



VOTER GUIDE – CANDIDATES & ISSUES

For Portage County, Ohio

MAY 4, 2021 PRIMARY/SPECIAL ELECTION

This voter 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.**

Candidates on the ballot in Portage County—LWV of Kent invited the candidates to participate by entering their information on VOTE411. The ballots in Portage County will have just two races contested in the primary/special election—Streetsboro City Council at Large and Tallmadge City Council at Large. All other candidates who filed to run for office will appear on the ballot in the November general election.

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

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

The League of Women Voters of Kent and Northern Portage County thank the *Record-Courier* for providing the print version of the Voter 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 www.kent.oh.lwvnet.org
President: Deborah Barber Voter Guide: Nena Hankins, (330)673-0128
League of Women Voters of Northern Portage County
Voter Service: Diane Bush

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: 5/4/2021 Primary/Special Election

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

Select District Name: e.g. *Streetsboro 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>

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Streetsboro City Council at Large
Vote for no more than 3

Robert R. Fulton

10165 Keith's Close Streetsboro, OH 44241
Candidate has not responded.

Streetsboro City Council at Large
Vote for no more than 3



Jon Hannan

Management/City Council

Age: 27

105 Hale Dr. E Streetsboro, OH 44241

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://Re-elect Jon Hannan Streetsboro City Council>

Education: Bachelors in Business Management Masters in Public Administration Both from Kent State University

Training & Experience: Current At-Large City Councilman for Streetsboro. City Council President 2019/2021

Question 1: *What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?*

Answer 1: My vision for Streetsboro has remained the same since before I got elected to city council and that's to make Streetsboro the best place it can be. I feel as if we can always improve and over the past four years since I have been elected, I feel as if we have implemented a great group of people that share the common vision of making Streetsboro a great place to live and raise a family. Putting politics aside, myself, other council members and the administration have created a cohesive group of city representatives that can carry out this vision. From new and improved city parks, to economic development and fiscal responsibility, there are a lot of great things happening in the city and I hope to be reelected to continue to make major improvements to the quality of life in Streetsboro.

Question 2: *What are your top three priorities for the City and how would you address them?*

Answer 2: My top three priorities for my second term is to start the process to build a new/permanent city hall and fieldhouse, improve and extend water quality and to continue to provide residents with transparent local government. Building a city hall and fieldhouse would complete the city complex we have been aiming at for years. With the fire station coming to completion, we are currently taking the next steps to start the next steps with designing the city hall and fieldhouse. We are also currently looking at ways to undertake massive waterline extension and replacement projects which would provide better water to our residents. Over the past four years the city has implemented a live stream of city council meetings to improve transparency with residents which I plan to continue. We have also given the Parks and Rec department the necessary tools to improve our parks and future plans include an amphitheater that is currently being discussed. I plan to do whatever necessary to complete this.

Streetsboro City Council at Large
Vote for no more than 3

Chuck Kocisko

Retired

Age:

1530 Pike Parkway Streetsboro, OH 44241

Question 1: *What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?*

Answer 1: Create more community events through the Parks and Recs programs. Example: Using the amphitheater for live entertainment, movies and other special events.

Question 2: *What are your top three priorities for the City and how would you address them?*

Answer 2: Roads, Water and empty store fronts. Continue working with council and the Mayor on the roads and water projects, along with our Economic Development Director on our empty store fronts. Offering my suggestions to entice Owners/Landlords to rent.

Streetsboro City Council at Large
Vote for no more than 3



Steve Michniak

Assistant Portage County Prosecuting Attorney

132 Emerald Ave. Streetsboro, OH 44241

Website/Facebook/Twitter:

Education: Graduated Kent State with Degree in Criminal Justice and The Cleveland Marshall School of Law . Passed the Bar Exam in 1999

Training & Experience: Attorney serving the people of Portage County for the past 21 years with the Portage County Prosecutors Office in the Major Trials Division . Also Served 2 prior full terms as an elected member of Streetsboro City Council & former Council President.

Question 1: *What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?*

Answer 1: Streetsboro has many good things going right now and my hope is to continue the advances our community has made and be sure we stay on the right track. My experience both as a former Streetsboro City Council Member and as a current County leader enables me to hit the ground running with little learning curve. Ill be ready to go on day 1 . My hope is that my experience can help me to contribute as a member of the City leadership team. I believe this City has grown so much in my lifetime living here and has so much more positive potential . I hope to help continue the balance our City has struck between providing business opportunities to grow the economic possibilities , as well as maintain that small town charm & family oriented community feel that we still have. And we can do this by making smart , thoughtful decisions on behalf of the people of this City and by working together with an understanding of who we work for and an appreciation of why we serve.

