



# VOTER'S GUIDE – CANDIDATES & ISSUES

## For Portage County, Ohio

### NOVEMBER 6, 2018 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.

Issue 1 was prepared by the League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund. Issues 4-38 were prepared by the LWV of Kent with information provided by the following sources: the entity placing the issue on the ballot, the Portage County Board of Elections, and the Portage County Auditor. All candidates who filed their intent to run for office with the Board of Elections for the following races were sent questions relating to the office they were seeking by the LWV of Kent, as well as instructions on how to complete the candidate questionnaire: US House of Representatives District 16, Ohio House Districts 75 and 76, Portage County Commissioners and Auditor, and State Board of Education District 7. The candidates were asked to participate by entering their responses on the vote411 website or submitting their responses to the LWV of Kent in accordance with the following guidelines.

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The League of Women Voters of Ohio Education Fund provided the voter's guide information for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Auditor of State, Secretary of State, Treasurer of State, and U.S. Senator. Judicial Votes Count (<http://blogs.uakron.edu/judicialvotescount/>) provided the information for Justice of the Supreme Court (2 positions) and Judge of the Court of Appeals--11<sup>th</sup> District (2 positions). The League of Women Voters of Hudson provided the information for US House of Representatives Districts 13 and 14.

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

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

**League of Women Voters of Kent** <https://my.lwv.org/ohio/kent>  
Nena Hankins (330-673-0128), Voters' Guide Chair  
Stacia Yaniglos, LWV Kent President  
Sue Griffey, LWV Northern Portage County

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

<https://portage.ohiooe.com/apps/ballotlist.aspx>

Select Election Date: 11/6/2018 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://portage.ohiooe.com/apps/vtrlookup.aspx>

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	<b>RACES</b>	
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## GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR

### Rebecca Ayers and Anthony Durgans

Write-in

Candidate did not respond.

## GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR

### Richard Cordray & Betty Sutton

Party: Dem

Education: Grove City High School (1977) Michigan State University, BA in Legal & Political Theory (1981) Oxford University, MA in Economics on Marshall Scholarship (1983) The University of Chicago Law School, JD (1986)

Training & Experience: Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (2011 – 2017) Ohio Attorney General (elected in 2008 - 2010) Ohio Treasurer (elected in 2006 – 2008) Franklin County Treasurer (elected in 2002 and 2004 – 2006) Solicitor General (appointed 1993 – 1994)

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

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

Twitter: @richcordray

**Question1: What is the role of the governor's office and executive agencies in addressing the opioid crisis in Ohio? What measures would you pursue in office?**

Answer: **Richard Cordray and Betty Sutton** Republicans have failed to respond effectively to this epidemic that is ravaging our families and our communities; it now kills about 14 Ohioans every day and costs taxpayers as much as \$8.8 billion each year. My running mate, Betty Sutton, and I have proposed a comprehensive plan to address this crisis, the details of which are described at [CordrayforOhio.com](http://CordrayforOhio.com). We will start by taking the following steps: 1) immediately declare a "state of emergency" requiring the strategic coordination of federal, state, and local government resources and community-based efforts; 2) protect Ohio's Medicaid expansion, which supports treatment, and increases capacity for local enforcement and first responders; 3) expand access and funding for prevention and treatment; 4) provide support and resources for families and improve foster and adoptive services; and 5) replace economic despair with broader economic opportunity.

**Question2: Under what circumstances is it appropriate for the state to support or to restrain local governments?**

Answer: **Richard Cordray and Betty Sutton** As I campaign across the state, I see many heads nod from the rural areas and small and mid-sized towns around Ohio when I detail the relentless war on local governments that the Republican State Legislature has been waging for years now. This must change. It's wrong, and it will not be our approach to governing. We must support the devoted local public servants I know all over Ohio. I am running for Governor in part because I believe that our local governments deserve more. Having served at the local level, I know firsthand the resources required to address the issues our cities and towns are facing. Issues like decent jobs, a strong public education system, and broadband access for all Ohioans. As Governor, I would support restoration of local funds to the state budget. Betty and I will end the war on local government.

**Question3: What is the role of the governor's office and executive agencies in overseeing online and brick-and-mortar community schools? How will you ensure adequate funding for k-12 public schools?**

Answer: **Richard Cordray and Betty Sutton** We will hold charter schools accountable for their performance and for the effective use of public funds—including moving to close failing charters. We believe that charter schools should have to meet the same civil rights, health and safety, and teacher quality standards as traditional public schools. The online "Electronic Classroom Of Tomorrow" (ECOT) is a grotesque scandal, which plundered our public schools and left too many children without the education they deserve. Because of the shameful influence of moneyed interests, ECOT wasted as much as a billion tax dollars and still owes the taxpayers at least an \$80 million refund for its fraudulent

use of taxpayer money. Vast resources were siphoned away from our schools and our kids and funneled to cronies and special interests protected by the Ohio Legislature, Ohio Auditor, and Ohio Attorney General. This scandal demands accountability.

**Question4: What solutions would you propose to address challenges in the healthcare system?**

**Answer: Richard Cordray and Betty Sutton** Betty and I have proposed a comprehensive plan to ensure accessible and affordable health care for all Ohioans. Our plan has six key elements: 1) protect the Medicaid expansion to keep our health care, which is crucial in providing coverage for families, reducing infant mortality, and battling opiate addiction; 2) improve the exchanges to provide more choice, reduce costs, and ensure access across the state—this will help limit closures of local hospitals and clinics that create community health care vacuums; 3) expand children’s health insurance coverage; 4) tackle our opiate addiction crisis, which is ravaging our communities; 5) focus resources for women and children, after the State Legislature has pursued a narrow ideological agenda that has hurt women’s health programs and undermined children’s health; and 6) invest in Ohio’s health care industry, which is one of our strongest areas of job growth.

**Question5: What strategies will you pursue to effectively respond to our changing climate and related challenges for environmental, agricultural and human health? How will you achieve both economic growth and environmental protection in Ohio?**

**Answer: Richard Cordray and Betty Sutton** Ohio is tragically missing out on the clean energy revolution. We could be creating more good-paying jobs, revitalizing rural communities, reducing energy bills, and improving our air and water quality. Instead, we rank #38 in renewable energy production and #31 for energy efficiency. This is simply unacceptable. In order to make Ohio a leader on clean energy, we need to strengthen Ohio’s renewable portfolio standard. As governor, I will double our renewable energy and energy efficiency targets by 2025. We also need to stop over-regulation that has halted Ohio’s wind energy development. Finally, we need to invest in solar power to create more local jobs. These initiatives will encourage other businesses from elsewhere to locate in Ohio, both as a matter of corporate preference and because they want reliable and predictable energy bills from power sources that are based on free energy creation, such as from the sun and the wind.

**Question6: Explain your position on regulation of gun safety, sales, and ownership.**

**Answer: Richard Cordray and Betty Sutton** We must take common sense steps to address the senseless killings that we see in our communities and in our schools. Law-abiding citizens should continue to be able to exercise their constitutional rights, but criminals, domestic abusers, and anyone who is at high risk of using a gun to commit a crime should not be able to obtain assault weapons or any gun period. Betty and I will bring everyone together, including law enforcement, community leaders, faith leaders, gun owners, and crime victims to put all options on the table and find solutions that will work in Ohio. We will expand background checks to cover all gun sales in Ohio, and will make sure they are fully funded and effective in keeping guns out of the wrong hands. We will ban modifications like bump stocks that illegally convert firearms into fully-automatic weapons. We will increase support for school safety, including identifying early warning signs and putting school resource officers on campuses.

**Question7: Explain your position on reproductive health care choices for women.**

**Answer: Richard Cordray and Betty Sutton** Having strong allies as governor and Lt. governor has never been more important for Ohio’s women after seven years of assaults by Republicans in the statehouse. Time after time, the General Assembly has attempted to pass unconstitutional legislation that would take away the ability of women in Ohio to make basic personal health decisions. We saw that clearly in 2016, when Gov. Kasich and Republicans in Columbus defunded Planned Parenthood in Ohio, putting critical health care for countless Ohioans at risk.

As your next governor and Lt. governor, Betty and I will put a stop to this and will stand strong for women in Ohio. I will veto anti-choice legislation, and together with Betty, I’ll work to restore funding for women’s health programs. And we’ll block backdoor attempts to drive abortion providers out of Ohio.

## GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR

### Mike DeWine & Jon Husted

Party: Rep

Occupation: Ohio Attorney General

Education: Miami University, 1969, Bachelor of Science in Education (Social Studies) and Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit College of Law, 1972, Juris Doctorate

Training & Experience: I have served as Ohio Attorney General, U.S. Senator, Ohio Lieutenant Governor, U.S. Congressman for the 7th District, Ohio State Senator for the 10th District, and Greene County Prosecutor.

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

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

Twitter: @DeWineHustedOH

#### **Question1: What is the role of the governor's office and executive agencies in addressing the opioid crisis in Ohio? What measures would you pursue in office?**

Answer: Mike DeWine and Jon Husted The Governor must be the undisputed leader on issues of this magnitude impacting Ohio. As Attorney General, my office has: seized over \$181 million in drugs; convicted over 2,500 drug dealers; started a heroin unit; invested \$17 million in NEW funding to fight the epidemic; awarded more than \$24 million in drug prevention grants; and sued the opioid manufacturers and distributors. As Governor, I will leverage the full resources of state government to amplify these successes. I have created a 12-point Recovery Ohio Plan that details the steps I will take as Governor, including: improving law enforcement data-sharing; increasing task forces that disrupt drug cartel activity; increasing treatment capacity, recovery supports, and employment opportunities for those in recovery; implementing prevention education from Kindergarten to 12th Grade; and providing early intervention programs for families and children. I will also create a cabinet level position to coordinate our state response.

#### **Question2: Under what circumstances is it appropriate for the state to support or to restrain local governments?**

Answer: Mike DeWine and Jon Husted I am a product of local government. I began my career as an assistant prosecutor in Greene County, and one of my running-mate, Jon Husted's, first jobs was doing economic development work for the Montgomery County Commissioners. So we understand first-hand the challenges of local government and the importance of home rule. We have promised to be good partners to local governments. They carry out a very important job of directly serving Ohioans, and the DeWine-Husted administration has committed to working closely with our local partners.

#### **Question3: What is the role of the governor's office and executive agencies in overseeing online and brick-and-mortar community schools? How will you ensure adequate funding for k-12 public schools?**

Answer: Mike DeWine and Jon Husted Every parent should have the right to decide what is best for his or her child's education. I will support school choice and ensure access to quality choice options – public, charter, private, and parochial. Our goal is academic excellence for all children, regardless of where they attend school. The Ohio Department of Education has authority to regulate charter schools, and I will support continued enforcement of House Bill 2, which evaluates charter school sponsors. I will strive to make Ohio a leader in public education by investing in our schools. School funding always will be a foundational element of our education system. With 608 school districts in Ohio, it is a challenge to design a system that serves the unique needs of a diverse state. However, funding is not about systems. It's about students and giving children access to quality educational opportunities. I will create a more equitable funding system that directs state resources to children most in need.

**Question4: What solutions would you propose to address challenges in the healthcare system?**

**Answer: Mike DeWine and Jon Husted** I am proud to have been endorsed by physicians at the Ohio State Medical Association PAC in my campaign for Governor. I support protecting coverage for people with pre-existing conditions. I understand that health insurance needs to be there when people need it the most. That includes the traditional Medicaid program, which is designed to primarily take care of the elderly, people with disabilities, and children. In addition to supporting coverage for people with pre-existing conditions, the DeWine- Husted administration will keep extended Medicaid coverage for adults and continue to reform the program, find ways to improve it for the people it serves, and make the program stronger for the future. The DeWine-Husted Administration will support a reasonable work requirement for adults who are healthy and able to work, a wellness program to improve health outcomes for people, and we will work to drive down pharmacy costs that are bloating the program.

**Question5: What strategies will you pursue to effectively respond to our changing climate and related challenges for environmental, agricultural and human health? How will you achieve both economic growth and environmental protection in Ohio?**

**Answer: Mike DeWine and Jon Husted** As Attorney General, I have served as legal counsel for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, prosecuting those who pollute our natural resources. I have also fought against the federal government to protect Ohio's waterways from Asian Carp and the depositing of contaminated dredged material. As Governor, I will continue to advocate for and protect Ohio's natural resources. I will rely on science-based approaches to Ohio's environmental challenges, including nutrient loading in Lake Erie and other bodies of water and will bring all interested parties to the table to reach reasonable solutions.

**Question6: Explain your position on regulation of gun safety, sales, and ownership.**

**Answer: Mike DeWine and Jon Husted** I support the Second Amendment. I also believe in better enforcing Ohio's existing background check laws. More than 1,300 law enforcement agencies and courts are required to submit information into Ohio's background check system. The DeWine-Husted Administration will advance the work I have done as Attorney General to build a 21st century, statewide data infrastructure that will ensure we keep guns out of the hands of criminals and others who are prohibited from owning firearms.

**Question7: Explain your position on reproductive health care choices for women.**

**Answer: Mike DeWine and Jon Husted** I am pro-life and believe that life begins at conception. I also believe in compassion for those who need help, especially mothers in difficult situations. That is why I have committed to tripling home visiting services. These are programs that connect pregnant mothers to prenatal care and other social services, as well as help children reach critical developmental milestones by helping mothers to become their child's first and best teacher.

## GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR

**Richard Duncan & Dennis A. Artino**

Write-in

Candidate did not respond.

## GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR

**Constance Gadell-Newton & Brett R. Joseph**

Party: Green

Candidate did not respond.

## GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR

**Travis M. Irvine & J. Todd Grayson**

Party: Libertarian

Candidate did not respond.

## GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR

**Renea Turner & Keith Colton**

Write-in

Occupation: Entrepreneur

Education:

Training & Experience: I'm a business entrepreneur I have over 20 years experience in building and creating businesses and selling them turn key. I gave testimony on the House side the Senate side and JACARR for the House Bill 523 .

Website: <http://Ohioturner.com>

Facebook: <http://Ohio Strong Renea Turner for Governor>

**Question1: What is the role of the governor's office and executive agencies in addressing the opioid crisis in Ohio? What measures would you pursue in office?**

Answer: **Renea Turner and Keith Colton** The Ohio Board of Pharmacy is there a state-regulated entity. They should be held responsible along with the pharmaceutical companies concerning our opioid addiction crisis we have currently. I will hold them all accountable and make them pay to fix the problem they created. The Board of Pharmacy knows every single prescription every doctor and every pill that had crossed the counter and how much money was made now they can also fix this problem they will be responsible to fix the problem. Our attorney general was aware of these issues for the last decade along with the pharmaceutical Board of Pharmacy.

**Question2: Under what circumstances is it appropriate for the state to support or to restrain local governments?**

Answer: **Renea Turner and Keith Colton** They are Ohio government should support all of the local governing entities. The job of the Ohio governing entity such as Governor attorney general all others are to protect all Ohioans no matter what area they live in. Example when DP&L requested to raise the utilities in Dayton their reason being so they could donate more money to the local parks in upgrading her community. Most people are on a budget or Social Security they cannot afford to have their utility bills increased. It's a local community wants to enhance their Community they can do fundraisers or try and get other funding. I also am going to decrease the age before they are allowed to get Social Security back to 62.

**Question3: What is the role of the governor's office and executive agencies in overseeing online and brick-and-mortar community schools? How will you ensure adequate funding for k-12 public schools?**

**Answer: Renea Turner and Keith Colton** I support brick and mortar there is funding we can get from the lottery by increasing their amount that they supposedly donate to the school systems in the state of Ohio I will more than double it to facilitate brick-and-mortar for K through 12 to allow smaller classes and more teachers. There is other funding that can be directed to the brick and mortar to educate our next Generations .

**Question4: What solutions would you propose to address challenges in the healthcare system?**

**Answer: Renea Turner and Keith Colton** The medical marijuana industry will make multiple millions of dollars per year those are all self-pay patients that will minimize the use of other insurance entities. There are currently insurance companies getting in place to start covering the medical marijuana patients only therefore that will allow some revisions in the current Healthcare System along with other revisions that will be made. I will also be fighting for our veterans to be able to see local doctors instead of only going to the VA hospitals.

