

LWV

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® of the Cincinnati Area

2014 WHO & WHAT OF ELECTIONS VOTER'S GUIDE

COVERING HAMILTON COUNTY AND SELECTED WARREN AND BUTLER COUNTY RACES.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide for voters was prepared by the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area (LWVCA) to provide a forum for all candidates and information on the ballot issues.

The candidate materials in this guide were assembled in the following manner:

The information for the statewide candidates was compiled by the League of Women Voters Ohio Education Fund. Candidates were informed of the word limit requirements. There was no other criteria provided to the statewide candidates. The LWVCA has printed that material as it was received.

The information for district candidates, countywide candidates and issues was compiled by local leagues. Each local league is responsible for formulating a policy for compiling the candidate and issues information that they receive. The LWVCA uses this criteria: The questions selected by LWVCA were advertised to the candidates who were informed that each response would be printed as received and that all candidates would be solely responsible for the content of their replies. Because of the nonpartisan nature of the guide, candidates were informed any reference to other candidates is prohibited. Candidates were informed of the word limit requirements and were advised that any reply over the word limit would be cut off at the correct number. If a candidate did not respond to the general election inquiry from LWV, by the September 18th deadline, information they provided for the primary election inquiry has been included.

Other local leagues that provided LWVCA with candidate information for this voter guide include the League of Women Voters of Oxford, the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area, and the League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland. Each of these leagues has its own policy on publishing the responses received from candidates and the LWVCA prints that information as it was received.

In making this information available to the public, the League of Women Voters neither endorses nor rejects the views of any candidate or political party. The League does not and cannot assume responsibility for any candidate's reply, or for his or her motive in making it. The information in the guide is current as of 9/19/14. LWVCA's online voter guide, Vote411.org, includes additional candidate information.

NEW THIS YEAR

BUTLER COUNTY AND WARREN COUNTY BALLOT INFORMATION!

This year, in conjunction with our sister leagues of Oxford and Greater Dayton, LWVCA is pleased to include voter information from some candidates on the ballot in Butler and Warren Counties. With the exception of judicial candidates whose contact information is redacted by both Butler and Warren County Boards of Elections, all candidates were asked to provide information for this voter guide. The candidates who have responded have been included on pages 16 – 19. In addition, we have listed the ballot issue information provided by each county Board of Elections. On page 20 you will find a handy voter checklist for Butler and Warren County voters. Just fill in your preferences, cut out and take it with you to the polls on Election Day.

We encourage anyone who values this additional information to support our publication. If you like, you may designate any donations specifically to voter education efforts in your county. This publication is made possible by the contributions of our readers. Your continued support enables us to provide this candidate and issue information to the public at no charge year after year.

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Election Day is Tuesday, November 4, 2014

Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.



League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area

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Expanded Voter information including additional questions and information from the candidates, as well as a customized ballot and polling place locator, can be found on our website: www.lwvcincinnati.org

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**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE CINCINNATI AREA**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS FOR THE CINCINNATI AREA

Who & What of Elections Voter's guide credits

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Special Thanks to the League of Women Voters of Oxford for sharing information on the Butler County Candidates <http://www.oxford.oh.lwnnet.org/> and the League of Women Voters of Greater Dayton Area.

This publication would not be possible without the cooperation and assistance of the

- Hamilton County Board of Elections: Director of Elections and Deputy Director of Elections, Sherry L. Poland and Sally J. Krisel and their staffs.
- Butler County Board of Elections: Director of Elections and Deputy Director of Elections, Lynn Edward Kinkaid and Jocelyn Bucaro and their staffs.
- Warren County Board of Elections: Director of Elections and Deputy Director of Elections, Brian Sleeth and Shari A. Huff and their staffs.

OHIO STATEWIDE OFFICES

GOVERNOR

4 year term. Runs on ballot with Lieutenant Governor. Salary: \$148,316.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Ensures that all laws are executed, reports the condition of the state and presents a proposed budget to the legislature.

QUESTIONS: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What three areas of government spending would you propose decreasing or increasing? Why? **Question 2:** What should be done to ensure that all charter schools and nonpublic schools that accept local and state financial support are assuring a quality education? **Question 3:** What do you think is the impact of public/private partnerships on the economy of Ohio? Give examples. **Question 4:** In the last few years, Ohio government spending and taxing has shifted from state to local jurisdictions. How has this shift affected these communities? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)



Edward FitzGerald Democratic Party

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: <http://www.edfitzgerald-forohio.com/about/>

EDUCATION: Ed received a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and a law degree from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

OCCUPATION: Cuyahoga County Executive

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Ed served in law enforcement as an FBI Special Agent and as a prosecutor. He went on to serve as city councilman and mayor of Lakewood.

Answer 1: As governor, I will end the practice of balancing the state budget by cutting funds to local communities and schools.

I will return funds to local communities that Governor Kasich cut in his budgets. The Local Government Fund, which the state has slashed for local communities, pays for police officers, firefighters and other necessary services.

I will also return the half billion dollars cut out of public education in Ohio.

My campaign proposed expanding funding in Ohio that will allow all children access to education beginning in pre-K. My administration in Cuyahoga County also worked to make college more affordable through the creation of a college savings account program for every incoming kindergartner – as governor, we will expand this program statewide.

Answer 2: I am a firm proponent of public education. I believe that the state should return funds that have been cut out of public schools in Ohio. That said, charter schools are here to stay, and many non-profit charters provide children with a quality education.

However, there are numerous failing, for-profit charter schools in Ohio that are not held to the same standards as public schools. Often times, companies that run failing charters will simply close the school, then re-open it under a different

name. As governor, I will ensure that charters are held to the highest of standards. A quality education is the driver of economic activity in Ohio, and we cannot afford to have failing schools.

Answer 3: Government provides many necessary services – public schools, quality roads, effective fire departments, etc., but government cannot accomplish everything. A strong, thriving private sector is needed to create jobs and grow our economy.

As governor, I will be dedicated to building an economy from the middle class out, so that Ohio works for everyone. In my home county, my administration has partnered with the private sector to drive growth and create prosperity. Partnering with the private sector, we've created four times as many jobs as the previous administration. And we've done it in a fair, transparent and accountable way. As governor, we will do the same to create good paying jobs and move Ohio forward.

Answer 4: In the last few years, a tax shift has happened in Ohio. Income taxes have gone down, while sales and property taxes have gone up. The result is that the wealthy and well-connected in Ohio pay less, while the average family in Ohio struggles.

Meanwhile, budget cuts to local counties, cities and townships have forced local communities to choose between eliminating services or raising their own taxes. The unenviable position this has put local leaders in has led to a reduction in police officers, firefighters and educators in many communities.

As governor, I will focus on making Ohio work for everyone, not just the privileged few.



John Kasich Republican Party

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: <https://www.kasichforohio.com/meet-john/>

EDUCATION: 1974 graduate of The Ohio State University

OCCUPATION: Governor

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Current governor of Ohio; As chairman of the U.S. House Budget Committee I led the team that balanced the federal budget in 1997; 10 years in the private sector/business; Ohio Senate (1979-1982); U.S. House of Representatives (1983-2001); Governor (2011-present)

Answer 1: When I came in, Ohio had lost 350,000 private sector jobs, faced an \$8 billion budget shortfall and was at risk of having its credit downgraded. My first priority was to restore Ohio's fiscal health and get people back to work. Since January 2011, Ohio has added nearly a quarter million private sector jobs, thanks in large part to these budget priorities set by my administration: Balanced the largest budget shortfall in state history without raising taxes; Refilled the Rainy Day fund from 89 cents to \$1.48 billion; Cut taxes by more than \$3 billion; Increased state aid for K-12 education by \$1.3 billion (FY11 vs FY15) and provided the largest one-time funding increase in 10 years while also raising accountability; Saved \$3 billion by reforming Medicaid without cutting services

Answer 2: To further quality education in all our schools we implemented an A-F report card, a 3rd grade reading guarantee, the Cleveland Plan, and we recently passed legislation to create a new mentoring program and adopt reforms to prevent high school dropouts. We're working with parents to provide better information and striving for more accountability. Quality charter schools start with quality sponsors. Our administration has made changes so that sponsors will be evaluated on outcomes, compliance with rules, and the rigor of their practices to ensure quality, and only the best will be allowed to start schools. EdChoice schools must submit annual applications and proof of compliance. Voucher students must take state tests, and now we're requiring that if 65 percent of students in a school have vouchers, then all students in the school must take these tests.

Answer 3: Government should be a last resort to solving society's problems and we should continually seek opportunities to partner with the private sector for the betterment of Ohio. Ohio's new economic development entity, JobsOhio, works with local partners to identify and pursue job growth opportunities. JobsOhio has impacted 746 projects that are expected to collectively create and retain more than nearly 255,000 jobs. In 2011, we faced a \$1.6 billion transportation funding gap. After nearly a year of study, we adopted a plan to raise revenue by bonding against the Turnpike. The plan is expected to generate \$3 billion for infrastructure projects without raising the gas tax and create 65,000 construction jobs.

Answer 4: We inherited an \$8 billion budget shortfall that required government at all levels to tighten its belt. We balanced the budget without a tax increase, we've shrunk state bureaucracy to the lowest levels in 30 years while providing over \$3 billion in tax relief for Ohioans. These policies are strengthening Ohio's economy and local revenues are increasing, largely without raising taxes. Since 2010, only five of 88 counties have raised their sales tax rate and only 42 of 936 cities and villages have increased their income tax rate. After the first two years of my term, 92 percent of the reporting counties, cities and villages achieved budget surpluses of more than 5 percent of revenue, altogether creating more than \$2.8 billion in surpluses. Despite reductions in the local government fund, since 2010 local government revenues are expected to have a net increase of \$829 million through the end of 2014.



Anita Rios Green Party

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: <http://riosforgovernor.com/meet-anita/>

EDUCATION: BA University of Toledo 1986

OCCUPATION: unemployed, former Patient Advocate at the Center for Choice

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Many years as a mental health case manager and as a union steward, former co-chair of the Green Party National committee, former President of Ohio National Organization for Women, former President of the Green Institute

Answer 1: I would propose cuts to the criminal Justice System by ending the war on drugs and

replacing those failed initiatives with better treatment programs for individuals with substance abuse problems. I would create a more effective and robust system for the treatment of the mentally ill. I believe that it is cheaper to treat people with substance abuse problems and those with mental illness than it is to incarcerate them.

I would increase spending on education across the board because good education is the key to healthy and stable communities and a healthy and stable economy. This would include support for apprenticeship programs and for programs that nurture the entrepreneurial spirit that is not tied to a class room.

Answer 2: I am a high school drop out with a college degree so I understand that our public school system has not done a good job of educating all our citizens. None the less a good public school system is a must for democracy and for freedom to be a reality. Charter schools can only be of value if they play a role in creating a healthy public school system by being held to the same rigorous standards as other public schools. Schools should never be a part of a money making scheme, they should never be for profit entities. Nonpublic schools should not receive tax dollars.

Answer 3: I do not believe that public/private partnerships overall are a solution to our economic problems. I am concerned that government will use private entities to abdicate responsibility for maintaining essential community services and/or infrastructure. Secondly I fear that some businesses participating in such an arrangement would place profits over service to communities. However, where there is a synergy between a community and it's corporate citizens, or mutual goals and needs between a community and educational or health care entities, a PPP can be a useful tool for utilizing resources, filling gaps, and avoiding redundancy. One example of this is when universities step up to sponsor community centers and support local schools.

Answer 4: This simply increases gaps in services and allows wealthy communities to do well and communities that are struggling to decline. State government plays a very important role in maintaining infrastructure throughout Ohio and we have more cohesive planning and consistent outcomes with statewide oversight and funding.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

4 year term. Runs on ballot with Governor. Salary: \$150,405 (Salary for 2015 includes Lt. Governor serving as Director of the Department of Insurance.)

RESPONSIBILITIES: Succeeds to the office of governor in the event of death, conviction by impeachment or disability of the Governor.

QUESTIONS: Each candidate was asked Question 1: What initiatives will you pursue in the next four years? (VOTE TICKET OF GOVERNOR/LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR)

Bob Fittrakis Green Party

Candidate did not respond.

Sharen Swartz Neuhardt Democratic Party

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: <http://www.edfitzgeraldforohio.com/about/sharen/>

EDUCATION: Sharen received a bachelor's from Northwestern University and a law degree from Georgetown University.

OCCUPATION: Attorney

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Sharen has worked for many years as an attorney, working with corporations to help create jobs. In addition, she has been very active as an activist in the community for women and children.

Answer 1: One of the reasons I was proud to join the ticket with Ed FitzGerald is that he is committed to improving and expanding access to quality education for young Ohioans. I will work with Ed in the administration to implement our plan to expand access to pre-K education to all four year olds in Ohio, as well as to create a college savings account program for all incoming kindergartners.

I have always been an advocate for women and families. As lieutenant governor, I will seek to ensure that women receive equal pay for equal work and that the state of Ohio works for everyone, not just the wealthy and well connected.

Answer 2: After his election, Governor Kasich created JobsOhio, an economic development fund allegedly focused on job creation. Unfortunately, we'll never know the full story behind JobsOhio because it operates in secret and its books are closed. When the government uses public money, it is the public's business to know how it is spent. In the last few years, the state of Ohio has operated in secret.

In a FitzGerald-Neuhardt administration, the state of Ohio will operate in an accountable and transparent fashion.

Answer 3: When Ed is governor and I am lieutenant governor, state government will be focused on making Ohio work for everyone. We will work to drive economic development in the state – and as part of that, we will partner with private institutions. Anytime that public money is invested, it is the business of the public to know how that money is spent. Private contractors will be held accountable to ensure that citizens get the biggest bang for their buck.



Mary Taylor Republican Party

EDUCATION: I earned a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in taxation from the University of Akron

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Current Lt. Governor of Ohio; Former Ohio Auditor of State; Former member of the Ohio House of Representatives; Private sector experience as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Ohio House of Representatives (2003-2006); Ohio Auditor of State (2007-2010); Lt.

Governor of Ohio (2011-Present)

Answer 1: When Gov. Kasich and I came into office, Ohio had lost 350,000 private sector jobs, faced an \$8 billion budget shortfall & was at risk of having its credit downgraded. My first priority as Lt. Governor was to help our team restore Ohio's fiscal health and get people back to work. Since Jan. 2011, Ohio has added 238,200 private sector jobs, and we've accomplished that, in large part, because we've made Ohio a friendlier place for job creators. As Lt. Governor, I remain focused on cutting red tape and eliminating job-killing regulations through the Common Sense Initiative. As the Director of the Dept. of Insurance, I'm focused on protecting consumers through sound regulation while promoting a stable and competitive environment for insurers.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

4 year term. Salary: \$109,565.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Represents the state in all legal cases in which the state is a party or has a significant interest.

QUESTIONS: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What enforcement areas do you view as your priorities? **Question 2:** During a time of shrinking budgets for state government agencies, how would you focus resources allocated to the Attorney General's office to make it more efficient and cost effective? **Question 3:** What criteria would you use to select special counsel to assist the Office of Attorney General? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)



Mike DeWine Republican Party

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: <http://www.mikedewine.com/bio/>

EDUCATION: BS Education (Miami University, 1969) JD (Ohio Northern University, 1972)

OCCUPATION: Attorney

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Assistant Greene County Prosecuting Attorney - 1973-1975, Greene County Prosecuting Attorney - 1977-1981, Ohio 10th District State Senator - 1981-1982, United States House of Representatives - 1983-1991, Ohio Lieutenant Governor - 1991-1995, United States Senate - 1995-2007, Ohio Attorney General - 2011-present

Answer 1: As Attorney General, protecting Ohio families has always been my top priority. My office has made tremendous progress in testing DNA evidence at the state crime lab, cutting the time it takes to get results back to cops from 125 days when I took office to 22 days. I've also started an initiative that has tested thousands of old rape kits that had sat on shelves for decades until I took action. That initiative has led to more than 200 men being charged with rape in previously unsolved cases. I've also worked hard to crack down on scam artists who prey on the elderly, and sending thieves and con-artists to prison. And my office has battled the prescription pill and heroin epidemic from my first day in office with a multi-faceted grassroots approach that includes cracking down on drug traffickers, community awareness, and recovery for those who are addicted.

Answer 2: One of the most important changes I've made as Attorney General is to run the office like a business, in a far more efficient way. When I took office, I brought in business leaders from Ohio who sat down with my team to improve efficiency. For example, I discovered that evidence testing at BCI consisted of 187 steps. Working together, my team was able to eliminate inefficient steps, DNA testing now consists of 84 steps. The end result is that everything is done faster and with fewer people in a very efficient manner. Additionally, we have used that method to streamline the purchasing done in the office. When I took office, there were 12 different processes for purchasing. We eliminated ten of those and reduced it to two. Purchasing is now done 65% faster with half of the steps. This saves everyone time, which saves taxpayers money.

Answer 3: As Attorney General, I prefer to use in-house Assistant Attorneys General on as many cases as possible. For specialized cases that require an outside lawyer, my goal is always to obtain an experienced, effective, and knowledgeable attorney for that case at the lowest cost to the taxpayers. My office also takes into considerations requests and recommendations from our client (e.g., state universities and government agencies) about potential outside lawyers.



David Pepper Democratic Party

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: <http://davidpepper.com/meet-david/>

EDUCATION: Yale University - B.A., Yale University - J.D.

OCCUPATION: Attorney

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Cincinnati City Council, 2001-2005; Hamilton County Commissioner, 2006-2010; following 2001 riots, helped spearhead revitalization of Cincinnati through safety, economic development efforts and improved police-community relations; also a practicing private attorney for 15 years.

Answer 1: My priorities are tackling crime, fighting for good jobs, and protecting consumers. From violence against women to protecting kids online, the office has to modernize its approach to fighting crime, and transition from being reactive to proactive. The best example is Ohio's ineffective response to the heroin epidemic-where there is no plan today and federal treatment dollars were recently cut across the board. We need far more treatment, prevention, smarter enforcement, and coordination if we are going to solve the problem. The office can also protect Ohioans' jobs and boost the economy by enforcing laws against wage abuse and worker misclassification. And we need to ramp up consumer protection, particularly in light of new Target-style threats to Ohioans' private data in the era of widespread electronic transactions.