Michniak:

Question 2: *What are your top three priorities for the City and how would you address them?*

Answer 2: We must continue to build the City infrastructure in ways that help to continue to attract business, jobs and industry to our business corridors that have been developed and built within the City for the last 30 years. We have been blessed by the addition of jobs, tax base, and economic growth that has enabled Streetsboro to grow in ways we never could have without those businesses and the revenue they bring to the City. Another Priority I see and hope to be a part of is to make better land use decisions and regulations as a whole. Honestly this City really needs to stop getting into needless, (Michniak continued) costly major lawsuits over issues like land use and other major issues that have cost us countless time, resources, and precious tax dollars on lawyers, and civil settlements. Its frustrating to see so much wasted on lawsuits that could simply be avoided by better decision making. We must make smart, thoughtful decisions based in the law ahead of time and avoid costly lawsuits.

Streetsboro City Council at Large

Vote for no more than 3

Justin Ring

1456 Crescent Dr. Streetsboro, OH 44241

Candidate has not responded.

Streetsboro City Council at Large

Vote for no more than 3

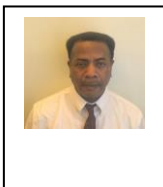
Brian Salyer

2161 Meadowsweet Ln. Streetsboro, OH 44241

Candidate has not responded.

Streetsboro City Council at Large

Vote for no more than 3



Marvin Woods

Retired

9747 Creekside Way Streetsboro, OH 44241

Website/Facebook/Twitter:

Education: Real Estate License Ohio, Life Insurance License, Electronics Technology Institute Certificate. High School Graduate

Training & Experience: Streetsboro City Councilman Ward 3. Held many leadership positions with the UAW and Machinist Union.

Question 1: *What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?*

Answer 1: My vision is a clean safe Community. I will work with the Leadership and the Community to expand and add to our Parks to include Bike Trails and Walking Trails. Establish Recreational Facilities for the older community residents and the younger residents. I would like to work with the Leadership to set-up programs for our Police Department to get more involved with our Community.

Woods:

Question 2: *What are your top three priorities for the City and how would you address them?*

Answer 2: My top three priorities for the City are: Safety; establish a Neighborhood Watch Program, if you see something, say something. But only things of importance. Streetsboro City Library; I would like to see the Library improved and expanded. Recreation; work with leadership to establish and implement programs/activities with the Parks and Recreation department.

Tallmadge City Council at Large

Vote for no more than 3



Jonathon D. Bollas

Rep

IT Project Manager

Age: 37

405 Peter Path Tallmadge, Ohio 44278

Website/Facebook/Twitter:

Education: MBA, Business Management - Malone University; BBA, Business Management - Kent State University

Training & Experience: Currently serving my first term as Tallmadge Ward 3 Councilperson. Chair-Tallmadge Safety Committee; Vice Chair-Tallmadge Community Issues Committee; Member - Tallmadge Personnel Committee; Project Management Agile Certified; Toastmasters Club Officer-VP, Education

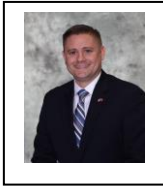
Question 1: *What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?*

Answer 1: My vision for our community is to continue making it better and brighter for future generations through thoughtful, inclusive, transparent strategic planning. We implement a vision of our future roadmap by listening to the people and being a voice for them. We should collaboratively review the city's comprehensive plan together. This plan sets forth our vision and goals for the city's future and ensure we're all aligned with that direction and that it makes sense for future generations. As current Ward 3 Councilperson I enjoy listening to resident's feedback and helping them navigate resolutions to a wide array of issues and questions ranging from flooding, trees, sidewalks, zoning, city ordinances, and much more. I've learned a lot in my first year on Council and enjoy rolling up my sleeves, helping be a voice for the community on Council and serving the constituents of our city. I look forward to continuing to learn from residents and find new ways to voice their views to Council.