**Question5: What strategies will you pursue to effectively respond to our changing climate and related challenges for environmental, agricultural and human health? How will you achieve both economic growth and environmental protection in Ohio?**

**Answer: Renea Turner and Keith Colton** I plan to legalize hemp for outside grow in the state of Ohio we nutrition Eliza's the soil to allow for better crops of vegetables and other products. And also is used as a textile you can make clothes housing materials building materials and CBD medical uses as well. All of the medical marijuana and hemp will be all organic and holistic. We will be able to recycle or recompose all of the hemp and marijuana products to reintroduce into the soil allowing it to self enrich the soil. Allowing for future vegetable planted crops to require less need for chemicals to promote gross and health to the product. The medical marijuana industry will bring thousands of skill level paying jobs period along with I would make tax cuts and give incentives to other businesses to come to Ohio. The medical marijuana industry will utilize current abandoned buildings this will allow revitalization of a lot of towns in Ohio.

**Question6: Explain your position on regulation of gun safety, sales, and ownership.**

**Answer: Renea Turner and Keith Colton** Anyone that has an opioid addiction or mentally unstable should not own a gun I believe people should have guns to protect their homes their family enter property in themselves. I also believe if you are a medical marijuana patient and it is not due to mental illness or addiction issues will be allowed to own a gun. Guns don't kill people people kill people. I think there should be at least a week to attend a period between putting in an application for a weapon to getting one. Better background checks federal background check should be performed before issuing the sale of a gun. Everyone should have some certified training on how to handle a gun and be put in simulators with certain situations to see how they would handle a situation with having a gun. They should have a certificate prior to two hand in with their application for purchasing a gun.

**Question7: Explain your position on reproductive health care choices for women.**

**Answer: Renea Turner and Keith Colton** I got pregnant when I lost my virginity at the age of 16 I gave birth to a precious baby boy he is 35 now he is giving me free precious grandbabies. However I do believe if someone has been raped or there child is going to be born with deformities which will in time the child will die of an early age if it is born. I believe there are circumstances were it is acceptable. If a woman is using abortion as a form of birth control I'm absolutely against that I think if they go in and get an abortion the doctor will be required to tie the tubes at the time of the abortion.

# ATTORNEY GENERAL

## Steve Dettelbach

Party: Dem

Occupation: Attorney; Prosecutor

Education: Dartmouth College Harvard Law School

Training & Experience: 2009-2016: U.S. Attorney - Northern District of Ohio 2008-2009: Commissioner - Ohio Ethics Commission 2006-2009; 2016-Present: Partner - Baker Hostetler, LLP 2003-2006: Prosecutor - U.S. Attorney's Office, Organized Crime and Corruption Strike Force

Website: <http://steveforohio.com>

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

Twitter: @SteveDettelbach

### **Question1: What are the most important functions of the state attorney general and why?**

Answer: **Steve Dettelbach** The Attorney General's job is to ensure that no one is above the law, no one is below the law, and no one is beyond its reach. Fundamentally, that means protecting people – from violent crime, corrupt politicians, and a broken political system that allows powerful special interests to play by a different set of the rules than everyone else.

### **Question2: What divisions (e.g. consumer protection, environment, civil rights, immigration) would you prioritize and why?**

Answer: **Steve Dettelbach** The job of the Attorney General is to enforce the Rule of Law and to protect Ohio's citizens. Right now, our political system is broken. We have corrupt politicians -- both Democrats and Republicans -- who are allowed to play by a different set of rules than everyone else. That is wrong. As AG, on day one, I will conduct a top-to-bottom review of Ohio's corruption laws to put a stop to the pay-to-play culture running rampant in our Statehouse. It's time to put Ohioans first, and stop letting special interest donors call the shots in our government.

### **Question3: During a time of shrinking budgets for state government agencies, how would you focus resources allocated to the Attorney General's office to make it more efficient and cost effective?**

Answer: **Steve Dettelbach** As United States Attorney, I managed the office through one of the most challenging budget periods of all time. Despite sequester, shut down, and shrinking budgets, I am proud that the office continued to maintain high levels of productivity and efficiency during my tenure. The Attorney General's office can improve efficiency and cost savings by investing in new technologies that save resources in the long run. The office should look to partner with county and local governments, law enforcement agencies, and community-based organizations to end duplication of efforts and make sure that the best agent is delivering the critical services Ohioans need. Furthermore, I would end our current AG's policy of wasting money on blatantly political cases and investigations, like those that attack a woman's constitutional right to make her own healthcare decisions.

### **Question4: What is the role of the attorney general's office in addressing the opioid crisis in Ohio? What measures would you pursue in office?**

Answer: **Steve Dettelbach** If we want to really combat the problem, we need a comprehensive approach -- what I call a 'three-legged stool' approach -- of enforcement, prevention, and treatment. As U.S. Attorney of the Northern District of Ohio, I was on the front lines of the crisis; this is a fight I know well. I've prosecuted drug traffickers that flooded the streets with opioids, including a case that resulted in one of the largest heroin seizures in Ohio history. I've aggressively gone after corrupt doctors and drug companies who pushed pills into our

communities. I also established an award-winning task force, the Northeast Ohio Heroin and Opioid Task Force, to prevent and treat addiction, which has become a national model used in other U.S. cities. As AG, I will continue this fight. I will make pharmaceutical companies pay for treatment, and aggressively take on those who perpetuate a crisis that has plagued our communities for far too long.

**Question5: How will you execute your authority as Attorney General to hold accountable online and brick-and-mortar community schools?**

Answer: **Steve Dettelbach** The fact that ECOT executives were allowed to defraud the State of Ohio to the tune of nearly \$200 million is both inexcusable and a case study of the corruption that has become characteristic in Ohio. This all happened under the watch of our current Statehouse leadership, including my opponent, who was supposed to be auditing them. Make no mistake -- the attempts of politicians to cover their political tracks on ECOT now is not fooling anyone. They failed Ohio children, families, and taxpayers, and continue to do so. As AG, I will work to hold each and every person or entity accountable. I will fight for transparency and accountability throughout state government and without regard for who might be a powerful political donor.

**Question6: Under what circumstances should AT pursue legal action against federal policies?**

Answer: **Steve Dettelbach** When considering whether to intervene in federal policy on behalf of Ohioans, I will implement a two-part test. First, I will consider if the policy violates the protections and requirements of the Constitution. If it does, I will then consider whether the policy is in the best interests of Ohioans. If the policy is unconstitutional and harmful to Ohioans, I will use my authority as Attorney General to intervene.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL

### Dave Yost

Party: Rep

Occupation: Auditor of State

Education: B.A. OSU 1984; JD Capital Law 1991

Training & Experience: Former Prosecuting Attorney, lawyer, newspaper reporter

Website: <http://daveyost.com>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/dave.yost.3>

Twitter: @Yost4Ohio

**Question1: What are the most important functions of the state attorney general and why?**

Answer: **Dave Yost** The attorney general's job is to protect Ohio and its people--from prosecuting crime, to protecting the environment and consumers, I will fight for the best interest of all Ohioans. As attorney general, I will take an oath to uphold the rule of law, defend the Ohio Constitution and fight for all Ohioans. I will apply the law with an even hand, and make Ohio a safer and more predictable place to work and live.

**Question2: What divisions (e.g. consumer protection, environment, civil rights, immigration) would you prioritize and why?**

Answer: **Dave Yost** I will prioritize the rule of law and pound this message: The client is the State of Ohio and its people, not the politicians or the bureaucrats.

**Question3: During a time of shrinking budgets for state government agencies, how would you focus resources allocated to the Attorney General's office to make it more efficient and cost effective?**

Answer: **Dave Yost** While serving as Ohio's Auditor of State for the past eight years, I specialized in finding savings. My office's studies identified more than \$260 million in taxpayer savings for state and local governments. I will bring this same eye for efficiency to the attorney general's office, and make sure your hard-earned tax dollars are spent wisely and effectively.

**Question4: What is the role of the attorney general's office in addressing the opioid crisis in Ohio? What measures would you pursue in office?**

Answer: **Dave Yost** The attorney general has to lead on many fronts--through the courts, through law enforcement, through collaboration and education. We need to get tougher on dealers that are flooding our streets with drugs and poisoning our communities, while investing in results-driven treatment, and rethinking how we address prevention.

**Question5: How will you execute your authority as Attorney General to hold accountable online and brick-and-mortar community schools?**

Answer: **Dave Yost** As Auditor of State, I have long been an advocate for stronger charter school accountability and increased transparency to guarantee our kids receive the quality education they deserve, and our tax dollars are used responsibly. I was a proponent of House Bill 2, which brought increased accountability to Ohio's charter school system. I also led efforts to prevent systemic over-payments to charter schools by working to close loopholes in Ohio law. As attorney general, I will continue my oversight, and hold bad actors accountable, while rewarding the quality schools that support our kids.

**Question6: Under what circumstances should AT pursue legal action against federal policies?**

**Answer: Dave Yost** As attorney general, I will take an oath to uphold the Ohio Constitution, bills passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by the governor, and the rule of law. My client will be the people of Ohio, and frivolous political lawsuits have no place in the attorney general's office. To that end, I have a test for determining whether I will join a multi-state lawsuit as attorney general. I will ask three questions of each case that comes before me prior to signing Ohio's name to a multi-state suit: 1. Was there a clear violation of process, the Constitution or the Ohio Revised Code? 2. Was harm done to Ohioans/is there anything to be gained from adding Ohio's name to the suit? 3. What does the evidence show? Is the case winnable? To create stability and predictability—and avoid entanglements in drawn-out lawsuits that drain resources—each case must pass through this test.

## AUDITOR OF STATE

### **Robert C. Coogan**

Party: Libertarian

Occupation: Accountant - semi-retired

Education: Princeton University – 1969 to 1973 – Bachelor's degree; Xavier University – 1973 to 1978 – Master of Business Administration

Training & Experience: CPA-Ohio, Certified Internal Auditor (inactive), Retired from Cincinnati Bell - served as VP-Accounting at Cincinnati Bell Telephone and VP-Internal Audit at Cincinnati Bell Inc, Retired from The Health Collaborative - Director-Grant Accounting

Website: [http:// www.coogan4liberty.org](http://www.coogan4liberty.org)

**Question1: What recommendations do you have to improve operations in the auditor's office?**

**Answer: Robert C. Coogan** My non-partisan approach as the Auditor of State will bring independence and objectivity to the analysis of risks to Ohio taxpayer dollars and the prioritization of audit resources. Decisions regarding entities/areas to audit will be free of conflicts of interest. Financial Audits – I will focus resources on the entities that are most in need of help from the expertise of the audit staff. I will ensure that the most cost effective and efficient use is being made of Independent Auditor firms in the financial audit process. Performance Audits – I will continue the practice of performance audit engagements. I will continuously evaluate the areas of focus for these audits in order provide the most operational improvement savings for taxpayers. I will ensure that the auditing software in place is the most appropriate and current for cybersecurity, financial and performance audits.

**Question2: What would you do to ensure that public funds are not misused by government officials and those in a position of public trust?**

**Answer: Robert C. Coogan** The assurance of appropriate expenditures of public funds by individuals will be incorporated into all audits, as is done in audits of private companies. All audits will include an internal controls assessment, which includes assures proper authorization and recording of expenditures, documentation of the appropriateness of the expenditure for the individual and position, and the review and disclosure of any external funding sources or gifts. A comparison of expenditures to the detail of an approved budget will highlight unusual, extraordinary or unplanned items. An analysis of these exception items is a means to uncover fraud and the misuse of funds. Scrutiny of non-healthcare benefits and perks can also reveal abuses and fraud by officials in charge of public funds.

**Question3: What is the auditor’s role in the oversight of online and brick-and-mortar community schools?**

**Answer: Robert C. Coogan** The Auditor of State has a critical role in the oversight of community schools. This monitoring of the granting of public funds for a specific purpose (education) parallels the close examination by government and other funding organizations of the use of their funds. All grants that I have managed have required that the recipient of the funds allow complete and open access to auditing how the funds are used. The Auditor’s office must review and evaluate all aspects from the procedures to ensure fair admissions, validating the tracking and reporting results, confirming the achievement of performance criteria per statutes and contracts (e.g., attendance, instruction time), and examining the billing/documentation for accurate and proper invoicing/requests for funds expenditures.

**Question4: How will you faithfully execute redistricting reforms overwhelmingly passed by voters for statehouse and congressional map making?**

**Answer: Robert C. Coogan** My non-partisan approach as the Auditor of State will bring independence and objectivity to redistricting process for Congressional and State legislative districts. I will apply the criteria defined in the constitutional amendment to achieve community-centric voting districts that are not based on historic partisan voting results and tendencies. Population and location information will be used to develop the district maps. Voting results data (e.g., precinct level results by party designation) will not be a criterion for determining the district boundaries, in order to eliminate gerrymandering and its impact on future election results. Legislators must not select their voters. The voters should select their legislators.

**AUDITOR OF STATE**

**Keith Faber**

Party: Rep

Candidate did not respond.

# AUDITOR OF STATE

## **Zack Space**

Party: Dem

Occupation: Consultant

Education: Kenyon College, B.A. Political Science; Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, J.D.

Training & Experience: Practicing attorney, private practice and public defense, 1986-2006; Law Director, City of Dover, OH, 2001-2006; United States Congressman, Ohio's 18th District, 2007-2011

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

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

Twitter: @ZackSpaceOhio

### **Question1: What recommendations do you have to improve operations in the auditor's office?**

Answer: **Zack Space** I intend to sufficiently fulfill all traditional responsibilities of the Auditor's office. The Auditor's office can focus on materiality and risk-based audits, conducting basic audits and agreed upon procedures where appropriate. I will also recruit a diverse and qualified staff, who represents all of Ohio and understands our local communities, to help accomplish these goals. I believe I can add tremendous value to the Auditor's office by making it far more dynamic. Performance audits, for instance, allow the Auditor to make holistic observations about public entities and make thorough recommendations for improvement.

### **Question2: What would you do to ensure that public funds are not misused by government officials and those in a position of public trust?**

Answer: **Zack Space** I commend Auditor Yost for creating the Public Integrity Assurance Team ("PIAT"). The PIAT is well known for investigating theft of public dollars. Just as important, if not more so, are PIAT's trainings for local government officials on fraud prevention and combating cybercrime. I will continue to investigate those suspected of stealing public money and expand the training program, so our local governments have the tools they need to avoid becoming victims of crime

### **Question3: What is the auditor's role in the oversight of online and brick-and-mortar community schools?**

Answer: **Zack Space** The Auditor of State has the authority to audit any entity that uses public monies, including educational institutions. The Auditor must hold online schools and traditional community schools to the same standards. This oversight responsibility has lapsed significantly in recent years, as for-profit online charter schools such as the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow have scammed taxpayers out of hundreds of millions of dollars by tampering with attendance records. I find it wholly unacceptable that the management firms who operate such for-profit schools could receive millions of dollars that would otherwise have gone to public education, without any transparency or oversight whatsoever. As these firms are taking public monies, they could -- and would -- be declared "unauditable" under my administration, and public funding would then stop. Any entity that receives public money must justify its actions and verify that it is not being wasteful. This is especially true for schools.

**Question4: How will you faithfully execute redistricting reforms overwhelmingly passed by voters for statehouse and congressional map making?**

**Answer: Zack Space** If elected Auditor, I will serve on the Redistricting Commission. I have pledged to wield that power not on behalf of the Democratic or Republican Party, but on behalf of ordinary Ohioans, who have been shut out of that partisan process for over a generation. Members of the Redistricting Commission have a duty to the people of Ohio to only approve legislative (and possibly Congressional) districts that are fair and competitive. In furtherance of this goal, I pledge that I will ensure the Redistricting Commission complies with the Open Meetings Act, bringing a new level of transparency to proceedings. Robust public debate on the best way to combat gerrymandering is still underway, and given the Supreme Court's expected landmark ruling on gerrymandering cases this summer it may be too soon to declare explicit tools (such as the efficiency gap) that will be useful in preventing gerrymandering. I believe that drawing competitive districts should be the Commission's top priority.

## **SECRETARY OF STATE**

**Michael W. Bradley**

Write-in

Candidate did not respond.

# SECRETARY OF STATE

## **Kathleen Clyde**

Party: Dem

Occupation: Ohio State Representative

Education: BA from Wesleyan University JD from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

Training & Experience: Currently serving fourth term in the Ohio House of Representatives. Served as an election official with the Franklin County Board of Elections. Served as a law clerk for the Ohio Secretary of State and the Ohio Senate.

Website: <http://KathleenClyde.com>

Facebook: <http://RepKathleenClyde>

Twitter: @KathleenClyde

### **Question1: How would you promote equitable, ample ballot access and registration for all eligible voters?**

Answer: **Kathleen Clyde** Ensuring access to the ballot box is critical to the health of our democracy. The best way to do this is by modernizing our outdated registration process. That's why I introduced Automatic Voter Registration, a plan to automatically register and update the info of every eligible Ohio voter when they do the things they already do every day, like renew a driver's license or apply for benefits. In fact, more than half of Americans live in states with AVR. It's efficient, saves money and has actually proven to increase turnout.

