.

Q: What do you see as the most pressing needs in the County?

A: The most pressing needs of the County are community engagement and collaboration amongst elected officials. As a County we need to schedule public meetings so that the public can actually engage in them. This would allow the community to gain a better understanding of the inner-workings of our local government and give staff a better understanding of the citizens they serve. For this to happen, we need

collaboration amongst elected officials by hosting county leadership meetings to discuss goals and expectations of all elected officials.

Q: What is the responsibility of the Commissioners in explaining county spending to citizens? Should changes be made?

A: Commissioners should hold an obligation to the citizens they represent, especially when it comes to county spending. Changes should be made to prioritize citizens' understanding of the budget and how money is spent. By holding budget meetings in the evenings at least quarterly, more people would be able to attend and gain an understanding of how county money is spent.

Q: Do you plan to promote any changes to existing taxes? If so, what and why?

A: I would not agree to impose a tax on the citizens of Portage County. I plan to collaborate with other elected officials and consider a raise in sales tax but only after public approval on a ballot.

Q: What role, if any, should the County play in protecting our water, air and land?

A: As a County, we should ensure we are meeting all sustainability regulations set forth by the State of Ohio, including following guidelines for commercial and residential construction. By prioritizing collaboration with local and state farm bureaus, we can more effectively control fertilizer runoff into our waterways. It is vital to protect our water, air, and land to better support our local farms to ensure future generations of farming operations in the County.

Portage County Court of Common Pleas - Domestic Relations Division

Information about the candidate may be found at Judicial Votes Count:www.judicialvotescount.org

Paula C. Giulitto (Dem)

Portage County Court of Common Pleas - General Division

Information about the candidates may be found at Judicial Votes Count:www.judicialvotescount.org

Laurie J. Pittman (Dem)

Wesley Buchanan (Rep)

MEMBER OF COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE – DEMOCRATIC

Gloria Haven	Ravenna 1A	Patricia Nelson	Freedom A
Sharon Spencer	Ravenna 1B	Diane Davis	Freedom B
Bruce R. Ribelin	Ravenna 2A	Richard Brockett	Garrettsville VL A
R. Andrew Kluge	Ravenna 2B	Jeffrey D. Jackson	Hiram Twp B
Tiffany Welling	Ravenna 2C	Tamara Lyons	Mantua Twp A
Amy Michael	Ravenna 3B	Theresa Nielsen	Mantua Twp B
Cheryl A. Wood	Ravenna 3C	Cindy M. Greene	Paris A
Brad Cromes	Ravenna 4B	Denise Smith	Paris B
Melissa M. Long	Kent 1A	Timothy Moon	Randolph A
Lisa J. Hirt	Kent 1B	Erin Myrla	Randolph B
Fred M. Mendiola	Kent 1D	Gary L. Horning	Randolph C
Geraldine Hayes Nelson	Kent 2A	Ruth E. Stephens	Randolph D
Chris Clevenger Morris	Kent 2B	Whitney Franklin Hairston, Jr.	Ravenna Twp B
Michael DeLuke	Kent 2C	Henry T. Gibson	Ravenna Twp E
Bonny Graham	Kent 2D	Stephanie L. Rummel	Ravenna Twp G
Robin G. Turner	Kent 3B	Bonnie Howe	Rootstown A
Audrey Cielinski Kessler	Kent 3D	Misty Dulaney	Rootstown C
Richard Hawksley	Kent 5A	Deborah Ann Baird	Rootstown D
Jon Barber	Kent 5B	Victor V. Vigluicci	Rootstown E
Vivien Sandlund	Kent 6A	Christopher J. Mallin	Suffield A
Dean DePerro	Kent 6B	Joseph Falatok	Suffield C
Kelly Clary	Aurora 2B	Deborah M. Smith	Suffield D
John J. Montello	Aurora 4B	Laura J. Viebranz Stanley	Windham Twp B
Pamela Mascio	Aurora 5A	Kimberly S. Kiser	Windham VL A
John Kennedy	Aurora 5B		
Samantha Stephens	Streetsboro 3B		
Brian Pearson	Streetsboro 4C		
John B. Kovacich	Atwater A		
Michael A. Marozzi	Brimfield B		
Gregory A. Johnson	Brimfield D		
Adam Eskridge	Charlestown A		
Monica M. Kaley	Deerfield A		
William McCluskey	Edinburg A		
Leota Reale	Franklin B		
James A. Wyatt, Jr.	Franklin C		
Robert M. Howard	Franklin D		
Delores Durbin	Franklin E		



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Issue 1 Rootstown Local Schools renewal of two tax levies

Amount: 4.5 mills renewal of two tax levies that would generate approximately \$1,145,000 annually for 10 years beginning in 2022.

