

# VOTER

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

Nonpartisan Guide to Nov. 3, 2020 General Election For Franklin County Voters

Including...

United States Presidential Candidates  
United States Congressional Candidates  
Statewide Candidates  
Franklin County Candidates  
Issue Pros/Cons



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS  
OF METROPOLITAN COLUMBUS

*Your source for informed voting, [www.lwvcols.org](http://www.lwvcols.org)*

## The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Columbus prepared this material. Candidates were informed of the following:

- Each response would be printed exactly as received and each candidate would be responsible for the content of the replies.
- All responses were given a character limit, and once the response exceeded the character limit then the remainder of the response was cut off.

Information and answers from the candidates have not been evaluated in any way. The League of Women Voters, in presenting this material, neither endorses nor rejects the views of any candidate quoted and does not and cannot assume responsibility for the contents of any candidate's reply or motive.

The information in this bulletin can also be found on the League of Women Voters website and at [www.Vote411.org](http://www.Vote411.org). For membership information in the League of Women Voters, please see our website at [www.lwvcols.org](http://www.lwvcols.org).



Considering all that our country has been through in recent times, it is more important than ever that our citizens be informed about the candidates and issues before them. The mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

The publication editor is Elizabeth Grieser, with assistance from Katherine Brandt, Ben Sullivan, Sally Morgan, Bridget McDaniel, Al Rosenfield, and Jacob Markey. The LWVMC President is Barbara Hykes.

COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccines free; double funding for community health centers that are so often on the frontlines of care; and much more.

**DONALD J. TRUMP, REP**  
Candidate did not respond

The following candidates have qualified for the Ohio state ballot according to the Secretary of State of Ohio but did not meet the LWVEF criteria.

**HOWIE HAWKINS, GRN**

**JO JORGENSEN, LIB**

**BRIAN CARROLL, WRITE IN**

**TOM HOEFILING, WRITE IN**

**DARIA HUNTER, WRITE IN**

**JADE SIMMONS, WRITE IN**

**KASEY WELLS, WRITE IN**

**PRESIDENT R19 BODIE, WRITE IN**

Ohio House of Representatives for five terms. During my tenure in the Ohio House, I rose to become the first female Democratic House Leader in Ohio's history. **Question 1:** I believe strongly we must continue to invest in our social safety net programs to combat the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. I voted to support the HEROES Act which would among other things temporarily halt consumer debt collection, ban the box on SBA loans and put more money aside for SBA loans for small businesses, and provide mortgage and rent payment freezes. We must first stabilize our families and small businesses before our economy can recover. We must also help our local governments to remain stable and provide essential services. **Question 2:** My top priority if elected is to continue the work I have begun as chair of the Diversity and Inclusion subcommittee of the Financial Services Committee in Congress. I have been able to directly advocate for the inclusion of women and people of color in csuites, board rooms and leadership positions across the financial services sector, but there is still so much work to be done and I look forward to continuing that work should I be re-elected in the fall.

**MARK RICHARDSON, REP**  
Candidate did not respond.

**ANGELA DAVIS (WRITE-IN)**  
Candidate did not respond

**NICHOLAS MOSS (WRITE-IN)**  
**Email:** [nick@mossforcongress.com](mailto:nick@mossforcongress.com)  
**Website:** <https://www.mossforcongress.com>  
**Education:** I have taken classes at both a traditional college and an online university in Computer Science and Management. I also have knowledge in Real Estate, as well as being an Ordained Minister.  
**Occupation:** Manufacturing Maintenance Technician  
**Qualifications for Office:** I feel that I am qualified to hold an office in the US House of Representatives due to my previous experience running my own business. I also have leadership training through my employer on how to handle large and small groups. Most importantly though I relate to people and will use a common sense approach to running my congressional office. I also know how to operate within a budget.  
**Question 1:** First and foremost I would continue to fully fund the small business programs for the local businesses in not only my district but in America. I would make sure however that the money was put towards the businesses that need it most and not ones who don't need it. I would also work to

### PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

• All qualified presidential candidates were invited to provide biographical information and responses to specific questions. Candidates were qualified if they met the following criteria during the primary season:

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

• Responses were limited to a specific number of characters and were truncated thereafter.

• If a candidate did not respond by the date of publication, "Candidate has not yet responded." is printed.

Additional information on presidential candidates is available at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).  
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### Candidates for President of the United States

**JOE BIDEN, DEM**

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

**Campaign Email:** [info@joebiden.com](mailto:info@joebiden.com)

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

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

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

**A:** Pandemic. Recession. Racial injustice. Climate change. We're facing historic crises; we have to

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

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

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

**Q:** What aspects of our current immigration policy will your administration address first?

**A:** My immigration policy is built around keeping families together. It's past time to reform our broken system, restoring family unification and diversity as its core pillars. As President, I'll reverse Trump's assault on our values on Day One, ending his cruel border policies that rip children from their mothers' arms. I'll act immediately to protect Dreamers and their families, and invest real political capital in finally delivering legislative immigration reform, with a roadmap to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented people who already do so much to make our communities strong. We have to enforce our laws, but in a way that's humane, respects due process, honors our values, and sees the big picture.

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

**A:** This pandemic makes clear: All Americans need access to quality, affordable health insurance. That's why I'll protect and build on the Affordable Care Act. I helped to secure the final key votes to pass that landmark law, protecting 100 million Americans who can no longer be turned away or denied coverage for pre-existing conditions, and bringing coverage to 20 million more. As President, I'll build on that progress with a public option and lower health care and prescription drug costs. I'll make all

### REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS 3RD DISTRICT

**Questions for Representative to Congress 3rd District Candidates:**

1. In light of the significant budget changes caused by COVID-19, what government programs do you believe should remain fully funded or have their budget increased? Which programs should be cut or have their budget reduced?
2. What is your top priority if elected?

### Representative to Congress 3rd District (Vote for no more than one)

**JOYCE BEATTY, DEM**

1421 Taylor Corners Cir, Blacklick, OH 43004

**Email:** [beattyforcongress@gmail.com](mailto:beattyforcongress@gmail.com)

**Website:** [Beattyforcongress.com](http://Beattyforcongress.com)

**Occupation:** Member of Congress  
**Education:** BA, Central State University; MS, Wright State University; ABD, University of Cincinnati; Honorary Doctorate Degrees: Capital Law School, Ohio Dominican University, & Central State University

**Qualifications for Office:** Prior to Congress I was Senior Vice President of Outreach and Engagement at The Ohio State University and a member in the

make sure that each American gets to keep the most money from their paychecks and not have it spent on wish list items. I do feel that the programs to be cut from the spending budgets until the right time would be the wish list items, better known as pork spending. We need more programs to help build everyday Americans lives back to pre-Covid levels.

**Question 2:** Bringing back the American Voice!! I would work to make sure that the government gets out of everyday Americans lives and takes a minimal approach to America. The government should be there to help the people when it's needed, but in the background when not needed. My main priority is doing the work of my constituents, the people who elect me to office. I am there to serve their needs and not the needs of a big corporation.

## REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS 12TH DISTRICT

### Questions for Representatives to Congress 12th District Candidates:

1. Given our experience with COVID-19, what precautions would you put in place to allow for safe, secure elections whereby voters are not choosing between their health and their right to vote, especially in November. Include how you would fund any necessary precautions and changes.
2. What solutions do you propose to address challenges, especially inequities, in the healthcare system?
3. Where do you stand on efforts to protect our water, air and land? Include how you would address climate change.
4. Describe what you will do to work across political differences to solve problems.

## Representative to Congress 12th District

(Vote for no more than one)

### TROY BALDERSON, REP

**Email:** info@baldersonforcongress.com

**Website:** http://www.baldersonforcongress.com

**Occupation:** Congressman for Ohio's 12th Congressional District  
**Work Experience:** Troy has served as the Congressman for Ohio's 12th Congressional District since 2018. He previously served in both the Ohio Senate, chairman of the powerful Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and as a member of the Senate Finance Committee, as well as the Ohio House of Representatives. Before

holding public office, Troy gained experience by operating both his family-owned small business and farm.

**Question 1:** I encourage voters to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves from the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, including wearing face masks and socially distancing when going outside is necessary, and staying inside when possible. No one should have to choose between their health and their right to vote. All Ohioans have the option to vote by absentee ballot, and both the U.S. Postal Service and Ohio's Secretary of State have assured that our election in 2020 will remain free and fair—regardless of how citizens cast their ballots. I stand behind free and fair elections and will do everything in my power to ensure American elections remains this way.

**Question 2:** We must repeal and replace Obamacare once and for all. I have consistently voted to keep Obamacare out of Ohio and am committed to a healthcare system that respects the freedom of every American, keeping healthcare decisions between patients and doctors, while still protecting those with pre-existing conditions. Now as Washington radicals move even further towards a government takeover, it will take committed leadership to keep your healthcare decisions in your own hands, not the government's.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I'm proud of my successful efforts to help expand the services of telehealth nationwide, including right here at home in Ohio. Seeing the success our nation has had with telemedicine in recent months, I am continuing to push for the permanent, responsible expansion of telehealth nationwide, as well as expanded access to broadband internet to support these services.

**Question 3:** I grew up working on my family's farm and am an avid marathoner, cyclist, and biker. Simply put, I love the great outdoors, and as a Christian, believe we are called to be good stewards of our God-given Earth. Protecting our great outdoors should not come at the expense of imposing unnecessary restrictions, red tape, and financial burdens on America's businesses—particularly our small businesses with fewer resources and capital. I'm committed to continuing working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address solutions that ensure a healthy environment for all Ohioans and a productive business environment.

**Question 4:** Rather than explaining what I would do, I'm happy to share my bipartisan work representing Ohio's 12th Congressional District. First and foremost, I forged a

wonderful relationship with one of my colleagues, Jason Crow, from Colorado. Together, he and I are the leading members of the House Subcommittee on Innovation and Workforce Development. After many successes together, we joined the bipartisan Civility and Respect Caucus together—a "Noah's Arc" caucus that requires members from each side of the aisle join together. The vast majority of bills I sponsor are bipartisan, and I enjoy positive relationships with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, as I believe we have much more in common than CNN or Fox would have you believe. Just look at my record with Democratic Congressman Cindy Axne, who I've worked with on many occasions to champion the expansion of telehealth. I recently launched a podcast series "Troy Talks" that highlights my long record of bipartisan successes.

### ALAINA SHEARER, DEM

**Email:** alainashearer@alaina2020.com

**Website:** http://www.alaina2020.com

**Occupation:** Small Business Owner  
**Work Experience:** Reporter and News Anchor for 610 WTVN and WCOL, Radio Personality for WNCI, Web Copywriter, Small Business Owner, Founder of Together Digital, National Women's Organization

**Question 1:** No one should feel that their life is in danger when they go to vote, and nothing should keep someone from exercising their right to vote. At this point, there is not really adequate time to make sweeping changes. However, there are several things that the State Legislature or Secretary of State could still do to make voting more accessible and less risky. We should ensure that each county has more than one secure ballot drop box. Ballots need to have pre-paid postage, and the deadline for ballots to be returned should be evaluated in light of USPS delays. We also have an obligation to fix issues that affect voter suppression every year - we need to address voter roll purges, signature requirements, and the creation of online ballot request forms, to name a few. Voting should be safe, secure, and accessible.

**Question 2:** Like millions of Americans, I am overwhelmed by medical bills and health insurance costs for our family. It shouldn't be this way. My opponent has voted 8 times to take away your healthcare. My father was a family doctor in Delaware, and he never turned away anyone who couldn't pay. He taught me that health care is fundamental - you can't work, you can't parent, you can't contribute to society if you're sick. Every American deserves good

healthcare they can afford. I will fight to restore and expand the ACA so that everyone has the choice to be covered under a public option, including those with pre-existing conditions. I will work to make sure that the Department of Health and Human Services can negotiate drug prices, which will lower the price of Insulin and other prescription drugs. I will also fight to increase funding to rural hospitals, and ensure that rural areas have broadband infrastructure so that they can utilize telehealth services.

**Question 3:** Climate Change is happening and we need to face the problem, not run in the other direction. Our kids, our grandkids, and every generation after that deserve to be able to live a safe, healthy life on this planet. The United States has the power to incentivize a shift on a global scale. I fully support re-entering the Paris Climate Accords and will do everything I can to reverse the deregulations my opponent has vehemently supported. I also support job creation to expand renewable energy revenues for the United States. We have a unique opportunity in central Ohio to be on the forefront of this shift to renewable energy resources, while maintaining and growing our workforce and creating living-wage, union protected jobs.

**Question 4:** We all want progress. There is not one of us that is not touched by the division in Washington. For the past 4 years, I have built a national network for women in digital and tech. I brought women from both sides of the political aisle together to combat the issues that we face as women in the workplace. For us, it was not political - that was the secret. When we take partisan politics out of it and focus on the people being affected, we can and will solve the pressing issues. I have proven that I am able to do that, while my opponent is part of the partisan problem. If elected, I would be representing a very diverse and moderate district. I will be obligated to work across the aisle by the Independents and Republicans who vote for me. I am an Ohioan, and Ohioans know how to compromise to get things done, but we never compromise on our values. I can not wait to take more of Ohio to Washington.

### JOHN STEWART, LIB

**Email:** john.stewart@electjohnstewart.com

**Website:** http://www.electjohnstewart.com

**Occupation:** Retired

**Work Experience:** John Stewart spent a successful career in the trucking industry that has benefitted four generations of the

Stewart family.

**Question 1:** The State of Ohio has several options for safely participating in our elections. In addition to providing safe locations for voting on the designated election day, the local board of election provide a month of early in-person absentee voting at their offices, and mail-in absentee voting that can be mailed or hand delivered

**Question 2:** The day we citizens confused the difference between health insurance and health care is the day our health care system began to unravel. Insurance is a third party payer, which is a problem. Reduce the role of the third-party payer by removing the deduction for all health insurance, both the tax exemption that gives an advantage to employer sponsored insurance and the personal deduction. Increase the threshold above which the tax payer can deduct on personal returns, but remove any cap for deductions above the threshold. Let HSA accounts be used for expenses below the threshold. Continue to let HSA contributions be tax free but remove the requirement for high deductible insurance plans. Pre-existing conditions should not be mandated. If they are mandated, it is not insurance. In a free, open and competitive market, some insurance companies would offer coverage for certain pre-existing conditions, and price the risk accordingly.

**Question 3:** Respecting private property has been shown to be the most effective and least costly way to protect our natural resources. Damaging pollution only persists when local, state and federal governments look the other way or sanction the unhealthy activity. When a business or individual causes harm to the property of another they are liable for the consequences and it is the role of government to act a fair and unbiased arbiter in the dispute. When an industry is surrounded by neighbors, even many miles away, who are harmed by carelessness, those neighbors are empowered by their rights as property owners to seek compensation.

**Question 4:** I will work with anyone who is willing to discuss our problems and come to mutually agreeable solutions. Inform consent is the only way to educate, collaborate and move forward.

## REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS 15TH DISTRICT

### Questions for Representatives to Congress 15th District

1. What is your top legislative

priority, if elected?

2. How would you address systemic racism in government and government programs?
3. How would you address the job and economic loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic?

## Representative to Congress 15th District

(Vote for no more than one)

### STEVE STIVERS, REP

Candidate did not respond

### JOEL NEWBY, DEM

**Email:** campaign@joelnewby.com

**Website:** http://www.joelnewby.com

**Education and Experience:** Ohio University - BA Political Science & Sociology Ohio University - MA Political Science

**Question 1:** My top legislative priority is to bring true hometown representation to Washington D.C. In order to do this, I have a hometown message: Rebuilding our Hometowns, Supporting our Hometown Heroes, and Fighting for our Hometown Families. For Rebuilding our Hometowns, I will focus on rebuilding our infrastructure, including access to affordable internet, and ending the drug epidemic. For Supporting our Hometown Heroes, I will focus on our veterans and first responders. No more jobless or homeless vets and better transition programs. For Fighting for our Hometown Families, I will focus on paid family leave, affordable childcare, and helping our aging Americans to afford to age at home. This is how we will bring back our hometowns.

**Question 2:** We need to change how we police and how we administrate justice. We also need to protect voting rights while expanding affordable housing. We need to tackle many different systems, all at once. I propose policing reforms like citizens supervisory commissions, more consent decrees policies, and abolish qualified immunity. We need to eliminate cash bail because you should be innocent until proven guilty. We need to end the war on drugs and treat addiction as a disease. We must critically look at affordable housing. When the federal poverty line was first created, the greatest expense for a family was food. Now, more and more of our paychecks go towards housing costs. Finally but most important, we must pass a new voting rights bill!

**Question 3:** We must promote small businesses and tackle student debt. We need to legally define small businesses so the real small businesses can take advantage of

small business programs. We saw how the lack of a real definition allowed large businesses to take advantage of the small business provisions in the COVID-19 bills. We need to provide for more small business loans with the possibility of total early forgiveness of the loan if the business employs a certain number of people in the community. We need to make it easier for small businesses to deduct their local and city taxes from their federal taxes. Student debt will slow recovery so we must start partial or full forgiveness. Finally, my "hometown message" includes a on focus infrastructure.

**SHANE HOFFMAN (WRITE IN)**

## STATE SENATE CANDIDATES

### Questions for all State Senate and State Representative Candidates:

**1.** In light of the significant budget changes caused by COVID-19, what government programs do you believe should remain fully funded or have their budget increased? Which programs should be cut or have their budget reduced?  
**2.** What is your top priority if elected?

