



VOTERS' GUIDE – CANDIDATES & ISSUES

For Portage County, Ohio

NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

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

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

US President—Additional information on presidential candidates is available at www.VOTE411.org and is provided by LWVEF.

NOTE: All candidates who will appear on Ohio's ballot are listed in the President/Vice President section but only those that meet the following criteria were invited to respond to the League's questions in this guide.

1. The candidate must have made a public announcement of her/his intention to run for President.
2. The candidate must meet the Presidential Election Campaign Fund Act's minimum contribution threshold requirements for qualifying for matching funds, based on the most recent data publicly available on the Federal Elections Commission website.
3. The candidate must qualify for the ballot in enough states to win a majority of electoral votes.

US Congress & Ohio House of Representatives—Local leagues invited the candidates to participate by entering their information on VOTE411.

Judicial races in Ohio—Judicial Votes Count (www.judicialvotescount.org) obtained the information on all judicial candidates.

Ohio Senate and non-judicial Portage County races—LWV of Kent invited the candidates to participate by entering their information on VOTE411.

Part 2: 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 if they were opposed. 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. Go to www.judicialvotescount.org to see the answers to all of the questions asked of the judicial candidates.

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 www.kent.oh.lwvnet.org

President: Deborah Barber Voter's 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: 11/3/2020 General Election

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

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

Click the Find Ballots box.

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

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

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

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US President and Vice President

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Joseph R. Biden for President/Kamala D. Harris for Vice President

Joe Biden (Dem) Former Vice President of the United States

Campaign Website <http://www.joebiden.com>

Campaign Email info@joebiden.com

Campaign Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/joebiden>

Campaign Twitter [@joebiden](https://twitter.com/joebiden)

Campaign Instagram <http://www.instagram.com/joebiden/>

Campaign YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWNPxY8eJ-ku6M-v25MKw>

Mailing Address Biden for President, PO Box 58174, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

Q1 What actions would you take to balance public health and economic recovery in the US, both in light of COVID-19 and for the long term?

Joe Biden It's a false choice to think we have to choose between our public health and economy; they're linked. On Day One, I'll implement the COVID strategy I've laid out since March – surging testing and protective gear; distributing vaccines safely and free of politics; helping schools and small businesses cover costs; and getting state and local governments resources to keep educators, cops, and firefighters on the job. I'll respect science and tell the truth, period. And I'll build our economy back better, creating millions of good-paying jobs. I'll revitalize manufacturing, build a clean energy economy, and boost caregiving – easing the squeeze on working families, providing paid leave, and getting caregivers the respect and pay they deserve.

Q2 What is the most important issue facing our country and how do you plan to address it during your first 100 days in office?

Joe Biden Pandemic. Recession. Racial injustice. Climate change. We're facing historic crises; we have to tackle them all at once. Character and experience count. I'll listen to scientists, tell the truth, and make sure we're never so unprepared for a pandemic again. I'll expand the Affordable Care Act, lowering costs and making health care a right for all. I'll build our economy back better, and make racial equity central to recovery. In these crises, we have an enormous opportunity, if we come together. As President, I'll draw on the best of us, not the worst. I'll work as hard for those who don't support me as for those who do. That's a president's job: to represent us all. To take responsibility. To protect the nation. To unite and to heal.

Q3 How will you address racial injustice in our country on day one of your administration?

Joe Biden America is at an inflection point. It's past time to end our inequities and deal with the denial of our nation's promise to too many for too long. I'll fight to end the health inequities that COVID-19 amplifies; and give every child the same strong start in life by offering universal Pre-K, tripling funding for Title I schools, and making public college debt-free for most families. I'll make racial equity central to our recovery, closing the racial wealth and income gaps, boosting home ownership, and investing in communities and entrepreneurs of color – building a stronger, more inclusive middle class for the future. And, I'll work for real police reform and invest in shifting our criminal justice focus from incarceration to prevention.

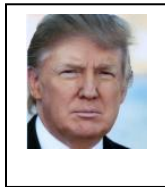
Q4 What aspects of our current immigration policy will your administration address first?

Joe Biden My immigration policy is built around keeping families together. It's past time to reform our broken system, restoring family unification and diversity as its core pillars. As President, I'll reverse Trump's assault on our values on Day One, ending his cruel border policies that rip children from their mothers' arms. I'll act immediately to protect Dreamers and their families, and invest real political capital in finally delivering legislative immigration reform, with a roadmap to citizenship for the nearly 11 million

undocumented people who already do so much to make our communities strong. We have to enforce our laws, but in a way that's humane, respects due process, honors our values, and sees the big picture.

Q5 What will you do over the long term to ensure access to quality healthcare for all?

Joe Biden This pandemic makes clear: All Americans need access to quality, affordable health insurance. That's why I'll protect and build on the Affordable Care Act. I helped to secure the final key votes to pass that landmark law, protecting 100 million Americans who can no longer be turned away or denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, and bringing coverage to 20 million more. As President, I'll build on that progress with a public option and lower health care and prescription drug costs. I'll make all COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines free; double funding for community health centers that are so often on the frontlines of care; and much more.



Donald J. Trump for President/**Michael R. Pence** for Vice President

Donald J. Trump (Rep)

Campaign Website<http://www.donaldjtrump.com/>

Campaign Emailinfo@donaldtrump.com

Campaign Facebook<http://www.facebook.com/DonaldTrump/>

Campaign Twitter [@realDonaldTrump](https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump)

Campaign Instagram<http://www.instagram.com/teamtrump/>

Campaign YouTube<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAql2DyGU2un1Ei2nMYsqOA>

Q1 What actions would you take to balance public health and economic recovery in the US, both in light of COVID-19 and for the long term?

Donald J. Trump Candidate has not yet responded.

Q2 What is the most important issue facing our country and how do you plan to address it during your first 100 days in office?

Donald J. Trump Candidate has not yet responded.

Q3 How will you address racial injustice in our country on day one of your administration?

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Donald J. Trump Candidate has not yet responded.

Q5 What will you do over the long term to ensure access to quality healthcare for all?

Donald J. Trump Candidate has not yet responded.

The following candidates have qualified for the Ohio state ballot according to the Secretary of State of Ohio but did not meet the LWVEF criteria as stated on page 1:

Howie Hawkins for President/**Angela Walker** for Vice President

Jo Jorgensen (Lib) for President/**Spike Cohen** for Vice President

Write-in Candidates:

Brian Carrol for President, Amar Patel for Vice President

Tom Hoefling for President, Andy Prior for Vice President

Dario Hunter for President, Dawn Neptune Adams for Vice President

Jade Simmons for President, Claudeliah J. Roze for Vice President

Kasey Wells for President, Rachel Wells for Vice President

President R19 Boddie for President, Eric Stoneham for Vice President

Ohio--US Representative to Congress 13th District



Tim Ryan (Dem)

Education Tim Ryan has a law degree from the University Of New Hampshire School Of Law (formerly the Franklin Pierce Law Center). He studied abroad as part of the Dickinson School of Law's International Law Program. He received a BA in Political Science from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Training/Experience U.S. Representative 18 years Ohio Senator 2 years

Current Occupation U.S. Representative

Website<http://timryanforcongress.com/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/timryanforcongress>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/timryan>

1. Given our experience with Covid-19, what precautions would you put in place to allow for safe, secure elections whereby voters are not choosing between their health and their right to vote, especially in November? Include how you would fund any necessary precautions and changes.

Tim Ryan The U.S. is facing a public health crisis, which has seriously impacted families, workers, business owners, and our economy. It is also straining a pillar of our democracy: our elections. With public health officials urging Americans to stay at home and practice social distancing, the prospect of long lines and crowded polling places could be dangerous to voters and disastrous for our democracy. We cannot force Americans to decide between making their voice heard in November, and their own health and the health of their loved ones.

Millions of Americans already face significant barriers to voting, obstacles that could be made worse in certain states in a continuing public health crisis. Given the uncertainties of the pandemic and physical distancing measures necessary in November, we must ensure the upcoming election is free, fair, secure, and on-time. I was proud to see that the House-passed HEROES Act included many strong provisions to shore up these concerns, including ensuring that voter registration application forms, absentee ballot application forms, and absentee ballots in federal elections are mailed to voters expeditiously with self-sealing envelopes and prepaid postage.

Many people, including President Trump, have successfully voted by mail many times. To avoid long lines on election day, we must expand voting by mail, extend early voting opportunities, enable curbside voting and remove other obstacles to the ballot box.

2. Describe what you have done to work across political differences to solve problems and foster trust with the voters you represent.

Tim Ryan The only way we will be able to truly move our country forward is by setting aside our differences and finding common ground. In 2019, I was named the second most bipartisan Member of Congress from Ohio and the 35th most bipartisan out of the 435 members of the House of Representatives. Bipartisanship is more important now than ever as our nation combats this worldwide pandemic. I am proud of the strong relationships I have forged with my Republican colleagues and my long record of bipartisan work to bring federal dollars back to Ohio and provide our state with the support and resources we need.

3. What legislation, if any, would you suggest to address gun safety?

Tim Ryan We have seen that horrific acts of gun violence can happen anywhere, to anyone. Congress must act.

I broke completely with the NRA after their non-response to the shooting at Sandy Hook and their opposition to universal background checks. I support Sandy Hook Promise, Americans for Responsible Solutions and Everytown for Gun Safety.

Congress can keep Americans safe while honoring the 2nd Amendment, which I support. I voted a background check for every firearm sale, and to strengthen procedures federal firearms licensees or dealers must follow before selling or transferring a firearm.

Congress should increase funding so the records are sufficiently updated to provide timely and accurate background checks. I support a ban on high-capacity magazines and assault weapons. Semi-automatic rifles and pistols with military-grade features have no place in the hands of civilians. At the same time, we must make it harder for these mass killing technologies, such as bump stocks, to be obtained.

We need to overturn a 1996 law that prevents the CDC from conducting research on gun violence and give states more power to enact gun safety laws.

After so many school shootings, we must ensure the safety of our children and teachers. I will fight tirelessly for safer schools. No parent, child, friend, or teacher should be forced to worry about their safety or the safety of their loved ones while going about their daily lives.

4. What solutions do you propose to address challenges in the healthcare system, women's reproductive rights and maternal and child health?

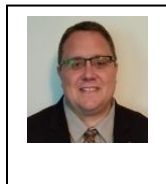
Tim Ryan Candidate has not yet responded.

Ohio--US Representative to Congress 13th District

Christine M. Hagan (Rep)

Candidate has not responded.