Answer 2: First, I would end the wasteful, inappropriate use of public resources to carry out the Attorney General's political and ideological agenda, which happens too often today. For example, Mike Dewine entered cases all over the country on behalf of Hobby Lobby and other companies trying to stop insurance coverage of birth control. He's even in court trying to remove a marriage from a deceased Ohioan's death certificate. Instead of wasting time and money

entering courts on behalf of Hobby Lobby and other partisan causes, I will use office resources to address challenges faced right here in Ohio. Second, I would end the creation of redundant services already being performed at the local level. The AG can enter into partnerships with local agencies already doing good work, instead of setting up costly, competing state services.

Answer 3: The highly publicized pay to play and bid-rigging involved in vendor selections has tainted the credibility of the office and cost the state millions. Incredibly, there are no written criteria whatsoever in making most critical assignments, and contributions are given at the same time as proposals are being submitted and considered. Unqualified firms have replaced highly qualified ones. The office needs to start over, serving as a model of public integrity. Our plan does that by creating much needed transparency and adding objective criteria to evaluate outside vendors seeking work based on their experience, subject matter expertise, quality of prior work, and cost. And all vendors will be posted on the Attorney General’s website so that the public can easily see which firms are doing work for the office. I will also create a blackout period where no fundraising can take place when vendors are being considered for work.

AUDITOR OF STATE

4 year term. Salary: \$109,565.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Audits all financial records of public offices in Ohio. Maintains deed records of state.

QUESTIONS: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What will be the role of your auditor’s office in promoting good fiscal practices and sound financial management in counties, municipalities, boards and districts? **Question 2:** How does the office of auditor serve as a watchdog against fiscal mismanagement and corruption statewide? **Question 3:** What suggestions do you have for making the auditor’s office more efficient? **Question 4:** How would you promote greater transparency and accountability in Ohio government? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)



Bob Bridges
Libertarian Party
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Candidate did not respond.
EDUCATION: High School Grad

OCCUPATION: Self Employed

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Candidate did not respond.

Answer 1: Candidate did not respond.

Answer 2: The Auditor of State is in the position of observing thousands of units of government, most operating efficiently and effectively, and some not. From that, what works best can be gleaned and disseminated widely to managers. The Auditor also has a performance audit function that can be used to help specific entities develop more efficient ways of delivering services.

Answer 3: The highest priority is maintaining and expanding professionalism. The Auditor of State is one of the largest, if not the largest, professional auditing group in the State of Ohio. I would

strengthen and expand to the extent possible the fraud audit function, and the advisory groups that actually help local and state governmental agencies.

Answer 4: I intend to use the bully pulpit of Auditor of State to force accountability from the government agencies the State interacts with. As thee watch-dog of the people’s money at the State level, the Auditor of State must have allegiance to the people of the State, not a political agenda.



John Patrick Carney
Democratic Party
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: http://votecarney.com/meet-john/
EDUCATION: Bay Village High School, 1994; The Ohio State University, 1998; The Moritz School of Law at The Ohio State University, 2001

OCCUPATION: Healthcare Attorney

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Ohio House of Representatives, 2009-present

Answer 1: The Auditor of State needs to work with local communities to acheive good fiscal practices and management. There have been drastic cuts over the past two state budgets that have hurt local governments and schools. As State Representative, I worked with Sen. Carey from across the aisle to sponsor legislation that would have helped communities engage in shared services where it makes sense. I will bring bipartisan spirit to the Auditor’s office because it is vital that we put people above party and work for the people of Ohio.

Answer 2: The Auditor of State is the chief investigator for the state. The Auditor must put party loyalty aside to make sure the best interest of Ohioans is being served. The Auditor is the custodian of our natural resources. It is the duty of the office to ensure that our parks, lakes, rivers, and streams are being monitored. The Auditor of State also sits on the Apportionment Board with the intent of keeping the process as open as possible. In all of these matters, the Auditor has to pull back the curtain and let people see how their government is working. There is no excuse to let waste and fraud permeate our state. The Auditor has the ability to hold people accountable.

Answer 3: There has been one party rule in the Auditor’s office for over 20 years. The first thing that would be done under my leadership is a top to bottom internal audit. This will provide greater transparency; it will help the public see what the office does as well as provide important information about where efficiencies can be made. It is vital to the health of the office and the state that the Auditor of State’s office is looked at with a critical eye. There have been instances of wasteful spending over the past few years and we need to root them out to make the Auditor the most efficient that it can be.

Answer 4: It is the Auditor of State’s job to make sure the people of Ohio know exactly how their tax dollars are being spent. It is the Auditor’s job to follow the money, pull back the curtain, and show taxpayers how their money is being used. It’s a position that allows for the revelation of fraud and waste. As Auditor of State, it would be a priority to work with the different parts of state government to ensure there is transparency and accountability in the government. There are items at the disposal of the Auditor, such as subpoena power, that can and

should be used to hold elected officials accountable to the taxpayers.



Dave Yost
Republican Party
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: http://www.daveyost.com/about/
EDUCATION: The Ohio State University, 1984, Bachelor of Arts; Capital Law School, 1991, Juris Doctor

OCCUPATION: Auditor of State

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: As a County Auditor, Prosecutor and now State Auditor. Dave Yost is uniquely qualified to root out fraud, waste and abuse of tax dollars. Finding more than \$150 million in savings across Ohio governments, Dave Yost is always on the side of the taxpayers.

Answer 1: Immediately upon taking office, I worked with the legislature to expand the use of performance audits at all levels of government in Ohio. Performance audits examine how local governments can find savings and efficiencies for the people they govern. By realizing the savings, more money can be used to protect citizens with police and fire fighters, or be set aside in a rainy day fund for use in an emergency. As auditor, I have been developing an early warning system for local governments. By identifying certain financial indicators that are common when local governments go into fiscal emergency we will have an early warning system to prevent financial disasters.

Answer 2: Fighting fraud has been a passion of mine since I was a prosecutor. The Special Audit Task Force at the auditor’s office reviews all tips and irregularities during financial audits. No fraud is too small, and no person, regardless of their politics, is above the law. Partnering with the FBI and other law enforcement agencies, I have worked to put criminals behind bars for stealing public dollars. The Auditor of State is responsible for reviewing the financial records of over 5,800 government entities in Ohio. My job is to ensure that those we elect are following the law, and I take that job very seriously. I am partnering with the legislature to increase training requirements of fiscal officers and make it easier to remove those that do not perform their duties.

Answer 3: I made a promise to voters that if I were auditor of state I would expand the use of performance audits. I also promised that the office of the Auditor of State would receive a performance audit of its own. I am proud to say that I kept that important campaign promise. Performance audits are a great way to eliminate redundancies and identify practices that no longer have an administrative value. Since taking office, we have consolidated departments, combined audit regions, and reduced travel expenses. By renegotiating lease agreements, we’ve also been able to save over \$1 million. While we have come a long way to increase efficiencies, the work is not over yet, and I will continue to find ways to cut costs, without cutting services to the people I serve.

Answer 4: The government works for us, the people of Ohio. Transparency allows the citizens of Ohio to review the work of government officials so we can evaluate their performance and determine if they are taking our communities in the right

direction. The auditor’s office conducts numerous training seminars every year across Ohio to educate elected officials on public records. Every elected official is required to attend, or send a designee, to these seminars for every term they are elected to. I would like to see increased penalties on elected officials that fail in their basic duties to attend these important training seminars.

SECRETARY OF STATE

4 year term. Salary: \$109,565.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Oversees the election process in each of Ohio’s 88 counties. Maintains records of corporations.

QUESTIONS: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** How would you ensure fair and impartial elections, and downplay the effect of partisan politics in the administration of elections? **Question 2:** What would you do to improve voter turnout in Primary and General Elections in Ohio? **Question 3:** To what extent does voter fraud exist in the state of Ohio, and how should it be addressed? **Question 4:** During a time of shrinking budget for state government agencies, how would you focus resources allocated to the secretary of state’s office to make it more efficient and cost effective? **Question 5:** How would you balance the desire for uniform voting opportunity and the differing needs of counties with larger versus smaller populations? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)



Jon Husted
Republican Party
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: http://www.hustedforohio.com/about-jon-husted

EDUCATION: Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree at University of Dayton

OCCUPATION: Ohio’s 53rd Secretary of State

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Vice-President of Business and Economic Development at the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. First elected to the Ohio House of Representatives in 2000 and then elected by his colleagues as Speaker of the Ohio House in 2004.

Answer 1: My goal is to make it easy to vote and hard to cheat. This way we give convenient access in casting a ballot, while having necessary safeguards to prevent fraud. This balance ensures fairness and increases confidence in elections. I'll remain an advocate for reforms that improve Ohio elections. This includes online voter registration which saves millions of dollars administratively, makes registration easy for voters and ensures integrity of the process. As Secretary of State in the most contested swing state, I know you can’t avoid the partisan noise but you can avoid acting as a partisan by following the law and trying to work out bipartisan solutions. This is what I have done and will continue to do. It’s my priority to treat voters fairly by setting the same voting rules across Ohio. When all Ohioans vote by the same rules, our system is protected from political manipulation.

Answer 2: I would tell the partisans trying to convince people it’s hard to vote to stop and join me in explaining how easy it is to vote in Ohio. In 2012, I was the first Ohio Secretary of State to send every registered voter an absentee ballot request,

something I will do again this year. Fill it out and send it in and you will have nearly 30 days to cast a ballot without ever leaving home. In addition, over the course of four weeks you can cast an early in-person ballot at the board of elections, including on the last two Saturdays and the final Sunday before the election. Of course on Election Day, you can vote from 6:30am to 7:30pm at your local polling location. Voting is easy in Ohio. Share that message if you want more people to vote.

Answer 3: Three things to remember about voter fraud in Ohio: it exists, it’s rare, violators are held accountable and every day we are building a better elections system to prevent it. It’s important to separate facts from fiction. That’s why I compiled Ohio’s first ever voter fraud report after the 2012 November General Election. Here are the facts: county board of elections found 625 voting irregularities, and 270 cases were referred for further investigation or prosecution. These cases represent a small but not unimportant number of the 5.63 million votes cast. I will continue to hold violators accountable, so the vast majority of Ohioans who are doing it the right way are confident that their votes are not diluted by those who attempt to cheat.

Answer 4: We must do more with less, and I have used technology to improve the way we serve Ohioans. Here are the facts: I reduced overall spending by 16%, saving more than \$13 million over my first term in the office. Payroll spending is down \$3.6 million and FY14 marked the lowest payroll spending in seven years. We did all of this while at the same time improving voter services and cutting the time it takes to approve a record number of new business filings in 2012 and 2013. These technology upgrades now allow you to form a business and update your voter registration 24/7. This is not what I promise to do; it is something I have already done. We are changing the culture of Ohio government by providing better services at a lower price.

Answer 5: It’s important to recognize that federal courts require us to treat voters equally, different rules for different counties are not and should not be an option. It’s my priority to treat voters with fairness by setting the same voting rules across Ohio. Ohioans shouldn’t have fewer voting opportunities and less ballot access based on which county they live in. I have expanded voting opportunities by launching an online change of address system and am the first Ohio Secretary of State to send every eligible voter (not just some voters in certain counties) an absentee ballot request in 2012 and also this year. You literally can vote 24 hours a day for nearly a month. Between early in-person voting, absentee voting and Election Day voting, Ohioans have more opportunity than ever to cast a ballot. With these important elections improvements, access to voting in Ohio has never been more convenient.



Kevin Knedler
Libertarian Party
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Born in Union County Ohio. The son of a military father and an immigrant mother who frequently spoke about the evils of a dictatorial society and the horror of the blitz in WW II. Presently lives in Delaware County, Ohio. Married and has no

children.

EDUCATION: BA in Communication from The Ohio State University in 1993.

OCCUPATION: Business Development Manager in Sales.

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: 42 years service with my present employer. 30 of those years were managing sales and budgets in the millions of dollars for national accounts, that required meticulous attention to detail. I have also been on the front line of minor party ballot access court challenges in Ohio and an outspoken advocate for voter freedom. This includes Libertarian Party of Ohio challenges in 2008, 2011, and presently in 2014. I also served on the Libertarian Party National Committee from 2010 to 2012. I have been the Executive Committee Chairman of the Llbertarian Party of Ohio since 2007. And I was honored to be asked to participate in the Ohio SOS Voting Rights Institute of Ohio, representing minor political parties in 2009 and 2010.

Answer 1: Voting is a fundamental pillar of a free society, including the right to vote for any candidate of one’s choice. I am disturbed by the constant posturing for political gain at the expense of the citizens of Ohio. As Secretary of State I would be an independent voice, not beholden to special interests or the major political parties of Ohio. It is time to put the voters of Ohio first and work to increase their participation in the democratic process. Meanwhile, I would not tolerate anyone in the office of the Ohio Secretary of State using partisan politics to help any political party or candidate gain an advantage, at the expense of another party or candidate.

Answer 2: We need to address the voters needs in communication. I would increase the use of social media in getting the message out related to voter registration, voting timelines, and voting locations. The partisan antics by some people in the major political parties has increased voter apathy. This includes setting laws and rules that restrict voter participation or restrict minor political parties from participation in the process. More people will vote at the polls if there are more candidates and more political parties involved. In our every day consumer lives we expect multiple choices and the same should apply to elections.

Answer 3: It is limited and not as big of a problem as some would claim. But, if somebody is committing fraud when voting, they should be held accountable and punished to the full extent of the law. Voters should be more concerned about voting machines and tabulating software. There needs to be oversight to insure that the vote tabulations can not be manipulated by any election official.

Answer 4: When I look at the frequent court cases in Ohio related to minor party ballot access and voter freedom, I am concerned about the taxpayer dollars being spent and the Secretary of State office staff time involved. It is time for the Secretary of State to represent ALL citizens in Ohio. That would include the formation of committees that can talk things out in a bi-partisan meeting instead of talking in a courtroom. Let’s reduce the drama and increase the participation in the election process in Ohio.

Answer 5: A “one size fits all” plan is flawed when considering the differences between rural counties and metropolitan areas. Give some flexibility to the

County Board of Election to alter hours of early voting, as long as the total hours are the same. I would also expect more evening hours to be available to help those citizens that work long hours each day.



Nina Turner
Democratic Party
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: http://www.ninaturner.org/meet-nina

EDUCATION: A.A., Cuyahoga Community College; B.A. & M.A., Cleveland State University

OCCUPATION: Assistant Professor of History, Cuyahoga Community College; State Senator, 25th District

TRAINING & EXPERIENCE: Executive Assistant for Legislative Affairs, City of Cleveland; Director of Government Affairs, Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Answer 1: There are two ways in which we can reduce the partisanship that plagues our elections process. The first is by setting simple, consistent, and convenient rules that allow voters the opportunity to cast their ballot how and when it makes sense in their schedule. We must also stop reducing the voting options that were created in the wake of a disastrous 2004 election cycle in which more than 170,000 Ohioans walked away from the polls because of long lines and disorder on Election Day. Reducing opportunities to vote without any legitimate reason to do so will inevitably raise suspicion. We must also reform the way Ohio draws its legislative and congressional district seats to make races more competitive so candidates have to appeal to all voters, not just the extremes of their party during the primary.

Answer 2: I see the Secretary of State’s role in encouraging voter participation similar to how a business owner might see getting customers in their store. You can’t just throw open the doors and sit back. You have to meet people where they are and make the case as to why casting their ballot is important. Through partnerships with local media outlets and traveling the state to talk to voters, I plan to emphasize to all Ohioans why their vote is important. I also want to institute a pre-registration system in Ohio for 16 and 17 year-old Ohioans. By engaging young people early, we have a better chance of building good habits and turning them into lifelong voters. Lastly, political leaders must stop reducing voting opportunities. We can’t expect more people to participate if it is becoming harder to do so.

Answer 3: Voter fraud in Ohio is very, very rare. During the 2012 presidential election, the frequency of voter fraud was less than one-thousandth of one percent, and a voter is more likely to be struck by lightning than commit voter impersonation at the polls. A professor from Loyola University Law School also conducted a comprehensive survey of voter impersonation incidents nationwide, and found that there were only 31 cases out of one billions votes cast since 2008. Despite the infrequency of attempts to commit fraud, the security of our elections remains critical because at the end of the day everyone has to have confidence in the results. I do believe that our present laws, which include up to three and a half years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, are working. Those who have committed voter fraud have been caught and brought to justice as

they should be.

Answer 4: Over the past four years, the Secretary of State’s has racked up more than \$400,000 in legal expenses in the process of defending their attempts to make it harder to vote. By reversing course and working to expand access and empower voters, we save those expenses. Those funds can be used to train a lot of poll workers, upgrade polling locations, and spread the word about the importance of voting.

Answer 5: Ohio’s largest county has almost one hundred times the population as its smallest. Although the challenges election workers face in these two situations are often similar, they are on dramatically different scales. Absolutely uniform rules and hours look good on paper, but they affect different populations in different ways. I believe that local officials are in the best position to determine the needs of local voters. The state should be setting a default voting schedule-that includes evening and weekend access-and allow election boards to tailor them to local needs only with bi-partisan support. Switching to a system such as this will not only reduce partisan conflict, but ensure that all Ohio voters have a voting system that works for them.

TREASURER OF STATE

4 year term. Salary: \$109,565.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Collects and safeguards most state taxes and fees, and manages Ohio’s investment portfolio.