### 16th District

(Vote for no more than one)

#### STEPHANIE L. KUNZE, REP

**Email:** info@stephaniekunze.com  
**Website:** stephaniekunze.com  
**Occupation:** State Senator  
**Education:** B.A., English, Indiana University  
**Qualifications for Office:** Elected member of the Ohio Senate, 16th District (2017- present); Ohio House of Representatives (2013-2016); Hilliard City Council (2010-2012)  
**Question 1:** COVID-19 has shone a light on many of the foundational cracks long-present in every aspect of our society. From Pre-K to college, lack of access to broadband and technology, healthcare to early childcare, COVID-19 has exposed weaknesses in the systems where we need to fully invest and rebuild. The pandemic has truly shown how interconnected we all are. As your State Senator, I will continue to fight for upstream investments in our state budget that make our state stronger for children and families. I am grateful for the rapid response the state took to ensure we are mitigating some of these budget issues through budget reduction in state agencies. Looking forward, we will also have the benefit of the rainy day fund which will help limit drastic cuts to important programs.

**Question 2:** My top priorities are rebuilding Ohio's economy back stronger and keeping Ohioans safe. Many of the constituent calls I've received since the start of the pandemic have been about more than just access to unemployment. The individuals and families I serve need additional help with the other supports that surround losing a job. From ensuring stability to remain in their homes, access to food, and access to healthcare, COVID-19 has illuminated that health and the economy are inextricably linked. The impact of the pandemic on all of our lives and livelihoods will be tremendous. I am looking forward to being re-elected and continuing to work multilaterally to find new ways of meeting the emerging needs of our communities as we navigate and come through the pandemic.

#### CRYSTAL LETT, DEM

**Email:** campaign@lettforohio.com  
**Website:** www.LettForOhio.com  
**Education:** I graduated from Hilliard Davidson High School and earned my Bachelor's of Arts degree in Political Science from The Ohio State University, cum laude. I currently manage a psychological practice.  
**Occupation:** Manager of a Psychological Practice  
**Qualifications for Office:** I'm a hometown native of Hilliard and an OSU graduate. I served as a Case Manager at North Central Mental Health and assisted children who suffered from mental illness. After my son was born with a rare genetic disorder, I became an advocate for people with disabilities and worked with Sen. Sherrod Brown to save CHIP funding. I am a legislative advocate with Save the Children and for Paid Leave.  
**Question 1:** We must prioritize Ohioans' basic needs. Healthcare, education, job training, and the Local Government Fund will need full and proper funding this budget cycle. Funding our public schools and investing in small business growth will put Ohio back on track. We can find the money for these programs by tightening wasteful tax loopholes that have been proven to largely benefit the richest Ohioans. Ohio's massive LLC Loophole, for example, costs taxpayers over \$1 billion each year, and has been repeatedly shown to benefit the wealthy rather than small businesses as originally intended.  
**Question 2:** My top priority will be to help Ohio families and small businesses recover from the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. This crisis has taught us that far too many Ohioans cannot afford to miss even one paycheck, and too many schools have been forced to adapt to ever-changing requirements

without proper resources. There are immediate and longer term steps the legislature can take to support Ohio's recovery, while also strengthening our families and our economy going forward. The Ohio Senate Democrats have already introduced several bills to accomplish these goals, such as paid leave and insurance coverage for telemedicine. I will proudly add my voice to these causes as senator.

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE CANDIDATES

### 17th District

(Vote for no more than one)

#### TIMOTHY HASKE, REP

Candidate did not respond.

#### ADAM MILLER, DEM

**Email:** millerforohio@gmail.com  
**Website:** www.millerforohio.com  
**Occupation:** Attorney  
**Education:** Capital University School of Law (1994); US Army War College (2017); Master's in Strategic Studies; U.S. Army Command & General Staff College (2004); Ohio State University (B.A.) (1988)  
**Qualifications for Office:** Longtime public advocate, proven legislative leader, successful practicing attorney in public sector law, US Army Reserve Colonel, and dedicated public servant.  
**Question 1:** We cannot allow a temporary pandemic to lead to permanent cuts to vital services like the social safety net, healthcare and education. In fact, the need for helping the less fortunate has increased because of the pandemic. Over the last few decades Ohio has cut taxes for the rich under the promise of increasing prosperity. That ideology has failed and we have paid the price. We need a fair tax system that allows our state to provide for the needs of all Ohioans.  
**Question 2:** The Opioid Crisis must be dealt with. For too long we've seen half measures and full press releases. We need a real plan that ends this self inflicted crisis that is ravaging our communities and families. The crisis will continue to grow if we do not take drastic measures to end it.

### 18th District

(vote for no more than one)

#### KRISTIN BOGGS, DEM

**Email:** boggs4ohio@gmail.com  
**Website:** www.BoggsforOhio.com  
**Occupation:** State Representative  
**Education:** B.A., Kent State University, 2001 J.D., Cleveland Marshall College of Law, 2006

**Qualifications for Office:** Serving as the State Rep. for the past 4 years has been an honor and privilege. I have been able to establish valuable relationships with community leaders, legislative members, and district stakeholders that will allow me to be a better resource to the constituents I serve. Prior to joining the Statehouse I was an Assistant Attorney General for nearly 10 years.

**Question 1:** First, we must repeal HB6. We cannot ask Ohioans to pay \$7 more a month for electricity that pollutes the environment (coal bailout) and stymies economic growth. I believe the investments that will pull us out of this recession are investments in family and women—specifically, childcare, education, and housing security. This is the first recession in 50 years where more women have lost more jobs than men. We must start valuing childcare as a critical piece of our economic infrastructure, and make investments to support childcare workers, teachers, and families. Last year, HB6 gave a \$1 billion dollar bailout to one Ohio company. Imagine the economic kickstart if we invested \$1 billion in childcare that worked for all families.

**Question 2:** Since joining the legislature, I have been a strong advocate for survivors of violence and reforms to our criminal justice system. I introduced and passed portions of the Regan Tokes Act to change how those convicted of violent offenses are sentenced. The Regan Tokes Act also provides more resources to parole officers and accountabilities for GPS monitoring. In addition, I have advocated for ending the statute of limitations on rape, eliminating the cap on damages for survivors of sexual violence, and closing the marital exception loophole to rape crimes. Continuing to work on criminal justice reforms and policies that will allow Ohioans access to justice will be my highest priority.

#### KAYLA ANNE PACKARD, REP

Candidate did not respond.

### 19th District

(Vote for no more than one)

#### MEREDITH FREEDHOFF, REP

**Email:** meredithforohio@gmail.com  
**Website:** meredithforohio.com  
**Education:** Capital University, BA Marketing 1988; Ashland Theological Seminary, Masters of Divinity, 2022  
**Occupation:** Candidate for Ohio House District 19  
**Qualifications for Office:** In my 13 year business career, I successfully managed large budgets and teams

for product and service launches. I also hired, trained and managed sales representative companies nationally to meet marketing, sales and profitability goals. For the last 10 years, my work in the non-profit sector includes advocacy, fundraising, and marketing to increase services for those in need.

**Question 1:** I believe it's critical that the public health administration budget remain funded and be considered for an increase, as we need adequate tools to meet the needs of the pandemic as well as future crises. Administratively, I would implement actions for accountability and transparency. I would also insure public health administrative processes are streamlined in order to respond swiftly and efficiently during ever-changing public health situations. The Covid-19 pandemic has taught us is that we need to be agile in our response to a health crisis and we need the right people with the right skillset in the Ohio House for success. In order to decrease expenditures, I would look at existing contracts at the state level to determine if pricing could be reduced or timing of the project delayed.

**Question 2:** My top priority is to be fully representative of the district and be 100% accessible to people. Given our current situation I will work hard once in the Ohio House to implement policy that will beat Covid19, send our children back to school and bringing back our economy. I believe there are workable solutions available that will help create opportunities for our children learning safely and recuperate jobs lost during the pandemic.

#### MARY LIGHTBODY, DEM

**Email:** mary@marylightbody.com  
**Website:** https://marylightbody.com  
**Education:** Ph.D., Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education, The Ohio State University, 2004; M.Ed. with Licensure, The Ohio State University 1992; A.B., East Asian Studies, Harvard/Radcliffe College, 1974  
**Occupation:** State Representative  
**Qualifications for Office:** \* serving first term, Ohio House of Representatives, District 19  
Committees: Higher Ed, Commerce & Labor, Agriculture\* 28 years teaching in K-12 and Higher education\* 32 year resident in Plain Township\* elected to leadership positions in science teacher professional associations\* trained as a parliamentarian\* farmer and environmentalist\* parent, taxpayer  
**Question 1:** Currently we underfund education for birth to age 5, K-12,

Higher Education, and Career Tech programs, so the budget to these programs should be increased (I support the passage of HB305). We increased funding for transportation and infrastructure repairs and replacements, which should be retained or increased. We need to increase funding for social services, safe and secure housing, renewable energy sources, environmental protections, clean water and lead pipe replacements. Local government funding should be increased so police and fire services will not suffer further layoffs and furloughs. Budgets could be reduced for earmarked projects that have limited benefit to the majority of Ohioans, that do not support high priority programs, or that benefit only the very wealthy.  
**Question 2:** Two years ago my main priorities were to ensure equal access for all to quality education and vocational training, and to attract well-paying jobs that offer advancement for hard-working Ohioans. Today in this time of extreme pressure from a virus and the knowledge that racism is a public health crisis, we have systemic structures that have constrained and blocked opportunities for too many. Our communities are polarized and democracy is threatened. I shall spend my energy helping to make changes in our communities to promote respect for others and to rebuild our republic. We need to define civil society and what citizenship asks of us, and work to build that world. My top priority is to work hard, to be honest with everyone, to address our problems, and create a better future for all.

### 20th District

(Vote for no more than one)

#### CHRIS BAER, REP

**Email:** cbaer@insight.rr.com  
**Website:** www.baerforohio.com  
**Education:** The Ohio State University Bachelor Degree with majors in Finance, Economics and Marketing; The Ohio State University College of Law; Continuing Legal Education with Supreme Court of Ohio  
**Occupation:** Attorney at Law, Farmer, Rancher Owner of several small business  
**Qualifications for Office:** Franklin County, Ohio resident entire life; Small Business Owner; Attorney at Law; Chairman of Franklin County Board of Zoning Appeal; Franklin County Republican Party Committeeman for over 30 years; Endorsed by Franklin County Republican Party; Endorsed by Right to Life  
**Question 1:** Police Departments

should not be defunded; Public Health Director should have limits on authority; School system funding should be high priority

**Question 2:** Remove Mask Mandate; Open Small Businesses ; Remove curfew on bars and restaurants; Pursue public safety and gun rights

### **RICHARD BROWN, DEM**

**Email:** rich@richbrownlaw.com

**Website:** richbrownforohio.com

**Education:** Graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. with High Honors in American History from the University of Cincinnati in 1978. Graduated with a Juris Doctorate from The Ohio State College of Law in 1981.

**Occupation:** Attorney/State Representative

**Qualifications for Office:**

Appointed on June 28, 2017 to serve remaining 1 1/2 years of term of my predecessor who resigned in April 2017. Won election to the 20th District seat in November 2018 by 16 points, 58-42%. Elected to a leadership position in the House Democratic Caucus in 2019, serving as Assistant Minority Whip. My legal career as a civil litigator and experience as a legislator give me the necessary background.

**Question 1:** Public schools should remain fully funded, as should Ohio's Unemployment Compensation System, the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation, and drug treatment facilities and caregiver programs. I favor eliminating the Promotional Play tax deduction for casinos, as it is of questionable benefit and results in substantial revenue loss to Ohio. The effective tax rate Ohio casinos pay is significantly lower than many other states with casino gambling, including neighboring states like Pennsylvania, so eliminating the Promotional Play deduction would not harm casinos. I would review the Business Income Deduction (BID) regularly to determine whether the deduction is having the desired effect of creating more Ohio jobs and increasing investment in Ohio businesses, and, if not, make needed changes.

**Question 2:** I want to see HB 10, which I sponsored, become law in Ohio. This bill would create the Office of Drug Policy within the Governor's office, with a Cabinet-level administrator, to establish and oversee a state-side, coordinated comprehensive effort to fight the opioid epidemic. This Office would coordinate drug-treatment and amelioration efforts across state and local agencies, act as a source of information on innovative programs communities are adopting around the state, and inform of best practices in treatment and intervention. The

Office would establish and operate a 24/7 hotline for community leaders, first responders, and the public to access pertinent information about treatment and care. The bill passed the House unanimously in the spring of 2020, but stalled in the Senate.

### **21st District**

(Vote for no more than one)

### **MEHEK COOKE, REP**

**Email:** cookeforohio@gmail.com

**Website:** mehekcooke.com

**Education:** J.D., Indiana University, Bloomington; Master's Degree, Indiana University - Purdue ; Bachelor's Degree, Ohio State University

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Qualifications for Office:** I have both the public and private sector experience to serve as a state legislator. My experience in everything from working with the US Attorney's Office on counter-terrorism and criminal cases, serving as legal counsel to our former governor, assisting business re-start safely during a pandemic to helping inner city kids makes me qualified to defend and protect our Dublin and Worthington.

**Question 1:** By requiring state agencies to reduce government spending by 20%, Governor Mike DeWine has shown great leadership by making the difficult decision to temporarily reduce state government spending during the COVID-19 crisis. Legislators need to do a cost-benefit analysis of each line of the state budget, ensuring that our basic needs are met and our tax dollars are being spent wisely.

**Question 2:** As an immigrant, I know how important it is to ensure everyone has equal opportunities so they can live their own version of the American Dream. I will fight tax increases on families, continue to work with small businesses to help them regain their footing amidst the pandemic, and reduce regulations that hold us back. As a daughter of a public school, teacher I know our community is blessed with excellent schools and teachers. I will work to ensure all students continue to receive a quality education and work with Governor DeWine to help schools reopen safely. Additionally, I will fight any attempt to defund the police. We can have accountability, transparency, and more training while still appropriately funding our police departments and the officers who work there.

### **BETH LISTON, DEM**

**Email:** beth@bethliston.com

**Website:** www.bethliston.com

**Education:** University of Notre

Dame BS; The Ohio State University MD, PhD and MPH; Yale New Haven Hospital - Internal Medicine and Pediatrics.

**Occupation:** Doctor, State Representative

**Qualifications for Office:** I have been serving people in Ohio for 15 years as a physician, focusing on health and wellness. I am full professor and educator at the Ohio State University with experience helping people solve complex problems. I am an active member of our community where I grew up and live with my husband and two children. I was elected to the Ohio House in 2018 and I am running for re-election.

**Question 1:** Even in tough times, we must continue to invest in the people of Ohio. Critical programs that impact health and public education should not be cut. In addition, support for small businesses and infrastructure projects that create jobs and decrease unemployment will help Ohio recover.

**Question 2:** My top priority is to fight for the health and wellness of all Ohioans. During my first term, I sponsored bills to cut the cost of life-saving medicines and to investigate drug price fixing. I voted for new funding to fight the opioid crisis. I co-sponsored bills to expand addiction treatment, and I hosted events on vaping, teen mental health, and other healthcare issues. I wrote legislation to expand telehealth services. I've also helped fight coronavirus, by voting for emergency aid, checking in on seniors in my district, and treating patients hospitalized with coronavirus. I also know that health means more than just healthcare - it means investing in public education, ensuring economic growth, and protecting public safety, all of which I will continue to tackle next term.

### **22nd District**

(Uncontested Race)

### **DAVID LELAND, DEM**

**Email:** info@friendsofdavidleland.com

**Website:** www.friendsofdavidleland.com

**Occupation:** Attorney/State Legislator

**Education:** Columbus North High School; The Ohio State University; Capital University Law School  
**Qualifications for Office:** Attorney, Carpenter Lipps & Leland, Ranking member Ohio House Criminal Justice Committee, member Task force on Conviction Integrity and Post-conviction Review; Legislator of the Year, Ohio Public Transit Association.

**Question 1:** We don't have a clear

picture of the Budget impact of COVID-19. But clearly Budget items that protect the health and safety of Ohioans should be a top priority. We should also make sure our public schools have the resources they need to educate our children in a safe manner. We should also provide temporary assistance to those who need help with Housing, unemployment and food insecurity. In addition to the Budget, Ohio also has \$2.7 billion in the rainy day fund as well as \$800 million from the Federal Government on hand. We should not hesitate to use these funds to help people who are in a bad situation through no fault of their own.

**Question 2:** Basically two top priorities: 1) To eliminate systemic racism from our Criminal Justice system so that all involved are treated fairly. 2) To secure the future by promoting a thriving green energy economy in Ohio.

### **23rd District**

(Vote for no more than one)

### **NANCY DAY-ACHAUER, DEM**

**Email:** nancy@nancy4ohio.com

**Website:** www.Nancy4Ohio.com

**Education:** Bachelor of Science Business Management, Master of Divinity

**Occupation:** Clergy/Community Advocate

**Qualifications for Office:** Over twenty years experience in business management, six years experience as Westland Area Commissioner, seven years experience as community advocate and grassroots organizer partnering with local government and non-profit organizations.