Question 2: *What are your top three priorities for the City and how would you address them?*

Answer 2: 1) Plan, budget, and begin to implement Fiber Internet throughout the city within the next five years. This is being reviewed and I look forward to helping move this initiative forward. Our residents deserve to have options and excellent connectivity. This is especially important now more than ever as many people are now working from home and students are learning virtually. 2) Keeping our residents consistently updated on the East Ave widening project, the installation of the traffic light at East Ave & Washburn, and beginning Fire Stationer #2 construction. 3) 2020 was an extremely difficult year for all. I'm excited for us to get back to normal and enjoy our many community events again. We should update our city's comprehensive plan based on community input to ensure alignment through collaboration. Essentially aligning all of us on the answer to the age old question "where do you see yourself in 10 years?" This is also a year voters will decide on proposed city charter revisions.

Tallmadge City Council at Large
Vote for no more than 3



Adam Bozic

Rep

CEO of Classic Shine LLC

Age: 37

188 Washburn Rd. Tallmadge, Ohio 44278

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://www.facebook.com/BozicforCouncil>

Education: University of Akron Minor: Business Administration Bachelors: Sport Management Masters: Sport Administration

Training & Experience: United States Marine Corps Veteran American Heart Association - BLS Instructor

Question 1: *What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?*

Answer 1: My vision for Tallmadge is to have opportunities for families: parks, trails, entertainment. When I take my family out to have some fun as a family there's very few things we can do in town. I'd like to be able to see people's entertainment funds stay in our city. Sitting down to discuss how we grow our city needs to be a collaborative effort between the city administration, local business owners, potential new businesses and the community. This vision can certainly be a reality and Tallmadge can become a community where we all live, work and play.

Question 2: *What are your top three priorities for the City and how would you address them?*

Answer 2: 1. Growth: Tallmadge is a growing city. We need to take a hard look at all that is involved in a growing city. As more people move into Tallmadge the demand for city services such as police, fire, parks and service department are all going to increase. Right now there is no plan on how to sustain the growth. 2 & 3. Restaurants, Entertainment & Unoccupied Spaces: There is a great opportunity to provide food and entertainment venues throughout the city. The city needs to take a proactive approach on working with local business owners and the owners of unoccupied commercial buildings. When you look across the community we have quite a few unoccupied commercial spaces. Why is that? The growth of our population should be an attractive opportunity for business owners within the city and to help attract new businesses. By adding more food and entertainment venues the needs of our citizens will be met and we will solve the issue of the numerous unoccupied commercial buildings.

Tallmadge City Council at Large
Vote for no more than 3



Rita Detorakis

Rep

Stay at home parent

Age: 47

416 Helena Dr. Tallmadge, OH 44278

Education: Graduate of Youngstown State University Bachelor's degree in Sociology

Training & Experience: As a parent I've learned many skills such as: multi-tasking, communication, listening, research, organization, managing people, and the ultimate mom skill—negotiation.

Question 1: *What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?*

Candidate has not responded.

Question 2: *What are your top three priorities for the City and how would you address them?*

Candidate has not responded.

Tallmadge City Council at Large
Vote for no more than 3



Dennis Loughry

Rep

Director of Business Development FMD Architects

Age: 63

751 Clark Dr. Tallmadge, OH 44278

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://loughryfortallmadge.com> <http://dennisloughryfortallmadge.com>

Education: Attended the University of Akron

Training & Experience: In my 7th year as an At-Large Council member. Served on the Tallmadge Civil Service Commission. Was the Director of Public Service and the Director of Economic Development for Tallmadge. Served as the Executive Director of the Tallmadge Chamber of Commerce.

Question 1: *What is your vision for your community and how would you implement it?*

Answer 1: My vision is living in a community where everyone feels safe, confident that their tax dollars are being spent wisely and with the correct priorities, and where there are a variety of ways to connect and build friendships. To accomplish this I'll continue doing what I've done for almost 30 years now in Tallmadge. I will continue to support our safety forces. I will continue to fight to insure that our financial priorities are correctly aligned (safety first, service second, recreation third). And I will continue to foster and support strong positive relationships with our school district, faith based community, chamber of commerce, and civic organizations.