QUESTIONS: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What measures will you take to assure high standards in the management of state investments? **Question 2:** How does your work experience and education prepare you to collect and safeguard taxes and fees for the state of Ohio? Explain. **Question 3:** What are your three goals for improving the efficiency of the treasurer’s office? **Question 4:** How can the treasurer’s office influence state fiscal policy? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)



Josh Mandel
Republican Party
BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: http://joshmandel.com/
EDUCATION: B.A., The Ohio State University, 2000; J.D., Case Western Reserve University School of Law, 2003

OCCUPATION: Ohio Treasurer of State

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: City of Lyndhurst, Ohio, City Councilman, (2004-2006); State Representative (District17), (2007-2010); State Treasurer, (2011-present)

Answer 1: The protection of tax dollars is my number one responsibility. My investment policy can be best summarized by ensuring that the principles of safety, liquidity and yield be followed, in that order. Only the safest investments should be made with the state’s money, while keeping the portfolio liquid as needed. As Treasurer, I am proud to have earned a AAA credit rating on the \$3 billion local government investment fund I manage on behalf of Ohio taxpayers, even as 14 other state and local government investment funds were downgraded. My office navigated the European sovereign debt

crisis while earning a yield on behalf of taxpayers and the Treasury's liquidity portfolio has increased by \$3 billion under my administration.

Answer 2: Serving in the Marine Corps for eight years, including two tours in Iraq, I have used that training to restore discipline and integrity to the Treasurer's office. The Treasurer's ultimate responsibility is to protect, collect and invest Ohioans' tax dollars. Upon taking office I immediately launched a top-bottom review to root out waste, fraud and abuse and began working to protect Ohioans' hard earned money. My office has received a clean audit each year since taking office which shows that the hard work of our talented and dedicated staff on behalf of taxpayers is paying off.

Answer 3: Upon taking office, I launched a top-bottom review of the Treasurer's office that has produced \$5 million in savings for taxpayers by increasing efficiency and modernizing operations. For example, under prior administrations the office drove over one million checks per year, worth more than \$2.8 billion, from the Treasurer's office in Columbus to a bank in Cleveland for deposit. I modernized the process, ended daily check driving, and switched to eBanking - saving more than \$100,000 and keeping tax dollars more safe and secure. I also voluntarily reduced my staff overhead - from 140 budgeted positions to 117 positions today - by reorganizing and consolidating departments and eliminating multiple positions, saving more than \$1.7 million.

Answer 4: As State Treasurer, I have a responsibility to taxpayers to advocate for fiscally responsible policies. Under the previous administration, Ohio's financial ranking was 43rd in the country. Today, it's seventh. I continue to voice my strong support for legislation that will simplify Ohio's municipal income tax system. Common sense reforms are needed to help create an environment where the private sector can grow and create jobs. Unfortunately, many small businesses, skilled laborers and entrepreneurs are wasting time and money on a municipal income tax system that is confusing, inconsistent and unnecessarily cumbersome. I also advocated for the elimination of Ohio's death tax, which I argued was a form of double taxation and was especially unfair to family businesses.



Connie Pillich Democratic Party

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: <http://www.conniepillich.com/about>

EDUCATION: University of Cincinnati, J.D.; University of North Dakota, M.B.A.; University of Oklahoma, B.B.A.

OCCUPATION: CURRENT: State Representative; PAST: Attorney, United States Air Force Captain

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Veteran, eight years active duty achieving the rank of captain; Attorney who ran her own firm and practiced banking law; Member of the Financial Institutions Committee.

Answer 1: In the Air Force there was never a Democratic or Republican way to get things done-just the right way. As a military officer with a top-secret security clearance, I demanded scrupulous integrity and strict accountability from my staff; I will do the same as treasurer of state. My number one priority is to safeguard the over \$200 billion in

state assets under my purview. To do that, I will hire and retain the best-qualified staff, enforce ethical business operations, and adhere to best practices in fiscal policy. I will adopt procedures to ensure that investments, contracts, and decisions provide the best benefit and security for Ohio.

Answer 2: As a military officer, I received the best leadership training in the world. As a business owner, I created jobs, made payroll, and balanced budgets. As an MBA and attorney, I helped people and businesses through financial crises. I also practiced in banking law. As a legislator, I've worked across the aisle to relieve the financial burdens of our state's hardest working citizens. For example, I introduced the Ohio Veterans Bonus, a small cash bonus for those who served in the Persian Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan. From my military experience, education, and business background, I learned to root out waste and inefficiency and improve operating procedures to run a highly effective organization. This is what I did in the military, this is what I did in my own business, and this is what I'll do in the treasurer's office.

Answer 3: (1) Safeguard the over \$200 billion in taxpayer money the treasurer is tasked with overseeing. There is no question that making sound fiscal decisions regarding taxpayer money is the top priority of the treasurer. (2) Institute an independent Inspector General for the treasury. For over a decade we have seen instances of waste, fraud, abuse, corruption, and mismanagement in the treasurer's office. It's disappointing that Ohioans have only come to know their treasurers for the scandals they create. This is the office that oversees taxpayers' money, and I cannot imagine a more important place to have an independent, nonpartisan Inspector General helping prevent and resolve the problems we have seen over the last decade. (3) Protect our pensions. The treasurer decides which banks serve as custodians over the pension funds that 1.8 million Ohioans and their families depend on. I take that responsibility seriously.

Answer 4: As state treasurer, my duty to the people of Ohio is a fiduciary one. Our state fiscal policy ought to put security first - this is the people's treasury. As treasurer, I would be the state's chief fiscal officer. My duties would include weighing in and advising on all state fiscal issues, whether they be launching new debt, refinancing existing debt, or retiring old debt; reviewing and finding ways to enhance the return on our investments; or targeting investments as economic development tools. The Treasurer's office can help protect and strengthen seniors' retirement and pension security; provide financial education for veterans; find resources for schools; teach young people how to save for their first home; help students saddled with debt; aid our farmers, small businesses, and homeowners during times of natural disasters; and promote job growth.

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

6 year term. Salary: \$141,600.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Hears all cases involving questions arising under the Ohio Constitution or statutes; hears appeals from Courts of Appeals decisions. The Supreme Court's decisions are final except in cases involving the U.S Constitution, statutes, or treaties.

QUESTIONS: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** Do you think the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct's provisions regarding recusal should be strengthened to address instances where individuals or corporate litigants before a judge have, either directly or indirectly, made expenditures on behalf of the judge's election? Please explain. **Question 2:** Estimate the number of cases that you have tried and please describe the different types of cases you have tried. **Question 3:** What qualities most impressed you in the judges before whom you have appeared? Describe which of these qualities you possess. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court (Full term commencing 1-1-15) (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)



Sharon Kennedy

EDUCATION: Bachelors Degree of Social Work, University of Cincinnati 1989 Juris Doctor, University of Cincinnati College of Law 1991 2012 - Present

Ohio Supreme Court 1999 – 2012 Judge, Butler County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division

OCCUPATION: State of Ohio Ohio Supreme Court

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: 2012 - Present Ohio Supreme Court 1999 – 2012 Judge, Butler County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division 1991 - 1998 Lawyer, Private Solo Practitioner, Hamilton, Ohio 1995 - 1989 Police Officer/Civil Asst, Hamilton Police Dept.

Answers: Candidate did not respond.



Tom Letson

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: <http://tomletson.com/meet-tom/>

EDUCATION: Machinist Apprenticeship, Copperweld Steel; BA Kent State University; JD, University of Akron

OCCUPATION: Legislator/ Attorney

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Assistant Law Director, Acting Municipal Judge, USW Workers Compensation Committee Chairman, EMT - A, National Ski Patrol, Warren City Board of Health, Father, Brother, Husband, Grandfather, Trumbull County, Ohio State and American Bar Associations

Answer 1: I think that we talk out of both sides of mouths. We want to elect our Judges, but we don't want them to be part of the political process that puts them on the ballot. Unless and until the process is changed to provide complete public financing of the judicial races we are stuck with needing to raise money to let people know what their choices are. That would go a long way to eliminating the appearance of conflict when an acquaintance appears before the bench. That is not to say that Judges don't strive to be impartial in the delivery of their duties, but we are talking about perception.

Answer 2: I have tried hundreds of cases, mostly to the bench, mostly in Family Court or Municipal Court, some jury trials in Common Pleas and Municipal Court. Most of a lawyer's job is to try to keep their clients out of court by offering sound advice beforehand.

Answer 3: Patience, Competency, Integrity, Temperament. Those are the qualities that I have found in the Judges that I have admired. My father was an attorney so I grew up around the Bar and his friends. There were many special people that I watched all my life who taught me how to put those attributes into practice. I certainly hope that I am still learning how to reach that level I saw in my father and his friends.

Justice of the Ohio Supreme Court (Full term commencing 1-2-15) (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)



Judith French

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: <http://www.justicejudithfrench.com/about/>

EDUCATION: Ohio State University; J.D., M.A., B.A.

OCCUPATION: Justice

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Ohio Supreme Court Justice since January 2013. Prior experience includes: eight years as appellate judge; counsel to Governor; five years as assistant attorney general, including arguments before United States Supreme Court and Ohio Supreme Court; private and corporate law practice.

Answer 1: Corporations may not contribute to judicial campaigns. Individuals may contribute, but only to a limited extent. The limits on individual contributions ensure that a judge will not be influenced inappropriately. The Code of Judicial Conduct already addresses instances where recusals should occur, including where a party's relationship with the judge-for whatever reason-requires the judge's recusal.

Answer 2: As a Supreme Court Justice, I have considered thousands of appeals involving all types of civil and criminal matters, including the death penalty, elections, constitutional law, and attorney discipline. As an appellate judge, I authored 800 written opinions on civil, criminal, and administrative matters and participated in thousands of appeals. As a lawyer, I argued before the United States Supreme Court and the Ohio Supreme Court. I represented public and private entities before trial and appellate courts, with particular emphasis on constitutional issues and environmental law.

Answer 3: Intelligence, experience, fairness, and civility are the hallmarks of a good judge. I strive to demonstrate all of those qualities in every matter that comes before me as a justice on the Ohio Supreme Court. I also strive to demonstrate consistency, predictability, and restraint and to remember that my role as a judge is limited.



John P. O'Donnell

Candidate did not respond.

OHIO DISTRICT OFFICES

District is based on voter's address. Note that under present law, state legislative districts are drawn by a partisan board, and Congressional districts are drawn by the state legislature. Districts are not particularly geographically compact, and often divide counties, townships, municipalities and wards between different districts. In contrast, in the judicial race the district is divided by law into "compact" appellate districts.

US REPRESENTATIVE

2 year term. Salary: \$174,000.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To represent the people of Ohio, their district, and the United States in dealing with matters of national and international importance. The general welfare should be a prime concern.

QUESTIONS: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What are your qualifications for office? **Question 2:** What steps, if any, will you take to lessen the paralyzing partisan politics that are preventing Congress from conducting the people's business? **Question 3:** What revenue sources would you consider raising or what programs would you consider cutting in order to address the federal deficit? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

1st Congressional District



Steve Chabot Republican Party

EDUCATION: Graduated from LaSalle High School and the College of William and Mary. Earned law degree from Salmon

P. Chase College of Law.

OCCUPATION: U.S Congressman, 1st District, Ohio.

EXPERIENCE: Served five years each on Cincinnati City Council and the Hamilton County Commission. First elected to Congress in 1994. Re-elected in 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2010, 2012.

Answer 1: It's been my privilege to represent this district for nearly 18 years. I've always worked for my constituents, fighting against wasteful spending and excessive regulations. And I will continue to strive for an economy that works for all Americans.

Answer 2: I often reach across the aisle to work with my Democratic colleagues. Recently, for example, I worked with Ham. Co. Commissioner Todd Portune and Rep. Marcia Fudge from Cleveland on bipartisan legislation to help local communities deal with one-size-fits-all clean water mandates from the EPA. Our common-sense proposal will allow communities to work with the EPA to find innovative clean water solutions that will lower costs for consumers while still maintaining rigorous clean water standards.

Answer 3: One of my top priorities is to eliminate wasteful spending in Washington, and I recently received the highest rating in the House from Citizens Against Government Waste for my efforts to reduce spending. We are facing a \$17.5 trillion debt, and unfortunately the waste in Washington is

not limited to a handful of programs. So, while we should eliminate funding for unnecessary programs like MAP and the Denali Commission, we must also reduce overall spending levels in order to balance the budget.



Fred Kundrata Democratic Party

EDUCATION: Bowling Green State University, B.S. Procurement and Materials Mgmt.; Troy State University, M.S. Business Mgmt.;

Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law, J.D.

OCCUPATION: International Pilot, Delta Airlines; Attorney (Licensed in MI, OH, KY); Small Business Owner of Residential Apartment Buildings

EXPERIENCE: Lt. Col. USAF, 1983-2011, (Retired); Pentagon HQ Staff, 2005-2011; Wright Patterson Air Force Base Staff Officer, 2000-2005; Combat Veteran: Persian Gulf War, Kosovo War, and Operation Enduring Freedom (2007)

Answer 1: Lt. Col. USAF, 28 years, (Ret.);Pentagon HQ Staff; Combat Pilot Veteran: Persian Gulf War, Kosovo War, and Operation Enduring Freedom (2007); International pilot, Delta Airlines; Small business owner of Residential properties; Licensed Attorney

Answer 2: As a member of Congress, I pledge to work with others across the aisle, seeking common ground, not extremism. For example, I support Rand Paul's proposal for a "tax repatriation holiday," allowing corporations to bring profits home from overseas in exchange for a lower tax rate. This could generate \$70 billion in revenue which can be used to address our nation's crumbling infrastructure. I favor bipartisan working groups to solve major legislation needs, guided by trust and respect.

Answer 3: Our \$492 billion deficit limits our ability to address important issues. The answer is not to slash programs or increase taxes, but to streamline efficiency and find creative solutions. Let's bring home the estimated \$2 trillion in offshore profits held by American corporations via a low tax grace period. Let's raise the minimum wage to bring an estimated five million Americans out of poverty. Paying a living wage would decrease demand for social programs and encourage self-sustainability.

2nd Congressional District



Marek Tyszkiewicz Democratic Party

EDUCATION: Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, MSU 1987

OCCUPATION: Actuary, small business owner, former math & physics teacher

EXPERIENCE: Over 20 years experience as an actuary including serving on the Board of Directors and as a National Practice Leader; owner of small business located in Cincinnati; former high school math and physics teacher.

Answer 1: As an actuary, worked 20+ years with democrats and republicans nationwide, helping them manage budgets. Also elected to the Board of a medium sized company, served as national practice leader for a global corporation, and own a local small business.

Answer 2: In my experience, both political parties respect an actuary because we deal with facts not partisan politics. In Congress I will support the position that is supported by data, not by ideology. I will also remind my fellow representatives the difference between compromising and negotiating. Comprise has become a bad word. With compromise, there is a sense of resignation or loss. Instead, I will negotiate. When you negotiate, by definition, both sides win.

Answer 3: While closing tax loopholes and cutting government waste are ways to balance the budget, the most effective is growing the economy. As we recover from the Great Recession, deficits have shrunk dramatically as a result. Continued growth can be driven by infrastructure investment and helping business here at home. Please see my full plan at electintegrity.com/jobs. One example is eliminating the federal gas tax and replacing it with a tax on speculative trading to fund infrastructure projects.

Brad Wenstrup Republican Party

Candidate did not respond.

STATE SENATOR

4 year term. Base salary: \$60,584.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To represent the people of the district and the state of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government.

QUESTIONS: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What are your qualifications for office? **Question 2:** What do you see as the state's role in addressing women's reproductive health? **Question 3:** If elected, what is your top priority? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

7th District

Shannon Jones Republican Party

Candidate did not respond.

9th District



Cecil Thomas Democratic Party

EDUCATION: BS Criminal Justice Management Union Institute University. Associate Science Law Enforcement Technology

University of Cincinnati Withrow High School

OCCUPATION: Retired

EXPERIENCE: 27 years Cincinnati Police Department, 5 years Executive Director Cincinnati Human Relations Commission, 8 years Cincinnati City Council.

Answer 1: I have over forty years of public service. I spent 27 years in law enforcement, five years as Executive Director of the Cincinnati Human Relation Commission and 7+ years on Cincinnati City Council.

Answer 2: The State Senate Republicans have chosen to legislate the Health Care Rights of Women. Their policies in the last budget were clearly anti-women, discriminatory and politically motivated. The state's role in addressing this issue is to assure

all Ohio's women fair and equal Health Care Rights.

Answer 3: Reversing the Senate Republican's tax shift that disproportionately benefit wealthy at the expense of poor & middle income.



Charlie Winburn Republican Party

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in urban management and a master's degree in social foundations of education, both

from the University of Cincinnati. Certificate in Authentic Leadership Development from Harvard Business School.

OCCUPATION: Cincinnati City Councilmember

EXPERIENCE: Council member for the City of Cincinnati. Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee, while also serving as a member of the Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee and the Law and Public Safety Committee. Previously served seven years on City Council before taking a break required by term-limitations. Long history of public service, with 20 years in various administrative/management positions in government and with various organizations, including the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and the United Way.

Answer 1: I reside within District 9, registered elector, currently serve on the Cincinnati City Council, chairperson of our Budget & Finance Committee, member of Law & Public Safety and Economic Development Committees, 7 years prior service on city council.

Answer 2: I am pro-life and support the right of the State of Ohio to protect the unborn, and women in the reproductive process.

Answer 3: My top priority is to pass laws and to provide incentives to grow businesses in Ohio with view toward creating jobs.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

2 year term. Base salary: \$60,584.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To represent the people of the district and the State of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government.

QUESTIONS: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What are your qualifications for office? **Question 2:** What is your general position on legislation regarding gun rights and regulations? **Question 3:** If elected, what is your top priority? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

27th District



Tom Brinkman, Jr. Republican Party

EDUCATION: BA from George Washington University

OCCUPATION: Life Insurance

Sales

EXPERIENCE: Served four terms in the Ohio General Assembly (2001-2008)

Answer 1: I am a 56 year old native to the 27th Ohio House District with a wife of 31 years who has

lived in the same zip code her entire life and six children born and raised right in Cincinnati.

Answer 2: I support the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution

Answer 3: Repeal Common Core



Joe Otis Democratic Party

EDUCATION: I graduated from Anderson High School, I then attended Miami of Ohio to study psychology and international

studies. My family fell on hard times and I left Miami of Ohio to help my family.