**Question 1:** I anticipate the reduced 2020 budget becoming the ceiling for 2021 spending. If more budget cuts are necessary then state elected officials should take a pay cut instead of expecting others to shoulder the entire burden. We should use budget reserves, unspent surpluses and federal funds to offset budget cuts that will otherwise result in a worsening recession and increased hardship for struggling Ohioans. Programs that have surpluses and those that do not contribute to the common good should have their budget reduced. We must also evaluate shifting funding in ways that can result in improved outcomes leading to cost savings. For example, increased funding for treatment courts results in savings to Corrections because fewer people are incarcerated.

**Question 2:** Jobs that can support a family. For many Ohioans, wages are failing to keep up with the cost of living. Too often, people

are forced to work multiple jobs and are still not able to make ends meet. I believe an honest day's work should earn a living wage. That's why I support unions for working people, raising the minimum wage, eliminating the benefits cliff, a greater focus on skilled trades, and paid family leave. Ohio needs to be a place where young adults want to stay after completing college, where people can afford to raise their family, and where businesses want to locate - this can only be achieved when workforce housing is affordable and jobs pay a living wage.

### **Laura Lanese, REP**

**Email:** laura@lanese.net

**Website:** www.laneseforohio.com

**Education:** Master of Laws: Georgetown University with Distinction, Int'l and National Security Law; Juris Doctor: The Ohio State University with Honors; Bachelor of Arts: Miami University, Political Science

**Occupation:** State Representative

**Qualifications for Office:** Two Term State Rep.; Asst Majority Whip.; Served: Vice Chair of Criminal Justice, Civil Justice and Veterans Committees.; Former council member.; Former Justice Dept Attorney.; Veteran of Ohio Air Guard and US Army Reserve.; COVID Economic Recovery Task Force.; Domestic Violence Legislator of Year.; Humane Society Legislator of Year.; Endorsed: OH Eviron'l Council, OH Chamber, NFIB, CPA, Farm Bureau, OSMA

**Question 1:** The pandemic situation is very fluid, and we don't know yet the funding that the federal government will be providing. First, we need to look at our medical care needs. Currently our health care providers are in good shape, but that could change. I am in regular contact with the hospitals in my district to make sure that they have everything they need. Next, we need to look at housing and food. Are people getting enough to eat and are they secure in their housing. Finally, we need to look at our economy. How are our small businesses doing? I served on the House Economic Recovery Task Force and am in continuous contact with our small businesses to make sure they're able to reopen, stay open, and help grow our economy. Our first step has been to freeze funding across the state.

**Question 2:** Handling the many challenges of the pandemic from the economic shutdown to getting our community access to medical resources they need in a fiscally practical way. This year, 2020, has created a legacy of challenges as we head into our next budget cycle. For the past four years while I have been in office, the priority has been

the opioid crisis. Because of smart budgeting, we were able to increase spending on the drug crisis, schools, added \$575 million for wraparound services for students in need of mental health care and other challenges. At the same time, we reduced taxes. We have the \$ to fix our roads and bridges. We are fortunate that because of our budget priorities we were able to fund those programs and still save \$2.7bn in our rainy-day fund. Many states have not been that wise.

### **24th District**

(Vote for no more than one)

### **PAT MANLEY, REP**

Candidate did not respond.

### **ALLISON RUSSO, DEM**

**Email:** info@allisonrusso.com

**Website:** www.allisonrusso.com

**Education:** The George Washington University, DrPH, Health Policy; University of Alabama at Birmingham, MPH summa cum laude, Epidemiology; Mississippi University for Women, BS cum laude, Microbiology

**Occupation:** Consultant/State Legislator

**Qualifications for Office:** As the current State Representative, I serve on five House committees, a joint committee, and co-chair the bipartisan Legislative Children's Caucus. I've also spent more than 20 years advising senior policymakers on affordable and accessible health care for seniors, families, and veterans. As a community volunteer, mother, and elected official, I am deeply committed to the people in this district.

**Question 1:** In the next budget, we must ensure sufficient funds are in place at the state and local levels to contain the virus, deliver health and human services, and maintain important functions like education, the courts, clean water, and public safety. Smartly controlling this pandemic, using the budget stabilization fund, pushing for additional federal aid and Medicaid match funding, and tapping unconventional resources across state agencies will prevent draconian budget cuts and allow Ohio to emerge stronger and more resilient.

**Question 2:** My top priority will be ensuring the health and well-being of Ohio's children are protected in our state budget and policies. This means addressing school funding gaps that perpetuate income and racial inequities and that leave our school districts struggling to pay for the safety measures and technology resources necessary to operate during COVID-19. It also

means more public investment in early childhood learning and care so that our most vulnerable kids are ready for kindergarten and their parents can fully participate in the workforce. This also requires us to ensure families, small businesses, and local governments are supported as they recover from this economic crisis, so that Ohio's children can thrive in healthy homes and communities.

### 25th District

(Vote for no more than one)

#### JIM BURGESS, REP

Candidate did not respond.

#### DONTAVIUS JARRELLS, DEM

**Email:** dontavius@jarrellsforohio.us

**Website:** jarrellsforohio.us

**Education:** Dontavius received a Bachelor of Arts from Hiram College in 2010 with a major in Political Science and minor in Economics. He earned the Martin Luther King Service Award and President's Award.

**Occupation:** Chief Communications Officer, Franklin County Treasurer's Office

**Qualifications for Office:** Dontavius currently serves as the Chief of Communications at the Franklin County Treasurer's Office, where he established and maintained effecting and cooperative relationships with local and municipal government officials, the community public interest groups, and the media. He has previously worked as the Director of Programs for the Ohio Association for County Behavioral Health Authorities.

**Question 1:** Government programs that address food insecurity, provide job training services, and housing must remain fully funded. I believe that programs that bailing out corporations should be cut.

**Question 2:** One of the biggest issues facing HD 25 is affordable housing. From the increasing property taxes to over 6 people-a-day being evicted from their homes (before COVID-19), these are serious issues that require legislative and policy changes. As Representative, I will advocate for a Circuit Breaker Tax Credit, which will provide targeted tax breaks to low-income and elderly taxpayers when property taxes exceed some percentage of their incomes above which they are deemed to be too costly. For these populations, circuit breakers are more inclusive, because they provide relief to all taxpayers for whom property taxes are most burdensome, and more exclusive, because they limit eligibility to taxpayers for whom "ability to pay" is clearly an issue.

### 26th District (Uncontested Race)

#### ERICA CRAWLEY, DEM

**Email:** erica@crawleyforohio.com

**Website:** www.crawleyforohio.com

**Education:** Juris Doctor, Capital University Law School, Master of Public Administration, Walden University, Bachelor of Arts in Criminology, Cleveland State University

**Occupation:** State Representative

**Qualifications for Office:** U.S.

Navy Veteran, committed public/community servant with a record of accomplishments and awards such as the Navy & Marine Corps. Achievement Medal and National Defense Service Medal. I have worked with Head Start/Early Head Start programs working with children and families. Additionally, I have advocated on behalf of children and families with the Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children.

**Question 1:** Education, social services and support to small businesses should remain fully funded at the very minimum. The Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections budget should be cut. If we considered reducing (initially) our overcrowded prison population by releasing most of the 15,000 inmates that are low-level non-violent offenders, and connect them with services in their community, that alone initially could be several millions of dollars as a cost-savings to the state.

**Question 2:** I have multiple competing top priorities as there are many things that need to be addressed in the 26th District. However, choosing one, my priority would be to reduce the Black maternal and infant mortality rate in Ohio. There is a significant problem in Ohio as it relates to pregnancy-related to deaths in Ohio where 56% of those deaths were deemed to be preventable. Black women made up only 17% of the births, however, they made up 34% of the deaths- dying at a rate almost 2.5 times that of white women. Ohio continues to have one of the worst infant mortality rates in the country as it relates to Black infants. In Ohio, Black infants are still dying at 2.5 to 3 times the rate of white infants. Studies continue to show that the biggest contributing factor for these deaths is racism.

### COUNTY OFFICE CANDIDATES

**Questions for all County Office Candidates:**

1. In light of the significant budget changes caused by COVID-19, what government programs (that this office has influence on) do you believe should remain fully funded or have their budget increased? Which programs should be cut or have their budget reduced?

2. What is your top priority if elected?

### Franklin County Clerk (Vote for no more than one)

#### JARROD GOLDEN, REP

**Email:** goldenforclerk.fc@gmail.com

**Website:** golden4clerk.org

**Occupation:** Sales and Customer Service

**Question 1:** In the Clerks office, there are several projects and services that cannot be reduced in funding, due to the nature of the needs of the courts and citizens. Among those are services that deal directly with court orders, warrants, custody, and monies that may be owed. Another would be title services that are administered by the Office. In regard to the reducing of expenditures of programs or projects, I believe the use of Millions of dollars for, yet another new E-File System should be abandoned. Over the past few years, a new E-File System has been implemented and this system is reportedly full of issues. I would rather use less funding to work with our partners in the Judiciary and their staffs to troubleshoot the existing system and fix it piece at time.

**Question 2:** My top priority is to audit all court orders issued to the office and ensure each is executed to the highest standard of professionalism. It is my prerogative to establish a culture of Integrity, Professionalism, and Transparency in the Clerk's office. This includes executing judicial orders accurately and expediently. We must make this office a true service to the Judiciary and the Citizens of Franklin County.

#### MARYELLEN O'SHAUGHNESSY, DEM

**Email:** jhorn@triumphcomm.com

**Website:** www.votemaryellen.com

**Occupation:** Franklin County Clerk of Court

**Question 1:** Our office is currently in budget discussions with the Franklin County fiscal office. At this point we expect to be lean on everything but essential services. Since roughly 90 percent of our budget goes to salaries and benefits for my 200 deputies, a large budget reduction could possibly impact our document turnaround time. We do not expect to face a staff reduction. We also will continue to look for ways to apply new technologies which can increase

our ability to provide timely and accurate services. This includes continuing to fund the ongoing multi-year project of replacing our aging case management system with a more nimble and up-to-date system, which I consider essential to continue our excellent services.

**Question 2:** My office is in the midst of two important initiatives that I hope to see accomplished. The first is the multi-year replacement of the old case management system with a new system. The second is the application of the facilities master plan and an upgrade and possibly a move of my Domestic and Juvenile division. I have also been advocating for an Auto Title office in the Courthouse complex, as well as on-site childcare.

### Franklin County Commissioner, 1/2/21 (Vote for no more than one)

#### KEVIN BOYCE, DEM

**Email:** Kevinboyce2012@gmail.com

**Website:** kevinboyce.com

**Occupation:** Investment Banker

**Question 1:** Through the strong and prudent management of Franklin County finances, we have been able to maintain programs and maintain a AAA Bond rating. It is critical to be responsible and avoid arbitrarily making cuts when we do not have a full picture of the financial situation due to COVID. For areas that need additional funding, the county handles many safety net programs. It is important that we maintain or increase funding for those programs that assist families in need. However, we need to consider all areas that we fund and the necessary services that Franklin County provides.

**Question 2:** The greatest challenge that Central Ohio is facing is managing our growth. Key issues will be reducing poverty & racism, addressing public transportation issues, workforce housing, and affordable housing.

#### ANDREW C. LITTLER, REP

Candidate did not respond.

### Franklin County Commissioner, 1/3/21 (Vote for no more than one)

#### LUIS GIL, REP

Candidate did not respond.

#### JOHN O'GRADY, DEM

1480 Dublin Road, Columbus, OH 43215

**Email:** johnogrady50@gmail.com

**Website:** Johnogrady.us

**Occupation:** Franklin County Commissioner

**Question 1:** In the 12 years that

I've been a County Commissioner, Franklin County has risen as a leader across the country for our innovative programs, management, and budget, and we have won many budgeting and management awards from our National Association of Counties. Because of my leadership, and that of my fellow Commissioners we have a sound budget and will not need to make any significant cuts due to the COVID pandemic this year despite significant decreases in revenue. We pride ourselves on budgeting for the future and for precisely this sort of situation-- so that we won't have to make the difficult choice to cut programs our residents rely on at the time they're needed most.

**Question 2:** Over the last two years the Board of Commissioners has taken an in depth look at the causes and solutions to poverty in Franklin County. Through that process we developed the Rise Together Blueprint to Reduce Poverty and are currently setting up a nonprofit innovation center that will carry this work forward. While we may be preparing to enter a new phase in our Rise Together work, there is still much to do to ensure that work is successful. If re-elected, I will renew my focus on our work there, particularly in the areas of racism and affordable housing strategy. These two issues linger through all areas of poverty, and we must be strategic about the best ways to improve affordable housing options and reduce the role racism plays throughout our community and when it comes to poverty

### Franklin County Coroner (Uncontested Race)

#### ANAHI ORTIZ, DEM

Candidate did not respond.

### Franklin County Engineer (Uncontested Race)

#### CORNELL R. ROBERTSON, REP

**Email:** CornellRobertson4Engineer@gmail.com

**Website:** Franklin County

**Occupation:** Engineer

**Question 1:** The two main sources of revenue for the Franklin County Engineer's Office are motor vehicle registration fees (\$30M/year) and gas tax (\$4M/year). I believe these revenue streams should remain fully funded so we can continue to maintain Franklin County's roadway infrastructure that includes: 800 lane miles of roads, 359 bridges, and 185 drainage culverts. Good roadway infrastructure drives the economic engine of our region, promotes good development, and is

critically essential for public health, safety, and welfare.

**Question 2:** If elected, my top priority is to provide for safe and efficient movement of people and goods from place to place by designing, building, and maintaining Franklin County's roads, bridges, and infrastructure for multiple modes of transportation by leading an agency of action, innovation, and collaboration. We are blessed at the Franklin County Engineer's Office with an extremely strong team of employees who share the same vision for the future and passion for public service to our residents, citizens, constituents, those who work in Franklin County but live elsewhere, and those just traveling through Franklin County.

### Franklin County Prosecutor (Vote for no more than one)

#### RON O'BRIEN, REP

**Email:** prosonob@gmail.com

**Website:** www.ronobrien.com

**Occupation:** Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney

**Question 1:** The Franklin County commissioners have requested a 2.5 percent budget cut for 2021. Ninety-six percent of the county prosecutor's budget is personnel costs, so any budget reductions will be accomplished through attrition. Budget cuts should not be made in the successful Franklin County Drug Court, which provides help and treatment to the drug-addicted, instead of criminalizing addiction. We must also avoid cutting the budgets of our Diversion Unit, which allows some non-violent first-time offenders to be diverted from prosecution, and our specialized Gun, Gang or Special Victims Units.

**Question 2:** My top priorities are, and will continue to be, prosecuting violent crimes that are fueled by guns, gangs, and drugs, and continuing to battle the fatal drug overdose problem caused by fentanyl. Along with the U.S. Attorney, my office created a priority offender program to reduce homicides and shootings in Franklin County, and we will continue this program if re-elected.

#### GARY TYACK, DEM

**Email:** tyackforprosecutor@gmail.com

**Website:** www.tyackforprosecutor.com

**Occupation:** Retired Judge

**Question 1:** I firmly believe additional funding is needed to expand drug courts. Drug courts are a critical diversion program designed to decriminalize addiction and provide the opportunity for treatment in lieu of incarceration. The same is true of diversion

programs for our youth. We have seen a strong uptick in violence amongst our young people this year, which we can say is at least partially tied to the pandemic and lack of employment, schools going virtual, and general societal stress. Our young people have been traumatized by these situations. By creating diversion programs specifically geared toward our youth that would steer them to mental health resource, trauma counseling, tutoring assistance, and more, we will have a stronger opportunity to end the school to prison pipeline.

**Question 2:** Criminal justice reform and combating public corruption are tied for my top priorities.

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### Franklin County Recorder (Uncontested Race)

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**DANNY O'CONNOR, DEM**  
Candidate did not respond.

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### Franklin County Sherriff (Uncontested Race)

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**DALLAS BALDWIN, DEM**  
Candidate did not respond.

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### Franklin County Treasurer (Vote for no more than one)

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**BRANDON CROSS, REP**

**Email:** cross4franklincotreasurer@gmail.com

**Website:** <https://www.cross4treasurer.com/>

**Occupation:** Strategy Coordinator  
**Question 1:** While I have some thoughts on where budget changes may occur, due to the erratic year that we have had so far and the fact that my time in office will not start until late in 2021. The prudent course of action will be to wait until I am in office and evaluate the current state of Franklin County and the Treasurer's Office. The one thing that I can say regardless of the future state of our county, I will seek to maximum the return on our portfolio.

**Question 2:** My top priority will be to review the entire structure of the Treasurer's office from top to bottom. I would like to use a process improvement methodology to see where we can get more efficient and where we can eliminate waste. Part of that process would involve hiring a director of Information Technology (if not already in place by next year) and revamping the website. While going door to door and speaking to the people of Franklin County. One of the things I kept hearing people say was how the website was missing information they found

important. If we can make things easier on the voter, then less calls will come in. This will lead to my office being able to focus on other issues for the people of Franklin County.

**CHERYL BROOKS SULLIVAN, DEM**  
**Email:** Cheryl4Treasurer@gmail.com

**Website:** <https://www.cheryl4treasurer.com/>

**Occupation:** Franklin County Treasurer

**Question 1:** For the Treasurer's office, there are no programs that we offer or have an influence over that require funding or a budget. As a result, there are no programs that would need to be cut. All of the programs that we have to assist residents do not burden the county budget, and as a result, cuts are not something that needs to be addressed.