Ohio--US Representative to Congress 13th District



Michael Fricke (Lib)

Education BS Chemistry Ohio State 1997 BA Political Science Ohio State 1998 PhD Chemistry University of Cincinnati 2004

Training/Experience Became a Buckeye, majored in chemistry and political science, baseball umpire for 18 years, learned the piano, loved and lost, joined the Chi Phi fraternity, worked a summer in Alaska, sold snow skis and skied 33 days in a year, became a wilderness first responder, graduated Ohio State with a BS and a BA, 7000 mile road trip after graduation, grad school at the University of Cincinnati for six years, hiked the Inca Trail, PhD in arsenic, 8 trips to Europe to present my research, Oak Ridge Fellow for 4 years, toured with Phish, learned the bass, visiting scholar at the University of British Columbia, taught the blind, learned from the blind, started a design firm, moved to the east coast then back to Ohio, invented the Frickey, got engaged in India, got married and had two boys, started woodworking, joined a band, 15 year career in pharma, sold my side business, moved to Alabama, flipped a house, moved back to Ohio, went to Jordan to start a lab, ran Ohio's first cannabis lab, got married to the love of my life, moved next to a lake and got a flotilla of kayaks, went back into pharma and built two more labs, rehired twice by former bosses, became chair of the Akron American Chemical Society, did the analytical development for the leading candidate for a COVID-19 therapy and ran for US Congress as a Libertarian.

Current Occupation Senior Scientist

Website<http://www.frickeforohio13.com>

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1. Given our experience with Covid-19, what precautions would you put in place to allow for safe, secure elections whereby voters are not choosing between their health and their right to vote, especially in November? Include how you would fund any necessary precautions and changes.

Michael Fricke I recently celebrated my birthday and had to renew my auto registration and get the eCheck. The technician asked me to wait behind my vehicle and then climbed in my car and connected his machine under my dash. I thought to myself if the state can come into my vehicle during a pandemic, I

can walk into a building and cast my ballot like citizen of that state. The option to request an absentee ballot is sufficient protection for voters in November. My bigger concern is the ability to vote in person which I consider the minimal requirement of living in a democracy.

2. Describe what you have done to work across political differences to solve problems and foster trust with the voters you represent.

Michael Fricke One of the reasons I am running for office is a response to the polarity of politics in America. I cherish my ability to vote and I study the issues and struggle with my decisions. I have voted for both Republicans and Democrats and have always been proud to be a swing voter in a swing state. The last few elections I have noticed the swing voter has become a dying breed. Politicians don't speak to the middle anymore, all of their efforts are spent only riling up their base. This has led to an inability to work with the other side or even talk to the other side. I represent a different way to do things; a revolution from the middle.

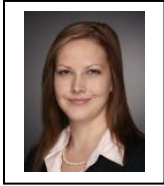
3. What legislation, if any, would you suggest to address gun safety?

Michael Fricke A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

4. What solutions do you propose to address challenges in the healthcare system, women's reproductive rights and maternal and child health?

Michael Fricke I fully support women's reproductive rights. I favor a free market approach to health care solutions. One reason is the success of Lasik surgery. This is an elective surgery and no insurance covers the procedure. Operating completely in a free market system, the price of Lasik has dropped while service has improved.

Ohio—US Representative to Congress 14th District



Hillary O'Connor Mueri (Dem)

Education J.D., University of San Diego School of Law, 2010 B.S. Aviation Engineering, The Ohio State University, 1999

Current Occupation Attorney

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1. Given our experience with Covid-19, what precautions would you put in place to allow for safe, secure elections whereby voters are not choosing between their health and their right to vote, especially in November? Include how you would fund any necessary precautions and changes.

Hillary O'Connor Mueri The CDC spells out clear recommendations for holding safer elections in light of the COVID-19 crisis. The risk for infection is highest when circumstances force larger crowds to congregate indoors for longer wait times. Lower risk scenarios include having a wide variety of voting options, longer voting periods (more days and/or more hours), and other means of reducing the number of voters congregating indoors. Polling locations should be set up to maximize adherence to CDC recommendations, including mask use, social distancing, and hygiene. Further, we should invest alternatives to in-person voting, including extended absentee voting and the placement of ballot deposit boxes, placed in an equitable manner based on population and travel time from population centers.

The CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) Act combined with 2002's HAVA (Help America Vote Act) provide over \$825M in available funding; however, most estimates place the cost of a safe, secure election closer to \$2B and the shortfall ought to be covered by Congress via a further stimulus package. Additionally, the Postal Service must be fully funded as part of our election infrastructure. The right to vote is one of Americans' most basic Constitutional rights and Congress has a sworn obligation to ensure all citizens have the ability to safely cast their ballots.

2. Describe what you have done to work across political differences to solve problems and foster trust with the voters you represent.

Hillary O'Connor Mueri As a Navy combat veteran, I have always had a country-first, mission-oriented focus. I believe in service -- service to country, and service to constituents. In Congress, I will continue the ethic of service that I have demonstrated throughout my career to serve my country and my District.

It is no coincidence that division has peaked in our government as the number of veterans in Congress has reached historic lows. According to The Lugar Center's Bipartisan Index, veterans, especially younger ones, score better than other members of Congress on their willingness to work across the aisle.

The incumbent in this office has demonstrated his unwillingness to work across the aisle with his strikingly partisan voting record (exceptional even in our currently divided era) and voting with the current administration over 95% of the time. I will always work in service of my Country and my constituents across political differences to solve problems and foster trust with the voters I represent.

3. What legislation, if any, would you suggest to address gun safety?

Hillary O'Connor Mueri As a combat veteran I will unequivocally say that weapons of war do not belong on our streets. This does not translate to 'anti-gun; 'firearms are necessary tools and belong in the hands of trained law enforcement personnel and hunters amongst others. We can prevent guns from getting into the hands of criminals through common-sense regulation which respect the 2nd Amendment and are in keeping with historical precedent.

Priority one is universal background checks. Background checks have the support of over 85% of Americans. They work and have prevented over 3.5 million sales to people who are prohibited from owning guns, such as felons, abusers, and fugitives. Simply put, background checks help keep weapons out of the hands of criminals making our streets safer for us, our children, and law enforcement. Universal checks close the loopholes in the system. Over 30 states—including Ohio—do not require a check on unlicensed sales.

We must reinstate the 1994 prohibition on assault weapons and high capacity magazines and institute a voluntary buyback of those in circulation. This prohibition made our streets safer and is consistent with historical regulations dating back to our nation's earliest days.

Finally, the gun industry's immunity to most civil lawsuits, established by PLCAA, must be revoked so they reap the costs of selling their products, not just the profits.

4. What solutions do you propose to address challenges in the healthcare system, women's reproductive rights and maternal and child health?

Hillary O'Connor Mueri Health care is a human right. In the richest country on Earth, it is inconceivable that people are forced into bankruptcy by simple accidents and forced to extremes like insulin rationing in order to make ends meet. All Americans should be able to count on affordable, available, quality health care. In pursuit of universal coverage, I support "public option" insurance in which a government-run health plan would compete with private insurers. Market forces should lead to better prices, better coverage, and better service for all Americans. Further, I support an expansion of the National Health Service Corps to increase access to doctors in high-need areas.

The Supreme Court has recognized abortion as a Constitutional right longer than I have been alive. Polling data shows 71% of Americans oppose overturning Roe v. Wade, including a majority of Republicans. Women's health requires access to reproductive care; one need look no further than Ireland and the tragic death of Savita Halappanavar to understand the consequences of involving the government in a woman's health decisions.

Severe maternal complications have more than doubled in the last 20 years with the US rocketing to the top of high-income countries. Expanded access to health care to care for expectant mothers, new mothers, and newborn babies beyond the paltry 60 days provided for by Medicaid is necessary to ensure a healthy start to a new family.

Ohio—US Representative to Congress 14th District



David P. Joyce (Rep)

Education University of Dayton (BS,JD)

Current Occupation U.S. Congressman

Training/Experience Public Defender, Cuyahoga County (1983-1984) Public Defender, Geauga County (1984-1988) Prosecutor, Geauga County (1989-2012)

Website

<http://joyceforcongress.com>

Facebook

<http://facebook.com/DaveJoyceOH>

Twitter [@DaveJoyceOH14](https://twitter.com/DaveJoyceOH14)

1. Given our experience with Covid-19, what precautions would you put in place to allow for safe, secure elections whereby voters are not choosing between their health and their right to vote, especially in November? Include how you would fund any necessary precautions and changes.

David P. Joyce Here in Ohio, our election professionals have worked hard to ensure you can safely cast your ballot this November, whether you choose to do so by mail or in person.

Voters who don't want to risk their health amid the ongoing pandemic by voting in person still have the right to participate in our nation's democratic process and must have the option to do so. To ensure the Postal Service has the resources they need to deliver those ballots, I recently voted with my colleagues across the aisle to provide the Postal Service with \$25 billion in additional funding. Ohioans who plan to cast their ballot by mail should have full confidence that their vote will be counted.

Similarly, voters who wish to cast their ballot in person must be able to do so safely. Our board of elections are working to establish the necessary precautions to ensure the safety of those who vote in-person as well as those working the polls.

Last month, I was proud to work with a Lake County manufacturer, RB Sigma, and the Secretary of State's office to create a partnership that will provide nearly half a million surgical masks for poll workers and voters in all 88 counties on election day. RB Sigma was able to retool their machinery to produce PPE thanks to a \$500,000 grant funded by the CARES Act. I'm proud to support manufacturers like RB Sigma that have worked around the clock to produce and deliver essential PPE across Ohio, ensuring that voters who choose to vote on election day are safe.

2. Describe what you have done to work across political differences to solve problems and foster trust with the voters you represent.

David P. Joyce Regardless of where you land on the political spectrum, I think everyone can agree that the American people pay the price when partisanship prevents Congress from addressing the challenges facing our nation. That's why I'm proud to have been recognized as one of the most bipartisan members of Congress by the Lugar Center and Georgetown University. While the majority of members ranked below the historical average, I earned a spot in the top 10% in their annual rankings of the most bipartisan members of Congress, which are based on the frequency with which members work with members of the other party on their legislation. I was also honored to receive the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's first-ever Jefferson-Hamilton Award for Bipartisanship.

As a member of the House Problem Solvers Caucus, I consistently work across the aisle to find common ground on issues facing the American people. This year alone, I've worked alongside my Democratic

colleagues to combat the skyrocketing opioid overdoses amidst the pandemic, ensure our hospitals have sufficient resources and PPE, address military suicide rates, reduce our nation-wide sexual assault kit backlog, and protect student loan forgiveness for public servants like nurses, police officers, social workers and firefighters.

Every time I go to Washington, I go ready to leave the toxic red team versus blue team mentality at the door and work together with my colleagues across the aisle to create a better future for our country.

3. What legislation, if any, would you suggest to address gun safety?

David P. Joyce As a member of the initial prosecuting team for the Chardon High School shooting in 2012, I have seen first-hand the impact that acts of senseless violence have on our communities. That's why I have reached across the aisle and offered to work with my Democratic colleagues to address this critical issue in a non-partisan way.