OCCUPATION: Non-Profit Event Chair / Board of Directors

EXPERIENCE: I was offered a chance to work for Hillary Clinton on her presidential run. I was able to travel the United States learning first hand that hard work pays off. After Hillary dropped out of the race I moved to Colorado to work for the Coordinated Campaign through the Colorado Democratic Party. Running Outreach and Field Programs I know that long hours and sleepless nights are all apart of the job. After the campaigns had stopped I moved to D.C., where I started volunteering for a variety of charitable and environmental causes. I then moved back home to Cincinnati were I got involved with the different campaigns and organizations. While back in Cincinnati, I became the Volunteer Event chair for Teen Response helping cognitively challenged children while also Volunteering with homeless and runaway youth.

Answer 1: Candidate did not respond.

Answer 2: Candidate did not respond.

Answer 3: Candidate did not respond.

28th District



Jonathan Dever Republican Party

EDUCATION: B.A., University of Cincinnati; M.A. in Industrial Labor Relations, Indiana University of Pennsylvania; J.D., Capital

University

OCCUPATION: Small Business Owner & Attorney

EXPERIENCE: I have spent the past twelve years successfully operating my own law firm, helping families and small businesses survive, expand, and thrive. I have experienced first-hand what it takes to create jobs and make a payroll. I will bring these experiences to Columbus to keep our district and Ohio on a path forward.

Answer 1: Candidate did not respond.

Answer 2: Candidate did not respond.

Answer 3: Candidate did not respond.



Micah Kamrass Democratic Party

EDUCATION: Sycamore High School 2007, The Ohio State University (BA) 2011, The Ohio State University (JD/MPA) 2014

OCCUPATION: Law Clerk at Manley-Burke

EXPERIENCE: Student Body President at The Ohio State University

Answer 1: I was elected by my peers to serve as Student Body President at the Ohio State University. There, I worked with student leaders, university administrators, and elected officials to make college more affordable and lower the burden of student loans.

Answer 2: I am in favor of common sense solutions to ensure that only law-abiding citizens can purchase guns. I want to strengthen mental health services to ensure that people receive the support they need.

Answer 3: Creating jobs, improving our schools, and strengthening our communities.

29th District



Louis W. Blessing, III Republican Party

EDUCATION: BA Mathematics BS Electrical Engineering

OCCUPATION: Licensed Professional Engineer (electrical) at SSI, State Representative 29th District

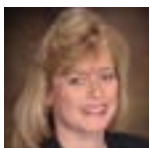
Answer 1: I am the current state representative for the 29th District. As a licensed professional engineer, I have worked on many projects and have a wealth of experience in mathematics, economics and finance.

Answer 2: I am a strong supporter and defender of the 2nd amendment and am endorsed by Ohioans for Concealed Carry and Buckeye Firearms thus far. I voted affirmatively for HB 203 (Stand Your Ground) both in committee and on the House Floor.

Answer 3: To reduce the growth rate of Medicaid, as it is the largest item in Ohio's budget and the current rate is too high.

Nathan D. Lane Green Party

Candidate did not respond.



Tammy Simendinger Democratic Party

EDUCATION: Northern Kentucky University-BA Organizational Leadership Minor in Public Administration-Summa Cum

Laude Cincinnati State AS Business Management University of Cincinnati

OCCUPATION: Regional Volunteer Director for the Greater Cincinnati Dayton American Red Cross

EXPERIENCE: Director of 2800+ volunteers, Founder and VP of TriState COAD, National Disaster responder, Hamilton County Citizen Corp, United Way/Red Cross speaker/fundraiser, LifeSpring Christian Church event planner, Community Partnership Coordinator of faith-based, non-profit, labor and government entities for Red Cross, Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce Women Excel in Leadership (We Lead) , Harrison Rotary, Junior Achievement volunteer, Upward sports coach, Whitewater Valley Elementary PTA

Answer 1: I work collaboratively with faith-based groups, non-profits & government agencies on community issues. I manage 2800 volunteers in 37 counties & have budget experience. Most

importantly, I will listen to & represent the people of the 29th district.

Answer 2: The Second Amendment clearly guarantees Americans the right to keep and bear arms, and I believe that law abiding citizens should not have our rights restricted. I believe that ownership of weapons includes responsibility. I would uphold the right for people to own guns, but would stiffen the penalties for people who engage in criminal activity.

Answer 3: Restore State funding to local governments & end the need for additional tax levies to pay for fire & police services

30th District



Mark A. Childers Democratic Party

EDUCATION: Bachelors Degree Miami University 1985

OCCUPATION: Government/ Economics Teacher

EXPERIENCE: Teacher for 28 years, Small Business Owner

Answer 1: I have raised a family, worked, and volunteered in our community for many years. I am proud to have owned and operated small businesses on the West Side of Cincinnati. I am committed to fighting for the hard-working people of the 30th House District.

Answer 2: I support the guarantee afforded by the Second Amendment for people to 'bear arms'. I also support common sense regulations regarding gun ownership such as backgrounds checks for all gun sales.

Answer 3: My top priority is education. The funding system was ruled unconstitutional years ago and it needs to be fixed.



Lou Terhar Republican Party

EDUCATION: BS - US Naval Academy MBA - Syracuse University MLA - Harvard University

OCCUPATION: Managing Director of a Strategic Planning business, Adjunct Professor-Management & Strategy

EXPERIENCE: Incumbent - Ohio House of Representatives; President & CEO of The David J Joseph Co., Indian Motorcycle Co, and Integris Metals

Answer 1: I have served in the General Assembly since September, 2011. I am the Vice Chairman of the Economic Development and Regulatory Reform Committee of the House and the Chairman of the Veterans Caucus. I am a Commander, US Navy (retired).

Answer 2: I support the Second Amendment and believe that the Constitution acknowledges the right for citizens to responsibly bear arms. I support the rational process of requiring a concealed carry permit to ensure that the citizen is determined to be responsible to exercise of this right.

Answer 3: Jobs, and the quality education system required to prepare young people to obtain a good job that provides a living wage.

31st District



Denise Driehaus Democratic Party

EDUCATION: Miami University, BA in Political Science

OCCUPATION: State

Representative

EXPERIENCE: I am a current member of the General Assembly, and have owned and managed two small businesses, served on the Cincinnati Recreation Commission for 16 years as a volunteer board member and served on many community boards.

Answer 1: I have served as a State Representative for the past 6 years. I have been able to work across the aisle to advance legislation to promote job creation, education, the environment and to support funding to keep our communities vibrant and safe.

Answer 2: While I recognize a citizens right to bear arms, I believe that we should have reasonable policies in place to ensure that gun owners are trained in the use of fire arms and will be responsible gun owners. I also believe that mental health services should be accessible for our kids as well as adults and that when we recognize behaviors that might lead to violence we should be proactive and seek to address the underlying issues of that person so that violence can be prevented.

Answer 3: I will continue to fight for policies that promote job growth, which include investing in schools and roads and bridges.

Queen Noble Libertarian Party

Candidate did not respond.



Mary E. Yeager Republican Party

EDUCATION: B.S University of Akron, Akron, OH

OCCUPATION: Accountant/ Auditor

EXPERIENCE: Certified Public Accountant, Certified Fraud Examiner, Certified Internal Auditor, 2011 Candidate Norwood City Council-At-Large, 2013 Candidate Norwood City Treasurer, Public Accounting - small and large firms (taxes, audits, advisory), Sole Proprietor - Accounting & Consulting Internal Audit, Audits of Governmental Agencies

Answer 1: Please view my facebook page or contact my campaign directly - voteyeager@gmail.com

Answer 2: Please view my facebook page or contact my campaign directly - voteyeager@gmail.com

Answer 3: Please view my facebook page or contact my campaign directly - voteyeager@gmail.com

32nd District



Christie Bryant Democratic Party

EDUCATION: Graduate of Cincinnati Public Schools-(Walnut

Hills High School) University of Cincinnati- BA in Psychology University of Cincinnati College of Law- Juris Doctorate

OCCUPATION: Attorney, Small business owner- Records Requests, Ltd., Field Representative - Cincinnati Federation of Teachers

EXPERIENCE: Past work experience: Attorney- Ulmer and Berne LLP Regional Legal Staff Attorney- American Family Insurance Company, Civic experience: Leadership Council: The Women's Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, Commissioner: City of Cincinnati Planning Commission, Chair: City of Cincinnati Human Services Advisory Committee, Trustee Avondale Community Council, Chair: Avondale Comprehensive Development Corporation, Co-Chair- Multicultural Awareness Council- Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestra, Diversity Advisory Board- Cincinnati Reds, Immediate Past Chair: Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky African American Chamber of Commerce

Answer 1: My civic and professional experience is as diverse as the people in the State of Ohio. I've worked in non-profits, a union, a law firm and a Fortune 500 company. I'm a small business owner and an attorney with experience in various areas of the law.

Answer 2: We must respect that the Second Amendment guarantees the right to bear arms. However, we must take responsible action to protect our communities and children from mass shootings and violent street crime. Legislation regarding background checks, banning certain types of military-style assault weapons, limiting ammunition magazines and eliminating street access to armor piercing bullets must all be considered. We must also increase access to mental health services and make our schools safe.

Answer 3: Providing excellent constituent services to the residents of the 32nd & bringing resources from the State to my district.



A. Brian McIntosh Republican Party

EDUCATION: H.S. School for Creative and Performing Arts 86' B.A. University of Cincinnati, Economics 90' M.A. University of

Cincinnati, Economics 95' J.D. Salmon P. Chase Law School, N.K.U. 95'

OCCUPATION: Attorney

EXPERIENCE: I have been an attorney for 19 years and have handled thousands of cases, civil, criminal, probate, small business, in both State and Federal Courts.

Answer 1: Candidate did not respond.

Answer 2: Candidate did not respond.

Answer 3: Candidate did not respond.

33rd District



Alicia Reece Democratic Party

EDUCATION: I graduated from Withrow High School International Studies Academy in Cincinnati and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Grambling State University

in Louisiana where I studied public relations and minored in Spanish.

OCCUPATION: State Representative

EXPERIENCE: I am former Vice Mayor and City Councilwoman for Cincinnati. I have also served as Assistant Director of Tourism and Interim Ohio Film Office Director for the State of Ohio.

Answer 1: I am currently elected as the State Representative for Ohio's 33rd House District as well as President of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, former Vice Mayor of Cincinnati, City Councilwoman, and Assistant Director of Tourism.

Answer 2: Lawmakers should be working to reduce gun violence in Ohio.

Answer 3: To enact a Voter Bill of Rights constitutional amendment in Ohio to establish a permanent set of basic voting rights in Ohio.

JUDGE OF THE OHIO COURT OF APPEALS (FIRST DISTRICT*)

Full Term Commencing 2-9-15. 6 year term. Salary: \$132,000.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The Court of Appeals is essentially a Court of Review. It hears appeals from the Common Pleas, County, and Municipal Courts.

QUESTIONS: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What are your qualifications for office? **Question 2:** Do you think the Ohio Code of Judicial Conduct's provisions regarding recusal should be strengthened to address instances where individuals or corporate litigants before a judge have, either directly or indirectly, made expenditures on behalf of the judges' election? Please explain. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

*Note that the First District includes the entirety of Hamilton County



Russell J. Mock

EDUCATION: B.A. University of Dayton J.D. Ohio Northern University College of Law

OCCUPATION: Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge

EXPERIENCE: Judge for over ten years. Presiding Judge for 2012-13. Housing Court Judge. Former Felony Prosecutor. Private practice from 1996-2004.

Answer 1: I have been a judge for over 10 years. As a former prosecutor, attorney in private practice and judge, I have participated or presided over 100 jury trials. I am a fair judge who follows the law but am tough on those who threaten our community.

Answer 2: Jud.Cond.R.2.11 requires a judge to disqualify himself when the Judge's impartiality might be reasonably questioned. Contributions to a judge's campaign do not, in and of itself disqualify the judge. If there is a substantial political relationship between the judge and a litigant, the judge should disclose the relationship to the parties. I would strengthen the Rules of Professional Conduct by requiring the lawyer to disclose the substantial political relationship to opposing counsel.



Fanon A. Rucker

EDUCATION: B.A., Psychology, Hampton Univ (1993) J.D., Univ of Cincinnati College of Law (1996)

OCCUPATION: Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge

EXPERIENCE: Prosecutor, 1996-2001; Private practice, 2001 - 2007, areas of practice included state and federal cases in employment law (plaintiff/defense), civil rights (plaintiff/defense), commercial litigation (plaintiff/defense), general civil litigation (plaintiff/defense); municipal law director; Judge 2007-present; bar exam grader 1997-2007; adjunct professor 2007 - present; frequent public speaker and lecturer

Answer 1: I had the unique experience of representing Plaintiffs and Defendants in a wide variety of legal matters. Also, I have written more than three hundred decisions in the past seven years. Both of these make me especially qualified for appeals court.

Answer 2: I do. The public should be confident that judges' decisions are unaffected by their relationship to the parties in front of them. It is difficult to accept that a judge will make a decision that is contrary to a donor who may then be unwilling to support that judge in a later election. Whether changing the way judges take the bench or prohibiting judges from deciding cases where either the party or the lawyer donated a particular amount to their election effort, the rules should be adjusted.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 4

4 year term. No salary.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The 19-member board is responsible for overseeing the Ohio Department of Education and creates policy and makes recommendations for K-12 education in Ohio.

QUESTIONS: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What would be your priorities if elected to the State Board of Education? **Question 2:** Do community (charter) schools need increased scrutiny and accountability for the taxpayer funds they expend? If so, what proposals do you support? **Question 3:** What can the State Board of Education do to ensure that all community schools and nonpublic schools that accept state financial support (including vouchers) are accountable to the public for the tax support? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)



Pat Brunts

EDUCATION: Masters in Art Education, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 1985; Bachelor of Art in Education, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky

1973; Diploma,Oak Hills High School, Cincinnati, Ohio 1969

EXPERIENCE: During my thirty year tenure in the Northwest Local School District (at Colerain High

School from1989-2004), I presented workshops locally and at National Art Education Association conferences on Discipline-based Art Education curriculum. I have been a participant and consultant for The Getty Center for the Arts in Education and CET's Arts Connections. In these capacities, I planned and facilitated summer arts-integration workshops for teams of educators with an emphasis on learning through the arts. Into retirement, I was a PRAXIS III Assessor for new educators seeking licenses and supervised student teachers at Mount Saint Joseph University. For the past three years, I have been involved with Miami University's Urban Teaching Cohort. A long-time community volunteer, I am currently chair of the Price Hill Will Board. More recent recognitions include: 2014 Cincinnati Women's Political Caucus' Outstanding Achievement Award; 2014 inclusion in Art4Artist's Women Workbooks Exhibit at Kennedy Heights Art Center that included community conversations about women's issue; 2013 Recipient, Girl Scouts' Woman of Distinction Award; 2012 Named, Southwest Ohio Education Association's Friend of Education; An Artworks Cincinnati muralist in Over-the-Rhine (2008) and South Cumminsville (2009); 2005 Listed is Marquis' Who's Who in American Women

Answer 1: I will focus on providing funding for adequate resources and high-quality learning opportunities, including the arts and universal pre-school, for every child in our public schools, no matter their zip code and reducing the high-stakes testing focus.

Answer 2: Each year, almost \$1 billion public school tax dollars are diverted to for-profit charter schools. These are much needed funds that could give our public schools the resources and educational environment they need in order to teach their students as individuals and not as test scores. I will advocate for a moratorium on the expansion of the use of public tax dollars for charter schools and all funding for current for-profit charter schools that are performing below state standards.

Answer 3: I will advocate for policies that bring existing for-profit charter schools in line with the same standards, financial accountability, and reporting protocols that regulate our public schools.

Zac Haines

Candidate did not respond.

HAMILTON COUNTYWIDE OFFICES

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

4 year term. Salary: \$87,075.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Exercises financial control of County expenditures; authorizes public works; purchases land and buildings; lets contracts; plans and administers welfare. The Board of County Commissioners also appoints other officials to operate various departments within the county.

QUESTIONS: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What are your qualifications for office? **Question 2:** What specific county service could be shared with the City of Cincinnati and/or other municipalities

that would maintain the quality and decrease the cost of that service? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)



Sean Patrick Feeny Democratic Party

EDUCATION: Master of Business Administration, Wright State University, 2015 (Expected) Bachelor of Science, Software Engineering, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology 2009

OCCUPATION: Technology Consultant

EXPERIENCE: Shoemaker Fellow, Ohio Democratic Leadership Institute, 2013 NCH Board of Zoning Appeals, 2010 NCH Secretary of Mayor's Taskforce, 2010 Hamilton County Democratic Party Precinct Executive, 2010-Present US Public Service Academy State Representative 2007-2010 Presidential Freedom, Coca-Cola, Huff & CSF Scholar 2005 Technology Consultant, 2003-Present Systems Administrator, 2006-2012

Answer 1: As a county resident I bring a different perspective than yet another former Cincinnati politician. I have served in various Party positions throughout the last decade while giving back to my community through non-profits & neighborhood associations.

Answer 2: I support shared services in all areas that create synergies and deliver better service to County residents, preferably at a lower taxpayer cost. Within the City of Cincinnati this will include at a minimum public transportation, economic development, emergency management, IT and facilities. Outside of the City of Cincinnati it may also include road services and consolidated emergency service districts.



Chris Monzel Republican Party

EDUCATION: Purdue University, BS Aeronautical-Astronautical Engineering, University of Cincinnati, MS Aerospace

Engineering, Harvard University, Masters of Public Policy

OCCUPATION: Hamilton County Commissioner, General Electric Aviation - Engineering Manager

EXPERIENCE: Nine years on Cincinnati City Council, Hamilton County Commissioner 2011 to present

Answer 1: As an engineer, a father, and a community leader with a wide range of experience in both the public and private sector, I have a proven record of success finding real-world solutions to the issues facing our county.

Answer 2: The City and County both perform street maintenance and fleet maintenance. Consolidation of facilities, staffing, administration and equipment could offer substantial savings. Duplication could also be eliminated in the inspection and licensing of facilities that use medical gas. These services could be expedited through Hamilton County's health department for doctors, dentists, veterinarians and health care facilities.