### **Question2: How will you champion voter roll maintenance procedures that proactively include vulnerable and historically underrepresented populations?**

Answer: **Kathleen Clyde** While it's important to keep our voter rolls up-to-date, it's also imperative that we do what we can to ensure our vulnerable, underrepresented and less politically active populations have the tools they need to exercise their most fundamental right. I'll continue removing voters ineligible under Ohio law, but act to reverse Ohio's aggressive supplemental purge process that cancels the rights of eligible Ohio voters. With automatic registration, we'll be able to update our rolls in real time, saving money on costly, inefficient mailings and, most importantly, keeping eligible Ohioans up-to-date and on the rolls.

### **Question3: What would you do to improve voter turnout in primary and general elections in Ohio?**

Answer: **Kathleen Clyde** Voters come to the polls when they feel something real is at stake. In a system where rigged districts silence the voice of the people, many voters feel their voice no longer matters. Bringing fair districts back to Ohio will go a long way to energizing voters to get out to the polls. In addition to unrigging the system, we also need to modernize it to make it more accessible—that begins with getting more people registered. My Automatic Voter Registration and Future Voter Act will make this process easier for eligible Ohioans, and, in turn, increase voter turnout.

### **Question4: How will you support local Boards of Elections with the training, guidance, and resources necessary to ensure that elections are secure, reliable, fair, and accessible?**

Answer: **Kathleen Clyde** I have a comprehensive plan to ensure our elections are fair, secure, transparent and accessible. That begins with modernizing the office. Many of our systems are operating with technology from more than a decade ago. Data sharing under my Automatic Voter Registration plan would cut down on paperwork and make our Boards of Elections run more efficiently. Finally, I introduced a comprehensive cybersecurity plan which would increase security in all 88 counties and prepare our state for the next wave of cyber threats. It's all about modernizing the office so it works better for you, the voter.

**Question5: How will you faithfully execute redistricting reforms overwhelmingly passed by voters for statehouse and congressional map making?**

**Answer: Kathleen Clyde** Better representation begins with fair districts. I've been pushing for redistricting reform throughout my time in office, working with the League and other advocates behind the scenes and publicly in recent years to fight for fair districts. I'll continue that important work as Secretary of State. Ohio is a diverse state, and our districts should reflect that. It's critically important that we keep the process open to the public so that they have a voice in their representation. In the end, we need a process that, for the first time in a long time, truly puts Ohioans before partisanship.

## SECRETARY OF STATE

### **Frank LaRose**

Party: Rep

Occupation: State Senator

**Education:** Graduate of Copley High School in Summit County and The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Consumer Affairs and a Minor in Business Administration.

**Training & Experience:** United States Army Veteran (10 years), State Senator (7 years), Eagle Scout.

**Website:** <http://www.FrankLaRose.com>

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/franklarose>

**Twitter:** @FrankLaRose

**Question1: How would you promote equitable, ample ballot access and registration for all eligible voters?**

**Answer: Frank LaRose** Ohio has among the most generous early and absentee voting in the country. That's a good thing, and we must maintain our position as a national leader. I've championed several pieces of legislation that make it easier for citizens to register and vote. Those bills include online voter registration which allows Ohioans to securely register using a computer or smartphone, and legislation that will allow people to request absentee ballots online. I have opposed efforts by some to make it harder for Ohioans to vote, and have supported maintaining convenient weekend options for early in-person voting. Additionally, I'm working to create "automated voter registration," so that people can automatically register to vote when they interact with state agencies, such as the BMV. As Secretary of State, I'll continue working in a bipartisan fashion to get automated voter registration passed, and to move the ball forward in other areas in order to ensure we continue to be a voter-friendly state.

**Question2: How will you champion voter roll maintenance procedures that proactively include vulnerable and historically underrepresented populations?**

**Answer: Frank LaRose** Ohio law requires the Secretary of State to maintain accurate voter rolls. We also have a responsibility to ensure we aren't removing eligible voters. Every Secretary of State for the last twenty years has followed nearly the same process for maintaining the rolls, but I believe we can improve our process. First, we should encourage participation so voters don't go years without voting. Competitive elections are one of the clearest ways to increase participation, which is why I'm passionate about redistricting reform. We can also do more to educate voters, especially young voters, so they understand the importance of participating. Finally, we should make it easier for eligible citizens to get and stay registered, and keep their registration up-to-date. My online voter registration bill does this. I'm also working on a bill to implement "automated voter registration" so people who interact with state government are automatically registered and stay updated, unless they opt-out.

**Question3: What would you do to improve voter turnout in primary and general elections in Ohio?**

**Answer: Frank LaRose** I authored Ohio's law that makes it easier to exercise our voting rights by allowing people to use a computer or smartphone to register to vote online (SB 63).

Additionally, Ohio voters can easily update their address online. I have also worked to protect Ohioans opportunity to vote early and would continue to advocate that in-person voting begin the day after the close of the voter registration deadline to ensure Ohioans have ample in-person early voting and opportunities for convenient weekend voting hours. As Secretary of State, I will personally work to encourage more civics education and get young people excited about the power they have as a voter. Voting in Ohio has never been easier, and that's a good thing. However, we must also acknowledge that while access has improved, we have not seen a corresponding increase in turnout. To increase turnout further, we need to end gerrymandering because we know competitive elections drive turnout.

**Question4: How will you support local Boards of Elections with the training, guidance, and resources necessary to ensure that elections are secure, reliable, fair, and accessible?**

**Answer: Frank LaRose** In today's partisan environment one of the under-appreciated success stories is Ohio's bipartisan county Boards of Elections. Every day, Republican and Democratic staff sit side by side and do the work of running our elections. My job as Secretary of State will be to support and advocate for them, which is why I've spent much of my time visiting with county boards across the state. As a State Senator I've successfully passed legislation to provide funding for electronic poll books and new voting machines that make our elections more secure, convenient, and efficient. I've also worked to create the nation's first "Cyber Reserve" with the National Guard to support our Boards in the case of a cyber attack. As Secretary of State I'll continue working with the legislature to provide necessary resources for our counties while also updating online resources and creating a more customer-focused experience for elections workers who reach out for advice and assistance. This is a key priority.

**Question5: How will you faithfully execute redistricting reforms overwhelmingly passed by voters for statehouse and congressional map making?**

**Answer: Frank LaRose** I've been a proponent of redistricting reform from the beginning, and introduced bipartisan legislation on the issue every year. Issue 1, which has now been overwhelmingly passed by voters, was crafted from language I proposed last March. When I came out as a leading voice for reform during my first months in office it wasn't popular with some in my own party, but I knew it was time for change. Ohio agreed. I was proud to team-up with the League of Women Voters and thousands of dedicated Ohioans to help pass Issue 1. Now it will be my commitment to faithfully carry out that process in a fair and non-partisan manner on the redistricting commission. The system we now have is a major step forward, but it is still going to depend on people faithfully executing their duty. I have a history of working across party lines, and I've been a champion of reform for far longer than I've been running for higher office. Voters can trust that I'll work to do what is best for Ohio -- not a party.

## SECRETARY OF STATE

### **Dustin R. Nanna**

Party: Libertarian

Occupation: Homemaker/Personal Care Professional

Education: Graduate of Rutherford B. Hayes High Sch

Training & Experience: I have spearheaded multiple petition drives here in Ohio and am well versed and familiar with the Ohio Revised Code, specifically when it has to with the electoral process.

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

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

**Question1: How would you promote equitable, ample ballot access and registration for all eligible voters?**

Answer: **Dustin R. Nanna** Part of my platform is an automatic voter registration system. I would like to see the State automatically register you to vote/update your voting information anytime you give the State enough information to do so. I believe this will add tens if not hundreds of thousands of new eligible voters to the rolls.

**Question2: How will you champion voter roll maintenance procedures that proactively include vulnerable and historically underrepresented populations?**

Answer: **Dustin R. Nanna** As mentioned I want automatic voter registration in Ohio. I believe a system like this can keep the rolls clean without having to purge them of potential future voters. Voting is a right for any taxpaying citizen of Ohio and we should be doing our best to add folks to the rolls, not find ways to disqualify them that disproportionately affect minorities.

**Question3: What would you do to improve voter turnout in primary and general elections in Ohio?**

Answer: **Dustin R. Nanna** The best way to increase voter turnout is by making sure that everyone is aware of the location of their polls and is given ample time to vote. One method to increase numbers in elections is having polls set up on the Sunday before election night. I have found that from discussions with leaders of urban communities, a lot of folks would vote on this day if it were allowed statewide and as SoS I will work to make it a reality. We should be giving Ohioans more opportunities to vote, not less.

**Question4: How will you support local Boards of Elections with the training, guidance, and resources necessary to ensure that elections are secure, reliable, fair, and accessible?**

Answer: **Dustin R. Nanna** This is an area that I think the Secretary of State's office has done well in recently. I would like to continue this success, but I am also always searching for ways to make these trainings and resources better. In fact, if there are any Board of Elections officials that are reading this right now and you have any suggestions about this, I would love to hear from you at [Dustin.Nanna@lpo.org](mailto:Dustin.Nanna@lpo.org).

**Question5: How will you faithfully execute redistricting reforms overwhelmingly passed by voters for statehouse and congressional map making?**

Answer: **Dustin R. Nanna** Gerrymandering is a serious issue in Ohio. All one has to do is look at the district maps to see that. Since the Secretary of State sits on the newly created Redistricting Commission, should the legislature fail to provide a suitable District map, I would work tirelessly to make sure that any map recommended by the Committee was fair, and balanced. I have no dog in the Republican vs Democrat fight and I will be a strong independent voice in Columbus.

# TREASURER OF STATE

## **Rob Richardson**

Party: Dem

Occupation: Attorney

Education: Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering, University of Cincinnati Juris Doctor, UC Law

Training & Experience: I believe my most relevant experience is my nine years on the University of Cincinnati's Board of Trustees, where I capped my tenure as Chair. Over that time we experienced record financial growth and enrollment.

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

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

Twitter: @RobforOHIO

### **Question1: What are the most important functions of the state treasurer and why?**

Answer: **Rob Richardson** The state treasurer is essentially the state's banker, responsible for overseeing all financial transactions of the state government. In 2017 the Treasurer's office managed more than \$224 billion in financial assets, including more than \$21.5 billion in state investments. This has tremendous influence on the economy and overall health of Ohio, and it affects everyone regardless of political affiliation. These are essential, baseline functions the treasurer must perform to maintain stability, but I believe the state treasurer can do more than just the bare minimum. As treasurer, I plan to enact policies that hold the powerful accountable and expand opportunities for all Ohioans.

### **Question2: What recommendations do you have to improve operations in the treasurer's office?**

Answer: **Rob Richardson** Given the importance of the treasurer's role to our state's economic well-being, it's crucial to maintain an office that runs as efficiently as possible. While I don't necessarily foresee any major overhauls to the office's operations, I want to stress that I will only hire staff of the highest caliber who have gone through a strict vetting process. If any area of the office is performing in a substandard manner I will immediately work to see that the issue is corrected.

### **Question3: How can the treasurer's office influence state fiscal policy?**

Answer: **Rob Richardson** Contrary to popular belief, the treasurer does not create or control the state's budget. As treasurer I wouldn't have discretion over state spending and couldn't affect taxes. However, I would administer the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio (STAR Ohio), an investment fund that allows government subdivisions—from municipalities to school districts—to invest funds in a highly rated public investment pool. STAR Ohio has a AAA S&P rating and a record of high returns, and if elected I will encourage counties, schools, municipalities, et. al. to invest. As treasurer, I would also appoint members to Ohio's public pension boards. Anyone I appoint to a pension board will share my values of responsible investment, push for investing in entities that bring more jobs to Ohio, and work to divest from companies that actively harm Ohioans--e.g. private, for-profit prisons.

**Question4: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in state finances?**

Answer: **Rob Richardson** While I'm no fan of current Treasurer Josh Mandel, I do think his Checkbook has potential for reigning in excessive or questionable spending by state and local governments. That being said, I believe we need to focus less on how school districts spend their money and more on how much we as a state invest in entities like private prisons and large drug corporations. Months ago I wrote a letter to Treasurer Mandel, asking him to conduct a fiscal impact study on the criminal justice system. I've not received a response of any kind, but if I'm elected to the treasurer's office I promise to do so. My plan is to expand the Checkbook into a Taxpayer's Right to Know Report Card--that way taxpayers will have a clear view of where their money is going.

**Question5: How will you ensure that the office is run in an ethical manner?**

Answer: **Rob Richardson** I believe in leading with one's values, and if elected treasurer I will hold that same standard to anyone working in the office. As mentioned, I believe the treasurer's office can do more for everyday Ohioans than the simple, baseline requirements of the job. As a public servant, my commitment to the public comes before all else. This means I won't do business with or invest in companies whose practices harm the people of Ohio, such as private prisons or for-profit charter schools. I expect my employees to share my values and act with integrity at all times. Anything less will not be tolerated.

## TREASURER OF STATE

### Robert Sprague

Party: Rep

Occupation: State Representative

Education: Duke University, BSA Mechanical Engineering MBA University of North Carolina, emphasis in finance

Training & Experience: State Representative - appointed 2011, elected 2012, 2014 and 2016 Auditor, City of Findlay - elected 2008 Treasurer, City of Findlay - elected 2004 Principal, Vasa Capital, Findlay Ohio 2005 Owner, Talus Technology, Atlanta GA 1998 Ernst and Young

Website: <http://spragueforohio.com>

Facebook: <http://RobertCSprague>

Twitter: @RobertCSprague

**Question1: What are the most important functions of the state treasurer and why?**

Answer: **Robert Sprague** The Treasurer's power to issue debt is extremely important because it is the intersection between private capital markets and the government. I have a plan to unlock creativity in the private market to help fight the opiate epidemic, infant mortality and other societal ills through the standardization of Social Impact Bonds (SIBs). SIBs foster partnerships between the public and private sectors, where the private market develops new programs, but the public sector only pays if the new programs can be proven to deliver results. This innovative financial tool will bring the private sector to the table in a meaningful way and introduce a new funding stream to the effort to tackle Ohio's most pressing problems. I encourage readers to visit [SpragueForOhio.com/vision](http://SpragueForOhio.com/vision) to find a more detailed overview of how I plan to use the Treasurer's office to make a positive and meaningful difference in the lives of Ohioans.

**Question2: What recommendations do you have to improve operations in the treasurer's office?**

**Answer: Robert Sprague** As an international business consultant for Ernst & Young, I was trained to evaluate companies' operations, find efficiencies and improve their internal processes. Once I am elected, I plan to use this experience to do an in-depth evaluation of the office and the programs the Treasurer manages to ensure we are achieving the highest quality outcomes at the most effective cost for taxpayers. Ohio's Online Checkbook and STABLE Account Program are two areas where I believe we can achieve greater fiscal efficiencies and drive down administrative costs by actively working to expand participation in the programs to individuals and entities both in and out of state. As Treasurer, I will also use the knowledge gained in both the private sector and as a member of the Ohio House Finance Committee to keep our office operating costs in-check through regular internal budget evaluations.

**Question3: How can the treasurer's office influence state fiscal policy?**

**Answer: Robert Sprague** As a member of the House Finance Committee during the last three state budget negotiations, I have a keen understanding of state fiscal policy and the often difficult financial decisions we face. As Treasurer, I believe that I can have an impact by promoting innovative financial tools designed to deliver cost savings. For example, applying the Social Impact Bonds model described above to the heroin epidemic would mean investments in programs that produce better recovery rates than the programs the state is currently funding. Increasing our recovery rates means healthier Ohioans and could in turn help reduce spending for Medicaid, Child & Protective Services and Corrections, all areas that have been put under increasing pressure as a result of this crisis. By forming strategic partnerships with the private sector, we can improve government efficiency from the outside in and have a lasting, positive effect on how we approach state fiscal policy.

**Question4: How will you ensure transparency and accountability in state finances?**

**Answer: Robert Sprague** I believe increased transparency leads to greater accountability, which is why I created an annual financial report as Auditor of Findlay to help people better understand the City finances. I applaud Treasurer Josh Mandel for taking the first step in giving the public access to how their tax dollars are spent through the creation of Ohio's Online Checkbook. I plan to take this tool to the next level by further expanding the scope and capabilities of the program - creating a SMART Online Checkbook. Drawing upon my private sector experience as a business and financial consultant, I'll empower taxpayers to use the data to benchmark spending, make comparisons across agencies and better identify government efficiencies (or inefficiencies). Furthermore, I will work to increase participation in the program so that all Ohioans have a window into spending at every level of government.