**Question 2:** My top priority if re-elected is to continue assisting all of our taxpayers through rebuilding and restabilizing. The Treasurer's office assists numerous individuals that are in need as a result of many factors, whether that be unemployment or debt. My office works to ensure that the taxes and fees paid by our residents are not a financial burden or barrier to growth. Our programs regarding payment assistance help to allow all of our residents to thrive.

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES

### Questions for all State Board of Education Candidates

1. What would be your top priority if elected to the State Board of Education?
2. Why are you particularly qualified for this office?

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### State Board of Education 6th District (Vote for no more than one)

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**ANTOINETTE MIRANDA**

**Email:** halsellmiranda@gmail.com

**Website:** [www.antonetteforeducation.com](http://www.antonetteforeducation.com)

**Occupation:** Department Chair and Professor

**Question 1:** After having served on the board for one term, I will continue to be an advocate for all students in the State of Ohio. My priorities--First, fighting for equitable funding across districts in the state of Ohio that is not reliant on property taxes. Second, COVID-19 has laid bare the inequities in school districts which serve as barriers and further the achievement gap between wealthy

and poor districts. I will work to find ways to reduce the inequities that exist in Ohio Schools. Third, I will continue to support Ohio's Strategic Plan for Ohio Schools, "Each Child, Our Future" which addresses the whole child. And finally, I will continue to advocate for services to address non-academic barriers such as mental health and social and emotional learning.

**Question 2:** I'm qualified as I currently serve on the State Board of Education and have been active on several committees and currently chair the Continuous Improvement Committee. I have over 37 years in public education, with 32 of those being at The Ohio State University in the College of Education and Human Ecology as a Professor of School Psychology. I have partnered with districts in various capacities and understand the challenges and promises that teachers, administrators, students, and parents experience. I have consulted with districts on how to implement academic and behavioral interventions as well as how to make system changes to reduce the achievement gap. I practiced as a school psychologist in public schools (urban, suburban and rural) for five years before becoming a professor.

**ALICED. NICKS**

**Email:** friendsofalicenicks@gmail.com

**Website:** [www.friendsofalicenicks.com](http://www.friendsofalicenicks.com)

**Occupation:**

**Question 1:** Education has become too focused on non-academic issues and the joy of learning has been replaced with the drudgery of test-taking. I intend to work with fellow board members, legislators, local school boards, administrators, teachers, and parents to help restore an academic focus and limit testing.

**Question 2:** I have served children from birth through college in various rolls including teacher, owner/administrator of a childcare corporation, developmental disabilities board member, court appointed special advocate for a juvenile court system, licensed clinical counselor, and college professor. Having recently retired, now is the perfect time to invest more deeply in the education of all Ohio children.

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### State Board of Education 9th District (Vote for no more than one)

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**RON HOOD**

Candidate did not respond.

**MICHELLE NEWMAN**

**Email:** michelle@michelleforohio.com

**Website:** [www.michelleforohio.com](http://www.michelleforohio.com)  
**Occupation:** Marketing Professional and Nonprofit Director

**Question 1:** Our most pressing issue is how to best support our teachers and administrators as they work to provide the best educational experience possible for our students while keeping everyone healthy through the time of COVID. Our schools must have access to the necessary technological resources to teach, as well as basic necessities like cleaning supplies and PPE. In addition, time is of the essence to get Ohio on board with reviewing curriculum, hiring practices, and more to look for bias and make adjustments to provide an equal experience for all of our students. Last, we must continue to work with legislators to advise new funding mechanisms for our public schools. The continued over reliance on property tax to fund schools must end.

**Question 2:** I am a small business owner, communications professional, a life long learner, genuinely enjoy getting to know all types of people, and I am always looking for ways to learn and develop new relationships. SBOE members should be forward thinking, nimble, and willing to evaluate how policy decisions will affect Ohio's schools. They should be on top of current education trends to ensure that Ohio's public schools are on the forefront, not lagging behind. SBOE members must pledge to always be learning and adapting to best serve our communities. I feel I represent all these values and would be an excellent addition to the board. I truly care about our schools and ensuring we are providing the best educational experience we can provide as a state.

## JUSTICE FOR THE OHIO SUPREME COURT

### Questions for all Judicial Candidates

1. List your judicial experience (court and years)
2. What about your non-judicial experience qualifies you to be a judge?
3. Why are you running for this particular seat?

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### Justice, FTC 1-1-21

(Vote for no more than one)

**SHARON L. KENNEDY**

**Email:** kennedy4justice2@gmail.com

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

**Occupation:** Ohio Supreme Court

Justice

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

**Work Experience:** Justice, Supreme Court of Ohio, 2012-Present; Administrative Judge/Judge, Butler County Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations Division, 1999-2012; Attorney at Law, General Practice, 1991-1998; Magistrate & Warrant Officer, Butler County Area Courts, 1995-1998; Warrant & Compliance Officer, Butler County Juvenile Court, 1996-1997; Special Counsel, Ohio Attorney General Betty D. Montgomery, 1995-1998; Disciplinary Counsel, Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 38, 1991-1998; Director, Victim/Witness Division, Butler County Court of Common Pleas, 1989-1991; Law Clerk for the Honorable Matthew J. Crehan, Judge, Butler County Court of Common Pleas, 1989-1991; Police Officer, Hamilton Police Department, 1985-1989

**Bar Association Rating:**

**Question 1:** Justice, Supreme Court of Ohio, 2012-Present; Administrative Judge/Judge, Butler County Court of Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations Division, 1999-2012

**Question 2:** My non-judicial experience informs my judicial experience and I draw upon that experience everyday as a justice at the Supreme Court of Ohio. I began my career in the justice system as a police officer in the City of Hamilton enforcing the law and keeping the peace. I left law enforcement to attend law school and served as a law clerk in the Court of Common Pleas, General Division for Judge Matthew J. Crehan drafting memos and opinions for motions to dismiss and motions for summary judgment. Serving as a solo practitioner, I practiced law in a wide-array of areas including, but not limited to, criminal, domestic relations, probate, and juvenile in both the trial courts of Butler County and the Twelfth District Court of Appeals. During that time I also served as Special Counsel for Attorney General, Betty D. Montgomery and a part-time Magistrate in the Butler County Area Courts hearing civil cases. In 2019 the docket of the Ohio Supreme Court of Ohio included the following case types: 48.8% criminal; 21.8% miscellaneous; 17.5% civil; 7% practice of law; 4.9% domestic relations, juvenile, and probate.

**Question 3:** I am seeking re-election to the Ohio Supreme Court to continue my service to the people of Ohio - applying the law equally - in a fair and impartial manner providing a definitive statement of

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

**JOHN P. O'DONNELL**

**Email:** judgejohnpodonnellforjustice@gmail.com

**Website:** [odonnellforjustice.com](http://odonnellforjustice.com)

**Occupation:** Judge, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, General Division

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

**Work Experience:** Legal work experience: Civil trial attorney 1993-2002 and 2005-2007; Judge, 2002-2005 and 2007-present.

**Bar Association Ratings:** All 2020: Recommended, Ohio State Bar Association; Excellent, Cuyahoga Metropolitan Bar Association; Excellent, Asian American Bar Association of Ohio; Excellent, Cuyahoga Criminal Defense Lawyers Association; Good, Norman S. Minor Bar Association

**Question 1:** I have been a judge for over 16 years. I have presided over hundreds of jury trials, both criminal and civil, and scores of bench trials. I have handled death penalty cases. I was selected by the Chief Justice of The Ohio Supreme Court to be one of only eight judges in Ohio to preside over a commercial docket dedicated to the swift and just resolution of business disputes. I have presided over a criminal mental health docket specializing in the issues arising in the adjudication and disposition of cases where a defendant has a serious mental illness with a psychotic feature. I have a reputation for political independence, a necessity for any good judge.

**Question 2:** I was a civil trial attorney who was in court almost every working day for approximately 10 years.

**Question 3:** The Ohio Supreme Court decides issues affecting everyone on a wide variety of subjects: constitutional law; education; collective bargaining;

employer/employee rights; civil rights; utility rates; criminal law; commerce; legislative districting and others. I want to bring to these issues an independent perspective, informed by practical experience and the law, to decide these cases for the common good of all Ohioans.

**Justice, FTC 1-2-21**  
(Vote for no more than one)

**JENNIFER BRUNNER**

**Email:** judgejenniferbrunner@gmail.com

**Website:** http://www.jenniferbrunner.com

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

**Occupation:** Judge, Ohio Tenth District Court of Appeals

**Work Experience:** Court of Appeals Judge since 2014; 17 years private law practice, during period of 1987 through 2014 when not in elected public service (founded what was initially home-based law firm in 1988 with 3 small children at home); USAID Rule of Law Expert for 4 engagements in Republic of Serbia on Judicial Reform and Government Accountability (anti-corruption) and 1 engagement in Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, all during period of 2012-2015; International Election Observer in Arab Republic of Egypt for 3 engagements in 2014-2015; Secretary of State of Ohio 2007-2011 (first female elected); Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge 2000-2005; Ohio Secretary of State's office deputy director and legal counsel 1983-1987; Ohio Senate legislative aide and committee secretary 1978-1981, Member of 5 state/local boards: Ohio Student Loan Commission early 1990's, Franklin County Board of Elections 1997; Ohio Cultural Facilities Commission 2011-2012; Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marriage & Family Therapist Board 2012-2014; Central Ohio Transit Authority

**Bar Ratings:** 2002 Highly Recommended - 2014 Highly Recommended

**Question 1:** Judge, Tenth District Court of Appeals, elected 2014, reelected without opposition 2016

- Serve as one of eight judges in jurisdiction of 1.2 million people reviewing cases filed as of right from lower courts at county and municipal level (civil and felony and misdemeanor cases, probate, family law and administrative law), state court of claims cases, administrative law decisions and holding original jurisdiction in government-related cases.
- Participate in three-judge panels

that hear oral arguments on cases fully briefed and prepared for review.

- Manage team of staff attorneys and paralegal in review of records and drafting and review of decisions.
- Confer with other appellate judges on cases presented for oral argument and written decisions following oral arguments.
- Sit as visiting judge on the Ohio Supreme Court and in other courts of appeals.
- Participate in state appellate judge training and information exchange.
- Research and draft decisions on appeals.
- Serve on court Personnel Committee.
- Central Ohio Association for Justice George E. Tyack Judicial Excellence Award for performance as appellate judge, May 2016.
- Judge, Franklin County Common Pleas Court, elected 2000, reelected 2002
- Managed regular docket of at least 500 civil cases and 125 criminal cases at any time pending.
- Eliminated docket backlog from 991 cases to 713 cases in one year.
- Conducted trials including three judge panel death penalty trial, criminal trials for aggravated murder, rape, felonious assault, complicity to felonious assault, robbery, burglary, and theft, and civil trials including age discrimination, premises liability (slip and fall), auto accident and medical malpractice.
- Implemented procedures for jurors to ask questions in trials; affirmed by Ohio Supreme Court with statewide procedures modeled after those challenged and affirmed.
- Working within court and with community mental health and substance abuse service providers, established and presided over the TIES (Treatment is Essential to Success) Program, a felony drug court specialized docket, providing for intensive probation of persons whose substance abuse or substance abuse co-occurring with mental illness has contributed to their commission of nonviolent felonies; this specialized docket is still in operation today.
- Supervised 45 probationers in TIES program and supervised activities of TIES Program coordinator, while maintaining regular docket.
- Collaborated with TIES program service providers across disciplines, including assisting with cross-training for better cooperation; advocate of collaboration for best planning, execution and results, including acceptance by affected populations.
- Presided over cases involving administrative appeals of state

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agency decisions, including appeals of ballot issue challenges.

- Served on following court committees: Court Personnel Committee, Court Technology Committee, New Judges Committee, Grants Review Committee, Assigned Counsel for Indigent Defendants Committee.
- Taught probation officers of the court and lawyers involved with the Ohio State Bar Foundation curriculum on poverty and working with people in poverty to help them succeed.
- Adjunct professor for graduate law enforcement program for Tiffin University, a private Ohio University, teaching law and ethics for law enforcement officers and for undergraduate law enforcement program, constitutional law for law enforcement

**Question 2:** My 17 years private practice experience with people from all walks of life has helped me better understand how the law affects people, in a wide variety of life situations. To be a lawyer is a calling to serve society and to uphold and protect the rule of law. I have worked for clients ranging from economically disadvantaged single mothers to one who was running for president (Jerry Brown in 1992). My private law practice experience includes trial and appellate work for clients in common pleas courts in Franklin, Cuyahoga, Licking, Fairfield, Carroll, Mahoning and Hamilton Counties; in appellate courts in the Tenth, Third, Eighth, Fifth, First, Second and Sixth District Courts of Appeals; the Ohio Supreme Court; United States District Courts (Northern and Southern Districts of Ohio); Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals; and am admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. I have represented clients in administrative proceedings before numerous state and local boards, served as a special prosecutor for election fraud and as a hearing officer for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. In 2011, I drafted a statewide referendum petition for a coalition of voting rights activists, labor organizations, state and local political party organizations and faith-based and other nonprofit organizations who gathered more than 400,000 petition signatures to place voting rights referendum on statewide ballot; in 2012-2013 I developed a multi-state and federal executive agency government affairs practice focused on matters before the FCC and state public utilities commissions relating to low income telephone government programs. I started my own law firm from the corner of my bedroom when our children were 7, 4 and 2, growing it to 32 people after ten years. Other experience

includes serving as general counsel for a computer firm and a trade association, serving as campaign finance counsel for numerous state and local labor unions, corporations, national and state associations, candidates, caucuses and political action committees on state and federal election law, and representing neighborhood groups and developers on zoning, referendum and initiative election issues. Past experience also includes representing judges and judicial candidates before the Supreme Court concerning compliance with the Code of Judicial Conduct. Hold ex officio in drafting state legislation and administrative rules in areas of election law, local option elections, campaign finance, and ethics laws. Served as administrative partner of law firm.

**Question 3:** I love the law, I love Ohio and I enjoy helping people. I am privileged, having traveled to every county in this state when I served as Secretary of State, to have worked with Ohio's 88 county boards of elections as we together served Ohioans. I chose to run for the Ohio Supreme Court for three reasons: First, I want to be a part of a court that ensures that the first decision interpreting the state constitution's new provisions for fair districts for Congress and the Ohio General Assembly, when challenged — and they will be — is fair and according to state constitutional requirements. As Secretary of State, my office sponsored a public contest to draw districts to show we could end gerrymandering. We used a formula that served as a basis for developing the state constitution's formula for fair districts. We proved it could be done. Nothing is more basic to the health of Ohio's democracy than fair districts, and I want to participate in any review of that process occurring after the 2020 census. I want to use my experience to the benefit of the court and the people of the State of Ohio. Second, there are important issues such as when a police officer can make an individual get out of their car, under what circumstances criminal records can be expunged, when someone's home can be taken through foreclosure or when is it appropriate for legislative caps on damages (such as rape of a child by a trusted pastor) to be overcome. These issues are just a few that affect everyday people in Ohio, though many citizens often don't realize how much they are affected by just the words of the state's highest court. Third, I have found that when there is a political balance on an appellate court, there is less a tendency to "group think." Better decisions are likely to emerge when they involve

the give-and-take of views and the softening of others through reasoned and respectful discussion and decision making. Currently, the political balance of the state's high court is a state of unbalance with 5 Republicans and 2 Democrats. A 4-3 balance would, in my view, create some of the best decisions possible from the court. I hope to help provide that balance with my election.

#### **JUDI FRENCH**

**Email:** JusticeJudiFrench@gmail.com

**Website:** <http://JusticeJudiFrench.com>; <http://FriendsofFrench.com>

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

**Occupation:** Justice, Ohio Supreme Court

**Work Experience:** Justice, Ohio Supreme Court (2013-present); Judge, Tenth District Court of Appeals (2004-2012); Chief Legal Counsel to the Ohio Governor (2002-2004); Assistant Attorney General/Chief Counsel to the Attorney General of Ohio (1997-2002); Chief Legal Counsel, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (1993-1997); Associate Counsel, Steelcase, Inc. (1993); Associate, Porter Wright Law Firm (1988-1993).

**Bar Ratings:** 2020: "Highly Recommended"

**Question 1:** – Justice, Ohio Supreme Court 2013 – present

– Appointed January 2013; elected November 2014.

– Serve on seven-member court with statewide jurisdiction over all legal matters, including discretionary and non-discretionary appeals, original actions, death-penalty appeals, and disciplinary matters.

– Serve as frequent presenter before high school, college, law school, legal professional, and general public audiences on matters of access to justice, civic education, law, and campaign policy.

– Appointed by United States Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts to serve on the Federal Appellate Rules Committee. Judge, Tenth District Court of Appeals 2004 – 2012

– Appointed October 2004; elected November 2004; re-elected November 2010.

– Served on eight-member court with jurisdiction over civil, criminal, and administrative appeals; authored 800 opinions.

– Served as administrative judge (2007 and 2008) and as presiding judge (2009)

**Question 2:** For more than two decades, I have dedicated my career to public service. Before becoming a judge, I had served as chief legal counsel to the governor,

an assistant attorney general, and a state government lawyer. Those years in public service are critical to my understanding of state laws, my adherence to constitutional limitations, and my commitment to careful and efficient decision making on behalf of all Ohioans. I also have legal experience in the private sector, having worked in a law firm and a large manufacturing corporation. That private experience helps me understand the practical impact of our decisions and appreciate the impact of our judicial rules and procedures. Finally, as the daughter of a schoolteacher, I appreciate my Ohio roots and education, and I am committed to using my voice as a Justice to be a part of civic education in Ohio. I speak frequently to students, educators, and civic organizations. Since taking office, I have traveled to all 88 counties (I am on my fifth time around), and I have met with individuals, organizations, businesses, and local leaders, all in an effort to serve them better. If reelected, I will continue that level and method of service.