In addition to consistently voting to protect and strengthen the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), I voted to increase the accuracy of background checks and penalize agencies that fail to report required information to NICS. I have also supported numerous pieces of legislation that address the root cause of these tragedies, such as the Mass Violence Protection Act of 2019. This legislation tackles gun violence by improving information sharing among law enforcement agencies and cracking down on illegal firearm possession.

Other legislation I've cosponsored includes the Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016, the STOP School Violence Act, the Securing our Schools Act, and the Safe Schools Improvement Act. Last Congress, I sent a letter to the Department of Justice in support of Ohio's application for funding under the STOP School Violence Act to help bring threat assessments and training programs to all Ohio schools.

As the only member of Congress to have prosecuted a school shooter, I remain committed to finding commonsense solutions to reduce gun violence and directly improve the safety of our communities.

4. What solutions do you propose to address challenges in the healthcare system, women's reproductive rights and maternal and child health?

David P. Joyce This pandemic has underscored just how important our healthcare system is, as are those who work in it. As the proud husband of a nurse, I've always known that our healthcare workers are heroes but over that past several months, the word "hero" has reached a whole new meaning. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, medical professionals across the country have been working non-stop to preserve the health and safety of the American people all while risking their own.

That's why, as the Co-Chair of the House Nursing Caucus, I led the charge to directly include \$100 billion in relief funding for hospitals and healthcare systems to battle COVID-19 on the frontlines. But even before COVID-19 swept across our nation, I was working to enhance healthcare for millions of Ohioans. The first bill I introduced this past Congress was to protect individuals with pre-existing conditions and ensure their coverage remains intact despite legal uncertainty stemming from the Affordable Care Act's ongoing litigation. I have also advocated for increased and unbiased access to healthcare services for those suffering from mental health disorders and worked across the aisle to combat the skyrocketing costs of prescription medications.

The fact of the matter is that healthcare should be accessible and affordable for all Ohioans and much work remains to be done to accomplish that.

Ohio--US Representative to Congress 16th District

Aaron Paul Godfrey (Dem)

Physicist

Age: 34

1515 Westford Circle Apt 101 Westlake, OH 44145

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://www.godfreyforcongress.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/GodfreyForCongress/> twitter.com/GodfreyForOH16

Education: MSc, Physics, Miami University (2010)

Question 1: *Given our experience with Covid-19, what precautions would you put in place to allow for safe, secure elections whereby voters are not choosing between their health and their right to vote, especially in November? Include how you would fund any necessary precautions and changes.*

Answer 1: The Federal government should be willing to fund safe and secure elections amidst the pandemic, possibly with a very minor tax increase on the top earners in this country. Repealing Trump's tax cut for the wealthiest people in the nation would easily fund this (as well as many other social projects that would be a huge boon for the people). An election during a pandemic should encourage vote-by-mail above all else, facilitated with postage-paid ballot requests, paid postage for returning the ballot, and multiple ballot drop boxes across every state to minimize the effort needed on the part of the voter to cast their ballot. In-person voting should be done in large, well-ventilated buildings where dividers separate voters from their poll workers. Voting booths would also need the space necessary to be 6 feet apart from others at all time, with masks required for all voters (and provided for free) and PPE provided for poll workers.

Question 2: *Describe what you have done to work across political differences to solve problems and foster trust with the voters you represent.*

Answer 2: Given I am not currently in a legislative office, this is a difficult question to answer. But I do have some experience trying to bridge gaps - in the 2018 election, I was elected to be on the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Central Committee, representing Westlake's ward 3-D. In that role, I have worked with the Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus and the CCDP to help try to bridge the gap between the party leaders and the changes that my fellow activists within the community would like to see in the county party structure. Beyond that, I am seeking this office in order to effect positive change for the people of the 16th District. Those efforts would know no party lines. I will work with anyone, regardless of affiliation, who has a serious and honest intent to solve the problems facing our district and our country, whether it's government corruption, the cost/access of healthcare, the climate crisis, or any of the many other issues affecting our district/country.

Question 3: *Where do you stand on gun safety measures?*

Answer 3: I think that better education paired with reasonable restrictions would do a great deal to reduce gun violence in this country while avoiding the infringement of anyone's rights. To me, "reasonable restrictions" include: 1.) universal background checks, 2.) magazine limits, and 3.) assault weapon bans. Most voters agree on these issues, but they are kept from being enacted as policy due to the influence of special interest groups. Education is more wide-ranging, however. Something like this would consist of making sure new gun owners are aware of typical safety and maintenance procedures while also educating them on the availability mental health care services and how to properly store guns safely so that kids do not find and use them. Most specifically, I would vote for an assault weapon ban, closing the boyfriend loophole, and permanently extending the Violence Against Women Act.

Question 4: *What solutions do you propose to address challenges, especially inequities, in the healthcare system?*

Answer 4: The best thing we can do to remove the challenges of accessing and affording healthcare in this country is to enact a universal healthcare plan such as Medicare-for-All. Absent that, we need a better safety net to cover those who cannot afford healthcare. Creating a public option for Medicare is a great step in that direction and automatically enrolling anyone who loses their healthcare so that there is no gap in coverage when someone loses their job through no fault of their own - for example, due to a

pandemic. The Federal government should also provide financial support for rural hospitals under threat of closure. We need to make sure, as a nation, that everyone has a hospital within a reasonable distance. As a part of normal licensure exams, doctors should undergo racial & gender bias training to raise awareness of subconscious discrimination - such as the documented bias against believing women and people of color when they self-diagnose or provide doctors with their symptoms.

Ohio--US Representative to Congress 16th District

Anthony Gonzalez (Rep)

1150 Homeland Dr. Rocky River, OH 44116

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://www.voteanthonygonzalez.com>

Candidate has not responded.

State Senator 18th District



Betsy Rader (Dem)

Attorney

Age: 59

8283 Fairmount Rd. Novelty, OH 44072

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://www.betsyrader4ohio.com> <http://www.facebook.com/BetsyRaderOH>
twitter.com/BetsyRaderOH

Education: The Ohio State University B.A. 1982 Yale Law School J.D. 1986 George Washington University grad. cert. Healthcare Compliance 2014

Training & Experience: Employment Attorney, guardian ad litem for abused children, Betsy Rader Law; ORISE Fellow, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Senior Counsel, Cleveland Clinic; Sr. VP, LOCUM Medical Group; Director CASA for KIDS of Geauga County; Attorney, Squire Sanders

Question 1: *In what ways would you change our election system in order to be prepared for crises that impair the right to vote?*

Answer 1: Robust voter education about voting options is key during a crisis. Some changes that should have been implemented in Ohio during this crisis are (1) the ability to request an absentee ballot online instead of limiting requests to a paper application that is mailed in, and (2) increasing the number of ballot drop box locations rather than only allowing a drop box at a single Board of Elections location for each county. Including postage on the return envelope for requested absentee ballots would also facilitate voting. Some other states only permit absentee voting if the voter has an “excuse,” and those states should adopt Ohio’s system of “no excuse” absentee voting. Other types of crises could involve the internet or electrical systems, and returning to the universal use of hand-marked paper ballots could help ameliorate those problems.

Question 2: *What will you do to combat gerrymandering and ensure that voter-approved redistricting reforms are implemented?*

Answer 2: Fair districts and fair elections are essential to our democracy. A three-judge federal panel ruled last year that Ohio’s current congressional districts are unconstitutionally gerrymandered, depriving us of our free speech and voting rights. But the Supreme Court subsequently ruled that it was up to the political process rather than the courts to address gerrymandering. Fortunately, new Ohio rules govern how maps are to be redrawn in 2021 and require far more transparency and bipartisanship than when districts were last drawn. As a state senator I will have the opportunity to vote on the new district maps even if I am a member of the minority party, and I will diligently review such maps for fairness. I will be a strong voice for compliance with the new laws and for fair districts within the legislature and in all public forums. Members of all political parties benefit from fair districts where politicians are accountable to voters and extremism is not rewarded.

Question 3: *Where do you stand on gun safety measures?*

Answer 3: My dad was a game warden with the Ohio Division of Wildlife; I grew up hunting with him and guns were a regular part of our lives. I recognize Second Amendment rights and I support common sense gun safety measures such as universal background checks that keep guns out of the hands of criminals and terrorists. I also support Red Flag Laws that allow courts with due process to keep guns out of the hands of people who are a danger to themselves or others, like domestic violence perpetrators. I am the endorsed candidate of the Ohio Fraternal Order of Police, and I support measures that protect our police such as disclosure of concealed weapons during a traffic stop or other law enforcement purpose.

Betsy Rader

Question 4: *Where do you stand on women’s reproductive rights and health?*

Answer 4: When I was a married law student without health insurance, I was able to receive affordable routine women’s healthcare at Planned Parenthood and those services included birth control that allowed me to plan when I would start our family. I support healthcare services such as Planned Parenthood and believe women should be able to access affordable healthcare and to make their own healthcare decisions with their doctors without interference by the government. This right to make medical decisions extends to their reproductive rights, subject to the limits set forth by the United States Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade. This decision has been established law in this country for almost 50 years and should not be overturned.

State Senator 18th District

Jerry Cirino (Rep)

Lake Co. Commissioner
8651 Kirtland Chardon Rd. Kirtland, OH 44094
Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://www.jerrycirino.com>
Candidate has not responded.

State Representative 75th District



Randi Clites (Dem)

Associate Director of The Northern Ohio Hemophilia Foundation
Age: 45
5411 Fairhill Drive Ravenna, OH 44266
Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://www.randiclites.com> <http://www.facebook.com/randiforohio/>
twitter.com/randiclites
Education: Hiram College, Business Management Degree with a minor in Political Science
Training & Experience: 2008 - 2018 I served as the advocacy coordinator for a statewide coalition. As the coordinator, I identified the top three advocacy priorities and organized the members to engage on the issues.

Question 1: *In what ways would you change our election system in order to be prepared for crises that impair the right to vote?*

Answer 1: I will support efforts to protect our constitutional right to vote during a crisis without impairing our access by: expanding voter registration by re-establishing golden week, allow application for absentee ballot to be submitted online, not supporting a consolidation of voting locations, provide better access to voting by increasing drop box locations and/or pre-paid postage, support more robust voter education opportunities from both state and local boards to explain the in-person, curbside, and vote by mail process, and increase access to early in-person voting to better serve people with disabilities, transportation issues, students and elderly.

Question 2: *What will you do to combat gerrymandering and ensure that voter-approved redistricting reforms are implemented?*

Answer 2: Portage County is a clear example of the issues with gerrymandering, since it is split into three Congressional Districts. This undermines our national representation to Congress by separating traditionally democratic and republican areas and not allowing our county to have whole representation from one member of Congress. Politicians should not be able to pick their voters by drawing the lines to

protect the party in the majority. To combat gerrymandering and ensure that voter-approved redistricting reforms are implemented, I will support a bipartisan, fair, and transparent map that doesn't discriminate against any voters.