**Question5: How will you ensure that the office is run in an ethical manner?**

**Answer: Robert Sprague** I am committed to executing my responsibilities as Treasurer of State with integrity and will expect the same of my staff and all those who interact with the office. I believe that having a leader at the helm with financial experience further helps to ensure the office is run in an ethical manner. As Treasurer, you're overseeing billions of taxpayer dollars. This is an incredible responsibility and that's why it's critical that the individual filling this role has a firm understanding of not only the duties of the Treasurer but of those who work in and with the office as well. I earned my MBA with an emphasis in finance, worked in the private sector advising companies worldwide on complex financial matters and gained valuable public sector finance experience as City Auditor, Treasurer, and State Representative. I will bring to the Treasurer's Office an unparalleled level of professional competence born in part from these experiences and will serve with the integrity Ohioans deserve.

## US SENATOR

### **Sherrod Brown**

Party: Dem

Occupation: US Senator for Ohio

Education: Masters from The Ohio State University, BA from Yale

Training & Experience: U.S. Senator for Ohio

Website: <http://SherrodBrown.com>

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

Twitter: @SherrodBrown

**Question1: What is the most pressing problem facing the federal government in 2018? What solutions will you offer?**

Answer: **Sherrod Brown** Ohioans are working harder and harder with less and less to show for their hard work. I want to restore the value of work to everyone working hard but struggling -- whether you earn a salary, punch a timesheet or make tips. Everyone deserves the opportunity to get ahead. That is why I have unveiled a plan to make work pay off again. We can do so by raising the minimum wage, giving workers the ability to earn paid sick days and family leave, and expanding overtime pay.

**Question2: What would you do to enact a fair and equitable immigration policy in Congress?**

Answer: **Sherrod Brown** Earlier this year, I supported a pair of bipartisan bills that would have provided certainty to Dreamers while boosting security on our borders. Unfortunately those efforts failed, but I will continue to work with my Republican and Democratic colleagues until we reach a bipartisan solution to fix our broken immigration system that protects those brought here as children who are working and contributing to their communities

**Question3: Explain your position on gun safety, sales, and ownership.**

Answer: **Sherrod Brown** We cannot say we are doing what it takes to keep Americans safe until we are finally willing to pass commonsense laws to protect people from gun violence. I have always respected the rights of hunters, collectors, and other law-abiding gun owners, and no one intends to take their guns away. But when our children are not safe in their schools, it's clear something has to be done to protect Ohioans against gun violence. That's why I am proud of my record of supporting: true comprehensive background check legislation, closing loopholes that allow suspected terrorists to buy guns, funding research into the causes of gun violence, and banning deadly assault rifles that belong on the battlefields and not on our streets.

**Question4: How do tariffs on international goods affect working people regardless of their job? What policy do you recommend, going forward?**

Answer: **Sherrod Brown** I grew up in Mansfield, Ohio and I've seen first-hand what America's disastrous trade policy has done to Ohio workers. Whether it's cheating through currency manipulation, illegal dumping, or Republican tax breaks that reward companies for moving to Wuhan, China or Reynosa, Mexico, U.S. trade and domestic policy must take aggressive steps going forward to combat these factors that have cost Ohio too many jobs.

**Question5: What are your legislative priorities to effectively respond to our changing climate and related challenges for environmental, agricultural, and human health?**

Answer: **Sherrod Brown** From the Great Lakes to small ponds, I have been a leader in defending Ohio's lakes and waterways. I partnered with senators throughout the region to champion the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, to clean up and revitalize these vital water resources, and, together with Senator Portman, vocally opposed the Trump Administration's efforts to drastically reduce support for the project.

**Question6: In your role in the confirmation process of federal judicial nominees, what will you do to ensure the independence and impartiality of the judiciary?**

**Answer: Sherrod Brown** More and more often these days, the only thing standing between Ohioans and their healthcare, the freedom to marry whoever they love, or the right to organize, is the Supreme Court. That's why it's more important than ever that we have fair and independent judges at all levels of the federal court system. That's why I opposed Justice Gorsuch and that's why I will oppose Brett Kavanaugh.

## US SENATOR

### Stephen Faris

Write-in

Occupation: Electrical Engineer; U.S. Military Officer

Education: Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering and Business Administration; studied at the Air Force Institute of Technology, Oklahoma City University, University of Akron, and Kent State University.

Training & Experience: Privately employed (2014-present); U.S. military officer (2005-present); Leadership; Management; Electrical engineering; Scientific and technical intelligence; R&D; Logistics;

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

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stephen.faris.714>

Twitter: @Stephen\_Faris

**Question1: What is the most pressing problem facing the federal government in 2018? What solutions will you offer?**

**Answer: Stephen Faris** The most pressing problem facing the Federal Government in 2018 is whether or not it will address long standing issues or leave them to worsen with age. The primary example of this is the continued deprivation of life and the continued denial of equal protection of law to unborn persons since 1973. The Constitution is clear in the 5th and 14th Amendments that no person shall be deprived of life without due process of law and that States shall not deny to any person in their jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws. Science has proven that a person's life begins at conception, yet the Federal Government struggles to challenge the longstanding expectation that some of us can be arbitrarily denied life and equal protection by the choices of others of us. For this, I am a single-issue candidate. I bring definition and protection to unborn persons, as well as prosecution or preservation to institutions that would harm or help them, to resolve this issue before it worsens beyond repair.

**Question2: What would you do to enact a fair and equitable immigration policy in Congress?**

**Answer: Stephen Faris** I would lead Congress to establish and maintain uniform rules of naturalization as directed in the Constitution and I would provide for up-to-date defense measures at our borders. I would love to expound further on this issue and give it more attention, but it is currently a lower priority of mine relative to preserving the right to life and the right to equal protection to all persons in America, notably, unborn persons. Once the right to life and the right to equal protection is guaranteed to all, without exceptions, I can give my full faith and attention to immigration policy. As a single-issue candidate, other rights, issues, and conversations are less urgent.

**Question3: Explain your position on gun safety, sales, and ownership.**

Answer: **Stephen Faris** The Federal Government must not infringe upon the right of the people to keep and bear arms. However, Congress may regulate interstate gun sales and provide for gun safety programs, as needed, in providing for the general welfare of the United States as allowed in the Constitution. I would love to expound further on this issue and give it more attention, but it is currently a lower priority of mine relative to preserving the right to life and the right to equal protection to all persons in America, notably, unborn persons. Once the right to life and the right to equal protection is guaranteed to all, without exceptions, I can give my full faith and attention to gun policy. As a single-issue candidate, other rights, issues, and conversations are less urgent.

**Question4: How do tariffs on international goods affect working people regardless of their job? What policy do you recommend, going forward?**

Answer: **Stephen Faris** Tariffs cause working people to face higher prices on imported goods relative to domestic goods and tariffs essentially attempt to promote domestic purchases. I would lead Congress to lay and collect such taxes, as allowed in the Constitution, and as necessary, provided they are uniform through the United States. I would love to expound further on this issue and give it more attention, but it is currently a lower priority of mine relative to preserving the right to life and the right to equal protection to all persons in America, notably, unborn persons. Once the right to life and the right to equal protection is guaranteed to all, without exceptions, I can give my full faith and attention to foreign trade policy. As a single-issue candidate, other rights, issues, and conversations are less urgent.

**Question5: What are your legislative priorities to effectively respond to our changing climate and related challenges for environmental, agricultural, and human health?**

Answer: **Stephen Faris** It is a priority of mine to lead Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States, and that includes considering response measures to a changing climate and related challenges. I would love to expound further on this issue and give it more attention, but it is currently a lower priority of mine relative to preserving the right to life and the right to equal protection to all persons in America, notably, unborn persons. Once the right to life and the right to equal protection is guaranteed to all, without exceptions, I can give my full faith and attention to climate change policy. As a single-issue candidate, other rights, issues, and conversations are less urgent.

**Question6: In your role in the confirmation process of federal judicial nominees, what will you do to ensure the independence and impartiality of the judiciary?**

Answer: **Stephen Faris** This question is intimately tied to the deprivation of life and the denial of equal protection to unborn persons that has been occurring in America since 1973. I would thoroughly screen a nominee's public record to determine if the nominee has demonstrated independence and impartiality in all rulings. Additionally, I would clearly communicate to the President, nominees and prospective nominees that I will support impeachment measures from the House of Representatives against any Supreme Court Justice or Federal Judge who resorts to political activism against any person in any ruling. Apart from the confirmation process, I will propose and support an Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that limits the terms of Supreme Court Justices for the role played in the continued deprivation of life and continued denial of equal protection of our laws to unborn persons, signaling that there is no exception to the requirement for an independent and impartial judiciary.

## US SENATOR

**Jim Renacci**

Party: Rep

Candidate did not respond.

## 13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

### **Chris DePizzo**

Party: Rep

Candidate did not respond.

## 13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

### **Tim Ryan**

Party: Dem

Candidate did not respond.

## 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

### **David P. Joyce**

Party: Rep

Candidate did not respond.

## 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

### **Betsy Rader**

Party: Dem

Occupation: Employment Lawyer

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

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

Twitter: @BetsyRaderOH

**Question1: What is the most pressing problem facing the federal government in 2018?  
What solutions will you offer?**

Answer: **Betsy Rader** The cost of healthcare is simply far too high. We must work to reduce the cost of prescription drugs—no one should ever have to decide between their medications and putting food on the table. Unfortunately, big pharmaceutical companies have made massive contributions to elected leaders who have looked the other way while these companies unfairly price gouge people in need. To begin addressing this problem, the law should be changed to allow the government to negotiate prices with pharmaceutical companies. Congress should also create a consumer watchdog agency that can levy fines against pharmaceutical companies that inappropriately raise prices. Another meaningful step we can take is to give people the option of buying into Medicare. This would give consumers a lower-cost alternative to private insurance, lower the cost of private insurance by creating more competition in the market, and improve the risk pool for Medicare.

**Question2: What would you do to enact a fair and equitable immigration policy in Congress?**

**Answer: Betsy Rader** Democrats, Republicans, and Independents have long agreed that we need to reform our broken immigration system. When formulating a solution, I believe that we need to enforce our laws in a way that protects American security and jobs while also being reasonable and humane. I've been heartbroken to see children traumatized and ripped away from their parents at the borders and I was dismayed to see DACA recipients, the Dreamers, being used as bargaining chips during the budget discussions. For people who were brought to our country as children, America is their home. As a child advocate and mother of three children, it's appalling to see DC politicians using kids as a tool for political gain.

**Question3: Explain your position on gun safety, sales, and ownership.**

**Answer: Betsy Rader** My dad was a game warden and an avid hunter, and when I was growing up, I would often go hunting with him and my brothers. I understand that guns have proper purposes and can safely be owned. I also believe that we need common-sense gun safety laws to keep our communities safe and to reflect the concerns of law enforcement for safety. This includes universal background checks for gun purchases and banning the use of silencers, bump stocks, high capacity magazines, and armor piercing bullets that put folks, especially our law enforcement, in unnecessary danger.

**Question4: How do tariffs on international goods affect working people regardless of their job? What policy do you recommend, going forward?**

**Answer: Betsy Rader** It's important that Congress pursue thoughtful trade policy that protects and creates American jobs. American workers can and do compete with the best in the world, but they are not playing on a level playing field when businesses move jobs to countries that don't protect their workers or the environment. The administration's tariffs have been recklessly implemented to the detriment of American jobs, agriculture, and consumers--we need leaders in Washington who will stand up for meaningful reform.

**Question5: What are your legislative priorities to effectively respond to our changing climate and related challenges for environmental, agricultural, and human health?**

**Answer: Betsy Rader** Ohio's natural resources are key to our success, especially Lake Erie, which is a vital source of everything from drinking water to jobs to recreation. This is why it's critical that we take steps to preserve our resources for future generations. When the quality of our air, water, and lands are diminished, it's important that we hold accountable those who are responsible. Innovation is important to strengthening our economy and maintaining clear air and water. Our electricity grids, water systems, transportation infrastructure, and public buildings are all in need of upgrades. Investing in infrastructure and clean energy technologies will promote local jobs, energy independence and a clean energy economy. We must restore the priorities of the EPA to protect us and our environment. It's critical the EPA has the ability to enforce policies such as of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and other proven safeguards of our environment, public health, and safety.

## **16<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

**Anthony Gonzalez**

Party: Rep

Candidate did not respond.

## 16<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

### **Susan Moran Palmer**

Party: Dem

Occupation: Principal Account Manager at Medtronic  
30975 Hilliard Blvd. Westlake, OH 44145

Age: 54

Education: Salem Community Hospital School of Radiologic Technology - Radiology Tech | Baldwin Wallace - Business Administration & Management

Training & Experience: Medtronic (2011 - Present) Principal Account Manager, Senior Account Manager | SMPalmer Consulting (2002 - 2011) Consultant | Cardima (1998-2001) Regional Account Manager | Cordis (1990 - 1998) Territory Manager - Cardiovascular

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

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

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

**Question1: What is the most pressing problem facing the federal government in 2018?**

**What solutions will you offer?**

Answer: **Susan Moran Palmer** Healthcare is the number one concern of our district and our state. After the attacks by the current administration, we've had double digit premium increases in 2017 and 2018. The individual mandate was repealed as part of the GOP tax cut which will increase 2019 premiums yet again. Now, the protections for pre-existing conditions is under threat by President Trump's administration's lawsuit in federal court. My opponent wants to repeal the ACA. The repeal of the ACA would throw over 800,000 working poor Ohioans off Medicaid. 70% of all opioid addictions treatment in Ohio is paid for by Medicaid or Medicaid expansion. We will lose Ohio lives if that is repealed. One solution to reduce healthcare costs is putting prescription drugs out to bid. If a drug has several generic competitors, we would ask for a bid for a 3-5-year government contract to all the suppliers. This process would significantly lower Medicare and Medicaid prescription drug costs.

**Question2: What would you do to enact a fair and equitable immigration policy in Congress?**

Answer: **Susan Moran Palmer** Immigration is the number two concern for our district. I think the concern is twofold. Many are concerned with competition for jobs and the risk of lower wages with undocumented workers. Many employers are concerned with the restrictions on our legal immigration system, visas, guest worker programs... are restraining their growth. They need more workers and some jobs are not wanted by American workers. No barrier will stop poor workers from crossing the border seeking higher wages, some twenty times what they make in their home country. My solutions address both issues. To gain employment in the United States you only need a social security number. You don't need an ID, or any other verifiable information. We need to secure our social security numbers with a photo ID. That ID will be required for employment in the U.S. There will be severe penalties for businesses that break the law. We then can expand the guest worker program and other forms of legal immigration.

**Question3: Explain your position on gun safety, sales, and ownership.**

Answer: **Susan Moran Palmer** I am proud to be a Mom's Demand Action Gun Sense Candidate. I have a three-point plan to reduce gun violence in the United States. 1) Mandatory background checks for all gun sales. Criminals and those with restraining orders buy weapons online or go to gun shows to illegally purchase weapons they are prohibited to buy. That loophole has cost thousands of American lives. 2) Implement Red Flag Laws. Red Flag Laws allow law enforcement or families to petition the court to remove guns and prevent the purchase of any future guns. The suicide rate for Iraq/ Afghanistan vets are in the double digits with guns being the number one choice of suicide. This would allow families to prevent suicide and seek treatment for our vets. 3) Give Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the legislative authority to stop prohibited weapons from coming into our country. The bump stock, which turns a weapon from semi-automatic to automatic, is prohibited but ATF was not able to prevent its sale.

**Question4: How do tariffs on international goods affect working people regardless of their job? What policy do you recommend, going forward?**

Answer: **Susan Moran Palmer** Tariffs are not a long-term effective solution to globalization. We have tried tariffs before. It protects a few select industries and raises the cost for other businesses while responding tariffs from other countries increase the cost of living expenses for the average American. Businesses will lay off workers to cut costs. Citizens will have lower disposable income because everything will cost more. Our economy will slow and perhaps go into a recession. Many of the issues with NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) were addressed in TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) which includes Canada and Mexico along with several Asian and Pacific Rim countries and would improve on NAFTA. Labor concerns, intellectual property rights, environmental issues, and dispute resolutions were all addressed in TPP. Had the US signed the TPP there would have been no need to renegotiate NAFTA. We would have had a larger market for American goods with much better terms.