**Question 3:** I first aspired to be a justice because it offers interesting, challenging, and meaningful work that serves the public interest. I aspire to be reelected to the office because I want to continue that work, both on and off the bench. As a justice, I am able not only to bring attention to needs within the legal profession, the judiciary, and the public as a whole, but also to advocate for change to meet those needs. In particular, during my next term, I intend to continue the court's work to improve our efficiency and that of all Ohio courts. I also intend to continue my work with the Ohio Access to Justice Foundation and local legal aid organizations to bring more attention, resources, and innovation to the needs of undeserved Ohioans.

## **CANDIDATES FOR OHIO COURT OF APPEALS, 10TH DISTRICT**

**Judge, FTC 2-09-21**

(Vote for no more than one)

#### **MICHAEL C. MENTEL**

**Email:**

**Website:** [www.michaelmental.com](http://www.michaelmental.com)

**Occupation:** Partner, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP

**Education:** J.D. Capital University School of Law

**Work Experience:** Attorney since 1988, concentrating in energy and environmental law.

**Question 1:** N/A

**Question 2:** My 31 years of practice have prepared me to serve on the Tenth District Court of Appeals. In that time, I have acquired the necessary experience and knowledge and have exemplified the necessary temperament to serve on the Court. I am the only candidate for this seat that brings almost 12 years of experience of working with a diverse, deliberative, decision-making body. This is in direct contrast to others who may only have experience of making autonomous decisions. Treating colleagues with collegiality, being courteous and respectful to those whom I served with, as well as those who appeared before me, being decisive, fair and treating all with equality is how I held myself during my three terms as member of the Columbus City Council, and its President, and throughout my career of 31 years. This is what I bring with me if elected to the Court. My practice has encompassed serving as a public defender, as a staff attorney and supervising attorney to the Ohio EPA, as Chief Legal Officer to Ohio's largest solid waste authority, as corporate general counsel, as a three-term elected official, and as an attorney in private practice. Each of these opportunities has allowed me to obtain a level of experience and knowledge that I can bring immediately to the court especially in the areas of energy and environmental law. The role and responsibility of a Court of Appeals judge is to apply the law to the facts of the case being presented to reach a fair and just decision. My knowledge, experience and demonstrated temperament over my 31 plus years of practice will allow me to do just that. Public service is important to me. It is a privilege to serve the community and the people who have put their trust in you. I have been privileged to serve my community as an elected office holder and as a community volunteer. Serving on the Tenth District Court of Appeals would allow me to bring my 31 years of legal experience and community involvement to the people I would serve. I have served as the Chair of The Bishop's Annual Appeal for the 23 county Catholic Diocese of Columbus, raising over six million dollars annually. I actively visited locations in the Diocese (speaking to those who raise the money in their prospective parishes, visiting the centers and the individuals that benefit from the donations), and led the fundraising efforts for the appeal which helps the homeless, poor and disadvantaged in Franklin County and other counties within the Diocese. In addition, I established a legal clinic at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Center on

the west side of Columbus. The clinic is set up to allow scheduled hours for meeting with attorneys, including myself, who offer pro bono services to the Latino community in central Ohio. I have served as a board member to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Ohio, Homeport, a non-profit, low income housing development organization, the Epilepsy Foundation, and The Columbus Coalition Against Family Violence which works to remove the scourge of family violence in our community. While serving on Columbus City Council I was very active in addressing the crisis of homelessness in our community. I worked with the Community Shelter Board on efforts to address the crisis. I actively visited homeless encampments and sat with these fellow citizens to lend them an ear and give them a voice, and to learn from them what they needed most and made it happen on a local level. I am proud of my efforts. In 2006, I was humbled to receive The Community Shelter Board's Hero Award. After leaving City Council in 2011, I was honored again by The Community Shelter Board to receive The Mel Scottenstein Leadership Award for serving the homeless and working to eradicate homelessness in our community.

**Question 3:** Public service experience complements the legal experience necessary to serve as an appellate judge. I will bring the legal and community service experience as a Judge to the Tenth District Court of Appeals.

#### **COLLEEN O'DONNELL**

**Email:** [CommitteeForJudgeODonnell@gmail.com](mailto:CommitteeForJudgeODonnell@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.CommitteeForJudgeODonnell.com](http://www.CommitteeForJudgeODonnell.com)

**Education:** Miami University, B.A., Case Western Reserve University School of Law, J.D.

**Occupation:** Judge, Franklin County Common Pleas Court

**Work Experience:** Federal Law Clerk; Assistant Attorney General; Private Practice; and seven years as a trial judge

Bar Association Ratings:

Question 1: I have served on the Franklin County Common Pleas Court, General Division since 2013. Question2: Judge Colleen O'Donnell was appointed to the Franklin County Common Pleas Court, General Division in May, 2013, won her retention election to the Common Pleas Court in November 2014, and in 2016, ran unopposed for another full term in the Common Pleas Court. Since taking the bench, Judge O'Donnell has presided over all manner of civil and criminal cases, conducted numerous jury trials, and she works aggressively to resolve cases on her docket. Previously, Judge O'Donnell served

as a law clerk to Judge Sara Lioi of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. She also served in the Ohio Attorney General's Office as an Assistant Attorney General in the Consumer Protection Section. Before joining the Court, Judge O'Donnell was in private practice with the law firm of Carpenter Lipps & Leland LLP, where she concentrated on litigation matters, including products liability and criminal defense. She also accepted court appointments to represent indigent defendants. Judge O'Donnell has experience practicing regulatory and administrative law before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and before the state legislature. Judge O'Donnell is a graduate of Miami University and Case Western Reserve University School of Law. She is also a graduate of The Jo Ann Davidson Ohio Leadership Institute. Judge O'Donnell is a member of the Columbus Bar Association; the Ohio Women's Bar Association; Women Lawyers of Franklin County; the Ohio State Bar Association; and the Thomas J. Moyer American Inn of Court. She serves on the Boards of the Grandview Heights Public Library Foundation, and of Miami University's Pre-Law Advisory Program. She and her family are proud members of The Shamrock Club!

**Question 3:** Judge O'Donnell believes all litigants should be treated fairly and respectfully, and that they deserve timely resolution of their cases. She is keenly aware that the vast majority of cases heard by the Tenth District Court of Appeals will not garner further review, and thus understands the importance of the decisions reached by this Court. Judge O'Donnell approaches every case with an open mind, and is guided by the facts and the law. In serving on the Tenth District Court of Appeals, she will continue to adhere to the rule of law, respect the separation of powers, and serve our community with distinction and integrity.

### Judge, FTC 7-01-21

(vote for no more than 1)

#### **TERRI JAMISON**

**Email:** Jamison4Judge@gmail.com

**Website:** www.VoteJudgeJamison.com

**Education:** J.D. Capital University Law School

**Occupation:** Judge

**Work Experience:** Judge since 2013

**Bar Association Ratings:** 2018 Judicial Screening Committee of Columbus Bar Association – Rated Acceptable

**Question 1:** Franklin County

Domestic Relations – Juvenile Court (7 years and 2 months)

**Question 2:** I owned/managed a multi-line insurance company for 16 years. I hired, trained and retained qualified staff. I negotiated contracts for space, telephones, computers, advertisement for my agency. As a Franklin County Public Defender and in my own practice, Jamison Law Offices, I represented accused persons during criminal and juvenile delinquency investigative proceedings, such as, attended police line-ups and monitored physical examinations, DNA collection, (finger-nail scraping and blood, urine), and DNA testing; interviewed witnesses and gathered facts to prepare the client's defense; drafted motions to set bail hearings and arranged posting of bond to allow the client to be conditionally released pending trial; represented accused persons in all court appearances leading to trial in felony, misdemeanor and traffic cases and domestic cases; drafted motions for pretrial discovery and suppression; appeared at pretrial conferences with judges and prosecutors to find common ground and negotiated deals; conducted voir dire in jury selection, made opening statements, examined witnesses, presented evidence to judges and juries, and made closing arguments at the conclusion of trial; conducted legal research to prepare for court appearances; and filed notice of appeal and drafted appellate briefs and presented oral argument before the appellate court. I was a hearing officer for the State of Ohio Unemployment Compensation Review Commission. I conducted administrative law hearings for both Lower Authority & Higher Authority, including hearings in complex areas of law to determine why an individual was separated from employment; determined whether an individual is entitled to unemployment benefits; explained hearing procedure & advises parties of their rights, administers oath & oversees taking of testimony, secures stipulations, answers questions, interprets policy and procedure, rules on motions and objections, and determines admissibility of evidence; conducted legal research in preparation for hearings (e.g., reviews all materials from the Lower Authority proceedings & Director's files & all additional documents & exhibits, ensures that parties & issues are correctly identified & notified), confers with parties regarding scheduling & continuances, authorizes issuance of subpoenas; and wrote decisions (e.g., reviews evidence, researches legal issues, types or dictates decisions). I oversee a special program called Compass which I

developed in 2014 in Collaborative Partnership with Franklin County Child Support Enforcement Agency. Compass connects Unemployed Child Support Obligor with Community Partners for Education, Resume Building, Job Training and Job Placement which has saved the community hundreds of thousands of dollars when litigants are not incarcerated.

**Question 3:** The Court of Appeals is a court of last resort for most litigants. Fairness, access to justice, protection of the Constitutional Rights of litigants is paramount. Issuing non-biased opinions is critical when your decisions affect every court in the County. Franklin County has a diverse population and the court should reflect the population that it serves not only in race or ethnicity. The Court needs to have judges that bring diverse work and legal experiences to be more able to understand the legal arguments before the Court. The Court of Appeals also handles actions that require governmental agencies to act or to refrain from acting, particularly in elections. Access to fair elections is before this Court regularly. Access to fair elections not only comprises the right to vote but the right of candidates to be on the ballot. Access to the ballot gives the voters the right to select their office holders. Franklin County is the seat of government and the opinions issued can be persuasive to other appellate divisions across the State of Ohio. Franklin County has unique population makeup and as such will have unique questions of law. The Court has the obligation to be a check and balance on the power of the Legislative Branch. The judicial interpretation of the law must be consistent and non-discriminatory. I bring knowledge of the law, and particularly of trial law, as I have had numerous jury trials in various counties. I have used my strong interpersonal skills to effectively oversee complex cases involving adversarial lawyers and powerful emotions among all concerned parties in Domestic and Juvenile Court. I am impartial and use the skill of being able to recognize my own prejudices so that I am not unduly swayed by them. Any person that says they have no implicit bias has bias that is unchecked. My years of experience as a small business owner have assisted me in understanding the division of assets/liabilities and the tax ramifications. I have worked within a corporate structure and understand how dissolution of companies impacts the parties taxes and personal lives. All decisions in Domestic Juvenile Court are written. I bring strong research and writing skills to the Court of

Appeals where decisions should be easily understood even by a lay person. I am the person to give an opportunity to be heard to every litigant that appears before me.

#### **LISA L. SADLER**

**Email:**

**Website:**

**Education:** Juris Doctor from Capital University Law School; Bachelor of Science and Social Welfare from The Ohio State University (graduated cum laude)

**Occupation:** Judge, Tenth District Court of Appeals

**Work Experience:** Judge since 1992 – elected Tenth District Court of Appeals Judge, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas Judge and Franklin County Municipal Court Judge. Served as Assistant Columbus City Prosecutor and Assistant Columbus City Attorney, and served as Deputy Chief Legal Counsel to Governor George V. Voinovich.

Bar Association Rating: The Columbus Bar Association 2020 Performance Poll rated my judicial performance as judge on the Tenth District Court of Appeals at an overall rating of 4.28/5 (average appellate judge rating 3.97/5), earning me the honor of tying for the second highest rating on the Court. I've received the Rating of "Highly Recommended" by the Columbus Bar Association Judicial Screening Committee each time I have appeared before the Committee -'93, '96, '00, '02 & '08. I earned the highest rating of "Highly Recommended" from the 2020 Columbus Bar Association Judicial Screening Committee and am the only candidate in this race to receive this rating.

**Question 1:** • Judge, Tenth District Court of Appeals, July 2003 – Present

• Judge, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, March 1996 – July 2003

• Judge, Franklin County Municipal Court, May 1992 – March 1996

• Appointed by the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court to serve as a Visiting Judge on the Ohio Supreme Court, as well as other Ohio Courts of Appeals 2004 – Present

**Question 2:** My legal career began in the Franklin County Municipal Court as an Assistant Columbus City Prosecutor where I prosecuted traffic and misdemeanor cases, such as OVI and domestic violence. As a prosecutor, I was assigned to various courtrooms and tried both jury and court trials. I had the responsibility of managing a trial docket and reviewing the evidence in each case I was assigned. I interviewed victims, police and civilian witnesses, and engaged in pre-trial preparation and case

negotiations.

I transferred to the Litigation Section of the Civil Division of the Columbus City Attorneys Office where I represented the City of Columbus and its employees in complex litigation in both state and federal court. My responsibilities included conducting trials and appellate work in both state and federal courts. I have argued cases before the Tenth District Court of Appeals and The Ohio Supreme Court. I also conducted arbitrations and served as counsel for the License Section, Department of Public Service. My final legal position before becoming Judge was serving as Deputy Chief Legal Counsel in the Office of the Governor. My responsibilities included management duties over the Office of Chief Legal Counsel which provided research and rendered opinions and guidance on issues in state government as directed by Governor George V. Voinovich. I also coordinated litigation matters involving the Governors Office with the Ohio Attorney Generals Office. I remain active and dedicated to improving the practice of law. I have served on numerous committees in both the Columbus Bar Association as well as the Ohio State Bar Association. Some of my past service includes serving as Co-Chair to both the Ohio Judicial College Bench Bar Retreat and to the OSBA Jury Instruction Committee. I served on the Commission on Rules of Practice and Procedure and the Ohio Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Case Management and Appellate Time Line Guidelines. I am a long-time member of the Columbus Bar Association Admission Committee and have mentored scores of young attorneys. The above depiction of my non-judicial legal experience, including my service to professional legal organizations, showcases my dedication to the legal profession and to public service. My wide-ranging non-judicial experience, combined with my extensive experience as both a trial and appellate judge uniquely qualifies me to continue to serve the citizens of Franklin County as an Appellate Judge on the Tenth District Court of Appeals.

**Question 3:** I am proud to serve Franklin County as Judge on the Tenth District Court of Appeals and am running for re-election. In 2002, the voters of Franklin County elected me to serve them as an appellate judge, and I have served in that capacity since 2003. The Tenth District Court of Appeals hears appeals from all divisions of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, the Franklin County Municipal Court, the Franklin

County Probate Court, and the Ohio Court of Claims, as well as numerous state agencies and licensing boards. The Tenth District Court of Appeals also has original jurisdiction over multiple types of extraordinary writs. Because the Supreme Court of Ohio accepts only limited discretionary appeals from appellate courts throughout the state, the Tenth District Court of Appeals is the court of last resort for the vast majority of cases it decides. Therefore, it is important to have the utmost trust and confidence in appellate judges. I have served Franklin County as a Judge for over 27 years. This experience includes 11 years of judicial experience as a judge presiding over jury trials in both criminal and civil cases, and over 16 years as appellate judge on the Tenth District Court of Appeals ruling on the complex cases described above. During my tenure as appellate judge, I have been appointed by the Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court to hear and decide cases as a Visiting Judge on the Ohio Supreme Court, as well as other appellate courts across the state. My extensive judicial experience, combined with serving as Administrative and Presiding Judge of the Tenth District Court of Appeals, uniquely qualifies me to continue to serve as appellate judge. I have earned a reputation for being fair and impartial, for following the Rule of Law, and for treating all who appear before me with dignity and respect. I have a proven record for efficiently deciding cases and I have earned the respect of those who come before the Court, as demonstrated by the rating of "Highly Recommended" from the Columbus Bar Association Judicial Screening Committee – a rating I have earned each time I have appeared before the Committee. I enjoy serving Franklin County as an appellate judge and take pride in ensuring equal justice to all litigants. If re-elected, I will continue to ensure the fair and efficient administration of justice for all.

### CANDIDATES FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

**Common Pleas Judge,  
General Division, FTC 1-1-21**  
(Vote for no more than one)

#### **CARL AVENI**

**Email:** caveni@cpmlaw.com

**Website:** http://www.CarlAveni.com

**Education:** J.D. Boston University

School of Law, 1996, cum laude, Editor, Boston University Law Review  
**Occupation:** Attorney. Partner in the Litigation Department and Chair of the Ethics Committee, Carlile Patchen & Murphy, LLP

**Work Experience:** Litigation and Trial lawyer for 24 years across Ohio's Courts of Common Pleas, Courts of Appeals, and the Ohio Supreme Court

**Bar Association Ratings:** "Highly Recommended", Columbus Bar Association, Judicial Screening Committee, 2020

**Question 1:** Until now, my 24 year legal career has been devoted primarily to representing clients in litigation before Ohio's Courts of Common Pleas, Courts of Appeals, and the Supreme Court of Ohio. I also have significant experience litigating in the federal court system, as well as before state administrative and regulatory agencies, and through private arbitration.