Question 3: *Where do you stand on gun safety measures?*

Answer 3: Living all my life in a home with a firearm, I believe strongly in the importance of safe storage and firearm education, so I will work with and support organizations to educate gun owners. I will continue to support common sense gun safety measures, including expansion of educational programs for safe storage and handling of firearms, support extreme-risk legislation to protect loved ones from a dangerous situation, update the background check process to make sure firearms do not get in the hands of criminals, and ensure that future legislation that is introduced provides safety and security to Ohioans.

Question 4: *Where do you stand on women's reproductive rights and health?*

Answer 4: As a current member of the House Health committee, I stood up against the unconstitutional six-week abortion ban passed last year. I will continue to fight for the fundamental right to access reproductive healthcare. I will continue to make sure Ohioans have access to affordable contraception and healthcare. I believe a woman has the right to control their own body. Healthcare decisions should be made by the patient with consultation from a doctor, not by politicians. Access to care should be based on science and facts, not opinion or religious affiliation.

State Representative 75th District



Gail K. Pavliga (Rep)

College Professor

Age: 60

1965 New Milford Rd. Atwater, OH 44201

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://gailpavliga.com> <http://Gail Pavliga for State Representative>

Education: PhD University of Akron MA Kent State University BA Kent State Un

Training & Experience: College Professor, Entrepreneur

Question 1: *In what ways would you change our election system in order to be prepared for crises that impair the right to vote?*

Answer 1: Candidate has not responded.

Question 2: *What will you do to combat gerrymandering and ensure that voter-approved redistricting reforms are implemented?*

Answer 2: Ohio won't draw a new congressional map until 2022. In 2022, a commission should be formed by State legislators to explore how District lines will be designated.

Question 3: *Where do you stand on gun safety measures?*

Answer 3: Candidate has not responded.

Question 4: *Where do you stand on women's reproductive rights and health?*

Answer 4: Candidate has not responded.



State Representative 76th District

Garrett Westhoven (Dem)

Occupation: Web Software Engineer

Education BS Mathematics University of Notre Dame

Training & Experience 15 years of web development experience.

Website <http://garrettwesthoven.com>

Facebook <http://facebook.com/gwesthoven>

Twitter @tterragnoj

Q1 In what ways would you change our election system in order to be prepared for crises that impair the right to vote?

Garrett Westhoven I would make it possible to submit an absentee ballot application online and spread dropboxes throughout all counties so we would not be forced to rely on the postal service.

Q2 What will you do to combat gerrymandering and ensure that voter-approved redistricting reforms are implemented?

Garrett Westhoven We need to ensure lines are drawn by an independent non partisan commission to ensure voters choose their politicians, and that politicians do not choose their voters.

Q3 Where do you stand on gun safety measures?

Garrett Westhoven We need to implement sensible gun control solution as soon as possible. Guns were invented to kill people. While our constitution does permit us to bear arms, many seem to disregard the "well regulated" portion of the 2nd amendment. Creating a structure similar to what we have with motor vehicles, where every firearm is registered, and gun owners are required to have a license which also requires the passing of a test. How many people need to die in a school, or outside a bar, or at a concert for gun owners to accept some inconvenience.

Q4 Where do you stand on women's reproductive rights and health?

Garrett Westhoven We need to ensure that women's reproductive healthcare is protected so that her health needs are not determined by politicians but by she and her doctor.

State Representative 76th District

Diane V. Grendell (Rep)

Candidate has not responded.

Portage County Commissioner Term Comm. 1-2-2021



Kathleen Clyde (Dem)

Portage County Commissioner

Age: 41

456 Harvey St. Kent, OH 44240

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://kathleenclcyde.com> <http://facebook.com/KathleenClydeOH>
twitter.com/KathleenClyde

Education: Graduate of James A. Garfield High School. B.A. from Wesleyan University. J.D. from Ohio State University.

Training & Experience: Attorney for over 10 years. Served as a member of the Ohio House representing Portage County for 8 years. Served as a Portage County Commissioner for 1.5 years, currently as President of the Board.

Question 1: *What challenges do counties have that citizens might not realize are your responsibility and how do you address them?*

Answer 1: The coronavirus pandemic challenges all of us. As residents try to protect their families and their livelihoods, it can be confusing where to turn. The lead response agency in the county is actually the county Health Department, which is not under the county commissioners. But in a pandemic, it's been all hands on deck. Through our Emergency Management Agency we have worked closely with the Health Dept. to help steer the county through the pandemic – coordinating PPE distributions, establishing model personnel policies, leading weekly media briefings, and establishing supports for local businesses and families. Another challenge we face is that under Ohio law, commissioners can't pass ordinances or bills like cities or states. So sometime county residents want us to pass something that's not within our authority. However, using my background in state government and as an attorney, I am usually able to guide someone to the appropriate venue for the concern or idea and work with them.

Question 2: *What are the most significant problems facing Portage County in the next four years? What ideas do you have to deal with and fund them?*

Answer 2: Poverty and low wage jobs can lead to a cycle of despair, including addiction, violence, and even suicide. A significant problem facing our county is that many of our residents do not have access to the quality jobs that will allow them to break this cycle. Although college degrees are often necessary for higher wage jobs, college is increasingly unaffordable. While other post-secondary options can lead to good opportunities, many young people living on the brink of poverty struggle to pay for and attend additional schooling. I will continue working through the Portage Development Board to create good paying jobs in our communities, and to find ways to link young people to the careers that can sustain them long term. I'll also work with our criminal justice system to find better ways to treat addiction and mental health issues. We must support our Children's Services system straining from the addiction epidemic plaguing our state and we must collaborate more to reduce suicides.

Portage County Commissioner Term Comm. 1-2-2021



Tony Badalamenti (Rep)

Chiropractor

Age: 63

45 N. Chillicothe Rd. Aurora, OH 44202

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://TonyBadalamentiforPortageCountyCommissioner>

Education: Associates Degree: Human Biology/Psychology. Bachelors Degree: Human Biology.

Doctorate: Chiropractic Medicine

Training & Experience: USMC: 10 yrs (Staff Sargent), Private Chiropractic Practice X 30yrs. Pres. Aurora Chamber X 12yrs. Lt. Gov. of Kiwanis District Oh. Charter Com. City of Aurora. 2X Kiwanian of the year. Leadership Po. Co. Class of 1996. 2007-2008 Practice Mgmt. Certification.

Question 1: *What challenges do counties have that citizens might not realize are your responsibility and how do you address them?*

Answer 1: Portage County does not have a strategic plan. Most county citizens are not aware of this. This plan would provide for the direction and growth of the county. A strategic plan also enables the county to receive grants that they have not been eligible to apply for because they require a strategic plan as a requirement for application. Part of developing this plan would be to determine the current status of our infrastructure: (Buildings ,roads, bridges, water delivery systems, waste water systems and reservoirs) and what needs to be done to replace/repair, and what is needed to maintain these going forward. This will bring in new business which will bring in more tax dollars. The county could explore the use of tax-exempt bonds for projects to improve infrastructure while bringing new businesses and creating jobs while improving the county and the lives of those that live here.

Question 2: *What are the most significant problems facing Portage County in the next four years? What ideas do you have to deal with and fund them?*

Answer 2: In order to solve many of the issues in Portage County, the county needs more money yesterday, today and going forward. The problems: Economic Development, Homeless population, Opioid/Drug issues and Safety of the community. The development of a strategic plan would "map out" these issues and would help determine what services are needed and the amount of money needed to achieve the goals that have been set. The monies needed to fund solutions to the problems would come from: Economic Development, Grants, Tax-exempt Bonds and a establishing an ability to meet deadlines on current and future projects. For example, the renovation to the jail was to be \$14 million dollars. The renovation is not complete as of yet and the cost is now \$21 million. That difference in dollars could have paid for other things that the county needs.

Portage County Commissioner Term Comm. 1-3-2021



John Kennedy (Dem)

Senior Director, Information Technology

Age: 54

515 E. Acadia Pt. Aurora, OH 44202

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://www.KennedyForCommissioner.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/johnkennedyforohio/> twitter.com/JohnKennedyOhio

Education: Master of Arts, University of Colorado Denver Bachelor of Arts, Regis University

Training & Experience:

Question 1: *What challenges do counties have that citizens might not realize are your responsibility and how do you address them?*

Answer 1: The Commissioners recently voted 2-0 (one abstained) in support of a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis, which is the right thing to do, especially given the disproportionate number of Black residents impacted by COVID-19. Portage County now joins four other counties in Ohio – Summit, Franklin, Cuyahoga, and Hamilton – in making similar resolutions. Across the country, more than 50 counties have made such a declaration. Publicly acknowledging and declaring racism as a key determinant of the health and well-being of Black residents in our community is not only the morally right thing to do, it is a clear example of local leadership rising to meet this moment. Making such declarations is an important job of being an elected official that many citizens may not be aware of. Resolutions can help inform the public about important issues, and can serve as a mission statement that helps to lay out next steps and goals for addressing the problem.

Question 2: *What are the most significant problems facing Portage County in the next four years? What ideas do you have to deal with and fund them?*

Answer 2: The top problems we face are: Poverty; Economy; Access to Health Care. In Portage County, we had a poverty problem before the pandemic -- 100% of students in Windham and Ravenna City schools are low-income and eligible for the free school lunch program and 30% of the population is at or below the 200% poverty level. But as a result of the pandemic, our needs are even greater. We need to come together and work with our great community-based organizations to help ensure that we can continue to meet the growing demand. We need a strong economic development plan, one that leverages existing assets and our talented, hard-working residents to bring good, sustainable jobs into the county, jobs that pay a fair wage and provide excellent health care. As for health care, we need to ensure that everyone who needs a doctor has access to one; everyone who needs a prescription filled or is running low on medically urgent medicine (like insulin) knows who to call and how to get what they need.

Portage County Commissioner Term Comm. 1-3-2021



Sabrina K. Christian-Bennett (Rep)

Portage County Commissioner

Age: 50

4360 Hattrick Rd. Rootstown, OH 44272

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://www.sabrinaforcommissioner.com> <http://sabrinaforcommissioner>

Education: Bachelors of Business Administration KSU '94 Alumni of Leadership Portage County '05 Alumni of Leadership Institute Candidates Sch

Training & Experience: Portage County Commissioner, '14 and '17-Present Owner/President of Bennett Land Title Agency, LLC with offices in Brimfield and Ravenna

Question 1: *What challenges do counties have that citizens might not realize are your responsibility and how do you address them?*

Answer 1: The challenges that most citizens may not realize are the 80-90% of statutory mandates placed upon the Board of Commissioners budget and finding the necessary revenue to pay for all the services that county government performs, and citizens expect. Some of the examples of unfunded mandates are the county jail, medical treatment of prisoners, providing for solid waste collection and disposal, providing legal representation to citizens accused of crimes that cannot afford their own representation and providing Prosecutor services for political subdivisions within the county for capital crime cases. Most of the statutory mandates are unfunded making it important that the Commissioners be fiscally responsible and proactive as possible to control expenses to maintain services.