Palmer:

**Question5: What are your legislative priorities to effectively respond to our changing climate and related challenges for environmental, agricultural and human health?**

Answer: **Susan Moran Palmer** Climate change and environmental issues are in our everyday lives. Many politicians, although knowing the threat, choose to protect certain industries instead of finding solutions. I support the Supreme Court ruling that Green House gases are a danger to human health and welfare which allows the EPA to regulate global warming pollution. Although the current administration continues to prioritize corporate profits from fossil fuels over the well-being of our country, private businesses and communities are stepping up. With carbon tax proposals floating, climate lawsuits advancing, big corporations embracing the need for action and states and cities getting into the act, the future of fossil fuel is fading with the advent of new technologies. We as a community can support the states, cities, and businesses promoting clean energy. Agricultural phosphorus pollution of our water supply will have to be dealt with on a regional basis over an extended period of time with government support

## OHIO STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 75

### **Austin Bashore**

(Write-in)

Occupation: Student

1067 S. Lincoln St. Kent, OH 44240

Age: 21

Education: Kent State University - Teaching English as a Second Language (senior)

Training & Experience: International Committee of the Green Party US - Committee member  
Green Party Korea - International Observer

Website: <http://bit.ly/BashOH>

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

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

#### **Question1: What changes, if any, should be made to Ohio's electoral system?**

Answer: Austin Bashore Introduce a bill to enact Instant Run-off Voting (IRV) for chief executive offices like mayor, governor, and other single-seat elections. Under IRV, voters can rank candidates in their order of preference (1,2,3, etc.). A Green State Representative would push to make it easier for other parties to gain ballot access, such as the Libertarian Party, Socialist Party USA, and other active political parties in the state. Introduce a bill to enact a state-wide "right to vote" law or constitutional amendment to guarantee universal, automatic, permanent voter registration, along with fail-safe voting procedures. A Green State Representative will make the state's Election Day a holiday and/or have weekend elections. Open debates to all candidates.

#### **Question2: Explain your position on regulation of gun safety, sales, and ownership.**

Answer: Austin Bashore I find it mildly hypocritical that American politicians are advocating for the disarmament of Americans while promoting wars for oil abroad, emboldening terrorist groups in Syria, and arming Nazi parties in the Ukraine. However, I do support common sense gun laws, such as making weapons of war unavailable for purchase. Under a Green State Representative, no weapons, munitions, or persons from the Ohio State Highway Patrol or any Ohio police officer will be sent out of state for purposes other than natural disaster relief. We find it atrocious that governor John Kasich sent Ohio police officers to Standing Rock in order to quell the first amendment rights of Native tribes. Oppose "Stand Your Ground" laws. We also support diversion programs for non-violent gun possession crimes, that includes gun safety and gun law training.

#### **Question3: What will you do to ensure that Ohio is at the forefront of the clean energy industry, increasing job opportunities that both safeguard our environment and reduce reliance on fossil fuels?**

Answer: Austin Bashore We must close all nuclear power facilities in the state of Ohio and begin the transfer to 100% green energy, such as wind power and solar power, by 2030. We must create incentives for individuals and companies to switch away from fossil fuels. There shall be no pipelines built in the state under the watch of a Green State Representative. We must completely close down the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant and prevent others from being built. We want to transition off of dirty coal and to clean, renewable energy and a superfund for workers coming off of dirty energies with benefits and retraining.

**Question4: Explain your position on reproductive health care choices for women.**

**Answer: Austin Bashore** Let's create a feminist utopia! I support an Equal Rights Amendment will be added to the Ohio Constitution, guaranteeing equal pay, healthcare access, birth control access, and the right for a woman to choose what happens to her own body. We understand that women's liberation is more than a ballot in the box every four years or so; it is a constant fight. Many who identify themselves as feminists seem to believe that progress made by an individual woman, particularly a wealthy white woman, is liberation. That can't be farther from the truth. Wealth does NOT trickle down nor does societal power. We will fight to stop the attack on women's reproductive rights and defend Roe v. Wade. Women still earn 22 percent less than men, and the gap is even more severe for Black and Latina women. That is inexcusable. We will close the wage gap and end the gender division of labor. We stand in creating a state where transgender women can access the healthcare they deserve as human beings.

**Question5: What are your legislative priorities for the Ohio environment? Discuss climate change, renewable energy, water resources, and clean air.**

**Answer: Austin Bashore** For earth to survive, capitalism must end. Production for profit is ruining our ecological communities. We must actively fight for the environment like our lives depend on it because they do. Climate change is real. We will also fight to ban fracking in the state of Ohio. Introduction of the "Green Ohio 5 Year Plan" Bill. By 2023, all government buildings will be powered by wind, water, or solar power in an effort to make the transition to renewable energy easier. The Ohio National Guard will also be mobilized on a wartime scale, trading in their rifles for shovels, in order to combat climate change disaster. We also support a Green Public Works program to employ people in green jobs. We support communities controlling their means of renewable energy production.

## OHIO STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 75

### **Randi Clites**

Party: Dem

Occupation: Associate Director of The Northern Ohio Hemophilia Foundation  
5411 Fairhill Drive Ravenna, OH 44266

Age: 43

Education: Hiram College, Business Management Degree with a minor in Political Science

Training & Experience: Since 2008, I have served as the advocacy coordinator for a statewide coalition. As the coordinator I must identify the top three advocacy priorities and organize our members to engage on the issues.

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

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

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

#### **Question1: What changes, if any, should be made to Ohio's electoral system?**

Answer: **Randy Clites** I believe Ohio's electoral system should more fairly represent the citizens of Ohio. The districts drawn for all levels of government should not be drawn to the advantage of any political party, but should fairly represent the community. Members of the redistricting board and the state government will have a tough job ahead in doing so, but the fairness of all districts drawn should be a top priority. Voting itself should also be more accessible to all Ohioans. The state should make registering to vote and voting a process that everyone can understand. Too many people do not vote because they do not understand the system or it feels like it is too much effort to do so. The state should be remedying that problem as much as it can.

#### **Question2: Explain your position on regulation of gun safety, sales, and ownership.**

Answer: **Randy Clites** I am a niece, sister, daughter-in-law, and cousin to those who have proudly served in our military and I have many family members who are current gun owners. Because of this, I will protect citizens' second amendment right. However, I do believe it is important to allow for common sense restrictions on guns and promote responsible gun ownership. I would support stronger background checks and close loop holes that allow for guns to be sold without them. I would support initiatives to provide more education on safe handling, use and storage of guns. I believe we need more restrictions on who and how people can access high-capacity magazines and other modifications to guns.

#### **Question3: What will you do to ensure that Ohio is at the forefront of the clean energy industry, increasing job opportunities that both safeguard our environment and reduce reliance on fossil fuels?**

Answer: **Randy Clites** I will encourage my colleagues to depoliticize the energy issue, putting an end to the false choice that you can have either a strong economy or a healthy environment. Without the business certainty that comes from consistent, mandatory, and measurable renewable energy and efficiency standards, Ohio would fall further behind in attracting energy innovation jobs. Achieving this growth requires putting an end to the debate over clean energy standards, fixing the restrictive wind setback guidelines that have stifled more than \$4 billion in local wind development projects, and rejecting attempts to bail out old, uneconomic coal and nuclear plants. It also will require capital investment from private companies who are ready to embrace the workforce and resources Ohio has to offer. Only then can we develop a comprehensive strategy for an energy future that will encourage job growth as well as reduce the pollution endangering our health and our habitats.

**Question4: Explain your position on reproductive health care choices for women.**

**Answer: Randy Clites** As a national advocate for patients with bleeding disorders, this is a topic that I am very passionate about protecting. A women's reproductive health care plan is a personal decision between her, her family and her doctor, considering her personal beliefs, situations and resources. Her insurance company nor her government should delay or limit her access to the care options she chooses as the best option for her with the support of her healthcare team.

**Question5: What are your legislative priorities for the Ohio environment? Discuss climate change, renewable energy, water resources, and clean air.**

**Answer: Randy Clites** Our current leaders in Washington have wasted no time in weakening or reversing regulations designed to reduce air pollution, preserve clean water, and combat climate change impacts. This makes action at the local and state levels even more critical. I will prioritize a continued focus on funding and policies necessary to reduce phosphorus runoff that has combined with warmer, shallower water to exacerbate algal bloom growth in Lake Erie and other waterways. It will be necessary to work collaboratively with the agricultural community and diverse stakeholders throughout the region to develop measures that will be implemented and sustainable. In addition, making clean energy innovation a true priority will result in cutting harmful emissions that make asthma attacks more frequent and more severe for vulnerable populations.

## OHIO STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 75

### **Jim Lutz**

Party: Rep

Occupation: Information Technology

2394 Martin Rd Mogadore, OH 44260

Age: 41

Education: Associate degree from Stark State College of Technology; BBA from Kent State University

Training & Experience: Volunteered for a number of campaigns and petition drives in Portage County since 2009; Appointed to Suffield Zoning board in 2015 as alternate, 2016 - present as board member; Associate member of the Portage County Township Association

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

#### **Question1: What changes, if any, should be made to Ohio's electoral system?**

Answer: **Jim Lutz** Identifying our voters with a State-issued ID would increase confidence in our electoral system, without significant burden on any of our citizens.

#### **Question2: Explain your position on regulation of gun safety, sales, and ownership.**

Answer: **Jim Lutz** We all have a right to bear arms and defend ourselves, ownership of guns is a critical part of that right, especially for those who are less able to defend themselves without them. We also shouldn't have to worry about being attacked by our law enforcement when we're the victim of a crime and need to defend ourselves. We could increase gun safety by training our children in schools how to safely handle guns, so that they don't panic when they see one, or get too curious and hurt themselves or others in ignorance if they happen to have an opportunity to pick one up.

#### **Question3: What will you do to ensure that Ohio is at the forefront of the clean energy industry, increasing job opportunities that both safeguard our environment and reduce reliance on fossil fuels?**

Answer: **Jim Lutz** Manufacturing products in Ohio for clean energy is the best way to accomplish all of these goals. The First Solar plant near Toledo is a great example of how we can do this. We'll also need to be responsive to the needs for materials and sometimes toxic mineral resources to help this goal.

#### **Question4: Explain your position on reproductive health care choices for women.**

Answer: **Jim Lutz** Women should have the ability to protect themselves, as explained above, and decide for themselves when to reproduce. They should also have the ability to handle a life-threatening pregnancy as a matter of self-defense, but should not punish a baby for the crime of his or her father.

#### **Question5: What are your legislative priorities for the Ohio environment? Discuss climate change, renewable energy, water resources, and clean air.**

Answer: **Jim Lutz** We've done well in the past with what we can do with the environment and as a result we don't have big issues with air and water quality any more. We should focus on doing the majority of what we're already doing, doing it more efficiently, and try to export products to help other states that have issues with air and water.

## OHIO STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 76

### **John P. Kennedy**

Party: Dem

Occupation: Sr. Director of IT

515 E. Acadia Pt. Aurora, Ohio 44202

Age: 52

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

Training & Experience: Worked to curb influence of money in elections as intern with Common Cause; Worked as policy analyst for Center for Policy Alternatives, testified as expert on NVRA implementation in the states; Volunteered with Diabetes Partnership of Mahoning Valley and

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

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

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

#### **Question1: What changes, if any, should be made to Ohio's electoral system?**

Answer: John P. Kennedy When I'm elected, I will fight to ensure Ohio's electoral system works to increase citizen participation in our democracy, not suppress or discourage it. My opponent and her party have worked hard to throw as many obstacles in the way of voter participation. Implementing policies to purge voters from the voting rolls serves those in power whose sole aim is to discourage and suppress eligible voters from poor, working-class and minority communities. While the Supreme Court may have found this new purge law legal, that doesn't make it good policy. When elected, I will push measures that make it easier for citizens from all over the state to participate in our electoral system. I support expanding early voting and automatic voter registration, which enables citizens to be automatically registered when they come in contact with the DMV or other state agency. And I will fight any attempt to further suppress democratic participation, including any new efforts aimed at purging voters.

#### **Question2: Explain your position on regulation of gun safety, sales, and ownership.**

Answer: John P. Kennedy I support the 2nd Amendment and the right it bestows to all citizens to own guns. Many residents in the 76th District own guns and do so responsibly. A majority of gun owners also support common sense legislation, which is seriously lacking in the Ohio legislature when it comes to this issue. As the sponsor of a "Stand Your Ground & Permitless Carry" bill (HB 228) -- a proposed law that allows people to carry hidden, loaded handguns in public, without a permit or safety training -- my opponent puts our communities at greater risk. If enacted, this law would eviscerate the power of local communities to enact their own gun laws. 90% of Ohio voters support requiring a permit to carry a concealed weapon in public. Passage of this dangerous bill will leave our children and communities less safe. We need comprehensive background checks; "red flag" laws that keep guns out of the hands of people the courts have determined to be a danger to themselves or others; and proper storage of weapons.

**Question3: What will you do to ensure that Ohio is at the forefront of the clean energy industry, increasing job opportunities that both safeguard our environment and reduce reliance on fossil fuels?**

**Answer: John P. Kennedy** I believe we can (and should) promote a healthy environment and business climate at the same time. How? By encouraging the development of wind farms in Ohio, and by promoting community solar projects. Other nearby states, like Illinois, Indiana, and Pennsylvania, have invested over \$2 billion in wind turbine projects, while we sit in limbo, due to a 4 year old moratorium on such projects. When elected, I will fight to push the state forward by embracing the opportunity to lead on new renewable energy technologies and foster the development of our own, indigenous clean energy industry. We have the know-how in our state to advance and harness these renewable, clean technologies, and we must boldly send the message to clean energy developers and corporate America that Ohio is open and ready to do business.

**Question4: Explain your position on reproductive health care choices for women.**

**Answer: John P. Kennedy** Women should have control over their reproductive health care choices; any restriction or prohibition serves only to control women, and as Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg ably noted, “denies them full autonomy and full equality with men.” In other words, such restrictions on women’s reproductive health care choices violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

**Question5: What are your legislative priorities for the Ohio environment? Discuss climate change, renewable energy, water resources, and clean air.**

**Answer: John P. Kennedy** I believe in science and I believe that climate change is fact. We need to ensure the safety of our drinking water. The water crisis in Toledo in 2014 was caused by harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie spawned by too much fertilizer runoff. The source? Fertilizer applied to our lawns and our privately and commercially owned farms. In response, the state legislature passed SB1 prohibiting the application of fertilizer when the ground is frozen or soaked, but we need to continue funding ongoing efforts to mitigate fertilizer or other toxic chemical runoff. Lead in our drinking water continues to pose an ongoing threat, and we need major upgrades to our drinking and wastewater infrastructure. The state can play a critical role by helping local communities pay for these necessary upgrades. The economy of our great state depends on clean air and water; farmable soil and land; and miles of trails and expansive parks for walking, running, or simply exploring with friends or family.

## OHIO STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 76

**Sarah LaTourette**

Party: Rep

Candidate did not respond.

## PORTAGE COUNTY COMMISSIONER COMMENCING 1/1/2019

### **Ed Dean**

Party: Rep

Occupation: Deerfield Township Trustee  
103 Johnson Rd. North Benton, OH 44449

Age: 64

Education: Graduate of Southeast High School. Numerous continuing education classes.

Training & Experience: I am currently serving my 5th term as a Deerfield Township Trustee. I have attended many seminars, classes and continuing education classes related to elected official duties.

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

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

### **Question1: How do you propose addressing the current county financial situation?**

Answer: **Ed Dean** I would immediately meet with all department heads to get a better view of what their entire budget would need to be. I would look into how many how many positions in departments are duplicated and could possibly be combined. Cross training is very important for maximum efficiency in all departments. Staff could possibly be thinned. Not through elimination of people but through attrition as people retire or seek other employment. That is why cross training is very important. Taxes unfortunately will come into the limelight in the future. I would not support an imposed tax but would seriously consider a tax issue on the ballot where the residents would have the final say of whether the public thought it was needed.

### **Question2: What other important challenge faces Portage County and how do you propose addressing it?**

Answer: **Ed Dean** The opiate problem is on every citizens mind in Portage County. Very few families have not been affected in one way or another. Many groups and organizations are working hard to find a solution, sometimes with great success. I would like to see more inter group activities take place where available funds are used together hopefully more success for all involved. I would strive to work together with all other local elected officers and I would reach out to our elected State officials to ensure any funds or programs available to Portage County are utilized.

### **Question3: Would you support the county seeking state, federal or foundation grants to help the county provide energy-saving equipment (such as solar panels, wind turbines, renewable energy furnaces, etc.) to home owners and renters?**

Answer: **Ed Dean** Support

### **Question4: Please explain your answer to the above question (re: grants).**

Answer: **Ed Dean** I support seeking any and all grants for energy saving equipment. If state of the art energy saving equipment could be implemented at a reasonable cost to home owners the benefits would be enormous. By funding and therefore utilizing more renewable energy resources, the impact that more traditional fuel sources have on the environment would be significantly decreased. If property owners spent less on heating and cooling costs they would have more money available to meet other needs of families.