**Question 2:** A large part of my practice has been representing first and second generation family run businesses in "bet-the-company" litigation. The kinds of disputes where everything is on the line, and a bad outcome might change the trajectory of an entire family for decades. I have sat with my clients around the kitchen table the night before trial, listening to their fears and offering advice, support and counsel. Over the course of two decades, I have seen litigants, witnesses, and their families on some of the most difficult days of their lives. I have seen the toll that our system takes on them, all regardless of outcome. My legal experience has prepared me to serve our community, with the aim of pairing legal scholarship with humility; bringing legal rigor and impartial dispassion, but also a healthy measure of compassion, respect, and, where appropriate, mercy.

**Question 3:** There is no greater calling than public service in support of a fair and free society. And there is no higher duty than to ensure justice for the disenfranchised as much as for the powerful. My legal career has allowed me to help families on the best and worst days of their lives. The simple fact is that the Court of Common Pleas is where Americans intersect most directly with their government, and they rightly expect our judges to match the requisite impartiality, scholarship and trial skills with a sense of basic decency. I believe I have something to offer our community in service of those goals.

#### **JOSH BROWN**

**Email:** josh@joshbrownseq.com

**Website:** www.votebrownforjudge.

com

**Education:** J.D., University of Toledo College of Law

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Work Experience:** Attorney Bar Association Ratings:

**Question 1:** No experience as a judge.

**Question 2:** I have a wealth of legal and leadership experience. I am an Army Combat Veteran, having served in Korea and Operation Iraqi Freedom. I attained the rank of Sergeant, was awarded the Army Achievement Medal twice. Before I became an attorney, I worked with several law firms. I also have experience working as an intern-prosecutor with the Wayne County Prosecutor in Detroit Michigan and as a law clerk. After law school, I served at the Ohio General Assembly as a Senior Legislative Aide. Then I moved to the private sector where I represented hundreds of Ohio's municipalities as Legislative Advocate for the Ohio Municipal League. During this time, I began my private practice, representing clients in complex financial matters. I now work full time as an attorney, representing clients in a wide array of matters, including general litigation, bankruptcy, bankruptcy litigation, and estate planning.

**Question 3:** My experience makes me particularly well-suited for dealing with difficult parties in resolving disputes. In fact, I've built my reputation on this skill set. The parties before the courts, and our community, need someone who is both a great judge and a great leader. I have proven to excel in both areas. After a number of negative stories in the media, the community is looking for new leaders to rebuild faith in the justice system. I will take the lead on communicating with the community and being a leader they can trust and believe in

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### **Common Pleas Judge, General Division, FTC 2-9-21** (Vote for no more than one)

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#### **JENIFER FRENCH**

**Email:** jenfrench55@gmail.com

**Website:** judgejeniferfrench.com

**Education:** The Ohio State University-BA Criminal Justice, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, JD cum laude

**Occupation:** Judge-Common Pleas Court

**Work Experience:** Wayne Thomas and Associates, complex civil litigation attorney Lane Alton, civil litigator

Bar Association Ratings "Highly Recommended" by the Columbus Bar Association Screening Committee in 2020 election; "Highly

Recommended" by the Columbus Bar Association in 2014 election  
**Question 1:** I have been a judge on the Franklin County Common Pleas Court for 5 years.

**Question 2:** I studied criminal law at The Ohio State University for 4 years prior to law school. Following my graduation from law school I practiced in the field of complex civil litigation for a small firm in San Diego. Given the size of the firm, I was almost immediately handling my own cases from start to finish. This helped me to learn the world of civil law very early on in my career. I was taking depositions, representing clients in mediations and trying cases in my first year of practice. Most of the lawyers from other firms that were involved in these cases were much more experienced than I was, so I had to learn quickly. I also was handling cases that involved areas of the law that I had not necessarily studied in law school. Being a judge requires that you be familiar and competent to handle cases in many areas of the law that you may not have been exposed to during your time as a lawyer. This requires a great deal of hard work and you cannot be afraid to ask questions. I had the same experience as a lawyer, so when I became a judge, I knew how to handle it. As a judge in Franklin County, you have to be able to handle both civil and criminal cases. My experience and education positioned me to be knowledgeable in both areas. Finally, as a lawyer handling complex cases that generally involved dozens of lawyers, I had to navigate my way through a multitude of different personalities and skill levels. Judges have to do the same thing when it comes to the parties and the lawyers. I learned diplomacy as a lawyer and I use it every day as a judge.

**Question 3:** I am running to keep my seat on the Franklin County Common Pleas Court because this court provides me with the opportunity, almost every day, to have a positive impact on our community. On this court, we have the ability to change lives, to save lives and to make the world a better place. There is enormous responsibility with this position, because there is enormous power. It is vital to use that power to make positive change and to help people. I do this on a daily basis and it is incredibly rewarding. I take the responsibility of this job very seriously because I know my decisions impact so many aspects of the lives of the people who appear in my courtroom. I strive to work with the lawyers and the litigants to think outside of the box to find solutions, when we can, to the issues in front of us. I will

often bring in the parties and their lawyers to try to work through their disagreements in a civilized, peaceful manner. In criminal cases, I work very hard to put myself in the shoes of both the defendant and the victim in aiding with plea negotiations and when sentencing. I have a very hands on approach because we are not dealing with "cases," we are dealing with people. This court deals with felonies and civil cases where a great deal of money is in dispute, so the stakes are high. I am running to keep my seat so that I can continue to ensure that the playing fields are level and that every person who walks into my courtroom knows that they will be heard and treated fairly.

#### **ANDY MILLER**

**Email:** andymillerforjudge@gmail.com

**Website:** andymillerforjudge.com

**Education:** J.D. from The Ohio State University, 2001; B.B.A. from Ohio University, 1998

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Work Experience:** Assistant City Attorney for the Columbus City Attorney's Office since 2009; Professor of Law at South Texas College of Law in Houston, 2008-09; Professor of Law at Loyola University New Orleans 2007-08; Litigation Attorney at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey (now Squire Patton Boggs) in Columbus, 2003-07; Judicial Clerk to the Honorable George H. King, District Judge on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, 2002-03; Judicial Clerk to the Honorable Reynaldo G. Garza, Senior Circuit Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 2001-02  
**Bar Association Ratings:**

**Question 1:** I have served various judicial officers throughout my legal career and education. In law school (2000), I was a student extern for the Honorable Thomas J. Moyer, Chief Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court. From 2002 to 2003, I was a judicial clerk to the Honorable Reynaldo G. Garza, Senior Circuit Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. From 2003 to 2004, I clerked for the Honorable George H. King, District Judge on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

**Question 2:** My service to judicial officers has shown me the importance of fair, accurate, and complete substantive decisions and of case management itself. My year in California taught me a life's worth of lessons in case management, and I know just how efficiently a trial court can and should run. I have successfully litigated hundreds of cases in my career, and I approach each one as both an advocate for my client and an officer of the court. I know the law, and I know it well.

I learn new concepts quickly, and I have fluency in both procedural and evidentiary rules. I have a tremendous respect for the law and its role in our society, for the courts and their place in our democracy, and for the heavy burden of public service. If elected Judge, I will use this expertise to be fair, impartial, effective, and efficient in serving the people of Franklin County, Ohio.  
**Question 3:** I am seeking judicial office because of my passion for public service and my love for the law itself. Since my very first day of law school, I have been devoted to the law as the practical philosophy by which we achieve and maintain a progressive and civil society. Since 2009, I have been serving the people of the City of Columbus as an Assistant City Attorney for the Columbus City Attorney's Office, and these past ten years have been the most rewarding of my career thus far. I have found an honor in public service, a pride in knowing that my time and energy are being spent for the public good. My pride in public service has grown as strong as my passion for the law itself. Becoming a judge will allow me to grow as both a lawyer and a public servant. If elected, I will strive to do the greatest amount of good I can for the largest number of people.

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### **Common Pleas Judge, General Division, FTC 7-1-21** (Vote for no more than one)

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#### **MICHAEL J. CASSONE**

Candidate did not respond

#### **DAVID YOUNG**

**Email:** judgeyoung2020@gmail.com

**Website:** davidyoungforjudge.com

**Education:** Miami University {Oxford, OH} BS Accounting/ Finance

**Occupation:** Franklin County

Common Pleas Court Judge

**Work Experience:** Judge {2012-pres}; private practice {1986-2012}; Assistant Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney {1991-1994}

**Bar Association Ratings:** CBA 2012 and 2014 Judicial Screening Committee "highly Recommend"

**Question 1:** Franklin County Municipal Court Judge {2012-2015} Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge {2015-pres} For the past 8 years, I have served as a Judge on the Common Pleas Court bench and Municipal Court bench, I have presided over thousands of criminal and civil cases, including jury and bench trials

**Question 2:** Prior to being elected Judge, I operated my own law firm for 17 years principally representing charged with criminal offenses

in Central Ohio. I represented thousands of clients in U.S. District Court, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Franklin County Municipal Court and Franklin County Juvenile Court from initial appearances through jury trial to verdict and on appeal. I have also been counsel for both plaintiffs and defendants in various civil matters including personal injury cases, contract disputes, collection matters, landlord/tenant issues, small claims matters and numerous environmental cases.

**Question 3:** I have worked for, worked with and lived with Franklin County voters for over 30 years. I began my family in Franklin County, I worked as a prosecuting attorney for this County, I dedicated my legal career assisting individuals and companies in Franklin County and have served the citizens of Franklin County as both a Municipal Court and Common Pleas Court Judge. I have assisted thousands of individuals and companies or organizations with their legal matters and continue to do so every day as a Judge. My dedication and hard work ethic have been noticed by my peers as I was voted as Highly Recommended in 2011 and 2014 and more recently in the 2020 OCBA performance poll rating of 4.13. I am seeking another term as a Common Pleas Judge to continue to provide the citizens of Franklin County with my diverse real world, judicial and legal experience. I also believe that commitment to public service is a noble endeavor.

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### **Common Pleas Judge, General Division, FTC 7-2-21** (Vote for no more than one)

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#### **CHRIS BROWN**

**Email:** reelectjudgebrown@gmail.com

**Website:** chrisbrownforohio.com  
**Education:** J.D., Capital University Law School, 2005

**Occupation:** Judge

**Work Experience:** Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, 2005-2011; Managing Attorney, J. Scott Weisman Law Offices, 2012-2015

**Bar Association Ratings:** 4/5, Columbus Bar Association Performance Poll, 2018.

**Question 1:** Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, General Division, 2015-Present.

**Question 2:** As both a prosecutor and defense attorney, I have a unique perspective, having represented both the State of Ohio and individuals charged with felony criminal offenses.

**Question 3:** I am running for re-election because I want to continue representing the community in which I grew up. Having the

experience of being a prosecutor, defense attorney, and now judge, I am uniquely able to view the impact of cases on all parties to a case, in both criminal and civil cases.

#### **MICHAEL CARLETON**

Candidate did not respond.

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#### **Common Pleas Judge, General Division, UTE 1-5-23** (Vote for no more than one)

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#### **SHERYL MUNSON**

##### **Email:**

sherylmunsonforjudge2020@gmail.com

##### **Website:**

www.sherylmunsonforjudge.com

**Education:** J.D. from The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law

**Occupation:** Attorney with the Franklin County Public Defender Office

**Work Experience:** Franklin County Public Defender since 1994  
Bar Association Ratings:

**Question 1:** This is my first judicial campaign.

**Question 2:** I have been a public defender for twenty-six years; fighting to ensure that all people, regardless of their income or demographic background, have full, fair, and quality representation. I have tried many cases and am qualified to represent people in death-penalty cases. I have experience in handling virtually any criminal case that a judge might have to consider. I have strong research and writing skills. I have a firm grasp of the Rules of Evidence. I have experience dealing with people from all walks of life including people who appear in court and with court staff and personnel. I have been serving the people of Franklin County for my entire adult life. I believe, as individuals, our purpose in this life is to serve our communities and all of its members.

**Question 3:** I believe that all people coming before the Court—defendants, victims, and civil litigants—should be treated with fairness and respect by a judge who understands the law and the Rules of Evidence. This is the kind of judge I will be. A fair and competent judiciary is the key to a just society. We are at a turning point within the criminal justice system where we realize that mass incarceration is not the key to deterring or preventing crime. We realize that drug addiction and substance abuse is a social and personal sickness that cannot be cured by extreme punitive measures. I am excited to be running for judge at a point in history where the need for social justice and constructive, rehabilitative sentencing is clear

as it is in the best interest of the individual and society as a whole. Having spent my entire adult life serving people in Franklin County and doing my best to provide justice for all, I am now ready to take the bench in Franklin County and serve an even larger sector of the population and make the most positive impact that I can.

#### **GINA R. RUSSO**

**Email:** gina\_russo@fccourts.org

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

**Education:** J.D., Wake Forest University School of Law

**Occupation:** Judge, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas-General Division

**Work Experience:** 2012-2019 Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Franklin County, Ohio, 2002-2012 Civil Litigator, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP

**Bar Association Ratings:** “Highly Recommended,” Columbus Bar Association Judicial Screening Committee, 2020

**Question 1:** I am currently a Judge on the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas-General Division (March 2019 to present). I preside over a combined civil and criminal docket of approximately 600 cases.

**Question 2:** In addition to my current position as Judge, I have significant experience as a lawyer in both criminal and civil law, which is exceedingly rare among judges. From 2012 to 2019, I worked relentlessly to protect the citizens of Franklin County as an Assistant Prosecutor for Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O’Brien. I quickly advanced from a juvenile prosecutor, to the grand jury unit, and ultimately to the adult-felony trial team, where I tried numerous murder cases and other important, high-level felony cases. I worked extensively with law enforcement agencies to investigate crimes and became proficient in analyzing crime scenes and conducting expert forensic examinations. In doing so, I became particularly skilled in trial work and sharpened my knowledge of the rules of evidence and other court rules. I worked tirelessly to prepare cases for trial and interacted with members of the community daily as victims, witnesses and potential jurors. From 2002 to 2012, I worked as a civil litigator for the law office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP. There, I handled a large variety of complex civil matters involving contracts, torts, product liability, personal injury, workers’ compensation, employment, and construction litigation. I argued cases before many trial and appellate courts across the region, including the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. I am well-versed in

the rules of civil procedure and I have conducted extensive pre-trial discovery, taken hundreds of depositions and drafted numerous motions in both state and federal courts. I understand the realities of navigating through tough situations, working with clients and being held accountable for resolving cases in an appropriate manner. As a former civil litigator, I appreciate the alternative methods of dispute resolution and encourage their use among clients and other litigants. My diverse background in both civil law and criminal prosecution best positions me to take the bench as a judge who presides over a combined docket of both civil and criminal cases. During my seventeen years as a civil and criminal litigator, I have practiced in most areas of the law and have the prior “real-life” experience for which there is no substitute. My experience has been extensive and expansive and I have the background, education and experience to serve on the Franklin County bench.

**Question 3:** I am running to keep my seat on the court because I believe that there is no reason to wear a black robe other than to positively impact our community. As your Judge, I am extremely passionate about the law and I believe that the law requires, and this great community deserves, equal access to a fair and impartial court. My passion for the law is evidenced by my extensive criminal law and civil law background. With my diverse background, I am acutely aware of the important role judges play in the legal system. Since taking the bench, I have established quality court practices and procedures for the smooth administration of justice. I ensure that cases on my docket are addressed efficiently and that my decisions are issued timely. I approach each case with compassion and empathy. I give everyone in my courtroom an opportunity to be heard and I work with an open mind to treat everyone fairly and with respect. I appreciate that people present different viewpoints, beliefs and positions. I understand my role as judge to acknowledge each side and preside with diplomacy. I listen to the facts and evidence presented and I apply the law fairly, consistently and evenly to all parties, no matter which side of the argument they present. I strive to reach the right result and ensure that justice is served. I can, and do, make the tough decisions that every judge must make and I am not persuaded by public opinion. I work thoughtfully and deliberately, always with the rule of law and the safety of the community at the forefront of my

decisions. I preside over my cases with honesty, integrity and civility, and will continue to do so for the citizens of Franklin County because I believe this is what the community deserves. As a judge, I understand that I am in a position to profoundly affect many peoples’ lives and I take this responsibility seriously. I make best efforts to positively impact the individuals who appear before me as well as the communities they belong to, while providing equal access to a fair and impartial court to all. Equal access to a fair and impartial court is the foundation of our legal system and it is the reason I am running to remain your Franklin County Judge.

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#### **Common Pleas Judge, Domestic Relations/Juvenile Division, FTC 1-2-21** (Vote for no more than one)

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#### **GEORGE W. LEACH**

Candidate did not respond.

#### **DANA PREISSE**

**Email:** dana\_preisse@fccourts.org

**Website:**

**Education:** J.D. Capital University Law School 1985; B.A. Journalism The Ohio State University 1982

**Occupation:** Judge

**Work Experience:** 24 years as a Judge in Domestic Relations/Juvenile Division. Eleven years in private practice with a small law firm, prior. Represented people in family court and also in general division civil courts with experience in jury trials, appellate courts, administrative hearings throughout Ohio.