James R. Tarbell Independent Write-In Candidate*

EDUCATION: Lowell Institute Cambridge, MA; Withrow High School; St. Xavier High School;

OCCUPATION: Entrepreneur

EXPERIENCE: Cincinnati Vice Mayor 2005-2007; Cincinnati City Council 1998-2007; Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission 2000-2006; Cincinnati Planning Commission 1999-2007; Proprietor, Arnolds Bar and Grill 1976-1999; Proprietor Grammers Restaurant, 1994-2007; Board of Trustees: Cincinnati Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Taft Museum, and May Festival; Hamilton County Planning Partnership Board member; OKI Regional Council of Governments; Founding Chairperson of the Cincinnati Arts and Culture Committee; Founding Chairperson of the Over the Rhine Chamber of Commerce; Owner and Operator of the Ludlow Garage Producer of the Fall Ball, Viennese Ball, Snow Ball, Fire Ball, and Odd Ball Founding Member of Bockfest; Community Board Member of Public Radio WGUC

Answer 1: Former Vice Mayor & City Council member for Cincinnati, former proprietor of Grammers & Arnolds restaurants, member of numerous boards including prior membership on Hamilton County & Cincinnati Planning Commissions, & OH-KY-IN Council of Governments.

Answer 2: Hamilton County should prioritize encouraging local municipalities to collaborate together on shared services. The Northeast Fire Collaborative provides a model of shared services for other communities to follow. Additional candidates for such shared services include road maintenance, sanitation, parks and recreation facilities. Effective administration and shared responsibility for water and sewer services is critical to our future growth.

*Note that the write-in candidate will not appear on your ballot. Ask your poll worker for the list of write-in candidates. There is a space provided to mark a vote for the write-in candidate and to write the name in.

COUNTY AUDITOR

4 year term. Salary: \$94,248.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Values real property in each county conducting periodic real property valuation, maintains county financial records and issues warrant for the payment of county obligations.

QUESTIONS: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What are your qualifications for office? **Question 2:** What can you do as Auditor to make the process of administering real property taxation understandable and transparent to citizens? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)



Mike Mezher, Jr. Republican Party

EDUCATION: Guardian Angels Grade School - St. Xavier High

School Miami University Univ. of Dayton School of Law

OCCUPATION: Attorney licensed in OH, KY, and FL.

EXPERIENCE: Reorganization attorney. Advising family businesses how to navigate a burdensome tax and regulatory environment as well as how to operate more efficiently in this fragile economy.

Answer 1: I am a practicing attorney, small business owner and family man. I have counseled many small businesses and families facing financial difficulty and helped them become successful. I will use these skills to help turnaround an outdated auditors office

Answer 2: Before we can make the property taxation process understandable, we must first get the property values right. Hamilton County property values are not accurate, and I will work to fix this accuracy problem. I will hold town hall meetings in every community across Hamilton County explaining the property tax process and breaking down exactly where your property tax dollars are spent. Transparency requires integrity & communication. I will bring new ideas on how to use technology to be transparent.



Dusty Rhodes Democratic Party

EDUCATION: Syracuse University, '61 BS, NY Institute of Finance, 1968

OCCUPATION: County Auditor, since 1990

EXPERIENCE: Investment Broker, 1967-1990 Elected Board Member Ohio PERS 1977-1993, Delhi Township Trustee 1969-1990, Radio Broadcaster, since 1961

Answer 1: My record of service. In 2012, for example, I returned over \$16 million in unspent funds to cities, villages, township, school districts and taxing entities. I will continue to make ours one of the finest County Auditor's office in the state.

Answer 2: I began informal hearings of tentative new property values at neighborhood conferences. I addressed many groups to explain our reappraisal work, how it relates to property taxes and how to formally challenge a value. I worked with local Realtors holding meetings at their offices and teaching continuing education classes so they can advise their clients about property taxation. I established our website, hcauditor.org, to inform and empower taxpayers.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

6 year term. Salary: \$121,350.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Presides at trials of both civil and criminal cases; supervises the jury commission, grand jury and other departments of court.

QUESTION: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What are your qualifications for office? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE FOR EACH FULL TERM)

Please note that judicial races in Ohio are considered non-partisan, although the candidates run in the primary on a partisan ballot. In the general election, the party affiliation does not appear on your ballot.

Full Term Commencing 1-1-15



Melba D. Marsh

EDUCATION: Seton High School; College of Mount Saint Joseph; University of Cincinnati College of Law

OCCUPATION: Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas Judge

EXPERIENCE: After 11 years of service in the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office, in 1989, I was elected to the Hamilton County Municipal Court. After serving seven years, I was then elected to the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas where I am in my 17th year on the bench. This year marks 37 years of service at the Hamilton County Courthouse with 25 years as Judge.

Answer 1: My qualifications include 37 years of "on the job training" at the Hamilton County Courthouse and a deep respect for the written law.

Full Term Commencing 1-2-15

Patrick Dinkelacker

EDUCATION: 1976 Xavier University B.A., 1979 University of Dayton Law School J.D.

OCCUPATION: Judge 1st District Court of Appeals

EXPERIENCE: 1979 - June 1991 Ass. Hamilton County Prosecuting Attorney, July 1991 - November 1995 Judge Hamilton County Court of Domestic Relations, November 1995 - December 2006 Judge Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas General Division, February 2007 - Present Judge 1st District Court of Appeals

Answer 1: I have been a judge for the past 23 years having served over 15 years on the Trial Bench (4 years Domestic Relations/11 years Common Pleas General Division) & over 7 years on the Court of Appeals.



John M. Mereness

EDUCATION: University of Toledo, College of Law - Juris Doctor - Law - 1992 // University of Cincinnati, Carl H. Lindner College of Business - Bachelors of Business

Administration - Management & Marketing majors - 1988 // Wyoming High School, Wyoming (Hamilton County), Ohio - 1983

OCCUPATION: Attorney at Law, Corporate & Private Legal Practice (Business based) - focusing on Growth Strategy, Contract Negotiation, and IT Hardware & Software Procurement, Purchasing, Sourcing, & Buying, as well as Vendor Management.

EXPERIENCE: Business based legal practice 1992-2014 (ongoing), including extensive experience with business based contract negotiations, dispute resolution, and settlement negotiations, plus business based project management and business based relationship management.

Answer 1: Among business skills, the ability to listen to and decipher information, as well as having a demeanor strong in sense of humor. Thank you for your consideration.

Full Term Commencing 1-4-15



Pat Foley

EDUCATION: University of Cincinnati College of Law, J.D.; Athenaeum of Ohio, Cincinnati, B.A.; St. Gregory's Seminary High School, Cincinnati, diploma.

OCCUPATION: Attorney at Law, private practice, including workers' compensation.

EXPERIENCE: Teacher at Elder High School; Legal Aid Attorney, 10 years; County Attorney, 1 year; State of Ohio Attorney, 19 years; Private Attorney, 6 years; Instructor at Ohio Judicial College.

Answer 1: I have 37 years of legal experience in civil, criminal, and administrative law. I have represented individuals and the State of Ohio. I understand how the law affects everyday people and the whole State.



Carl Stich, Jr.

EDUCATION: B.S. University of Kentucky, 1976 J.D., University of Kentucky College of Law, 1980

OCCUPATION: Judge, Court of Common Pleas

EXPERIENCE: Appointed to the Court in March 2013. Practicing trial attorney in Cincinnati since 1980. Previous positions include: Associate, Partner, Dinsmore & Shohl (1980-1999); First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Hamilton County Prosecutor (1999-2001, 2004); Partner, White, Getgey & Meyer (2001-2003, 2005-2013). Special prosecutor appointments: Assistant Home State Special Prosecutor, 1985-92; Special Assistant Attorney General, Commonwealth of Kentucky, 1991-94; Associate Whitewater Independent Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice (1994). Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Cincinnati College of Law (2004-present)

Answer 1: Current Common Pleas Court Judge; Attorney in Hamilton County since 1980; Partner in both large and small law firms; Prosecutor at both state and federal levels; Rated one of the top 100 Ohio Superlawyers and listed in the Best Lawyers in America

Full Term Commencing 2-9-15



Robert C. Winkler

EDUCATION: B.B.A. University of Cincinnati, 1983; JD Salmon P. Chase College of Law, 1987

OCCUPATION: Judge, Hamilton County, Ohio Court of Common Pleas

EXPERIENCE: Judge, Hamilton Co. Municipal Court 2002 - 2006; Judge, Hamilton Co. Court of Common Pleas 2006- Present

Answer 1: Candidate did not respond.

Full Term Commencing 2-10-15



Jerry Metz

EDUCATION: Xavier University, B.S. 1976, University of Cincinnati College of Law J.D. 1980.

OCCUPATION: Common Pleas Court Judge.

EXPERIENCE: Common Pleas Court Judge 2009 - present, Jerome J. Metz, Jr., Attorney 2007-2009, Porter Wright Morris & Arthur, 1983-2007 - Partner, Hartssock Harris & Schneider 1982-1983 - Associate, U.S. District Court - Hon. David S. Porter 1980-1982 - Law Clerk. I also served many years as Mediator and Arbitrator.

Answer 1: I am serving my 6th year as Common Pleas Judge. FOP Lodge 69 endorsed. I apply what I've learned in 34 years as judge, trial lawyer & arbitrator. I'm a mentor to lawyers & fellow judges & instructor in the Ohio Judicial College. I'm fair & impartial.



Charles Miller

EDUCATION: J.D., Boston University School of Law, 2001; B.A., The Ohio State University, 1998

OCCUPATION: Partner, Keating Muething & Klekamp PLL

EXPERIENCE: Keating Muething & Klekamp PLL (2005-2014); Hamilton County Public Defender Commission (2013-2014); Law Clerk to Justice Maureen O'Connor, Ohio Supreme Court (2003-2005); Gallagher Sharp (2002-2003)

Answer 1: In 13 years of practice, I have represented individuals and businesses in court, including over 10 cases in the Ohio Supreme Court - a rare honor. Many of these cases have been high profile. I will timely do justice under the law.

Full Term Commencing 2-11-15



Beth A. Myers

EDUCATION: A.B. Miami University (Phi Beta Kappa), J.D. University of Cincinnati College of Law (Law Review, Order of the Coif)

OCCUPATION: Judge, Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, 2003-present

EXPERIENCE: Judge, Court of Common Pleas (2003- present), appointed by the Supreme Court of Ohio to serve as a Commercial Docket Judge; 2013 Presiding Judge for the Court of Common Pleas; over 21 years experience as a practicing trial lawyer - - Partner at Frost Brown Todd (formerly Frost & Jacobs) , 1989-2003 and Associate at Frost & Jacobs, 1982-1989; former President of the Cincinnati Bar Association; Board of Visitors of the University of Cincinnati College of Law; member of Ohio Judicial Conference (Civil Law and Procedure Committee and Ethics and Professionalism Committee); member of the Ohio State Common Pleas Judges' Association; former member of the Ohio State Bar Association Pro Bono Committee Task Force; member of Cincinnati and Ohio State Bar Associations; Beyond Civility participant; Potter Stewart Inn of Court member; former member of Miami University Pre-Law Advisory Board; Leadership Cincinnati Class XXIII

Answer 1: I have served as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas for over 11 years. In addition to handling felony and civil cases, I am also appointed by the Supreme Court of Ohio as one of 6 judges across the State to handle business related disputes.

Full Term Commencing 2-12-15



Ethna M. Cooper

EDUCATION: A.B., Smith College, J.D. University of Notre Dame, MediationTraining, Harvard Law School

OCCUPATION: Judge

EXPERIENCE: Judge, Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas 2003-present; Judge, Hamilton County Municipal Court 2001-2003; Attorney, private practice 1980-2001.

Answer 1: I have served Hamilton County as a judge since 2001. I am the Presiding Judge of the Court of Common Pleas and the founding and Presiding Judge of the Hamilton County Felony Veterans Treatment Court, the country's 1st felony "Vet Court."

Full Term Commencing 2-13-15

Charles J. Kubicki, Jr.

Candidate did not respond.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (JUVENILE DIVISION)

Full Term Commencing 2-14-15. 6 year term. Salary: \$121,350.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Rules in cases involving persons under 18 years of age. The Juvenile Court has authority in cases of delinquency, unruliness, juvenile traffic offense, abuse, neglect and dependency.

QUESTION: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What are your qualifications for office? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)



Jennifer Branch

EDUCATION: B.A. From New York University in Politics and Philosophy, J.D. From Case Western University School of Law

OCCUPATION: Attorney

EXPERIENCE: Gerhardtstein & Branch Law Firm and the Legal Aid Society of Cincinnati

Answer 1: My nearly 27 years of courtroom experience includes standing up for children and families, workers, and the injured. I have management skills from running a small business, and am a problem solver who will bring new leadership to the Juvenile Court.



John M. Williams

EDUCATION: St. Xavier High School '79; Xavier University, B.A. '83; Thomas Cooley Law School, J.D. '92.

OCCUPATION: Administrative Judge, Juvenile Division, Court of Common Pleas, Hamilton County, Ohio.

EXPERIENCE: My experience includes over twenty years of service as a judge, magistrate, prosecutor and organizational leader. As a husband and proud father of three sons, I am keenly aware of the

HOW TO FIND OUT ABOUT JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

Voters often don't have much information about judicial candidates. Because most citizens do not routinely interact with judges in their communities, they tend to know very little about how judges conduct themselves in the course of doing their jobs. In addition, state rules do not allow judicial candidates to discuss their views on controversial issues because judges must be impartial on the bench. It is important for voters to understand the role of the courts and the qualities important to consider when evaluating judicial candidates.

To learn about candidates for judge in your area consider reading candidates' campaign literature, visiting campaign websites, and talking with people who know the candidates including practicing attorneys.

In order to make a decision, when voting on judicial candidates, consider the answers to the following questions:

To what extent has the candidate practiced in the area(s) of law the court handles?

What work or other experience has the candidate had that will particularly qualify him or her to perform the duties of a judge on this court?

What do you know about the candidate's legal philosophy? Political philosophy?

In addition you should consider the candidate's integrity, judicial temperament, and level of commitment to public service and the administration of justice. Also, consider who is paying for any advertising about any particular judicial election. For our democracy to function, judges must carry out their tasks impartially and independently. Judges' decisions should not follow public opinion or promote special interests or even reflect their personal beliefs. Judges' decisions should be based on facts and law. This judicial impartiality protects fair trials and upholds the rule of law.

tremendous impact that my decisions can have on the children and families who appear before me. I've presided over 35, 000 cases involving over 130,000 rulings. As the Administrative Judge, I am also responsible for managing approximately 280 staff members and an annual budget of over 22 million dollars. I formed a public/private partnership to save Hillcrest Training School and preserved locally-based treatment options for our youth. Prior to becoming a judge, I served as an Assistant Prosecutor for ten years successfully litigating cases involving violent criminal offenders in the Juvenile, Municipal, and Common Pleas Courts. In this role, I appeared in court every day and tried hundreds of cases. I was named Chief Prosecutor of the Grand Jury Division and was responsible for the review and presentment of approximately 10,000 felony and related misdemeanor cases to the Grand Jury annually. Additionally, I directed the Pretrial Diversion Program for the Prosecutor's Office. I also served as a Mayor's Court Magistrate for ten years. Finally, I gained invaluable experience overseeing large organizations while serving as Director of the Board of Elections, Administrator of the Clerk of Courts Office and as a Member of the Board of Directors for Talbert House.

Answer 1: With over 20 years' experience as a judge, magistrate, prosecutor, organizational leader, husband and father, I am qualified to make the tough decisions necessary to protect our communities, families and, most importantly, our children.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (PROBATE DIVISION)

Full Term Commencing 2-9-15. 6 year term. Salary: \$121,350.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Duties include the following: the administration of decedent's estates, consent for medical treatment, the appointment of guardians for minors and incapacitated adults and the supervision of their property, civil involuntary commitments of the mentally ill, adoptions, birth record corrections and registrations, changes of name, issuance of marriage licenses, supervision of testamentary trusts (those created by will) and interpretation and enforcement of inter vivos trusts (those created during a person's lifetime), land appropriations, and will constructions.**QUESTION:** Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What are your qualifications for office? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)



Charlie Luken

EDUCATION: Purcell High School, University of Notre Dame, U.C. College of Law

OCCUPATION: Attorney

EXPERIENCE: Practicing Lawyer, City Councilman (1981 to 1983), Mayor of Cincinnati (1984-1990, 1999-2006), United States Congress (1990-1992), Chairman of Ohio State Racing Commission (2006-2008), Art Museum Board as Mayor, Founder of 3CDC, among others boards and commissions.

Answer 1: For over 30 years I have been involved in public service. I decided to run for Probate Court because it perfectly fit my skill set: legal experience,

administrative experience and helping people solve problems they face in times of need.



Ralph Winkler

EDUCATION: 1983 University Of Cincinnati BBA Accounting/ Finance - Deans List. 1987 Chase Law school NKU - Juris Doctor. 2004 American Academy

of Judicial Education - Granted Diploma of Judicial skills.

OCCUPATION: Judge, Common Pleas Court

EXPERIENCE: 15+ years experience as a Judge (5+ years in Municipal Court and 9+ years in Common Pleas Court). 11+ years experience as Assistant Prosecutor. 30+ years Courtroom experience. 11+ years experience in Probate law practice.

Answer 1: 15+ years as a judge. Presided over 33,000+ cases. 11 years as a Probate Lawyer and Asst. Prosecuting Attorney. 30+ years of courtroom experience. I enjoy helping the people of our community and I would appreciate your vote on Nov. 4th.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION)

Full Term Commencing 7-1-15. 6 year term. Salary: \$121,350.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Handles cases of divorce, dissolution of marriage, annulment, separation, and child custody matters. **QUESTION:** Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What are your qualifications for office? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)



Ray Pater

EDUCATION: St. Xavier High School, Miami University (BA), Xavier University (MBA), University of Dayton (JD)

OCCUPATION: Executive Director of the Butler County Child Support Enforcement Agency

EXPERIENCE: Executive Director of the Butler County Child Support Enforcement Agency, President of Ohio CSEA Directors Association, 22 years Domestic Relations experience, Member of the Ohio State Bar, Member of the Cincinnati Bar, Member of the Butler County Bar

Answer 1: As the Executive Director of the Butler County Child Support Enforcement Agency, I work with over 30,000 families every year. I have dedicated my entire career to children and families, and have seen the difference a good judge can make.