## PORTAGE COUNTY COMMISSIONER COMMENCING 1/1/2019

### **Vicki A. Kline**

Party: Dem

Occupation: Portage County Commissioner

1368 Mockingbird Dr. Kent, OH 44240

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and a Master's Degree in Business from KSU

Training & Experience: Vicki is currently serving as President of the Board of County Commissioners, elected in 2014. She is serving on many County Boards. Before being elected Commissioner, Vicki served as Portage County Treasurer.

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

Facebook: <http://vicki kline>

**Question1: How do you propose addressing the current county financial situation?**

Answer: **Vicki A. Kline** Open and honest communication will rectify our current budget challenges. Challenges present opportunities. We are discussing and negotiating where we can come together on a reasonable figure for the departments that are over budget at this time. With limited funding, obviously we cannot satisfy every department's wants. However, we are sincerely looking at the needs of departments that are currently over budget and working with the department heads and elected officials to prioritize the various line items that when projected for year-end are forecasting a deficit. We all must work together. We have a common goal and that is to do what is prudent for our County as a whole and that means all of us have to sacrifice some to assure our long-term success. Budget deficits require a good faith team effort and I am confident we can succeed. Recently the County, Cities, Townships and Villages all came together and agreed on a formula for our Local Government Fund. That is success!

**Question2: What other important challenge faces Portage County and how do you propose addressing it?**

Answer: **Vicki A. Kline** Our County is facing many challenges, but the opioid epidemic and the continuous cut of our Local Government Fund are two that are presenting budgetary problems. Our judges and probation department are working closely together to direct some of our minor offenders away from incarceration and using rehabilitation when appropriate. In 2015 our judges and sheriff came before the Commissioners and stressed the need for more jail space due to overcrowding in our jail. We are in the process of building a new pod for the jail which should be completed in 2019. Much needed renovations are also being done on our current facility. Slowly, but surely, we are seeing some positive results due to the efforts of our judges, probation and law enforcement. As far as the Local Government Fund, we must be more vocal to our state representatives regarding our urgent County needs. With all of our challenges, we must be persistent, vigilant and vocal--proactive and not reactive!

**Question3: Would you support the county seeking state, federal or foundation grants to help the county provide energy-saving equipment (such as solar panels, wind turbines, renewable energy furnaces, etc.) to home owners and renters?**

Answer: **Vicki A. Kline** Support

**Question4: Please explain your answer to the above question (re: grants).**

Answer: **Vicki A. Kline** I strongly support Portage County seeking state, federal or foundation grants to help our county to provide energy-saving equipment. Our natural resources are not unlimited and with our modern conveniences, changing lifestyles and our increasing population, we have burdened our natural resources. Energy-saving equipment would ensure long-term budget savings and would definitely be an investment for our County. We have an obligation to our future generations to protect our environment.

## PORTAGE COUNTY COMMISSIONER UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING 1/1/21

### **Tony Badalamenti**

Party: Rep

Occupation: Chiropractor

45 North Chillicothe Rd Aurora, Ohio 44202

Age: 61

Education: Cathedral Latin High 1974; Tri-C 1986 AS; Logan College 1987 BC; Logan College 1989 Dr. Chiropractic; Portage Cty resident 28yrs.

Training & Experience: USMC Staff Sgt. 1975-1984; Kiwanis : 1990-2013 (Past Pres. and LT Gov.); Aurora Chamber 1990-present. ( Past Pres. for 10 yrs.); American Legion: 1998-present. Leadership Portage (1996); Aurora Boy Scouts 2000-2010 (son is an Eagle Scout); UH/Robinson

#### **Question1: How do you propose addressing the current county financial situation?**

Answer: **Tony Badalamenti** Issues that need to be addressed in regards to Portage County's financial situation: BUDGETS: these need to be developed and adhered to. Assess the dept. head's ability to develop a working budget and provide training to those that are incapable of doing so. Provide training to dept. heads to evaluate personnel and how to effectively and fairly rate and compensate their employees without causing disparity of wages. COST SAVING MEASURES: Assess each departments workforce and determine if there are duplication of skills/ services that can be combined and between departments. DEVELOP A COUNTY-WIDE ASSESSMENT of buildings, equipment, space and land to ensure that what is owned by the county/taxpayers is properly maintained and utilized to its fullest potential. Maintenance must be done regularly as when it is not, repairs become costly. GENERAL FUND: evaluation of the non designated monies and determine the best use of those funds after assessing what is owned by the county/taxpayers.

#### **Question2: What other important challenge faces Portage County and how do you propose addressing it?**

Answer: **Tony Badalamenti** OPIOID/DRUG CRISIS: Portage County is 3rd highest opioid use in the state. We need to work as a TEAM to implement plans and actions with the support of the judicial system to deter drug sales and drug use in the county. The programs for addiction/opioid use need a TEAM approach throughout the county as we have a variety of resources to effectively help these individuals to become drug free and productive men and women in the county. We need to educate the people of Portage County as to what this addiction is, how to recognize it and where to go for efficient assistance as this issue will not be solved over night. This is everyone's problem! ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE FINANCES: The Commissioners need to hold the departments in the county accountable for their budgets, the money and the use of the funds. They are accountable to 161,000+ people that live in Portage County!

#### **Question3: Would you support the county seeking state, federal or foundation grants to help the county provide energy-saving equipment (such as solar panels, wind turbines, renewable energy furnaces, etc.) to home owners and renters?**

Answer: **Tony Badalamenti** Oppose

**Question4: Please explain your answer to the above question (re: grants).**

**Answer: Tony Badalamenti** Recent history has demonstrated that billions of dollars placed in renewable energy options did not cause an efficient, compelling reason to spend more money for their use. Research tells us that there are demographics which would better suit the use of alternative energy resources such as deserts, areas with large masses of water and flat land without large trees. Gathering money through grants would be better spent in areas identified as challenges in the county: Economic growth+Opioid problem

## **PORTAGE COUNTY COMMISSIONER UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING 1/1/21**

### **Mike Kerrigan**

Party: Dem

Occupation: Portage County Commissioner  
3795 Heron Creek Drive Rootstown, Ohio 44272

Education: M.P.A. Kent State University; B.A. Political Science: Public Policy, The George Washington University; Waterloo High School

Training & Experience: Portage County Commissioner since January 2018. Career public servant working for Reps. Ted Strickland & Betty Sutton, NEOMED & Ohio State University. Current or past member of seven different non-profit and government boards & Leadership Portage County

Website: <http://mikekerrigan.us>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/mikekerrigan.us/>

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

**Question1: How do you propose addressing the current county financial situation?**

**Answer: Mike Kerrigan** Because of the hard choices made by my predecessors in recent years, Portage County is presently on sound financial footing with a balanced budget and few unmet needs. To be successful, all households must balance their budgets and not spend beyond their means, and I believe that county government should be no different. However, some offices have chosen not to respect this notion. Instead, they choose to overspend their budgets without regard to the impact of their actions elsewhere in the county. Because we have a finite amount of financial resources, I refuse to write blank checks to some offices while failing to meet the needs of others. In working with the offices that have budgetary issues, I believe we can identify methods to reduce overspending with limited impact to the services they provide. However, I will not hesitate to hold accountable those that refuse to work with us and choose to continue to overspend.

**Question2: What other important challenge faces Portage County and how do you propose addressing it?**

**Answer: Mike Kerrigan** The second greatest challenge to Portage County government is our limited amount of modernization and collaborative partnerships. Government has to be a better partner and find new and different ways to work smarter and more efficiently in the 21st century. We must explore ways to better serve our citizens, and we must draw on the innovation and expertise in the private sector to help streamline our services. Further, when appropriating county funds, I look at projects and programs in terms of return on investment for our county. Supporting services that are proven to work is critical to our success. With dwindling financial support from the state, we must continue to cut programs proven to be poor performers and redouble our support for the high achievers in order to do more with less. I work day in and day out to see that every dollar spent is a sound investment in our future that generates real results.

**Question3: Would you support the county seeking state, federal or foundation grants to help the county provide energy-saving equipment (such as solar panels, wind turbines, renewable energy furnaces, etc.) to home owners and renters?**

**Answer: Mike Kerrigan** Support

**Question4: Please explain your answer to the above question (re: grants).**

**Answer: Mike Kerrigan** Equipment that reduces energy consumption, as well as equipment that generates electricity locally from renewable sources, are sound investments in our future both from a financial standpoint through increased cost savings, but also through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

## PORTAGE COUNTY AUDITOR

### Janet Esposito

Party: Rep

Occupation: Portage County Auditor

5329 S. Prospect St. Ravenna, OH 44266

**Education:** Ravenna Schools, Kent State, Ohio Ethics Law, IT & GIS Development, Debt Mgmt, etc. 6 yrs as Commissioner, 24 yrs as Auditor

**Training & Experience:** 10 yrs private sector, 15 yrs administration w/ the County Fair, Commissioner, Auditor, Excellence Awards for Financial Audits

**Question1: What are your top priorities for the next four years and how would you implement them?**

**Answer: Janet Esposito** While many equipment and software upgrades were initiated and completed these past 4 years, I believe one top priority has to be the finalization of a comprehensive capital plan for the County, using the input and collaboration of all the Elected Officials and the Data Processing Board. As for my office, our top priorities lie with the reasonable and accurate application of property assessments to reflect true Fair Market Values, distributing taxes to provide vital public services, and continuing to be the watchdogs of public funds. One way in which we'll accomplish the latter is with stringent internal policies and our commitment to excellent financial reporting. Worth noting is, out of 88 counties in Ohio, only 2 received a 100% for Financial Health and Portage was one of them. The fiscal well-being of the County will always be of foremost concern to my office.

**Question2: What in your background will be the most helpful to you in performing the duties of County Auditor?**

**Answer: Janet Esposito** I grew up in Portage on our family farm, attended Ravenna Schools and Kent State, then went on to marry and raise a family. For 10 years, I helped my parents with their farming and trucking business while working at Pacoe Rubber for 8 yrs. I became the Administrator of the Portage Co. Randolph Fair for 15 yrs and was responsible for financial accounting, reporting, audit, compliance, and organizing volunteers/rentals. Over the past 43 yrs, I've been on many county boards: 4H Advisory, 4H Benefit, Salvation Army, and Habitat for Humanity. I am a proud member of the Agricultural Society, Historical Society, Society of the Blind, Farm Bureau, NAACP, GFOA, and Portage Co. Trustees Assoc. My time serving on these committees and being an Elected Official have prepared me for the demands and responsibility of public office. However, it is my knowledge of our communities and residents that provide me with the necessary background to serve as Auditor.

## PORTAGE COUNTY AUDITOR

### **Lis Kenneth Regula**

Party: Dem

Occupation: Visiting Assistant Professor

1433 Cedar Street Kent, OH 44240

Age: 37

Education: BS Biology Ohio State University, 6/05 BS Psychology Ohio State University, 6/05 PhD Biology Kent State University, 12/13

Training & Experience: University of Akron Biology faculty, 3 years Ohio University Biology faculty Chairman, Kent Environmental Council Co-Founder, Edible Kent Former League of Women Voters Kent Board Former Graduate Student Senate Advocacy Chair Contract herpetologist, Enviro

Website: <http://regulaforportageauditor.com/>

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

Twitter: [twitter.com/Regula4Auditor](https://twitter.com/Regula4Auditor)

**Question1: What are your top priorities for the next four years and how would you implement them?**

Answer: **Lis Kenneth Regula** First, I'm going to keep track of county finances with precision. We need leaders who put the public's needs ahead of their own. That's what I'll do. Property taxes are a big concern. I will assess property values with honesty and fairness. And I will make the process easy to understand. Next, I plan to update the Auditor's office. Portage County deserves a modern government. Updating communication systems will serve residents better and help us save money. I will streamline office processes, so they are more efficient. For instance, if it's easier to get a business license, our county can have more small businesses. This means more jobs. Working with the office should be easy. Instead of making people drive to the office, I'd like to bring our services to people. Once a month, I will provide auditor's services at libraries or town halls for people who live further away. Finally, the folks in the Auditor's office do great work. If I'm elected, all of them will keep their jobs.

**Question2: What in your background will be the most helpful to you in performing the duties of County Auditor?**

Answer: **Lis Kenneth Regula** I'm a new face in politics and I have the experience Portage County needs. Here's what I've done: 1. Owned a small business 2. Founded a nonprofit for community gardens 3. Served as board member and chairman of nonprofits Now, I'm working as a science professor. My experience in finance and statistics prepares me to serve our county with success. The Auditor's main job is keeping track of county finances. Running a business and a nonprofit gives me these same skills. Business and nonprofit leaders must keep track of every penny. The County Auditor does, too. As a scientist, I have a passion for numbers. And I have a passion for public service. That's why I teach, grow food for hungry people, and why I'm running for Auditor. Since graduating high school in 1999 and earning degrees from OSU and Kent State, I've worked with numbers, budgets, and data. I've learned a lot. Now, I hope to do the same for our county.

## OHIO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 7

### **Sarah Fowler**

Candidate did not respond.

## JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT TERM COMM. 1/1/19

### **Craig Baldwin**

Occupation: Judge, Ohio Fifth District Court of Appeals

Education: J.D. Capital University Law School. B.A. Ohio University.

Training & Experience: Judge, Fifth District Court of Appeals, 2013 to present. Judge, Licking County Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations Division, 2005-2013. Director, Licking County Child Support Agency, 2001-2004.

Website: <http://BaldwinForOhio.com>

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

**Question1: List your judicial experience (courts and years):**

Answer: **Craig Baldwin** Ohio Fifth District Court of Appeals, 2013 to present. Licking County Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations Division, 2005-2013.

**Question2: What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?**

Answer: **Craig Baldwin** My time as a practicing attorney provided me with a solid background for a successful judicial career. I represented a wide variety of clients in both the civil and criminal areas, doing both trial and appellate work. This broad range of experience provides me with the legal and personal qualifications to succeed as an appellate judge.

**Question3: Why are you running for this particular court seat?**

Answer: **Craig Baldwin** I believe in our democracy and in our constitution and I have great respect for our legal system. During my eleven years on the bench I have considered it my privilege to participate in our system as a judge. I want to continue as an appellate judge so that I can work to ensure that the system works for all according to our constitutional principles. Further I have strong feelings about that way that all participants in the system should be treated. Every person that walks into the courthouse whether as an attorney, as a witness, juror or litigant should be treated with dignity and respect, in short as a citizen in their courthouse. Finally I believe that judges should be fair, timely and only rule on the specific issues in front of them. I hope to further these goals with my reelection to the Fifth District Court of Appeals.

## JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT TERM COMM. 1/1/19

### **Michael P. Donnelly**

Occupation: Judge, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas

Education: J.D., Cleveland State University Cleveland-Marshall College of Law; B.A., John Carroll University; St. Ignatius High School

Training & Experience: Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, 1992-1997; Attorney in Private Practice, 1997-2004

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

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

Twitter: @Donnelly4Ohio

#### **Question1: List your judicial experience (courts and years):**

Answer: Michael P. Donnelly I have served as a judge on the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Bench in the General Division since January, 2005. During this time, I have been active on numerous committees in an effort to improve Ohio's judicial system. I served as Chairman to the Ohio Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism. I am a current Vice President in the Ohio Common Pleas Judge's Association. I serve on the Ohio Jury Instruction Committee. I am a member of the Ohio Supreme Court's Board of Bar Examiners.

#### **Question2: What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?**

Answer: Michael P. Donnelly During my nearly 12 years as a practicing attorney prior to taking the bench, I served as a criminal prosecutor in the General Felony Division of the Cuyahoga County Prosecutors Office under the Honorable Stephanie Tubbs Jones. From 1997 until 2004, I served as a civil litigator primarily in the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court during which time I was exposed to nearly every form of litigation which is heard in the Cuyahoga County General Division.

#### **Question3: Why are you running for this particular court seat?**

Answer: Michael P. Donnelly I regard the position of being a judge for exactly what it is – a true privilege to serve the citizens of Cuyahoga County and this State. From my days at St. Ignatius High School, I was taught that we were placed on this earth to serve others. As a Cuyahoga County Judge, I have the opportunity to do this on a daily basis with the parties that appear before me. As a judge I believe there is always opportunity to improve the justice system. I firmly believe that when every party in our adversarial system is doing their job correctly, the system will produce just results. The only way to ensure parties are doing their job correctly is to provide the highest degree of transparency possible. For this reason, I try to engage with the parties as much as I can on the record. In civil cases, I am advocating for new procedures which will ensure timely rulings on motions, access to the court for legal argument on the record, and the highest degree of trial date certainty. I also believe that there are procedural improvements we should impose in criminal cases, to ensure that claims of actual innocence for the wrongfully convicted are treated with the highest level of expediency possible. The fact that the system is fallible is not a matter in dispute. Every stakeholder in the process must work extremely hard to avoid the greatest injustice which can occur which is the conviction of the innocent.

## JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT TERM COMM. 1/2/19

### **Mary Degenaro**

Occupation: Justice Supreme Court of Ohio

Education: 1986 JD Cleveland State University; 1983 BA Youngstown State University

Training & Experience: January, 2018-date Justice Supreme Court of Ohio; 2001-January, 2018 Judge 7th District Court of Appeals; 1986-2001 Appellate/General Practice Attorney Youngstown Ohio; 2011-2013 Adjunct Faculty Youngstown State University Political Science Dept.

Website: <http://degenaroforjustice.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/JudgeMary4Ohio>

Twitter: @JudgeMary4Ohio

#### **Question1: List your judicial experience (courts and years):**

Answer: **Mary DeGenaro** January, 2018-date Justice Supreme Court of Ohio 2001-January, 2018 Judge Ohio 7th District Court of Appeals, serving Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Harrison, Jefferson, Mahoning, Monroe & Noble Counties. (elected 2000, re-elected 2006 & 2012) Sat by assignment on 10 cases with the Ohio Supreme Court; also sat by assignment with 6 other Appellate Districts across Ohio. Served as Administrative/Presiding Judge for 2 two-year terms, 2007-2008 and 2013-14.

#### **Question2: What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?**

Answer: **Mary DeGenaro** My 33 year legal career has been dedicated to appellate practice, which is a unique writing style and very different from trial court and academic writing. I had extensive experience as an attorney; over 25 appeals before the 7th and 11th Districts and two before the Ohio Supreme Court which are rare achievements for a civil attorney. Over 17 years as a judge, I wrote 1,000+ opinions in over 3,000 cases. In several significant cases appealed to the Supreme Court my reasoning was adopted and became the law in Ohio. I grew up in Cleveland Heights and my family moved to Youngstown when I was 15, where I live today. Many family members, including my husband and son, belonged to unions and I was able to go to college because of the state university system, by living with family and working as a waitress and sales clerk. In law school I interned at a hospital legal department and for a federal trial judge My life experience and having served eight counties made up of urban, suburban, rural, agricultural and manufacturing communities has enabled me to build relationships with the people I serve, and expertise in a variety of legal issues. More important, it keeps me committed to fairly and impartially decide every case, and treat every party, attorney, court employee and member of the public with respect. I belong to numerous boards and organizations to improve the practice of law, judging and my community. It is a joyful responsibility to serve on the Youngstown Library Board, Ohio Civility Consortium, and Appellate Specialty Board for example. I am a leader in the Ohio judiciary on ethics and professionalism, and am also a voice for civility in the profession, civic engagement and daily life. Through my involvement with the Ohio Women's Bar Association, we have been addressing issues of recruitment, retention and advancement of women, and I recently participated in a joint Supreme Court/Ohio State Bar Association half-day presentation on sexual harassment in the legal profession. Also as an OWBA officer and justice, I have been able to begin the conversation with leaders in the legal profession about reinstating mandatory education for judges and lawyers on substance abuse and other ways for the profession to address the drug/alcohol/opioid crisis which is affecting everyone in some way throughout Ohio.

**Question3: Why are you running for this particular court seat?**

**Answer: Mary DeGenaro** In addition to deciding cases, I believe a justice on the Ohio Supreme Court has additional responsibilities: 1) improve access to and the administration of justice on the Supreme Court and statewide; 2) educate the public about the work of judges and lawyers; and 3) public service to improve the lives of Ohioans. I have a passion for literacy, civic education and civility, and as a justice I have a platform to bring attention to these issues and the opportunity to promote programs that will make a difference. To successfully improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our courts and the practice of law, relationships with judges, lawyers and the public across the Ohio is important. I have built those relationships over 17 years as an active member of the Ohio Judicial Conference, the Ohio Civility Consortium, the Ohio State and Women's Bar Associations. For example, I helped put together a panel of health professionals and women in recovery for an OWBA seminar on substance abuse. I encourage the creation of, as well as promote and educate the public about specialty courts which address drug abuse, human trafficking and other criminal and juvenile/family issues. This is a creative tool for judges to address the opioid/drug/mental health crisis and to stop the revolving court/jail door. Finally, the Supreme Court decides what cases it will hear; hundreds of requests are filed but less than 10% are accepted. Since I've joined the Court, we have tested and implemented a new process to review the requests, and we still thoughtfully but more efficiently make that decision. I also believe as a justice it's important for me to be accessible to the public and dispel the myths popular culture and TV have created about the legal system, so they understand the work that lawyers and judges really do every day in Ohio's courts to help people: start a business, guide them through a divorce, help them with an adoption, and protect their civil rights. There are still countries around the world which don't have the independent legal system we do. I am honored to be serving as a Justice, and am proud to be a part of a team of over 200 professional, dedicated people at the Court who work every day to make the Judicial System in Ohio the best it can be.

## JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT TERM COMM. 1/2/19

### **Melody J. Stewart**

Occupation: Ohio Court of Appeals Judge

Education: B.Mus. ~ College-Conservatory of Music, Univ. of Cincinnati; J.D. ~ Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State Univ.; Ph.D. ~ Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve Univ.; Honorary Doctor of Laws ~ Cleveland State Univ

Training & Experience: Ohio Court of Appeals Judge; Supreme Court of Ohio sitting judge by assignment of the Chief Justice; University of Toledo College of Law ~ law professor; Cleveland-Marshall College of Law ~ law professor, assistant dean, lecturer; Case Western Reserve Sch

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

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

Twitter: @Stewart4OhioSC

#### **Question1: List your judicial experience (courts and years):**

Answer: Melody J. Stewart I have been a Court of Appeals Judge since 2006 responsible for hearing and ruling on appeals and original actions. I was the Court's Administrative Judge in 2013. During my tenure, I have sat on the Ohio Supreme Court to hear cases by assignment of the Chief Justice. Additionally, I am currently the chair of the Ohio Capital Case Attorney Fee Council which is comprised of Court of Appeals Judges from various districts across the state responsible for setting the compensation rate for attorneys who are appointed to represent individuals being tried in death penalty cases; I am on the Board of Trustees for the Judicial College of the Ohio Supreme Court which provides continuing legal education for judges, judicial officers and court personnel throughout the state; and I served as the Court of Appeals representative on the Ohio Criminal Justice Recodification Committee which is a bi-partisan committee created by the General Assembly to study the state's existing criminal statutes, with the goal of enhancing public safety and the administration of criminal justice throughout the state of Ohio. The Committee is composed of twenty four individuals with extensive experience in criminal justice, law enforcement, and public safety. I also serve on the Appellate Law and Procedure Committee of the Ohio Judicial Conference; the Judicial Administration and Legal Reform Committee of the Ohio State Bar Association; and served on the Supreme Court's Judicial College Appellate Judges Curriculum Committee. I teach continuing legal education courses to judges and lawyers across the state.

#### **Question2: What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?**

Answer: Melody J. Stewart I have over 30 years of diverse legal experience. I practiced law, taught law, and was published in the law all before becoming an appellate court judge. Additionally having a background in music, business management, law practice and teaching, and social science makes me a more well-rounded candidate with a stronger academic background and greater diversity of thought, intellect, and experience. I have always been involved in my local and the larger state community serving on boards and committees because I feel that work is also a part of my responsibility as an elected official. Most importantly, I am an excellent public servant and always have been. I take a great deal of pride in my work. I have worked in the private and public sectors and I work the same in both. I am efficient, effective, respectful of everyone, and am a good steward of fiscal resources.

**Question3: Why are you running for this particular court seat?**

**Answer: Melody J. Stewart** I am running for the Ohio Supreme Court for several reasons. My diverse educational and professional experiences make me the stronger and better candidate for the Court. In addition to the perspective which I bring that is currently missing on the Supreme Court, I will work to help reform our judicial system to make it more efficient, more effective, more accountable, and more responsive to the people it serves. I also want to provide to the citizens of the state the same good service that I have provided to the citizens of my county over the past three decades. Finally, the Supreme Court is currently comprised of justices who all belong to the same political party. That is not a good composition for our state, particularly since, with rare exception, the Court gets to decide which cases it will hear. I think it is naive at best and insulting at worst to think that the citizens of a state as diverse as Ohio is can have confidence in the highest level of our judiciary being made up of justices who all belong to the same political party – regardless of the party. As a nominee different from the current make up of the court, my election improves the court from day one. Finally, I have had the privilege of being educated by some of the best colleges and universities our state has to offer (and our state has a lot of great colleges and universities). I was taught at a very young age that you always leave a place better off than it was when you got there and that, if you have the credentials and the ability to be part of the solution to any problem and you don't make the effort to be part of that solution, then you are – or you become – part of the problem. I hope voters see fit to make me part of the solution.

## OHIO 11TH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS, FULL TERM COMMENCING 2-9-2019

### **Darya Klammer**

Residence: Concord Twp, OH

Age: 48

Education: J.D., cum laude, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

Work Experience: Attorney since 1997. Assistant prosecuting attorney for the Geauga County Prosecutor 1999-2003. Partner at The Klammer Law office Ltd, since 2003. Magistrate in Mentor Municipal Court since 2008.

#### **Question1: List your judicial experience (courts and years):**

Answer: **Darya Klammer** I am a former Acting Judge in the Mentor Municipal Court. I am also a Magistrate in the Mentor Municipal Court since 2008. As a Magistrate and former Acting Judge, I have been hearing and deciding cases for over a decade. In addition to the day to day matters in every lawsuit, such as pretrials and motion hearings in civil cases, I preside over the actual trial in these cases. I also have the opportunity to preside over cases in small claims division where the Ohio Revised Code makes unique arrangements to help parties present their cases without the expense that comes with more complex disputes I see in the Court's general division.

#### **Question2: What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?**

Answer: **Darya Klammer** For more than twenty years, I have developed the type of experience necessary to be a great judge. The best judges bring with them the broadest experience from their career as a practicing lawyer. When I was an assistant prosecuting attorney for the Geauga County Prosecutor's Office, I prosecuted everything from juvenile delinquencies to adult murder cases. Those cases are some of the most complicated an attorney can ever expect to handle. I would ultimately end that part of my law career as the Chief Assistant Prosecutor of the Criminal Division. Experience as a prosecuting attorney is important for one other reason. It was of the few areas of legal practice where an attorney has obligations to not only prosecutor crimes, but to ensure that victims of crime have their voices heard and that defendants are treated with fair and honest process. There are few other places for a candidate for judge to find this experience. Since my service as a prosecuting attorney, I have handled countless civil, criminal, juvenile and domestic relations cases in my private practice. Judges need this experience in a broad practice, not only to understand a wide area of law, but to understand better all the ways the law, courts and judges touch and effect peoples lives. I am also fortunate to have worked since 2008 deciding cases in the Mentor Municipal Court. Again, through that experience, I understand how important it is for people to have their story heard by an open mind. My work in private practice and in the public sector as an assistant prosecutor afforded me the opportunity to appear and argue before the Court of Appeals on many occasions. I have also appeared and argued before the Ohio Supreme Court. I am proud of my community involvement, both in and outside of the courtroom. As a trustee on the Mentor Schools Foundation, I work with educators to fund special programs to benefit students throughout the district. As an Executive Board member, I improved services and brought change to the Bar Association. As a co-founder of a Family Law Clinic, I helped fashion a clinic that makes the Court available to low and middle income families at no cost. Judge Falkowski and the clinic co-founders were invited to present on the clinic's success at the National Conference of the American Bar Association.

**Question3: Why are you running for this particular court seat?**

**Answer: Darya Klammer** With the fear of sounding cliché, I just love being a lawyer. With over 20 years of experience, I have developed a certain patience and calm when helping people with legal and non-legal problems. On a daily basis, I give guidance to clients about non-legal matters because they trust the way I listen and understand problems, and how I try to provide for them the most efficient way to find a solution or to minimize their suffering. I am proud to say I am 48, a wife, and a mother to two teenage children. Over the past 20 plus years, my law practice has helped countless numbers of people. I would be honored to have the opportunity to dedicate the

Klammer:

balance of my legal career reaching and helping people from a new perspective. I am really proud of the successes of the Family Law clinic for which I was a co-founder. It is amazing how patient thinking can find creative solutions that bring big change to families and then to the community. I am confident that I can bring to the court a unique perspective that will encourage parties to work toward finding solutions together through alternatives to ongoing litigation.

**OHIO 11TH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS, FULL TERM  
COMMENCING 2-9-2019**

**Matt Lynch**

Candidate did not respond.

## OHIO 11TH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS, FULL TERM COMMENCING 2-10-19

### **Casey O'Brien**

Residence: Jefferson, OH

Age: 43

Education: JD – Cleveland Marshall College of Law – Cleveland State University

Work Experience: General Practice Attorney – Ibold & O'Brien (formerly Petersen & Ibold) since 2000 – Lake County Prosecutor – Clerk 1997-1998 – Chardon Municipal Court Magistrate 2004-2006

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

#### **Question1: List your judicial experience (courts and years):**

Answer: **Casey O'Brien** Chardon Municipal Court – Part Time Magistrate – 2004-2006

#### **Question2: What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?**

Answer: **Casey O'Brien** I am a partner with Ibold & O'Brien (formerly Petersen & Ibold) in Chardon, Ohio a general practice law firm, where I practice in the areas of personal injury, real estate, small business, collections, estate planning/probate criminal and general litigation. I practice throughout Northeast Ohio and have been named an Ohio Super Lawyer, a 10 Best Personal Injury Attorney, a Layer of Distinction and am listed in the Global Directory of Who's Who as a 2016 Top Lawyer. I am a member of the Ohio State, Ashtabula and Geauga County Bar Associations, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and the Order of Barristers following my national final appearance on behalf of the Cleveland Marshall College of Law Moot Court Program while in law school. I have experience in the Real Estate/Title Industry and have clerked for both the Lake County Prosecutor's office and a large Cleveland law firm. I am authorized to practice in all Ohio Courts, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio and the United States Tax Court.

#### **Question3: Why are you running for this particular court seat?**

Answer: **Casey O'Brien** I have a wealth of knowledge and 18 years legal experience which, when combined with my volunteer positions, have give me the ability to not only see both sides of most disputes, but to observe the impact Appellate decisions have on the lower Courts and everyday life of the citizens of Northeast Ohio. I believe that I have appeared in every court in the 11th district (Lake, Ashtabula, Trumbull, Portage and Geauga Counties) which has provided me a unique view of the wide array of differences between the citizens, businesses, civic organizations and governmental entities throughout this diverse district. It is these experiences, along with my core legal training under some of the best professors, attorneys and Judges in Northeast Ohio that have prepared me for this position. The 11th District Court of Appeals would be well served with the input of someone with my life experience and training in order to carry out the important tasks of reviewing the decisions of the lower Courts and the limited amount of Original jurisdiction cases it handles. If elected I will work hard to decrease the amount of time it takes to render a decision and help to lead efforts to establish specialized Courts, such as Mental Health, Veterans and Drug Courts throughout the district.