Question 2: *What are the most significant problems facing Portage County in the next four years? What ideas do you have to deal with and fund them?*

Answer 2: The most significant problems facing Portage County in the upcoming years will be the unknown financial impact of Covid-19 on the loss of revenues, the drug epidemic and mental health services. As the economy works its way back to some sense of normalcy, the Board of Commissioners will try and meet the mandates and services in the most efficient way possible with limited funds.

Portage County Prosecuting Attorney

Victor V. Vigluicci (Dem)

Portage County Prosecuting Attorney

Age: 68

4527 Hattrick Rd. Rootstown, OH 44272

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://portageprosecutor.com>

Education: B.A. Walsh University Juris Doctor U. Of Akron

Training & Experience: 26 years as Portage County Prosecuting Attorney.

Portage County Clerk of Courts

Jill Fankhauser (Dem)

1421 River Trail Dr. Kent, OH 44240

Portage County Sheriff



Greg Johnson (Dem)

(Retired) Chief Detective Portage County Sheriff's Office

Age: 63

1467 Countryside Dr. Mogadore, OH 44260

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://gregjohnsonforsheriff.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/GregJohnsonForPortageCountySheriff>

Education: 1976 Graduate of Akron East High (class valedictorian) 1994 Graduate of SACS Police Academy (1st in class)

Training & Experience: 24 years with the Portage County Sheriff's Office. Served as road Deputy, Sergeant, Lieutenant and Chief of the Detective Bureau. Extensive training in Homicide, Child Abuse, Cell Phone Forensic Investigations, Crisis Intervention and High Threats Trial procedures.

Question 1: *What are the current challenges facing the sheriff's office, and how do you intend to address them?*

Answer 1: Some of the most important challenges are budgets, training, staffing and public trust. During my 24 years at the Sheriff's Office I earned a reputation as someone who has shown: integrity, transparency, truthfulness, honesty, leadership, and commitment to collaboration. I want the community and our local government officials to see these qualities reflected in the Sheriff's Office. Fiscal accountability will be a cornerstone of my administration. As we build community trust, that beneficial relationship between the Sheriff's Office and the public will help to support proper funding. Staffing is one of the keys to a successful Sheriff's Office. Having programs in place to retain staff and recruit quality applicants is invaluable. It is also essential to have a well-trained and well-supervised operation. I am pleased that many of the goals that I stated for the Sheriff's Office since last year are aligned with many of the objectives being proposed across the state and county.

Question 2: *What is the Sheriff's Department role in dealing with issues of racism in Portage County?*

Answer 2: The role of the Sheriff's Office is similar to that of other law enforcement agencies with the additional responsibility of housing individuals who have been arrested and or sentenced to jail. We cannot ignore the presence of racism in our community and must always be alert to the effect of biases and of overt racism. Training is essential to be able to identify and to address racial bias. Having a diverse staff in the Road Patrol and Corrections operations also plays a key role. We need to reach out to the community and invite their engagement and feedback. It is important to encourage young citizen involvement in law enforcement operations to allow for an understanding of what we do and why we do it. We must make a commitment to transparency, collaboration and to the building of trust. That all Portage County citizens, no matter what race or ethnic background, feel safe, secure and represented is tremendously important to me and would be a priority for my Sheriff's Office.

Portage County Sheriff

Bruce D. Zuchowski (Rep)

10440 Scotts Corners Rd. Diamond, OH 44412

Candidate has not responded.

Portage County Recorder



Leighann Fink (Dem)

Attorney

Age: 43

1506 Whitewood Dr. Kent, OH 44240

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://Thinkfinkoh.com> <http://Facebook.com/ThinkFinkOH>

Education: B.A. Franklin and Marshall- Government, M.A. Ohio State- Educational Policy, J.D. Capital - Law.

Training & Experience: Director of Litigation, Levy & Associates, Judicial Attorney- Ninth and Tenth District Courts of Appeal, Managing Attorney- Cordell Cleveland, and Of Counsel- Roetzel and Andress.

Question 1: *What are the challenges facing the recorder's office, and how would you address them?*

Answer 1: I have spoken with a number of practitioners, business persons, and those involved in economic development- the major challenges are outdated software, a website that is less than user-friendly, and the efficiency with which documents are available to the public. These challenges all pose impediments to the growth and development of Portage County. As Recorder, I plan to research other fiscal and recorder's websites, and work with a website developer to make the Portage County site more navigable and user- friendly. I also plan to invest in new software and take a focused look at the efficiency in which the office itself is running. Change is difficult, however- the growth and prosperity of Portage County depends upon easy access to information and efficient delivery of that information to the public. I would educate citizens with quarterly programming on first time home ownership, debt consolidation and fraud. I would also create an internship program to keep young talent local.

Question 2: *What in your background will be the most helpful to you in performing the duties of County Recorder?*

Answer 2: First and foremost, my 16 years of working as an attorney, specifically as a Director of Litigation where I managed an office of 15 professionals, and as Of Counsel at Roetzel where I focus on education, public and appellate law. I am well versed in efficiently managing an office and making sure it is legally compliant. I would also note that my extensive training in leadership will greatly assist me with working with the community, business developers, and other County officials to create more growth and opportunity in Portage County. I am a graduate of Leadership Akron Class 36, a new member of Leadership Portage County 20-21, and I serve on the Boards of the Blick Center and Open Arms Adoptions. I am an Executive Board Member of Blick and I have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Ohioans with disabilities. I understand the importance of effective leadership and community participation- I have faced daunting tasks successfully and head-on.

Portage County Recorder



Lori Calcei (Rep)

Portage County Recorder
2150 May Rd. Mogadore, OH 44260

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://www.loricalcei.com> <http://Lori Calcei for Portage County Recorder>

Education: Graduated from Mogadore High School. Graduate of Leadership Portage County, Ohio Township Academy and JAD Leadership Institute.

Training & Experience: Current Portage County Recorder, Fiscal Officer for Suffield Township 12 years. Deputy Fiscal Officer of Portage County District Library. Completed 78 hours of Ohio Recorders' Association continuing education. Completed Certified Public Records and Ethics Training.

Question 1: *What are the challenges facing the recorder's office, and how would you address them?*

Answer 1: When I took over as the Portage County Recorder 4 years ago, I faced several challenges including outdated technology. During my first term, I have been able to upgrade the technology for 4 of our main functions including a new land-recording computer system, implementing e-Recording of documents, scanning and electronically releasing the recorded plats, and appropriately redacting and releasing documents that were scanned under previous recorders. These upgrades and enhancements have made the office more effective and efficient while making the documents more accessible. As I move forward as the Portage County Recorder, the challenge continues to be the balance between upgrading technology while maintaining security and preservation of the important information that is recorded in my office. I will continue to upgrade systems and technology as appropriate to benefit the office and the community.

Question 2: *What in your background will be the most helpful to you in performing the duties of County Recorder?*

Answer 2: I have been the Portage County Recorder for the last 4 years. During this time, I have built a great relationship with my staff, abstractors, attorneys and the community. I fully understand the functions and day to day requirements of being a successful recorder. I not only understand the importance of managing the office, but I also work every day alongside my staff to record, preserve and make accessible the important documents recorded in the office. In addition to my time as your Portage County Recorder, I have been a devoted public servant for the last 12 years. I have represented Suffield Township as their Fiscal Officer since 2008 and was the Deputy Fiscal Officer for the Portage County District Library. I am a board member of Leadership Portage County, a member of Celebrate Portage and Portage County Township Association Secretary/Treasurer. My background clearly shows my dedication to Portage County and my passion for servicing all the residents of Portage County.

Portage County Treasurer



Brad Cromes (Dem)

Portage Co. Treasurer

Age: 36

550 E. Riddle Ave. Ravenna, OH 44266

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

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

Training & Experience: -Certified Government Financial Manager (Assoc. of Government Accountants). -
Appointed Portage Co. Treasurer 2015. Elected to Full Term 2016. -Board Member, United Way, CAC,
Hiram Alumni, Ravenna Kiwanis. -Member, Portage Co., Ohio and American Bar Assoc.

Portage County Engineer

Michael A. Marozzi (Dem)

Portage County Engineer

Age: 65

4837 King Meadow Trail Kent, OH 44240

Website/Facebook/Twitter:

Education: Bachelors of Science Civil Engineering, University of Akron. Continuing education in
Engineering, Surveying, Road Maintenance

Training & Experience: Over 31 years of experience as Portage County Engineer. Responsible for the
maintenance and construction of 370 miles of County road and 170 County owned bridges. Employ 65
workers and an annual budget of about \$9,500,000

Portage County Coroner

Dean J. DePerro (Dem)

503 Overlook Dr. Kent, OH 44240

Ohio Supreme Court, Term commencing 1/1/21

Sharon L. Kennedy

Age: 58

Residence: Hamilton

Website: <http://www.kennedyforohio.com/>

Occupation: Ohio Supreme Court Justice

Education: Juris Doctor, University of Cincinnati, College of Law 1991; Bachelor Degree of Social Work, University of Cincinnati, School of Social Work, 1984

Work Experience: Justice, Supreme Court of Ohio, 2012-Present; Administrative Judge/Judge, Butler County Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations Division, 1999-2012; Attorney at Law, General Practice, 1991-1998; (read more at judicialvotescount.org)

List your judicial experience (courts and years)

Sharon Kennedy Justice, Supreme Court of Ohio, 2012-Present; Administrative Judge/Judge, Butler County Court of Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations Division, 1999–2012

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

Sharon Kennedy My non-judicial experience informs my judicial experience and I draw upon that experience everyday as a justice at the Supreme Court of Ohio.

I began my career in the justice system as a police officer in the City of Hamilton enforcing the law and keeping the peace. I left law enforcement to attend law school and served as a law clerk in the Court of Common Pleas, General Division for Judge Matthew J. Crehan drafting memos and opinions for motions to dismiss and motions for summary judgment.

Serving as a solo practitioner, I practiced law in a wide-array of areas including, but not limited to, criminal, domestic relations, probate, and juvenile in both the trial courts of Butler County and the Twelfth District Court of Appeals. During that time I also served as Special Counsel for Attorney General, Betty D. Montgomery and a part-time Magistrate in the Butler County Area Courts hearing civil cases.

In 2019 the docket of the Ohio Supreme Court of Ohio included the following case types: 48.8% criminal; 21.8% miscellaneous; 17.5% civil; 7% practice of law; 4.9% domestic relations, juvenile, and probate.