Amy Searcy

EDUCATION: William Henry Harrison High School; Xavier University; Salmon P. Chase College of Law, NKU; College of Mt. St. Joseph

OCCUPATION: Judge, Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations division;

EXPERIENCE: Currently I am the sitting Judge in the Court; 6 years Municipal Court Magistrate; 5

years Hamilton County Board of Elections, Director; 10 years Hamilton County Public Defender Office, Senior Trial Attorney

Answer 1: I was appointed to Hamilton County's Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Court in May 2014. Before I was Judge, I served as the Director of the Hamilton County Board of Elections and Magistrate in Hamilton County Municipal Court.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (DRUG COURT)

Full Term Commencing 1-3-15: 6 year term. Salary: \$121,350.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Accepts or rejects any case referred and has full authority to conduct arraignment, accept pleas, enter findings and dispositions, conduct trials, order treatment, pronounce and enter sentence. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

Kim Wilson Burke

Candidate did not respond.

HAMILTON COUNTY BALLOT ISSUES

ISSUE 1

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL) – CINCINNATI CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall a levy renewing an existing levy be imposed by the Cincinnati City School District, County of Hamilton, Ohio, for the purpose of EMERGENCY REQUIREMENTS, in the sum of \$65,178,000 and a levy of taxes to be made outside of the ten-mill limitation estimated by the county auditor to average ten and twenty-six hundredths (10.26) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to one dollar and two and six-tenths cents (\$1.026) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for five (5) years, commencing in 2015, first due in calendar year 2016?

FOR THE TAX LEVY AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

EXPLANATION: In April, the Cincinnati Board of Education voted to place a renewal levy of 10.26 mills on the November ballot. If approved, it will continue an emergency levy (NOTE: because this levy is a renewal of an **emergency** levy, it, too, must be designated “emergency”) that was last approved in 2009 and will expire in December 2014. Voters are being asked to approve this renewal of 10.26 mills for a five-year period (commencing in 2015, first due in calendar year 2016) which will raise approximately \$65,178,000 per year and will be used to fund the operations of the Cincinnati Public School District (CPS).

The estimated cost to the owner of a \$100,000 home will be \$307.92, which is slightly less than

the amount paid currently. Since it is a renewal, a homeowner’s taxes will not be raised.

The levy was placed on the ballot by the Cincinnati Board of Education per a resolution passed at its April 14, 2014 meeting.

WHAT THE LEVY WILL DO: At its June 23, 2014 meeting, the Cincinnati Board of Education approved a \$497 million General Fund Budget for 2014-15. Some of the expenses included in that General Fund are personnel salaries and benefits, athletics, facilities/security, career technical expenses, information technology, evaluation and testing, and transportation for + 31,000 students. This levy, if approved, will provide about 14-15% of that budget figure.

The district obtains its funding from several sources: Federal - 13.8%, State - 35%; Local - 45.8%; Other non-tax sources - 4.4%. By law, they must operate with a balanced budget.

BACKGROUND: Voters are being asked to renew a levy that has been renewed successfully for many years. Its last renewal was in 2009. The district has had no **new** money since 2008, when a 5-year emergency levy for new monies was passed. A subsequent request for new monies was defeated in 2011. While making needed cuts to stay within their budget as required by law, in 2014 CPS achieved a 97% passing level of 3rd graders reading at grade level at the end of Grade 3, and the district reached a performance index trend of 87.5, the highest of Ohio’s urban districts.

CPS has faced decreasing funds from reduced State formula reductions in the 2011 and 2012 budget cycle. They have instigated several reforms to enable them to operate with less funding:

- Downsized the number of schools from 75 to 55 over a 10-year period;
- No pay raises for six years;
- Employees now pay 20% of their health care premiums and co-pays;
- Reworking transportation routes and school starting times;
- Utilized consultants to recommend best pricing for utilities and bulk purchasing.

Despite these efforts, however, the district could face severe deficits if levy is not approved.

A newly negotiated contract with the Cincinnati Federation of Teachers led to a complete overhaul in the Teacher Evaluation System. It is now aligned with more rigorous standards and requires student growth equal to 50% as part of the evaluation. The contract defines a clear, more expeditious exit ramp created for teachers who perform ineffectively. All employees receive their first pay raises in six years.

Through the effort of the Health Foundation and changes in the Affordable Health Care Act, twenty-one schools in the district are now equipped with in-house health clinics. CPS partners with several health institutions to staff the clinics; the plan is to provide needed services to the whole community.

The district has gained national recognition for its Community Learning Centers and outperforms all other urban districts in Ohio academically. Passage of this renewal and the resources it will provide will ensure that the district’s progress will continue.

ISSUE 2

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL) - MARIEMONT CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

An additional tax for the benefit of the Mariemont City School District, County of Hamilton, Ohio, for the purpose of CURRENT OPERATING EXPENSES at a rate not exceeding five and ninety-five hundredths (5.95) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to fifty-nine and five-tenths cents (\$0.595) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015.

FOR THE TAX LEVY AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

ISSUE 3

PROPOSED BOND ISSUE - WINTON WOODS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall bonds be issued by the Winton Woods City School District for the purpose of PAYING THE LOCAL SHARE OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION UNDER THE STATE OF OHIO CLASSROOM FACILITIES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND THE COST OF OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO SCHOOL FACILITIES, TOGETHER WITH, AS APPLICABLE, NEW CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENTS, RENOVATIONS, AND OTHER ADDITIONS TO SCHOOL FACILITIES, AS WELL AS EQUIPMENT, FURNISHINGS, SITE IMPROVEMENTS AND ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THEREFOR, AND CAPITALIZED INTEREST (IF ANY), in the principal amount of \$76,663,462 to be repaid annually over a maximum period of thirty-seven (37) years, and an annual levy of property taxes be made outside the ten-mill limitation, estimated by the county auditor to average over the repayment period of the bond issue eight and forty-eight hundredths (8.48) mills for each one dollar of tax valuation, which amounts to eighty-four and eight-tenths cents (\$0.848) for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015, to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds, and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of those bonds?

FOR THE BOND ISSUE AGAINST THE BOND ISSUE

ISSUE 4

PROPOSED BOND ISSUE AND TAX LEVY - FOREST HILLS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Forest Hills Local School District, Counties of Hamilton and Clermont, Ohio, be authorized to do the following:

(1) Issue bonds for the purpose of NEW CONSTRUCTION, IMPROVEMENTS, RENOVATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO SCHOOL FACILITIES AND

PROVIDING EQUIPMENT, FURNISHINGS AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS THEREFOR, INCLUDING SAFETY AND SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS, BUILDING ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS, ENHANCEMENTS TO THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AND CAPITALIZED INTEREST in the principal amount of \$103,000,000, to be repaid annually over a maximum period of thirty-two and one-half (32.5) years, and levy a property tax outside the ten-mill limitation, estimated by the county auditor to average over the bond repayment period four and forty-five hundredths (4.45) mills for each one dollar of tax valuation, which amounts to forty- four and five-tenths cents (\$0.445) for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015 to pay the annual debt charges on the bonds and to pay debt charges on any notes issued in anticipation of those bonds?

(2) Levy an additional property tax to provide funds for the acquisition, construction, enlargement, renovation and financing of GENERAL PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS at a rate not exceeding five-tenths (0.5) mill for each one dollar of tax valuation, which amounts to five cents (\$0.05) for each one hundred dollars of tax valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015?

FOR THE BOND ISSUE AND LEVY AGAINST THE BOND ISSUE AND LEVY

ISSUE 5

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (ADDITIONAL) - LOCKLAND LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

An additional tax for the benefit of the Lockland Local School District, County of Hamilton, Ohio, for the purpose of CURRENT EXPENSES at a rate not exceeding eleven and two-tenths (11.2) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to one dollar and twelve cents (\$1.12) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for a continuing period of time, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015.

FOR THE TAX LEVY AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

ISSUE 6

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL) - HAMILTON COUNTY

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Hamilton County, Ohio, for the purpose of SUPPLEMENTING THE GENERAL FUND TO PROVIDE FAMILY SERVICES AND TREATMENT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THOSE PROVIDED BY TALBERT HOUSE at a rate not exceeding thirty-four hundredths (0.34) mill for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to three and four-tenths cents (\$0.034) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for five (5) years, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015.

FOR THE TAX LEVY AGAINST THE TAX LEVY

DEFINITIONS OF BALLOT TERMS

TAX LEVY: Taxes that are assessed to homeowners and businesses based on their property values. These monies are used to fund government functions as well as special programs or activities determined to be of significant benefit to the citizens. Tax levies may be placed on the ballot for public vote by a government entity (County Commissioners, City Council, Township Trustees) or taxing authority (School Board, Vocational District, Park Board, Library Board)

RENEWAL LEVY: A Renewal Levy is the CONTINUANCE OF AN EXISTING LEVY with the collection rate at the same dollar amount as when the levy was originally approved.

REPLACEMENT LEVY: A replacement levy is a NEW LEVY FOR THE SAME PURPOSE AS THE EXISTING LEVY but with a different collection rate than the levy it replaces. The collection rate uses the assessed value of the property at the time of the replacement.

COE: Current Operating Expenses

CPT: Continued Period of Time

MILL: The property tax is measured in mills; a mill is one tenth of a cent. This translates to \$1 for each \$1,000 taxable value of the property.

MARKET VALUE: The market value of property is determined by the County Auditor. The valuation considers regional and neighborhood economic conditions, building improvements and land value. By state law, there is a full reassessment to each parcel every six years, followed by a computerized update three years later. The last full reappraisal in Hamilton County was in 2011.

ASSESSED VALUE: Assessed value is 35% of the market value of a property. In Ohio, property taxes are determined by the assessed value.

TAX RATE (mills): The **Full Tax Rate** is the total millage for the year, most of which is approved by voters in the taxing district. The **Effective Tax Rate** is the annual total millage reduced by state mandated reductions such as the rollback and the homestead exemption. This is stated in mills, not dollars.

SPECIAL DISTRICT: A joint fire and/or ambulance district that provides shared services in a legally designated area. A uniform tax rate is levied against all jurisdictions specified in the district.

GAS/ELECTRIC AGGREGATION: Aggregation is the process in which energy is sold to consumers who have joined together as a group to buy electric or natural gas. Local governments may aggregate the energy used by their residents and arrange for the purchase of electricity or natural gas as “governmental aggregators.” Ohio law gives local governments the option to choose either an opt-in or opt-out form of aggregation. The “Opt-in” form requires that each consumer agrees to participate in the program before being included in the aggregation pool. It does not require voter approval at an election. The “Opt-out” form automatically includes each consumer in the aggregated pool unless the individual affirmatively decides not to participate. It requires approval by a majority of the voters at an election.

HAMILTON COUNTY TAX LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Hamilton County Board of Commissioners controls voted levies that appear on the tax bill for Hamilton County property owners. The Commissioners appoint a citizen Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC) to study levy requests and to advise the Commissioners whether a levy should appear on the ballot; the appropriate size and duration for each levy; and terms and conditions that should be inserted into contracts.

Prior to the placement of each levy on the ballot, the TLRC engages a consultant to review finances and programs funded by the levy and holds public hearings. At the completion of its review, the TLRC sends a written report of findings and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. The Commissioners make the final decision regarding the levy that is placed before the voters.

If a levy is approved by voters, the TLRC is responsible for conducting a mid-term performance review to see that budget targets and contractual obligations are being met.

For more information including membership, levy procedures and TLRC reviews, see www.tinyurl.com/hamcotlrc.

EXPLANATION: The Family Services and Treatment levy (FST) is a renewal of an existing levy of 0.34 mills on residential and commercial property for family services and treatment programs including those currently provided by Talbert House for five years beginning in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015. Under this proposed levy the owner of property valued at \$100,000 will pay \$10.20 per year—the same amount as is paid currently. The proposed levy will raise approximately \$6 million per year. The levy was placed on the ballot by the Hamilton County Commissioners following a review by the Tax Levy Review Committee.

WHAT THE LEVY WILL DO: This levy will fund alternatives to incarceration that will educate, rehabilitate and retrain offenders who have alcohol and drug addiction and mental illness associated with criminal behaviors under the county policy to reduce recidivism and preserve limited jail space for the most serious offenders. The levy also supports community based anti-drug programs. The levy would produce approximately \$6 million a year for five years for Talbert House programs and other agencies:

- Residential Treatment Programs for incarcerated offenders (1617 Reading Road): jail-based treatment for men and women offenders.
- Turning Point: provides screening and intake, assessment, pre-treatment, treatment services, transitional, and aftercare services.
- 10-Day DUI Program: residential rehabilitation services.
- ADAPT (Drug Court): residential/outpatient services for men and women with felony drug-driven offenses.

Levy funds also are for Hamilton County Prison Reentry Programs, the Sheriff’s Office for facility security, Probation and Municipal Court, Drug Free Communities Program and Treatment Court Staff Program.

BACKGROUND: The Family Services and Treatment levy was first approved in 2009 to continue funding for programs previously provided for in an expired levy. The FST levy provides treatment opportunities for individuals in the criminal justice system.

The largest programs paid for by the FST levy are programs for inmates at 1617 Reading Road approximately 38% of the total levy in 2013. The contract with Talbert House for Turning Point and 10-Day DUI represented about 16% and the ADAPT (Drug Court) was about 21.7% of total levy funding in 2013. The Sheriff’s Corrections Staff for security at Turning Point and 10 Day DUI was 9.3% of 2013 levy funds. Reentry programs beginning with entry into the criminal justice system through community reintegration aim to include connecting offenders to appropriate programs including Medicaid and were about 6% of levy funds in 2013. The Drug Free Communities funds youth directed educational programs promoting drug free environments through supporting community mobilization efforts and was a small proportion of levy funds.

Inmates in detention are not eligible for healthcare under the Affordable Care Act. Health coverage purchased through a Health Insurance Exchange is accessible to those who are in jail custody but not yet adjudicated. Inmates in a jail or prison remain eligible for Medicaid coverage for “inpatient services”, i.e., medical services provided through a hospital or long-term care facility for a period longer

than 24 hours.

In Hamilton County the opiate epidemic is a large burden on local county services. Directing candidates to the programs paid for by the FST levy is being significantly impaired due to the need to first detox an individual before they are eligible for entry. There is a shortage of detox centers in the County.

Without a millage increase, there would be an insufficient fund balance at the end of the upcoming levy cycle. The current proposed millage rate represents a 10% cut in the funding for these programs and will provide flat funding of the programs during the levy cycle. The Off The Streets program serving indigent women will be moved to the Health & Hospitalization Indigent Care levy.

TAX LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE (TLRC)
Recommendations: Consultants reported that service providers were doing more with less and did not identify any areas of non-compliance with terms of the current levy agreements. Based on those reviews and discussions, TLRC recommended: the Family Services and Treatment (FST) levy be renewed at the same millage, an across the board 10% reduction of all currently funded programs and flat funding of the programs during the levy cycle. Also TLRC recommended moving the Off The Streets program out of the FST levy and into the Health and Hospitalization Indigent Care levy since this program primarily serves indigent women who have no place to turn to get off the streets. For TLRC Reports: www.hamiltoncountyohio.gov/tlrc

ISSUE 7

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL) - HAMILTON COUNTY

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of Hamilton County, Ohio, for the purpose of SUPPLEMENTING THE GENERAL FUND TO PROVIDE HEALTH AND HOSPITALIZATION SERVICES, INCLUDING UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, NOW KNOWN AS UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI MEDICAL CENTER at a rate not exceeding four and seven-hundredths (4.07) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to forty and seven-tenths cents (\$.407) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for three (3) years, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015.

FOR THE TAX LEVY **AGAINST THE TAX LEVY**

EXPLANATION: The Health and Hospitalization levy is a renewal of an existing levy adopted in 2011 to provide health and hospitalization services at a rate of 4.07 mills on residential and commercial property for three years beginning in 2014 first due in calendar year 2015. The proposed levy will raise approximately \$37 million per year for medically indigent residents of Hamilton County at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center (UCMC) and Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) and county services for indigent care.

It will cost the owner of a \$100,000 home approximately \$51.11 per year, the same as is paid currently. The levy maintains current millage with no adjustment for inflation. The levy was placed on the ballot by the Hamilton County Commissioners

following a review by the Tax Levy Review Committee.

WHAT THE LEVY WILL DO: The Health and Hospitalization levy would provide funds for medically indigent county residents at University Hospital, Children’s Hospital and certain indigent care programs.

The levy would provide \$14.9 million to UCMC and about \$5 million to CHMC for 2015, 2016, 2017.

And the levy would provide funding for non-hospital Indigent Care services including:

- Sheriff Inmate Medical Contract
- Sheriff Inmate Medical Staffing
- MHRS Treatment Programming (Extended Detoxification Program and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services overseen by Mental Health and Recovery Services Board)
- Health District (TB Control Syphilis Prevention)
- Juvenile Medical
- Alternative Interventions for Women
- Probate Hearings
- Homeless Medical Coordination
- Charitable Pharmacy
- Medical Enrollment
- 1617 Reading Rd (22 beds)
- Off The Streets

Eligible residents of Hamilton County who are at or below the federal poverty level (FPL) and who are ineligible for Medicaid are eligible for indigent care levy-funded services. Both hospitals have active programs to identify insurance coverage for uninsured patients and help patients obtain coverage where available.

The majority of direct inmate medical services takes place at the Hamilton County Justice Center (HCJC) through contracted health care services. Costs for inmate Emergency Room or admission to University Hospital or a local nursing home are covered by funds provided to University Hospital from the Health and Hospitalization Levy. The Sheriff’s Department provides security for the Admissions Section, Health Services Section and the Psychiatric Unit located at the Justice Center and the 1617 Reading Road facility for adult misdemeanor and felony offenders.