Question 2: *What are your top three priorities for the City and how would you address them?*

Answer 2: Increase Income Tax revenue. Accomplish this primarily in three ways. Continued JEDD growth, changing our Tallmadge zoning code to include overlays that make it easier to attract and place companies with higher payrolls, and by increasing the price point of new residential development to help balance out our residential valuation. Improve the diversity of our workforce. Accomplish this by supporting change in our Civil Service rules regarding testing and eligibility list, and by encouraging our other Elected Officials and appointing authorities to be more intentional in their at-will employee hiring decisions. Let everyone participate. Encourage more young people to get involved in our local government and become future leaders. Accomplish this by encouraging the Mayor to appoint younger and diverse individuals to our boards and commissions when the opportunity arises and by creating different task forces and short time service opportunities. Create volunteer opportunities for seniors

ISSUES

Issue 1: Portage County Children Services 0.5 mill additional tax levy that will generate approximately \$1.98 million annually for 5 years commencing in 2021. The funds will be used to support staffing, services and placement costs for abused, neglected and dependent children of Portage County. Child Protective Service employees are accessible 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week to conduct child abuse and neglect investigations as well as to provide ongoing support for children and families impacted by abuse, neglect and dependency. When children are not able to remain safely in their biological homes or when kinship providers are not available, the agency will coordinate and fund residential placements for youth in foster homes, group homes, and residential treatment facilities. Levy funds are also used to provide emergency services for children and families in crisis. Additional services include trauma evaluations, counseling, drug and alcohol assessments and treatment, parenting education, and therapeutic services. Services to license foster homes and to secure and finalize adoptive homes for children is also an essential services provided.

Kellijo Jeffries

Director, Portage County Job and Family Services

Issue 2: Aurora City Zoning Map Amendment

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the proposed amendment of the Aurora City Zoning Map amending the zoning of approximately 16.4 acres be revised from its current classification of I-1 Manufacturing, Processing, and Wholesaling to the classification of M-1 Mixed-Use Development District be approved? (*Ballot language*)

The property is located at 600 North Aurora Road, Aurora, OH.

Issue 3: A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Hiram Village for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 4.4 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 44 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022. (*Ballot language*)

Issue 4: A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Atwater Township for the purpose of general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, and repair and maintenance of Township roads and bridges 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, for 5 years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022. (*Ballot language*)

Issue 5: Nelson Township 1 mill renewal tax levy that will generate approximately \$49000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2021. The money would be used for current expenses.

Kevin Cihan

Fiscal Officer, Nelson Township

Issue 6: Crestwood Local School District 1.25% additional earned income tax levy that will generate approximately \$3.6 million annually for 10 years commencing on 1/1/2022. The funds from the operating levy would make up for the shortfall in the Crestwood budget, bridging the gap between what the state and federal governments pay and the actual cost of operating the school. Annual operating expenses include staff, textbooks, equipment, food service, transportation, fuel, maintenance, and repairs, etc.

Sarah Palm

Treasurer/CFO, Crestwood Local Schools

Issue 7: Rootstown Local School District 4.59 mills renewal tax levy that will generate approximately \$1.045 million annually for 10 years commencing in 2021. The funds are used for the current operations of the district. The district has relied on these funds for the last ten years to support student growth by providing salaries and benefits for teachers, classroom aides, secretaries, and administrators as well as custodians, bus drivers and coaches. The levy is also used for utilities, diesel fuel for buses, classroom supplies, and special education services. With this levy, the district will be able to continue to offer the same level of services. The Rootstown School District provides a quality education while spending below the state average on a per pupil basis.

Connie Baldwin

Treasurer/CFO, Rootstown Local School District

Issue 8: Springfield Local School District

Shall an annual income tax of 0.75% on the school district income of individuals and of estates be imposed by the Springfield Local School District for a continuing period of time, beginning January 1, 2022, for school district purposes? (*Ballot language*)

Issue 9: Waterloo Local School District 1.5% additional earned income tax levy that will generate approximately \$2.334 million annually for 5 years commencing on 1/1/2022. The money will be used to provide an excellent education for students including expanding our curriculum into STEM learning. The money will also enable the district to reinstate reduced staffing, reduce pay to participate fees, open the doors to youth programs and reinstate lost academic programs and special programs.

Todd B. Carpenter

Treasurer, Waterloo Local School District

Issue 10: Windham Exempted Village School District 1.5 mills additional tax levy that will generate approximately \$73000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2021. The high school/junior high building is in need of the boiler to be replaced. All of the funds are meant for the new boiler system and any extra funds must be used on facility improvements.

Adam Hines

Treasurer, Food Services Director

Windham Exempted Village School District

Issue 11: Akron-Summit County Public Library District

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the Akron-Summit County Public Library District for the purpose of current expenses at a rate not exceeding 1.9 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 19 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 6 years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022. (*Ballot language*)