Why are you running for this particular court seat?

Sharon Kennedy I am seeking re-election to the Ohio Supreme Court to continue my service to the people of Ohio – applying the law equally – in a fair and impartial manner providing a definitive statement of law in a clear and concise decision.

In addition, I seek to continue my work beyond the bench, including but not limited to, my Lean Forward initiative which advances substance abuse and mental health treatment of justice-involved veterans, civic education about the importance of our tripartite system of government and the role of the judicial branch in that government and the availability of employment opportunities for women and minorities in the law, continuing to write and present legal education programs on important issues like professionalism and cultural consciousness, and my work to expand the reach of problem solving courts by incorporating programs like Bridges Out of Poverty and growing holistic re-entry programs.

Ohio Supreme Court, Term commencing 1/1/21

John P. O'Donnell

Age 55

Residence Lakewood

Website<http://odonnellforjustice.com>

Social Media @JudgeJackOD; <https://www.facebook.com/JudgeJohnODonnell>

Education Cleveland St. Joseph High School, Miami (O.) University, Cleveland Marshall College of Law

Work Experience Civil trial attorney 1993-2002 and 2005-2007; Judge, 2002-2005 and 2007-present
(read more at judicialvotescount.org)

List your judicial experience (courts and years)

John O'Donnell I have been a judge for over 16 years. I have presided over hundreds of jury trials, both criminal and civil, and scores of bench trials. I have handled death penalty cases. I was selected by the Chief Justice of The Ohio Supreme Court to be one of only eight judges in Ohio to preside over a commercial docket dedicated to the swift and just resolution of business disputes. I have presided over a criminal mental health docket specializing in the issues arising in the adjudication and disposition of cases where a defendant has a serious mental illness with a psychotic feature. I have a reputation for political independence, a necessity for any good judge.

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

John O'Donnell I was a civil trial attorney who was in court almost every working day for approximately 10 years.

Why are you running for this particular court seat?

John O'Donnell The Ohio Supreme Court decides issues affecting everyone on a wide variety of subjects: constitutional law; education; collective bargaining; employer/employee rights; civil rights; utility rates; criminal law; commerce; legislative districting and others. I want to bring to these issues an independent perspective, informed by practical experience and the law, to decide these cases for the common good of all Ohioans.

Ohio Supreme Court, Term commencing 1/2/21

Jennifer Brunner

Age 63

Residence Columbus

Website <http://www.jenniferbrunner.com/>

Social Media <https://www.facebook.com/BrunnerCommittee/> and <https://www.facebook.com/Justice-for-the-People-Judge-Jennifer-Brunner-for-Ohio-Supreme-Court-101751074823700/>
<https://twitter.com/JenniferBrunner> <https://www.instagram.com/jenniferlbrunner/>
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennifer-brunner-7584153>

Education J.D. Capital University Law School, Order of the Curia; B.S. Sociology-Gerontology, Miami University, Cum Laude

Work Experience Court of Appeals Judge since 2014; (read more at judicialvotescount.org)

List your judicial experience (courts and years)

See list at judicialvotescount.org

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

Jennifer Brunner My 17 years private practice experience with people from all walks of life has helped me better understand how the law affects people, in a wide variety of life situations. To be a lawyer is a calling to serve society and to uphold and protect the rule of law. I have worked for clients ranging from economically disadvantaged single mothers to one who was running for president (Jerry Brown in 1992). My private law practice experience includes trial and appellate work for clients in common pleas courts in Franklin, Cuyahoga, Licking, Fairfield, Carroll, Mahoning and Hamilton Counties; in appellate courts in the Tenth, Third, Eighth, Fifth, First, Second and Sixth District Courts of Appeals; the Ohio Supreme Court; United States District Courts (Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio); Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals; and am admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. I have represented clients in administrative proceedings before numerous state and local boards, served as a special prosecutor for election fraud and as a hearing officer for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

In 2011, I drafted a statewide referendum petition for a coalition of voting rights activists, labor organizations, state and local political party organizations and faith-based and other nonprofit organizations who gathered more than 400,000 petition signatures to place voting rights referendum on statewide ballot; in 2012-2013 I developed a multi-state and federal executive agency government affairs practice focused on matters before the FCC and state public utilities commissions relating to low income telephone government programs.

I started my own law firm from the corner of my bedroom when our children were 7, 4 and 2, growing it to 32 people after ten years. Other experience includes serving as general counsel for a computer firm and a trade association, serving as campaign finance counsel for numerous state and local labor unions, corporations, national and state associations, candidates, caucuses and political action committees on state and federal election law, and representing neighborhood groups and developers on zoning, referendum and initiative election issues. Past experience also includes representing judges and judicial candidates before the Supreme Court concerning compliance with the Code of Judicial Conduct. Hold experience in drafting state legislation and administrative rules in areas of election law, local option elections, campaign finance, and ethics laws. Served as administrative partner of law firm.

Why are you running for this particular court seat?

Jennifer Brunner I love the law, I love Ohio and I enjoy helping people. I am privileged, having traveled to every county in this state when I served as Secretary of State, to have worked with Ohio's 88 county boards of elections as we together served Ohioans.

I chose to run for the Ohio Supreme Court for three reasons: First, I want to be a part of a court that ensures that the first decision interpreting the state constitution's new provisions for fair districts for Congress and the Ohio General Assembly, when challenged — and they will be — is fair and according to state constitutional requirements. As Secretary of State, my office sponsored a public contest to draw districts to show we could end gerrymandering. We used a formula that served as a basis for developing the state constitution's formula for fair districts. We proved it could be done. Nothing is more basic to the health of Ohio's democracy than fair districts, and I want to participate in any review of that process

occurring after the 2020 census. I want to use my experience to the benefit of the court and the people of the State of Ohio.

Second, there are important issues such as when a police officer can make an individual get out of their car, under what circumstances criminal records can be expunged, when someone's home can be taken through foreclosure or when is it appropriate for legislative caps on damages (such as rape of a child by a trusted pastor) to be overcome. These issues are just a few that affect everyday people in Ohio, though many citizens often don't realize how much they are affected by just the words of the state's highest court.

Third, I have found that when there is a political balance on an appellate court, there is less a tendency to "group think." Better decisions are likely to emerge when they involve the give-and-take of views and the softening of others through reasoned and respectful discussion and decision making. Currently, the political balance of the state's high court is a state of unbalance with 5 Republicans and 2 Democrats. A 4-3 balance would, in my view, create some of the best decisions possible from the court. I hope to help provide that balance with my election.

Ohio Supreme Court, Term commencing 1/2/21

Judi French

Age 58

Residence Columbus

Website <http://JusticeJudiFrench.com>; <http://FriendsOfFrench.com>

Social Media <http://Facebook.com/JusticeJudiFrench>

Education B.A. (Political Science); M.A. (History); J.D. (Law with honors), The Ohio State University

Work Experience Justice, Ohio Supreme Court (2013-present); (read more on judicialvotescount.org)

List your judicial experience (courts and years)

See list at judicialvotescount.org

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

Judi French For more than two decades, I have dedicated my career to public service. Before becoming a judge, I had served as chief legal counsel to the governor, an assistant attorney general, and a state government lawyer. Those years in public service are critical to my understanding of state laws, my adherence to constitutional limitations, and my commitment to careful and efficient decision making on behalf of all Ohioans.

I also have legal experience in the private sector, having worked in a law firm and a large manufacturing corporation. That private experience helps me understand the practical impact of our decisions and appreciate the impact of our judicial rules and procedures.

Finally, as the daughter of a schoolteacher, I appreciate my Ohio roots and education, and I am committed to using my voice as a Justice to be a part of civic education in Ohio. I speak frequently to students, educators, and civic organizations. Since taking office, I have traveled to all 88 counties (I am on my fifth time around), and I have met with individuals, organizations, businesses, and local leaders, all in an effort to serve them better. If reelected, I will continue that level and method of service.

Why are you running for this particular court seat?

Judi French I first aspired to be a justice because it offers interesting, challenging, and meaningful work that serves the public interest. I aspire to be reelected to the office because I want to continue that work, both on and off the bench. As a justice, I am able not only to bring attention to needs within the legal profession, the judiciary, and the public as a whole, but also to advocate for change to meet those needs. In particular, during my next term, I intend to continue the court's work to improve our efficiency and that of all Ohio courts. I also intend to continue my work with the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation and local legal aid organizations to bring more attention, resources, and innovation to the needs of underserved Ohioans.

Ohio 11th District Court of Appeals, Full term Commencing 2-9-2021

Timothy P. Cannon

Judge, 11th District Court of Appeals

Age: 56

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://www.reelectjudgecannon.com>

Education: J.D. Cleveland Marshall College of Law 1980

Work Experience: 27 years as an attorney, 13th year on the 11th District Court of Appeals

Question 1: *List your judicial experience (courts and years):*

Answer 1: Judge, 11th District Court of Appeal, August 2007 to present. Visiting Justice, Ohio Supreme Court, 4 occasions since 2009. Administrative and Presiding Judge 5 different years. Currently, Presiding Judge 11th District Court of Appeals.

Question 2: *What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?*

Answer 2: Prior to becoming judge, I had a very broad based law practice for 27 years. Since becoming judge in 2007, I have worked very hard to stay up to date on developments and changes in the law. The Lake County Bar Association, where I am known best, has been conducting a judicial poll since the 1970's. At the time of completion of this form, they have not yet conducted their poll for 2020. However, in 2014, I was the first judge in the history of the poll to receive a 100% affirmative vote. I have been asked on many occasions to lecture on a variety of topics. In fact, the Ohio Supreme Court has requested many times over the past few years that I come to help train the new appellate judges. I enjoy doing that, because each time I update my materials and prepare for the new judge orientation, I learn more about the current trends in the law.

Question 3: *Why are you running for this particular court seat?*

Answer 3: I have been in this seat since August of 2007. I believe I become a better judge with each year that goes by. I have always had a love for the law. My father was an attorney for almost 50 years. We practiced law together for over 20 years. I understand the importance of the work we do, and the need for judges to resolve cases based on the law, and not some philosophical ideal of what we may individually believe. I believe my willingness to lecture on topics related to our work, and the commitment to resolve cases in an efficient manner help in the quality of service we provide to litigants. I've been appointed to serve by assignment on the Ohio Supreme Court by three different Chief Justices. I believe my experience of serving in that capacity has helped my understanding of what should be expected of the courts of appeals.

Ohio 11th District Court of Appeals, Full term Commencing 2-9-2021

Matt Lynch

Candidate has not responded.