The County Health Department will reallocate some Health and Hospitalization Levy funds to syphilis testing in the Justice Center.

The costs of medical services associated with the Juvenile Court are funded from this Levy.

The Youth Center contracts with Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CHMC) for on-site medical services.

The Alternative Interventions for Women (AIW) Program provides court ordered services for women in the criminal justice system who have both mental health and substance abuse disorders. In 2013, approximately 68% of all current funding for AIW was derived from this Levy.

Homeless Healthcare Coordination would provide funding to Strategies to End Homelessness (STEH), an organization that coordinates the work of agencies that shelter and service the homeless in Hamilton County. The funds would support costs related to on-site medical and behavioral health care, case management, and accessing resources (Medicaid, health and behavioral health services).

St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Charitable Pharmacy

provides free pharmaceutical care to individuals who do not have insurance coverage and cannot afford their medication. SVDP serves as the pharmacy of last resort for those who do not qualify for other programs or are unable to pay for discounted medication.

Medical Enrollment program would fund one medical enrollment specialist dedicated to efficiently facilitating the enrollment of indigent persons living in Hamilton County in Medicaid or other programs through the Affordable Care Act.

Residential Treatment Programs for incarcerated men and women offenders are located at 1617 Reading Road. Prior to 2009 158 beds were primarily funded by the Hamilton County Health and Hospitalization Levy. Beginning with 2009 twenty-two of the 158 beds that are contracted were funded by the Levy.

Off The Streets coordinates services to assist women involved in prostitution, providing housing and non-traditional group services to assist women through the recovery process.

BACKGROUND: The aim of the current levy approved by voters in 2011 is focused on prevention of illness and disease and coordination of medical care. Payments to UCMC and CHMC are conditioned on the hospitals providing services to medically indigent Hamilton County residents for which the Hospital receives no payment. The amount of services must be at least equal to the levy payments made each year. Both Hospitals meet this requirement.

Two provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) are the reduction in the number of uninsured residents through Medicaid expansion and Health Insurance Exchanges, and mandated hospital reimbursement reductions. The financial benefits to hospitals because of fewer uninsured residents in Hamilton County are somewhat modified by Medicare and Medicaid reductions in reimbursements to hospitals.

CHMC patients are children who have a higher rate of insurance coverage from existing programs than adults. The net impact of the ACA changes on CHMC is estimated to be relatively modest \$2.1 million, less than 0.2% of revenue.

The levy has a 38-year history of support for indigent care at the two hospitals. Funding for other county health care-related programs has been added over time.

TAX LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE (TLRC)

Recommendations: The TLRC recommended placing the levy on the November ballot at the current millage, with no adjustment for inflation, for a three year term. The estimates of the impact of the ACA are uncertain because implementation continues.

UCMC should be funded in the levy and has:

- been good steward of levy funds
- taken positive steps to expand its Emergency Department diversions program
- expanded its presence in its primary care clinics
- encouraged indigent patients to seek health care coverage

CHMC should be funded in the levy and:

- has done an outstanding job diverting Emergency Department visits to its primary care

system

- is commended for reopening a pediatric health care clinic in Harrison
- has been a good steward of Levy funds

Other TLRC recommendations include:

- Adjust the annual services test in the levy contracts with CHMC to account for a more realistic estimate of uncompensated care.
- Enforce current reporting requirements with UHMC and CHMC and work with both to develop better measurements to analyze the services provided by the Levy and ensure funds are well spent.
- The Sheriff Inmate Medical Contract should be renegotiated to better manage costs and a funding cap should be set for Inmate Medical Staffing at the 1617 Reading Road facility.
- For Homeless Healthcare coordination TLRC recommends that STEH receive funds in a phased in manner as facilities and additional healthcare related services are brought on-line and work with the Off The Streets program to help secure housing for women in that program.
- The County needs a knowledgeable healthcare finance professional to negotiate more effectively with the hospitals. This person would be focused on managing and overseeing the expenditure of taxpayer dollars on health care in the county, with the goal of maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of county funding.

ISSUE 8

PROPOSED SALES AND USE TAX - HAMILTON COUNTY

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

The Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County proposes to increase the levy of the sales and use tax in the amount of one-quarter of one percent for the purpose of providing additional general revenues and paying the expenses of administering such levy, the application of which general revenues shall be limited to acquiring, constructing, equipping, improving, maintaining, rehabilitating, and renovating Union Terminal for a period of five years.

Shall the resolution of the Hamilton County Commissioners proposing to increase the levy of the sales and use tax in the amount of one-quarter of one percent for a period of five years be approved?

YES **NO**

EXPLANATION: This is a proposed sales tax increase of one-quarter of one percent for five years which is estimated to generate \$170 million for Union Terminal. It would provide funding for renovation and repair of the Cincinnati Union Terminal, a public building occupied by the Cincinnati Museum Center. It would raise the sales tax currently paid in Hamilton County from 6.75% to 7%, and remain for five years beginning in 2015.

The levy was placed on the ballot by the Hamilton County Commissioners.

WHAT THE LEVY WILL DO: The proposed levy would provide funding for the renovation of Union Terminal to keep as a functional asset. According to a University of Cincinnati Economic Center study of June 2014, approximately 53% of the sales

tax support would come from Hamilton County residents and the remaining 47% of the sales tax would be paid by non-residents. The projected cost of the sales tax is estimated to be \$23 per resident per year. A family of four would provide \$92 per year support to the renovation projects.

The Cincinnati Cultural Facilities Task Force study prioritized work needed for restoration which included:

- Exterior restoration and preservation to prevent continuing water infiltration and damage.
- Mechanical equipment replacement since most of this equipment dates from 1970’s.
- Replacement of obsolete and inefficient lighting and electrical systems.

BACKGROUND: Built as a train station in 1933, Union Terminal was renovated and reopened as a Museum Center in 1990. A 2013 Comprehensive Cincinnati Museum plan indicated the need for significant repair and renovation to preserve Union Terminal. The Art Deco structure has been deteriorating for many years largely because of the construction methods used to build it. The building’s design allows moisture to get behind the bricks, which causes the structure’s supporting steel beams to rust.

Currently the Cincinnati Museum Center receives funding from a Hamilton County 2009 property tax levy for operations, maintenance and repair of Union Terminal. Building improvements were funded in part by this levy which expires in 2014 and will not be renewed. When the Museum Center requested a renewal, the Tax Levy Review Committee recommended the Museum Center establish an achievable plan to repair and restore Union Terminal. Hamilton County Commissioners wanted a comprehensive plan for the restoration of the building.

Located at Union Terminal, the Cincinnati Museum Center is a non-profit cultural organization including the Cincinnati Natural History Museum, Cincinnati History Museum and Library, Children’s Museum and the Omnimax Theatre. In addition the Museum Center maintains collections and provides exhibitions and programming for the general public.

TAX LEVY REVIEW COMMITTEE (TLRC)

Recommendations: In December 2013 the Cultural Facilities Task Force was formed and in June 2014 proposed addressing renovation of Union Terminal and included Music Hall renovation which was the proposal reviewed by TLRC.

In a November 2013 review, the TLRC found the Cincinnati Museum Center does an excellent job of running all 4 segments of the Museum Center. They have improved operating efficiencies and enhanced non-museum revenue.

ISSUE 9

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL) - CITY OF CHEVIOT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the City of Cheviot, County of Hamilton, Ohio, for the purpose of CURRENT EXPENSES at a rate not exceeding four and twenty-five hundredths (4.25) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to forty-two and five tenths cents (\$.425) for each one hundred

dollars of valuation, for five (5) years, commencing in 2015, first due in calendar year 2016.

FOR THE TAX LEVY **AGAINST THE TAX LEVY**

ISSUE 10

PROPOSED TAX LEVY (RENEWAL) - CITY OF CHEVIOT

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

A renewal of a tax for the benefit of the City of Cheviot, County of Hamilton, Ohio, for the purpose of CURRENT EXPENSES at a rate not exceeding seventy-five hundredths (0.75) mill for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to seven and five tenths cents (\$.075) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for five (5) years, commencing in 2015, first due in calendar year 2016.

FOR THE TAX LEVY **AGAINST THE TAX LEVY**

ISSUE 11

PROPOSED CHARTER REVISION – CITY OF CINCINNATI

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Charter of the City of Cincinnati be amended to remove obsolete language from the Charter, improve clarity and remove ambiguity related to existing provisions, ensure consistency with state and federal law, and to improve efficiencies related to the operations of municipal government, by amending Article 1, “Powers of the City”; amending Sections 5, 6 and 7 of Article II, “Legislative Power”; repealing Sections 4 and 5 of Article III, “Mayor”; amending Sections 5 and 6 of Article IV, “Executive and Administrative Service”; repealing Section 7 of Article IV, “Executive and Administrative Service”; amending Sections 1, 5 and 6 of Article V, “Civil Service”; repealing Article VI, “Institutions”; amending Section 2 of Article VII, “Boards and Commissions”; repealing Sections 12 and 13 of Article VII, “Boards and Commissions”; repealing Article X, “Miscellaneous”; amending Sections 1, 3 and 4 of Article XIII, “Campaign Finance”; and repealing Section 5 of Article XIII, “Campaign Finance”?

YES **NO**

EXPLANATION: This proposed ballot issue would amend the Charter of the City of Cincinnati by changing certain sections of the Charter and repealing others.

The changes in this Charter Amendment are proposed to remove obsolete language from the Charter, as well as to improve clarity and remove ambiguity from existing provisions in the Charter, ensure consistency with state and federal law, and improve operational efficiencies of municipal government.

This proposed Charter amendment was placed on the ballot by an ordinance passed by City Council.

WHAT THE AMENDMENT WOULD DO: The amendment proposes to remove obsolete language from the Charter, improve clarity and remove



LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

Join the League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area

With the League you can:

Contribute valuable services to the community

Gain insight and experience by studying and discussing current and important topics

Discover new interests, develop new skills and learn about crucial issues in your community

Make professional contacts and develop lasting friendships as you meet others in the League who share your interests.

Join us to learn and to participate. Lend us your support and help build your community. Become a member and be as active as you like. As a League member, you join others in a grassroots organization and become a force for change. Our members make a real difference in our community through education and advocacy as we encourage active participation in government at all levels. We help keep elections free, fair, and accessible. We help citizens learn how to become effective leaders in their communities to influence public policy. The League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area neither supports nor opposes candidates or political parties.

For membership information please visit our website at

WHAT TO BRING WHEN YOU VOTE

You must present ONE of these forms of identification to vote:

A government photo ID (Ohio Driver’s license or State ID showing either your current or your former address, as long as the ID has not expired)

OR one of the following that shows your current address and your name:

Military ID

Copy of a current utility bill

Bank statement

Paycheck

Government check

Government document showing your name and current address (Note: You cannot use the notice you received from the Board of Elections)

If you are a registered voter but don’t have any acceptable form of ID you still have the right to cast a provisional ballot, which should be counted if: You truthfully affirm in writing that you are an eligible and registered voter in the precinct you are voting AND you do one of the following:

Provide the last four digits of your Social Security number at the polling place

Provide either a valid form of ID or the last four digits of your Social Security number within 10 days of the election

If you don’t have any acceptable form of ID or a Social Security number, you affirm that fact in writing.

Above all, if you are sure you are at the correct polling precinct and voting a regular ballot is not an option for whatever reason, don’t leave the polls without voting a provisional ballot.

requiring the appointment of a director of public utilities by the City Manager (Article IV, Sec 7).

The proposed amendment would clarify appointment procedures for the Civil Service Commission (Article V, Sec 1) and remove obsolete language from Article VII, Sec 2 (City Planning Commission).

The amendment proposes to list additional ranks as currently used by the Police and Fire forces and clarify whether they are in the unclassified or classified civil service (Article V, Sec 5 & 6).

The proposed amendment would repeal in its entirety Article VI (Institutions) of the current Charter. This Article details the process of conversion of the University of Cincinnati and its affiliated hospital (Cincinnati General Hospital) from a municipal university to a state university. Since this conversion was completed in 1977, the Article is obsolete and can be repealed.

The proposed amendment would repeal sections in Article VII providing for the “board of trustees of the sinking fund” (Sec 12) and the “board of rapid transit commissioners” (Sec 13), both of which are obsolete.

The amendment proposes to repeal Article X (“Miscellaneous”) in its entirety because its provisions are obsolete or will now be covered in other sections of the charter.

The amendment proposes to delete references to public financing of campaigns in Article XIII, Sec 1, 3 and 4 (Campaign Finance). In 2002 voters passed a Charter amendment (Article XIII, Sec 3) prohibiting public financing of campaigns.

BACKGROUND: Many of the changes proposed in this Charter Amendment have been recommended by the Charter Review Task Force. The Charter Review Task Force was established by a majority vote of the Cincinnati City Council. The citizen task force members have been meeting since May 2014. After an initial determination of the items within the Charter that merit review, study and public discussion and potential modification, the Charter Review Task Force made recommendations to the Cincinnati City Council related to certain obsolete language in the Charter, as well as proposed minor amendments which would clarify or remove ambiguity from the Charter, ensure consistency with state and federal law, and improve operational efficiencies of municipal government without substantive policy changes. After review by the Rules and Audit Committee of City Council, Cincinnati City Council voted in early September to put this Charter Amendment on the November 2014 ballot. The Charter Review Task Force is continuing to meet and work on more substantive issues and will bring these issues to the public for discussion over the next year. Based on these discussions, additional Charter Amendments may be proposed for the ballot in the future.

The Cincinnati City Charter is the municipality’s constitution and any changes to it require an affirmative vote of the electorate. The Cincinnati City Charter can be viewed at www.cincinnati-oh.gov. Select government and enter charter in the search box.

ISSUE 12

PROPOSED TAX LEVY

(ADDITIONAL) - CITY OF HARRISON

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

An additional tax for the benefit of the City of Harrison, County of Hamilton, Ohio, for the purpose of CURRENT EXPENSES at a rate not exceeding four and eight-tenths (4.8) mills for each one dollar of valuation, which amounts to forty- eight cents (\$0.48) for each one hundred dollars of valuation, for five (5) years, commencing in 2014, first due in calendar year 2015.

FOR THE TAX LEVY **AGAINST THE TAX LEVY**

ISSUE 13

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT (Proposed by Initiative Petition) - CITY OF MADEIRA

A majority affirmative vote is necessary for passage.

Shall the Charter of the City of Madeira be amended by adding the new Article XVI. Madeira Historic District / Preservation as follows:

Article XVI. Madeira Historic District / Preservation

1. The City of Madeira was deeded and assumed ownership of the “Hosbrook House” located at 7014 Miami Ave. and the “Muchmore House” located at 7010 Miami Ave. In addition to these two properties the City also has ownership of the historic Railroad Depot located at 7701 Railroad Ave. These three important and historic properties are to be preserved, protected and left standing on the same ground that the structures were built upon. These three historic structures will be included in the “Historic District”.

YES **NO**

BUTLER COUNTY

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 year term. Salary: \$174,000.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To represent the people of Ohio, their district, and the United States in dealing with matters of national and international importance. The general welfare should be a prime concern. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

8th Congressional District



John A. Boehner
Republican Party

EDUCATION: Moeller High School, 1968; Xavier University, 1977

OCCUPATION: Former Small Businessman

EXPERIENCE: Lifelong resident of the Cincinnati area; President, Nucite Sales, 1977-1990; elected as Union Township (now West Chester) trustee in

1981, served 1982-1984; elected to Ohio House of Representatives in 1984, served 1985-1990; elected to U.S. House of Representatives in 1990, has served from 1991 to the present; Speaker of the House since 2011.

James J. Condit, Jr. Constitution Party

Tom Poetter Democratic Party

EDUCATION: BA Heidelberg, ‘85, English and Business; M.Div. Princeton Theological Seminary, ‘88; Ph.D. Indiana University, ‘94

OCCUPATION: Professor of Education, Miami University

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

6 year term. Salary: \$132,000.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The Court of Appeals is essentially a Court of Review. It hears appeals from the Common Pleas, County, and Municipal Courts. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

12th District - Commencing 1/1/15

Robert P. Ringland

12th District - Commencing 2/9/15

Robert A. Hendrickson

STATE SENATOR

4 year term. Base salary: \$60,584.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To represent the people of the district and the state of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

7th District

Shannon Jones Republican Party

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

2 year term. Base salary: \$60,584.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To represent the people of the district and the State of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

51st District

Lucinda L. Greene Democratic Party

Wes Retherford Republican Party

52nd District



Margaret Condit
Republican Party

EDUCATION: Ph.D. Analytical Chemistry - U of Colorado, B.S. Chemistry - U of Alabama

OCCUPATION: Retired Chemist - Procter & Gamble, Current State Rep - OH 52nd District

EXPERIENCE: 1984 - 2006 Procter & Gamble, 1998-2001 Liberty Twp Trustee, 2011 State Representative OH 52 nd District

Cathina M. Hourani Democratic Party

53rd District

Timothy Derickson Republican Party

Suzi Rubin Democratic Party

54th District

Rick Smith Democratic Party

Paul Zeltwanger Republican Party

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

4 year term. Salary: \$76,976

RESPONSIBILITIES: Exercises financial control of County expenditures; authorizes public works; purchases land and buildings; lets contracts; plans and administers welfare. The Board of County Commissioners also appoints other officials to operate various departments within the county.

QUESTIONS: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** Considering recent years of revenue shortfall and cuts to needed services, what measures would you support to meet the needs of the residents of the county? **Question 2:** What are the most critical issues regarding infrastructure repair in the county and what would you do about it? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

Cindy Carpenter Republican Party

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Current Butler County Commissioner and small business owner, former Butler County Clerk of Courts, Ohio Legal Rights Services Commissioner, health care, constituent and business experience. Attended Southwest College of Business and Miami University, 14 education certificates from OCCA, relevant continuing education in technology, serving fragile populations and public service requirements.

Answer 1: I came into office facing a financial crisis that was a direct result of the overspending by former Commissioners. With hard work and discipline, we turned a projected \$7 million deficit into a balanced budget. Departments have been reorganized, debt has been paid down and cash reserves are continuing to grow. With our newly streamlined programs, Butler County government is better situated to address the needs of our residents. We have an award winning Child Support Agency, an OhioMeansJobs program that has secured hundreds of jobs and a Childrens Services Agency that is reuniting families with the services they need.