Explanation: The money will be used for the emergency requirements of the School District. The estimated tax outside of the ten-mill limitation necessary to raise that annual amount as certified by the county auditor is to average 4.5 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 45 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation. If approved, any remaining tax years on any of the two existing levies will not be collected after 2022.

Legal notice, Portage Co. Auditor

Issue 2 Springfield Local School District additional tax levy

Amount: 3.9 mills additional tax levy for 5 years beginning in 2022.

Explanation: An additional tax for the benefit of the Springfield Local School District for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 3.9 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 39 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation.

Legal notice

Issue 3 Community EMS renewal of tax levy

Amount: 3.5 mills renewal of tax levy that would generate approximately \$583,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2022.

Explanation: A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Community Emergency Medical Services District, serving the Village of Garrettsville, Freedom Township and Nelson Township, Portage County, Ohio, for the purpose of providing ambulance and EMS at a rate not exceeding 3.5 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 35 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation

Legal notice, Portage Co. Auditor

Issue 4 Aurora City charter amendment

Shall the proposed new Section 21.07 'virtually and/or electronically conducted meetings' of the charter of the city of Aurora allowing all public bodies of the city to conduct meetings by teleconference, video conference, or using other similar technology--complying with all legal requirements and subject to rules implemented by legislative action--be adopted?

Aurora City Council minutes

Issue 5 Aurora City renewal tax levy

Amount: 1.5 mills renewal tax levy that would generate approximately \$960,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2022.

Explanation: A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Aurora City for the purpose of ambulance and EMS at a rate not exceeding 1.5 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 15 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation.

Legal notice, Portage Co. Auditor

Issue 6 Streetsboro City 1C Local liquor option

Shall the sale of wine and mixed beverages and spirituous liquor be permitted for sale on Sunday between the hours of ten a.m. and midnight by Wild Eagle Streetsboro LLC, a holder of a D-5 and D-6 liquor permit who is engaged in the business of a restaurant at 9470 SR 14, Streetsboro, OH 44241 in this precinct?

Ballot language.

Issue 7 Mantua Village 0.5% income tax increase

Amount: 1.5% to 2.0% income tax increase that would generate approximately \$217,000 annually beginning on 7/1/2022.

Explanation: The money will only be used for law enforcement and public safety.

Teresa Criblez Fiscal Officer

Issue 8 Mogadore Village additional tax levy

Amount: 3.5 mills additional tax levy for 5 years beginning in 2022.

Explanation: An additional tax for the benefit of the Village of Mogadore for the purpose of the payment of firefighting companies or permanent, part-time, or volunteer firefighting, emergency medical service, administrative, or communications personnel to operate the same, including the payment of any employer contributions required for such personnel under Section 145.48 or 742.34 of the Revised Code, or other emergency medical services operated by a fire department or firefighting company, or for the payment of other related costs at a rate not exceeding 3.5 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 35 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation.

Summit Co. Board of Elections

Issue 9 Brimfield Township replacement & increase tax levy

Amount: 3.02 mills replacement & increase tax levy that would generate approximately \$352,000 annually for a continuing period of time beginning in 2022.

Explanation: Issue#9 addresses staffing needs with the addition of a minimum of 1 new Police Officer position for our growing community, and avoids personnel cuts. Issue #9 provides funding for Officer training and equipment, to include updated body worn cameras, and police vehicle needs for a minimum of five years. www.bpdsafetylevy.com

Roy E. Mosley III Chief of Police

Issue 10 Paris Township renewal tax levy

Amount: 2 mills renewal tax levy that would generate approximately \$44,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2022.

Explanation: A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Paris Township for the purpose of providing fire protection at a rate not exceeding 2 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 20 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation.

Legal notice, Portage Co. Auditor