**Bar Association Ratings:** “Highly Recommended” by the Columbus Bar Association, 2020

**Question 1:** 1997 through 2020, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations and Juvenile Division.

**Question 2:** As a practicing attorney for over a decade, I was active in the Columbus Bar Association (CBA) Family Law Committee and represented individuals of all walks of life, race, sexual identity and income levels. I had the good fortune of working with some very experienced, highly reputable and talented trial attorneys who taught me the correct way to try a case to a jury or judge. I had trials in front of juries in several counties and presented a thousand cases at administrative hearings throughout Ohio. Thus, I know what it means to be a good and fair judge, before I was ever elected, because frankly, I came across some judges that were neither. I knew that having the proper temperament was important and I have lived up to that standard, mixing in humor

when appropriate to reduce the tension in the courtroom. I worked hard and efficiently in private practice which translated into the same hard work on the bench. I had a breadth of experience from simple cases in small claims, to very complicated cases in common pleas and appellate courts. I learned that when a judge treats clients fairly and with respect, even if the case does not go their way, they respect the outcome and the judicial system. Litigants and attorneys dislike arrogance in judges and appreciate kindness, as we all should. Practicing in front of scores of judges throughout Ohio taught me a lot about judging, before I became one. I have mentored high school and law school students. Maintaining a good reputation among peers has always been paramount, both on the bench and prior. I did pro bono work with the “Lawyers for Justice” CBA sub-committee and continue to be active with the CBA, welcoming new attorneys. I volunteered to serve on numerous committees for the Supreme Court of Ohio including the Guardian ad Litem Task Force and the Continuity of Operations Committee (Disaster Planning ) and have served as a panelist, for continuing educational purposes for both attorneys and judges.

**Question 3:** I love my job and the challenges it presents. And the legal community strongly supports me in keeping it. That is why I am running to maintain my seat. As the senior judge on our court and after two decades and over 100,000 cases, I still love what I do. It is a privilege to serve on the domestic relations and juvenile court bench where we get to help people who are often in difficult situations, solve their issues. I also want to continue projects that I spearheaded and oversee such as Family Recovery Court and Juvenile Recovery Court. In 2002 we created the first drug court in Franklin County, known now as Recovery Court. I have witnessed firsthand the scourge illegal opioids, heroin and fentanyl have inflicted on our families. Our voluntary but intensive program helps parents achieve and maintain sobriety so that their children can be returned to their care. Parents learn parenting skills through classes, must do random drug tests and counseling, are assisted in finding affordable housing (tremendously difficult in central Ohio) and are linked with other support systems. Juvenile Recovery Court started more recently. We are assisting non-violent teens in the juvenile system, achieve permanent sobriety and put them on the road to education

and employment rather than on to a path of crime. The graduation ceremonies of our two recovery courts are the highlights of my year. We also started a raised-bed garden on the concrete courtyard at the Juvenile Intervention Center. I plant alongside the youth detained there, colorful flowers, herbs and vegetables that truly brighten the space and at the same time provide the fixings for salsa when ripened! Most of the youth have never tasted a raw herb, dug a hole in the soil, or watched a plant grow. As families break apart, spouses, parents and children want a judge with experience, knowledge and compassion. I believe the Columbus Bar Association’s annual rating of me which is based on the opinions of attorneys that practice in my court everyday, prove that I have those qualities. Thank you for taking the time to read about the judicial candidates. No one wants to be in court. It is stressful and expensive. But if you end up in court, you want an experienced, thoughtful individual handling your case. I respectfully ask for your vote November 3rd.

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#### **Common Pleas Judge, Domestic Relations/Juvenile Division, FTC 1-3-21** (Vote for no more than one)

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#### **STEPHANIE HANNA**

**Email:** hannaforjudge@gmail.com

**Website:** [www.hannaforjudge.com](http://www.hannaforjudge.com)

**Education:** J.D. - University of Toledo, College of Law; B.A. - Michigan State University

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Work Experience:** I have been an attorney for the past 12 years, serving as a prosecutor, staff attorney, magistrate, and small business owner.

**Bar Association Ratings:**

**Question 1:** I have served as an Appointed Magistrate in the Domestic Relations/Juvenile Court (2012-2013).

**Question 2:** I have significant experience in domestic relations/juvenile court as well as other positions that directly impact this role. I have served as a staff attorney to a domestic relations/juvenile judge where I have drafted hundreds of decisions and managed a busy docket. I have experience as a prosecutor, solo practitioner, and business owner. I am also a step-parent and know firsthand the complexities of parenting arrangements and how this court has a major impact on family decisions. All these experiences allow me to uniquely understand the needs of the parties that come before the Court.

**Question 3:** I believe in the families

and children of Franklin County and I know I can make a difference. Compassion. I have a high level of compassion and desire to do more with this position other than process cases. I intend to use this position to truly impact our community outside of the courtroom walls — we need to see our judges in the community and we need to see the community in the courtroom learning about what goes on there. I also intend to use this position to mentor, encourage, and motivate the people that come before me to leave stronger than they came. Understanding that many juveniles will come before me and their interaction with the court can truly make or break their future, I will bring a high level of compassion to this role. Further, I will make sure that I and my staff are continuously trained on our implicit biases so we can identify them and learn ways to make sure they do not creep into our decision-making. Work Ethic. I will bring a very strong work ethic to this position that will allow parties to get timely decisions so they can move forward with their lives. This Court is the busiest in the state and I am running for a seat that was created to help alleviate the high caseloads. My staff and I will answer our phones every time we hear them ring, respond to emails and voice mails, and do our very best to be timely and work full days. Families depend on the decisions that come out of this court. Innovation. I will bring a fresh perspective and new ideas for how we can move cases along and give people the decisions they are looking for. Especially with the pandemic, courts are backlogged. I have several ideas for ways we can move things along — Saturday Court, continuing to have remote hearings in some cases, implement processes to make sure dissolution and uncontested divorce paperwork is completed ahead of time to ensure resolution at the time of the hearing; allowing attorneys and clients to be present virtually when possible.

#### **LASHEYL STROUD**

**Email:** info@Stroud4Judge.com

**Website:** <https://www.lasheystroudforjudge.com/>

**Education:** J.D. from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, 2003; B.A. from Kentucky State University, 2000

**Occupation:** Lead Juvenile Magistrate, Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations and Juvenile Branch

**Work Experience:** Lead Magistrate, Franklin County Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations & Juvenile Branch, (2013-present); Stroud Law Offices (2011-2013; Franklin County Common Pleas

Court General Division, Judicial Staff Attorney, (2007-2011); Perez & Morris, Defense Counsel, (2006-2007); Franklin County Common Pleas Court Domestic Relations & Juvenile, Teen Court Hearing Officer (2005-2008); Adjunct Instructor (2008-2014); Attorney General's Office, Assistant Attorney General, (2004-2007)

Bar Association Ratings:

**Question 1:** I am currently the Lead Magistrate, Franklin County Common Pleas Court Domestic Relations & Juvenile Division (2013-present). I have extensive litigation experience handling jury trials, bench trials and appellate court cases with approximately half civil and the other half criminal. I serve on a pilot specialty docket to address human trafficking within our community, chair court committees and represent the Court at national conferences to advance juvenile justice. My committee assignments assist the Court in progressive policy and planning, strategy work groups and ensuring that the Court is on the forefront in trends. Serving as a judicial officer, I have had numerous attorneys compliment me for my patience, attentive ear, and overall positive judicial temperament. I routinely ask attorneys for constructive critiques and ask the families about their experiences in my courtroom.

**Question 2:** Throughout my twenty years in the Franklin County legal community, my practice was concentrated in the areas of Domestic Relations & Juvenile (DRJ) matters and litigation. I served as a legal intern in DRJ in law school. I have worked part time in the Diversion department as a Teen Court Hearing Officer while litigating full time during the day. I started a law practice to represent children and parents in Domestic Relations & Juvenile matters as guardian ad litem and attorney. From 2003 to 2006, I was an Assistant Attorney General in Workers' Compensation where I began litigating civil cases throughout Ohio. In 2006, I was recruited by Perez & Morris to handle product liability, workers' compensation, immigration and other civil matters, and later left to accept a Staff Attorney position in the General Division of Franklin County Common Pleas Court where I served for four years. As Staff Attorney, I handled civil pretrial conferences, drafted civil and criminal decisions, assisted with managing the docket, and gained inside perspective of a judge's role in General Division. In 2011, I opened a solo practice that handled civil and criminal cases in the General Division and Domestic Relations & Juvenile Branch. Community service has allowed me to listen

and to learn. I have volunteered at schools to share information about the Franklin County Court System and mentored youth on self-esteem and goal setting. I have also volunteered at churches and civic organizations to support numerous community events. For over 20 years, I have volunteered with Fire Fighters Against Drugs, serving as a tutor and serving meals during the holiday season.

**Question 3:** I am qualified to serve for the judicial position for which I am seeking election based on my experience, compassion, passion for families and overall commitment to the mission of the Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court. My body of work demonstrates that I have the ability and qualifications to effectively fulfill the requirements of the office and serve in excellence. I am active in court committees and consistently go beyond the call of duty to serve as the Lead Magistrate. I am knowledgeable about the mission of Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court and have consistently served families in Franklin County in Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court for over a decade. If elected, I am able to assume the role and fulfill the duties without any delays in justice.

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#### **Common Pleas Judge, Probate Division, FTC 2-9-21** (Vote for no more than one)

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#### **JEFF MACKAY**

**Email:** jeff@ohiolaws.com

**Website:** [www.jeffmackeyforjudge.com](http://www.jeffmackeyforjudge.com)

**Education:** B.A. and J.D. from The Ohio State University

**Occupation:** Attorney

**Work Experience:** Attorney in private practice since 1981. Practice concentrated on Probate and estate planning.

**Bar Association Ratings:** Highly Recommended by Columbus Bar Association Judicial Screening Committee August 2020

**Question 1:** I am not currently a Judge but have 39 years in representing clients in many different Courts in Ohio — particularly many Probate Courts.

**Question 2:** I have practiced law for 39 years. My practice has been concentrated in probate law and estate planning. I have represented thousands of clients in Franklin County. I have particularly advised these clients in how to avoid the Probate Court process and how to keep elderly clients in their homes (rather than nursing homes or assisted living facilities). I have extensive trial experience including jury trials. I have years of experience in running a business as a partner in a law firm. I have

training as a mediator and have assisted many families in settling their family differences after the death of a loved one.

**Question 3:** My extensive legal experience over 39 years in Probate law makes me uniquely qualified to deal with the issues that would come before me as the Probate Judge. Many of the more difficult cases that come before the Probate judge involve family disputes when a loved one becomes incapacitated or has died. My experience in representing thousands of clients in probate and estate planning cases makes me well suited to resolve these disputes. I have extensive experience in probate litigation matters and in mediating difficulties to a successful resolution. I would be honored to be given the opportunity to be the Probate Judge to continue to serve the residents of Franklin County.

#### **ROBERT G. MONTGOMERY**

**Email:** Info@JudgeMontgomery.com

**Website:** <https://probate.franklincountyohio.gov/> <http://judgemontgomery.com>

**Education:** J.D., Juris Doctor, Capital University Law School: Graduated with distinction (Order of the Curia Honorary Society), Am. Jur. Book Award for Highest Grade in Corporation Law; B.A., Bachelor of Arts, Bowling Green State University

**Occupation:** Franklin County Probate Judge; Farmer

**Work Experience:** Franklin County Probate Judge, 2011 to Present; Farmer/Owner, Montgomery Farms/White Oak Lodge, SE Ohio, 1999 – Present; Franklin County Recorder, 2000 to 2010; Attorney at Law, Robert G. Montgomery Law Offices, 1997 – 2010; Assistant Solicitor/Prosecutor, Office of the Solicitor & Prosecuting Attorney, Village of Hartford, Croton, Ohio 1997 – 1999; America One Title Agency, Ltd., Founder & Vice President Columbus, Ohio 1998 – 1999; Attorney at Law, Moran & Montgomery, Ltd., Columbus, Ohio, 1997 – 1999; President, CEO & Majority Shareholder, Community Cable, Inc., 1991 – 1997.

**Bar Association Ratings:** Ranked 4.37 of 5.0 possible on Columbus Bar Association 2020 Judicial Performance Poll, a rating of “generally strong” is 4 and excellent is 5. Judge Montgomery ranked fifth highest in the overall rankings against his 31 judicial peers in the County. Ranked “generally strong” by the Columbus Bar Association 2018 Judicial Performance Poll Results

**Question 1:** FRANKLIN COUNTY PROBATE JUDGE, 2011 to Present  
FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT, GENERAL

DIVISION, 2011 to Present (Sitting by assignment of Presiding Judge on a case by case basis) JUDICIAL AWARDS: DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD Awarded by the Ohio Guardianship Association On September 19, 2019, the Ohio Guardianship Association honored Judge Montgomery by giving him the Distinguished Service Award. This award was given to Judge Montgomery in recognition of his innovative guardianship programs he created and implemented in Franklin County. The Ohio Guardianship Association specifically mentioned Judge Montgomery's pilot program in Franklin County where Judge Montgomery drafted the legislation which created the First Public Guardian in the State of Ohio. This program became so successful that the legislature took Judge Montgomery's program and passed legislation making his Franklin County pilot program a statewide initiative. This allowed all of Ohio's Probate Judges to implement the same public guardianship program Judge Montgomery started in Franklin County. The Ohio Guardianship Association also recognized Judge Montgomery for another new program, the “Limited Guardianship for Mental Health Care Purposes.” This new program has allowed parents to stay involved in their children's mental health care needs after they turn the age of 18. AWARD OF JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE Awarded by the Ohio Association of Probate Judges On June 10, 2019, the Ohio Association of Probate Judges recognized Judge Montgomery as an outstanding jurist by giving him its Award of Judicial Excellence. This award was given to Judge Montgomery in recognition of the many innovative judicial programs he has created in the Franklin County Probate Court. It was awarded by a bipartisan group of his peers serving as judges in Ohio's 88 counties. The first program lauded was the creation of the State's first Public Guardianship Program where he drafted legislation creating the Franklin County Guardianship Service Board. This pilot program for Franklin County became a statewide model for other probate courts in March 2019 after the General Assembly adopted HB 595 at Judge Montgomery's urging, with the Association's support. The many other innovative programs developed by Judge Montgomery include the State's first program for Limited Guardianship for Mental Health Purposes, the first full-time probate Mediation Program, plus the Assisted Outpatient Treatment and Outpatient Commitment Court, keeping mentally-ill citizens in their homes to receive treatment.

Additionally, citizens needing help can now also turn to the Franklin County Probate Court Legal Resource Center, a legal clinic staffed by a contract lawyer to help them with small estates. MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD Awarded by the Ohio Association of Probate Judges Judge Montgomery received the Meritorious Service Award from the Ohio Association of Probate Judges in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. This award was presented to Judge Montgomery for his leadership and commitment to the many worthy causes he has devoted time and resources to with the Association, including establishing the State of Ohio's first Probate Court Mental Health fund in Franklin County. CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION (2nd Award) Awarded by the Supreme Court of Ohio Judge Montgomery received this certificate most recently in December 2017 after previously receiving one in December of 2014. The Supreme Court of Ohio appointed Judge Montgomery to serve on the Commission on the Rules of Superintendence for Ohio Courts. This key group enacts rules regulating all of Ohio's courts. Judge Montgomery served as a Commissioner from January 2012 through December 2017. PUBLIC OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR AWARD Awarded by the National Association of Social Workers, Region 5 In 2016, the National Association of Social Workers, Region 5, selected Judge Montgomery to receive the Public Elected Official of the Year Award. This was done in recognition of Judge Montgomery's innovative ideas in creating the State of Ohio's first Public Guardian Program. CHARLETA TAVARES CHAMPION AWARD Awarded by the National Alliance on Mental Illness In 2016, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Franklin County gave Judge Montgomery the Charleta Tavares Champion Award. This recognized the new Assisted Outpatient Treatment and Outpatient Commitment Court developed by Judge Montgomery. JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP: Elected by peers in Ohio Association of Probate Judges to the following positions: 2019: First Vice President of OAPJ; 2017: Second Vice President of OAPJ; 2015: Secretary/Historian of OAPJ; 2014: Chair/Host Summer Conference of the Ohio Associations of Probate, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Judges; 2013 to Present: Probate Law and Procedure Committee of OAPJ; 2012: At Large Officer/Executive Committee of OAPJ; Appointed a Commissioner by Supreme Court of Ohio to the Commission on the Rules of Superintendence:

2012-2017- Commissioners are responsible for reviewing and offering recommendations to the Supreme Court on all proposed superintendence rules and amendments from the Court's various advisory bodies and other organizations Supreme Court of Ohio Subcommittee on Adult Guardianships. **OVERVIEW OF CURRENT DUTIES:** 1) Largest single judge court in the state of Ohio, employs over 65 employees, including 14 magistrates, plus deputy clerks, licensed social workers, investigators, bailiffs and other staff; 2) Over 18,000 annual cases filed/active annually; 3) Serves as a Judge of the Probate Division of Common Pleas Court and may conduct jury trials; 4) Serves as Administrative Judge of the Probate Division of Common Pleas Court; 5) May be appointed to preside over civil or criminal cases in Common Pleas Court at

the request of the Presiding Judge of the General Division; 6) Serves as the Clerk of the Probate Court; 7) Issues and administers marriage licenses (over 9,000 annually); 8) Jurisdiction in matters involving probating wills, administering estates without wills, and presiding over will contest actions and estate disputes; 9) Jurisdiction over guardianship of incompetent adults and conservatorships; 10) Jurisdiction for all mental illness cases for 15 counties (2000+ annually); 11) Jurisdiction over all adoptions, name changes and birth certificate corrections; 12) Jurisdiction in legal actions involving the disposition of human remains; 13) Jurisdiction over eminent domain matters; 14) Jurisdiction over trust disputes and matters involving powers of attorney; 15) Appoints and swears-in all Humane Society Agents in Franklin County; 16) Metroparks:

Elected official in charge of the Franklin County Metroparks; 17) Has the power of appointment of vacancies to all school boards and township trustee boards in the county if the boards cannot agree on a replacement; 18) Serves as a member of the Finance Committee of the Columbus Foundation; 19) Administers oaths and affirmations to fiduciaries from other states; 20) Appoints members to Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities; 21) Appoints members of Franklin County Guardianship Service Board; 22) Appoints Board Member to the Columbus Foundation (7th largest charitable community foundation in U.S.)