Ohio 11th District Court of Appeals, Full Term Commencing 2-10-21

Sarah Thomas Kovoov

Attorney

Age: 58

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://www.votekovoov.com>

Education: J.D. from University of Akron School of Law and B.A. from University of Rochester

Work Experience: Former Trumbull County Assistant Prosecutor 1998-2002, Private Practice 2002-Present

Question 1: *List your judicial experience (courts and years):*

Answer 1: N/A

Question 2: *What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?*

Answer 2: I will bring a new outlook and sensible approach to the 11th District Court of Appeals. I am a practicing attorney who has served my community for over 22 years as both an assistant prosecutor and as defense counsel. I have been appointed by the court to represent indigent clients as well as being privately retained counsel in my practice, Kovoov Law, LLC. I have represented clients in courts throughout Ohio, Pennsylvania and Illinois ranging from Municipal, Family, State, Federal and Appellate Courts. I have litigated thousands of cases in criminal, civil and domestic court and tried more than 40 cases to a verdict. I have a diverse practice and I have represented people from many different cultures, with varied viewpoints and needs. As such, I am adept at evaluating both sides of an issue. I have successfully fought for many people's civil rights when government entities over-reached and violated them and in two particular cases, *White v. Bukowski, et al.*, No. 14-3185 (7th Cir. 2015) and *Rafferty et al. v. Trumbull Cty, et al*, No. 17-4223 (6th Cir. 2019), I won landmark decisions. My years of experience in the areas of criminal, family and civil rights and appellate law make me uniquely qualified to be a Judge on the 11th District Court of Appeals. On the bench, I will ensure that all parties are heard, that both sides of the issues presented are carefully considered, and the law is consistently applied as written. I will safeguard fairness and justice to the residents of the Eleventh District.

Question 3: *Why are you running for this particular court seat?*

Answer 3: I am running for the 11th District Court of Appeals because I have called Northeast Ohio my home for over 30 years. It is the area where I have practiced law and raised a family. During this time, I have advocated in court for the State and for my clients, both retained and appointed. Through this lifetime of experience, I have had the opportunity to see the good that a Judge can do, both in the courtroom and as a member of the community. When in the courtroom, I will ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to have their appeal heard in a fair and unbiased setting, influenced only by the letter of the law and the evidence presented. As a member of the community, Judges have the opportunity to engage with the public as non-partisan advocates for understanding not only the State Constitution but the American Legal System as a whole. As an immigrant, I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to grow up with the protections afforded by the American Legal System and this experience lead me to pursue a career dedicated to these practices and traditions.

Ohio 11th District Court of Appeals, Full Term Commencing 2-10-21

Cynthia Westcott Rice

Judge, 11th District Court of Appeals

Age: 62

Website/Facebook/Twitter: <http://judgecynthiarice.com>

Education: J.D.- University of Akron School of Law; B.S.- Purdue University, Krannert School of Management

Work Experience: Judge since 2003; Assistant United States Attorney, 1999-2002; First Assistant Criminal Prosecutor Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office, 199-1999.

Question 1: *List your judicial experience (courts and years):*

Answer 1: Judge, Eleventh District Court of Appeals, 2003 – Present; Presiding/Administrative Judge, 2007, 2016 & 2017; Administrative Judge, 2020; Preside over appellate cases in Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Portage, and Trumbull Counties. Authored over 1,500 appellate decisions and decided over 4,000 appeals. Ohio Judicial Conference – Executive Committee, 2011 – present; Criminal Law & Procedure Committee co-chair, 2011 – present; Appellate Law & Procedure Committee, 2013 – present; Ohio Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Court Security, 2013 – present

Question 2: *What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?*

Answer 2: Prior to taking the bench, I spent 12 years as a state and federal criminal prosecutor. I prosecuted all major crimes including capital murder, murder, rape, bank robbery, cyberstalking and gang violence. As a criminal prosecutor, I gained experience in the courtroom trying cases to juries. During my service on the bench, I have been able to contribute insight into nuances of criminal procedure that have assisted our court in delivering sound, well-reasoned opinions. – Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office, 1991- 1999 – United States Attorney's Office, 1999 – 2002; Assistant United States Attorney, General Crimes Division, Youngstown, Ohio Responsible for prosecuting to trial assigned federal offenses including firearms violations, drug trafficking, cyberstalking and bank robbery. – Special Assistant United States Attorney, 1997 – 1999 – Trumbull County Prosecutor's Office, 1991 – 1999; First Assistant, Criminal Division Responsible for overseeing all felony criminal prosecutions. See additional information at www.JudicialVotesCount.com

Question 3: *Why are you running for this particular court seat?*

Answer 3: I have served the 11th District as a judge for the past 18 years. I believe my legal experience is an asset to the court. The majority of my legal practice prior to taking the bench was as a state and federal prosecutor. Approximately half of our appellate cases are criminal. Presently, none of the current judges have an extensive background in criminal law and procedure. During my service on the appellate bench, I have been able to contribute insight into nuances of criminal procedure that have assisted our court in delivering sound, well-reasoned opinions. Having practiced as an Assistant United States Attorney, I am more familiar with differences between state and federal criminal laws. This enables me to better determine how U.S. Supreme Court decisions that address federal cases affect Ohio's criminal justice system. I have worked in various positions with the Ohio Judicial Conference for over ten years. The judicial conference provides research and impact statements on legislation that affects the administration of justice in Ohio. The goal of the Ohio Judicial Conference is to improve the judiciary from within the judicial branch and to recommend legislation where needed. I would like to continue my work with the Ohio Judicial Conference during my upcoming term on the bench. Judicial education is a critical part of ensuring a strong judiciary. I have assisted other appellate judges in teaching the new appellate judges' educational seminar. I have also taught various continuing legal education courses for the local bar associations in our district. I find teaching intellectually challenging and hope to continue contributing in this manner. And last but not least, I will serve as the Ohio Court of Appeals Judges' Association Chief Judge in 2020. I am looking forward to this responsibility and challenge.

Portage County Court of Common Pleas - General Division

Becky Doherty

Age: 57

Website: <http://Judgedoherty.com>

Education: University of Akron

Work Experience: Common Pleas Judge 6 years, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Summit County 18 years, Chief Criminal Prosecutor Mahoning County 5 years, In house counsel Allstate 18 months, Law Director Village of Lakemore 8 years

Question 1: *List your judicial experience (courts and years):*

Answer 1: Common Pleas Judge Portage County since January 1, 2015. I handle approximately 700 criminal and over 300 civil cases a year.

Question 2: *What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?*

Answer 2: Experience and commitment is vital to effectively do this job. I have tried over 200 jury trials including Aggravated Murder, Rape, Kidnapping, Aggravated Robbery, complex Organized Crime, and Drug Trafficking. I have prosecuted 22 Death Penalty cases both in Summit County and Mahoning County. I tried numerous personal injury cases while representing insured defendants. I am active in the community and understand the responsibility of the Court to be transparent and visible.

Question 3: *Why are you running for this particular court seat?*

Answer 3: I love the law and my job, and will continue to work hard to make our communities safer and healthier. I started HOPE Drug Court soon after I took office and was certified by the Ohio Supreme Court March 2017. Our unique program combines stringent counseling and accountability to prepare participants for life after court. HOPE Court won the Celebrate Portage Public Health Initiative Award in 2019 due to the team's dedication and commitment to the program. The Paris Work Release Program I initiated gives select jail inmates the opportunity to work while incarcerated to save money, pay fines prepare for housing, pay child support and be employed upon release. My position gives me the ability to address the drug epidemic in a profound way, while protecting the community at the same time. I have the experience to handle complex criminal and civil cases in a manner that is fair to all parties. I believe it is imperative that a common pleas Judge possess litigation skills to effectively and correctly handle the vast array of cases assigned to the courts. I have that experience, and utilize it every day on the bench.

Portage County Court of Common Pleas - General Division

Michael Noble

Attorney

Age: 44

Kent

Website: www.nobleforjudge.com

Education: J.D. from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

Work Experience: Owner/Operator of Allen Drain Service, Inc. 2003-2011; Attorney/Solo Practitioner 2012-2014; Partner at Lentz, Noble & Heavner, LLC 2014-present

Question 1: *List your judicial experience (courts and years):*

Answer 1: This is my first opportunity to serve as a judge

Question 2: *What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?*

Answer 2: As a general practitioner and partner at a local law firm, I have a broad wealth of legal experience. I have represented clients in Common Pleas Court, Municipal Court, Probate Court, Juvenile Court, and Appellate Court. I have tried cases in every court, to Magistrates, Judges, and Juries. I have assisted clients in dealing with a variety of administrative matters before governmental agencies. As a result, I have a comprehensive understanding of the law and rules that govern the many different areas of

the legal field. This experience has given me the ability to take facts and circumstances in any legal dispute and work towards a fair and just resolution. My time in private practice has afforded me the opportunity to assist people during the most challenging times in their lives. I've developed a strong ability to be understanding and compassionate about their individual situations. Every case is unique in its facts and circumstances. My detailed and open-minded approach to every case has served me very well in advocating for my clients. Having had the opportunity to work many cases where my clients were in the wrong has given me the ability to employ a tactful, commonsense approach in order to facilitate a positive result in light of the issues presented.

From owning and operating a corporation to forging my own path as an independent practitioner, I've learned the importance of being patient and courteous with others in order to bring out and maximize efficiency and potential. Throughout these endeavors, I faced many challenges, failures, and successes. It has taught me the importance of being resilient and having the courage to continue moving forward to accomplish my goals despite challenges.

Being a lawyer, I've utilized my strong work ethic and the ability to communicate and reach people, to effectuate positive change in my own life and the lives of those in our community. My strongest attribute is my ability to learn and comprehend information quickly in order to excel and succeed in any environment. My diverse life experience, combined with my legal experience, has provided me the ability to work for, work with, and to lead others in collaborative efforts to accomplish common goals.

Question 3: *Why are you running for this particular court seat?*

Answer 3: I am running for this position because I am passionate about our community, and I believe it is time to bring a positive change to our judiciary. Being born and raised in Portage County, I have watched our community grow and thrive. We have faced many challenges and enjoyed many successes.

One of the most pervasive issues in our community has been substance abuse and mental health issues. Unfortunately, many of those suffering these ailments end up lost in the criminal justice system. It is clear that churning out thousands of cases every year, without understanding each individual's uniqueness, combined with utilizing incarceration as the primary punishment, has failed to help truly rehabilitate these offenders.

Many jurisdictions have taken significant steps toward finding effective ways to rehabilitate individuals. While our county has taken some initial steps toward finding better ways to help those struggling, we have a long way to go before claiming success. I will work tirelessly to not only create a successful drug court, but also to expand the availability of these types of programs to those suffering mental health issues. I believe in the necessity of punishing those that commit violent and egregious acts harshly. On the other hand, those who commit low-level offenses due to substance abuse and/or mental health issues are better served by punishment designed to promote accountability, combined with a strong focus on treatment designed specifically for the afflictions they suffer.

It is also vital for every individual that appears before a court be afforded an equal opportunity for a fair and impartial judgment. I want to ensure our community is confident that when their matter is brought before the court, they will receive the attention and respect necessary to provide justice.