Answer 2: Maintaining the value of Butler County’s infrastructure is important. By statute, the Commissioners hold title to all county property

on behalf of the citizens. The county’s assets are valued over \$300 million dollars including real-estate, furnishings, equipment, technology and vehicles. Authorizing maintenance and repairs is particularly important when considering irreplaceable buildings like the historic Courthouse. Additionally, our vehicle replacement schedule and other programs ensure that capital purchases are minimized and that the use of existing property is maximized. During the annual budgeting process, county office holders collaborate with the Commissioners to develop projects to protect and preserve these assets.

Brenda Williams Democratic Party

COUNTY AUDITOR

4 year term. Salary: \$89,109.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Values real property in each county conducting periodic real property valuation, maintains county financial records and issues warrant for the payment of county obligations. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

Nancy Powell Democratic Party

Roger Reynolds Republican Party

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

4 year term. No salary.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The 19-member board is responsible for overseeing the Ohio Department of Education and creates policy and makes recommendations for K-12 education in Ohio.

QUESTIONS: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What can the State Board of Education do to ensure that all community (charter) schools and nonpublic schools that accept state financial support (including vouchers) are accountable to the public for the tax support they receive? **Question 2:** How can the State Board of Education ensure a quality education for all Ohio students considering that community (charter) schools are permitted to follow different standards for graduation, course requirements, and teacher licensing and evaluations, when compared to traditional public schools? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

District 3

Charlotte D. McGuire

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Raised in segregated south, I know education is key to achieving a successful life. Bachelor degree in Business Administration; national consultant/coach for Reclaiming Futures (assisting teenagers with drug, alcohol, criminal behaviors); past Director, Montgomery County Juvenile Court; President/CEO Project Impact.

Answer 1: Public confidence in schools spending money is important. While complicated, all schools should be treated fairly and equally based on set financial guidelines. No school group should have an advantage over another but must be able to

show they are good managers of tax dollars focused on student achievement. The Board should appoint an independent person accountable directly to them for submitting oversight, reports and site visits tied to financial efficiency for expected student outcomes.

Answer 2: No two children are alike. Their unique assets and needs are the required educational focus. The Board is obliged to work with school districts, ESCs, Career Center, their community members and non public schools to maintain and increase quality child-centered educational opportunities that nurture and develop each child’s capacity for personal and academic growth and success. The goal is that each child student will be prepared to pursue their life goals.

Mary Pritchard

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Mary Pritchard, President of Butler County Education Service Center (11 years), has served for 17 years as an elected official. She hold a mechanical engineering degree from OSU, unmatched by her real education, which began when she became a mother.

Answer 1: Many tout the need to develop education for the “global economy,” but perhaps Columbus should recall our historic roots instead. A free American society should engage and create, rather than dictate. I believe a market-based environment would encourage innovation. Competition inspires change that can transform negative circumstances into positive ones. Competition leads to success, but regulation tends to stifle growth and innovation.

Answer 2: Ownership is key to inspiring children to perform. (The gas tank doesn’t need to be filled as frequently when they are paying for it.) I envision local communities owning, engaging and forming unique institutes of excellence, far exceeding any entity developed by regulations dictated from Columbus or Washington! Can that be accomplished when our incomes are taxed and returned to us with a million strings attached? I don’t think so.

Sarah L. Roberts

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: BS Ed, Ohio Northern University; MEd, Wright State University; retired teacher with urban, rural, and suburban public schools experience as well as gifted services supervisor in Huber Heights City Schools; Ohio Association for Gifted Children past president.

Answer 1: Charter and private schools should operate under the same standards of academic and financial accountability as public schools. However, they are insulated by current state law from the same levels of oversight as public schools Until the legislature has the resolve and motivation to take action to change Revised Code, the State Board must vigorously pursue the limited authority it does have under the law by carefully analyzing available data and school report cards.

Answer 2: The Board must be willing to highlight the inequities imbedded in state school law and should champion standards that include requirements for art, music, foreign languages in elementary schools, access to and use of all available local resources, with technology and field based experience opportunities for all students. High-quality education opportunities should not be dependent on zip code or special grants from the state.

A.J. Wagner

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Bachelor of Science in Education. Former public school teacher. Children’s author with four published books. Former Children’s Editor for a regional newspaper. Former community school board member. Former judge and county auditor. Practicing attorney at Flanagan, Lieberman, Hoffman and Swaim.

Answer 1: The legislature has set the accountability standards for community and non-public schools. It is the duty of the Department of Education to assure that those standards are being met. The State School Board has little authority to vary from the standards set by the legislature, but they can assure that citizens are made aware of how community schools measure up to those standards, especially as compared to public schools, by making audited results public

Answer 2: Because most standards are set by the legislature, not the Board of Education, a complete review of those standards must be conducted by the legislature. Where the Board can effect change, it should be toward even standards for all publicly funded schools. As a Board member I hope to work with the legislature toward evenly applied standards for all schools that accept state funding, These standards must assure a quality education for all Ohio’s children.

District 4

See Hamilton County on page 9.

Pat Bruns

Zac Haines

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

6 year term. Salary: \$121,350.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To preside at trials of both civil and criminal cases; to supervise the jury commission, grand jury, and other departments of the court. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

Commencing 01/01/2015

Jennifer McElfresh

Commencing 01/03/2015

Charles Pater

Commencing 02/09/2015

Michael A. Oster

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS JUVENILE DIVISION

6 year term. Salary: \$121,350.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To rule in cases involving persons under 18 years of age. The Juvenile Court has authority in cases of delinquency, unruliness, juvenile traffic offenses, abuse, neglect, and dependency. The Juvenile Court may be part of the Court of Domestic Relations or the Probate Court.

Commencing 01/02/2015

Ronald Craft

OHIO’S VOTER ID LAW HAS NOT CHANGED!

Ohio accepts a wide variety of documents for voter ID purposes:

A driver’s license or state ID card with your name and photo issued by the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The card must be current (not expired), but it can have an old address.

A U.S. Military ID with your name and photo (address not required).

A government ID with your name, current address, and photo. Note that student ID is not accepted.

An original or copy of one of the following current documents that shows your name and current address: utility bill (including cell phone bill), bank statement, pay stub, government check, or other government document. The document must have a date within one year of Election Day to be accepted as current.

If you do not have any of the above, you may use the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. You will have to vote a provisional ballot, but it will be counted as long as the number matches your voter registration.

Don’t wait until Election Day. Plan ahead to make sure you have an acceptable form of ID to vote.

If you plan to vote in a state other than Ohio, please check that state’s voter ID requirements at www.vote411.org. Many states have new, more restrictive voter identification laws in place in 2014. **The potential for the law to change still exists.** House Bill 269, which was introduced in 2013 and would require Ohioans to show photo identification when casting ballots, is still pending.

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS DOMESTIC RELATIONS DIVISION

6 year term. Salary: \$121,350.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To handle cases of divorce, dissolution of marriage, annulment, separation, and child custody matters. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

Ending 01/03/2017

Margot Halcomb

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PROBATE DIVISION

6 year term. Salary: \$121,350.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To rule on cases involving disposition of wills, the administration of estates and guardianships, adoptions, questions of mental or physical disability. They are also responsible for issuing marriage licenses. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

Commencing 02/09/2015

Randy T. Rogers

LOCAL ISSUES

ISSUE 1 - Butler County - Mental Health / Renewal Tax Levy 0.5 mill for 10 years

ISSUE 2 - City of Oxford - Electric Aggregation

ISSUE 3 - College Corner Village - Current Expenses / Renewal 2 mills for 5 years

ISSUE 4 - College Corner Village - Police Protection / Renewal 7 mills for 5 years

ISSUE 5 - Lemon Township - Fire Protection / Renewal 3.8 mills for 5 years

ISSUE 6 - Lemon Township - Police Protection / Additional Tax Levy 3 mills for 5 years

ISSUE 7 - Madison Township - General Construction / Additional Tax Levy 1 mill for a CPT

ISSUE 8 - Oxford Township - Fire Protection / Additional Tax Levy 1.75 mills for a CPT

ISSUE 9 - Oxford Township - Police Protection / Additional Tax Levy 2.25 mills for a CPT

ISSUE 10 - Ross Township - Fire Protection / Additional Tax Levy 2.75 mills for 5 years

ISSUE 11 - Wayne Township - Fire Districts 1 & 2 Fire Protection / 1 mill Replacement & 0.25 mill Increase for 5 yrs.

ISSUE 12 - Ham4wd1/River Bar - Local Option at 102 Main St. Hamilton

ISSUE 13 - Liberty11/Walgreens - Local Option at 5011 Princeton Rd. Hamilton

ISSUE 14 - WC11/Frickers - Local Option at 7844 Kingland Dr. Unit B, West Chester

WARREN COUNTY

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1st Congressional District

See Hamilton County on page 7.

Steve Chabot
Republican Party

Fred Kundrata
Democratic Party

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

6 year term. Salary: \$132,000.

Responsibilities: The Court of Appeals is essentially a Court of Review. It hears appeals from the Common Pleas, County, and Municipal Courts. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

12th District - Commencing 1/1/15

Robert P. Ringland

12th District - Commencing 2/9/15

Robert A. Hendrickson

STATE SENATOR

4 year term. Base salary: \$60,584.

RESPONSIBILITIES: To represent the people of the district and the state of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

7th District

Shannon Jones
Republican Party

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

2 year term. Base salary: \$60,584.

Responsibilities: To represent the people of the district and the State of Ohio in dealing with matters not allocated to the federal government.

Questions: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What are your qualifications for office? **Question 2:** What is your general position on legislation regarding gun rights and regulations? **Question 3:** If elected, what is your top priority? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

54th District

Rick Smith
Democratic party

Candidate did not respond.

Paul Zeltwanger
Republican Party

Candidate did not respond.

62nd District

Ron Maag
Republican Party

Candidate did not respond.

Scott C. Pettigrew
Libertarian Party

Candidate did not respond.



Charlene Schneider
Democratic Party

EDUCATION: Ph.D. Miami University, M.S. Marquette University, B.A. University of Denver

OCCUPATION: Psychologist

EXPERIENCE: 30 years of experience listening to people, forming deep, trusting relationships, working with them for change and healing. Also, a Ph.D. is a research degree. Mine is in human behavior. I know how to read and interpret research to make fact-based, sound judgments.

Answer 1: Listening to people’s problems, building a trusting alliance, and problem solving will serve me well as a Representative of the people of District 62, as will my research skills to base decisions on facts.

Answer 2: I took the Sandy Hook Promise. I believe in sensible gun laws, background checks on all guns sold, and mental health laws that work in tandem with reasonable gun laws, like those recently passed elsewhere to allow guns to be temporarily taken away from individuals when family members are concerned for their family member’s safety or the safety of others during a mental health crisis. I am against “guns everywhere” legislation and against “stand your ground” laws.

Answer 3: Returning funding to public schools and communities and ensuring the rights of voters, workers and women.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

4 year term. Salary: \$76,976.

Responsibilities: Exercises financial control of County expenditures; authorizes public works; purchases land and buildings; lets contracts; plans and administers welfare. The Board of County Commissioners also appoints other officials to operate various departments within the county. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

Tom Grossmann
Republican Party

COUNTY AUDITOR

4 year term. Salary: \$89,109.

Responsibilities: Values real property in each county conducting periodic real property valuation, maintains county financial records and issues warrant for the payment of county obligations.

Questions: Each candidate was asked **Question 1:** What are your qualifications for office? **Question 2:** What can you do as Auditor to make the process of administering real property taxation understandable and transparent to citizens? (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

Matt Nolan
Republican Party

EDUCATION: B.A. Miami University Juris Doctorate The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law

OCCUPATION: Chief Deputy Auditor Attorney

EXPERIENCE: As an Assistant Prosecutor I served as legal counsel for the Warren County Auditor and Treasurer’s Office. I was hired by Auditor Nelson to help administer the office and to learn and mentor under one of the most experienced elected officials in the State of Ohio

Answer 1: As an attorney and as Chief Deputy Auditor I have learned every aspect of the office. This is a complicated office with many facets and my education and experience have allowed me the most knowledge on how it is best operated.

Answer 2: Transparency is the key. If people want to understand how their property is valued they need to have the ability to get that information as quickly and expediently as possible, and we believe our website is the key to that. In addition the Auditor must be available and active in the community. This is why I provide my private cell phone to everyone - I work for the people. If you have a question or concern you do not need to take off work to come meet me, call me any time.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

District 4

See Hamilton County on page 9.

Pat Bruns

Zac Haines

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Term Commencing 2/9/15. **6 year term. Salary: \$121,350.**

Responsibilities: To preside at trials of both civil and criminal cases; to supervise the jury commission, grand jury, and other departments of the court. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

Craig Newburger

Robert Peeler

Roger D. Staton

JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS - PROBATE/JUVENILE

6 year term. Salary: \$121,350.

Responsibilities: To rule on cases involving disposition of wills, the administration of estates and guardianships, adoptions, questions of mental or physical disability. They are also responsible for issuing marriage licenses. To rules in cases involving persons under 18 years of age. The Juvenile Court has authority in cases of delinquency, unruliness, juvenile traffic offense, abuse, neglect and dependency. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

Joseph W. Kirby

WARREN COUNTY COURT JUDGE

6 year term.

Responsibilities: Handles an average of approximately 8,000 criminal, traffic, and civil cases per year and its jurisdiction includes cases in the following Townships: Clearcreek, Hamilton, Harlan, Massie, Salem, Union, Washington, and Wayne. (VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN ONE)

Unexpired Term Ending 12/31/18

Robert S. Fischer

Unexpired Term Ending 12/31/16

Gary A. Loxely

ISSUES

ISSUE 1 - Warren County Joint Vocational School - Replacement 3.5 mills levy

ISSUE 2 - Village of Carlisle - Additional 0.5% income tax for police services

ISSUE 3 - Village of Harveysburg - Renewal 2.5 mills for street maintenance

ISSUE 4 – Village of Waynesville - Continuation of 1% income tax

ISSUE 5 - Salem Township - Additional 6.5 mils fire levy

ISSUE 6 - Salem Township - Renewal 0.5 mills public library levy

ISSUE 7 - Local Option - Hunter’s IGA Sunday sales

ISSUE 8 - Clinton Massie Schools - Additional 4

OHIO REGISTERED VOTERS HAVE A CHOICE ON HOW TO CAST THEIR BALLOT

Vote by mail, by casting an absentee ballot - You will need to fill out and send in an absentee ballot request form. For this election, the Secretary of State sends an absentee application to every registered voter. If you don’t receive yours, you can request one by calling your county Board of Elections. When the absentee ballot application is received, the Board of Elections will mail you a ballot. Follow all instructions and provide required information on the absentee ballot envelope including proper postage. Absentee voting began September 30. The Board of Elections must receive your voted ballot by the close of polls on Election Day in order for it to count.

Vote early in-person - Registered voters may vote early beginning on September 30 for the November 4, 2014, election. Check with your county Board of Elections for early voting hours and locations. When you go vote, be sure to bring one of the many acceptable forms of voter ID.

Vote at your polling place on Election Day - Election Day is Tuesday, November 4, 2014. Polls are open from 6:30 am until 7:30 pm. By law, if you are in line at 7:30 pm, the polls must stay open to allow you to vote. Contact your county Board of Elections to find out your polling place and precinct. To assure your vote is counted, verify you are voting in the correct precinct! Not sure where to vote? Call your county Board of Elections or visit their website.

EARLY VOTING DAYS AND HOURS FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2014 ELECTION

8am to 5pm, Tuesday through Friday, from October 7 through 10 and October 14 through 17
8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, from October 20 through 24 and October 27 through 31
8am to 4pm on Saturday, October 25 and Saturday, November 1
1pm to 5pm on Sunday, November 2
8am to 2pm on Monday, November 3.

Locations for early voting:

Hamilton County: Board of Elections 824 Broadway Street Cincinnati, OH 45202 513-632-7000 www.votehamiltoncounty.org	Warren County: Board of Elections 406 Justice Dr. Lebanon, OH 45036 513-695-2682 www.warrencountyboe.us	Butler County: Board of Elections 1802 Princeton Rd. Hamilton, OH 45011 513-887-3700 www.butlercountyelections.org
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VOTING PROVISIONALLY

If there is some question about your identity or eligibility to vote a regular ballot, you may vote a provisional ballot on election day. **You must be a registered voter to vote provisionally.** If you are NOT a registered voter you may still vote provisionally but in all likelihood your ballot will not be counted. The situations you may find yourself in that necessitate a provisional ballot usually concern problems with your registration.

In what situations might you need to vote provisionally? Any of the following scenarios would prevent you from voting by the normal procedures:

- Your name is not found in the Signature Poll Book or the Supplemental Voter List (always be sure you are voting in the correct precinct— your name could be in a signature poll book at your correct precinct. You will save yourself aggravation by making sure you are in the right place!)
- You moved from one Ohio precinct to another without updating your voter registration by the registration deadline (30 days prior to the election)
- Your name is marked (flagged) “absentee” or “provisional” in the Signature Poll Book
- Your name is marked (flagged) in the Signature Poll Book because a Notice of Registration (Acknowledgement Notice Form 10-J) sent to you was returned as undeliverable
- You are unable or decline to provide an acceptable form of identification

In order to cast a provisional ballot you will need:

- Acceptable identification (See page 18 for list)
- To be sure you are voting in the proper precinct for your current residence
- To provide a legal name, and previous name if this is a name change
- To provide a current address within the precinct (and previous address if this is a change)

Provisional ballots are NOT counted on election day, but are reviewed at the Board of Elections following the election and those which are valid are included in the final official election count.

If you cast a provisional ballot and do not provide an acceptable form of identification at that time, you must appear in person at the board of elections within ten days following election day with your ID for your ballot to be counted.

If you vote provisionally properly, your registration will be updated and you will be included in the Signature Poll Book in the next election so you can vote normally!