**Question 2:** My legal career prior to serving as Franklin County Probate Judge involved serving clients who were individuals, families and small-businesses who needed advice and counsel in the areas of probate, estate planning and business

matters. As Probate Judge, I am the Clerk of my own Court and supervise dozens of employees. My skill set as experienced public and private-sector administrator uniquely qualifies me to continue to serve as Probate Judge. My legal experience includes the following positions: Attorney at Law Robert G. Montgomery Law Offices Columbus, Ohio 1997 – 2010, Practiced in the areas of integrated probate, estate and business planning; Counseled individual citizens and small business clients on start-up issues. Assistant Solicitor/Prosecutor Office of the Solicitor & Prosecuting Attorney Village of Hartford Croton, Ohio 1997 – 1999, Attended Village Council meetings and provided legal advice & counsel; Prosecuted traffic and misdemeanor crimes in the Municipal and Mayor's Courts; Appointed Special Assistant Prosecutor in county seat city for

investigation and prosecution of government employee misconduct. America One Title Agency, Ltd. Founder & Vice President Columbus, Ohio 1998 – 1999, Successfully started, grew and sold a land title insurance agency; Licensed by Ohio Department of Insurance as an insurance agent. Attorney at Law Moran & Montgomery, Ltd. Columbus, Ohio 1997 – 1999, Private law practice focused on integrated estate planning, business, corporate, municipal & real estate law; Advised small businesses on numerous legal and start-up issues.

**Question 3:** As you can see from above in Question No. 1, the position of Probate Judge of Franklin County is unique because it is as much a social services administrator and senior executive position as a judicial office. I am running for re-election so I can complete the work of important new innovative

programs that I have started at the Court. These programs include the state's first public guardianship program called the Guardianship Services Board, the Limited Guardianship for Mental Health Care Purposes, and the Outpatient Commitment Court. These are Pilot Programs that I started in Franklin County and would like to ensure their continued success. Finding funding for these programs will be one of the biggest challenges that I have much experience and success with. As Probate Judge I am called the "superior guardian" for over 8,000 people. These are society's most vulnerable people. Often, the least, last and lost of our community. I want to continue the transformation from an attorney-based to a licensed social worker based guardianship system to ensure these vulnerable people get the care and service they need and deserve. Working

### CERTIFIED ISSUES AND LOCAL OPTIONS NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Revised 9/1/2020

#	Subdivision	Purpose	Rate
#1	City of Columbus – Proposed Electric Service Aggregation Program <b>OVERLAPS TO DELAWARE AND FAIRFIELD COUNTIES</b>	To authorize all actions necessary to effectuate an opt-out electric service aggregation program pursuant to R.C. 4928.20	
#2	City of Columbus – Proposed Charter Amendment <b>OVERLAPS TO DELAWARE AND FAIRFIELD COUNTIES</b>	To provide the Mayor and Council the authority to establish an independent Civilian Police Review Board to receive, initiate, cause investigation of, subpoena and compel evidence relevant to; recommend discipline; and resolve complaints filed with it or initiated by the Board alleging misconduct by sworn members of the Columbus Division of Police; and to establish a Department of the Inspector General for the Columbus Division of Police	
#3b	Columbus 12-B Local Option Particular Location	Sunday Sales (Wine and Mixed Beverages and Spirituous Liquor) Budd Dairy Food Hall, LLC 1086 North Fourth Street, Columbus Ohio 43201 Filed by: Henry Fein	
#4A	Columbus 21-F Local Option Particular Location	Weekday Sales (Beer, Wine and Mixed Beverages and Spirituous Liquor) Kirin Noodle, 4227 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43214 Filed by: Henry Fein	
#4b	Columbus 21-F Local Option Particular Location	Sunday Sales (Wine and Mixed Beverages and Spirituous Liquor) Kirin Noodle 4227 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43214 Filed by: Henry Fein	
#5A	Columbus 27-E Local Option Particular Location	Weekday Sales (Beer, Wine and Mixed Beverages) Cheema Main Street, Inc. 3140 E Main St., Columbus, Ohio 43213 Filed by: Ambrose	
#5b	Columbus 27-E Local Option Particular Location	Sunday Sales (Wine & Mixed Beverages) Cheema Main Street, Inc. 3140 E Main St., Columbus, Ohio 43213 Filed by: Ambrose	
#6A	Columbus 85-A Local Option Particular Location	Weekday Sales (Beer) Refugee Food Mart 3877 Refugee Road, Columbus, Ohio 43232 Filed by: Bob Young	
#7A	Columbus 85-A Local Option Particular Location	Weekday Sales (Wine and Mixed Beverages) Refugee Food Mart 3877 Refugee Road, Columbus, Ohio 43232 Filed by: Bob Young	
#7b	Columbus 85-A Local Option Particular Location	Sunday Sales (Wine and Mixed Beverages) Refugee Food Mart 3877 Refugee Road, Columbus, Ohio 43232 Filed by: Bob Young	

### CERTIFIED ISSUES AND LOCAL OPTIONS NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

Revised 9/1/2020

#	Subdivision	Purpose	Rate
#8	City of Grandview Heights – Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal)	Current expenses and necessary requirements of the City	7.5 mills, \$0.75 per \$100 of valuation, 4 years, commencing in 2020
#9b	Grandview Heights-C Local Option Portion of a Precinct	Shall the sale of intoxicating liquor be permitted in a portion of this precinct between the hours of eleven a.m. and midnight on Sunday for consumption on the premises	
#10	City of Grove City – Proposed Electric Service Aggregation Program	To authorize all actions necessary to effectuate an opt-out electric service aggregation program pursuant to R.C. 4928.20	
#11	City of Groveport – Proposed Charter Amendment	To amend Section 3.10 - Council Approval of Expenditures; and Section 6.02 - Powers and Duties of the Administrator, as proposed by the City Council	
#12	City of Westerville – Proposed Charter Amendment <b>OVERLAPS TO DELAWARE COUNTY</b>	To allow for electronic notices and otherwise provide flexibility for modern forms of publication; clarify that certain types of informal and temporary legislation are effective immediately; move start date of Councilmember's terms to January 1; adjust recall procedures to follow State statute; and allow Personnel Review Board members to also serve on other boards, as recommended by the Charter Review Commission	
	Village of Lithopolis – Proposed Income Tax (Increase) <b>OVERLAPS FROM FAIRFIELD COUNTY</b>	for maintaining and improving the public infrastructure, public safety and public parks	one-half percent (0.5%) levy increase on income for five years
#14	Village of Minerva Park – Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal)	Current expenses of the Village	4 mills, \$0.40 per \$100 of valuation, 5 years, commencing in 2020
#15	Village of Riverlea – Proposed Tax Levy (Replacement and Decrease)	Current expenses of the Village	5.5 mills, \$0.55 per \$100 of valuation, 5 years, commencing in 2020
#16	Village of Riverlea – Proposed Tax Levy (Additional)	Construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, or repair of streets, roads, and bridges, and general infrastructure projects	1.5 mills, \$0.15 per \$100 of valuation, 5 years, commencing in 2020
#18	Franklin Township Fire District (unincorporated area) - Proposed Tax Levy (Replacement)	Fire Levy	5.89 mills, \$0.589 per \$100 of valuation, 5 years, commencing in 2020
#19	Jackson Township – Proposed Levy (Additional)	Fire Levy	4 mills, \$0.40 per \$100 of valuation, 5 years, commencing in 2020
#20	Truro Township – Proposed Tax Levy (Additional)	Fire Levy	4 mills, \$0.40 per \$100 of valuation, continuing period of time, commencing in 2020

with families in crisis following the death or incapacity of a loved one to navigate the legal system is an honor and privilege. Providing fair and just adjudication of their disputes is a cornerstone of our legal system. I pride myself on my track record of using my many years of private-sector entrepreneurial experience to tackle complex societal problems. At the Franklin County Probate Court, I have assembled an outstanding staff of public servants who provide courteous, prompt and efficient service to the public for their needs, including obtaining marriage licenses, birth certificate corrections and copies of important public records. In the past nine years I have been in office, I created and implemented the Court's first Mediation Program which averages a 70% success rate. This Program has allowed families and other litigants in conflict to resolve

hundreds of disputes themselves, without the time, heartache and expense of going to court. I have created the first Legal Resource Center designed to help those families that cannot afford an attorney. We have served over 450 people in 2019. Continuing to grow these programs and serve the people of Franklin County has been a tremendous honor and I would love to continue helping people as their Probate Judge.

**LOCAL ISSUES**

**Issue 1:  
Electric Service Aggregation  
Program – City of Columbus**

Ohio deregulated gas and electric utility service almost twenty years ago. Deregulation gives consumers

the ability to choose from multiple energy suppliers. It also provides local governments the ability to aggregate. In this issue, the City of Columbus is proposing electric aggregation, a process in which the city pools residences and small businesses as a group buyer to increase purchase power.

If the Issue passes, and the program is adopted, residents will be notified that they will be automatically enrolled in the program, unless they elect not to participate.

Electric aggregation is widespread in Ohio. The City of Cleveland is part of the largest governmental public retail energy aggregation in Ohio and currently serves over 235 communities. \* In Franklin County, Worthington aggregated in 2019. Cincinnati passed an electric aggregation issue in 2011 and reported that residents saved \$1.5

million on electricity in 2016.\*\*

If passed, the City of Columbus will develop a detailed plan for operation and management of aggregation; include in the plan a commitment to 100 percent renewable energy; and commit to encourage development of renewable-energy facilities in Central Ohio.

**PROS**

- Community choice aggregation will allow the city to use more green power sources than may be offered otherwise, allowing Columbus to move toward its short- and long-term goals for renewable energy.
- The implementation of the plan is slated to generate over \$1 billion in new investment, generate dozens of new jobs, and lead to increased tax revenues and land-lease payments to the City.
- Aggregation could result in lower electric rates because of the bargaining power of the City's many accounts.

**CONS**

- The City of Columbus determined the winner of its selection process before bringing the issue before voters.
- The free market should determine the area's energy portfolio.
- A subsidiary of AEP, which stands to financially gain from the passage of Issue 1, is partially funding the City's campaign for electric aggregation.\*\*\*

\* <https://www.nopec.org/newsroom/post/city-of-cleveland-electric-and-natural-gas-aggregation-programs/>  
 \*\* <https://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/oes/energy/energy-aggregation-program/>  
 \*\*\*<https://www.thisweeknews.com/story/news/politics/country/2020/09/01/aep-money-financing-columbus-green-power-ballot-issue/42368241/>

**Issue 2 –  
Civilian Review Board –  
City of Columbus**

This charter amendment would create the Civilian Police Review Board (CPRB) consisting of members who represent the diverse communities within the City of Columbus. Issue 2 would guarantee funding for the operation of the board. Once established, the budget for the

board could only be reduced in an amount to any overall city budget reduction.

The charter amendment would create the independent Department of the Inspector General for the Division of Police. The CPRB would appoint the inspector general and govern the operation of the inspector general.

The CPRB would operate independently of the Division of Police. It would have the authority to launch and carry out investigations of alleged police misconduct, subpoena testimony and evidence during the investigations, and make recommendations to the Division of Police.

**PROS**

- The charter amendment:
- Will allow Columbus voters establish a framework for a civilian review board that has subpoena powers, the authority to conduct independent investigations, recommend disciplinary action and that is fully staffed and funded.
  - Will provide the foundation for the Civilian Review Board Workgroup's recommendations on the powers, form and function of Columbus' civilian review board, and will help ensure those recommendations are implemented with the full support of Columbus residents.
  - Will help establish the pillars for a successful civilian review board, borrowing best practices from around the country, while allowing the community to shape a Board that reflects our shared values.
  - This amendment will hold law enforcement accountable, and puts power in the hands of civilians to investigate allegations of police use of force and other misconduct so we can hold police officers accountable and keep our community safe.

**CONS**

- As proposed, the Columbus Charter Amendment does not provide any details regarding the training, knowledge, and experience requirements for the board members or Inspector General, nor does it provide the cost to the taxpayers for these positions.
- Some of the key elements of a strong civilian review board – things Columbus residents care most about – will still need to be negotiated with the police union, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), and will likely face many challenges.
- Citizen reviews and

recommendations may promote police policies that cannot, or are too difficult, to be implemented, and the inability to implement recommendations could degrade the public view of the police.

- The amount and overall source of funding for the CPRB has not been identified

**Issue 24 –  
ADAMH Levy – Franklin  
County**

Issue 24 is a 5-year, 2.2 mill renewal property tax levy with a .65 mill increase that would - provide funds for the Franklin County Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health (ADAMH) Board. If passed, the levy would commence in 2021. The proposed levy would cost a homeowner \$89.93/\$100,000 of home property value per year. That is an increase of \$22.75 per year over the current levy. The current levy, which is expiring, provides 71% of the \$87 million budget of the ADAMH Board. The Board's mission is to improve the well-being of our community by reducing the incidence of mental health problems and eliminating the abuse of alcohol and other drugs in Franklin County. The number of people seeking services from ADAMH has increased 72% since 2014. ADAMH funds 33 mental health and wellness facilities in Franklin County.

**PRO**

- Passage of this levy will permit ADAMH to come closer to achieving the goals stated in its mission statement.
- If passed, ADAMH will be able to invest a projected \$14 million deficit operating budget.
- ADAMH has experienced a rising need for mental health services due to population growth and the opioid epidemic.

**CON**

- The renewal and increase of this levy will burden Franklin County homeowners and businesses at a time when the area economy is in a recession, and government programs may be reduced or eliminated.
- Increase in taxes this year will be more than expected because of property tax reassessment
- An alternative would be to fund alcohol, drug abuse, and mental health services with an increase in state funding.

**CERTIFIED ISSUES AND LOCAL OPTIONS  
NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION**

Revised 9/1/2020

#	Subdivision	Purpose	Rate
#22	Gahanna Jefferson City School District – Proposed Bond Issue and Tax Levies	Constructing school facilities, including a new high school, and renovating, repairing, improving, and constructing improvements and additions to existing school facilities, buildings, and infrastructure, including additional classroom and learning space capacity to accommodate student population growth; furnishing and equipping the same; improving the sites thereof; and acquiring land and interests in land  Permanent improvements levy  Current operating expenses levy	\$205,665,000; 4.93 mills, \$0.493 per \$100 of valuation, 37 years  1.5 mills, \$0.15 per \$100 of valuation, 30 years  4.26 mills, \$0.426 per \$100 of valuation, continuing period of time
	Pickerington Local School District – Proposed Bond Issue <b>OVERLAPS FROM FAIRFIELD COUNTY</b>	Expanding, renovating and improving Central High School and North High School; constructing, furnishing and equipping one middle school, with related site improvements and appurtenances thereto; acquiring, renovating, furnishing and equipping existing facilities or constructing, furnishing and equipping new facilities for school district purposes, with related site improvements and appurtenances thereto; and repairing, improving and maintaining existing school buildings and facilities	\$95,000,000; 2.9 mills, \$0.29 per \$100 of valuation, 38 years
#24	Franklin County – Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal and Increase)	The operation of mental health, alcohol and drug addiction programs for children, adults, and families including residential and outpatient treatment programs, school and community based prevention programs, and patient housing	renewal of 2.2 mills, increase of 0.65 mills, total 2.85 mills, \$0.285 per \$100 of valuation, 5 years, commencing in 2021

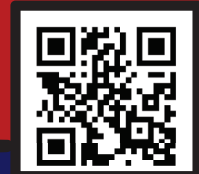
*For answers to more questions from the candidates, see our website at [www.lwvcols.org](http://www.lwvcols.org)*

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR 2020 BALLOT



Request Your  
Ballot Today!

BALLOT LEVY ESTIMATOR



VOTE

## THE VALUE OF YOUR VOTE

MAKE YOUR PLAN TO VOTE

### WHAT'S ON MY BALLOT?

You may have one or more levies on your ballot. To find out what's on your ballot, visit the *ballot levy estimator* by scanning the QR code or visiting [franklincountyauditor.com/levyestimator](http://franklincountyauditor.com/levyestimator).

### WHEN DO I NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE?

Register or update your information by **Monday, October 5**.

### HOW CAN I VOTE?

Voting by mail is especially important this year. Request your absentee ballot as soon as possible. Early and absentee voting starts on **Tuesday, October 6**.

Election Day is **Tuesday, November 3**, and polls will be open from **6:30 AM–7:30 PM**.

### HOW CAN I VOTE BY MAIL?

Visit [vote.franklincountyohio.gov](http://vote.franklincountyohio.gov) to request your ballot today.



[AuditorStinziano@franklincountyohio.gov](mailto:AuditorStinziano@franklincountyohio.gov)