# OHIO 11TH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS, FULL TERM COMMENCING 2-10-19

## **Mary Jane Trapp**

Residence: Russell Township, OH

Age: 61

Education: : A.B, cum laude, Mount Holyoke College and J.D., Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Work Experience: 31 years as a litigator and appellate counsel and 6 years as an appellate judge

Website: <http://www.maryjanetrapp.com>; [http://facebook.com/Citizen\\_sformaryjanetrapp](http://facebook.com/Citizen_sformaryjanetrapp); <http://twitter.com/MaryJaneTrapp>

### **Question1: List your judicial experience (courts and years):**

Answer: **Mary Jane Trapp** Eleventh District Court of Appeals Judge, term commencing February 9, 2007, and ending February 8, 2013; Administrative Judge, 2008- 2009; Presiding and Administrative Judge, 2009-2011

### **Question2: What about your non-judicial legal experience qualifies you to be a judge?**

Answer: **Mary Jane Trapp** My career as a practicing attorney before serving as an appellate judge spanned a wide range of notable experiences, from serving as lead counsel in at least 25 major appellate cases and 30 major jury trials, to being certixed as co-counsel in capital cases. After my return to private practice in 2013, I have argued or consulted in over 25 major appellate cases, including case before the Supreme Court of Ohio. In addition to the seminal cases of my career, I have had the opportunity to serve as counsel in over 100 arbitrations, small civil and criminal bench trials, at all levels of state court, including the Supreme Court of Ohio, common pleas and municipal courts, the Court of Claims; as well as being appointed by probate courts as counsel in civil commitment hearings including probable cause and full hearings. Most notably, I served as mediator, arbitrator, and as a guardian ad litem for children for the domestic relations court. On the federal level, I have had the opportunity to practice in the federal courts of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. I also had the opportunity to practice before both state and federal administrative agencies. In addition to lawyering, a major aspect of my professional life included active participation in community service as a bar association leader and volunteer at a local, state, and national level. Now returning to the private practice of law, I focus my state-wide practice on appellate and trial advocacy in all areas of complex civil and criminal litigation and on providing mediation and arbitration services for attorneys, businesses, and governmental entities at the pre-trial, post-trial and appellate stages of a claim. I provide pro bono legal representation to low income families as a legal aid volunteer, and I continue my work in the area of judicial administration and legal reform as one of four collaborators on the Cuyahoga County Bail Reform Task Force Report

### **Question3: Why are you running for this particular court seat?**

Answer: **Mary Jane Trapp** Thirty-six years ago I took my oath as an attorney-at-law. In taking that oath, I promised to support our constitution and faithfully follow the law. As an attorney, I work in the trenches of our justice system helping ordinary people with their extraordinary problems, representing working families, children at risk, and small business owners in courts across the state from small claims court to the Supreme Court of Ohio. As much as I enjoy my work as a litigator, I found my calling as a judge. The position gave me a chance to bring my years of courtroom experience and my passion for the law to a position of public service dedicated to ensuring the safety of our families and preserving a fair and impartial judicial system. Never a day goes by that I do not appreciate the enormous impact that court decisions have on people's lives.

**Ohio Issue 1: To Reduce Penalties for Crimes of Obtaining Possessing, and Using Illegal Drugs**  
**Proposed Constitutional Amendment**  
**Proposed by Initiative Petition**

To add a new Section 12 to Article XV of the Constitution of the State of Ohio  
A majority yes vote is necessary for the amendment to pass.

League explanation of Issue 1

Issue 1, also known as The Amendment to Reduce Penalties for Crimes of Obtaining, Possessing, and Using Illegal Drugs, would add a new section 12 to Article XV of the Ohio Constitution. The amendment is designed to reduce the number of people in state prisons for low-level, nonviolent drug possession; drug use offenses; or for non-criminal probation violations. In addition, it would provide sentence credits for participation in rehabilitative programs; and is intended to direct the savings achieved by such reductions in incarceration to substance abuse treatment programs, crime victim programs, probation programs, graduated responses programs, and rehabilitation programs.

The amendment would:

Reclassify drug offenses from felony to misdemeanor for both accused and convicted drug users.

Require the state to spend savings due to a reduction of the number of prison inmates on drug treatment and rehabilitation programs.

**PROS ACCORDING TO PROPONENTS:**

It would make the possession, obtainment and use of drugs no more than a misdemeanor.

It would create a sentence reduction credits program for inmates' participation in rehabilitative, work, or educational programs

It would reduce the number of people in state prisons for low-level crimes

It would save tens of millions of dollars annually in prison spending and direct the savings to addiction treatment and victims of crime.

**CONS ACCORDING TO OPPONENTS:**

The amendment would make it more difficult to prosecute drug traffickers.

This belongs in the Ohio Revised code. The constitution should contain fundamental principles and organization of government. Appropriation directives should not be added to the constitution.

This takes away available resources from the court for rehabilitating people and doesn't give judges the ability to use incarceration when it's necessary.

This proposed constitutional amendment does not provide adequate funding for treatment infrastructure nor treatment itself.

[Here is the language that will appear on the ballot](#)

[Here is the constitutional amendment language](#)

**Issue 4 Streetsboro City Schools additional tax levy**

Amount: 7.5 mills additional tax levy that would generate approximately \$3.4 million annually for 5 years beginning in 2018.

Explanation: The money will be used for school operations and carrying out the District's strategic plan.  
(C. J. Scarpino, Treasurer)

**Issue 5 Tallmadge City Schools additional tax levy**

Amount: 7.4 mills additional tax levy that would generate approximately \$3.1 million annually for 5 years beginning in 2018.

Explanation: The money will be used in the ongoing day-to-day operations of Tallmadge City Schools...the passage of this levy is critical to maintain the level of excellence in education that Tallmadge students have come to expect and all students deserve.

(Jeff Hostetler, Treasurer)

**Issue 6** Windham Exempted Village Schools renewal tax levy

Amount: 11.17 mills renewal tax levy that would generate approximately \$539,000 annually for 10 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: This levy will replace two emergency levies (one expires in 2019 and one expires in 2020) and will generate the same amount of money as the two being replaced. The money will be used to pay for general building maintenance and supplies. No salaries are paid from these emergency levies.

(Samantha Pochedly, Treasurer)

**Issue 7** Field Local Schools additional tax levy

Amount: 10.85 mills additional tax levy that would generate approximately \$4.4 million annually for 5 years beginning in 2018.

Explanation: An additional tax of 9.85 mills for current expenses and 1.0 mill for ongoing permanent improvements.

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice, Portage County Auditor)

**Issue 8** James A. Garfield Local Schools additional income tax

Amount: 1.5% additional income tax that would generate approximately \$2.3 million annually for 10 years beginning on 1/1/19.

Explanation: The income tax would be levied on the taxable earned income of individuals. If approved, the District will not seek renewal of the \$925,000 emergency levy thereby raising an additional \$1.4 million annually. These funds are vital to maintaining the current educational programs for students to include technology and curriculum. Funds will also be used for school security/safety to include securing entrances. Finally, funds will be used to maintain and upgrade the aging infrastructure to include roofing, windows, doors and HVAC equipment.

(Tracy Knauer, Treasurer)

**Issue 9 -** Rootstown Local Schools additional income tax & bond issue

Additional income tax-- 0.25% additional income tax that would generate approximately \$446,000 annually for 25 years beginning on 1/1/19. The income tax would be levied on the earned income of individuals residing in the school district and would be used for general permanent improvements.

Bond issue--7.32 mills bond issue for 37 years beginning in 2018.

The principal amount of the bond is \$26,835,000. The millage would be used to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds, and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of those bonds.

The buildings in the Rootstown School District are ineffective in preparing students to become college and career ready. Educational practices are rapidly evolving in accordance with societal changes and workforce demands. School facilities must provide student-centered learning environments supporting creativity, critical thinking problem solving, and collaboration to ensure Rootstown students have the tools to become tomorrow's leaders. The Ohio Construction Commission will provide 42% of the funds for the facilities plan with the ballot issue providing the local share.

(Connie Baldwin, Treasurer)

**Issue 10** Waterloo Local Schools additional tax levy

Amount: 9.75 mills additional tax levy that would generate approximately \$1.6 million annually for a continuing period of time beginning in 2018.

Explanation: The money would be used for current expenses.

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice, Portage County Auditor)

**Issue 11** West Branch Local Schools additional income tax

Amount: 0.5% additional income tax on the earned income of individuals for 5 years beginning on 1/1/19.

Explanation: The money would be used for school district purposes.

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice)

**Issue 12** Mantua-Shalersville Fire District replacement tax levy

Amount: 2.99 mills replacement tax levy that would generate approximately \$739,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2018.

Explanation: When replaced it will bring in an additional \$180,601. Funds generated are primarily used to staff the fire station 24 hours a day. It also supports general operations such as utilities, health insurance, workers comp., property/liability insurance, operating supplies, maintenance costs and dispatching service. The levy would also fund at least one additional full-time firefighter.

(Matt Roosa, Chief)

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

Amount: 2.2 mills additional tax levy that would generate approximately \$3 million annually for 8 years beginning in 2018.

Explanation: The 2.2 mill levy would replace the current 1.7 mill levy. The money will be used to offset the significant decrease in the Public Library Fund, allowing the library to sustain and enhance their current offerings, provide much-needed facility maintenance, and update technology and buildings to meet the community's changing needs.

(Mary Ellen Icaza, Executive Director)

**Issue 14** Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities renewal tax levy

Amount: 2 mills renewal tax levy that would generate approximately \$3.6 million annually for 5 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: The money would be used for the operation of community programs and services, for the acquisition, construction, renovation, financing, maintenance, and operation of developmental disabilities facilities, or for both of such purposes.

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice, Portage County Auditor)

**Issue 15** Portage County Mental Health & Recovery Board replacement tax levy

Amount: 0.5 mill replacement tax levy that would generate approximately \$1.8 million annually for 10 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: The money will be used for services for adults, children, and families with mental health and/or addiction problems. Board funding includes 24-hour crisis services for suicide risk, drug and alcohol prevention programs, treatment for mental health and addiction including trauma, trainings for police and school personnel, and recovery supports that include housing and vocational services.

(Karyn Kravetz, Director of Community Relations)

**Issue 16** Kent City Charter Amendment – Recall Petition and Election

If approved, Section 5.15 of the Charter of Kent City would be amended “to change the percentage of signatures needed from 20% to 25%, to change the basis of the number of signatures required on the petition to a percentage of persons who voted in the last presidential election, and require the petition to contain a verified statement as to why the recall is being sought.”

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice)

**Issue 17** Kent City, Precinct 2B Local Liquor Option—Bistro on Main

Sunday sale of wine, mixed beverages, and spirituous liquor

Explanation: Placed on the ballot by David & Cathy Tribuzzo dba Bistro on Main located at 1313 W. Main St., Kent OH 44240. Passage of this issue would permit the sale of wine, mixed beverages, and spirituous liquor on Sunday between the hours of ten a.m. and midnight.

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice)

**Issue 18** Streetsboro City Charter Amendment – Composition of Charter Review Commission

If approved, Section 17.01 of the Charter of Streetsboro City would be amended “to change the manner of selection of charter review commission members, from nomination by the mayor and confirmation by city council of all seven (7) members, to direct appointment by the mayor of two (2) members, direct appointment of one member each by the four (4) ward councilmembers, each such ward council appointee must be a resident of the ward represented by the councilmember, and direct appointment of one member collectively by the at-large councilmembers.”

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice)

**Issue 36** Tallmadge City Charter Amendment – Change Primary Election to May

If approved, Section 15.01 would be amended “to change the primary election date for city candidates to May.” The primary election for Mayor, Council, Director of Finance and Director of Law is currently held in September (on the eighth Tuesday prior to the Municipal election in November in odd-numbered years).

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice; Tallmadge Charter Section 15.01)

**Issue 37** Garrettsville Village – Initiative Petition Marijuana Penalties

Should Garrettsville Village adopt an ordinance which will lower the penalties for misdemeanor marijuana offenses to the lowest penalties allowed by state law?

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice)

**Issue 19** Mantua Village renewal tax levy

Amount: 3.85 mills renewal tax levy that would generate approximately \$75,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: The money will be used for the general construction, reconstruction, resurfacing and repair of streets, roads and bridges in the Village of Mantua. In the past years since this levy was first approved by the voters, we have used most of these funds as the village's portion for street related grant projects, which stretches the funds much further.

(Jenny August, Clerk-treasurer)

**Issue 20** Mogadore Village Charter Amendment – Timing of Charter Reviews

If approved, Section 18.01 of the Charter of Mogadore Village would be amended “to change the timing of charter reviews to every seven (7) years.”

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice)

**Issue 21** Mogadore Village additional income tax

Amount: 0.25% additional income tax beginning on 1/1/19.

Explanation: If approved, the income tax rate would increase from 2.25% to 2.5%. The money would be used for general municipal operations, maintenance, new equipment, extension and enlargement of municipal services and facilities and capital improvements of the municipality.

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice)

**Issue 22** Mogadore Village Local Liquor Option—Avenue Market and Deli

Sunday sale of beer, wine, and mixed beverages

Explanation: Placed on the ballot by Sharda and Sons, L.L.C. dba Avenue Market and Deli, a convenience store located at 75 S. Cleveland Avenue, Mogadore OH 44260. Passage of this issue would permit the sale of beer, wine, and mixed beverages on Sunday between the hours of ten a.m. and midnight.

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice)

**Issue 23** Windham Village Advisory Election – Single Municipal Refuse Hauler

“Shall the Village of Windham require the use of a single refuse (trash) hauler by all customers throughout the Village of Windham?”

Village Council wants to determine the preference of the Village of Windham’s voters concerning the proposed mandatory use of a single refuse hauler. If approved, Council would enact the legislation to require a single refuse haler and then competitively bid to select the hauler.

(Windham Village Ordinance O-2018-19)

**Issue 38** Windham Village – Initiative Petition Marijuana Penalties

Should Windham Village adopt an ordinance which will lower the penalties for misdemeanor marijuana offenses to the lowest penalties allowed by state law?

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice)

**Issue 24** Atwater Township renewal tax levy

Amount: 2.9 mills renewal tax levy that would generate approximately \$150,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: A vote for the levy will continue to support both part-time Fire and EMS staffing, as well as Administrative staffing. It will also provide for continued maintenance and replacement of Fire and EMS apparatus, along with building maintenance. This will also allow continued training of Fire and EMS personnel.

(Linda Allen, Fiscal Officer)

**Issue 25** Brimfield Township replacement tax levy

Amount: 4.9 mills replacement tax levy that would generate approximately \$1.3 million annually for a continuing period of time beginning in 2018.

Explanation: The money would be used for fire and EMS.

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice, Portage County Auditor)

**Issue 26** Charlestown Township renewal tax levy

Amount: 0.7 mill renewal tax levy that would generate approximately \$7,600 annually for 5 years beginning in 2018.

Explanation: The money would be used for current general fund expenses.

(Ruth Craft, Fiscal Officer)

**Issue 27** Charlestown Township renewal tax levy

Amount: 1.5 mills renewal tax levy that would generate approximately \$16,500 annually for 5 years beginning in 2018.

Explanation: The money would be used for current general fund expenses.

(Ruth Craft, Fiscal Officer)

**Issue 28** Franklin Township replacement tax levy

Amount: 2 mills replacement tax levy that would generate approximately \$323,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2018.

Explanation: The money would be used for purposes of providing funds for construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, and repairs of streets, roads and bridges.

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice, Portage County Auditor)

**Issue 29** Nelson Township renewal tax levy

Amount: 2 mills renewal tax levy that would generate approximately \$75,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2018.

Explanation: The money would be used for purposes of providing funds for construction, reconstruction, resurfacing and repairs of streets, roads and bridges.

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice, Portage County Auditor)

**Issue 30** Nelson Township renewal tax levy

Amount: 2 mills renewal tax levy that would generate approximately \$75,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2018.

Explanation: The money would be used for purposes of providing funds for construction, reconstruction, resurfacing and repairs of streets, roads and bridges.

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice, Portage County Auditor)

**Issue 31** Palmyra Township renewal tax levy

Amount: 1 mill renewal tax levy that would generate approximately \$55,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: The money will be used for Fire and EMS providing and maintaining and/or purchasing equipment, supplies, buildings and sites, communications, payment of part-time, or volunteer firefighters and emergency medical service operations, etc. under R.C. 5705.19(I).

(Kathleen Cofojohn, Fiscal Officer)

**Issue 32** Palmyra Township Precinct C Local Liquor Option—Palmyra Little Village Shopper

Sunday sale of wine and mixed beverages

Explanation: Placed on the ballot by Palmyra Little Village Shopper, L.L.C., a carry-out/grocery store located at 9447 Tallmadge Road, Diamond OH 44412 Passage of this issue would permit the sale of wine and mixed beverages on Sunday between the hours of ten a.m. and midnight.

(Portage County Board of Elections Legal Notice)

**Issue 33** Paris Township renewal tax levy

Amount: 1 mill renewal tax levy that would generate approximately \$32,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: The money will be used to maintain the daily operations of the township.

(Linda Shaulis, Fiscal Officer)

**Issue 34** Paris Township renewal tax levy

Amount: 2 mills renewal tax levy that would generate approximately \$49,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: The money will be used to maintain the roads, machinery and vehicle upkeep.

(Linda Shaulis, Fiscal Officer)

**Issue 35** Randolph Township renewal tax levy

Amount: 2 mills renewal tax levy that would generate approximately \$214,000 annually for 5 years beginning in 2019.

Explanation: The levy is for the purpose of providing emergency medical services for Randolph Township. The fire station is staffed between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m. The funds provide payment of EMS staff along with necessary equipment and supplies to perform their job efficiently and safely.

(Mary Rodenbucher, Fiscal Officer)