I have been humbled and blessed by the opportunities that have been afforded to me as an attorney serving this community. I want to be a Common Pleas Court judge because of my passion and desire to live my life, bringing positive change and helping others on a much larger scale. I am excited about the opportunity to become part of the foundation that builds our community into a unified, compassionate, and safe environment where every individual has an opportunity to thrive.

Portage County Court of Common Pleas - Juvenile/Probate Divisions

Patricia J. Smith

ISSUES

Issue 1: Kent City 0.73 mill renewal tax levy that will generate approximately \$256,000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2021. The money will partially fund salaries and operations of the West Side Fire Station. The renewal levy will keep intact the homestead and rollback portion of the tax funded by the State of Ohio. The cost to the homeowner of a \$100,000 property would be slightly lower than previous years at approximately \$21 per year. *Rhonda Hall, Director of Finance*

Issue 2: Kent City 1B Local Liquor Option

Shall the sale of beer, wine and mixed beverages, spirituous liquor be permitted by Bell Tower Brewing Company, LLC, dba Bell Tower Brewing Company, an applicant for an A-1-A liquor permit, who is engaged in the business of a craft brewery at 310 Park Avenue, Kent, OH 44240 in this precinct? *Portage Co. Board of Elections Legal Notice*

Issue 32: Kent City 1B Local Liquor Option Sunday Sales

Shall the sale of wine and mixed beverages spirituous liquor be permitted for sale on Sunday between the hours of ten a.m. and midnight by Bell Tower Brewing Company, LLC, dba Bell Tower Brewing Company, an applicant for a D-6 liquor permit who is engaged in the business of a craft brewery at 310 Park Avenue, Kent, OH 44240 in this precinct? *Portage Co. Board of Elections Legal Notice*

Issue 3: Mantua Village Referendum Petition

Shall Ordinance 2019-49 regarding the sale of the Mantua Village's water and wastewater systems to Portage County be approved? *Portage Co. Board of Elections legal notice.*

Issue 4: Windham Village Referendum Petition

Shall Ordinance O-2020-3 regarding the removal of geese, ducks, turkeys, chicken or other fowl from the list of prohibited animals and changes to the acreage requirement for fowl be approved? *Portage Co. Board of Elections legal notice.*

Issue 5: Brimfield Township Bond Issue

Shall bonds be issued by Brimfield Township for the purpose of renovating and improving the existing fire station and adding administration offices and meeting space, making site improvements and acquiring furniture and equipment therefore in the principal amount of \$8,500,000 to be repaid annually over a maximum period of 28 years, and an annual levy of property taxes be made outside of the ten-mill limitation, estimated by the county auditor to average over the repayment period of the bond issue 1.37 mills for each one dollar of tax valuation, which amounts to 13.7 cents for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation, commencing in 2020, first due in calendar year 2021 to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds, and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of those bonds? *Ballot language*

Issue 6: Brimfield Township A Local Liquor Option – Meijer

Shall the sale of wine and mixed beverages be permitted for sale on Sunday between the hours of ten a.m. and midnight by Meijer Stores Limited Partnership dba Meijer 317, an applicant for a D-6 liquor permit who is engaged in the business of a grocery and home goods superstore at 247 Tallmadge Road, Kent, OH 44240 in this precinct? *Portage Co. Board of Elections legal notice.*

Issue 7: Brimfield Township A Local Liquor Option - Meijer Gas Station

Shall the sale of wine and mixed beverages be permitted for sale on Sunday between the hours of ten a.m. and midnight by Meijer Stores Limited Partnership dba Meijer Gas Station 317, an applicant for a D-6 liquor permit who is engaged in the business of a grocery and home goods superstore at 255 Tallmadge Road, Kent, OH 44240 in this precinct? *Portage Co. Board of Elections legal notice.*

Issue 8: Charlestown Township 2.5 mills renewal tax levy that will generate approximately \$45,000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2020. The money will be used for fire & EMS. *Legal notice & Portage Co. Auditor*

Issue 9: Deerfield Township 2.5 mills renewal tax levy that will generate approximately \$139,000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2021. The money will be used for fire & EMS. *Legal notice & Portage Co. Auditor*

Issue 10: Edinburg Township 1.3 mills renewal tax levy that will generate approximately \$46,000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2021. The money will be used for current expenses. *Legal notice & Portage Co. Auditor*

Issue 11: Edinburg Township 2.1 mills renewal tax levy that will generate approximately \$124,000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2021. The money will be used for fire & EMS. *Legal notice & Portage Co. Auditor*

Issue 12: Hiram Township 3 mills replacement tax levy that will generate approximately \$215,000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2020. The money will be used for road and bridge maintenance. *Legal notice & Portage Co. Auditor*

Issue 13: Mantua Township 1.5 mills renewal tax levy that will generate approximately \$177,000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2021. The money will be used for the purpose of general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, repairs and maintenance of township roads. *Ballot language & Portage Co. Auditor*

Issue 14: Palmyra Township 2 mills renewal tax levy that will generate approximately \$112,000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2021. The money will be used for Fire/EMS operations as allowed per ORC 5705.19(l). *Kathleen Cofojohn, Fiscal Officer*

Issue 15: Palmyra Township 2 mills renewal tax levy that will generate approximately \$113,000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2021. The money will be used for Fire/EMS operations as allowed per ORC 5705.19(l). *Kathleen Cofojohn, Fiscal Officer*

Issue 16: Paris Township 2 mills renewal tax levy that will generate approximately \$67,000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2021. The money will be used for fire & EMS. *Legal notice & Portage Co. Auditor*

Issue 17: Randolph Township 5 mills replacement & increase tax levy that will generate approximately \$635,000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2021. The Randolph Township Fire Department is requesting additional funding to be used for payroll, providing EMS/fire equipment and supplies, maintenance of building, equipment, and vehicles in order to continue the high level of service the residents deserve. *Mary Rodenbucher, Fiscal Officer*

Issue 18: Ravenna Township 3.5 mills renewal tax levy that will generate approximately \$251,000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2021. The money will be used to support the general operating expenses of the Township including streetlights, two cemeteries, zoning regulations and enforcement, spring clean-up, building maintenance for all departments, and administration costs. The levy is not an increase to property owners' taxes. *Gail Pittman, Fiscal Officer*

Issue 19: Ravenna Township 5 mills renewal tax levy that will generate approximately \$630,000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2021. The Fire levy pays for equipment, firefighter and paramedic personnel and their personal protective equipment (PPE). It is also used to repair and replace fire trucks, ambulances, fire protective equipment, safety equipment, and life-saving EMS equipment. The levy is not an increase to property owners' taxes. *Gail Pittman, Fiscal Officer*

Issue 20: Rootstown Township 1.3 mills renewal tax levy that will generate approximately \$211,000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2020. The money will be used for fire & EMS. *Legal notice & Portage Co. Auditor*

Issue 21 STOW-MUNROE FALLS CSD – Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal) – Shall a levy renewing an existing levy be imposed by the Stow-Munroe Falls City School District for the purpose of providing for the emergency requirements of the school district in the sum of \$4,631,284 and a levy of taxes to be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the county fiscal officer to average 4.61 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 46.1 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of 5 years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022? *Ballot language.*

Issue 22 STOW-MUNROE FALLS CSD – Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal) – Shall a levy renewing an existing levy be imposed by the Stow-Munroe Falls City School District for the purpose of providing for the emergency requirements of the school district in the sum of \$6,500,000 and a levy of taxes to be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the county fiscal officer to average 6.53 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 65.3 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of 10 years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022? *Ballot language.*

Issue 23: Crestwood Local School District 1.5% additional earned income tax that will generate approximately \$4,007,000 annually for a continuing period of time commencing on 1/1/21. The Crestwood Local School District is seeking to pass its first operating levy since 2012 and only the second since 1992 on November 3, 2020. The levy is a 1.5% earned income tax. The levy is continuing and would not go into effect until January 1, 2021. 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*

Issue 24: Shall a tax levy substituting for an existing levy be imposed by the Rootstown Local School District for the purpose of providing for the necessary requirements of the school district in the initial sum of \$1,045,000, and a levy of taxes be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the county auditor to require 4.67 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 46.7 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation for the initial year of the tax, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2020, first due in calendar year 2021, with the sum of such tax to increase only if and as new land or real property improvements not previously taxed by the school district are added to its tax list? *Ballot language.*

Issue 25 SPRINGFIELD LSD – Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal) – A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the Springfield Local School District for the purpose of general permanent improvements at a rate not exceeding 1.8 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 18 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for 5 years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022. *Ballot language.*

Issue 26 SPRINGFIELD LSD – Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal) – Shall a levy renewing an existing levy be imposed by the Springfield Local School District for the purpose of providing for the emergency requirements of the school district in the sum of \$1,500,000 and a levy of taxes to be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the county fiscal officer to average 3.86 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 38.6 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of 5 years, commencing in 2021, first due in calendar year 2022? *Ballot language.*

Issue 27 SPRINGFIELD LSD – Proposed Tax Levy (Additional) – Shall a levy be imposed by the Springfield Local School District for the purpose of providing for the emergency requirements of the school district in the sum of \$3,000,000 and a levy of taxes to be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the county fiscal officer to average 7.7 mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to 77 cents for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a period of 10 years, commencing in 2020, first due in calendar year 2021? *Ballot language.*

Issue 28: Waterloo Local School District 1.5% additional earned income tax that will generate approximately \$2,217,000 annually for 5 years commencing on 1/1/21. The money will be used: To provide an excellent education for students including expanding the curriculum into STEM learning. To enable the district to reinstate teachers recently laid off, reduce pay to participate fees, open the doors to youth programs and reinstate lost academic programs and special programs. *Todd Carpenter, Treasurer*

Issue 29: Windham Exempted Village School District 1.5 mills additional tax levy that will generate approximately \$72,000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2020. This is a Permanent Improvement Levy specifically used for facilities. The funds will be used for the boilers in the two buildings over the five year period. *Adam Hines, Treasurer*

Issue 30: Reed Memorial Library 1.5 mills renewal tax levy that will generate approximately \$475,000 annually for 5 years commencing in 2021. This money is approximately 23% of the general operating revenue and is used to provide all the services, staff, facilities, and materials that the library has to offer. *Brian Hare, Director*

Issue 31: Portage County District Library 1 mill additional tax levy that will generate approximately \$2,946,000 annually for 10 years commencing in 2020. The money will be used to: Restore hours at all branches. Purchase a bookmobile or similar mobile service location. Provide weekly mobile service to each school district that does not have a branch location. Double the library's current outreach to homebound patrons and assisted living facilities. Update and expand all Library Express service locations to include one in each city or township served by PCDL. Work with local communities in identifying a location for the establishment of a new branch library. *Jonathan Harris, Director*